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HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM

YT PERSON OF THE YEAR 1999

DR. ABDULAZIZ AL-SAQQAF



We have been overwhelmed by the number of nominations for Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999) as person of the year. More than 90% of our readers nominated him. The readers said it all; "Not only is he the person of the year, but the person of the decade." Hence, we also decided to declare this man the YT person of the decade. Dr. Saqqaf's invaluable contributions to his country cannot be covered in one issue, but we will attempt to summarize his CV, contributions to his country, and people's opinions of him in 2 pages. Dr. Saqqaf has received nominations in previous years for this award, but as the organizer of the award he refused to accept any nominations. However, now that he is gone, and the percentages in his favor are so high, we had to accept the nominations, which resulted in choosing him as the person of the year.

See pages 5 and 11 to know why Dr. Saqqaf has been chosen as the person of the year 1999.

Others who got significant number of votes were:
Dr. Faraj bin Ghanem, Dr. Abdulwali Nasher, Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sosowa, Dr. Hassan Qassim Khan, Sheik Abdullah Hussein Al-Ahmar, and tens of other celebrities.

Person of the Year 1999

No Serious Y2K Problems in Yemen

SANAA: The fears of the collapse of banking systems, electrical generators and telephone networks because of Y2K were over as we entered the third millennium without any significant faults in any of these systems. Despite the fact that Yemeni airlines suspended their flights for a few hours during the turn of the century as a precaution, nothing actually happened.

Although some newspapers had no other concern other than bringing about exaggerated articles of possible collapses of banking systems, etc., nothing of this type ever happened, and things went smoothly with no significant accident to report on.

Our country of Yemen has a minimal dependence on computers, so severe problems were not anticipated. However, what was feared in many advanced countries did not occur as well.

However, they are still waiting for today to see whether the problems will arise in a working day. It is expected that the banking sector will not witness major problems, especially the Arab Bank, which was among the first to prepare for the Y2K and was the bank that brought this issue to the attention of the government. While taking a deep breath of relief because the Y2K did not effect Yemen or the world, we can now look back at all of our worries and smile because it seems that we worried for nothing.

According to the Latest Statistics: Socotra Undergoes Unbelievable Loss: Floods Caused the Destruction of 1,500 Houses

Socotra: The initial losses from the torrents and floods which swept the Yemeni island of Socotra early December last year were the complete demolition of 1500 houses and the partial destruction of another 950, officials on the island said.

Officials also said that approximately 650 houses were damaged and that 80% of the island's houses were suffering from the problem of water leaking through roofs and walls. The officials have said that the initial indications are that tens of thousands of sheep, cattle and other domestic animals are dying. Powerful torrents destroyed tens of farms and orchards, sweeping away great numbers of trees. Floods had also damaged 360 wells and 729 water pumps. Twelve fishing boats and 320 fish nets were lost due to torrents that swept the island's coast.

The officials also said that the torrents and floods destroyed all of the food stockpiles of the island, 70% of the electricity network, 90% of the water supply and completely isolated many areas of the island.

Heavy rains had fallen on the island of Socotra for several days last December and isolated it from the world. The government of Yemen immediately formed a relief committee to estimate the damage inflicted by floods. Socotra citizens have appealed to local and global organizations to send necessary supplies to help the affected people of the island. The late flood disaster was the most severe ever in the modern history of Socotra. Aid that has come from brotherly countries, such as Oman, has been very helpful. However, further assistance to the area is still badly needed.

Earthquake Hits Amran and Hajja

Amran: A mild earthquake hit some areas in the governorates of Amran and Hajja at 9:30 p.m. Saturday January 1st, 2000, reports said. Security sources in Amran governorate said they received many contacts from the districts of Amran, Maswar, Jabal Yezid, Alsoud, Alsouda, Khamr, Houth, and Alusaimat.

The sources said the quake happened twice in the district of Maswar. Citizens have confirmed that they felt the quake at that happening of any damage or losses. No damage was reported in the nearby city of Amran despite that the quake had taken place. The governorate of Amran is a modern one and there is not any means in it to measure or monitor such happenings.

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Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

Moving in Time, and In Time Only

I here take the opportunity to wish you all a happy new millennium. It is indeed a moment of glory as we enter the year 2000, which has inspired many historians, science fiction writers, and the superstitious all over the world.

While the whole world witnessed the birth of a new century with hope and anxiety, what were we doing here in Yemen? When I went out of my office in the afternoon on the first day of January 2000, I was shocked to see that people didn't care. They simply did not care about which century, year, decade, or even the millennium they were living in. What they thought of was providing food for their families, managing to get the money to buy qat for the evening chew, and looking for their friends to find out where the 'maqayal' will be tonight. I do not blame these people in any way. The blame goes to the environment around them that has forced them to keep on worrying about how to make ends meet. It is the harsh conditions and low income level that have forced people to give priority to more important issues than celebrating, or even thinking of the new millennium. They simply float in time as though nothing is happening. In other words, life in Yemen has made us forget our sense of time. The whole world is moving into the millennium in terms of developing new ideas, projects, programs, and hoping to achieve ever higher standards of development, economic strength, technology, etc. But we in Yemen are merely moving into the millennium in terms of time, and time only. It is a trivial mathematical counting of years, as we float like a piece of wood on the sea, with no specific objective, with no vision and without much hope. "Why?" is a question that I have tried to answer during the last three days. Why do we see ourselves as isolated and not part of the world around us?

I was not upset that we didn't celebrate the new year. I was upset because of the hopelessness that I saw in the eyes of the people while entering the new millennium. "A new millennium?!! So what? Will it provide me with shelter and food for my family?" These were the statements that I heard from a poor beggar when I asked him about his impression of the new millennium. He further continued, "What happened in the transition from 98 to 99? More poverty and misery. Why then do you expect me to be happy this time?" Hasn't the time come when we need to change all of this? There is a question that needs answering!

We use the Gregorian Calendar to mark the years, and we are dependent on this calendar because it has become a universal dating system. We cannot change it, but we should rather adjust cleverly with it. We do not need to celebrate, but at least we need to show that we have some hope in the years to come. We cannot ignore the fact that the whole world is thinking about how to adjust to the new millennium through more improvement, more development, and most important of all, a stronger commitment to be among the developed nations, and these celebrations are just for that.

As an example, look at China. You can feel the hope in the Chinese children's eyes while celebrating the birth of the new millennium. They know that it is not just a mere celebration. It is a beginning of their creating a super power in competition with the west. The same applies for many other countries. The celebration should not be thought of as a few hundred fireworks, music tones, etc. The celebration should be thought of as the start of a long period of struggle for construction and building. It should indicate the intention of the nation to rise to the challenge, and hopefully celebrate the 4th millennium with pride as a developed country.

We have a misunderstanding of celebrating a New Year. We unfortunately have the sense that celebrating the year is just for Christians. OK, I agree that we should not celebrate the same way the Christians do. I also do not mind that we should not celebrate at all on that date. But at least there should be a time in the year in which we renew hopes and examine the passing away of time. It should not necessarily be the first of January, but it can be a day in the Islamic Calendar, or any other day in any calendar. It can be any day in the year, for its importance doesn't lie in its location, but rather in its signaling of a new year, a new period, a new era, full with new hopes, new ambitions, and new commitments to hard work! Some may still disagree by saying, "let's just live our lives without counting the days that pass!" To these I say, "It is not your lives only that will be wasted, but it will be our future, our coming generations, and our hopes that will be diminished if we continue to live with that same mentality."

Even though I have not celebrated the new year myself the way people expect, I still have celebrated it in my way. I celebrated it by writing down a resolution for the coming year. I celebrated it by feeling hope for the future, by looking back at the problems, mistakes, and shortcomings in the last year, and setting up some solutions for these. I know it will be a tough year for me, and for the rest of the Yemen Times staff without our founder, but yet, I am ready for the challenge. I do realize the importance of time, and know that every second is precious in an ever changing and developing world. I hope my fellow Yemeni citizens realize this importance. However, I also hope that they will realize it before it is too late, and before we enter the 4th millennium just staying where we are, at the end of the list of developing countries.

YT Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Question

Do you feel that there will be radical changes in Yemen by the beginning of the 3rd millennium?

Result

Yes 39%

No 61%

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

If the current government's actions against chewing qat continue, how long will Yemen take in your view to diminish the habit of chewing qat?

In Brief

Kidnapping Attempt in Taiz

A French couple's car was attacked on Friday, December 31, 1999, near the Al-Qahirah Citadel in Taiz in an attempt to kidnap them. The kidnapper engaged in a fight with the driver of the car carrying the tourists and was seriously injured. Soon people hurried to the scene and arrested the attacker, who was discovered to be from Marib. The French woman told the policemen that the man who tried to kidnap them seemed to suffer from a mental disease as his facial expressions showed. She criticized the government for allowing such people to carry weapons in Taiz, which should be a relatively secure place.

Islah Delegation Fly to Sudan

A delegation from the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), headed by Mohammed Al-Yadomi, Secretary General of the party, left Sana'a for Sudan on Wednesday December 29, 1999 in an attempt to smooth things over between President Omar Hassan Al-Basheer and the Secretary General of the National Congress, Dr. Hassan Al-Turabi. Close sources indicate that the delegation has a new initiative to lower the tension which is mounting among the ruling figures. The initiative, as the same sources indicate, aims at narrowing the conflict before it escalates into a confrontation that would damage the Sudanese pattern as a developing Islamic movement in the Mideast. It is worth mentioning that, Dr. Al-Turabi expressed his willingness to visit Yemen, a matter which, as close political sources point out, would not be appreciated by President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The same sources think that Dr. Al-Turabi would not visit Yemen, especially after President Ali Abdullah Saleh expressed his support to President Omar Al-Basheer who dissolved the parliament and announced a state of emergency. Islamic groups are worried about the sudden change of attitude towards Al-Turabi which they consider as a regression for the Islamic movement.

Eritrea Released Yemeni Fishermen

Eight Yemeni fishermen were released Monday 27, 1999 after 3 years in custody in Eritrea for fishing in disputed regional waters. Upon arrival in Yemen, the fishermen said that they were brutally treated. In addition, all their belongings were confiscated. They added that the Yemen Embassy in Eritrea did not know about their imprisonment until two months before their release, despite the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was informed many times about the event by the families of the fishermen. They also urged the Yemeni government to put pressure on Eritrea to compensate them for their losses and poor treatment and also to free the remaining Yemeni prisoners in the Eritrean prisons.

In another development, three Yemeni fishermen were shot to death at sea while fishing. This incident happened after the international arbitration between Yemen and Eritrea had granted fishermen from both countries the right to fish in the area.

More Assistance to Yemen from the Netherlands

Press reports have confirmed that Holland will offer 30 million dollars worth of assistance to Yemen in the year 2000. The sources added that the assistance would be allotted to the sectors of health, water projects in the rural areas, agriculture, as well as in the fields of women, development and environment.

As a part of coordinating assistance offered by the donors, Holland will support Yemen in its programs for developing projects administration. Holland is also to offer a 50% subsidy on exports bound for Yemen. It has also contributed 60% of the total cost of building a huge power station in Mukala and of purchasing garbage trucks and tugboats.

Yemen & Russia signed an Agreement

Yemen and Russia signed an agreement to write off some of the debts due to Russia. The first agreement was called the "Paris Club" agreement, according to which 80% of the debts were canceled. Informed sources said that the present proportion of canceled debts has so far reached 67% out of the remaining 20% of the total debts due to Russia according to the Naples agreement.

Until 1990, the debts of Yemen to Russia have risen to \$ 7 billion, most of which were costs for weapons and military equipment the two parts of Yemen had purchased, before the dismantling of the former Soviet Union. Yemen has not been able to pay the installments on these debts. This has made Russia think of writing off three fourths of those debts provided that Yemen pays the rest. A Yemeni merchant has proposed buying off the rest of those debts, however, officials in the World Bank have refused the offer and are pushing Yemen to join the International Paris Club so as to control the resources of the foreign currency. The bank will be in charge of distributing the monetary resources for the countries according to their needs and requirements, and part of it will be allocated to repay parts of loans.

Inauguration of Sana'a Commercial Center

On Saturday December 14, 1999, L'uomo shop was inaugurated in Sana'a Commercial Center. The shop contains the most gentle and modern Italian brands for men. Some of these brands are Brioni, Gianfranco, Ferre, Studio, Francesco, Smalto and Paris.

Words of Wisdom

"The new wisdom, which is the driving force of the New World Order, insists that a democratic set-up is imperative to achieve sustainable development. The basic argument, even using the present difficulties of the Far East Asian Tigers as examples, is that a democratic framework, given the requirements of transparency, accountability, and a constant and regular transfusion of new blood into the system, is a prerequisite to development."

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



A Yemeni Website Wins Best Travel Award

The "Yemen, Travel and Tourism" website of the Yemen Explorer Tours agency took first place in the Webguide's best travel site category at <http://www.jps-web.com/webguideawards/>. The site, run and maintained by Mr. Ibrahim Al-Attab, was able to crush its opponents with a score of 68.6%, with the competing sites share the remaining 31.4%. Many WWW browsers confirm that the site, <http://www.al-bab.com/yet>, which is being published in a multi-lingual interface, is among the most comprehensive, detailed, and informative tourist sites ever to be produced in Yemen.

More Foreign Marine chaos

Reports say that in course of time more and more ships are violating our regional water. Many fishermen have complained about the disappearance of many kinds of marine life, however, the authority and people in charge seem to turn deaf ears.

Dutch Grants Yemen \$30 million

"The Netherlands has allocated \$30 million in aid to Yemen in 2000," the Dutch ambassador to Sana'a said. It is said that the aid would be allocated for sectors including agriculture, water, health and environment. The ambassador also urged the Yemeni government to introduce measures to improve the investment atmosphere to attract foreign investment.

Central Bank to be Independent

Ahmad Abdul-Rahman al-Samawi, Yemen's Central Bank Governor said that the government had approved a new law granting the bank monetary and administrative independence under the Arab state's reform programme. Samawi also said that the law restricted the government from seeking central bank loans, except in extraordinary circumstances and for limited amounts and periods. "The new law stresses non-interference from any party in the bank's operations as to provide adequate monetary liquidity for a stable monetary system based on market fundamentals," Samawi said.

The First Baby of the 3rd Millennium

Dina is the lucky girl that acquired the title of the first 3rd millennium Yemeni girl. She was born on the 1st of January, 2000 around 12:10 am. Her father, Ali Abdullah Nudaish, the First Director of the Minister of Labor. "You know that in Russia they offer the children born on that day a villa, car, and salary for the whole life time?" As Yemen Times, we congratulate Dina's parents and wish their millennium baby a prosperous life in the years to come. We wonder if Dina is the only baby born on that date.

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Notice

We would like to notify that the Yemeni Horsemanship Club located on Sawar area, east of Sana'a and was published about in the previous issue cost YR100,000,000. We apologize

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Amount: USD 3.50 million.

Description:
The Yemen Drug Fund, P. O. Box: 8561, Al Hassabah Zone, Sana'a - Republic of Yemen is floating a tender for the purchase of essential drugs and supplies (tablets, injectables and galenicals, X-ray consumables and Medical Sundries) to the value of USD 3.50 million (YER 560 million). The essential drugs and other supplies must be delivered to the four Regional Drug Fund Stores (Sana'a, Aden, Hudaydah and Mukallah).
The tender document ref.: FUND/MED/3/99 is available from the project-authority mentioned above against a payment of USD 100/- per copy. For delivery by courier service an extra USD 50/- is required.

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Closing date for supply: the 30th of November 2000
Closing time for tender: Not later than 10:00 am

Information: For further information you may contact the Executive Director of the Drug Fund: Mr. Kassem Abdul Aziz, P. O. Box 8561, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, Tel: (967) 1 252209, Fax: (967) 1 252209

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APOLOGY

Yemen Times would like to apologize for the mistake that occurred on page 8 and 9 titled JAPAN TODAY. We would like to notify that the correct name of the Honorable Japanese Empress is Empress Michiko, not Mickiko.



Yemeni Press Scanner

AL-AYYAM Independent

Ahwar Security Police interferes in Party Affairs

Last Thursday, 23rd. December, Alawi Bu Nahy, the Ahwar Son's of Yemen League organization official was astonished when the Ahwar District, Abyan Governorate, Political Security Deputy Director approached him and demanded his permit to be active in political affairs in the district. Bu Nahy was trying to fit a placard on the front of his party's building on which the name of the local party organization's name was written. When Mr. Bu Nahy answered that the Sons of Yemen League is a party, which is legally active all over the homeland, he was asked to visit the Security Police headquarters.

Al-Mudahdah, an Abyan Sons of Yemen League high official denounced what was done by the Ahwar police officer and considered it 'an attack on political parties' liberties and an obvious interference in their internal affairs.

Aden Taxes Employee Blackmails Stores

During the current holy month of Ramadhan a number of illegal practices were noticed by some Aden Taxes Department employees during their visits to stores with relevant statistics forms.

A citizen reports to Al-Ayyam that one such employee named S. A. H. visited a number of stores, especially Sheikh Othman jewelers, with his forms in addition to receiving amounts of money without giving any official receipts. When this employee was asked to show any authorization for conducting his activities all he showed was his department ID. The citizen confirmed that the said employee made the same move last year, and it was found that his actions were illegal.

Eritrean-Released Fishermen They Demand Compensation

The Eritrean Authorities released last week eight Yemeni fishermen that were arrested by them more than three years ago while fishing in disputed waters. These fishermen were since then arrested in Asmara prisons.

A released fisherman told Al-Ayyam that the original number of men was 11, but that three fishermen were killed on their boats by the Eritreans while they were fishing. He said they were very ill-treated during their captivity. There were moved between prisons and all their boats and other properties were confiscated, including their Yemeni ID Cards.

They complained that the Asmara Embassy of Yemen only interfered very lately and after painful efforts by their families and disputes with Sana'a authorities.

They asked the Deputy Prime Minister, the Yemeni Minister of Foreign Affairs to order an investigation of their ordeal. They are demanding full com-

pensation for material and moral losses from their ill treatment by the Eritrean authorities.

AL-TAGAMMOA' Congregation of the Unity of Yemen

Payments By Sheikhs To Opposition Activists Confirmed

A leading Islah Party theorist has ruled out the idea that Islah Party Chairman, Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar broke his promise and agreement and didn't pay the amount of the promised U.S.\$900.00 in order to partially share the burden of travel of three opposition activists who were supposed to take part in the National Islamic Congress which didn't convene in Morocco.

He added that as far as he knows Sheikh Al-Ahmar was helpful to opposition activists who had asked him for help on a number of occasions through sound mediators.

It is recalled that one, 'supported' activist had announced during a political Qat session that Sheikh Al-Ahmar provided aid for the three at the rate of \$300.00 each. Some had heard that this money was in fact paid, and it was not just a rumor.

AL-EHYA'A AL-ARABI Ba'ath Party

Striver Comrade Qassem Sallam To Lead Opposition:

The Coordination Council of the Opposition elected its new leadership during its last session on December 20th. Striver Comrade Dr. Qassem Sallam, the [Yemen Ba'ath] Party Secretary was elected as a Secretary for the Council, while Tareq Al-Shami of the Popular Forces Union was elected as his deputy. Abdul Karim Al-Khiwani of Al-Haq Party was elected as spokesman.

ATTARIQ Independent

Islah Arranges Turabi Visit

Well-informed sources report that the Islah Party is currently arranging a visit to Yemen by Dr. Hasan Turabi of Sudan, Chairman of the dissolved Sudanese National Council, the General Secretary of the ruling National Party.

It is reported that Dr. Turabi shall have a meeting with Sheikh Abdul Majid Al-Zindani before his Yemen visit, at an Arab Gulf state in order to acquaint him with his Islah Party supervised visit to Yemen. It is also reported that, during his visit, Dr. Turabi shall hold meetings with the Speaker of Parliament, Islah Party Chairman, Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar and President Saleh to give his views on the actions taken recently by the Sudanese President Al-Bashir, which were supported by Yemen. These moves included dissolving the National Sudanese Council, declaring a state of emergency and suspending the Constitution.

AL-WAHDAMI People's Nasserite Unionists

Russia Drops 67% Of Yemen Debt

Yemen and Russia signed an agreement by which Russia drops 67% of Yemen's debts. This is the second agreement on such a move by Russia after the Paris Club Agreement by which Russia dropped 80% of the Debt of Yemen. Sources say that the ratio of dropped debts is currently 67% of the 20% that were remaining on Yemen to Russia according to Napoli Agreement.

Saudi Arabia Continues Expulsion of Yemenis:

Saudi Arabia escalated its anti-Yemeni procedures during the last few days and drove out tens of Yemenis who entered for the purpose of Umrah (minor Hajj).

Informed sources at Sana'a Airport told Al-Wahdawi that several Yemenia Jeddah - Sana'a flights were loaded with Yemenis holding Visas issued by the Saudi Embassy in Sana'a to attend the Umrah who were detained and deported by Saudi Police.

Deported Yemenis expressed their anger towards the official government position regarding this Saudi action, especially as the Saudi authorities were until recently justifying their moves against Yemenis by charging that they are residing illegally in Saudi Arabia.

AL-RA'Y AL-A'AM Independent

Wide Resentment Because Of Anti- Minister Campaign

The campaign by some newspapers against Mr. Ali Hamid Sharaf, Minister of Electricity and Water resources has caused wide spread resentment among citizens. A number of social, political and media dignitaries said that this campaign aims at the falsification of facts and distortion of accomplishments made in the Electricity and Water Resources sector, in addition to intentionally offending a successful minister that has delivered good things to the country.

AL-SAHWAH Yemeni Congregation of Reform

Congregation Delegations Leaves For Sudan

A Delegation of the General Secretariat of the Yemeni Congregation of Reform (The Islah Party) led by brother Mohammed El-Yedumi, the General Secretary, and Abdul Wahab Al-A'ansi, the Deputy Secretary General, Ahmed Al-Qumari, member of the High Authority and Abbas Al-Nihari, Chairman of the Department of Information and Guidance left for Sudan, Wednesday.

The delegations intends to hold talks with the leadership of the ruling National Congress Party in Sudan and

review developments in the Arab and Islamic arena and the latest developments in Sudan.

AL-UMMAH Al-Haq Party

Don't Shave Beards, Barbers Told

A leaflet was widely distributed last Monday in Wadi Hadhramout to barbers (nobody knows who issued it) warning them not to shave the beards of their customers. While the leaflet was met with sarcasm by most citizens, many wondered about the limits to which extremists are ready to go to in initiating issues that were disputed by scientists for centuries without reaching solutions. Why do such people abandon real issues in relation to religion and life and make up fake issues to fight over?

Central Banks Demands Halt Of Loans To 250 Persons:

The Central Bank of Yemen demanded in a very confidential circular to all banks active in Yemen a halt of new loans or commercial facilities for a list of 250 names that was attached to the circular. The Central Bank added that any violation to the instructions shall result in fines and any other additional measures the Central Bank might see necessary.

Al-Balagh, Independent, Weekly 1st. January 2000:

Government Prepares National Bank Sale:

Financial sources report that Government has initiated moves preparing for the sale of the National Bank of Yemen, one of the biggest commercial banks in the country with 33 branches that cover all of the towns of Yemen. Preparations for the sale include the evaluation of the assets of the bank and its restructuring.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Yeltsin resigns on new year's eve

In a surprise move on the 31st of December 1999, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced his resignation. The country will be holding elections within 90 days. As an interim step, Yeltsin has appointed Prime Minister Vladimir Putin as his replacement until the elections can be held. Yeltsin made his announcement on Russian television and clearly timed it to coincide with the start of the new millennium — "Today, on the last day of the outgoing century, I resign" he said. Analysts believe that Putin is now well positioned to have his temporary appointment endorsed by an election.

Y2K watchers brace for Monday

While there were no major problems to report Sunday, governments and businesses around the world are not willing to let down their guard until Monday, when the first workweek of 2000 begins. Many analysts believe that only on Monday will they know if Y2K will caused any problems for banking systems and governmental offices, etc.

Barak heads to U.S. for Israel-Syria peace talks

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak was on his way Sunday to the United States, where he was to meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa on Monday for a second round of peace talks. Barak and al-Sharaa met last month, the highest-level meeting between Israeli and Syrian officials since Israel's inception more than 50 years ago. Lower-level talks between the two bitter rivals stalled nearly four years ago.

Indian Airlines pilot a hero after hijacking

Indian Airlines Capt. Devi Sharan initially thought the December 24 hijacking of his Airbus A300 passenger jet was a joke when a man wearing a balaclava stepped into the cockpit. But the gun in the hand of the first hijacker the pilot saw told him otherwise. Indian Airlines Flight IC 814, with Sharan at the controls, left Katmandu, Nepal, that Friday evening on a routine flight to New Delhi. Five hijackers ordered the plane to go Pakistan, but they were refused permission to land.

Russia claims inroads in southern Chechnya

The Russian military on Sunday claimed to have made inroads into rebel-controlled territory in southern Chechnya, capturing strategic heights overlooking a key rebel stronghold. Federal forces also kept up air and artillery bombardments of the Chechen capital Grozny, as a major offensive to take the city entered a second week. Russian commanders said their forces fought off an overnight rebel attack on federal artillery positions northwest of Grozny, on the Tersky Heights. On the other hand, Chechen fighters denied the claims that they released poisonous gases targeted at the Russian soldiers. The gases caused severe harm to Chechen civilians after the wind's direction reversed.

Wall Street faces new year

With the music and fireworks over and computer systems up and running after Y2K, investors will get back to business on Wall Street this week facing a challenge - to match the record stock gains of 1999. Wall Street ended the final year of the 20th century with unprecedented gains in its major indexes.

How The World Celebrated The Millennium

New York

Times Square erupted into a mass of ticker-tape and light as the crystal ball specially built for the occasion descended at midnight. A record crowd was present to witness this once in 120 lifetimes event.

London

Billed as the world's largest fireworks display, involving 32 tons of explosives, London's millennium celebrations also mark another important milestone in these events — the arrival of the year 2000 as measured by GMT and UTC.

Paris

The Eiffel tower looked like a rocket about to launch into orbit as millennium celebrations got underway at midnight.

Egypt

The country often referred to as the cradle of civilization has put on a stupendous show of light amidst the pyramids.

Earlier in the week an attempt was made to stop the display for fear it would damage the monuments and also present an affront to the largely non-Christian population.

Bethlehem

The home of Christianity also saw in the new millennium with a massive fireworks display. Hordes of Christians have made their way to the city to celebrate both Christmas and the New year.

India

Even those Indians who have no reason to observe the western New Year have taken to the streets in joyous celebration — the reason: the safe return of 150 passengers and crew from a hijacked airliner that was seized by Kashmiri separatists on Christmas eve.

Hong Kong

The Hong Kong skyline was alive with

color at midnight with many buildings especially illuminated for the occasion.

China

As expected in the home of fireworks, China has seen in the New Year with a massive display that some say dwarfed Australia's claim at a world record — if not in scale, certainly in its vigor.

Japan

Japan has celebrated the arrival of the new millennium by releasing thousands of helium-filled balloons — each with a message for the New Year.

Australia

In what has been called the world's largest display, a Y2K-compliant computer set off and controlled the detonation of over 20 tons of fireworks on the Sydney Harbor in Australia at the stroke of midnight.

More on page 12

TAJ SHEBA HOTEL

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ان أكثر من ٧٠ عاما من الخبرة العالمية والاستثمار المكثف قد مكن شركة جوتن من
انتاج مجال واسع من المنتجات المبتكرة المتعددة الاستخدامات والتي ترضي
الإحتياجات الصناعية وإحتياجات المستهلك العادي.

دهانات جوتن في اليمن

عند:	فرع صنعاء:	فرع تعز:	فرع حضرموت:
تلفون: ٢٤٠٥٠٠-٢	تلفون: ٢٠٩٩١٥-١	تلفون: ٢١٤٣٥٣-٤	سيار: ٧٩٥١٢٧٨
فاكس: ٢٤٠٦٠٠-٢	فاكس: ٤٠٣١١٠-١	فاكس: ٢١٤٣٥٤-٤	بيجر: ٥٨٢٠٤٤٧

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YEMEN TIMES



Biography of Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Personal Data:

Full Name: Abdulaziz Yassin Al-Saqqaf

Date of Birth: 24th October 1951.

Place of Birth: Hadharem Village, Hugarriah, Taiz Governorate, Yemen

Marital Status: Married, and has four children

Educational Data:

Ph.D. in International Business: Harvard University and Fletcher School, USA

MPA: Harvard University, Cambridge, USA

MA: Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, USA

BA: Sanaa University, Sanaa, Yemen.

Career:

Since July 1997: Member of the Consultative Council Since February 1991: Publisher and Chief Editor of Yemen Times Since January 1980: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor at Sanaa University Did other jobs at various times.

NGOs and Other Associations:

Chairman: Hadharem Welfare Association

Secretary-General: Yemen-American Friendship Association

Founding Member and First Secretary-General: Yemeni Association of Economists & Businessmen Founding Member: Arab Thought Forum, Amman, Jordan

Founding Member: Association of Arab Economists, Baghdad, Iraq

Founding Member: Center for Media Forum - Middle East and North Africa (CMF MENA)

Member: American Economists Association

Member: Middle East Studies Association (USA).

Human Rights Contributions:

Active for over 15 years in the promotion of human rights, especially with reference to children's rights, women's rights, minority rights, press freedom, etc. During this period, Mr. Al-Saqqaf was suspended from work (at Sanaa University for one year), was imprisoned seven times, beat up two times, and was subjected to numerous forms of harassment.

A: Examples of institutional contribution include:

Founding Member: Arab Organization for Human Rights, Cairo, Egypt - 1982.

Founding Member: Arab Thought Forum, Amman, Jordan - 1984.

Co-Founder and Co-Sponsor: Yemeni Organization for Human Rights - 1986.

Founder, Co-Sponsor & Executive Director: Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy - 1994.

Member: Committee to Protect Journalists, New York - 1995.

Founder, Co-Sponsor and President: Elections Monitoring Committee - 1996.

Co-Founder, Co-Sponsor and Honorary Chairman: Association for Protection of Child Rights - 1997.

Co-Founder and Co-Sponsor: Amnesty International - Yemen Chapter - 1997.

Founder, Co-Sponsor and Executive Director: National Committee to Combat Torture - 1998.

B: Examples of Achievements include:

Arranged release of 2,017 prisoners during November 1997 through April 1998 from jails in Sanaa, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden, Lahej, Dhamar and Ibb who were imprisoned without due process of law or without regard to their rights.

Arranged release of Yemen's most famous political prisoner, Mr. Mansoor Rajih.

Arranged release of 27 underage prisoners and their transfer to orphanages in Taiz and Aden. Arranged release of 44 mentally disturbed prisoners and their transfer to asylums in Taiz and Sanaa Promotion of women's rights through lectures and television talk shows.

Worked to protect Rights of Muwalladeen (Yemenis born of African mothers) who suffer from racism and other forms of discrimination.

As Chairman of the Human Rights Committee at the Consultative Council (Upper House) organized and prompted hearings regarding many aspects of protecting human rights.

As Chairman of the Human Rights Committee at the Consultative Council (Upper House) proposed law drafts and action regarding many aspects of protecting human rights.

Publications:

Published 8 books.

Published 42 articles published in different parts of the world.

Many articles in Yemen Times, other local media and international newspapers/magazines.

Skills:

Highly computer-literate.

Can speak, read and write Arabic, English and French.

Well-travelled, having participated in many international gatherings of different sorts.

Honors:

Recipient of International Freedom of the Press Award: 1995; Washington DC.

Recipient of The Queen of Sheba Title for Services to the Nation: Yemen; 1996

Ranking Professor of Economics in the Republic of Yemen.

Some beautiful quotes from Dr. Saqqaf

'Producing the Yemen Times is a very difficult, demanding, and trying task. But we like the challenge.'

"President Saleh has to prepare the country for the 21st century. This can only be done by introducing meaningful change into the system. The two foremost requirements for any modern system are accountability and transparency. He can not continue to give lip service to these issues, He has to show that he intends real implementation."

"Within the Arab region, human rights was a virtual taboo. I remember in the late 1970s, a group of Arab intellectuals started making noise about the need for respect of citizens by the state. The idea developed momentum until in December 1982, 18 of us-Arab intellectuals and human rights activists-met to establish the Arab Organization for Human Rights. We could not find a place to meet in the whole Arab world. So, we met in Cyprus and launched the effort from there."

I also remember as I come back to Yemen from the meeting, the dean at my college at Sanaa university called me in and grilled me about the crime I had just committed. I was immediately dismissed as chairman of the economics department, and was subjected to many other complications. Since then, I have been able to remain on the blacklist of our Political Security Organization."

"The basic requirement for the success of any reform is good governance, which we presently don't have in Yemen. Hence, hundreds of millions of dollars, poured in by multilateral and bilateral donors, is a misuse of funds. In addition, it leaves us saddled with a new debt, however good the terms."

"Democracy is not just a bunch of rituals behind which power-hungry politicians can hide. Democracy is a system, is a way of thinking, it is a style of living, it is an environment which follows various individuals and groups to be and do their best."

"One of the key characteristics of working in the media is the concept of deadlines. Everything has a deadline. Everybody is under some kind of time pressure. While this pressure may not be good for one's health, it is a wonderful contributor to efficiency."

"The basic source of wealth should be one's work."

"Unless there is a true commitment to the democratization process based on acceptance of the people as the final



arbitrator of power in a meaningful relationship between the general public and politicians, the whole transformation process will be a sad joke."

"One fact of life is about basic economics. Unless a society can make progress at the economic front, whatever progress is made at any other fronts is brought to naught. This is the basic lesson, which our politicians should comprehend. The basic source of wealth should be one's work. Mind you, I am not a communist, but I have a lot of respect for hard work, not necessarily physical exertion."

"For those who are aware and for those who are not aware, it is absolutely crucial that we all prepare ourselves for the next century. The main source of power and wealth in the next century is going to be knowledge and the ability to organize and use it optimally. There are two dimensions to knowledge-education as an overall base and as a tool for its use in a specialized sense. Therefore, for those who want to prepare themselves, they had better address those two issues."

"It is important that the regime gives the majority of Yemenis a stake in its fortunes. If the people have nothing to fear in the fall of the system, they will not be inclined to defend it against

any onslaught. It is important that all Yemenis should feel that they have a stake in the system; otherwise they won't identify with it"

"In all cultures worldwide, responsibility grows with social and political stature. That is probably because more power entails more responsibility by definition. Also because people with a higher public profile traditionally become role models and, therefore shoulder a higher burden. In addition, leaders are often seen as a source of inspiration and spiritual and moral guidance. For these and many other reasons, people at the top of a power structure carry a bigger responsibility than the average individuals."

"It is my belief that grassroots level organizations such as unions and syndicates are vital contributors to the system because of their broad-based interaction. They give tangible meaning to popular participation within a democratic context. Therefore, any effort to broaden the participation base of decision-making in the country should, in part, involve the unions and syndicates. This means letting these organizations do their job."

"Development is not merely an accumulation of capital. It has a moral component, which elevates society to behave within certain norms

and values. A corrupt system can not lead to prosperity for all members of society...."

The Republic of Yemen already is poor in resources. If such a disadvantage is further coupled with the wrong values, then our society will be saddled with poverty and backwardness for a long time."

"Yemen needs politicians who are true to the ideals they propagate and are accountable to the public."

"A true democracy is based on tolerance, especially of different points of view. Yemeni officials can prove to be democratic by showing their tolerance and respect of the freedom of the person. The Ministry of Information should not claim to be the guardian of thought. A democratic society does not need one."

"We in Yemen need to nurture within us the automatic inclination to respect the law. As citizens, we should respect the law, as businessmen, we should respect the law, as government bureaucrats, we should respect the law, and as leaders, we should respect the law. Living by the law is the other side of the coin called democracy. Let us help stop these citizens who break the law, let us help stop those bureaucrats who break the law, and let us be ready to stop our leaders when they break the

law. This is the way to safeguard our freedom and to preserve our democracy."

"In the final analysis, the better humans are those that are more able to live with one another and help one another. That actually is the base of the Yemeni mentality and character throughout ages. That is why we were successful as merchants, as messengers, and as mediators and middle-men throughout history. Snobs and self-righteous people could never have succeeded in those trades. The question is? Are we losing touch with our nature as Yemenis?"

"One of the virtues of democracy is to bring a certain degree of accountability to the system. This is a good place start. Could our leaders lay down the rulers for giving away government money?"

"I have always known that the system of Yemen is not hospitable to the well-educated. It is a fact that the people who feel most at home in Yemen are the sheikhs and their tribesmen. The lawyers, engineers, physicians, PhDs, journalists, accountants and other professionals are in a constant search for a home elsewhere in the world. With this happening, no one can convincingly tell me we have a good government in Yemen."

**What they say about him, Page 11*



Agricultural Education in Yemen, Present and Future

The objective of this article is to study and evaluate the reality of agricultural education and propose a plan of action for future development of the agricultural education and its output.

By awareness we mean that education in the agricultural sciences is to focus on information campaigning and exchange and on communication and dissemination techniques in order to educate the rural sector at large and train agricultural trainers. Secondly, it should focus on the environmental aspects of farming, covering issues such as water resource management, afforestation and deforestation, renewable energy, desertification control, natural habitats, fish stock depletion, natural habitats, type of seedlings, crop rotation, use of grazing lands and like issues. These are not to be dealt with in an isolated manner but integrally as a manifestation of human behavior, conduct, reality and know how, as an interaction between human beings and their environment.

The principal reason to highlight this is based on one simple question: that of the future role of agriculture in the national economy. With a limited and diminishing arable land mass, a growing population and foreign exchange, the urgency of protecting and developing the sector in order to better feed the population is clear.

Until now a major part of farming has been based on traditional agricultural principles. From an environmental point of view this may not always be that negative, but does not facilitate the required growth in either its production or productivity levels. That is a matter of concern in view of the growing urban encroachment and subsequent loss of agricultural fields, abandonment of the land, desertification and soil erosion. Hence, the question to be answered is how to protect existing production areas and diversity levels, and how to raise productivity without endangering the delicate balances between environment and development.

As people tend to prefer urban amenities over rural ones and the inaccessibility to basic services in the rural areas there is a natural push and pull from the urban area at the expense of the rural labor force. And what may not be a very dramatic shift now may very well become so in the foreseeable future. It means that mechanization, technology and its applications require a far better spread and use, if under those circumstances higher production levels are to be reached. Hence, focus on exchange of ideas and exposure to new ideas that once are introduced could make a difference.

How much of the percentage of the population will remain in the agricultural sector will in this respect be more an academic question than the fact that a growing urban labor force seeks employment in industry and service sectors. These can only be employed whenever a better exchange can be brought about between the rural and urban sectors, enabling the establishment of an agro-industrial complex. Yemen still has a well developed urban infrastructure, facilitating the possibilities mentioned. However, without sizing up such opportunities, a growing disenchanted labor force will face a future without possibilities. Hence, the relationships between agriculture and industry have to be explored by all means and developed in earnest.

Subsequently, agriculture education has to reach out to the masses and educate bigger groups of the rural society than have thus far been taken into consideration, has to raise production and productivity levels, protect existing agricultural lands and even extend their size, determine what new technologies to introduce and how to apply these new technologies in a constrained living environment, and create agro-industrial complexes within urban-rural integrated areas. Clearly, education cannot do this on its own, and requires a concerted effort of many ministries (education, agricul-

ture, labor, etc.) and faculties.

Agricultural Education

Education is to be based on the realities of the physical environment in which people live and are to cope with the realities they face in their daily lives now and in the future.

For that, a pyramidal approach becomes a necessity in agricultural education. Whereby long distance and direct education for the masses is an objective and basic concern, as well as a greater involvement of the rural population in a formal type of agricultural education at various levels. This can be materialized through popular shows by TV, Radio, road shows, agricultural exhibitions and the like, and above all the spread of agricultural school infrastructure at secondary school level.

This implies the development of a school curriculum for primary and secondary schools already reflecting agricultural issues. At primary schools children could be taught how and what to plant, weed, and water in their school gardens. This would provide practical hands on experience about plants, weeds, crops, utensils and like issues.

At preparatory and secondary school levels the emergence of agricultural training centers is imperative, comparable to vocational training centers and concentrating on basic and intermediary agricultural education. Course curricula could distinguish basic and secondary level agricultural education. Basic courses are to concentrate on planting (grains, horticulture, fishery), deforestation and afforestation, nutrition, food processing, handling and storage, soils, irrigation and environmental conservation, bio-chemistry and pesticide handling, storage and management, animal husbandry, pricing and marketing of products, mechanization and maintenance, as well as general topics from the secondary curriculum such as languages, sciences, geography etc. In general these courses are to focus on how to make a living in the rural sector, improve one's lot at the basic levels for students in the age group of 11 to 14 years.

After preparatory school the secondary level students from the ages of 14 to 17 years could concentrate on raising the levels of sophistication by broadening the curriculum from the basic level and complementing these with elements on prevention of erosion, ploughing, irrigation and planting techniques, improved seeds, agricultural machinery and the like issues, enabling better foundations for raising of agricultural output and productivity in the agricultural sector. This infrastructure of agricultural training centers is to be widespread and accessible to all who completed primary school. This part of the education system could be run by the Ministry of Education.

Graduates from these agricultural training centers should qualify for a third level technical agricultural education i.e. the technical course programs followed either on a full time or part time basis. Persons coming from these technical schools who complement their basic education with credits from the normal secondary school curriculum (sciences) should have entry into the bachelor's programs of one of the four agricultural university centers upon graduation from these technical schools. They could utilize the credits built up under the technical course program to compensate for some introductory and second year courses. Third level technical agricultural education could be developed and run by the Faculties of Agriculture in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hence, emphasis in the education is to be directed less to university education, and rather to the improvement of the agricultural teaching infrastructure and know how accessible to larger groups who actually work and live off the land. Without them there simply is no agricultural sector and the agricultural university will never be able to flourish. In this respect, the numbers

coming to the university is not the problem, rather it is the levels and type of academic training they receive and the quality of the professionals that are delivered.

Third level technical agricultural training can be based on long distance learning using the TV for part timers that refer to four year courses in a specific number of agricultural matters which are considered a priority. These students do indeed need support and individual guidance. This is to be provided by the lecturers and assistant professors of the existing university centers. For those who can afford to become full time students a university education at the technical level spread out over two years is to be made possible, covering the same topics with possibilities for students to get additional credit in fields beyond the compulsory curriculum. All should be able to obtain a government approval certificate. All technical courses are to be directed towards acquiring high levels of practical know how and teaching the ability to deal with either education, production, processing, marketing and/or conservation issues. The course program consists of 80% compulsory topics and 20% of topics of their choice.

University education at bachelors levels should comprise a curriculum that covers a maximum of four years and is dealing with a wider variety of academic topics. Entry into this program is based on selection of students coming from the regular secondary schools with a science annotation and/or technical agricultural students, and who are to be employed in the agricultural sector itself, or in the manufacturing industry, private sector operations, banking, cooperatives, services, and public sector upon graduation.

The course curriculum could consist of general introductory courses for all of one year. Upon passing all exams a general distinction can be made in the second year between agricultural sciences and agro-manufacturing. The distinction between these two main faculties is that 60% of the courses in the primer are dedicated to agricultural issues and 40% to processing and the like issues. While for the latter faculty 40% of the curriculum will be dedicated to agricultural sciences and 60% to processing and related issues. The shift in focus is to enable choices at earlier levels of the course program. This could raise the applicability and marketability of the young professional looking for work in a market that requires relevant and specialized skills. An argument has to be made as regards introduction of a specialization into the faculty to train agricultural teachers and trainers.

In the third and fourth academic year a limited number of specialization's could be chosen from to form the basis on which graduation studies and works round off the academic program. The type of academic specializations may refer to agricultural education and awareness, agricultural production and technology, food and industrial processing, marketing, and conservation techniques and policies. A third of curriculum should be spent in the field and not behind the desk, while allowing student exchange with other universities in the region. All completed courses honor the students with a BSc certificate. A limited number of students could qualify for a master program either inside or outside the country.

How these course programs are to be set-up and the course curriculum developed, is an issue that ideally reflects the economic base of the regions where a university is established. In this respect, farmer's cooperatives or unions, industry, banking and public organizations are to be represented on the board of directors of the agricultural faculty. In this sense an agricultural university may specialize itself into specific areas like plant improvement or food processing and be relevant to industry in that particular region at large.

It is true that a limitation in resources necessitates that we make optimal use

of existing ones. Therefore, it is prerequisite to liaison the agricultural faculty with the economic, science (water management and irrigation, biology, genetics) engineering and other faculties to achieve economies of scale and a cross fertilization between disciplines. In the economic faculty the curriculum should contain elements such as macro and micro economy, project appraisal and evaluation, business administration, mathematics and statistics, but also matters such as urban and rural development and the like issues related to the realities of the development processes of the country. Agricultural students participate in their course program on such topics as micro economics, project appraisal and related issues. The same counts for irrigation issues, mechanization, and agricultural machinery, with regard to the science and engineering faculties.

An agricultural study program could consist of the following departments:

- Animal Production: husbandry, poultry, cattle, animal breeding and selection, animal waste
- Horticulture: qat, vegetables, potatoes, unions, fruits, fruit trees, flowers and plants
- Agronomy: wheat and grains, fertilizers, seed improvement
- Plant protection: weeds, insects, pest management, insecticide, handling, storage and destruction
- Soil & Water: soils and land use, metrology, water management and irrigation, erosion, desertification control, agricultural and range land management and terrace building
- Forestry: vegetation, shrubs and trees, forest products, agro-forestry, deforestation and afforestation, and habitats
- Bio-chemistry: plant improvement, genetics and biology, nutrition, food handling, processing, quality assessment and monitoring, handling storage and conservation techniques.
- Agro-economics: agro-banking and cooperatives, micro economics, proj-

ect appraisal and valuations, cost benefit analysis, statistics, infrastructure, market centers, rural development

- Fishery: marine science, fish breeding, stock assessment, fishing techniques and preservation, ships and equipment, and coastal zone management

- Mechanization: agricultural machinery, renewable resources and technology applications in farming, engineering & maintenance

- Awareness: education, information and communication techniques, associations and community participation, baseline studies

- Manufacturing: bio-farming, agro-industry, greenhouse cultures, food process technology, process management

Environmental issues are not to be made a separate subject, but rather taught as integral element of each of the academic fields mentioned.

The (assistant) professors, lecturers, research students participate not only in the teaching of the full time students, but support and guide the part time long distance (technical and university) students. They carry out research on agricultural issues of concern in the region, conduct field studies and participate in visits to agricultural unions, industry and the like. Students should be stimulated by participating in research under the auspices of the principle researcher, and register the hours and results of exams on their university credit scheme.

A university must interact with the relevant community in that area and contribute to the solution of it problems, and the welfare and well-being of its stakeholders. In this respect, funding should not be received exclusively from the state. University staff should be stimulated to participate in private contracts or business and let both the university, the students and themselves benefit from these earnings, experiences and results. That makes the exchange with students the more interesting and increases moti-

vation and skill levels.

Agricultural policies now and in the future are to be geared to raise local standards, enhance rural amenities, skill levels and opportunities to make a decent living, providing a growing population with the means to feed itself. Viewed from this perspective, agricultural policies are to become embedded into a concise yet practical framework of rural urban integrated development programs, reflecting national development priorities and objectives, and providing sustainable and structural solutions to the most pressing societal problems.

These programs require time and cover periods of at least 10 years of technical assistance, infrastructure investments, economic and social development for a whole region. These can only succeed with the effective mobilization of both existing resources and direct involvement of the people living in the areas. The bottom up approach requires decision making at the local levels and by the local levels. Perceived from their perspectives, technical people overwhelm them and/or do not understand them. Their basic skills are limited, to what they learned was from their fathers and a little in school. Basically, they are no party, except for those who by their intellect obtained powers to judge and decide. It underlines the necessity to broaden basic (agricultural) education infrastructure and reach out to larger rural groups, while learning from them as well. Information campaigns, technology exchange centers, and mobile exhibitions may also overcome some misunderstandings.

Hence, the suggestion to set up networks of interested parties from the villagers, farmers, providers of basic infrastructure (roads, water, electricity, health, schools), manufacturing industry (food processing industry), banking, research institutes, policy makers, rural-urban planners, conservationists, to deliberate and decide on crucial development issues.

"There are some common denominators and similar circumstances between Yemen and Turkey... We should take these points into consideration and learn from the Turkish experience in local administration"

Yemen and Turkey enjoy a special relationship in terms of cooperation economically, politically, and socially. Last month, a delegation visited in response to an invitation from the Turkish Middle East Institute for General Administration in Ankara. The visit's main purpose is to study the Turkish experience in the field of local administration. Thanks to the genuine efforts of the Turkish Embassy in Sanaa, the visit was quite successful in all aspects. Yemen Times interviewed the members of the delegation, Mr. Abdullah Al-Hada'i, the First Director of the Ministry of Local Administration, Mr. Mohamed Sanhoob, a Legal Consultant of the Minister, and Mr. Ameer Mohamed Abdullah, the financial and administrative Deputy Assistant of the Minister.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Turkey?

A: There are, of course, many purposes. One of them is to get closely acquainted with the Turkish experiment on application of a local administrative system in order to benefit from their example, especially at this time when the government is preparing to move to the system of administrative and financial decentralization. As a result of the Ministry of Local Administration's desire to benefit from other countries' experiences, it decided to send some specialists to a number of countries, including Turkey.

Q: What distinguishes Turkey in this regard?

A: * Turkey pursues a democratic regime and political pluralism. It has a long experience in the field of local administration, based on decentralized governance in financial and administrative affairs, dating back more than 140 years.

* Local authorities in Turkey are elected directly by the people.

* There are some common denominators and similar circumstances between Yemen and Turkey, whether regarding the administrative division, the govern-

ment structure and the social and economic circumstances. We should take these points into consideration and learn from the Turkish experience in local administration. In addition, there is a good relationship between the two countries and peoples.

Q: Some political parties in Yemen think that the essence of decentralization is the election of governors and the directors general of districts. What are your comments on this? Is this applied in Turkey?

A: Yemen's constitution stipulates that local authorities must be based on the principle of financial and administrative decentralization.

The concept of administrative decentralization distribution and transfer of some authorities from the central government in the capital to the local authorities provided the latter being subject to supervision of the central authority according to law.

In fact, understanding the concept of decentralization as you have just mentioned in your question is not correct. The question of governors or districts' directors general, whether elected or appointed, does not have an effect in any way on the pattern by which the local authorities are run. The most important advantage of the decentralized authorities is the kind of power that is transferred to them from the central authorities.

Concerning the other part of the question, governors and district directors in Turkey are appointed by the government and their job is to represent the central authority in their governorates or districts. They also control the municipality councils through which local authority is manifested. The success of Turkey in this regard has been obvious and it has not been affected by whether the governors or districts' directors were appointed by the government or were elected.

Q: Who invited you to Turkey? What are the districts you visited? How do you assess your visit?

A: The visit was arranged by the Turkish Middle East Institute for

General

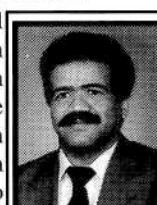
Administration in Ankara and through good efforts by the Embassy of Turkey in Sanaa. The program included visits to some offices of the Ministry of Interior and municipality in Ankara. In Istanbul we visited the Municipality Office and the governorate headquarters. During the visit, which was successful we were able to get acquainted with the Turkish experience in the field of local administration and we will unquestionably benefit from it in Yemen.

Q: What is your view on future cooperation with Turkey in the field of local administration?

A: We are the first official delegation to visit Turkey for this purpose. Honestly speaking, we highly appreciate the warm reception and good response we received from the people there during the visit. We also found that they were ready to extend and strengthen fields of cooperation by granting scholarships and training courses to Yemenis to study in the Turkish Middle East Institute for General Administration. We are looking forward to enhancing cooperation between the two countries in future.

Q: Any last word?

A: We would like to take the advantage of this meeting to thank the Turkish consul and all the staff of the consulate in Sanaa and the TMEIGA. We also thank the local authority in the Ministry of Interior, the Istanbul Municipality and Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Jaifi, the Yemen ambassador to Turkey, for their efforts to make the visit a success.



Mr. Abdullah Al-Hada'i



Mr. Mohamed Sanhoob



Mr. Ameer Mohamed Abdullah

Annual Ceremony at Psychiatric & Nerve Diseases Hospital



By: Yasser
M. Ahmad
Yemen Times

The Islah social charitable society observed the annual ceremony of The Psychiatric and Nerve Diseases Hospital on December 27, 1999. It was attended by a large number of officials, at the forefront of whom was Mr Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council. At the beginning Mr Abdul Ghani addressed the ceremony, expressing his pleasure at the start of work on building a ward for men at the hospital. Last year, providing the ward for women with necessary equipment was completed. Dr. Hamid Zaiad, Secretary General of



the society and the businessman Mahfooz Ba Shamakh also addressed the ceremony by reviewing the stages of finding solutions to the problem of psychiatric patients, both men and women, and talking about the building of the specialized hospital instead of the ward that was part of the building of the central prison. For the last seven

years more than 5000 cases have been registered at the hospital and the cases of diagnosis and examination received by the outpatient clinics of the hospital of psychiatric and nerve diseases amounted to over 12000. Mr. Mahfooz Ba Shamakh has called upon businessmen in our country to adopt these noble and humanitarian projects that are very important for the life of society, and to create a sort of joint responsibility. The businessman Ba Yashmakh is himself funding the

establishment of the ward for men in the hospital. On his part, Dr Ziad has called for exerting joint efforts by various sides to bring success to such projects, especially focusing on the ministry of health and the local council of Sana'a. An agreement was signed between the Ministry of Health and the Local Council in Sana'a and Charitable Society for Social Welfare, stipulating cooperation for furnishing and operating the hospital. This agreement aims at establishing cooperation between them, and operating and furnishing the hospital. Songs that were sung in the ceremony expressed the pleasure on this occasion. A number of businessmen have attended the ceremony, including the well-known businessman Abdulwase'a Haiel Said. Mr. Abdulwase'a is known for his many

charitable works and contributions and on this occasion he donated 2 million riyals for this hospital.

The ceremony was also attended by Mayor of the Capital Secretariat Hussein Al-Maaswari, Dr. Abdullah Abdulwalei Nasheir, Minister of Health and Dr. Tariq Sinan Abu Lehoom, Chairman of the Charitable Society for Social Welfare. At the end of the ceremony, donations were asked to be made for this charitable project.



aims at coordinating with other health institutions and various organizations to muster all efforts and resources for improving psychological health in the society. The hospital also participates in training and qualification of cadres specialized in this field. The hospital's role also includes informing the society on accepting and dealing with those who are psychologically ill, and educating people on care for them.

Memories of Ramadhan in Aden



Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

The people of Yemen are distinguished by numerous popular habits and traditions which can be sorted out and categorized according to the various occasions in their life. The Holy month of Ramadhan is one of the occasions where there are many special habits practiced by the people, and here we want to focus on the Ramadhan customs in the governorate of Aden. Because Aden is the link between the East and the West, it occupies a strategic location in the area.

I have to mention some of the social customs that are still alive in the minds of people in Aden, especially those from the period between the world wars and during the British Colonization. Then they were deprived of the simplest essentials of modern life, such as water, electricity and entertainment equipment like radios and media.

The people knew when Ramadhan was coming, but they could not determine the first day of it because there were no information media through which they can get news. They only knew when it was to begin through a person who was called Almonadi or 'Almodhrab'. This person was sent by the state to go to the main market of the city and declare the advent of Ramadhan. This person carried a small drum and a stick, and he would stand on any table of a restaurant and beat the drum to bring the people together. Then people would go back to their home and villages to inform those who did not see this man who was announcing the beginning of the first day of

Ramadhan.

Regarding water problems, most of the people used to bring water from wells in traditional ways. There were some people who would carry water in small tanks. The person who carried the water was called 'Alwara'd'. He carried the tank upon his shoulder or in carts. Those carts were driven through the streets and markets to deliver water to houses and restaurants. There was also another beautiful picture represented by those children who go to mosques to listen to the 'Azan', (the time of fast-breaking), and then they would go to their houses to inform people that it was time to begin having their food, i.e., to break their fast. The taste of food cooked in Aden is distinct from that of other cities of the country. There are different kinds of food, such as roasted meat, chopped meat, 'Zorbian', (rice with chicken or meat) and other delicious dishes. The meal at which the fast is broken consists of 'shorba' soup, 'labaniah' green peas with lemon and some drinks like tea and coffee. Then they go to mosques to pray and come back to eat another meal. This meal consists of meat, rice, bread, fried meat and fruit. Then they go to relax and receive their neighbors and stay up late at night. It is known that families in Aden exchange food, especially during Ramadhan. This habit is still in place up to now. Regarding social habits, some of the people spend their nights of Ramadhan in different places, for example, everyone goes to his friends' house to spend the whole night, or they go to mosques to recite Holy Qur'an and read Prophetic Hadiths. Some of them practice any kind of sport by playing tennis or other games until the time of dawn or what we call 'Sahoor'. Other people go to walk along the shore or in the parks.

It was commonly known that for each city, there was a person who would awaken the people to eat their meal, the 'Sahoor' that is the last permissible food to be taken

before beginning a new day of fasting. As for children's life during Ramadhan, they gather to play their favorite game that was called 'Alqomaidhan'. This game was the most famous game at that time for children. It mostly resembled the game of hide-and-seek. A number of children cover the face of one of them, then another one of them hits that child, and asks him to determine who it was that hit him. He has to point to the one who touched him with his hand by guessing, without removing the cover from his eyes. When he recognizes the one, they remove the cover from his eyes.

There are also many other games which were played by children. During the period of 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, people had witnessed major improvements in their lifestyle. For example, water pipes and electrical services entered houses. There are also other components which helped and improved the social, economic and cultural life of people at that time. After this development in the lives of people in Aden, we found that the traditional ways began to disappear because people could get their information from radio. When the TV station was inaugurated in 1964, the life of people had witnessed other developments and improvement. Islamic articles were shown on TV during Ramadhan. Social components were available, people came from different neighboring areas due to the ease of transportation and because they wanted to spend Ramadhan in the city of Aden. You find that the main streets in Aden are full of people who keep walking up until the dawn, especially during Ramadhan. Houses receive relatives who came to spend their time there or to go out to walk on the shores and beaches and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere and scenery.

Ramadhan has formed a unique religious and social phenomena for people. Old customs still exist, and are followed and exercised by generation after generation.

Impressions Of Ramadhan

Ramadhan Karim

I remember when we first came here and it was only two months before Ramadhan started. All my Muslim classmates couldn't wait



Ewelina Suprowicz,
H.E. Polish
Ambassador's daughter

for the Holy Month to come. Shortly after, I began going to school an hour later and felt uncomfortable when I was allowed to eat a snack during our breaks. It was right then that I saw and experienced what Ramadan was like in Yemen. Most of my friends fasted and I admired them for their tenacity and inner strength since they were only twelve years old. The fact that they actually came to school on those days, on time (9 am), surprised me as well, since on the streets of Sana'a not a soul could be seen at this early hour.

After researching the Holy Month of Ramadan, I learned and understood the meaning and true importance of the sacrifices made. All the information I absorbed fascinated me. I began to appreciate the importance of commitment to faith in the Muslim world, especially during Ramadan. It is a time of inner development, of great devotion to God, fulfilling good deeds, and fasting, which of course translates into self-control. I believe that Ramadan is by far the most important celebration for the one billion Muslim followers, similar to the Christmas holiday that we recently celebrated.

The way I portray this ninth month of the Islamic calendar, currently celebrated, is that all Muslims unite by refraining from earthly pleasures during the day and devoting more time to religious contemplation. Most of all, I truly acknowledge Ramadan for its belief in good hearts since it is a month of compassion.

Sharing

This is my fourth Ramadan in Yemen and my ninth in general (5 years in Iraq.) Here, I find Ramadan to be celebrated in a bit different way than in Iraq. There, people worked from the early morning to 3 pm, and as in Yemen, they didn't eat or drink throughout the whole day. After their first meal at sunset, they worked more. Here people sleep late; they start functioning around noontime, work until sunset and later till after midnight. In a way, our lives are turned upside-down. Nights become day and day becomes night. At first, life is disorganized, but after a few days we get used to the "ritual" and enjoy it.



Nina Suprowicz, H.E.
Polish Ambassador's
Spouse

I personally find Yemenis to be tolerant people. They accept us as foreigners, the way we come here, with our good and bad habits. Since we are only guests in this country, I see no reason why we shouldn't have full respect towards local customs. Besides, I believe that spending Ramadan in Yemen helps us understand the importance of this Holy Month to Yemenis, who truly believe in Allah. IFTAR, the breakfast at sunset, brings the families together to share food.

I also believe that the most beautiful thing about Ramadan is sharing. Sharing with others, the poor, those in need, feeding the hungry, and most of all improving the lives of other people who are less fortunate.

I'm Back!

The response to the readers of "A True Story": Thank You



By: Ali Muhamed
Al-Hamzi-Ezzani

First and foremost, I would like to thank the readers of "A True Story". I thank both my loyal supporters and critics, who hopefully, will be my supporters in the future-Inshallah.

I received many E-mails, letters, phone calls and criticism from all over the world and not just Yemen. I was con-

tacted by government officials in and outside Yemen, from college students to housewives. I feel honored to have touched such a wide spectrum of people. I also received hate mail from a few people (probably white supremacists) in America who surprisingly read the Yemen Times on the internet. To them, thank you for reading my article, but I say proudly with good intentions as a young Yemeni warrior, "Bring it on."

Many wonder why I chose the issue of colonialization as the opening theme of

my first series of articles, as well as my mission in Yemen. Simply speaking, I personally feel that this is the reason for the regression of the Yemeni people in all aspects; morally, structurally, academically, and more importantly-Spiritually!

Although I have dedicated the last seven years of my life to this issue (nearly 1/4 of my life to be exact), I am in need of confident and committed supporters who are willing to embark on this difficult, but rewarding, journey with me. In simple terms, I am in need of qualified researchers who are willing to carry the torch of freedom, justice and equality.

This mission will not be an easy one! The mission can only be accomplished with faith, good intentions, knowledge and truth. Changes will not happen overnight, nor should they be expected to.

Taking all this into consideration, we need to benefit from the trials of others and take what benefits Yemen. This is important because I am writing to benefit our great country and to give them the needed knowledge to move forward.

The commitment to make a positive change is the primary reason why I chose journalism as a career. The role of the journalist in Yemen should be to speak the truth without fearing the consequences. We are going through a time of changes and hard times and cowardice is not the cure for our problems.


The knowledge I have acquired over the years came through the commitment to seek knowledge, by any means. We should often remember the words of one wise man who said, "Seek knowledge even in China." One might ask who this wise man might be - Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). More importantly, the knowledge I have acquired came unconventionally. This knowledge came through experiences, more so than books. This knowledge came through trials, tribulations and bloodshed!

I ask Allah to give me the opportunity to write more for you in the future on different issues. I thank the Yemen Times for their charitable heart towards the Yemeni people and their concerns. I thank them also for allowing me the opportunity to write for them. I thank the elders, the youth and everyone else and we will communicate soon.

* I can always be reached at:
al_hamzy@hotmail.com




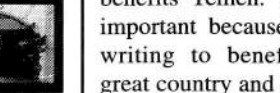
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Write the answers to the following questions beneath every question, then cut off the coupon and send it to P.O. Box 2579 - Sanaa. To guarantee their arrival, you can directly submit them to Yemen Times by placing them in the Millennium Competition Box at our Sanaa, Taiz, and Aden Bureaus. All the coupons with the correct answers will be eligible of winning the first prize, which is YR 1,000,000 in cash. Prizes worth hundreds of thousands of Rials will also be distributed to the other 10 or more winners. Coupons that arrive after the 10th of February 2000 will not be accepted, no photocopies or faxed coupons will be accepted.

1- Question: Did the circulation of Yemen Times increase or decrease after the death of its founder?

Answer:

2- Question: In which village and province is the Shammr fortress?

Answer:

3- Question: When were Radfan Cigarettes first produced (indicate date/month/year)?

Answer:

4- Question: What are the main ingredients of Kanola Oil?

Answer:

5- Question: What are the main ingredients of Kaha Mango Juice?

Answer:

6- Question: When was United Insurance founded?

Answer:

7- Question: What are the products that Artex deal with?

Answer:

8- Question: Indicate the main types of products produced by the United Company for Industrial Metals?

Answer:

9- Question: What are the cars that Suzuki Yemen (S den) sell in Yemen?

Answer:

10- Question: How many shops are there at the Sanaa Trade Center in Sanaa?

Answer:

11- Question: What are the restaurants of Taj Sheba Hotel?

Answer:

Name: _____ Age: _____
 Telephone number: _____
 Address (City/Region): _____
 ID Card No.: _____ Nationality: _____ (*All entries MUST be filled)

المشاركة في المسابقة، ما عليك إلا تعبئة الأجابات والمعلومات الشخصية لكونك واحد على الأقل، ولكن لمضامنة احتمال الفوز بالجائزة الكبرى نضع بالإجابة على كل الأعداد التي فيها المسابقة إذ أن الأسئلة قد تطورت في صيغتها من مدة لأخر. شارك بإحدى الاستمارتين الإنجليزية أو العربية (وليس كليهما) ويمكن لنفس الشخص المشاركة في أكثر من كوبون واحد!

أجب عن الأسئلة التالية (كل إجابة تحت السؤال) ثم قص الكوبون وارسله بالبريد إلى ص.ب. ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء. إذا أردت ضمان وصول الكوبون، يمكنك توصيلها إلى صندوق مسابقة الألفية الثالثة في مكاتبنا الرئيسية في صنعاء، عدن، وتعم. جميع الكوبونات التي تحمل الأجوبة الصحيحة ستكون مرشحة للفوز بالجائزة الأولى التي هي مليون ريال نقداً. كما سيتم توزيع على الأقل عشر جوائز أخرى تقدر بمئات الآلاف لبقية الفائزين. الكوبونات التي تصل عبر الفاكس أو التي قد صورت (فوتوكوبي) لن تقبل. عليك قص الكوبون كما هو محدد بالمقص، والكوبونات التي تصلنا بعد تاريخ ١٠ فبراير ٢٠٠٠ لن تكون مقبولة.

السؤال الأول: هل تدهورت مبيعات وشهرة صحيفة "يمن تايمز" بعد وفاة مؤسسها؟ كم نسبة الزيادة أو النقصان في المبيعات؟

الإجابة:

السؤال الثاني: في أي محافظة وقرية تقع قلعة شمر؟

الإجابة:

السؤال الثالث: متى بدأ تصنيع سجائر ردفان (اليوم/الشهر/العام)؟

الإجابة:

السؤال الرابع: ما هي المكونات الرئيسية لزيت كائولا النباتية؟

الإجابة:

السؤال الخامس: ما هي المكونات الرئيسية لمصير المانجو من قها؟

الإجابة:

السؤال السادس: متى أسست الشركة المتحدة للتأمين (اليوم/الشهر/العام)؟

الإجابة:

السؤال السابع: ما هي الماركات العالمية التي وكيلها شركة أرتكس التجارية؟

الإجابة:

السؤال الثامن: ما هو المشروع العملاق الذي تنوي الشركة المتحدة للصناعات المعدنية تنفيذه في اليمن؟

الإجابة:

السؤال التاسع: أذكر ثلاث دول في الشرق الأوسط فيها مجموعة بامعروف الوكيل لسيارات سوزوكي؟

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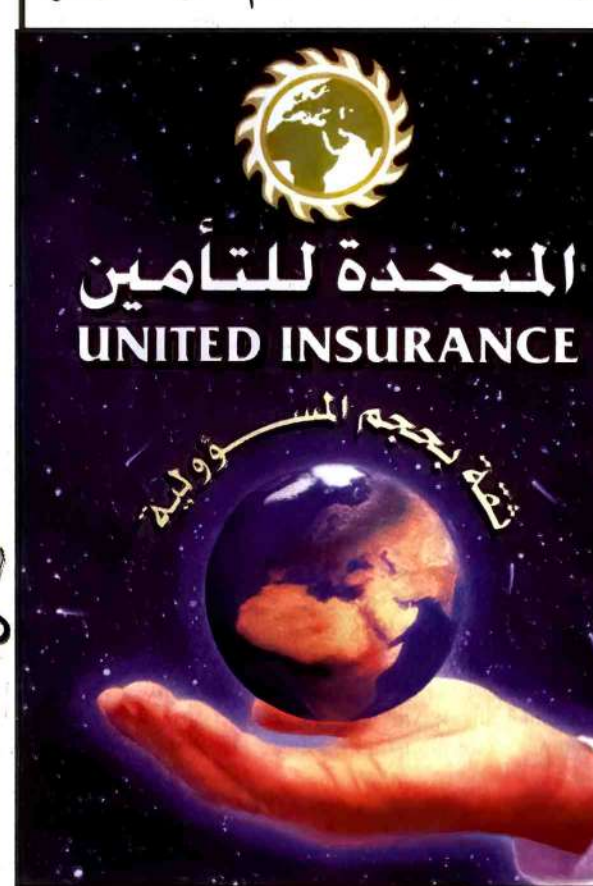
السؤال العاشر: كم عدد المحلات الموجودة في مركز صنعاء التجاري؟

الإجابة:

السؤال الحادي عشر: متى تأسس فندق تاج سبا - صنعاء (اليوم/الشهر/العام)؟

الإجابة:

الإسم: _____
 الهاتف: _____ العنوان (المدينة/المحافظة): _____
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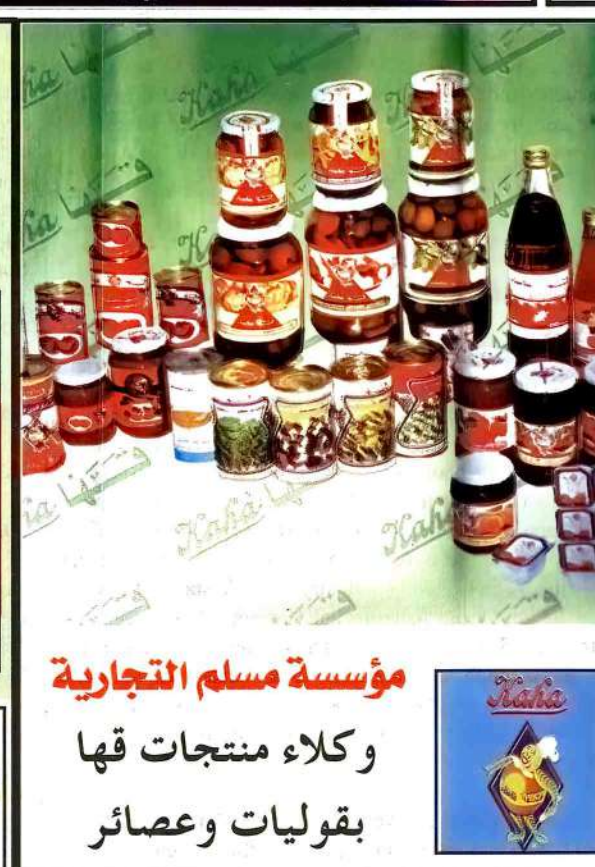


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يمن تايمز بلا شك، الصحيفة الإنجليزية الأولى في اليمن! من يعلم؟ قد تكون أنت الفائز بمليون ريال

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Eritrea - Yemen Arbitration Documents

Part 2 in a series

Phase II: Maritime Delimitation

39. This factor was argued strenuously and ingeniously by both Parties. Both relied upon the statement in the North Sea cases that a delimitation should take into account "a reasonable degree of proportionality, which a delimitation carried out in accordance with equitable principles ought to bring about between the extent of the continental shelf areas appertaining to the coastal State and the length of its coast measured in the general direction of the coastline". (3) Both were in agreement with the warning in the Anglo-French Arbitration case (4) that this is a test of equitableness and not a method of delimitation, and that what had to be avoided was a manifest disproportionality resulting from the line selected. So there was little between the Parties as to principle but there was strong disagreement about the measurement of the length of their respective coasts and the significance of that measurement when it was made. The measurement is a matter on which several views are possible when Eritrea's coast extends also to be opposite to Yemen's neighbouring State, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; with which the maritime boundary remains undelimited.

40. The Yemen position was that proportionality is a factor to be taken into account in testing the equitableness of a delimitation already effected by other means. In relation in particular to the line to be drawn in the central sector, Yemen suggested that the relative lengths of the coasts overall were not significant because (i) in the restricted seas between the Yemen islands and the Eritrean coast any modifications of the median line would involve the principle of non-encroachment; (ii) further, in the central sector, given the general configuration of the coasts, equal division alone guarantees an equitable result; (iii) equal division is reinforced by the principle of non-encroachment; (iv) the relevant coasts for this delimitation are the Eritrean coast and the Yemen islands; (v) State practice supported the median line; and (vi) proportionality cannot be applied in the context of overlapping territorial sea.

41. The Eritrean reply to this was to question whether the Yemen claimed line in the central sector really was the median line envisaged in Article 15 of the Convention; and Eritrea suggested that it was not so, because it ignored the low-water line base points of the Eritrean islands of South West Rocks and the Haycocks.

42. It is not possible here to describe the many variations to be found in the pleadings on the theme of the method of measurements to be employed, or the discussions of the ambiguities of "oppositeness", although the Tribunal has examined them all. Suffice it to say that whereas Yemen calculated that its own claimed line neatly divided the sea areas into almost equal areas, which according to Yemen's measurements of the length of the coasts was the correct proportion, Eritrea found, in a final choice of one of its several different methods of calculation, that its own historic median line between the mainland coasts would produce respective areas favouring Eritrea by a proportion of 3 to 2, which again said to reflect accurately the proportion of the lengths of coast according to Eritrea's method of measuring them.

43. It should be mentioned that Eritrea was particularly concerned that, in calculating the areas resulting from the delimitation, account should not be taken of the internal waters within the Dahlaks or the bays along its coast, including the Bay of Assab.

The Northern and Southern Extremities of the Boundary Line

44. There also arose a question about where to stop the boundary at its northern and southern ends, considering that in these areas it might prejudice other boundary disputes with neighbouring countries. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia indeed had written to the Registrar of the Tribunal on 31 August 1997 pointing out that its boundaries with Yemen were disputed, reserving its position, and suggesting that the Tribunal should restrict its decisions to areas "that do not extend north of the latitude of the most northern point on Jabal al-Tayr island". Yemen for its part wished the determination to extend to the latitude of 16N, which is the limit of its so-called northern sector. Eritrea on the other hand stated that it had "no objection" to the Saudi Arabian proposal.

45. At the southern end, the third States concerned have not made representations to the Tribunal, but the matter will nevertheless have to be determined. Eritrea was most concerned here about the arrow with which Yemen terminated its claimed line, as this arrow, according to Eritrea, pointed in such a direction as to "slash" the main shipping channel and cause it to be in Yemen territorial waters. Yemen had also used an arrow to terminate the northern end of its line and there was some discussion and debate from both sides about the propriety or otherwise of these arrows.

46. At the southern end of the line, as it approaches the Bab-al-Mandab, there is the complication of the possible effect upon the course of the boundary line of the Island of Perim. This question might clearly involve the views of Djibouti. It follows that the Tribunal's line should stop short of the place where any influence upon it of Perim Island would begin to take effect. The Tribunal has taken into consideration these positions variously expressed and has reached its own conclusions, as more fully detailed in Chapter V below.

The submissions of Yemen and the Prayer for Relief of Eritrea appear below.

Submissions of Yemen

On the basis of the facts and legal considerations presented in Yemen's pleadings; and

Rejecting all contrary submissions presented in Eritrea's "Prayer for Relief", and

In view of the provisions of Article 2(3) of the Arbitration Agreement;

The Republic of Yemen, respectfully requests the Tribunal to adjudge and declare:

1. That the maritime boundary between the Parties is a median line, every point of which is equidistant from the relevant base points on the coasts of the Parties as identified in Chapters 8 through 10 of Yemen's Memorial, appropriate account being taken to the islets and rocks comprising South West Rocks, the Haycocks and the Mohabbakahs;

2. That the course of the delimitation, including the coordinates of the turning points on the boundary line established on the basis of the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84), are those that appear in Chapter 12 to Yemen's Memorial.

Eritrea's Prayer for Relief

(Paragraph 274, Memorial of the State of Eritrea)

Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Arbitration Agreement requires the Tribunal to issue an award delimiting the maritime boundaries between the Parties in a technically precise manner. In order that such precision shall be achieved, the State of Eritrea respectfully requests the Tribunal to render an award providing as follows:

1. The Eritrean people's historic use of resources in the mid-sea islands includes fishing, trading, shell and pearl diving, guano and mineral extraction, and all associated activities on land including drying fish, drawing water, religious and burial practices and building and occupying shelters for sleep and refuge;

2. The right to such usage, to be shared with the Republic of Yemen, extends to all of the land areas and maritime zones of the mid-sea islands;

3. The right to such usage shall be preserved intact in perpetuity, as it has existed in the past, without interference through the imposition of new regulations, burdens, curtailments or any other infringements or limitations of any kind whatsoever, except those agreed upon by Eritrea and Yemen as expressed in a written agreement between them;

4. The outer borders of the maritime zones of the islands in which these shared rights exist shall be defined as extending:

A. on the western side of the Red Sea, to the median line drawn between the two coasts, which shall include the islands historically owned by either State prior to the decade preceding commencement of this arbitration in accordance with Article 121 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and

B. on the eastern side of the Red Sea, as far as the twelve mile limit of Yemen's territorial sea.

5. The waters beyond the shared area of the mid-sea islands shall be divided in accordance with a median line drawn between two coasts, which shall include the islands historically owned by either State prior to the decade preceding commencement of this Arbitration in accordance with Article 121 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

6. The two Parties are directed to negotiate the modalities for shared usage of the mid-sea islands and their waters in accordance with the following terms:

A. Immediately following the Tribunal's rendering of an award in the second Phase, the Parties shall commence negotiations, in good faith, with a view toward concluding an agreement describing the ways in which nationals of both Parties may use the resources of the mid-sea islands and their maritime zones, as those zones are described in the Award of the Tribunal, and detailing a mechanism of binding dispute resolution to settle any and all disputes arising out of the interpretation or application of the agreement;

B. The Parties shall submit this agreement to the Tribunal for its review and approval no later than six months after the date the Tribunal renders its award in the second Phase;

C. The Tribunal shall determine whether the agreement is in accord with its award in the second Phase, and in particular whether it faithfully preserves the traditional rights of the two Parties to usage of the resources of the mid-sea islands;

D. If the Tribunal determines that the agreement is not satisfactory according to the criteria described in the preceding paragraph, or if the Parties fail to submit an agreement, the Tribunal shall issue an award that either describes such

modalities or else appoints the water between the two Parties equally. The Tribunal may request submissions from the Parties on this point.

E. If the Tribunal finds that the agreement (or a revised agreement) is satisfactory, according to the criteria set forth above, it shall communicate its approval to the Parties, endorse the agreement as its own award and further direct the Parties to execute the agreement in the form of a binding treaty to be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

7. The Tribunal shall remain seized of the dispute between the Parties until such time as the agreement regarding shared usage of the mid-sea islands has been received for deposit by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

CHAPTER II

The General Quof Fishing in the Red Sea

47. This chapter will first deal with the evidence and arguments advanced by the Parties concerning the general question of fishing in the Red Sea. It will then set forth the Tribunal's conclusions on these arguments and evidence.

The Evidence and Arguments of the Parties

48. Each Party made much of fishing, including both the past history and the present situation, and as related not only to its own nationals but also the practices of the nationals of the other Party. The evidence advanced by the Parties and the arguments made by them can essentially be broken down into five subjects. These are: (1) fishing in general; (2) the location of fishing areas; (3) the economic dependency of the Parties on fishing; (4) consumption of fish by the populations of the Parties; and (5) the effect of fishing practices on the lines of delimitation proposed by the Parties.

49. The arguments of each Party were advanced essentially in order to demonstrate that the delimitation line proposed by that Party would not alter the existing situation and historical practices, that it would not have a catastrophic effect on local fishermen or on the local or national economy of the other Party or a negative effect on the regional diet of the population of the other Party and, conversely, that the delimitation line proposed by the other Party would indeed alter the existing situation and historical practice, would have a catastrophic or at least a severely adverse effect on the local fishermen or on the first Party's regional economy, and would also have a negative effect on the diet of the population of the first Party.

50. These elements were introduced directly and indirectly by each side against the general background of the "catastrophic" and "long usage" tests originated in the Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries Case of 1951 - and as brought forward in the provisions inter alia of Article 7, paragraph 5 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

51. They also found an echo in the "equitable solution" called for by paragraph 1 of Articles 74 and 83 of the Convention, it being assumed that no "solution" could be equitable which would be inconsistent with long usage, which would present a clear and present danger of a catastrophic result on the local economy of one of the Parties, or which would fail to take into account the need to minimise detrimental effects on fishing communities, and the economic dislocation, of States whose nationals have habitually fished in the relevant area.

Fishing in General

52. The position taken by Eritrea was as follows. The historical record demonstrated that the Eritrean fishing industry was substantial before the civil war in Ethiopia and had been, second only to Egypt, the most important regional fishing economy. Since the end of the civil war and independence, serious efforts were underway to reestablish the Eritrean fishing economy. It was, therefore, a mistake to consider that the Eritrean fisheries were - as Yemen argued - to a large extent dependent on Eritrean freshwater fisheries; in fact these have had no importance. On the other hand, the Yemen fishing industry was substantially based on its Indian Ocean fisheries and did not rely significantly on the Red Sea. Although Yemen's fishing industry in the Red Sea is much less significant than Yemen has claimed, it is nonetheless well established and in no event dependent for protection on the particular delimitation line proposed by Yemen.

53. Yemen argued that Yemeni nationals have long dominated fishing activities in the Red Sea; the Yemen traditional fishing activities - conducted in small boats, whether sambouks or houris - had been of much greater significance in the past than those of Eritrea, whose fishing activities had largely been concentrated on fishing close inshore along the Eritrean coastline and in and among the Dahlaks. Moreover, Hodeidah in Yemen was the most active market for fisheries production from Eritrean and Yemeni fishermen alike.

Economic Dependency on Fishing

54. The position of Eritrea was that considerable efforts had been made since the close of the war to reorganise and build up the Eritrean fishing industry - including efforts sponsored by the UNDP and FAO - and that the prospects for significant future development of the Eritrean fisheries

were both promising and important. Although Eritrea did not claim present economic dependency on fishing, it did make the point that the existing fisheries practices of its nationals should not be restricted or curtailed by the delimitation to be decided by the Tribunal. As to Yemen, Eritrea asserted not only that the Yemen's Red Sea fisheries presence was far less important than Yemen had claimed, but also that most fish landed in Hodeidah were brought there by Eritrean fishermen.

55. On the other hand, Yemen argued that its fishermen have always depended on the Red Sea fisheries as their fishing grounds and that this fishing activity had long constituted an important part of Yemen's overall national economy and been a dominant part of the regional economy of the Tihama region along the Red Sea coast. Yemen claimed that Eritrea had no basis for arguing that it possessed any substantial dependency on fishing, fisheries, fish, or fish consumption, and that most of Eritrea's concerns as manifested by documentary evidence submitted to the Tribunal in both Stages of the Arbitration had concerned proposals and projects for the development of future fishing activity and fisheries resources of Eritrea that did not now exist or were not now utilised.

Location of Fishing Areas

56. The arguments of Eritrea were to the following effect: at present, fishing in the Red Sea was by and large dominated by Eritrean artisanal fishermen who caught their fish around the Dahlaks, along the Eritrean coast, around the Mohabbakahs, the Haycocks, and South West Rocks, and in the waters around the Zuqar-Hanish group of "mid-sea islands". (As noted above, Eritrea denied that any part of its fish catch depended on inland Eritrean fisheries such as in lakes and reservoirs.) As to Yemen, Eritrea claimed that Yemeni fishermen had hardly, if at all, relied on the deep-water fishing grounds to the west of the mid-sea islands and around the Mohabbakahs, the Haycocks, and South West Rocks; there was little evidence of any Yemeni nationals' activity west of the Zuqar-Hanish group; and Yemen had failed to prove that a single gram of fish consumed in Yemen was taken from those waters.

57. For its part, Yemen argued that its artisanal and traditional fishermen had long fished in the waters around Jabal al-Tayr and the Zubayr group, in the waters around the Zuqar-Hanish group, and in the deep waters west of Greater Hanish and around the Mohabbakahs, the Haycocks, and South West Rocks. Supporting these assertions was evidence produced in the form of witness statements in the First Stage of the Arbitration in which individual Yemeni fishermen indicated that they had fished in the waters in question for a long time. As to the other Party, Yemen again asserted that Eritrea's fishing activities were confined to waters of the Dahlak archipelago and the inshore waters along the Eritrean coast and did not to any substantial extent impinge on waters surrounding the islands at issue in the First Stage of the Arbitration - including the deep waters west of Greater Hanish and around the Mohabbakahs, the Haycocks, and South West Rocks.

Consumption of Fish by the Population

58. Eritrea argued that the Eritrean coastal population consumed far more fish than Yemen claimed and that, in addition, efforts were taking place to increase the popularity and availability of fresh fish for human consumption by its general population. It further asserted that the Yemeni population's dependence on fresh fish from the Red Sea as a food source had been greatly exaggerated by Yemen's pleadings, and that the Yemeni population of the Tihama - and a fortiori the population of Yemen as a whole - did not rely to any significant extent on fresh fish as a food. For its part, Yemen maintained that its population, particularly the coastal areas such as the Tihama, consumed substantial quantities of fish and that - by contrast - Eritrean fish consumption was negligible.

Effect on Lines of Delimitation Proposed by the Parties

59. The Eritrean position was that the Tribunal's indication of a line of delimitation such as the "historic median line" suggested by Eritrea would respect the historic practice of the Parties, would not displace or adversely affect Yemen's fishing activity, and would be an equitable result for both Parties. In Eritrea's view, however, the Yemen proposed "median line" would deprive Eritrean fishermen of valuable fishery areas east of the mid-sea islands, and would award to Yemen areas to the west of the mid-sea islands and around the Mohabbakahs, the Haycocks, and South West Rocks - where Eritrean fishermen had long been plying their trade and where Yemeni nationals had never engaged in substantial fisheries activity. To that extent Eritrea argued that the proposed Yemen delimitation line would be inequitable and would deprive Eritrean fishermen of an important resource.

60. On the other side, Yemen maintained that the median line proposed by it would correctly reflect historical practices, would not give Yemen anything it did not have before, would respect existing rights, would not "penalise" existing or past Eritrean fishing activity, and would constitute an equitable result. As far as the Eritrean proposed "historic median line" was concerned, it would encroach on Yemen's traditional fishing grounds without justification, would deprive Yemeni fishermen of deep water fisheries west of the mid-sea islands, and would give a corresponding windfall to Eritrea.



What others had to say about him:

"In Dr. Al-Saqqaf we found not only a sincere belief in democracy and human rights, but the ability to create institutions in support of his belief, and not only Yemeni patriotism in its most positive sense, but the ability to see beyond borders and factions."

Barbara Bodine
American Ambassador

"It is hard to think of a death that would be more shocking to this country, he was well-known and liked. I think he could be described as an agent-provocateur of where and what Yemen could be; he was so desirous of seeing Yemen achieve its full potential."

Derek Butler
NDI Field Representative in Yemen

"Dr. Al-Saqqaf contributed a great deal to human rights in Yemen and was held in high esteem, both professionally and personally, by his friends and colleagues here at Amnesty International. His tireless and selfless efforts to promote human rights will long be cherished by human rights activists across the world."

June Ray
Director
Middle East Program
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

"We at CARE International in Yemen came to know Dr. Al-Saqqaf as a good friend, a champion in cause of development of all the people of Yemen and a dedicated patriot. He will be grievously missed not only for what he had accomplished in his relatively short life, more over for what was still to come from this man of immense vigor and devotion to the issues of Yemen."

Tim Kennedy,
Country representative
CARE International in Yemen

"As a man who possesses so many multi-cultural facets, he was greatly liked and respected among the international community, and he has left behind him a legacy which will be difficult to follow."

Henrikas Yushkavičius
Assistant Director-General
Sector for Communication,
Information and Informatics

Alain Modoux
Director
Program for Freedom
of Expression and

Democracy
(UNESCO)

"The people of Yemen have lost a great leader and their foremost advocate. The international community in Yemen and worldwide has lost the man who was a window of Yemen to the world."

Habib Humam
Representative
(UNICEF)

"In Dr. Abdul Aziz, NDI found a friend of sound judgment and absolute sincerity, one whom we can never replace."

Ken Wollack

"We nominate Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who with his demise, left a huge gap in the field of freedom, democracy, and human rights. It is a gap that no one was able to fill. His great contribution in the preparing and organizing the Emerging Democracies Forum is in itself a sufficient to grant him the YT person of the year 1999 award. This in spite of the fact that he died before its inauguration. However, no one can deny his hard work in preparing for this international event in Yemen."

- Eng. Khaled Abdulwahid Mohamed Noman, a Well-known businessmen and prominent personality in Aden
- Abdullah Saeed Abdan, a former minister, and the general manager of the ministry of planning in Aden

President

Les Campell Regional
Director
Middle East and North
Africa Division
(NDI)

"He was a tireless champion of democracy, human rights and the building of civil society. He exhibited a selfless sense of patriotism and succeeded in making Yemen a better citizen of the world. It was an honor to work with him and support him in these efforts. He shared freely his wisdom and counsel, enabling us to gain a better appreciation of the tremendous challenges faced by Yemen. On a personal level, we all appreciated his human warmth, sharp wit and sense of humor."

D.H. Hobson
Canadian Ambassador

"He was a crusader, a missionary and a visionary. His passion was inexhaustible, his enthusiasm indomitable, his humanism inimitable. To a foreigner like me, he symbolized the harbinger of a new era in Yemen which I have been eagerly awaiting in the new millennium. His

memory is inefaceable. He will continue, I am sure, in the hearts and minds of countless admirers like me as a bright, shining star of hope, of recognition."

Ramakanta Sahu
College of Education,
Mahweet

"I know that many people considered Aziz an anti-establishment activist, while many others thought of him as being a supporter of the ruling authorities in his own way; but both such sides can never but agree that by the tragic death of Aziz Yemen has lost a great son and patri-

learned, generous and kind. He was a man with a cause. It did not matter whether you loved him or hated him, you could not help but admit that he was an extraordinary man."

Dr. Mohammed Abdul Malik
Al-Mutwakel

"He was an entire party in a single man and a man as great as the whole country."

Dr. Abdullah Al-Maqaleh

"Dr. Al-Saqqaf was not merely the chief editor of the Yemen Times. Rather, he was a good father and a staunch advisor for everybody who worked with or knew him. With courageous spirit and modesty, he was able to achieve visible strides for the paper, making our country a better place by calling for democracy and civil society. He was also a brave politician who was able to win the hearts of all people, fighting for the good values with nothing but his pen and the interest in searching for the truth."

He respected women and supported them in all fields. He was always ready to support any project adopted by them. In the 1997 parliamentary elections he declared in the Yemen Times that he was ready to finance the electoral campaign of any non-partisan women interested in nominating herself for the parliament."

Sayidah Al-Hailamah
Al-Mara'ah newspaper
Chief Editor

"Is destiny so harsh and merciless as to deprive Yemen of a man who worked hard to lead it into the 21st century while it was in its strange reality unprepared to bid farewell the 18th century?"

Hafidh Al-Bakri
Al-Wahdawi newspaper

"His legacy will live on in the history of democracy because he worked to strengthen and spread it throughout his life. His work and contribution in this field will really live on."

Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Qirby

"In Ramadhan, 1996, we were together walking in Bab Mosa street in Taiz. Suddenly he stopped. I noticed that he was looking at a bare-footed child wearing clothes that had seen better days. The young boy was watching attentively looking very happy, for his father was buying him new clothes for the Eid. Then Dr. Abdul Aziz stepped towards him, took him by his hands, led him into the shop and bought him everything for the Eid, even socks."

"He was brave, ambitious,

Mohammed Al-Meitami
USA

"The Yemen Times has been an advocate of human rights and fighting corruption and corrupts. Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf was a solid defender of wronged people in all cases."

"The reason behind the success of Dr. Al-Saqqaf was his active conscience and his love for his country and its people. He used the Yemen Times as an invincible weapon to disclose corruption and their interests that were always sought at the expense of poor people. The Yemen Times has been playing a great role in disclosing corruption while many others have chosen to keep silent and enjoyed watching from a distance."

Ahmad Al-Haj

"He was able to lead himself to glory. A quick look through his contribution will make you respect him even if you are among his opponents."

Izzaddin Saeed

"Women occupied a great part of his attention. He rejected male-chauvinism, and encouraged woman to be educated and assume better positions."

Sameerah Abdullah Al-Huttar
Al-Maraah newspaper

"As far as human rights are concerned, he was among their first defenders. His contribution in building the civil society are still alive. His departure has left a yawning vacuum in the political, social and general life that is difficult to fill."

Shaher S'ad Mohammed

"Freedom for him was a sun that must shine on everyone, a moon whose light must be enjoyed by everyone, water that everyone must drink from and as the air that everyone must breathe."

Yahia Abdul Raqib Al-Jubeihi

"I have known many Yemeni people and I have seen that they soon get tired of trying to keep abreast with the times. Whenever they start, they come to a halt in the middle of the road and step aside to see who will venture to continue except Al-Saqqaf. I knew him to be fond of tiredness to the extent that I thought tiredness itself got tired of him."

Saleh Abdul Al-Dahan

"Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf was the founder of the first English newspaper in Yemen that has been a reflecting mir-

ror of the Yemeni democratic experience, freedom of press, etc. He contributed a lot to human rights and general freedoms, not only through his successful and distinguished role as an editor in chief of the Weekly Yemen Times but also through the Human and Liberties Committee of the Consultative Council he headed."

Mahboob Ali

"His words bespeak his great and passionate love for the country and his unlimited willingness to sacrifice for the principles and values he devoted himself to."

Ali Saleh Abdullah

"Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf and the Yemen Times have been the best in representing Yemen in English-speaking communities. Had the government closed down some of its embassies and satisfied itself with distributing the Yemen Times to foreign Ministries of those countries, their relations with Yemen could have been more concrete than they are nowadays."

Late Abdul Habib Salim

"He was a distinguished Yemeni scholar who devoted his life to teach his students at Sanaa University, and to becoming the voice of the voiceless. He was an activist who supported non-governmental organizations and had a lot of dreams for our country and our people. He was fearless in pursuing and exposing corruption and injustice in the Yemeni government. He will always be regarded as a scholar, and journalist who broke barriers, and who was a pioneer in independent journalism."

Shaker Ahmed Al-Ashwal
New York

"He was a well-informed man and a person who worked for his beliefs with honesty and seriousness. He was a faithful friend, and a man who was concerned with the issues of his country, and all Arab and Islamic nations."

Murtadha Rahimi
Iranian Ambassador

"He was an extremely honorable reflection of a courageous and hard working Yemeni, working for the prosperity, wealth, and democratization of his country, Yemen. He gained respect from prominent international and Arab individuals, and he had excellent relations with the Palestinian people and leadership."

Yahia Rabbah
Palestinian Ambassador

There is no better way to understand Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, other than his writings in Yemen Times. Here, we publish, or rather, re-publish the first ever editorial written by him as the Chief Editor, in which we introduced his beloved newspaper, Yemen Times.

Introducing the Yemen Times

"This is the first issue of the Yemen Times. Therefore, it is with pleasure that I use this editorial to introduce it to the reader.

The Yemen Times is an independent weekly paper not attached to any political party or thought. As such, its stand vis-avis the various local, regional, and international issues is determined on the basis of an objective assessment of the merits and demerits involved. The paper aims to reach out to a large base of readers, especially amongst the intellectual classes, the decision-makers, the business sector, and the international community. Nevertheless, the paper covers with interest and commitment two categories of activities, which are:

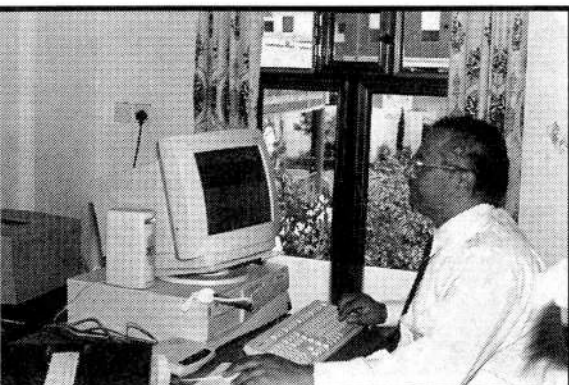
1. Economic/Business Activities: Yemen Times will provide detailed coverage of economic and business activities in Yemen, and a synopsis of important regional and international issues in this sector. Major emphasis will be placed on trade, investments, economic laws, tenders, and market-watch aspects in price levels, consumption, interest rates, exchange rates, etc. In general, government and private-sector efforts in the country's socio-economic development process will be extensively covered.

2. Democracy and Human Rights: Yemen Times believes that the prosperity and strength of nations, if at least in the long run, will depend on democratic values and observation of human rights. In the absence of those two basic elements in society, it is doubtful that much can be achieved. Therefore, the paper will closely follow those two issues as reflected in Yemeni life. Much has been achieved in both counts in the recent past, and much more remains to be achieved.

The paper will heavily depend on primary sources of information; i.e., interviews, polls, field surveys, and contributions and feedback from our readers.

Yet, the paper will also provide information from secondary sources, especially through the weekly summary round up of the local press. All in all, Yemen Times hopes to be informative and analytic in nature. All members of the paper promise to make a sincere effort to serve our readership, and all of us will appreciate an active participation and feedback.

Till next Wednesday, take care!"
Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Editorial, Issue 1, Vol. 1
27 Feb. 1991, Sanaa



Frank Talk: What Accent, Doctor?

Dr. Pramod Kumar
Taiz University

Kafkasque hallucination? Another bread-earner changed into a cockroach? Not entirely. However, there was no denying it, I had been metamorphosed.

It was a very good morning and the moment I work up, I knew it has happened. When it grips you, you had better accept it. With the intention to leave nothing to imagination, I applied the time-tested methods. I rubbed myself rigorously. It was still there. I shrugged my shoulders. It could not be shrugged off. And, with the acid-tests done, I knew, I had arrived. I had changed into an

American and that too, a thoroughbred American.

The genesis, as I think, could be traced to my dream last night. It did the trick or, may be, it started a bit earlier, during the day. It so happened that a local scholar, one of the truly enlightened souls, inquired of me, 'what accent, Doctor?', expecting thereby an either/or response, 'American' or 'British'. Simply he was querying whether to follow one or the other speech model. But to my ears it sounded like a request to explain the concept of quantum tumble.

I stood puzzled and non-plussed. Nevertheless, I stood my ground. Mentally, I kept on repeating the question and appealing to God to bail me out of this tangle, mixing up the question and the appeal in my confusion.

This could hardly have taken more than a split second but, to me, it seemed like an eternity. Simple got restored to my face as my answer arrived. I am sure and confident tone I advised him, 'Follow the Yemeni accent, my boy. Be yourself.'

What I told him was my waking mind but my impulse was with America. And, the impulse took me.

Now that I was cock-sure as to my new identity as an American, I gave myself a lusty pat on my back, congratulating myself whole-heartedly for the new avaton. And why not, a life-time dream, at long last, had come true.

The world appeared a play-ground to me. As I ventured out into the desolate, choaked streets of what-used-to-be my nativity, I was confounded by the extent of naivety and rusticity

among the local inhabitants. It was a raw sensation, the thrill of a nestling a wing on its maiden flight. I felt on top of the world. As I looked down on the multitude, for there was no other way to look but down, I was appaled by the sight of general squalor, filth and clumsiness. It made my shoulders droop a little at the thought of 'the white man's burden'. All the time, I thanked my star, I had escaped from all this into the fraternity of a superior clan.

Alas! It did not last long. My sensational climb up deflated like pinpricked balloon. To my utter dismay, I found myself deconstructed in an instant. What undid me was a nagging doubt growing at my heart: 'Is it me?' This acted the spoilsport. I had a fleeing I was in a no-man's-land, caught between the devil and the deep sea,

one I reject and the other rejects me. My euphoria melted under the glare of introspection. I could now recognize my original impulse as an attempt to impersonate and not transform. I was acting the copy-cat. It had happened before. Going down the memory lane, in India which underwent extended periods of foreign rule, Arabic and English, in turn, became the coveted medium of the upward mobile. In England, similar trend was evident when the Normans were in control. It was clear that imitating peer group for favour, fashion or exigency is the natural tendency in man. It is manifest not only in the sphere of language but also in matters of dress, food, social customs.

So, how could I possibly rationalize my advise to the budding protégé to cultivate his own accent, a Yemeni one?

I postulated that if we have to use a foreign tongue extensively and intensively, we must develop vested interest in it and use it on our own terms.

As a safe-guard against transgression, I proposed a measuring rod having three scales. First, the criterion of legitimacy, i. e, his message must be clearly and unambiguously communicated in all its subtle nuances; and finally, the criterion of approximation, i. e, his speech must sound as close as possible to that of the native speakers. Selecting a model for approximation depended to a large extent of non-linguistic considerations. American and British accents were both linguistically equally tenable and second. It would be a matter of preference. And the way the Australians and the Canadians were pushing regionally as well as globally, it might not be long before their accents would be in active contention for a place under the sun.

As can be seen today, in spite of the dialectical variations, the variant forms have not drifted apart to an extent as to make comprehension tenuous. The simple rule for a non-native speaker is to see that his speech do not put too much strain on the native ear. Devian forms do pose serious problems when they tend to deface or mutilate language beyond recognition. There is an amusing anecdote about an Indian political leader on a trip to London straying into the Hyde Park to make a speech. An English bystander, when the show

was over, wanted to know in which language the speech was delivered. He was told that the guy was speaking English.

Whatever the hazards, English having acquired the pride of place as Lingua Franca must be domesticated and naturalized in its regions of domicile. It is interesting to note that more people in the Indian subcontinent use English than England, Australia, Canada and New Zealand put together. It is incumbent that the language develop a distinct regional flavour, a smell of the soil, entirely its own. It will not-earn legitimacy unless it does so. Yemen must also grow with its brand of English.

Flattening, slurring, clipping, swallowing the constants, vowels and diphthongs and tottering over prosodic features such as aspiration stress, intonation, at times, produce comic effects. But life is ruthless and impatient in its exploitation of tools at its disposal. It can not wait for language to put on bridal dress to woo. It has to make do with its business whether the lip-stick is on or not.

In his charming play, 'Pygmalion', popularized as a block-buster Hollywood movie, 'My Fair Lady', Bernard Shaw treats the nation of correctness in pronunciation as of seminal concern in the sphere of social behavior. In his inimitable style he exaggerates the issue to the limits of hilarity. In spite of the mock-seriousness adopted as a posture by the dramatist, one gets the impression that the subject is essentially cosmetic in nature and the comedy is the result of this very distortion and disproportionate emphasis. Prof. Higgins fails as a human being due to his inability to acceptDoolittle for what she is, her natural self. He seems affected and incapable of human emotions. As an expert in linguistics, he shows signs of blindness in his inability to see the beauty of a language form rooted in the commerce of life itself. He shows ignorance of the fountainhead that nourishes and revitalized language through its day-to-day transactions. But that is how our impeccable Shaw can suppress and express! What I suggested to my young scholar was Pygmalion in inverse. I heard him some six months later as he connected on phone. I was amazed by his effortless articulation. He had taken to American accent as a parrot to human sounds. He was eager to impress me. I enjoyed his flourish. Before he hung up, he did not forget to thank me for the advice rendered to him not so long ago, 'to be himself'. Evidently, he had taken to the peer accent as a hungry infant taken to its mother's breast. I wished him all the best as I watched his proud shadow gliding down the Pygmalion corridor of possibility.

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Continued from page 3: Millennium Celebrations

New Zealand

Despite low cloud and the occasional misty shower, New Zealanders saw in the new millennium with a massive fireworks display.

London Kicks Off Early

A brief volley of fireworks has marked the stage in London's millennium celebrations when the huge ferris wheel beside the millennium dome was illuminated for the first time. Moments later the Concorde supersonic passenger jet over-flew the site — albeit those spectators could only hear the sound of its engines due to low cloud and mist. Later tonight some 32 tons of fireworks will be set off — effectively breaking what Australia claimed was a world record earlier today when it detonated 20 tons for its millennial celebrations.

New Yorkers Start Early

Huge crowds have already begun gathering in New York's Time Square in preparation for tonight's festivities and the dropping of the millennium ball.

First Dawn

The sun has risen on the New Zealand Chatham Islands, marking the world's entry into the first day of a new year, decade, century and millennium.

Media from around the world gathered on the largest of the small islands to capture the image of this very special sunrise for perpetuity.

USA

Right across the USA, people are preparing for millennium celebrations while also being kept aware that there is a threat of violence associated with the New Year festivities.

Gulf countries and Yemen

The holy month of Ramadhan's fine spirit was more superior and more effective in these countries in which most had celebrations prohibited by the law, specifically Dubai of the UAE.

Islam vs. Adultery

Abdullah Saleh Hussein Al-Hashedi
Sana'a University

It is been recently proved that some of the most destructive diseases like AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Herpes and other venereal diseases are more practically known to societies where is almost practiced freely. For instance, the most ruinous disease called AIDS which eats into the civilization and constructions of these societies and which can neither be cured nor be avoided with a vaccine is mainly infected by having illegal sexual intercourse. Unfortunately, in many non-Muslims communities, adultery is not considered a sin that must be punished. However, it is simply viewed as a personal action that can not to be prohibited by the government or religion. In this article I will shed light on the concept of adultery and how it is viewed in the true infallible religion of Islam. In other words, I will try to penetrate into this great religion to see and show how this sin is fought and what effective means and alternatives are found to help people avoid adultery. But before that, we should bear in mind that Islam is a comprehensive and perfect system of teachings, regulations and instructions. It is a code of life that gives life through the Noble Qur'an and Prophet Mohammed's saying and deeds. It is a religion that never leaves them at the mercy of inherited traditions which differ from one place to another and which may be right or wrong. Actually, Islam is an attributive title. Anyone who possesses this attribute whatever race, community, country or group he belong to, is a Muslim. Adultery in Islam is viewed as one of the most serious social problems that can lead to the destruction of families, societies and even nations. The following lines taken from a translation of the Holy Qur'an (Muslims' Glorious Book) can explain the seriousness of Islam in fighting adultery. The fornicates and the fornicator, flog

each of them with a hundred stripes. Let no pity withhold you in their case, in Punishment prescribed ALLAH; if you believe in ALLAH and the resurrection. And let party of believers witness their punishment. (This punishment is for unmarried persons guilty of fornication) but if married persons commit it, the punishment is to stone them to death, according to Allah's law.

From the above quoted lines we can see how strict Islam is about fornication. To help people getting rid of this lethal phenomenon, Islam has taught us many solutions and put in our hands various legal alternatives. These solutions and alternatives can be listed as follows:

1. ALLAH in the holy Qur'an orders both young men and women to lower their gaze from looking at forbidden things that might excite and provoke their sexual appetite. They also must protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts).

2. Women must not show off their adornment except only that which are apparent (like both eyes for necessity to see the way or outer palms of hand) and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands', or fathers or their sons or their Husband's sons, or their brothers or their brothers' sons, or their sisters or any Muslim women or hold male who lack vigor, or small children who have no sense of feminine sex.

3. Marriage: Islam stress upon living in a married state as a perfect means of protection from adultery. The holy Prophet is reported to have said "Whoever of you has means to support a wife, he should get, for this (marriage) is the best means of keeping the looks cast down and guarding the chastity; and he who has not the means let him keep fast, for this will act as a castration". Moreover, in Islam we find the most important of restrictive is in fact the basic principle of human civilization.

4. Polygamy: Islam recognizes only in the union of one man and one woman as a valid form of marriage. Under exceptional circumstances, however, it allows the man more wives than one, but

does not allow the woman more husbands than one. In other words, polygamy in Islam is both in theory and practice, an exception and not a rule.

Unfortunately, many non-Muslim miscomprehend the concept of polygamy in Islam and consider it to be a shortcoming in this religion. I feel confident that if these people had penetrated deeply into the reasons why polygamy can be practiced, there would have been no difficulty in understanding it. The natural duties of man and woman in the preservation and upbringing of human in this respect, that while one man can raise children from more wives than one, one woman can have children only from one husband. Therefore, polygamy at times can be a help in the welfare of society and preservation of the human race.

Polygamy as an exception is a remedy for many of the evils of modern civilization and which is eating into it like canker, with its concomitant increase of bastardy is unknown to countries where polygamy is allowed as a remedial measure. Today many non-Muslims which they were allowed to practice polygamy instead of living in adultery.

5. Piety and fear of ALLAH: Man must have fear of ALLAH and it is this fear that most influences his relationships and with others, wife, sons, daughters, neighbors. He should fear what ALLAH might do to him, if he commits any sin or even harms others. He knows that he has to meet ALLAH and answer for all that he has said and done. Indeed, this is why Hassan Ibn Ali said when asked:

O, Hassan I have a daughter. To whom do you think I should marry her? Hassan said: "Marry her to a (man) who (fear ALLAH); for if he truly fears ALLAH and if he loves her and (even) if he does not love her, he will never oppress or abuse her (because he fears ALLAH).

In conclusion, I would like to add that wherever man finds himself able to commit adultery or any other sins he should remember ALLAH and the day on which he will answer for all what he did and said in life. Anyone who wishes to emulate ALLAH should start by emulating his piety. For his piety which serves a foundation for good deeds, manners and morals.

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Zakat and Charity in Islam

The religion of Islam, which is a comprehensive and perfect system of teaching and regulations lays stress on the concept of charity as a perfect means for establishing social justice in a prosperous community. The most frequently recurring words for charity are infaq, which means spending benevolently, Ihsan, which means the doing of good, Sadaqa, which signifies a charitable deed, and finally the concept of Zakat which means purification or growth.

Zakat, which is the most important institution of charity built in Islam, technically means a certain fixed proportion of the wealth and of every kind of the property liable to Zakat of a Muslim to be paid yearly for the benefit of the poor in the muslim community. The payment of Zakat is obligatory as it is one of the five pillars of Islam and comes after the concept of Salat (prayers). However, the individual is not at liberty to calculate and spend his Zakat as he likes. It must be calculated by the state and spent by the state or community to establish a society full of prosperity, security and justice.

In Islam, there are two other institutions of charity similar to Zakat in nature but they are more related to "Eid Festivals". The first one is connected to "Eid Al-Fitr" and known as "Zakat Al-Fitr". On this occasion, every muslim is required to give away in charity a certain quantity of food. This quantity must be collected by every muslim community, and is then to be distributed among those who deserve it. The second is related to "Eid Al-Adha" on which occasion the poorer members of the community are fed with the meat of the sacrificed animals.

The importance of Zakat is shown through the frequent combination of both Salat (prayers) and Zakat. These two institutions are treated as the basic ordinance of the religion of Islam and the practice in one's life of these two things is often viewed as being sufficient indication that one is a real believer in Islam. In fact Zakat is mentioned in eighty

two passages of the Quran in connection with prayers. Here, I quote one of these passages:

And they were commanded not but that they should worship Allah, and worship none but Him alone, and perform As-Salat (prayers) and give Zakat, and that's the right religion [98:5]

Zakat is of great significance in Muslims' lives as it carries the sense of purification of the soul from sins and the sense that the person is a real success in life. The prophet Mohammed (PBUH) is again and again spoken of as purifying those who would follow him "Yuzkhi-him" [2:129] meaning purify them. Paying Zakat to the poorer members of the community is no doubt a source of blessing to the individuals, and also it increases the wealth of the community as a whole. Moreover, it purifies the givers' heart of inordinate love of wealth, which would surely lead to numerous sins.

In conclusion, it must be kept in mind that zakat has to be done as a duty which man owes to man, so that it conveys no idea of the superiority of the giver or the inferiority of the receiver. All charitable deeds must be done not to achieve an immediate personal aim or to satiate one's selfish desire for reputation, but for the good of the recipients. It is mainly love of Allah that should be the motivating factor in any charitable deed, including Zakat. In this way we can definitely foster the feeling that mankind is a single family. In the Noble Quran Allah Says:

Those who spend their wealth (in Allah's Cause) by night and day, in secret and in public, they shall have their reward with their Lord On them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve [2:274]

By: Abdullah Saleh Al-Hashedi,
Sana'a university

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

The Competition is discontinued for the period of Yemen Times Grand Competition (3rd Millennium Competition)

Why not participate in the Grand Competition for the YR 1,000,000 prize?

Competition on pages 8 and 9!

Answer to 51st Issue Competition

Answer: "To more than 100,000", Page:6, Article's title: "Towards Educational Reform in Yemen"

Winners of the 51st Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Amal Mohamed Hassan Ba Nafe, Sanaa

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Abu Al-Gaber Sarhan Saeed Qassem, Sanaa

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Taghreed S. Ismail Al-Awlaqi, Qataba - Al-Dal'e Governorate

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Farouk Ahmad Abdullah, Ibb

Congratulations to All Winners

To receive their prizes, winners should come with their IDs to the Yemen Times Sana'a Office, near the Palestinian Embassy, Hadda Street. Tel. 268661. Winners from other regions can contact our bureaux 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.

Ramadhan Recipes: # 3

Cream Puffs



INGREDIENTS:

1 cup of water.
1/2 cup of butter.
1 cup of flour.
4 large eggs.
Cream filling (whipped cream).
Powdered sugar.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Heat water and butter to rolling boil in a bowl. Stir in flour; reduce heat to low. Stir vigorously over heat about 1 minutes or until mixture forms a ball, then remove it from heat.
3. Beat eggs, all at once; continue beating until it become smooth. Drop dough by scant 1/4 cupfuls about 3 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet.
4. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until puffed becomes golden in its shape. Cool away from draft. Cut off top third of each puff and pull out any strands of soft dough.
5. Fill puffs with cream filling; replace tops. Dust with powdered sugar, and cover and refrigerate until you serve it.

Escalope

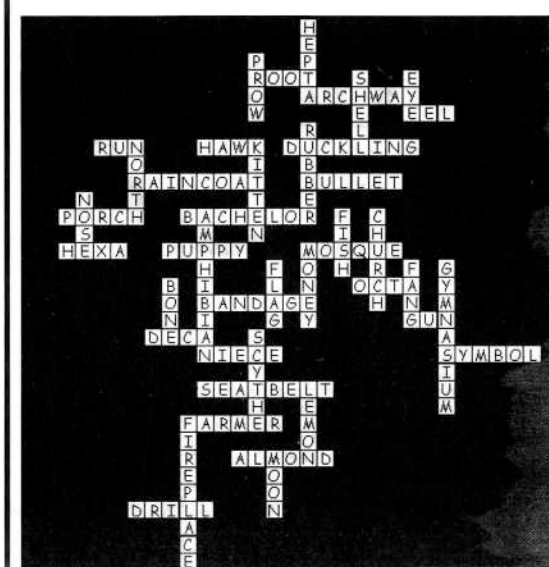
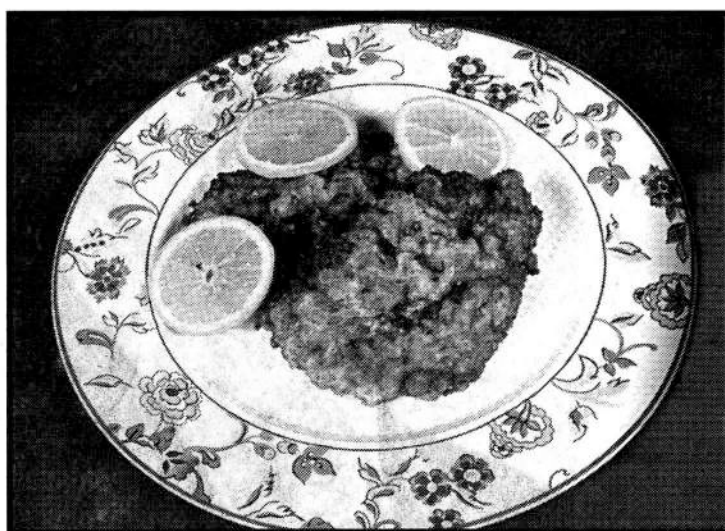
INGREDIENTS:

1 Pound of filet (fish).
1 Teaspoon paprika.
1/2 Teaspoon of salt.
1/4 Teaspoon of pepper.
1 Cup of crumbs.
2 Tablespoon parsley chopped.
1/2 Cup melted butter.
1 Lemon cut into slice.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut the filet into pieces.
2. Mix crumbs, paprika, pepper and salt.
3. Dip each piece of filet in the melted butter, then coat each one with crumbles mixture.
4. Fry each one of them until it take it takes a brown colour, and put them in a plate and sprinkle on the top of them some chopped parsley and sliced lemon on the sides.

By: Faydah Abdulrahman Shaif



Search Puzzle

Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

L	H	U	I	Y	X	N	D	U	R	I	N	G	I	E	L	C	N	U	S
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GET IT RIGHT!

Here are some tricky adjectives. Find out how familiar you are with them:

- 1- **corny** - a) spurious b) like corn c) hard d) too often heard or repeated
- 2- **genial** - a) liberal b) cordial c) kindly d) friendly in a cheerful way
- 3- **kinky** - a) striking b) odd c) needle-sharp d) nice
- 4- **insolent** - a) impudent b) indiscreet c) bankrupt d) irrepressible
- 5- **stale** - a) commonplace b) insipid c) tasteless d) no longer fresh and interesting
- 6- **squeamish** - a) shy b) delicate c) afraid d) sensitive
- 7- **ropy** (also ropery) - a) like a rope b) poor in quality, health c) narrow d) thick
- 8- **repugnant** - a) pugnacious b) disgusting c) quarrelsome d) pungent
- 9- **ostensible** - a) implicit b) apparent c) obvious d) significant
- 10- **amiss** - a) missing b) impolite c) forgetful d) wrong

Answers

- 1- d; too often heard or repeated; as, His jokes are corny.
- 2- d; friendly in a cheerful way; as, He is a genial host.
- 3- b; odd; as, The film is full of kinky scenes.
- 4- a; impudent; as, His children are insolent.
- 5- d; no longer fresh and interesting; as, I don't like stale biscuits.
- Stale news doesn't interest us.
- 6- b; delicate; as, He is too squeamish to see the sight of blood.
- 7- b; poor in quality, health; as, You should replace old ropy office furniture.
- 8- b; disgusting; as, The idea of eating omelet is repugnant to me.
- 9- b; apparent; as, The ostensible reason for his absence was illness, but he was busy shopping.
- 10- d; wrong; as, Something seems to be amiss, just turn back.

IDIOMS

The following idioms are useful in practical communication situations. Try to absorb their meanings by repeated use:

As easy as ABC - very easy:

Operating a fax machine is as easy as ABC.

Be in the balance - to be uncertain or at a crisis:
New road projects are still

in the balance.

The patient's condition is still in the balance.

Up the creek - in serious difficulties:

He is up the creek without telephone.

Cross one's fingers - to remain hopeful:

Work hard and keep your fingers crossed. I am crossing my fingers that I will soon get a job.

Do a disappearing act - to become no longer visible when needed:
He does a disappearing act when a lot of work is there.

In one's element - doing things that one is good at or finds enjoyable:
He is in his element when talking about computer operations.

Every other - all the other people or things:
Every other boy except me in the class speaks English.

Get a handle on - to understand something:
I can't get a handle on the Internet.

At a loose end (also loose ends) - having nothing to do:

I am at a loose end on Friday mornings.

Out of true - not in its proper or accurate position:

Your shirt is out of true.

Public Schools at a Cross Roads

Abdul Majid Ahmad Mukalla

It was Nov. 13, 1999 when all the parents the children of the 9th class in our village school were called by the headmaster of the school to attend a general meeting concerning their children. The problem began on Nov. 8, when one of the boys threw a small stone at another one in the same class. The victim complained to the teacher who asked the whole class to stand up and identify who threw the stone, but the whole class denied seeing anyone throw a stone. The teacher went to the headmaster and informed him of the matter. The headmaster came and inquired of the class about the stone, but they did not give him a very convincing answer and insisted that they did not know who had thrown the stone. This made the principal angry, and he ordered the whole class to leave the school and not to come back unless they identified the culprit. The whole class left the school and returned to their homes. None of the children told their parents of the incident for fear of punishment. None of them believed that the headmaster would insist on his decision of kicking them out of school. The next day the boys went to the school, but they were lectured and turned away again. For next five days the boys were barred from attending the class until the meeting on November 13. During the meeting, there was a heated discussion between the headmaster and the parents of the children about the crisis. Finally it was suggested to the headmaster that he shift some of the known troublemakers to other classes to keep them under strict observation. Meanwhile, the headmaster advised the parents to take proper care of their children. He assured them that the lack of teach-

ers in some subjects, such as math, would be taken care of.

My remarks and comments about our public schools, teaching and school children are:

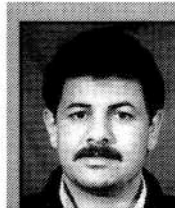
1- The year is approaching its end. The children at the school above have not learned anything about mathematics and other subjects as the headmaster testified. What about their examinations at the end of the year? One student told me that it would be easy to prepare for the examinations. He would invite the teacher to a qat chewing session with him and that would ensure his passing the exam. Other school boys complained of much harassment from their teachers if they were not serious about their studies.

2- Another problem is that some of the school boys have recently been expelled from the same school on the charge of not wearing proper school uniform, although they had been wearing the same outfit to school from the beginning of the year. This is a kind of harassment of the poor.

3- Our students and school children are always very weak both in English and Arabic. How is this going to be remedied?

4- Many people are of the view that due to bad treatment and negligence on the part of public school teachers towards their children, our public schools should be converted into private ones. And that would add insult to injury for the poor and the people of low income sector who are the highest percentage of people in our society. If there is no free learning and free health medication and creating of work for the unemployed, there will be no progress and prosperity in our community.

The Purpose and Strategy of Reading



Ahmed Naser Azzan
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Many EFL (English as a foreign language) students in secondary schools in Yemen can't keep pace with their studies and blame their low reading speed. We find them struggling through a text, having trouble with every word and stumbling at every unfamiliar item. The problem stems from the fact that reading classes are often used to teach language (i.e. structures, vocabulary, etc.) rather than reading proficiency. Not only this, but also the types of tasks set in reading classes frequently reflect artificial objectives, demanding grammatical attention or total comprehension rarely required in everyday life. In other words, there is no attempt to teach the students a flexible style of reading. Consequently, our students come to believe that there is only one correct way to read. However, in the real world, reading is a means to an end and not an end in itself. It is a purposeful activity, and our job as teachers is to help students identify these different purposes and help them to master the suitable strategies to achieve the objectives.

Identifying Purpose:

The purpose of reading a particular text is the most important determinant of the reading strategy. We should show students that different tasks require different degrees of understanding and attention. Also, we have to persuade them that it is efficient and profitable to vary their strategy and speed according to their purpose of reading.

Reading Strategies:

According to Wallace, C. (1993, p146), Reading strategies are ways of reading which are employed flexibly and selectively and which vary depending on the text-type, and the context and purpose of reading. Now let us briefly review three reading strategies recognized as essential by most language teachers.

Scanning:

According to Nuttal, c. (1982), Scanning means glancing rapidly through a text either to search for a specific piece of information or to get an initial impression of whether the text is suitable for a given purpose. In other words, the reader may look at a piece of written language not in order to understand it all, but for the purpose of finding out specific information.

Scanning demands that the reader disregards

everything except the information he is interested in. Therefore, the reader must fix the reading purpose clearly.

Scanning exercises are familiar to all teachers and are easy to produce. We can tell our students (orally) to find new words for old, compare details, make word sets, locate grammatical features, locate specific phrases or facts in a text, etc.

Skimming:

Skimming means that the reader glides over the surface of a text, reading selected important parts rapidly in order to get an overview of content and organization. So, skimming is concerned with rapidly assessing the main points of a text and not paying attention to irrelevant details. Therefore, skimming involves knowledge of the text structure. In particular, students should be able to learn something of the topic from the title and any sub-headings. They should know that the first and last paragraphs often contain valuable background information, summary, or concluding information. They should be aware of the importance of key sentences and where to find them.

It is important to point out that skimming an expository text like a science text is not the same as skimming any other text. In other words, science books have a different layout and follow certain specific techniques different from other types of texts. In order to teach skimming, we can ask our students to find the misplaced sentences in a paragraph, fit topic sentences with particular paragraphs, create a title or subtitle for a text or paragraph, select a title, etc.

Intensive Reading:

Nuttal, C. (1982), rightly observes, the aim of Intensive reading is to arrive at a deep and detailed understanding of the text: not only of what it means, but also of how the meaning is produced. Intensive reading is better utilized if preceded by skim reading. In intensive reading, the emphasis is on details that support the main points picked out at the skimming level.

As far as intensive reading exercises are concerned, they involve a close reading of a passage or text. We can ask students to make summaries, reorder sentences, reorder paragraphs, compare versions, complete tables and graphs, etc.

The purpose of reading should more be for improving reading proficiency rather than improving linguistic competence. There should be reading flexibility. Different purposes demand appropriate levels of comprehension and therefore the use of different reading strategies. In reading classes we must improve students' use of strategies which help them to achieve their reading purposes.



YOUTH FORUM



The Secrets of the Sea

Before the sea
A little boy stood to ask with a pensive heart.
What do you do?
Tell me the secrets that you know;
What is in your deep;
Please wake up from your sleep.
How long will you be quiet?
And why you sometimes fret?
I speak with you
Why you don't answer me?
If you continue your silent way.
I will go away.

Amatmluk
College of Education, Mahweet

The Helpful Judge

A witness at a trial made a statement that what he swore was true. Then he changed his mind and said he was mistaken. The judge saw members of the jury shaking their heads. He wanted to show them that the witness was not necessarily untruthful.
"This could happen to any of us," he said to the jury. "Only this morning," he went on, "when I entered this court, I reached for my gold watch to see the time. If anyone had asked me at that moment, I would have sworn that my watch was in my pocket. It wasn't there. For a moment I stood still in shocked surprise. Then I remembered where it was. I had left it at home on a shelf in the bathroom."
"That evening, when I arrived home, my wife

said to me:

"Why were you so anxious about your watch? Was it necessary to send four or five people to fetch it?"

"What is that?" said the judge. "I never sent anyone at all! What did you do?"

"Well, I gave it to the first man who came. He knew exactly where it was."

Khalid Hussein Kotran
College of Education, Mahweet

A Joke

"It is surprising," said the professor to his wife, "how ignorant we all are. Nearly every man is a specialist in his own particular line, and in consequence he is as narrow-minded as it is possible to be, for he knows nothing of what other men are doing."

"Yes, dear," said his wife.

"I, for instance," he continued, "am ashamed of my failure to keep abreast of modern science. Take electric light, for example. I haven't the least idea how it works."

His wife gave him a patronizing look and smiled. "Why, Herbert, I'm ashamed of you, too! It's simple! You just press a switch - that is all!"

Abdul Gabar Al-Shara'abi
Sana'a

Proverbs

- 1) Two are never satisfied: a seeker after knowl-

edge and a seeker after wealth.

- 2) The bane of knowledge is forgetfulness.

- 3) To make hay while the sun shines.

- 4) Lies are the bane of conversation.

- 5) Birds of a feather flock together.

- 6) A drowning man is not afraid of getting wet.

- 7) Let not your tongue cut your throat.

- 8) If you wish to be obeyed do not ask the impossible.

- 9) If you cannot get what you desire, desire what you get.

- 10) Like a needle that clothes people and is itself naked.

Abdul Wahab Al-Shaibani.
Sana'a

Jokes

Two women were comparing their matrimonial experiences.

"Yes," said one, "I owe much of my success and happiness to two books. They have been a source of help and inspiration lots of times."

"Two books!" exclaimed the other. "What were they?"

"Mother's cook book and father's cook book."

Mother: "Daughter, did you let him come to your apartment? You know a thing like that causes me worry."

Daughter: "Don't be ridiculous, mum; I went to his apartment Let his mother worry."

Sa'ad Abdul Kawi Ali Hassan
Taiz.

Some Literary Terms:

Mood

The atmosphere or feeling in a written work. The choice of setting, objects, details, and words all help create the mood.

Plot

A series of events selected by the author to present and bring about the solution of some conflict. In a carefully constructed plot, the events are arranged in a pattern so that each event follows from the one before it. The pattern of events leads to the climax, or turning point, of the story. The conflict is solved in the conclusion.

Point of View

The author's choice of narrator, or speaker. The narrator may be an observer of the action, or the narrator may be a character in the story.

Amin Ali Kasem Al-Dobai
Taiz

Note from the Editor

The ones who sent us their valuable letters should not be upset that they can not see them yet. We are receiving so many letters that sometimes we cannot manage to publish them all. All we ask from them is patience, and they will hopefully see their letters either here or in the letters to the editor section. Happy new year.

-The Editor

Notice

We would like to announce that the name of Dr. Sahu was mistakenly published instead of Dr. Murari in last issue education lesson, we apologize for this mistake.

Job Opportunities

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