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**Inside:** ▶



**5**  
 Aqel Al-Harah in Aden, neighborhood social leader: "The confidence of my quarter's people makes me stronger."



**10**  
 Deputy President of the Yemeni Laborers Union to speaks to the Yemen Times

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# A potential war escalates the alarm in Sa'ada Humanitarian situation aggravated

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

Sana'a, July 29 — Tribal sources in Sa'ada said that the security situation has been deteriorating since the beginning of this month in a number of districts in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf governorates.

The sources said that confrontations between the army and the Houthis who used heavy and medium weapons killed and injured a number of people from both sides in Al-Menzala, Hasama, Al-Malahidh and Ghamir districts. The precise death toll and damage in these areas was not revealed.

Last Tuesday, four people were killed and a fifth one injured from the same family following a random bombardment launched by military units belonging to the First Armored Division. The attack was launched against citizens' houses in Hasama villages believed to be loyal to the Houthis.

**Field Situation**  
 The Ghamir district in Sa'ada witnessed fierce confrontations last Monday and Tuesday between the Houthis and supporters of Sheikh Ali Dhafir who is leading the tribes in the area on behalf of the government. The confrontations between the two sides have been going on for over two months but they increased notably this week, according to tribal sources.

In addition, fierce confrontations are sporadically taking place in the Al-Malahidh area between the army and

the Houthis. The army is attempting to control new strategic sites that can tighten a potential siege on the Houthis. The death toll and damage due to the confrontations has not been revealed.

Unconfirmed news said that the Houthis are stationed on the road connecting Al-Malahidh and Haradh. The road is important for the army stationed in the western areas of Sa'ada including Razez, Shatha, Asfal Marran, Bani Sayyah, Muthallath Al-Dhai'a, Al-Ramadeyat and Al-Camp areas.

Tribal sources said that the Houthis are heavily stationed in the Al-Hasama area adjacent to the Saudi border from the side of Shatha last Monday. These Houthis seized equipment and machinery belonging to the army.

The Al-Mahather and Aal Ammar areas witnessed bloody confrontations between the army and the Houthis late last week and early this week. The confrontations resulted in eight army soldiers killed and a number of others injured. Confrontations erupted last Sunday during which the main road connecting Sana'a with Sa'ada was blocked.

In the Al-Jawf governorates, local sources said that last Tuesday Houthi supporters left the house of Khaled Al-Sharif, the head of the Supreme Commission for Election and Referendum. They also left a number of the nearby houses in the Al-Zahir district after controlling them for two days and setting up a number of machine

guns on the roofs. This came after tribal mediators contacted the Houthis and convinced them to leave the houses. The Houthis had accused Al-Sharif of being involved in killing five of their leaders last year, which he strongly denies.

The continuous escalation in Sa'ada between the government army and the Houthis, particularly last week, expanded the military confrontation to other areas. This led many observers to say that a potential sixth war is looming.

### Humanitarian Situation

UNICEF said that it conducted a swift assessment for the humanitarian needs of the displaced people in the camps spreading around Sa'ada city. It confirmed that the resumption of fighting between the government army and the Houthis increased the number of families escaping the conflicts and seeking refuge in the camps run by the Yemeni Red Crescent Association.

According to recent statistics from Sada'a NGOs, this increased the humanitarian needs due to the massive surge in the recent displaced families who share the same limited resources in congested camps. Up to 475 families consisting of 3,250 members live in 570 tents in Al-Anad camp while 130 families consisting of 700 members live in 138 tents in Sam camp.

The report issued by UNICEF on humanitarian work during 2009 in Yemen talked about the ordeal of the



International Committee of the Red Cross and Yemeni Red Crescent Society staff and volunteers help unload a shipment of wheat in Al-Humeidan, north of Sa'ada governorate, on their way to camps hosting thousands of displaced persons over 70 percent of them are women and children.

internally displaced people (IDPs) due to war in Sa'ada. It indicated that there is a need for more convenient and comfortable health facilities, particularly for women and children in the camps. The number of toilets in the two Sa'ada

camps for the displaced people does not suffice, particularly given that women and children need special privacy.

In addition, the camps lack electricity and security. Local traditions also forbid women from going out to the

let at night. The report said that as children cannot wait until the morning to go to the toilets, they are obliged to use places surrounding their tents, which the report said is creating a lot of suffering and health problems.

# No truce between the government and the Southern Movement

By: Amel Al-Ariqi

SANA'A, JULY, 29 — As many as 22 people have been killed in violence connected with the conflict between the Southern Movement and the government during the past week, but according to the movement, it will not approve a "truce."

Tareq Al-Fadhli, a leader in the movement received unofficial request from parliament members asking him to suspend any form of protest activities against the government, according to Nasser Muassen Al-Fadhli of the Southern Movement.

In return, the government would provide medical care to the injured and compensation to the families of the dead, said Nasser Al-Fadhli.

"The southern movement is not going to declare a "truce" with the government, he added. "We are not going to suspend our peaceful activities."

On Tuesday, four police officers were killed when 10 gunmen attacked them in Al-Ein area around 2 a.m. on the road from Abyan to Hadramout, according to the security director of the Luder district, Mohammad Al-Mabraqi.

The four officers were sleeping when they were attacked, and a fifth, who was injured, was awake on guard. The security official said it was unclear who was behind the attack.

Last weekend, almost 18 people were killed and more than 25 were injured in Abyan during a clash between security and protesters who gathered to demand that the government release detainees taken during previous anti-government protests.

According to Nasser Al-Fadhli, Tareq Al-Fadhli received an oral message from MP Mohammed Al-Shadadi, asking the leader to turn himself in, or to leave the country.

Tareq Al-Fadhli refused to obey the demand, saying he will continue "his peaceful struggle."

Nasser Al-Khubji, another Southern Movement leader, said that the movement is planning to continue its activities by launching rallies and setting semi-permanent demonstration sites to show solidarity with the families of those who fell during the latest clashes with the government.



The Southern Movement continues its anti-government protests by launching a series of rallies and camps.

"We aim to disengage with Sana'a government peacefully," Al-Khubji said, referring to the formerly independent territory of South Yemen.

The Southern Movement first appeared two years ago, when retired members of the military force from the south demanded higher pensions, complained of discrimination, accused the government of corruption, and taking over citizens' lands.

Their claims gradually extended to a demand for secession from the north, and to a restoration of the southern state. The government refuses to conduct

dialogue with the movement, saying that it is merely upset because unification has harmed its interests. The government has not recognized the movement, and calls the members "subversive elements".

Many southern governorates including Lahj, Al-Dhal'e, Abyan, Aden, Shabwa, and Hadramout, have been engulfed by violent anti-government protests.

Over the past two months, at least 35 people have been killed, including the 18 last weekend, during Southern Movement demonstration against the

government.

Protesters waved flags of the former South Yemen, held up posters of its former leaders, threw stones, and shouted slogans calling for secession from the north. The government forces reacted with tear gas and by opening fire on the demonstrators, said witnesses.

The government accused Tareq Al-Fadhli's supporters of committing hate crimes, including murdering and robbing Yemenis from northern areas that are settled in the south.

The Southern Movement denied the government claims, saying that "It is against any violent actions towards citizens."

The growing strife has led parliament to question the government last Monday, holding it responsible for the growing deterioration of the security situation in the country.

Rashad al Alimi, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, said that the government is facing serious security challenges.

Salem Haidarah, an MP from Abyan, and member of the ruling party, criticized the government harshly.

"Had we been in another country, the

government would have resigned instead of coming to parliament with false information," he said. "The situation in Abyan is that serious."

Some opposition MPs supported Haidarah in the notion that government should resign.

Aidarous Al-Nakeeb, head of the opposition socialist party in parliament, said security solutions will not solve the southern problems.

"Security solutions might repress angry protesters and kill some of them," he said. "But they will not sort out the problem. It is a political problem and a consequence of the 1994 war, which resulted in looting the land and the marginalization of the south."

"Yemen is now at a crossroads and needs national reconciliation and dialogue involving all relevant people and the partners of the unity," he added.

"But, stubborn positions from the government will lead to a similar stand from the other side which will serve the people calling for separation. Both projects are fruitless. We have to look for a new way to build a state of law and order and respect of equal partnership and citizenship."

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## Somali refugees wait to cross over to Yemen

By: Salma Ismail

SANA'A, July 29 — Amid news of killings, displacements and violence trickling out of Somalia, UNHCR reports that Yemen could be the destination for some 12,000 Somalis crammed into temporary shelter in Bossaso, on the southern Somali coast.

Over 200,000 Somalis have fled the fighting in Mogadishu and central Somalia since fresh violence erupted in May this year.

The refugees have fled conflict that escalated after an offensive led by the Al-Shabab and Hisb-ul-Islam militia against government forces.

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has termed this the biggest exodus resulting from the conflict since the Ethiopian intervention two years ago.

About 12,000 have fled and plan to pay smugglers for a boat ride from northern Somalia to Yemen when sea conditions are calmer in September, said a UNHCR spokesperson.

They hope to join the almost 30,000 people that have made the potentially deadly journey across the Gulf of Aden this year alone. The UNHCR and its aid partners are working "to convince people not to get on those very danger-



A group of men wait in a cove near Bossaso for a boat to take them across the Gulf of Aden to Yemen. Nearly 300 would-be migrants have died or gone missing so far this year after being forced overboard far from shore, and more than 1,000 drowned attempting the voyage in 2008.

ous smugglers' boats."

"If you look at the figure from last year, after Ramadan we had much bigger numbers," UNHCR Representative in Yemen, Claire Bourgeois said. "The UNHCR has a contingency plan that

we will activate in case these refugees decide to enter Yemen, and that plan does include an additional appeal for funds."

Many of those who cross the Gulf of Aden decide to move on to Yemen's

neighbors Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries in pursuit of better economic opportunities.

The trip to Yemen is a risk that Somalis have been taking for years. Last year, more than 50,000 new arrivals reached Yemen's shores, a 70 percent increase from 2007.

When Somali migrants land on shore not only are they granted refugee status automatically, but they are taken to reception centers where they are registered and nursed to health for a few days with the assistance of the UNHCR and its partners.

"At the moment we are in close contact with our headquarters to determine how we will move forward," Bourgeois said.

This comes as Yemen steps up efforts to create a government database by registering all Somali refugees in the country. The registration process plans to have six permanent registration centers across the country.

### A looming threat

Speaking to Xihua Qamar Aden Ali, Somali Health Minister said, "We know of no case of the A/H1N1 flu in the country but we worry about the possibility of the spread of the disease

because of the fact that cases of the disease were found in neighboring countries with whom we have previous borders."

The Somali Health Minister appealed to the international community and WHO for assistance in preventing the occurrence of the flu whose presence in the country is not yet known.

"We lack the technical capability to diagnose the disease and the necessary drugs to treat it. So we call upon the international community particularly the World Health Organization to give us the necessary drugs and technical advice and training for our health staff," he said.

Currently Yemen does not check the refugees arriving at its shores for H1N1.

"We [UNHCR] had a discussion with the government and we made a proposal so that UNHCR is ready to collaborate with the Yemeni government and the World Health Organization to determine how responsibility can be shared on this issue," Bourgeois said.

According to the UNHCR, there were 152,693 refugees assisted by UNHCR in Yemen, of whom 143,998

were Somalis, 2,919 Ethiopians and 672 Eritreans.

The Yemeni government says there were 750,000 Somali refugees in the country.

### Bolstering a fragile government

The American Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, is to meet Sheikh Sharif Ahmed, the president of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government, during her visit to East Africa next week, according to the US State Department.

Clinton will become the highest-ranking US official to meet the Somali president indicating the Obama administration's strong wish to bolster the fragile government in the Horn of Africa country.

The growing insurgency in Somalia is primarily a sign of the absence of an effective government with Sheikh Sharif, struggling to take control from hard-line opposition fighters bent on overthrowing his western-backed government.

The UNHCR said there was no sign that Yemen was buckling under the strain of the new arrivals. It also stressed that continued assistance was necessary to avoid tipping the scale.

## MPs introduce freedom of information bill

By: Mahmoud Assamie

SANA'A, July 29 — Amid accusations of government suppression of the media, a new bill that promotes freedom of information was presented to lawyers, journalists and representatives of local and international non-government organizations on Thursday.

The bill says that every person in Yemen has the right to access information from every government body.

It aims to ensure citizens' rights to timely access to information, enhance government transparency, expand opportunities for public participation in government, and help society develop its capabilities.

The bill, called the "Right of Access to Information," was presented by the Parliament's Media and Culture Committee, The International Research & Exchanges Board and the Yemeni Parliamentarians Against Corruption.

It requires the establishment of a commission for information. It also directs every ministry, government and military body, judiciary and prosecution to create an office of information with specialized employees.

Under the law, foreign nationals also have the right to information.

All information seekers, however, have to present a written application that includes enough details to enable specialized employees to provide the information. The employee has to respond to request within 30 days.

According to the bill, information seekers can appeal to the courts if they are refused. The information, however, cannot be released if it is deemed harmful to public interests.

Information is considered harmful to the public if it includes military secrets, confidential international relations, or trade secrets of protected financial, economic, industrial and research companies.

The bill stipulates that an information specialist that fails to provide legitimate information, or provides misleading information can impris-

oned for up to two years, or be required to pay a fine as much as YR 150,000 to YR 500,000.

International lawyer Madeline Schachter explained how the law would build a communication bridge between the government and the people and then took comments from workshop participants.

Chairman of Yemeni Journalist Syndicate Yasin Al-Masaudi hailed the law as a benefit to journalism and Deputy Minister of Information Mohammad Shaher announced his ministry's support to this law.

Yemeni lawyer Mohammad Najj Allaw said supported the bill and said it was better than the freedom of information bill the government is currently drafting. But, he said the government is not accustomed to respecting already guaranteed constitutional rights.

The draft presented by the government ensures that the government will examine all information before it is made public, he added. And, according to Allaw, the country uses national security to frighten people.

While Chairman of the Yemeni Organization for Intellectual Rights and Ownership Mohammad Abu Ali said bill would not be useful in light of the suppression that government practices against newspapers and other media outlets.

Over two months ago the government seized copies of six newspapers, and surrounded one newspaper office with soldiers. It accusing the papers of publishing news against the national unity, and halted their publication varying lengths of time.

The government has also been criticized by national and international human rights organizations for forming a special court designed just to hear cases against journalists. The Committee to Protect Journalists called the court part of an "ongoing campaign to suppress independent journalism in Yemen."

Al Jazeera broadcast network has also experienced harassment by the government, according to Abu Ali.

## Over 100 men detained on accusations of kidnapping

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, July 29 — Following the kidnapping of Yemeni businessman Abdulmalek Al-Khamiri on July 19 by members of the Bani Dhibyan tribe, the Ministry of Interior on Wednesday published the identities of 104 men currently detained for kidnapping.

The 104 men, whose names and photographs appear on the ministry's website, are accused of having kidnapped foreigners and Yemeni citizens. Security forces arrested them from mid-2008 until now. Some of them have been already put on trail.

The list also shows the accusation, province, date of arrest, place of current detention and investigation authority responsible for their case.

Only one member of the Bani Dhibyan tribe was on the list. Members of the tribe have claimed responsibility for the latest kidnapping and demanded YR 295 million from the businessman's family, according to the statement of one of the kidnapers to the press.

On Wednesday, Al-Khamiri's brother-in-law Adnan Al-Saqqaq said that the former was still being held hostage and that the family had left it up to the state to bring the kidnapers to justice. The kidnapers were not available for comment.

The Ministry of Interior published the names of alleged kidnapers it has already arrested following a parliamentary session on Monday. During the session, attendees questioned the state over recent insecurity in the country, especially in the last two months.

During the parliamentary session, opposition and ruling parties agreed that the government held the government entirely accountable for current insecurity and increasing violence in Yemen.

Deputy Prime Minister for Security and Defense Affairs Rashad Al-Alimi, Minister of Defense Muhammad Nasser Ahmed, and Minister of the Interior Mutaher Rashad Al-Masri attended the discussion, along with many parliamentarians from both sides.

"Weapons are a real problem for national unity, investment, the econo-

my and tourism ... and you members of parliament have a responsibility to act," Deputy Prime Minister Rashad Al-Alimi told parliament, according to Reuters.

He urged parliament to pass a law proposed by the government a few years ago to criminalize unlicensed weapons and carrying arms in public, as well as limit their number of bodyguards, according to the news agency.

Abdurrahman Ba Fadhl, Head of the Islah party parliamentarian bloc described the government as "failing and incapable."

"The government has so far failed to solve minor issues," he said. "What do you expect for major issues such as the insurgency in Sa'ada, the southern issue, poverty and unemployment?"

He also said that Yemen's challenges according to Al-Alimi, namely Al-Qaeda, the Houthis and the Southern Movement, did not surface until one

ruler took over the country's administration alone and sidelined political partners.

For his part, Sultan Al-Atwani, head of the Nasri party bloc, called for the government to restructure security and military forces on a patriotic and professional basis.

"The military and security forces have double standards in dealing with security issues," said Al-Atwani. "Whereas they open fire on peaceful protesters, they pamper kidnapers in some regions - even though the latter harm the country's reputation and negatively affect tourism and investment."

"The security and army men who we see during celebrations and military parades are busy protecting the houses of the officials who caused the bad situation, not guarding citizens," he added.

Sultan Al-Barakani, head of the ruling party's parliamentary bloc also said

that the state had failed to maintain security.

"I felt today through their speech [those of Al-Alimi and Al-Masri] that some parts of the country have spiraled out of control," said Al-Barakani.

Sakhr Al-Wajih, an independent parliamentarian, said that authorities not or selectively applying the law were behind the recent insecurity.

In the same context, the private sector represented by the Chamber of Commerce at the Monday meeting gave the Ministry of Interior 48 hours to catch the kidnapers of Yemeni businessman Abdulmalek Al-Khamiri. They threatened to start partial or full strike if this was not done.

In the last five years, about 230 foreigners were kidnapped in Yemen by tribes demanding either money or the release of prisoners. Yemen's 1998 kidnapping law states that kidnapers are to receive capital punishment.

## Invitation for Bids

### Tender Advertisement no. (1) of 2009 (One Envelope System — Technical + Financial)

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Bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes addressed to the above address mentioning the project name, Tender number and name of bidder procurement department. The documents should be composed of one original and two copies in both Arabic and English languages. The following documents must be contained in the bid:

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2. Valid tax certificate (A foreign bidder who is not already doing business in Yemen may provide a copy of the appropriate VAT registration document from his home country.)
3. Valid Insurance Certificate. (Insurance certificate is required only from firms with employees in Yemen who are entitled to benefits from the Public Enterprise for Social Security in Yemen)
4. Valid registration and classification certificate for the purpose of sales tax.
5. Valid registration and classification certificate. (In the event of an award of contract if the successful firm is not already registered it will be required to evidence registration with the concerned Entity in Yemen as a requirement for contract effectiveness.)
6. Priority in acceptance will be given to bids submitted by the manufacturer companies which have appointed agents in the Republic of Yemen

A foreign bidder may provide the equivalent documents indicated in 2, 3 and 4 from its country of registration as appropriate.  
The Dead line for submission and bids opening will be at 13:00 on 15/05/2009. Bids received after this deadline will be returned unopened.

Bids Opening will take place at the same address where the bid were submitted and at the same time mentioned above, in presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

Potential bidders may inspect BDs before purchasing during working hours for a period of 35 starting from advertisement.



### Invitation for National Consultant

Oxfam (GB) - Yemen office, is planning to conduct micro finance credit assessment and performance review for its project component 'Women's Economic Empowerment' that, under Save Marriage and women's Economic Empowerment Programme funded by Danida .

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Closing date: 07/ Aug/2009



## In Brief

### SANA'A

#### Parliament approves AIDS community prevention law,

Parliament approved in its meeting on Tuesday, headed by Ali al-Raei, law of community prevention from AIDS and protecting the rights of people who are affected with HIV.

The law includes 47 articles distributed on seven chapters on the law's objectives and the rights of the people who are living with HIV and protection means, media awareness and AIDS' dangers.

It also talks about means of society awareness on methods of virus transmission and a number of penalties against who caused the HIV transmission.

The law aims at offering medical care and medicines for those who are affected with HIV and coordinate the official and population efforts to reduce the virus transmission and develop health awareness among citizens.

It also aims to improve the life of people living with HIV through insuring their rights and giving them a social and psychosocial support.

#### Two H1N1 cases cured: Health Ministry said

Ministry of Public Health and Population announced on Monday that the two H1N1 patients, the latest two cases in Yemen, have been totally recovered.

Speaking to Saba, Director General of Diseases Protection and Epidemic Observation Abdul-Hakim al-Kuhlani said that these cases have been registered as tenth and ninth.

The two cases are a Yemeni expatriate has recently returned from the USA and a Yemeni child arrived from Malaysia, he added, pointing out that there are no new cases have been registered.

#### CBY, IMF discuss issuing Islamic instruments in Yemen

Governor of Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) Ahmad al-Samawi discussed here on Monday with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s mission led by Ghiath Shabsigh the final results the mission has reached in its study on issu-

ing the Islamic instruments in Yemen.

In the meeting al-Samawi valued efforts exerted by the mission in preparing for the study which would be reviewed by the government to make notes over its recommendations.

He indicated the successes achieved by the Islamic banks in Yemen, noting that they have become possessing more than 30 percent of the banking sector in Yemen, 27 percent of the deposits and 40 percent of the total financial facilities.

Approving the Islamic banking amended law recently by the parliament, allowing possession of big shares in the current banks by investors and opening branches for the traditional banks with Islamic principles would lead to growing these banks' role in the future, al-Samawi made it clear.

For his part, the IMF's official reviewed the distinct results of the study which affirmed that Yemen is a good environment for issuing the Islamic instruments and recommended starting the planning for issuing them in order to absorb the surpluses at the Yemeni Islamic banks and to use the instruments for financing the economic and social plans' projects.

The study was based on the general objectives that the Yemeni government seeks to achieve through issuing the instruments weather by expanding its financial base or by creating investment opportunities with Islamic finance tools, Shabsigh pointed out.

He indicated that issuing the instruments requires a programmed budget from the state for the projects and procurements funded from the Islamic instruments, confirming the importance of raising the budget's competency weather in the programming or executing phases in regards to financing the coming instruments.

#### Donors reiterate support for food security in Yemen

Donors on Monday reiterated their support food security in Yemen, pledging to provide necessary funds and foodstuffs and help bring food security programs into the reality.

The announcement was made during a meeting held at the ministry of

Planning and International Cooperation.

The World Bank, the UN, the European Commission, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Britain, the United States and Japan also said they would support Yemen's efforts in establishing food security through conditional food materials for the poor as well as implementing food-for-labor programs in an attempt to assimilate large numbers of workers.

"We will also work to boost agricultural production through providing seeds and fertilizers for Yemeni farmers and support institutional and human structures in the country," donor representatives said.

The meeting was chaired by deputy minister of Planning and International Cooperation for Economic Forecasts and Studies Mohammed al-Hawri.

It dealt with institutional mechanisms for food security and the latest developments and accomplishments on the matter and discussed proposals for dialog mechanisms for food security policies.

Director of the International Cooperation Department at the ministry Nabil Shaiban said a management panel which will comprise members from different authorities and a Yemen-donor coordination and harmony committee would be set up.

In the meantime, a team from the Yemeni government and the International Food Policy Research Institute ' IFPRI' are working on a national food security strategy with finance from Germany through the GTZ at a cost of 7million.

The final report on the strategy is expected in December and a Yemen food security Atlas would be ready in November this year.

The strategy focuses on providing effective contributions to improve sustainable food security in the country, enabling more poor people to access food, increasing agricultural production with traditional tools and raising awareness about the risks of qat.

The World Bank provided \$ 35 million in aid for Yemen to face food crisis and rebuild the flood-affected areas after torrential waters hit many parts of the republic late last year killing people and destroying properties.

# Invitation for Prequalification

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**Project:** Amran Aden Highway Project Section-I, Sana'a – Dhamar - Bait Al Komani, (6-lane, Dual Carriageway, 95 km)

**Loan/Credit No:** Credit No. (30/494)

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has received a Grant and Loan toward the cost of Amran Aden Highway Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this [loan No / credit No 30/494] to payments under the contract for construction of Amran Aden Highway Project-Section I, Sana'a – Dhamar - Bait Al Komani 95 km. The Ministry of Public Works and Highways intends to prequalify contractors for the construction of the above mentioned major dual carriageway project. The project is a 6 lane dual carriageway 37.7m wide, and includes huge quantities of works i.e. more than 28,000,000.0 m<sup>3</sup> of earthwork, more than 100,000 m<sup>3</sup> of reinforced concrete, more than 1,250,000.0 m<sup>3</sup> of sub-base and base course, more than 300, 000.0 m<sup>3</sup> of hot mix asphalt concrete,...Etc. It is expected that invitations for bid will be made in Oct, 2009.

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified in the Guidelines for procurement of works for the borrowers of the Development Institutions, Members of the Cooperation Group, First Edition, 1995, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document at the Ministry of Public Works and Highways from 8:30AM to2:00 PM, Saturday-Wednesday, at the address below. A complete set of the prequalification document in English may be purchased by interested applicants (a) on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of YR20, 000.0, or US\$100.0, plus the courier charges for overseas delivery of US\$ 50, if required, from the following address:

#### Ministry of Public Works and Highways

Head Office, 5 th Floor

Nuqum, Next to Berlin Public Garden

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Phone: 00967 1 545229

Fax: 00967 1 545373

Email: ifrpiu@yemen.net.ye

Attention: Assistant Deputy Minister-Roads Sector, MPWH

The method of payment will be in cash, or Cashier's check. The document will be sent by courier

The deadline for application submission is: Sep 6, 2009

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by 11 AM, Sep 6, 2009, and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for " The Construction of Amran Aden Highway Project-Section I, Sana'a – Dhamar - Bait Al Komani 95 km."

# Vacancy Announcement

The Enhance of Integrated Framework (EIF) program is a program aiming at assisting Least Developed Countries to build capacities to enable them to further participate in and benefit from international Trade and Integrate into the World Economy.

As Yemen is one of the first beneficiaries of this program, implementation is going to start soon. Thus, the National Implementation Unit (NIU) of the EIF within the Ministry of Industry and Trade is now seeking to recruit the following persons:

#### 2 Program Officers

##### Duties and responsibilities:

- Working with relevant ministries and trade-related institutions, to ensure coordination at all stages of the EIF process.
- Working with the stockholders for updating the DTIS, the formulation and appraisal of project proposals and other actions, as appropriate.
- Implement /Monitor the implementation of projects and reports on progress to higher authorities.
- Advocate for, and assist in, the inclusion of a trade integration strategy and its priorities in the PRSP or national development plans.
- Prepares a detailed annual operational plan.
- Raise awareness among Ministries, the private sector and civil society on the relationship between trade, economic growth, and poverty reduction with the aim of ensuring that agreed priorities are integrated into the PRSP/national development plans and relevant line ministry plans.
- Facilitate intra-governmental and donor coordination, as well as public-private sector dialogue on trade development,
- Advise on sectoral and cross-sectoral trade issues.
- Identify the preparation of diagnostic work to be carried out in partnership with other Ministries.
- Coordinate with various stakeholders to identify priorities of Trade related technical assistance.
- Maintain and promote dialogue between the national authorities and bilateral and multilateral development partners with a view to achieving a coordinated and comprehensive support to the implementation of the country's trade integration strategy, and its inclusion into the country's national development strategy (PRSP).
- Prioritize areas for actions and elaborate strategies of intervention.
- Implement the national sensitization/communication activities aimed at enhancing support and involvement by local stakeholders.
- Prepare an inventory of all ongoing and planned Trade related technical assistance.
- Organize implementation meetings, in consultation with local stakeholders including donors, to assess IF progress at the country level.

#### Core competencies:

- Working in teams and individually.
- Communication information and ideas/knowledge sharing;
- Self-management/ conflict management/negotiation and resolving disagreements;
- Analytical and strategic thinking /result orientation/commitment to excellence.

#### Qualifications and experiences required:

- University degree in International or Macro Economics, Business or Public Administration;
- at least 5 years of professional experience in trade related issues in the context of a national public administration. A practical understanding of and a good familiarity with the WTO issues is highly desirable;
- demonstrated management skills;
- excellent writing and communications skills;
- initiative and sound judgment, ability to work under pressure;
- interpersonal skills and ability to work in harmony with colleagues;
- excellent negotiation skills, advocacy and public speaking;
- Fluency in spoken and written Arabic and English and the ability to write clearly and concisely.

#### 1 Finance & Administrative Officer:

##### Duties and responsibilities:

- Maintain accounts and records of financial transactions,
- Carry out all financial functioning of the project,
- Prepare financial plans and budgeting,
- Ensures compliance of expenditure with agreed principles and procedures,
- Plan and procure necessary equipments and supplies,
- Maintain inventory of the unit,
- Prepare financial reports and other reports as requested by FP periodically.
- Human resource,
- Office workplace,
- Maintenance of equipments and assets,
- Other administrative matters.

#### Core competencies:

- Knowledge management and learning;
- Development and operational effectiveness;
- Leadership and self-management.

#### Qualifications and experiences required:

- Bachelors' degree or equivalent in accounting, or finance;
- Ten years of experience of accounting and bookkeeping;
- Experience in reporting and coordinating audits;

- Excellent computer skills, knowledge of accounting software will be plus. High proficiency in MS Excel required;
- Excellent writing and speaking communication skills in English and Arabic
- Ability to work independently within tasks assigned, and as part of a team in terms of collaborative climate and dedication to deliver results.
- Demonstrated high professional and ethical standards.

#### 1 Secretary

##### Duties and responsibilities:

- Ensure effective and efficient functioning of the NIU office;
- Ensure effective communications and administrative support to the office.
- ensure facilitation of knowledge building and management
- Perform any other duties as required by the NIU Coordinator.

#### Core competencies:

- knowledge management and learning;
- Development and operational effectiveness;
- Leadership and self-management.

#### Qualifications and experiences required:

- Bachelor Degree or equivalent with specialized secretarial training or office management;
- 5 years of progressively responsible secretarial, administrative, programme experience is required. Experience in the usage of computers and office software package (MS word, Excel, etc), experience in handling of web based management systems;
- fluency in Arabic and English languages;
- initiative and sound judgment, ability to work under pressure;
- interpersonal skills and ability to work in harmony with colleagues;

#### 1 Driver

Experience in driving at least for ten years with a proven good record of driving.

#### How to apply:

Interested applicants are invited to send an application letter with current curriculum vitae (CV) in reverse chronological format to: focalpointeif@gmail.com. Please refer to Focal Point in the subject line. Closing date for applications is 10 August 2009.

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**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) Programme invites Yemeni nationals to apply for the following volunteering position with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Post Title: Protection Clerk (UNV)  
Location: Sana'a

**Responsibilities:**

Under the supervision of Protection Officer, the UNV volunteer will be responsible for:

- ✘ Carry out tasks for production and distribution of reports, photocopying etc.
- ✘ Provide the search of information in respect of individual files as required by the concerned Units;
- ✘ Conduct basic interviews with asylum seekers and refugees;
- ✘ Responsible to collect all requests presented by asylum seekers and refugees and maintain a system of referrals in order;
- ✘ Provide support with the maintenance of the detention statistics, table and forms;
- ✘ Enter data mainly related to asylum seekers, refugees and persons of concern to UNHCR into the computer database;
- ✘ Act as interpreter and translator when needed;
- ✘ Perform any other duties, as requested.

**Qualifications:**

- ✘ Completion of Secondary education.
- ✘ At least two years previous work experience, preferably within an international work environment.
- ✘ Strong interpersonal and communication skills and ability to work in a multicultural environment.
- ✘ Flexibility in responding to additional requirements.
- ✘ Working knowledge of the Microsoft Office package, in particular Word and Excel.

Interested candidates are requested to send their cover letter and C.V. to [unv.yemen.info@undp.org](mailto:unv.yemen.info@undp.org) Email Subject: Protection Clerk-Sana'a

UNV is an equal opportunity organization and female candidates are encouraged to apply.

Deadline for receiving applications is 7 August 2009

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**Sana'a:** Mr. Khaled Nasser Tel: 409567 Mob: 712003317 E-Mail: [khaled@mideastshipping.com](mailto:khaled@mideastshipping.com)

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# A woman equal to a thousand men – Yemen's first female Aqel Al-Harah in Aden, neighborhood social leader "The confidence of my quarter's people makes me stronger."

All the people in her neighborhood describe Fikriah Khaled as a "woman equal to a thousand men" because she is able to strongly compete with men and can get a lot accomplished. When a fire broke out in her quarter and the people saw her working very hard with firemen to put out the fire, they were amazed. Word of her actions reached former Aden Governor Yahya Al-Shuaibi, who appointed her to be the Aqel Al-Harah, or social leader, of a neighborhood in Sira district, Aden city – the first female Aqel Al-Harah in Aden.

Fikriah Khaled Abdoh Mohammad was born in 1966. She is a widow and mother to a boy and girl.

Maryam Saleh met Aqel Al-Harah Fikriah in her home for the following interview.



Fikriah Khaled Abdoh Mohammad

What was your work before were appointed as the head of the quarter? When did you start your new duty?

Before I was accepted as the head of the quarter, I was working in the Social and Labor Affairs Office in

Aden. This work was complementary to my new duty as Aqel Al-Harah because it is social work of the first grade. Furthermore, former Aden Governor Dr. Al-Shuaibi was stressing the Adeni woman's role in Yemen's development and improvement. I have

been working as the head of Al-Wahsh Quarter since 2003 and praise to God, the confidence of my quarter's people gives me more power and patience.

### New crimes

You know that crime has several faces. What solutions have you created to face crime in your quarter? Some forms of crime, like rape and murder, are not found in my quarter, but we are deterring small-sized looting crimes like looting iron, gas cylinders and spare car parts. Let me be honest with you; we have crimes that did not exist before, like drugs and increasing demand for medicine contain diazepam, but we perform our duty in helping the local authority. The authorities contributed in tracing some of these cases and referred them to the prosecution. In addition, we have contributed towards arresting those who are addicted to all kinds of alcohol. Generally speaking, with the cooperation of security forces in Aden, we can contain these crises and problems.

### Youth and unemployment

Because of the current economic condition in the country, unemployment has become like a cancer spreading among our youth. How do you handle this problem in your quarter?

Concerning unemployment among women, we have taken some measures with the cooperation and efforts of concerned bodies to decrease the number of unemployed women. In regard to unemployment among males, when we learn about jobs in the private sector we inform young people to apply for these positions. Many young people get jobs in some institutions as security at Aden Public Hospital or as other laborers. This comes through our efforts of following up on these job opportunities so that many young men and women from our quarter can break away from unemployment and find work.

### Training courses to alleviate poverty

What about poverty?

It is impossible to eradicate poverty at once, but we provide means to alleviate its spread. We connect the youth with opportunities by philanthropists who provide people with special needs with courses on computers and sewing for women and courses on maintaining cell phones for men. These courses are organized by the Social and Labor Affairs Fund in Aden. But I have to be honest and say that our youth depend on others and not on themselves to realize their specializations.

### Daily problems and burdens

Al-Wahsh Quarter, like others in Aden, suffers from the theft of electricity by its citizens and by connecting water pumps illegally. In your opinion, who is responsible? Is it the service institutions or the citizen himself?

Frankly, there are some duties added to ours as the heads of various quarters, and I do not consider them duties but burdens added to us. This is done by the administration to get rid of their own pains and sit at ease on their chairs while we remain going here and there, sitting for hours under the beating sun to solve all the citizens' problems, while we only receive a monthly salary of YR 2,800.

Nevertheless, if there is a problem, like electricity disconnection, we follow up on the problem and help to get it back. Although there are also many other problems surrounding us concerning the issue of electricity and water, we do not get help from concerned bodies. All they do is disconnect the water pipes of those who have illegal access to water. These problems happen because the doer is not punished by state bodies for the act he did, and so is not deterred to do this illegal act again. Why don't the water public institutions coordinate with the heads of quarters to have forms defining monthly payments so that payment are not accumulated against the citizens that lead to the water being disconnected?

Sorrowfully, these are burdens added to our duties and are not privileges.

Yemeni people are used to male heads of quarters. How does the Al-Wahsh Quarter accept a female Aqel Al-Harah?

There were many incidents of discrimination at first, but the beginning of everything new is difficult. My beginning was like that, but conditions were changed after awhile as a result of my previous relations with the quarter's families and even with the support of new families coming to the neighborhood.

Do you face harassment from concerned bodies while you are following up on issues of your quarter's residents?

I can say that I face routine persecution but not personal harassment.

These persecutions occur when I go to the office of so-and-so and end up returning to the office of another. The process of going and coming because of an absence of an official causes a lot of trouble for me.

Have you ever faced any embarrassing or funny situations during your duty?

I face both situations simultaneously when I am in an office of our district or governorate and someone introduces me to someone else who has not met me before. I am surprised to hear them say, "So it is you... I thought you were an old woman."

Will you talk to us about you as a mother and housewife?

A: What most do not know is that when I return from my work, I directly head for the kitchen as do other

working mothers who must organize their time between work and home. I am a mother to a son in the ninth grade and do my best to meet my children's needs.

### Charities

What is your role in communication with charities to alleviate the poverty among the residents of your neighborhood?

I wish I can get just a sack of sugar or rice, something I can distribute to the poor and needy people, but what is happening is the opposite. Nobody, whether governmental or civilian, gives me any foodstuffs to hand to the poor. However, philanthropists are many. Every year, namely during Ramadan, people from different charities come to me and give me money that gets distributed to every house by name.

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Note: Only short-listed will be contacted for the interview. Job applications will not be accepted after: 30th August, 2009.



## YES to unity, NO to federalism

By: Khaled Fattah  
KF62@st-andrews.ac.uk

Over the past few weeks, there has been active debate in Yemen's opposition camp on federalism as a possible solution to the current problems facing the country. In what follows, I will shed some light on the false logic of this debate.

Inspired, if not disillusioned, by the successful stories of federalism in different parts of the world, some elements within Yemen's opposition camp are proposing the federal idea as a means of easing the currently very tense integration of the southern part of the country. According to them, Yemen can come out of the tunnel of the ongoing governance crisis by learning from the federal experiences of countries such as Switzerland, Canada, Germany and India.

However, in addition to carrying a high dose of threat for the fragile Yemeni central state, and for the unique achievement of Yemen's unification, this proposal lacks basic understanding of the historical and socio-cultural

context of federalism. It also lacks the appreciation of the concrete facts that what works in one country may not necessarily be relevant to another, and that federalism has its limitations and drawbacks.

A glance at the existing federal systems on the political map of the world reveals how federalism in multicultural countries such as Switzerland has succeeded in promoting stability, prosperity, transparency, accountability, civil liberties and fiscal sovereignty, while in other countries such as Nigeria, the federal idea as a means of overcoming the problems of ethnic tension and the unfair distribution of oil wealth has done more to aggravate than solve these problems.

In fact, the application of federalism in oil-rich Nigeria led to the transition of violence from being ideologically motivated to being financially motivated. The basic point I am trying to make here is that federalism is not an export product, and it is not the panacea for the complexities and ills of socioeconomic and political lives of all countries in our political atlases.

For the following reasons, federal

principles should not be sponsored or proposed as a guide for the processes of governance in united Yemen. To begin with, the structure of federalism is a very delicate institutional arrangement, which is constructed on the basis of levels, arenas, spheres and tiers of government, each endowed with its own independent legitimacy.

The politico-administrative structure of federalism is made of vertical checks and balances, which aims to divide power between a central nation and a number of states or provinces. This delicate structure of governance works well for geographically and demographically large nation-states. For instance, federalizing the relations between the central and local levels of governance has a strong logic in a big country like the U.S., where the population is spread over six time zones! It works well also for countries with highly diverse populations in terms of ethnicity, race, language and religion.

In such countries, federalism is an essential formula for preventing political atomization and violent conflicts of interests that are inherent in different ethnic groups, races,

languages and religions existing in proximity to each other. India, 'the land of lands', is an excellent example of how federalism has provided the only best option for maintaining an appropriate state-society balance in a united political community of more than one billion people who speak 1,632 languages and follow tens of different religions.

The Indian federal system, however, is socio-culturally, not economically motivated, and it is highly centralized. The latter fact is clear in India's fiscal centralization, which is implemented in order to address economic regional disparity and financial weakness of the various Indian states.

Bearing in mind that religion and language are the most important structural criteria for federal solutions, Yemen is not in need to a federal system for coping with living in unity in diversity. In the case of Yemen, diversity revolves simply around few offshoots of the same religion, different histro-political experiences of the Northern and Southern parts of the country, and the common ecological Middle Eastern dynamic opposition between tribal, rural and urban groups.

Indeed, compared to many political entities in the developing world, Yemen is one of the few countries that are not linguistically, religiously or ethnically fractured. It is also one of the few developing countries that are not suffering from colonially-inherited socio-cultural divisions. In light of this, it is inappropriate to think about the restructuring of Yemen's governance system on the basis of Swiss Cantons, Brazilian, US or Indian federal states.

From financial and administrative points of view, on the other hand, it is irrational to think about federalism in economically fragile Yemen, simply because one of the fundamentals of federalism-based governance is that each of the sub-national administrative and political units should be provided with sources of raising adequate revenues to discharge the functions entrusted to them. In other words, applying a federal system in Yemen does not mean that the regional and local levels of governance will not be financially dependent upon the central government.

In my view, what Yemen needs today is not a new institutional design that is borrowed from the historical

experiences of other political entities in the world, particularly a federalism-based design which can be misunderstood as license for the creation of pockets of self-rule and fragmentation.

Instead, Yemen needs a political equilibrium, which is capable of enhancing political legitimacy, and strengthening the economic, bureaucratic, coercive and juridical capacities of the central government in Sana'a. Such a political equilibrium should be constructed, however, on the basis of the consensus of the majority of the people of Yemen. And, above all, the equilibrium should not, under any conditions or circumstances, damage or shake the unity and integrity of Yemen.

Here, let me pose the following one million dollar question: How, in the light of the current economic deterioration, security threats and socio-political uncertainties, can Yemen achieve this time consuming, very expensive and difficult equilibrium? I would like to request the readers who are concerned about the present and future of Yemen to share their suggested answers with the Yemen Times.

## Aid won't fix the crisis in Yemen

By: Jane Novak

Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh celebrated the 31st anniversary of his ascension to power. The Sana'a regime, perverted by corruption, is largely unable to provide public services, including water, electricity, security, medical care and education. A third of Yemenis—7 million people—are malnourished. Police and military units act as enforcers for corrupt officials. The judiciary dispenses political retribution. Torture in Yemeni jails is systemic and brutal.

On his anniversary, Saleh published an essay calling for dialog and tolerance. The same week, 18 protesters were killed by police, a journalist sentenced to jail and an opposition party prevented from holding its conference. A four-year rebellion in the north and a two-year uprising in the south threaten to engulf the nation in violence. Known al Qaeda operatives roam the capital freely, and teenage suicide bombers routinely target elderly tourists.

Yemen's donors believe stabilizing President Saleh's regime will thwart the devolution of Yemen into a failed state and an al Qaeda safe haven. U.S. aid proposed for 2010 is at the highest

levels in years. The Department of Defense allocated \$66 million in military aid, mostly for patrol boats and armored pick-ups. Congress' Foreign Operation Appropriation bill includes an additional \$15 million in military aid and \$40 million in development and economic aid. Other humanitarian aid is channeled through USAID. However, increased funding to Yemen is a questionable strategy that may escalate instability.

Yemen already receives more aid than it can effectively absorb. Donors pledged \$4.6 billion in 2006. Yemen declared "renewed commitment to urgent reforms." Years later, the state is still drawing up implementation plans for much of the funds. The lack of progress was a significant disappointment, yet predictable in an environment of rampant corruption. Billions in aid, oil revenue and other state funds are embezzled, stolen, diverted or misdirected, without consequence. Absent strict oversight, aid is subject to elite capture and often does not reach intended recipients.

U.S. military aid intended for border security may wind up fueling atrocities. The Yemeni military bombed cities and villages heavily in the northern Sa'ada province while countering a rebellion that began in 2004. The Sa'ada War,

dubbed "Yemen's Darfur," forced nearly 200,000 citizens to flee their homes. The government blocked food, aid and medicine to 700,000 Sa'ada residents in "an act that appears to constitute an illegal collective punishment," Human Rights Watch found. Officials explained the deliberate starvation was meant to pressure villagers to turn over rebel fighters.

The small band of Zaidi rebels—triggered by political exclusion—grew to thousands. They claim they are acting in self-defense against a Wahabi-inspired campaign of Shiite eradication. The Yemeni government insists the rebels seek to re-establish a theocratic monarchy.

The latest ceasefire required the release of arbitrarily arrested Hashemite men and boys, but hundreds are still in jail. With the government's mediation committee headed by a major arms dealer, sporadic clashes indicate the war will likely resume and may spread beyond its previous boundaries to engulf the nation. The International Crisis Group recommends that to preserve the fragile peace, external parties "refrain from military assistance to the parties in conflict, including the Yemeni government."

In South Yemen, massacres of

protesters have become routine. The "southern mobility movement" began in 2007, calling for equal rights denied after 1990's unity of North and South Yemen. The government's response to the unrest was to shoot into the crowds and arrest thousands, sparking a cycle of civil unrest. Dozens of citizens were "deliberately killed or died as a result of excessive use of force by the security forces during peaceful protests," Amnesty International said. In June, there were 42 demonstrations, 17 injuries and five deaths. On July 23, a particularly bloody day, 18 protesters were killed during a demonstration in Zanzibar, Abyan. Protesters are now demanding southern independence and allege the unified Yemeni state is illegal under international law. With no end in sight, U.S. military aid—even trucks—may inadvertently facilitate the civilian slaughter.

Saleh's regime is also engaged in a drastic campaign of media repression. Journalists have been banned from Sa'ada since 2004 and jailed for writing about the war. As unrest escalates in the south, so does the punishment of journalists who report the news. The non-governmental media is being forced into bankruptcy, court and prison. Bumping foreign aid in the midst of this massive media repression sends the wrong message from the U.S. to the Yemeni people.

The Committee to Protect Journalists condemned the "months-long assault on the media" where "physical assaults have been coupled with dozens of arrests of independent journalists, editors and bloggers." The government banned seven independent newspapers, including the long-established al-Ayyam, forcing hundreds of journalists out of work. Police disrupted demonstrations supporting al Ayyam with live fire. Dozens of Yemeni news websites are blocked. In Yemen, al Qaeda has greater Internet freedom than reformers.

Perhaps the fundamental question for the donor community, especially the U.S., is how to best secure their citizens from the growing terror threat from Yemen. A more active and visible presence of al Qaeda heightens concerns about Yemen's potential implosion. Since 2007, nearly a dozen so-called al Qaeda attacks targeted tourists and foreign interests, including

the U.S. Embassy. However, the ecosystems that nurture al Qaeda in Yemen and regionally are supported by Yemeni state resources, as are a variety of criminal enterprises. The idea that President Saleh put the fight against al Qaeda on the back burner because of civil unrest is misguided. Al Qaeda thrived in Yemen because it was nurtured, not neglected.

The final president of South Yemen, Ali Salem al Beidh, said the Sana'a regime is creating regional crisis, "not only in our occupied South Yemen but also in Somalia, as well as in the weapon markets in Yemen and in the Al-Qaeda Organization cells in Saudi Arabia. It ranges from launching an air bridge to ensure the flow of jihadist terrorism to Iraq, to sending Yemeni official equipment, arms and ammunition to the Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, to controlling the outlets of weapon and drugs trafficking and money laundering."

Yemen's counter-terror policies are farcical and include releasing convicted terrorists, pretending terrorists are in jail or dead, and other elaborate ploys to deceive Western nations. Saleh deployed jihadists during Yemen's 1994 civil war and in the recent Sa'ada War and appears ready to unleash these terrorists against protesters in the south. Local media reported numerous al Qaeda training camps within or facilitated by the Yemeni military. Scores of terrorists receive military salaries. Fears that without Saleh the resulting vacuum will allow terrorist entrenchment ignores the reality on the ground.

There is nothing to suggest that the regime would sincerely battle al Qaeda if it rid itself of other distractions. A truce in 2003 between the Yemeni al Qaeda and the regime led to several years where terror activity was externally directed. Reports indicate that Saleh requested additional jihadists from Ayman al Zawahiri late in 2008. Within months, an influx of foreign jihadists began amassing in Sa'ada. The survival of the regime hinges on fundamentalist support.

President Saleh uses jihadists and the takfist ideology against his political rivals. Moderates, intellectuals, reformers, Shiite rebels, secularists and southern socialists are all apostates

according to Saleh. The Defense Ministry published a fatwa legitimizing jihad in defense of the state. Hardcore Salafi preachers issued a 2006 fatwa that opposition to Saleh was un-Islamic. The government supports the spread of extremist schools and risks creating a generation of fanatics. The weakening of Saleh's grip would necessarily bring about an enhanced political pluralism and balance of ideologies. Yemen historically is a pluralistic and tolerant society.

The structural remedy to corruption, violence against civilians and extremist thinking is a free press. Good governance cannot exist without it. Dialog among citizens occurs in the media. If there is one lever for reform, it is the Yemeni press. It is imperative to tie necessary aid to the ability of journalists to perform their jobs without retribution. The Yemeni press heroically weathers the punishment for performing its watchdog role. But it is on the brink of extinction.

One trigger of instability (or perhaps progress) in Yemen is the administration's visible failure to reform. As the elite are unmasked as epically corrupt, public discontent grows. If the U.S. wants to support Yemen's "nascent democracy," it must realize that popular will can leverage reform, as donor aid cannot. Any successful anti-corruption campaign results in the displacement of the corrupt elite, thus reform in Yemen is systematically undermined from within.

For over a decade, Saleh's toxic dictatorship ravaged Yemen's human and natural resources, institutions and economy. Artificially prolonging the Sana'a regime is a strategy that failed already. Yemen, in all or in part, may transition from authoritarianism to responsible governance, and perhaps today is closer than ever. While the U.S. does not endorse or support a leadership change in Yemen, neither should it actively thwart the natural democratic progression of the state. Throwing out the tyrant is standard procedure in a revolution.

Jane Novak is an American journalist and blogger well known in Yemen. The author of over 60 articles on Yemen's internal affairs, her website [arniesofliberation.com](http://arniesofliberation.com) has been banned in Yemen since 2006.



By Hamid

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## Women lose out in Lebanon politics

# The group that lost the most in Lebanon recent election was women

By: Don Duncan  
The Media Line News Agency

The firecracker smoke has cleared from Beirut's streets and the purple electoral ink has faded from the thumbs of Lebanese voters. It's been over a month since Lebanon went to the polls and regardless of political affiliation, it is clear that there was one big loser across the board – the women of Lebanon.

The number of women elected as MPs has fallen from six to just four out of 128 seats in the Lebanese parliament.

"It was a major, major setback for women, at least in terms of representation," says Lina Abou-Habib, director of the Center for Research and Training on Development Action, a social justice NGO. "It is also a setback in the sense that the way that the women who enter parliament do so through patriarchal channels and yet again this has been reproduced, reiterated, reinforced, exacerbated in the latest parliamentary elections."

Lebanon was at the forefront of women's empowerment in the Middle East when it extended suffrage to women in 1952, the third country in the region to do so after Israel in 1948 and Syria in 1949. Since then, Lebanon has been sliding down the scale. With only 3 percent of its parliamentary seats currently occupied by women, Lebanon now languishes at the bottom of the table of parliamentary representation of women in the Middle East - side by side with conservative Gulf states like Oman (0%), Bahrain (2.7%) and Yemen (0.3%). At the top of the scale is Iraq whose parliament has a 25% quota for women MPs, Tunisia with 22.8% and Lebanon's neighbor Syria with 12.4%.

Many people point to Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war and numerous other periods of domestic tumult for

putting the brakes on advancement for women and subjecting women's rights to the volatilities of the country's infamous sectarian political culture.

"The issue then was how to help Lebanon and how to save Lebanon from those difficult times and it was all-consuming," says Strida Geagea, one of Lebanon's current women MPs. "Women's rights were a secondary issue and weren't raised enough."

Women in Lebanon frequently come to power in mourning clothes, stepping into a seat vacated by a father or spouse who has been assassinated. Such is the case of newly-elected deputy Nayla Tuani, 26, whose father Gibran Tuani, MP and editor of Lebanon's *An Nahar* newspaper, was assassinated in 2005. Mrs. Geagea found herself thrust into politics when her husband Samir Geagea, a Christian leader and head of the Lebanese Forces party, was imprisoned for 11 years during the Syrian occupation of Lebanon.

"Lebanon has passed through extremely difficult times," Mme Geagea tells The Media Line at her home in east Beirut, sitting among portraits of herself and her husband set against billowing Lebanese flags or romantic mountain landscapes. "And all during those times, Lebanese women have proved to be on the front lines as activists."

It was Mrs. Geagea who spearheaded the campaign for her husband's release, keeping his incarceration on the political agenda and in the public consciousness. But it is not so much her activism that got her a seat in parliament as her husband's name.

"I think this parliament is as conservative, as patriarchal, as removed from the citizens and women's rights as its predecessors," says Abou-Habib. "We need more women in parliament but then you have to ask, would the four women who are there now have had the

same possibilities had they different family names?"

All four of the women MPs in the newly-elected parliament come from long-standing political dynasties. And therein lies the glass ceiling above the heads of young Lebanese women with political aspirations.

Unlike on the political level, engagement in politics by women on the grass roots and university levels is relatively high in Lebanon. Some of the political parties' youth branches boast female membership levels of up to 40%.

"In Lebanon, everything is politicized, even in school," says Yara Boutros, a 19-year-old student of business at Université Saint Joseph in Beirut. "So I started to talk and think about politics in school, and that's when I started to get involved."

Boutros is an example of how younger Lebanese women are getting involved in politics and quickly climbing up the lower echelons of political parties. Boutros is a member of the Christian Kataeb Party youth branch and she sits on their university committee, a board of 10 people each representing one of Lebanon's universities. Every Thursday, the committee meets in a basement room at the Kataeb headquarters in east Beirut to strategize and talk politics. Boutros is one of two female members on the committee, a level of representation that is already a vast improvement on the meager parliamentary ratio.

"I think it is at this level and at the level of local activism that we can find the most encouraging signs for women in Lebanon," says Abou-Habib.

Still, for young women like Yara Boutros, getting involved in politics means learning to play by its sectarian rules and that means community, religion and culture comes first, before all other concerns.

"I'd love to have the same rights as



Victory salute... Lebanese candidate Nayla Tuani celebrates her win.

men but for me it's not my goal," Boutros says. "My identity is first Lebanese and then Christian. I don't see myself as being a woman in political terms. Now I am fighting for a country that is still at war and that hasn't really emerged from the war so before being a woman or a man, we must focus on survival as a community."

Sectarianism is the biggest foe of women's political advancement in Lebanon and last month's elections, largely recognized as Lebanon's most tightly fought ever, were a further example.

"When the going gets tough, you're going to get rid of the most disposable and what is disposable in the patriarchal

system are women," says Abou-Habib.

MP Strida Geagea says that increasing female parliamentary representation cannot happen naturally in the Lebanese political context and that forceful measures are now required to push through change. Lebanon's new government is expected to pass reforms to current electoral law during its four-year mandate and Mrs. Geagea says she will push to include a quota for women MPs in parliament as part of those reforms. She declined to specify what percentage of parliament would be appropriate. Iraq, Morocco and Jordan each have women's quotas of 25%, 9.2% and 5.5% respectively.

"Though this is not the best way to

promote women's rights because it's a kind of segregation towards them, we have to do it this way for perhaps two parliamentary terms so that people can get used to seeing women in government," says Mrs. Geagea. "Then we can progress to a more natural political process."

With Lebanon's notoriously slow consensus politics, it could take many years to realize Geagea's vision. It has been over a month since Lebanon's elections took place and a cabinet has still not been formed. It is not impossible that the country will slide back again into the political gridlock and sectarian anxieties that have held its women back for decades.

## Study of the Arabic-language Blogosphere

By: Work, Family, Love

So much for the internet as a popular platform for terrorists: a Harvard University study, "Mapping the Arabic Blogosphere: Politics, Culture and Dissent" banishes these and other myths. Arabic-language bloggers have other things on their minds. Silke Lode introduces the report

The new study from Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, part of its "Internet and Democracy Project", cannot refute the fact that Islamist extremists and terrorists use the web as a platform for the dissemination of their radical views and for the organisation of worldwide attacks. With its analysis of over 4,000 Arabic blogs from eighteen countries it does however disprove

many widespread prejudices.

First and foremost: the web is not a safe haven for terrorist-sympathisers. Less than one percent of Arabic bloggers advocate terrorism and nearly one in five speak out explicitly against it. Bruce Etling, one of the report's four authors, says that they were surprised themselves that there were no blogs containing extremism or calling for jihad.

More of an online diary

When terrorism is discussed, it is largely criticised, the researchers found; the bloggers are in fact more interested in other subjects. Typically they write about personal issues – work, family, love – corresponding precisely to the concept of the blog as an online diary.

The second-favourite topic is national politics, and here criticism of the bloggers' respective political leaders dominates. Neither wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, nor US foreign policies generally, receive nearly the same attention; this may surprise the US Department of State which financed the study.

The only international subject discussed throughout the Arabic blogosphere, as elsewhere, is the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians and the situation in Gaza.

Internet censorship in Syria

Some Arabic bloggers have been forced to pay dearly for their critical stance however. In Egypt and Saudi-Arabia several bloggers have been imprisoned and, according to Reporters without Borders, in Syria alone five internet-dissidents are in jail.

The organisation, which campaigns worldwide for press freedom, has compiled a blacklist of "internet enemies". Four of the twelve countries it names and shames are part of the Arabic-speaking world. Iran is also on the list.

It is no wonder that password-protected forums, chatrooms and "social networks" are more popular than openly-accessible blogs. This shadier public domain does not only evade control by regimes however; it has also escaped the gaze of the researchers.

Thus it is unclear how far the blog analysis reflects public opinion. The fact is, however, that it is easier to criticise a regime on the internet than in the other media, often controlled by the state.

Egypt's blogger community, for instance – the largest in the study – includes everyone from secular reform-advocates to the Muslim Brotherhood, who are effectively



An internet café in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia: under the absolute monarchy in the Arab peninsula several bloggers have been imprisoned.

banned. It is also noticeable that in conservative Saudi-Arabia many women use the internet to exchange opinions.

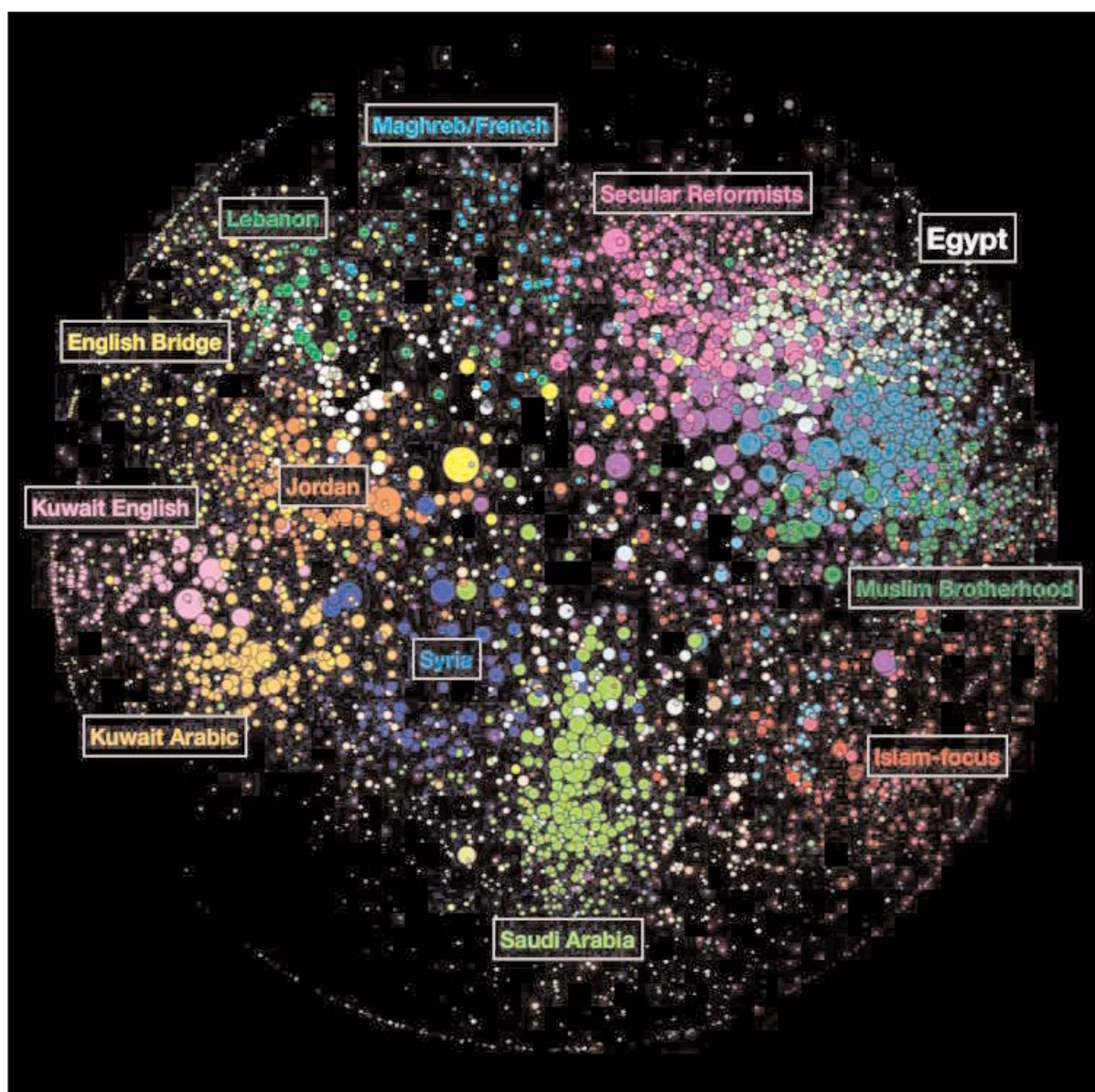
Saad Ibrahim, an Egyptian democracy and human rights activist, says that in Egypt bloggers are held almost in awe. The fact that the government persecutes, imprisons and even tortures them, simply boosts their public sup-

port. Bloggers in Iraq have very different problems. Raed Jarrar says that the infrastructure is so bad there that many people have no access to the internet at all.

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*Cutlines*



Egyptian blog-dissident Manal Hassan: like many Arabs she and her husband focus their criticism on their own country's political class



A graphic representation of the Arabic blogosphere: bloggers in the Arabic-speaking world are not apologists for Islamist terrorism say researchers from the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University



## Fifth group marriage

# Sabafon concludes wedding ceremony of 100 brides and grooms



**U**nder auspices of Sabafon Liaison Company represented by Chairman of Administrators Board Sheikh Hameed Bin Abdulla Bin Hussien Al-Ahmer, the company concluded the fifth group marriage of 100 brides and grooms from its

employees. The occasion has become an annual tradition and good initiative by the company toward its employees. Sabafon Company was the first to adopt such project for the first time in the history of the private sector in Yemen.

The wedding came to reflect continuation of the great success that the company achieved in organizing group weddings for its employees and the great appreciation it received on the highest social levels in Yemen.

Activities of the big wedding started in front of Sabafon's green building. The cheerful procession moved with Sabafon's cars carrying the grooms and their admirers and marched on streets of Sana'a to Wadi Dhahr area where folklore dance and popular songs expressing joyfulness and cheery were held.

At the City Hall, organizers of the wedding received a number of important personalities including ministers, ambassadors, sheikhs, religious scholars, a number of the Parliament and Shura Council members, prominent social dignitaries and friends and colleagues of the bridegrooms who participated in activities of the blessed wedding.

Chairman of Sabafon's Board of Administrators delivered a word in which he pointed to the importance of the social role in supporting and encouraging group weddings to enable youth to get married, and achieving the social collaboration principle which our true Islamic religion highlights. He highly valued the group weddings during the past years which many companies in both the public and private sectors organized for their employees, following Sabafon which was the first to organize such activities for the first time in the history of both the public and private sectors. He called for all the public and private bodies as well as the well-off people to work on intensifying and circulating such group weddings to cover as a big number of youth as possible to attain good from God, further calling them to contribute to serving society and protecting it against defects.

In addition, bridegrooms expressed in their word their deep gratitude to Sabafon company represented by Chairman of the Administrators Board who holds this annual occasion and supports them even in their social and family life in appreciation for their loyalty and faithfulness toward the company.





# CAC BANK

بنك التسليف التعاوني والزراعي  
Cooperative & Agricultural Credit Bank

## البنك الأول لعام 2008 م

# The 2008 First Bank

According to the CBY Report



### Increase of Assets

Most national banks achieved remarkable extension in their banking business during 2008. The total assets at national banks increased to become 1132.9 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008 versus 940.8 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of 2007. The increase is 192.1 billion Yemeni Riyals and the average growth is 20.4%. The national bank's contribution to the size of the uniform budget is 75.0% at the end of December 2008 versus 74% at the end of December 2007. Most national banks achieved a big increase in total assets.

The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase in its total assets. They increased to 56.4 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008. It also achieved the highest average growth among the national banks altogether, and it was 45%.

Source: CBY Report

### زيادة الأصول

حققت معظم البنوك الوطنية توسعا ملحوظا في نشاطها المصرفي خلال عام 2008 م وارتفع إجمالي الأصول لدى البنوك الوطنية إلى 1132,9 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 مقابل 940,8 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر عام 2007 بزيادة قدرها 192,1 مليار ريال ومعدل نمو قدره 20,4% وبلغت نسبة مساهمة البنوك الوطنية في حجم الميزانية الموحدة 75,0% في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 مقابل 74% في نهاية ديسمبر 2007.. وحققت أغلب البنوك الوطنية زيادة كبيرة في إجمالي الأصول..

وحقق بنك التسليف الزراعي أكبر زيادة في مجموع أصوله بلغت 56,4 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 وحقق أعلى معدل نمو بين البنوك مجتمعة بنسبة 45%.

المصدر: تقرير البنك المركزي اليمني



### Growth of Deposits

Balances of deposits in Riyal increased to become 747.7 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008 versus 587.1 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007. The increase was 160.5 billions Yemeni Riyals and the average growth was 27.3%. Increase in balances of deposits in Riyal varied from one bank to another.

The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase in Riyal. Its increase was 31.9 billion with 39.9% as an average growth. Deposits in foreign currencies increased from 466.2 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007 (equivalent to 2336.8 million US dollars) to 488.4 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2008 (equivalent to 2441 million US dollars). The increase was 22.1 million Yemeni Riyals with 4.7% as an average growth. The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase of deposits in foreign currencies; equivalent to 21.5 billion Yemeni Riyal and 58.0% average growth.

Source: CBY Report

### نمو الودائع

أرصدة الودائع بالريال ارتفعت إلى 747,7 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 م مقابل 587,1 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2007 بزيادة قدرها 160,5 مليار ريال وبمعدل نمو 27,3%.

وتفاوتت الزيادة في أرصدة الودائع بالريال من بنك لآخر

وحقق بنك التسليف الزراعي أكبر زيادة بالريال بمبلغ 31,9 مليار

وبمعدل نمو 39,9% وارتفعت الودائع بالعملة الأجنبية من

466,2 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2007 ما يعادل (2336,8

إلى 488,4 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2008 (ما يعادل 2441 مليون

دولار) بزيادة قدرها 22,1 مليون ريال وبمعدل نمو 4,7% وحقق بنك التسليف الزراعي أكبر زيادة

لودائع العملات الأجنبية بما يعادل مبلغ 21,5 مليار ريال وبمعدل نمو 58,0%.

المصدر: تقرير البنك المركزي اليمني



### Development of Credits & Finances

Balances of credits, advances and finances offered by banks to different economic sectors increased to become 418.4 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007 versus 359.7 billion Yemeni Riyals at the end of December 2007. The increase was 58.7 billion Yemeni Riyals and the average growth was 16.3%.

The CAC Bank achieved the biggest increase in offering credits and finances. Its increase was 20.9 billions with 46.5% as an average growth.

Source: CBY Report

### تطور أرصدة القروض والتمويلات

ارتفعت أرصدة القروض والسلفيات والتمويلات المقدمة من البنوك العاملة للقطاعات الاقتصادية المختلفة إلى 418,4 مليار ريال نهاية ديسمبر 2008 مقابل 359,7 مليار ريال في نهاية ديسمبر 2007 بزيادة قدرها 58,7 مليار ريال ومعدل نمو قدره 16,3%.

وحقق بنك التسليف الزراعي أكبر زيادة في عملية الإقراض والتمويلات بمقدار 20,9 مليار ومعدل نمو قدره 46,5%.

المصدر: تقرير البنك المركزي اليمني



Deputy President of the Yemeni Laborers Union to the Yemen Times:

## “Governmental officials’ interventions and the illiteracy rate of union workers make the union slow to achieve progress”

**L**abor unions play an essential role in sophisticated societies. They help people get decent work and protect workers from blackmail. Jamal Al-Sanabani, Deputy President of the Yemeni Laborers Union spoke to Ali Saeed from the Yemen Times about the nature of union work and the challenges that unions face.



**Could you give a brief speech on the background of labor union in Yemen?**

The General Labor Union (GLU) consists of twelve general syndicates nationally and has fifteen branches in several governorates.

The Union also has 3,500 syndicate committees in the areas of work and production.

It currently has 521,000 members.

The first GLU was established in Aden in 1956, and later a general union was established in Sana'a.

After the unification, the unions merged together, however conflicts remained until March 17, 2008 when they held a conference.

**What are the challenges that make the role of the General Labor Union appear semi-absent?**

We have many problems, and the most worst are price hikes, low living standards and salary reductions. The world

financial crisis had a direct negative affect on the work of the union.

Many workers, especially in the banking sector, lost their jobs to downsizing.

The union also experiences problems in the legislative structure.

Although international and Arab conventions were signed by our country, and included in national laws, they have not been implemented or enforced.

The union also has a problem with a law that “bans forming any unions in the ministries and high authorities.” This article violates the constitution, which allows any Yemeni person organize a union.

We are working to amend this article. In the coming months, we will present an appeal to the constitutional committee.

There are also some officials that are not familiar with the importance or culture of unions. Although our country signed a 1987 convention that promises independence and respect for unions, we

notice leaders at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs offices interfering in union affairs. The strange thing is that the Ministry of Labor is the body that signed the convention, and this shows that those directors are not aware of the law.

The administration of the GLU has been reformed, but the new staff needs qualification and training.

Qualifying and training new personnel requires financial support. A plan was set up for that, but funding is still an obstacle.

The final problem that we face in the union is union dues. In some countries, governments cooperate with unions by taking out one day payment from workers' salaries or wages to pay for the dues, and that solves a big problem.

In Yemen, it is optional to pay union dues.

**Since the union began in 1956, what has it done for the Yemeni workers?**

The union has done many things. First, it has participated in the preparation of laws. For example, the union was a strong partner in the preparation of social insurance law, union law and civil service law.

Participation in law preparation allows the union to participate in other areas. From the beginning, the union has been a prominent supporter of the Yemeni unification.

Now the union is partaking in the preparation of medical insurance law. It is still being discussed and I hope the law will serve the Yemeni worker.

**Do you see that the medical insurance law is late when compared with the union's age?**

It was supposed to be issued two years ago. The union's election delayed the law because the election had continued for one full year. The union was therefore late in prompting the government to issue the law. Now, we are pressuring the government and we hope the law will be issued soon.

**What about workers' issues that the union adopted, especially cases where workers were oppressed?**

Of course, we adopt workers' issues in all the sectors either general or private. We have representatives in the jury committee.

The jury committee consists of members from the Ministry of Labor, the Commercial Chamber and the union.

It is available in every governorate and the union's representatives in these committees are in charge of workers' issues.

**Has the union adopted specific case and supported the victim till he or she won?**

If we are informed about a case, we will immediately adopt it, but as of now, no case has come to us.

**Why don't workers report oppression cases to you?**

Because of a lack of awareness among workers. They experience a lot of oppression, but have no idea about the role of syndicates and unions.

Awareness of the union's role in supporting workers' rights is absent, especially in the northern governorates.

In the southern governorates, people are aware of the union's work, and they are active in promoting the union efforts to achieve more progress.

**There are Yemeni workers in Saudi Arabia who face oppression and tough regulations, what does the union do for them?**

We have a problem with Saudi Arabia and other countries that do not allow the unions organization to work.

For countries that encourage and allow the union work, we can help, but for states that ban this kind of work we can not.

In Saudi Arabia, we can't even help ourselves because if we travel there, we can't write on our passports that we are union members.

The union has a good relationship with Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain since there is

cooperation between unions in these states.

**What are the international and local organizations that the union coordinates with?**

We are member in the International Labor Organization, and have relations with international, European and Arab unions.

Our relationship is strong with the Norwegian Union and the American Union.

We are also member of the International Union and the Arab Labor Organization.

**What distinguishes the General Labor Union from other organizations?**

The union is distinguished by the fact that it adopts women's issues in reality.

Many women were appointed to union

positions, even five years ago.

In the last union election, woman won a high percentage of leadership positions. Twenty-five percent of committee members and union employees are women.

For the first time in the Arab countries, a woman heads an important sector of the union, which is the medical sector.

In Yemen now, the head of the general syndicate of medical professions is a woman.

**What are the programs that the union is carrying out and needs the support of international organizations?**

We have women's programs that support women and help them win positions in the union leaderships.

We also have awareness programs about laws that target workers, to enable them know about their rights.

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### Invitation for Bids (IFB) Republic of Yemen Public Works Project Procurement of Implementation of Children's Orthopedic Surgery Center - Sana'a Tender SF-5/3

1. The Government of Yemen/Public Works Project has received a grant from The audi Fund for Development. Part of the grant will be applied to cover eligible payments under the contract for the implementation of Children's Orthopedic Surgery Center. Bidding is open o all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the guidelines.
2. The Public Work Project invites sealed bids for eligible bidders, who had at least two similar projects, for the implementation of Children's Orthopedic Surgery Center Subproject according to specifications and bill of quantities included in the tender documents.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at

Public Works Project Office  
2nd turning on left of 20m Rd. west 60m Rd.  
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For a nonrefundable fee of YR10000 or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.

4. Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by bid security of \$15000 or its equivalent in a convertible currency valid for 120 days after the bid opening, and shall be delivered to Public Works Project Office on or before 11:00 AM on 4/10/2009 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
5. For the local contractors, a copy of renew taxation certificate should be attached.

### اعلان مناقصة دولية يعلن مشروع الأشغال العامة عن إنزال مناقصة SF-5/3 انشاء مركز لجراحة عظام الأطفال م/السبعين - أمانة العاصمة

حصلت الجمهورية اليمنية / مشروع الأشغال العامة على قرض من الصندوق السعودي للتنمية لتمويل تنفيذ مشروعات مختلفة وقد خصص جزء من هذا القرض لمواجهة تكاليف انشاء مركز لجراحة عظام الأطفال م/ السبعين - أمانة العاصمة. تدعو وحدة إدارة مشروع الأشغال العامة المقاولين المؤهلين والذين لديهم خبرة سابقة لاتقل عن مشروعين مماثلين بحسب شروط البنك الدولي لتقديم عطاءاتهم المغلقة لتنفيذ انشاء مركز لجراحة عظام الأطفال م/السبعين - أمانة العاصمة بحسب الرسومات والمواصفات وجداول الكميات المضمنة في وثائق المناقصة.

١. يمكن شراء وثائق المناقصة بموجب طلب كتابي من مقر المشروع في العنوان التالي: صنعاء - شرق تقاطع الستين الغربي مع شارع العشرين (مبنى كلية المجتمع سابقا) تلفون: ٤٠٧٣٥٤ - ٤٠٧٣٥٨ / فاكس ٤٠٧٣٥٣ / ص.ب. ١٨٣١٦ الجمهورية اليمنية مقابل مبلغ لايرد وقدره (١٠٠٠٠ ريال) للنسخة الواحدة. ويمكن للمتقدمين الراغبين الحصول على المعلومات الإضافية من نفس العنوان.

٢. تقدم العطاءات في ظروف مغلقة ومختومة بالشمع الأحمر وتكون من أصل وصورة وتسلم إلى العنوان المذكور أعلاه في موعد أقصاه الساعة الحادي عشر بعد الظهر يوم الأحد الموافق ٤/١٠/٢٠٠٩ على أن تكون العروض صالحة لمدة ٩٠ يوما بعد موعد فتح المظاريف ويرفق بالعطاء ضمان ابتدائي قدره (١٥٠٠٠) دولار أمريكي صالح لمدة ١٢٠ يوما بعد موعد فتح المظاريف لصالح وحدة مشروع الأشغال العامة.

٣. على المقاولين المحليين إرفاق صورة معتمدة من البطاقة الضريبية مجددة لعام ٢٠٠٩ والبطاقة التأمينية.

٤- سيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات في تمام الساعة الحادي عشر قبل الظهر من يوم الأحد الموافق ٤/١٠/٢٠٠٩ وذلك بحضور من يرغب من ممثلي المتقدمين. وحدة تنفيذ المشروع غير ملزمة بقبول أقل الأسعار ولها الحق في رفض أي عطاء أو كل العطاءات دون ابداء الأسباب.



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Basem M.A. Alshaibani

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# Yemeni students go on cultural exchange trip to Wales



Thirteen Yemeni students and eight teachers along with their peers from nine other countries visit the country as part of their intercultural visit

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Under the British Council initiative 'Connecting Classrooms,' 13 students and eight teachers from Rabba'a Al-Adawiya and Baghdad schools of Sana'a visited Wales in the UK to participate in the World Youth Skills Challenge (WYSC) last month.

The WYSC was arranged and organized on June 27 by Dinas Ysgol Brân School in Llangollen, which is the partner for Rabba'a Al-Adawiya and Baghdad schools in the Connecting Classrooms project.

About 170 students and 35 teaching staff from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Spain, Yemen and of course Wales visited local attractions and took part in a series of competi-

tions. "The aim of this event is to enhance the learning experience for students and help them develop an understanding of the lives and cultures of their peers around the world, as well as providing an opportunity for professional development for the teachers," said the British Council.

During their week in Llangollen, the students competed in numerous competitions and activities like storytelling, music, animation, chess, cookery, math, dancing, design, art and sports. Yemeni students won the first prize in art and cooking, second in animation and storytelling and third in singing.

WYSC co-coordinator Amanda Edwards described the event as "a groundbreaking step in international relations between Wales and Yemen."

"Our participation in the international WYSC competition uncovered the

misconceptions we had about each other from media," said Malak Yslam, a student from Rabba'a Al-Adawiya school.

"There was a misconception that everything is forbidden for us and it is impossible for us to talk to men," said Yslam "We clarified for them that we are free to do so and that surprised them.

"In this trip and competition we tried to show how Yemenis are smart, dynamic and hard workers. We also tried to convey some of our traditions and give a good picture of Yemen and the Yemenis," she added.

"I came to know that people all over the world are just the same. We have different cultures and religions, but that is not a problem as long as we respect our differences," said Tawheeda, an English teacher from Rabba'a Al-Adawiya School.

"I was amazed by so many things such as the perfect organization, good hospitality, respect for the rules and the constant work without boredom or laziness," commented Ali Haroon from Baghdad school.

Alya'a Fahmi, 15, clarified misconceptions of her peers from other countries about the hijab and women in Yemen. She is now more interested in learning other languages.

Students and teachers were astonished by the respect for Islamic beliefs and Yemeni traditions as shown by their hosts in Wales.

"At the school there was a room designated for us to pray and they always served halal food," said Amat Al-Malek Jahaf, the librarian at Rabba'a Al-Adawiya School.

"When someone shows respect for me, my religion and my beliefs, it means a lot to me," she added, "and that definitely makes me do the same for others."

Shatha Al-Hamadi, 18, liked the discipline the people follow in their life and the school with its practical learning labs and workshops. "I saw a student designing a chair using a computer, and then took the design to the workshop to make it," she said.

Al-Hamadi recalled the sad moments before leaving Wales and how it made her cry to say goodbye to friends.

Ruba Hajeb, 16, had fears about how people will look at students from Yemen and their misconceptions about Muslims. Her fears vanished when she arrived and found people's respect and happiness to be with Yemenis.

Although it was the first time for the students to travel without parents accompanying them, they were closely chaperoned by their schools principals and teachers, the staff of the hosting school Dinas Brân and the British Council.

Connecting Classrooms bring an international dimension into young people's lives as they learn about other cultures, challenge stereotypes and work as global citizens. It also offers teachers the opportunity to share in joint curriculum projects, to visit their partner schools and to be involved in collaborative learning.



Students wave the Yemeni flag as they parade down the streets of Llangollen in Wales



Ruba Hajeb, 16, talks to the BBC about her participation in WYSC

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# Education

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## Tips on management People management



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It would hardly be an exaggeration to characterize the modern age as the age of Management. In every sector of human enterprise, Management has become the catchword. The term 'management' embraces a wide spectrum of issues, parameters and principles ranging from management of mind to that of money.

One of the factors of highest significance that contributes to the productivity of a company is individual accountability. As a company, in the public sector or the private sector, grows the size of its work force also grows. In such a situation, it becomes a tough task for a Manager to keep track of who is responsible for what. The situation becomes all the more bewildering or confusing because people are constantly crossing the functional lines. Quite often a Manager finds himself in a situation where he doesn't know himself who was responsible for a particular department. So it becomes easy for accountability to get lost.

One of the simple strategies the Manager can adopt in such a situation is to keep track of each employee's accountability, including his own. So the manager needs to draw up a matrix of employees specifying their individual responsibilities and keep track of the scope and limitations of their respective areas of operation.

Across the top of the matrix are the employees' initials which serve as column headings. Down the side are mentioned different job tasks (such as internal growth planning). When the matrices are complete, he can hand these to the employees as a reference tool.

A company's corporate growth depends on the Manager's personal growth which is linked with allowing others in the company to grow. This mutually interlocking relationship can give meaning to their own professional life.

An important role of the Manager is to foster team spirit in the employees. A Manager should cultivate a sense of belonging in his colleagues. He should spend most of his time with the weaker people in the organization and leave the

strong ones to fend for themselves. The company is bound to suffer if a lopsided attitude is adopted in this respect by the Manager. The not-so-efficient performers may show marginal improvement by virtue of the Manager's intervention. However, the solid performers or the high achievers who are the strength of the company and on whose performance the company's growth crucially depends, might feel ignored. They may have an unhealthy feeling of being marginalized. They may as well need the vision and leadership of the Manager more than the not-so-efficient performers to march ahead.

In order to avoid this contingency, the Manager may form a group consisting of the high performers and arrange a periodical meeting with them, discussing various issues and sharing the techniques they have successfully tried

in their respective departments. It builds a feeling of trust and co-responsibility. These key personnel disseminate their insight and expertises. The advice from the peers becomes much less threatening to others in the company, ensuring an overall growth of the company.

An efficient Manager provides a framework for constructive decision making and eliminates divisive complaining. He is accessible and open in his approach. He knows where he can go in the system, and so do other employees. He regularly interacts with them and gets a chance to get acquainted with the best management candidates in the organization.

Managing people in a company also involves inviting ideas from the employees and creating an idea bank. Each week management lists each suggestion its employees come up with and

prepares an action plan to implement them over a stipulated period of time.

'All work, no play' is not conducive to the general work culture of the company. An extensive, company-sponsored recreation and social program can be refreshing and up-lifting. It can be a morale-booster, leading to the enhancement of output and upgrading of the quality of the output.

In order to put the company in the forefront in terms of productivity, the Manager should curb employee absenteeism. He should categorically warn them that employees who don't regularly come to work risk losing pay hikes and in extreme cases, their jobs.

There is a 'hidden' management discipline for all Managers – keeping the office running smoothly. They know – "When you do it well, nobody notices. When you mess it up, all hell breaks loose."

### I. What to Say Situations and Expressions (106): Daily Activities

- A: What time do you get up?  
B: I get up around six o'clock.  
A: What time do you have your breakfast?  
B: I usually have my breakfast at a quarter to eight.  
A: What time do you go to bed?  
B: I go to bed not later than eleven o'clock.

### II. How to Say it Correctly Correct grammatical or idiomatic errors, if any, in the following sentences

- When Dr. Nabeel joined the department, Dr. Anwar has already been teaching there for three years.
- Unlike the previous year the spring has spread his mantle of green over the earth.
- It was impolite to them to ignore the invitation of marriage of such a close relative.
- My friend, being unwilling to attend the party, sent a letter explaining why could he not come.
- The purchase manager played malpractice in the factory's dealings which were a blot on his character.

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- The few Americans **who** are in Bombay are law abiding citizens unlike other foreigners.
- The crowd dragged the thief from the prison and lynched him despite his repeated **protests**.
- Whenever I come to Sana'a during my holidays, it rains **every** day.  
**Note:** 'each' is a determiner which refers to every one separately, 'every' is also a determiner which refers to each counted one by one. Look at the following sentence: 'Every day I go to school, but each day I am late I am punished.'
- Bread and butter **is** the only food of my son who is now in the tenth grade.
- While coming to office I saw your neighbor's child **crying**.

### III. Increase Your Word Power

- (A) How to express it in one word
- Eye disease involving gradual loss of sight
  - Beam or ray of light, one that comes and goes
  - Gather news or facts in small quantities
  - Move along smoothly and continuously
  - Quick, imperfect view of something or somebody.

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- Cord or belt fastened round the waist to keep clothes in position: **girdle** (n)
- Mass of ice formed by snow or mountains, moving slowly along a valley: **glacier** (n)
- Power of beauty or romance to move the feelings: **glamour** (v)
- Take a quick look at something or somebody: **glance** (n)
- Strong, fierce, unpleasant light: **glare** (n)

## Improve Your English: 332

### (B) Words often confused

Bring out difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

- amateur, novice
- biannual, biennial
- chafe, chaff
- disburse, disperse
- complacent, complaisant

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- gild** (vt) (cover with gold leaf or gold-colored paint so as to make it bright as if with gold): He has gilded his jambia.  
**guild** (n) (society of persons for helping one another, forwarding common interests such as social welfare): We are members of the city social service guild.
- gilt** (n) (shiny metal, especially gold, used as a thin covering): The picture frame has a gilt edge.  
**guilt** (n) (the knowledge or belief that one has done wrong): His face reflected guilt, though he pleaded innocence.
- gird** (vt) (fasten with a belt) : You must gird up your clothes.  
**guard** (n) (state of watchfulness against attack or danger): We must carefully guard our country's freedom.
- oar** (n) (pole for rowing a boat): The boat man is rowing with an oar.
- ore** (n) (raw mineral from which metal can be extracted): India is rich in iron ore.
- premier** (n) (leading or first. It also means the Prime Minister): The Yemeni premier was warmly received by his British counterpart.  
**premiere** (n) (first performance of a play or first public showing of a cinema film): The firm-premiere will be held in the town hall.

### (C) Synonyms and Antonyms

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

- Scientific inventions shouldn't be **abused**.  
a. misused b. insulted  
c. talked about d. killed  
e. changed
- We went to the **exclusive** showroom of the company to make the purchase.  
a. excessive b. sole  
c. external d. extensive
- Scientists are optimistic and are **holding out** that in future they might be successful to change the genetic order of the gene.  
a. catching b. expounding  
c. sustaining d. restraining  
e. controlling
- The period of **internment** of the accused has been extended.  
a. long imprisonment

- solitary confinement
- being compelled to live within certain limits
- being not allowed to leave the country
- The child is playing with the **doggy**.  
a. child's word for a dog  
b. of dog-like devotion  
c. obstinate d. servile

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Word</b>   | <b>Synonym</b> |
| 1. delivers   | announces      |
| 2. realize    | fulfill        |
| 3. hushed     | silenced       |
| 4. commanded  | deserved       |
| 5. obliterate | eradicate      |

#### ii) Antonyms

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

- If we can fulfill the leader's ambition in our lives, that would be a **living** memorial to him.  
a. dull b. weak  
c. lifeless d. dying  
e. invigorating
- His actions **reflect** his exemplary life  
a. darken b. return  
c. refuse d. refract  
e. camouflage
- "My heart **leaps** when I behold a rainbow in the sky."  
a. spring b. hop  
c. plunge d. limp
- Some languages use **ingressive** airstreams in articulating some speech sounds.  
a. egressive b. digressive  
c. depressive d. impressive
- A warm **reception** was awaiting him when he returned from abroad.  
a. deception b. ejection  
c. rejection d. injection

#### Answers to the previous issue's questions

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Word</b>    | <b>Antonym</b> |
| 1. detrimental | beneficial     |
| 2. superficial | profound       |
| 3. extension   | subtraction    |
| 4. authentic   | improper       |
| 5. sacred      | ignoble        |

#### (D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. analytical b. analitical  
c. analytikal d. analytical
- a. anarki b. anarchy

Prince Nassim will definitely win the boxing championship.

- If they arrive after midnight, they might not be able to get into the guest house.
- You won't be able to get into the flight **unless** you make a reservation soon.
- You'd feel much better **if** you took some exercise.

**Note:** unless has the same meaning as if ... not

### (B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

#### 149. SOME MEN GO THROUGH A FOREST AND SEE NO FIREWOOD

#### 148: WHEN A PROUD MAN HEARS ANOTHER PRAISED, HE FEELS HIMSELF INJURED

Pride, the most dangerous of all faults, proceeds from want of sense, want of thought and lack of humility. "It is at the bottom of all great mistakes," says Ruskin. As Ecclesiastes I mentions, pride is "vanity that sends one striving after the wind." A proud man has bloated ego. False pride or a mistaken feeling of pride leads him to think that he is the lord of the flies. In his own opinion he is the brightest and the wisest. He considers himself 'the monarch of all he surveys' and to his supremacy there is none to dispute. He feels he has unique and unenviable accomplishments that make him decidedly better than the best. As such, he cannot conceive of anyone excelling him in any respect. He has an unreasonable self-respect; an improper high opinion of himself. Since he feels himself worthy of all attention and all adulation, he feels himself belittled when another person is praised in his presence. His self-created castle of beauty and charm seems to crumble; his self-respect threatened and, as a result, he himself feels intimidated. His ego is punctured. He is hurled down from his self-styled pedestal of prominence. To see another person get the same respect or recognition is the last thing that he can bear because he thinks honor to be his monopoly. Such self-conceited persons suffer from a jaundiced vision. They lack flexibility of mind to appreciate other's goodness. The moral of this maxim is: one should have a liberal mind. Respect begets respect. So we should cultivate an open mind so as to appreciate other's qualities of excellence as much as we want our qualities be appreciated by others. As far away as we keep pride, so far our vision or wisdom expands. When the ego dissolves, then and there, the soul becomes the possessor of all qualities.

### V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"Believers are those who, when Allah is mentioned, feel a tremor in their hearts, and when they hear His revelations rehearsed, find their faith strengthened, and put (all) their trust in their Lord." S8:A2

### VI. Words of Wisdom

Judgment is not the knowledge of fundamental laws; it is knowing how to apply a knowledge of them." —Charles Gw



# ELT Panorama

## If I am not better than the others, at least I am different



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**Y**ou are unique, you are special, we all are, and I feel sure that we would all like to have the best of everything life has to offer because that makes us feel good. Feeling that way is comfortable. It makes us feel safe and adaptable to changes in our daily life. It is within your power today to make changes that will bring about the kind of difference you would like to have in your life. It is all up to you. It is not due to circumstances or environment, but it is due to something that only you can control. It is due to

your attitude of mind.

We can have the wrong attitude towards most things in life and then wonder why things go wrong for us in our relationships and in our daily contacts, without realizing that it all goes wrong in our mind first. The way we are living at this moment in time is due to how we think about things and our mental attitude towards everything in life. We have the ability to make major changes by finding a positive way to view everything and widen our ways of thinking. Here are just two examples: The first is mistakes; we all make them, but instead of giving the mistake the power to affect our lives by depressing us, turn your thoughts into something positive by recognizing that it is a Learning Curve, and use the experience to avoid the same situation in future. We used to do this as children, why did we stop the practice when we became adults? When we were children, we knew nothing about the environment around us. We still had not the experience from our forefathers. We learnt how to adjust with

the small world.

Psychologically, the child does not fit in with difficulties. Whenever he commits mistakes and people around him rebuke him, he immediately capitulates to his mistakes. So, adults should not relent to such obstacles, because they know more about difficulties in life and how to deal with them. But if they surrender to these hindrances, they will be like the children, which no one likes to be, especially in this situation.

The second is failure; we all have them...none of us has learnt to walk without falling over many times, but even then as children the very act of falling over should be a reason to keep trying. I am giving the instance of children as a model so that all of us can learn from them. We must ask ourselves why we should be inferior to children now that we are mature adults. And why we give up so easily?

The answer to that question is that we now choose to view things negatively, so we lose self esteem, we become disillusioned, and quite

frankly some of us give up the hope of ever seeing the silver lining, although it is there in everyone's life if we have the right attitude. Don't refuse to see it. Instead of allowing your mind to bring you down, find a positive way to view everything and watch the change that will occur in your life as new doors of opportunity open for you. Sometimes we may need help to see how we can achieve this, but once you understand that you have the ability to change your life by altering your attitude towards everything, you will benefit by attracting positive-minded people to you and things will begin to improve for you. Everyone has the ability to do this. Just put it to the test. You are special enough to deserve only the best, so do it, and do it today. So, take off inactivity of thinking and forsake the inertness of mind. You should repeatedly remind yourself: "If I am not better than the others, at least I am different." Forget the past, start progressing in present and think of the golden future which is waiting for you.

## A letter to the learners of English: 23 Another vacation

Dear Student friends,

**I**t has always been my suggestion to you: use your leisure profitably. Another vacation, after a tiring series of examinations, for you to enjoy, isn't it? Of course you need some rest. Relax for sometime, take a trip to your village. For some of you, this may be the last vacation; I mean, you may not continue your studies and end up at home. No problem, there is no end to learning, isn't there? Read what I suggest, may be useful to you too.

Use your free time to equip yourselves. I mean, start reading, if you haven't been a reader already. Read any thing and everything. Listen to good English spoken on the TV; there are several channels giving you good and acceptable English, listen to them regularly. Speak a lot, if not in English, in Arabic using English words now and then. This is my special message for this vacation. Use English words consciously in your conversation in Arabic, two or three words every time, even if your partner is irritated.

Yes friends, language is easily acquired if it is used casually rather than intentionally; casual use is possible when you use it unconsciously or subconsciously. How can this happen? Any activity practiced consciously to begin with can become automatic or unconscious in due course, it is true of language use too. If you start using English words consciously in your conversation in Arabic, you can acquire words fast and easily and enrich your vocabulary; as you are aware, rich vocabulary is a requirement for fluent use of English; remember my example: the more money you have in the bank, the more you can spend?

So, make up your mind. Try to use English words in your conversation in Arabic. It is not uncommon; I hear the sports commentators in their commentaries of Wimbledon and French Open Tennis Tournaments drop English words and phrases such as 'cross court, drop shots, backhand volley' often in the course of their commentaries in Arabic. But, to tell you the truth, I'm pleasantly surprised at this. Do you know why?

I've been consciously observing one phenomenon in the last few years: most of my Yemeni colleagues and friends who are well versed in English hardly use English words or phrases in their casual conversations with their friends who are equally proficient in English. I've watched the Rector and the Vice Rector of a University, who have their Ph.Ds from the USA talking to each other in Arabic for 15 minutes without using a single English word; two colleagues of mine, who have just returned to Yemen with Ph.Ds, talking to each other for 40 minutes using only 4 English words (all the four happen to be the titles of the courses we offer in the Dept of English). Have you ever wondered why this happens? Perhaps you haven't observed it or it may not have struck you? Do observe your teachers, who are bilinguals (proficient in 2 languages - Arabic and English), to see if what I have said is true. Why should it surprise me? I'll tell you in my next letter. Bye for now. Have a happy vacation!

Rain is elixir as it preserves the earth (Kural 11)

Yours affectionately,  
Dr M N K Bose.



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## Change should occur!

**E**very thing in this life is subject to change, otherwise life will be boring and meaningless. Life including all its aspects goes in a circular movement and shows itself to be new in the eyes of the beholder. Looking always at the same sight upsets the eyes. Daylight comes after darkness to transfer the universe into a new world of change. Night, likewise, comes after daylight to transfer it from tiresome work into tranquility and calmness. Thoughts and mentalities also change. New inventions and discoveries are nothing but vivid examples



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of the process of change of the world surrounding us. Eating, dressing, walking, working and moving always in the same way results in nothing but boredom and weariness.

Education as a major factor of life should free itself from the shackles of old traditions and renew itself to suit the demands of the new age. Otherwise it will be outdated, irrelevant and incapable of delivering the goods. Reading and teaching the same traditional materials in the same traditional ways indicate stagnation. All things will fall apart because the center (education) cannot hold.

And change has to be geared for the better. We, students of English Dept, college of Arts, Ibb University, are lucky as we recently got an enlightened teacher who is expected to make a tremendous change in the university's educational superstructure and who can inspire us to look up and ahead so as to scale greater heights and climb the ladder of success. She is none other than Dr Huda Al-Mansoob, Assistant Professor, English Department, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University, under her stewardship and guidance the student community aspires to march on the path of excellence in the time to come.

## Tips to the teachers of English



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**B**efore discussing language teaching, one should look at all the factors that help improve or spoil it. We have to look at its relationship with the teaching of other subjects. There is a link between teaching of Foreign/Second Language (FL/SL) and the teaching of other subjects especially, the Mother Tongue (MT). Some problems of teaching SL/FL are due to the lack of correct methods and strategies of teaching. There are many hidden problems we are not aware of. We are on the surface dealing with what we consider big problems like large classes, discipline, difficulty in acquiring English, students' disinterestedness and lack of motivation, etc. paying no attention to the factors underlying them. Let's here consider some of these factors.

1. Universal Skills
2. Learning Strategies
3. MT Influence
4. Discovery Learning

### Universal skills

They are so called because they can be used to teach any subject. They are also called intra-disciplinary skills, as opposed to interdisciplinary skills, which are specific to teaching each subject individually. Examples of these universal skills are re-ordering, matching, finding the odd one out and the crossword puzzle.

Such skills should be established from the beginning in subjects which are taught in Arabic so that the students can make use of them in foreign language learning later (it is an advantage that introduction of English is delayed to class VII). These skills help the teacher of English in teaching, for example, spelling, vocabulary, writing, grammar, etc. They are simple and interesting especially for beginners. Take, for example, the crossword puzzle which is useful for teaching spelling. A teacher of class VII should find it difficult to use a crossword puzzle unless the students are familiar with it in their MT. Should the teacher use suitable techniques in teaching English spelling or should s/he teach them how to do the game in Arabic? Which one is more time consuming? The same dilemma is noticeable in other areas of foreign language teaching as well.

Teaching matching activity in the currently prescribed primary school coursebooks through pictures is a case in point. Two sets of pictures A and B are there. A consists of trees and B consists of the fruits of the trees in a random order. Ask the students to match the trees in A to their fruits in column B.

### Learning Strategies

One useful solution to tackle the problem of large classes is to adapt the activity-oriented mode of teaching. Students in pairs/ groups are involved in doing some activities. If done properly, this has its own advantages. It generates a sense of involvement, cooperation, coordination and discipline in the students in the classroom. They use the target language. They think actively in a competitive spirit. It shifts the focus from teacher-centered approach to the learner-centered approach of teaching.

The question is: are the learners accustomed to such learning strategies and styles? Are they self-confident enough to take the risk and do the activities on their own? Have they been trained to study in this way in other subjects in Arabic? If the answer is in the negative, it is highly probable that this good way of tackling the problem of large classes would become useless. In such a situation the teacher finds himself in a fix whether to make use of these useful strategies in language teaching or help them be familiar with these strategies first.

### Mother Tongue (MT) influence

The influence of the MT on the learning of SL/FL is undeniable. Let's here consider the teaching of literature. The literary terms like 'metaphor' and 'similes' and other terms may not be known to the students in their mother tongue, Arabic. How can they be expected to understand, assimilate and make use of these concepts in English which is a foreign language? Questions like, "Annotate the following lines" and

"Write a critical appreciation of the following poem" should be avoided as far as practicable. When they are not able to answer such critical questions in Arabic because they have not been exposed to such terms, concepts and questions, how can they do so in a foreign language, English?

### Discovery learning

The concept of discovery/ inductive learning is useful in language teaching/learning. It should be practiced from the beginning in teaching other subjects before they are practiced in English. There are situations in which students fail to differentiate between "Who's this?" and "What's this?" Just by pointing to different things in the classroom accompanied by the question "What's this?", they can discover that it is used with things. And pointing to different students in the classroom accompanied by the question "Who's this?" it is easy to make them discover that it is used with people. Secondly, they may see the connection between the two forms of verbs like the following:

come	coming
dance	dancing
write	writing

Notice that "e" must be deleted when adding "ing". It is not difficult to make them discover the difference between the two. Moreover they are not ready to do it on their own. They strongly believe that the teacher would explain everything directly using Arabic. They have not been trained to study in this way. What always happens in a normal classroom situation is that the teacher speaks, reads, writes and uses the language as they sit down as passive

recipients. Is language acquired in this way?

An example of some activities which can help induce the discovery way of learning in the early stages of the primary teaching is to ask the students to fill in the blank boxes as in the following:

35 25 15 5

Another example is through "Spot the differences in the following two

pictures" game which is interesting and useful for the children.

We should set our techniques right and help the students to adopt correct learning strategies from the beginning. Considered and implemented early in the primary school, these things can help in efficient acquisition of the foreign language. I hope that we shall be able to discover more such problems and their remedies in future.

## ANY GUESSES?

1. What is the meaning of 'the rank and file'?
2. What does 'fatuuous' mean?
3. What is meant by a 'leap year'?
4. What is 'canard'?
5. How do you use the expression 'thin skinned'?

### Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. A 'happy-go-lucky' person is an optimist. He/she feels that everything will turn out fine, no matter what the situation is. Such a person isn't worried. Their happy-go-lucky attitude gets them through hard times.
2. When you 'wink at' something, you pretend not to see something although you have actually seen it. You forgive someone although he has done something wrong. For example, *the police man winked at my failure to obey traffic rules.*
3. 'Paper over' means 'to conceal something, to cover something up.' You pretend that everything is ok, when in fact, it's not. For example, *at the time of war or an external aggression, political parties paper over their differences and stand united.*
4. 'Kow tow' refers to an old Chinese custom of touching of the ground with the forehead as a sign of respect, submission, etc. Used as a verb (intransitive), it means showing great humility. For example, *Yemen, a sovereign Republic, will not kow tow to anyone.*
5. The proverb 'Money will make the mare go' means you can accomplish anything if you have money. Nothing is impossible if you have money. This proverb is from an old song which runs thus:  
*'Will you lend me your mare to go a mile?  
No, she is lame leaping over a stile  
But if you will her to me spare, you shall have money for your mare  
Oh oh say you so?  
Money will make the mare go.*



# A spoony tale



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"Hey diddle diddle  
The cat and the fiddle  
The cow jumped over the moon  
The little boy laughed to see such  
fun  
The dish ran away with the  
spoon"

A rhyme that has not only added wings to many a juvenile fancy, but has also gone a long way in eternalizing and romanticizing a common household utensil. Moreover it is a rhyme that has ensured my lasting adoration for a utensil that resembles a tadpole- a shallow head and an elongated tail- a spoon has quite a tale to tell! The image of the roly polly dish that runs away with a little red spindly spoon fitted with arms, legs, and a beaming countenance to match in my nursery rhyme book is still very fresh in my memory. To me a spoon has always been a metaphorical representation of savouring the taste of life. Life too like a spoon whips us with situations and stirs our emotions, ladling us out with bitter-sweet experiences that make life an enriching journey. A spoon definitely does define the spirit of human life. And expressive of its myriad shades, this unassuming piece of utensil has come of age from its primitive avatar of a chip or a splinter to the most exquisitely hand crafted kitchen silver fitting every elite diner's delight. A utensil for eating, stirring, measuring and ladling, the spoon is one of the most multi-tasking devices in the gastronomic world. Let me take you for a spoony spin into the amusingly interesting world of spoons.

One may think that spoons are a new fangled dining contraption for the clinically hygienic denizens of Generations X, Y and Z; or better, a convenient mode of speed eating in today's world where hurriedness defines the essence of life. But spoons have existed since Palaeolithic times. A relic of the hoary past the existence of the spoon can be traced to the antiquated civilizations of Southern and Northern Europe when they were made out of shells, wooden chips and splinters. It is believed that in Southern Europe spoons were said to be derived from 'Cochlea' - a spiral shaped snail shell. But a more authentic derivation would be from the Anglo-Saxon word 'spon' - a chip or a splinter of wood. Since its inception, spoons have been made out of many a

The spoon translates the fact that common things can be extraordinary.

material ranging from precious metals like gold and silver to semi precious elements like iron, copper, and endangered substances like ivory, bone, and horn, not to forget its modern day porcelain, glass and plastic guises. The Romans in 1st century A.D. designed two types of spoons. The *ligula* and the *cochleare* redefined cutlery for all times to come. The *ligula* is the primitive cousin of the present day soup spoon. The ancient Romans used it to eat soft foods and soups. It had a pointed oval bowl and a handle that ended in a decorative

design. The *cochleare* is the diminutive version of the *ligula* spoon with which the Romans ate solids like eggs, etc. It had a round bowl and a pointed slender handle. It is believed that English spoons were modelled after these two; the influence being the Roman invasion of Britain from A.D. 43 to 410. History tells us that in the Middle Ages spoons were supplied by the host during dinner. Wooden and horn spoons were in vogue in the medieval times. Gold and silver spoons were the hallmarks of the blueblood and *nouveau riche*. The common tinned iron, pewter, and brass spoon became prevalent in ordinary homes around 14th century. The Romans may have introduced spoons in Britain, but silver spoons are innately English. From baptism to coronation and anointing, silver spoons are an intrinsic part of English royalty. The earliest reference to spoons in English household can be found in a will of 1259. It is believed that in the year 1300, gold and silver spoons were found in the wardrobe of Edward I popularly known as Edward Longshanks. These spoons were marked with the *fleur-de-lis*. One of the most interesting aspects of medieval times was that coronation spoons were used in the anointing of the English sovereign. When a precious serving spoon is used for an anointment in a coronation ceremony, it assumes the status of *regalia*.

But do you know, men can literally spoon their way into a woman's heart!

'Apostle Spoons' which originated in early 15th century Europe, were commonly used in the dining table and were kept in sets of thirteen. During the beginning of 16th century they served as baptismal gifts, especially for god-children. The handles of these spoons culminated in heads and busts of apostles. But the tradition died around 1666 and sets of Apostles Spoons are now as rare as the blue moon. Thus in English language the term *Silver Spoon* is symbolic for family wealth. Silver spoons were also thought to have medicinal properties and when a sick child was born the doctor would place a silver spoon into the child's mouth. Thus we have the expression 'born with a silver spoon in his/her mouth' which literally pertains to one who is blessed with untold riches, oodles of luck, class and privileges. It is a common assumption that people born under the star of Sagittarius are *born with a silver spoon*. Thus, *spoons* at one point of time were emblematic of 'good luck'. Coming back to Apostle Spoons they were usually found in sets of 12 or sets of 13 with the figure of Jesus. But these days we only come across singular references to these spoons.

Besides, a spoon is essential to many a religious and social ceremony the world over. In the Christian ceremony of Baptism, a spoonful of holy water is given to the new born as a blessing by the Father of the Church. The practice of using spoons in Hindu ceremonies dates back to early times and we find references to it in the Rig Veda. In ancient India ornamented brass or bronze spoons were used in religious ceremonies. Spoonfuls of ghee were poured into the sacred fire to consecrate it. It was a way of appeasing the Gods. Hindu families have a tradition of gifting the newborn with a silver bowl and a silver spoon. In elite households of the royalty and zamindars (landlords), silver spoons form an integral part of a bridegroom's trousseau, whereby he eats his first meal at his in-laws place with a silver spoon and a silver plate. In Old English culture silver spoons were symbolic representations of family wealth and were often a part of their heritage. Because of their weight

and number they were treated as priceless heirlooms. They became symbols of the *uber-rich*.

Apart from silver spoons we have the famed Souvenir Spoons that are usually used to commemorate a place or an event. These are highly decorative and intricately designed spoons that honour and celebrate places and events like important wars, victories, coronations, weddings, religious sites, castles, historical places, national flags, even famous personalities. Souvenir spoons have become a fetish with many an antique collector. Thus they assume the character of a trophy and are often perceived as an honour.

So go ahead and be the spoon that will bend the rules and help you achieve your dreams.

In many Souvenir spoons one can find the date of manufacture etched on the underside of the bowl. Highly ornamental, these spoons sometimes depict royal or county coat-of-arms, sights of importance characters associated with these and one can come across these spoons in curio shops, antique shops or in private collections of individuals. Manufacturers of Souvenir Spoons in many cases use the entire spoon- bowl, handle and finial to express a particular motif. If one goes to universities like Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, one may come across souvenir shops that sell and showcase spoons depicting scenes from the college, symbols associated with them, cameos of churches and graveyards attached to the campus, even miniature scenes depicting lives in and around the place where the universities stand. Did you know that the first Souvenir spoons were manufactured in the US in 1890? It was made by Galt & Bros., Inc. of Washington D.C. It had the profile of George Washington. Souvenir Spoons are innately linked to European art and culture. Almost all tourist places in Europe from The Shroud of Turin to Tower of London and Edinburgh Castle and not to forget the museums- have their own set of souvenir spoons that quintessentially delineate the values that these places signify. The basic idea behind a Souvenir Spoon lies in the fact that it is an aesthetic way of immortalizing a way of life. And it can be conveniently preserved for ages to come. It is a very smart way of capturing a traveller's attention and serves something like a keepsake that can be bought to capture the spirit of the place or gift it as an ornament to that someone special in your life. Souvenir Spoons have a lot of sentimental value attached to it.

Life is like a spoon- savour it, bend it, covet it, treasure it and love it.

Talking of sentiments, it is said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Gourmet food has always been a woman's lucky charm to woo her beau. But do you know, men can literally spoon their way into a woman's heart! How??? Well the key to this mystery is the Love Spoon. A Love Spoon is a carved wooden spoon given as a token of betrothal. The Love spoon is only one of its kind. Carved out of a single piece of wood it has ornate appliqué engraved on it. It originated in Wales, where young men carved and gifted their sweet-hearts Love Spoons as a token of promise and love. Popularized during the latter half of 12th century, Love

Spoons were a romantic way of professing one's intentions and affections. The oldest surviving piece of this relic of love lies in the Welsh Folk museum in Cardiff and dates back to 1667. It is believed that the love spoon originated from the "cawl" or soup spoon. Love spoons have little or no practical use and are mostly used as decorative items to hang on the walls. In Spain shepherds and farmers used simple pen knives to carve out love spoons for their sweet hearts. The idea was to carve a special symbolic gift for the would-be mistress of the house. The handle of this spoon usually ended with a perforated heart. Love spoons come with an interesting array of symbolic embellishments- 'horse-shoe' for luck, 'cross' for faith, 'bells' for wedding, 'hearts' for love, etc. Another quaint emblem was the 'anchor'. It is said that sailors often carved love spoons during long sea journeys. Thus anchors became a popular motif in love spoons which were emblematic of steadfastness and security. Besides, love spoons were hallmarks of social stability. In days long ago the father of the bride ensured that his daughter's suitor was right for her and capable enough to provide for the family, through his woodworking skills. But the tradition is an antiquated one. Today love spoons are not only given as wedding and anniversary gifts but they have also become a favourite gift for birthdays, Christmas, baby showers and "just because"-that special moment in someone's life. Spooning is a very popular ritual throughout Europe, from Scandinavia to Spain. A folk craft that celebrates one of most cherished emotions of life, love spoons continue to fluff up passionate sentiments in the heart of many a romantic. So, for all you love sick people go ahead and love spoon your beloveds.

Life too like a spoon whips us with situations and stirs our emotions, ladling us out with bitter-sweet experiences that make life an enriching journey.

The spoon is one of the most diversified utensils. Apart from being a humble kitchen appliance, it also holds a pride of place in the world of music and art. Spoons can be played as percussion instrument. Though rudimentary it serves as an idiophone in its basic avatar. The beautiful Russian spoons world famous for their exquisite paintings and decorations, serve twin purposes- they are not only souvenir spoons but also musical instruments. Percussion instruments have been a part of the Eastern Slav culture since antiquity. They were used during wars, hunting, in rituals and in festivities. The spoons have been used as musical instruments since 18th century. The peasants made it widely popular as a folk instrument. From the world of music to the world of limelight- the spoon has 'been there and done that', literally; Mr. Spoon took the kindergarten world by storm in the popular children's series Button Moon. Button Moon and Mr. Spoon were creations of Ian Allen, which was televised and broadcast in England in the 1980s. The serial was based on the adventures of Mr. Spoon who, in each episode travelled to Button Moon in his homemade rocket-ship. The interesting feature about this show was that all the characters within the show were based on kitchen utensils. There was the Spoon family with Mr. Spoon and Mr. Spoon's wife, "Mrs. Spoon", their daughter, "Tina Tea-Spoon" and her friend "Eggbert". And anyone who has come in association with the

Spoonerism is a jumbling of words with similar sounds, where one mistakes one sound with another.

vivacious Mary Poppins will never be able to able to forget the magic mantra "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down in the most delightful way..." Mary Poppins and her *spoon-ful* of sugar have not only transformed this ordinary piece of silver into a magic wand that transforms everyday and boring errands to simple and enjoyable activities but also helps conjure a very warm and homely picture of womanhood- a perfect blend of love and affection, independence and individuality.

The word *spoon* has also many variants- spoony, spoonily, spoonerism, spoonwood, spoonworm, spoonwort, spoonleaf, spoonflower, spoonbill, spoon-feed, and the list is endless. *Spoon* refers to being enamoured in a silly or sentimental manner. A feeble and sentimental person is a *spoon*. The word was prevalent in the late 18th century and early 19th century. Novel writers from Dickens to Louisa May Alcott used the word in their writings. Charlotte Bronte in *Jane Eyre* writes 'In short, I began the process of ruining myself in the received style, like any other spoony'.

*Spoonerism* is a jumbling of words with similar sounds, where one mistakes one sound with another. The result is often humorous. The word was first coined by W.A. Spooner (1844-1930), the Warden of New College, Oxford. Rev. William Archibald Spooner was prone to a speech problem where he mixed up the first letters of words, creating humorous sentences. One of the most famous spoonerisms attributed to him was when he reprimanded a student because he had 'hissed the mystery lectures' when he meant to say 'missed the history lectures'. English literature and everyday abounds in numerous funny spoonerisms- 'Well oiled bicycle' becomes *well boiled icicle*, 'the butterfly flutters by' becomes *the flutterfly butters by*. Here are few for the readers to chew upon:

Our queer old Dean / our dear old Queen,  
Fighting a liar / lighting a fire,  
I love pop corn / I love cop porn,  
You missed my history lectures / you hissed my mystery lectures  
A pack of lies / a lack of pies

A blushing crow / a crushing blow  
Tons of soil / sons of toil  
A spoony tale / a stony pale (Ha! Ha! Ha!)

I am sure all of you must have come across a species of the Homo sapiens in your life that justify the words **Soppy** and **Drippy**, a.k.a pathetic people who need to be laddled out with everything- from tooth brush to tablets, from clothes to ketchup, from ice-cream to information. These are the "venerated" *spoon-feds*. We often associate this word with lazy people who do not want to make an effort to do their own work. In India we have a special and interesting expression for people belonging to this class- 'cham-chaa' from chamachch (spoon). This 'chamchaa' is the proverbial boot-licker, who slavers you with praise to get his job done. He is the actual spoony, who fawns and pretends and flatters to climb up the social ladder. I call this type- the Human spoon!

Talking of sentiments, it is said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

If you have seen the sci-fi movie 'The Matrix', there is a scene where a very poignant conversation between Neo the protagonist and a character called the Spoon boy happens. The Spoon -boy advises Neo that it is not the 'spoon' that bends, but the person's mind. Mind power or will power doesn't manifest itself when it bends spoons. But rather when it directs a person to change his destiny, to challenge the power of the universe, to better his fate. "Then you'll see, that it is not the spoon that bends, it is only yourself". So go ahead and be the spoon that will bend the rules and help you achieve your dreams. Now that I have mentioned dreams, let me tell you a little secret- if you ever see a spoon in your dream, you should realise that either you or someone is being given a special treatment. The spoon translates the fact that common things can be extraordinary. It represents an alternate view of life. So, the next time you use a spoon, you will value it as an exceptional, sensational and utilitarian thing. Life is like a spoon- savour it, bend it, covet it, treasure it and love it. Just like the smarty Ms. Spoon, who became spoony enough to run away with podgy Mr. Dish!

## SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick the most appropriate choice

1. The dimension of Planck's constant is same as that of

- Angular momentum  
 Linear momentum  
 Work  
 Coefficient of viscosity

2. An electron of an atom transits from  $n_1$  to  $n_2$ . In which of the following maximum frequency of photon will be emitted?

- $n_1=1$  to  $n_2=2$   
  $n_1=2$  to  $n_2=1$   
  $n_1=2$  to  $n_2=6$   
  $n_1=6$  to  $n_2=2$

3. Highest boiling point is found in

- 0.1 M NaCl  
 0.1 M BaCl<sub>2</sub>  
 0.1 M Sucrose  
 0.1. M KCl

4. Van der Waal's gas approaches to ideal gas under which of the following conditions?

- Extremely low pressure  
 Low temperature

- High pressure  
 Low product of PV

5. Root pressure is higher when

- Transpiration is very low and absorption is low  
 Transpiration is very high and absorption is very high  
 Transpiration is low and absorption is low  
 Transpiration is high and absorption is low

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- The time period of a geostationary satellite at a height of 36,000km is 24hrs. A spy satellite orbits earth at a radius  $R=6400$ km. Its time period will be 2 hrs.
- Energy associated with a moving charge is due to electric field
- the structure of NaCl is interpenetrating fcc.
- The solution 0.1 M NaOH has highest pH
- Mg is essential for chlorophyll synthesis



## More of reading to improve language skills



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The progressive decline in the proficiency of students in English, especially in the third world countries where English is taught as a second/foreign language, has been a matter of grave concern. Lack of adequate exposure to the foreign language coupled with its use in a variety of communicative contexts has led to this depressing situation. English has been taught in these contexts more or less as a content subject with scant regard to promoting the learners' communicative competence in the skills areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

As far as reading is concerned, there is a marked emphasis on intensive reading focusing learners' attention on comprehension, to the partial or total neglect of extensive reading

including practice of strategies like skimming and scanning.

The problem is compounded due to the reluctance of a large majority of students at all levels to take to books beyond the prescribed text. We as teachers have not been quite successful in creating and sustaining the students' interest in reading materials in English and providing enough number of books to match their individual interest through a systematic program of extensive reading. It is proposed here that an appropriate extensive reading program (ERP) can go a long way tackling this problem by creating in students a genuine love for reading.

### What is an ERP?

The goal of an extensive reading program (ERP) basically is to foster in the learners the habit of reading large amounts of material in the second/foreign language for personal pleasure and interest. An ERP complements the usual pedagogic emphasis on intensive reading, whose aim is to develop necessary text-related skills, such as skimming, scanning and summary writing, and to analyze specific features of vocabulary and discourse. In carefully graded stages, extensive reading promotes fluent comprehension, and the ability to cope with longer texts which is a distinguishing feature of competent literate behavior.

An ERP aims to foster in the learners

consistent, largely self-directed reading habits, and a positive attitude both towards reading itself and towards English. It avoids burdening texts with exercises but instead supplies students with a wise choice of motivating material at a level they can read independently without frustration. Teachers who are entrusted with the task of implementing an ERP make students aware of what they are doing when they read, and of how to integrate the strategies they learn from intensive reading into an ability to respond to extended texts flexibly and appropriately.

In some cases, teachers may need to be trained in this new approach to reading. Their focus in implementing the extensive reading program would be to encourage students to give up literal comprehension-checking in favor of achieving a wider and more satisfying understanding of what they read. In this sense, an ERP can provide a favorable wash-back effect on the effectiveness of foreign language teaching.

In the majority of institutional settings in which English is taught as a second/foreign language, an extensive reading program may be regarded as a source of getting 'good' language input in adequate amounts. Graded readers which are the tools for implementing an ERP offer a cheap, colorful and genuinely interesting stimulus

to learning English, the rate and quality of which may be expected to improve as a result.

Furthermore, because the choice of reading material can be matched to the individual's level, a reading scheme can be designed with some possibility of individualization. In itself, an ERP can be motivating and self-sustaining, providing the student with the taste of success and satisfaction of completing a real task.

And if the readers read for pleasure, they will want to share what they have read and their estimation of it with others.

### In summary, an ERP:

- Provides scope for the fluent practice of extensive reading skills
- Develops students ability and willingness to approach lengthy texts
- Cultivates desirable reading habits
- Provides pupils with exposure to accurate language in quantity;
- Is suitable for communicative use in large classes; where oral communication is frequently impractical
- Provides a measure of individualization by stimulating pupils' interest and motivation
- Provides stimuli for genuine communication

## Role of students in the development of Yemen



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A student is a person who is studying in a school, or in a university. A school is the center of education and learning. The purpose of education is to make us fit in a civilized society. In fact, there are conditions in education which, if violated, will work opposite-ly.

The main condition is that there should be no cheating in the education-learning process. Let me shed some light on this point. What really

makes me write about this issue is the tragic situation that has been noticed in the secondary and primary school examination centers. Cheating has become a trade in which people sell various products of cheating. The sellers of such products are some teachers and conscience sellers. Every year this phenomenon gets worse and wider. Most of the students do not study but rely on cheating. They say that the student who cheats gets higher marks than the student who depends on himself. So "cheating and getting high average" is the aim of the students of today. Who is responsible for this? Who has instilled such concepts in the minds of students? What are the consequences of cheating phenomenon?

We expect students to be doctors, engineers, artists and scientists. But unfortunately students are brought up in a way which will make them only cheats helping to destroy the country instead of constructing it.

If one went to the examination centers a few weeks ago, one would real-

ly be stunned with the mess and dishonesty taking place in such centers. Some teachers, who are supposed to be models for their students, help offering incriminating materials to their students. Some of the teachers even go beyond the bounds of morals and write the answer of the test on the board during the test. This is really what is happening in most of the examination centers.

Education has brought Malaysia to an enviable position. It is said that the former prime minister of Malaysia once said in his speech: "There are three things before Malaysia to achieve development; education, education, education." They improved the educational system in their country and are gaining the fruits now, just after a very short period of time. They knew that education is the key to improvement. But what is happening in Yemen is quite opposite. "Cheating, cheating, cheating" is the slogan of all those unfaithful teachers. Over the course of time, students will curse all

these unfaithful people.

Students can play a vital role in the development of Yemen. They should know that Yemen is a developing country. Just as we require good bricks for the construction of a good and strong house, exactly in the same way, we need good citizens for the making of a good and strong nation. It is students who can make this country strong and prosperous by qualifying themselves in different branches of human knowledge- sciences, arts and commerce.

Thus, on behalf of all the people of Yemen, I appeal to all the members of the students community to realize their responsibility in the making of a new Yemen. They should come forward and make the dream of the makers of this country come true by hard work and devotion to duty. They should know that honest labor is the only key to success. At this juncture, let all students of this country be united, and work for the peace and prosperity of the people and the nation.

## Can Internet Café teach you English?



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Al over Yemen Internet centers are bristling with all sorts of people: adolescents, adults, and the old who visit them for entertainment and as a means of passing time. One of the major thrusts of the cafes is that they offer good opportunities for the users to pick up English. When they operate the different windows and surf the websites or send and receive an email, these internet users practice a long list of words such as, "open, shut down, messenger, delete, scan, copy, down-

load, send, .....etc. Even the handy games can be of great use to learn English.

In recent years, many software companies have developed amazing new ways to learn computer games. These programs are great resources for learning many different languages, including English, since the games are fun and constitute an interactive way to learn all aspects of the language. With these new advances, reading text books and listening to boring tapes is no longer the only way to learn English the natural way.

Besides using the operating commands there are many programs on the net. The best thing to do when searching for one of these programs is to look for a complete software suite. Most of these games will start out with basic sounds and will use fun flash animated games to help you learn English. You can begin on the elementary level or start with a more advanced level if you already have some experience with English. Choose a system that includes vocabulary, grammar, writing, games, and projects, so that you'll be able to cover

every aspect of the learning process. Start with a simple vocabulary learning game, then advance to grammar lessons, and finally practice putting together the words you have learnt.

One of the biggest advantages of computer-based English programs is that there are many different types of games, and although they may sound like fun, users are often amazed at how much they can learn just by seeing the words over and over. In fact, games that offer repetition in viewing words usually work better in developing a core set of English words to build on.

Games, which are the main focus of many internet goers, are also an incredible way to learn English. If you initiate the young children to computer games, many kids won't even realize they're playing educational games. There are games geared for any area of interest which children may have - you may be able to find fun games that allow your children to "feed" words to colorful dinosaurs, or others where your children practice clothing terms by dressing their computer characters, and so forth.

When it comes to games, you may

not even realize that you're learning! The games in many "learn English" software programs go to a very advanced level. They include character and role playing games. Many people become so involved in the games that they no longer realize the point which is to find words or build them - it becomes just like any other game. However, while you're busy playing, your brain is storing away all the words, sounds, and grammar rules you're being exposed to.

A good number of Internet owners usually download many games and make them handy and accessible for their customers. If one gets his hands on these useful stuff purposefully one's English will improve, and in this way internet shops will be useful centers where truant can find alternatives to learn something instead of roaming and slouching outside the walls of their schools. It might be used also as outdoor classes where the screen and the mouse can function as board and chalk. Go to internet and learn English naturally, and avoid the painstaking learning English the traditional way!

## Attention Young Writers!

Under the auspices of Yemen Times, we are going to institute Annual "Young Writer Of The Year" award for university students whose work has been published in the Education Supplement. Yemen Times will felicitate the awardees with a Certificate of Appreciation as a token of recognition of their creative talents and ability of self-expression in English. Criteria of selection for the award will be

1. **Consistency** indicated by the frequency of articles (essay or poem) published during the year.
2. **Quality** of the articles in terms of novelty and saliency of ideas, originality of approach and command of the English language.

Names of the young writers selected for the award for the year 2008-2009 will be published in the September issue of the Education Supplement.

*Dr. Sahu*

### Note to contributors

Articles sent for publication in the Education Supplement should not be sent for inclusion in Yemen Times (main paper). Please send them to either of the places to avoid duplication.

### Note to student contributors

Please mention your full name, Level, Stream (Arts or Education), and the name of the university when sending your articles. You may send a scanned copy of your photograph for publication.

## POETRY CORNER

### Hymn to God

Your bountiful world around ,  
Wonderful mix-gray,green and brown.  
The tiniest creatures crawl ,  
And the titanic figures howl !  
Boundless,proud sea trumpets high.  
Hurricane humbles gentle breeze,  
Volcano violates virginal snow,  
Crazy clouds woo, play hide and seek.  
Benighted Moon blushes a bridal peep,  
Through ethereal casement and bower  
Sun showers leaflets, coils of crystalline beams.  
Glory be to He,the artisan unseen !

I'll meddle ,collage with clay,  
Gather feathers of fancies fickle,  
Thread petals of poetry in crude scribble!  
Dolls and deity, queer nameless face,  
Bake them bare, beneath blazing sun rays.  
Colours and complacence from crescent moon,  
Dip, deep in hewed drops of tears,  
Crimson as coral from blacksmith's bellow  
Chiselled plain with innocent labour--  
I'll post it on Time's patient face.

It is not an artifact, nor classics of lore,  
But petals of humble hymn to implore!  
Lord, I would sing ...  
A full-throated, yet voiceless violin!  
My anthems fade, yet echo in sinews ---  
Is this fickle fancy or sparse day-dream?  
Though viewless, He listens, so, Lord, I sing!



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## YOUTH FORUM

### Your Aim

People have aims in their life, but all of them have different ways to achieve their aims. The aims are different for different people. It is necessary to think about your aims. People who think about their aims make their life better and achieve their aims easily, but some of them don't. It may be difficult to achieve, so they become hopeless. There are some ways that can help you achieve your aim.

First, you must choose a reasonable aim to achieve. If you choose a difficult aim you may not achieve it. You must think about your ability, whether you can do the job or not. The reasonable aim helps you to achieve it. Second, choose the aim that is interesting to work for. If you study something in any department, or do any action being forced to do so; you may leave it after one or two years, because you didn't love that. Try not to let others choose your aim

for you or force you to do something even if this person is your father, mother, relative, etc. You can ask your parents, friends or any person who is educated to advise you and give you a hand of help.

Third, after choosing the aim, start the first step to achieve it. It's important to start from easy to difficult. Thus, start from now to fix your aim eventhough you encounter some problems. You must be patient. Finally, pray to Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful, to help you.

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