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Education
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Readers' Voice
 Last edition's question:
 In light of high school results of the recent years, girls seem to outperform boys. Do you think that schoolboys don't work hard or they are frustrated?

Schoolboys are frustrated (31%) | I don't know (13%)
 Schoolboys don't work hard (56%)

This edition's question:
 President Saleh promised to build nuclear reactors to produce energy in cooperation with the U.S. and Canada. Do you think this is possible?

- No
- Yes, in the next 7 years
- Yes, in the distant future

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Saleh announces projects, criticizes US democracy in Iraq

By: Hamdan Dammaj
 SANA'A, Oct. 2 — President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced a project for electricity through nuclear energy, a seawater desalination project and to begin fighting corrupt officials while addressing an Iftar reception at the Presidential Palace Monday.
 In front of the senior government officials, social personalities and politicians at the event Saleh criticized the US democracy in Iraq.
 Saleh said his electoral program is not merely a political address for propaganda as some believe and the promises he made were not meant for tickling the fancy of the nation to grant him confidence. He confirmed his promises are serious moves due to be applied in real-life situations in the days to come.
 Saleh added the September 20 presidential and local elections constituted a

democratic achievement appreciating the local and international community.
US democracy:
 Saleh discussed the deteriorating situation in Iraq saying the multinational troops cannot control Iraq despite the excessive presence of these forces. He said these troops made the situation go from bad to worse. Saleh questioned which is better for Iraqis, Saddam's totalitarian regime or the American's democracy.
 Citing the unstable situations in Somalia, Saleh said Yemeni people benefited from what happens in the region. About September 20, he said Yemeni people said: "Yes for security, stability, safety and freedom," as they fear any harm to their achievements and democracy.

Corruption:
 "We'll restrict activities of corrupt officials. We'll not allow them any chance for illegal earning at the expense of the nation," said Saleh, echoing his campaigns promise to fight corruption. He confirmed that making money and business legally is the only accepted thing.
Water shortage:
 Water shortage is a top priority problem and it is possible for the crisis to become critical in cities such as Sana'a and Taiz. "The government has a plan to establish seawater desalination stations to meet the growing demand of people for drinking water and not for irrigation," Saleh remarked. He emphasized the necessity of using modern means in irrigation and spreading awareness among citizens about these means.



Saleh confirms his promises during elections campaign are to be implemented.

Qat:
 Yemeni leader discussed harms associating with qat plantation and how qat consumers tend to earn money illegally to pay for qat. "I think that qat plantation consumes 30 - 40 percent of the available water. This forces us to be

economical in using water and the government and people should be responsible for spreading awareness about the issue," said Saleh.

Electricity:
 Regarding electricity, the president noted: "we're working hard to meet people's growing demand for generated power by liquefied gas. Power is to be generated via nuclear energy in cooperation with the U.S. and Canada."

Penniless inmates appeal to president to fulfil promises

By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A, Oct. 4 — Inmates in Sana'a Central Prison appealed to the president to release them all, based on the slogan "The penniless inmate is a state's citizen, head of a household, and has a lawful, constitutional, legal and human right in life."
 In a statement signed by most prisoners and published by Al-Shoura Net, inmates announced they received nothing from the billions riyals paid every year to release penniless inmates through a legal committee in charge of

following up their issues. They said all the money didn't help release any penniless inmate, who finished serving the imprisonment term several years ago.
 In their statement, penniless inmates indicated the president gave directives for forming a legal committee to pursue implementing amnesty with regard to prisoners who served 3/4 the imprisonment term, as well as to pay YR 200 million for poor inmates.
 The statement mentioned reports by the Human Rights and Freedoms Committee at Parliament and Al-Shoura Council, with regard to wasting money donated to repay debts on penniless inmates over the past few years, revealed that a YR 200-million donation, in addition to another YR 70 million, was not spent to repay inmates debts.

penniless inmates.
 They appealed to president to treat them in compliance with legislation, law, constitution, logic and reason. They questioned: "Will he, the President of the Republic, respond to our pleas and sponsor justice?"
 A list of around 55 inmates includes Yemenis, Arabs and foreigners, in addition to juveniles who cannot repay the debts on them.
 "Every year, official media talk of directives by President of Republic to release penniless inmates, who have been imprisoned for years," an observer said. "Such talk by official media is merely for consumption."

Nicholson to Sana'a University students: Yemeni elections mark Yemeni political history

By: Mohammed Al-Jabri
 SANA'A, Oct. 3 — The Yemeni elections are "a milestone in Yemen's political history," according to Baroness Emma Nicholson, Chief Observer of European Union Election Observation Mission while praising the participation



Emma Nicholson during the symposium.

of both the opposition and ruling parties.
 In a symposium held Tuesday at Sana'a University, Nicholson said the European mission is to release its final report on the elections in a few weeks. She stated the voting procedures were conducted very well in 82 percent of the polling stations the mission visited countrywide.
 According to Nicholson, the European mission is unbiased and concerned only with the way the elections were conducted.
 "We are not concerned with who has won the elections. We are interested in the way the elections were conducted," she said.
 "The aim of the European Union Election Observation Mission is to enhance public confidence in the electoral process, deter fraud and violations, enhance respect for human rights, contribute to resolution of conflict, know the degree of impartiality shown by the election administration, fairness of access to state resources made available for the election, and the degree of access for political parties and candidates to the state-run media," she added.

Richard Chambers, Deputy Chief Observer, said the vote counting results of the presidential elections were announced on the legal period, but those of the local council elections haven't been announced. He said the EU mission visited 1000 electoral centers on the day of election.
 "The voting process was conducted in a good way, with positive indicators to its being open and genuine," Chambers noted.
 With regard to the legal aspects, Chambers added the electoral process met the international standards, although there were shortcomings with regard to the voters roll.
 According to the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum, 9,248,456 voters were registered in the polls, but the turnout was 65 percent with 6,025,818 voters participated in the September elections. There were 648,580 votes cancelled. Saleh gained a landslide victory, scoring 77 percent of the vote, while his main rival Faisal Bin Shamlan, of the Joint Meeting Parties, receiving nearly 22 percent of the total 6 million votes cast.

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Security source denies America's participation in killing Al-Rubi'ai

By: Yemen Times Staff
 SANA'A, Oct. 4 — A security source denies what was published in some opposition's websites, claiming the participation of the American Intelligence in the operation resulted in killing fugitive Fawaz Al-Rubi'ai and his associate Mohammed Al-Dailmi, both of them affiliated with Al-Qaeda organization.
 The source declared "what was alleged, concerning the involvement of intelligence American officers among an air borne force, lacks in accuracy and objectivity."
 "That story is baseless and it is no more than fabrication of news," according to 26 September.net, assuring the securities forces used no planes and the news published in Al-Ashtraki website is a malicious publicity aiming to "demean the capacity of security and military institution."
 The same source added, "Fawaz Al-Rubi'ai was killed during the confrontations with the security forces and he was firing and hurling grenades at the security, refusing to surrender."
 The sources also pointed to the contradiction of the story as declaring the house was destroyed by an air attack and saying somewhere else

that Al-Rubi'ai was found killed in his bed.
 Sources say a number of American intelligence officers among the airborne military force targeted the hide-out of Al-Rubi'ai, in Bani al-Hareth, an outskirts of Sana'a.
 Eye witnesses assured the house was completely destroyed after it was attacked by a Yemeni helicopter with an identified rocket, contradicting the story put forth by the Ministry of Interior.
 The security source said security forces laid a siege around the house where Al-Rubi'ai was hiding. The forces were forced to use weapons and kill him when he refused to surrender and started firing and throwing grenades at security forces.
 The same source went on saying that security forces attacked a nearby hide-out where Mohammed Al-Dailmi was located and the confrontations with him resulted in his death and the arrest of another al-Qaeda militant.
 One of Al-Dailmi's relatives said he was assassinated in his house without any resistance and he was found killed in his bed.
 It is believed that Al-Rubi'ai was killed in the same way Abu Ali al-Harthi was killed in Mareb's desert in 2002.

In brief

Shabwah

New oil discovered

Oct. 4 — The British Company Soco International exploring oil in Yemen announced the success of its tests on an oil well in Kharir Field, east Shabwah, with over more than 8400 barrels a day.

An official statement issued by the company declared that reserves in this field are on increase, adding the results were encouraging to continue explorations in the whole eastern area of Kharir field. The company announced last August that Eastern Shabwah area produces about 12,000 oil barrels a day.

Sana'a

French Ambassador ends his work in Yemen

French Ambassador to Yemen Alain Morou is leaving Yemen after ending his work as ambassador to Sana'a. In his meeting with President Saleh yesterday, Morou congratulated the president on the success of the presidential and local councils elections. He expressed the French government's gratitude to the Yemeni government for the efforts exerted to release, in safety, the French tourists, who were kidnapped in Shabwah governorate.

Tourism agencies protest kidnapping

Oct. 4 — Yemeni Society for Tourism and Travel Agencies (YSTTA) urged workers in the tourism sector to participate in the sit-in which it organized Wednesday noon at the Ministry of Tourism in protest against kidnapping of tourists.

The sit-in condemned the phenomenon of kidnapping and its negative consequences on the sector of tourism and travel, the services of hotels and restaurants plus activities of craftsmen and workers in this area.

In a press release, YSTTA said the sit-in aims to put pressure on the government to take firm procedures against the phenomenon and enforce the Kidnapping Law.

Protestors also urged the government to form a committee to study compensations due for tourism and travel agencies and hotels that suffered losses as a result of kidnapping.

Mareh

New dam projects set

Oct. 4 — The technical studies involving the establishment of Hassan Valley and Surdud dams have been done and they were signed between Yemen and Abu Dhabi Fund for development in UAE. Both projects were assigned USD 250 million. Further, the studies concerning the implementation of Mareh Dam's channels have also been performed. UAE reconstructed Historical Mareh's Dam with USD 75 million.

Taiz

Holy Quran competition for girls

Oct. 3 — The National Cultural Center began the Holy Quran memorization competition for girls and the cultural competition for the third time subsequently.

About 50 girls will participate in the competition representing a number of schools in the governorate. The competition will continue for five days.

Bakeries halt work

Oct. 4 — A number of bakery owners in Taiz halted work following recent price hikes, involving many food stuffs as for flour after the victory of the General People Congress in the presidential and local elections. The owners of the bakeries further declared that some areas lack in flour and it is bought in the black markets at more than YR 3000. The prices recently witnessed constant increases due to the rampage of administrative and financial corruption and the lack of official control, say the owners.

Prosecution investigates soldier's death

By: Yemen Times Staff

AL-MAHRAH, Oct. 3 — Prosecution is still investigating the death of a traffic soldier, Mohamed Sa'eed Abdu, who died in Al-Mahrah prison last September.

Relatives of the victim sent a letter to concerned parties asking them to immediately investigate the death of the soldier. The relatives say he was tortured to death for unclear reasons. They said Abdu was jailed in Al-Ghaidha-based Central Prison for allegedly drinking alcohol.

In a statement to Yemen Times, one of the victim's relatives said Abdu's father refuses to take of the corpse of his son, which is placed in the hospital's morgue,

until finding out the reason behind his death. There are allegations the traffic soldier was beaten to death.

Chief Magistrate of Appeal Prosecution in Al-Mahrah governorate sent a letter to security apparatuses at the Central Prison to investigate the soldier's death and then write a report on the incident. He sent another letter to public prosecution to probe the incident and verify whether the dead had been suffering any disease prior to being jailed.

A doctor is expected to examine the corpse and write a medical report on it for public prosecution. The Yemen Times learned that colleagues of the victim and Al-Mahrah Traffic Department sent a report about the incident, which took place in prison.

Aden Port: Stuck Negotiations

By: Yemen Times Staff

ADEN, Oct. 4 — Negotiations with the Dubai Ports Authority are still in a stand-still while the Yemeni Government awaits the decision of the International Company and its local partner, The Buqshan Group, with regards to the president's decision to halt the operation allowing the Dubai company to manage the Aden Container Port and renegotiate the terms of the agreement.

A committee headed by the Minister of Justice as well as several cabinet ministers and parliament members was formed in order to discuss the terms of the agreement which was signed in July 2005 in order to present the modifications on the terms found to be 'unfair' to the Yemeni side.

Sources close to the Buqshan group said Abdullah Buqshan is upset because of the government's stance

with regards to its legal obligations in accordance to the signed agreement.

He has forwarded the modifications demanded by the Yemeni side which include the duration of the agreement, financial returns and also terms of arbitration, to the Dubai Company, the source also said there are increasing fears they might simply cancel negotiations and void the agreement, which potentially might be a blow to the Yemeni side.

The agreement included three major activities, the operation of the industrial zone in the Aden Free zone, the operation of the cargo zone in Aden airport, and the operation of Aden's container port. Experts indicate that Dubai was excited about the project and was formulating plans in order to develop and transform the port into a world-class center for international trade, but those plans have crumpled after the president's decision.

Prime Minister honors top students

SANA'A, Oct. 3 — Top high school, technical and vocational students were presented with awards by Prime Minister Abdulqader Bajammal, who thanked parents and families of the top achievers for encouraging these students and providing atmospheres for them to study.

The ceremony was for 117 top students, but Bajammal also praised the role of school administrations, as well as the roles of teachers.

He praised schoolgirls for outperforming boys in scoring high marks, affirming women will have their own presence and role in building the country's future.

"Providing appropriate atmospheres for these students helped them work hard, acquire knowledge and skills and score high," the prime minister noted. "We have to respect the parents of these students."

Certificates of merit and in-kind prizes, including computers from Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development plus mobile phones and chips from Yemen Mobile, were awarded to the top students. Also, each student received YR 20,000 from Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank.

Ali Abdurrahman Al-Aqwa'a, representative of Al-Saleh Social Foundation for Development, said this prominent collection of students will play a remarkable role in improving the society and shaping a better future for their country.

Minister of Education, Dr. Abdulsalam Al-Jawfi, said the results were announced late as his ministry had been keen enough not to commit mistakes while marking answer books and listing marks. He added this year's results are better than those of previous years.

Symposium to discuss Yemen's GCC entry

SANA'A, Oct. 4 — In cooperation with Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Dubai-based Gulf Research Center will hold a symposium on Nov. 8 - 9 to establish the mechanisms required for Yemen's admission to Gulf Cooperation Council.

The event is scheduled to take place in Dubai in the presence of senior officials from Gulf council and Yemen plus researchers and specialized experts in foreign affairs.

"The main objective of the symposium

is to manifest the importance of historic and cultural relations between Yemen and GCC member states and discuss strategic, security and political issues and developments associating with Yemen's GCC entry in a coming stage," said the Head of the Gulf Research Center, Abdulaziz Bin Othman Bin Saqr.

The symposium is due to concentrate on analyzing the requirements and mechanisms of Yemen's development qualification, the size of funding needs and the nature of joint economic, political and

strategic achievements. Additionally, the symposium is to discuss a future vision for the course of Yemen's partnership with GCC member states.

The symposium is due to review and discuss different work papers on several issues and developments related with qualifying Yemen for GCC accession. It is expected to discuss the experience of the GCC economic complementation and the funding demands to qualify Yemen for GCC admission, as this is due to help achieve mutual interests.

SCER postpones announcing local elections results

SANA'A, Oct. 4 — The Supreme Committee for Elections and Referendum postponed the announcement of the local elections results, attributing its decision to the difficulties and problems hindering the arrival of the final results from all districts.

All committee members agreed on postponing the results until all minutes from the supervisory and primary committees are accumulated according to the law.

The committee declared last Monday that 90 percent of vote-count was complete. The initial results of the local elections declared so far showed the victory of the General People Congress with over than 80 percent in the provincial councils and 70 percent in districts' councils.

Out of the 425 available seats the GPC won 338 seats with 80 percent, followed by the Islah party with 31 seats that is equal to and then the

Socialist Party winning 12 seats. The Socialist Nationalist Party got just one seat and the independents won 25 seats with a percentage of 6 percent.

Out of 6900 seats assigned for the municipal councils, the ruling GPC party won 4950 seats and the Islah Party received 784 seats while the Socialist Party won 168.

The Nasserite Party got 52 seats and the Public Forces Union won 8 seats and Nationalist Ba'ath received two seats. While the Arab Ba'ath, al-Haq Party and the Democratic Union of Public Forces received one seat each and the independents won 578 seats.

The number of contested vote-count results of the municipal councils nationwide reached 245, with the exception being in the capital and Aden governorate where no cases reported.

Taiz governorate recorded the high percentage of contested ballots with 54, followed by Amran with 21, Ibb 17, Sa'ada 16, Mareh 15, according to Dr.

Ghazi al-Aghbari, Minister of Justice.

The numbers of contested ballots in Hodeidah reached 24 and 12 appeals were reported in the Appeal Court of Sana'a and Al-Jawf and the same number in Al-Dhala'e and 11 appeals in al-Mahweet, 8 appeals in al-Baidha and Dhamar and then Abyan with 7 appeals; while five appeals were recorded in Shabwah, Lahj, and al-Mukalla, two appeals in al-Mahara and one in Sayun.

Ghazi added that Hajja, Shabwah, and Rayamah appeal courts has decided upon the contests and further the assistant authorities including chairmen of primary courts are looking into the issues put before them across the republic according to the available appeals and documents.

The submitted appeals will be resolved by the appeal courts after ten days from the date in which the assistant authorities presented their opinions.

Fire destroys Al-Falah Private School

By: Yemen Times Staff

ADEN, Oct. 3 — A huge fire broke out in Al-Falah Private School in Khour Maksar, Aden Governorate, destroying the three-story school. The fire brigades, which belong to Yemen Oil Company, Aden Refineries and Civil Defense, mobilized to the scene of the incident and extinguished the fire.

"The fire incident, which is the second of the kind within a week time, was caused by an electrical fault in the old buildings, which are made of wood. These buildings, which are mostly made of wood help fire incidents to break out easily," said Colonel Abdullah Qairan, Chief of Aden Security Department in a statement to Yemen Times.

"Yesterday, we lost the victim 11 in a fire incident, which broke out in Al-Khassaf Building and this incident shocked us all. Today, we managed to extinguish the fire as the fire brigades arrived at the scene of the incident early and rescued all the schoolchildren from fire," added Qairan.

The three-story building was wholly



Fire brigade while trying to extinguish the fire.

YT PHOTO

destroyed since it is made of wood and its electrical wires are outdated, according to Qairan. He called on locals to be on high alert of such incidents and rehabilitate their old houses.

Eyewitnesses said the fire broke out suddenly in the front part of the school

and they started smelling the smoke at 12 a.m. The said firemen managed to put off the fire within two hours without any injuries.

The loss of property caused by the incident was estimated at more than YR 3 million.

Second Inshad Festival inaugurated

SANA'A, Oct. 3 — The second Inshad; religious singing; festival started on Tuesday evening in the old city of Sana'a. Different singing groups participated in the opening ceremony of the festival such as Al-Hazzam group from Dhamar and Attyaf from Mareh.

The festival is going to take place in the open theater at the old city of Sana'a. More than 200 religious singers, *Monshdeen*, from sixteen groups belonging to numerous Yemeni governorates are contributing in this festival which is organized by the Ministry of Culture and several Inshad Foundations.

"The activities of the festival, which is expected to take place outdoors for five days have included

national, social and cultural facet to reflect the opulence of Yemeni heritage and give cities that are rich in traditional legacy more attention", says Khalid Al-Rowaishan, the Minister of Culture.

Al-Rowaishan added that during the festival's nights, the participators are going to present new tunes as well as presenting current Yemeni national occasions, such as the Sept. 26 and the Oct. 14 revolution, and the recent elections. He considered such topics *Monshdeen* will touch on are an indicator of an improvement in the political scene. He hoped such festival can really represent the cheerful atmosphere in Yemen and add a spiritual as well as cultural dimension to fit the situation.



More than 200 Monshdeen are contributing in the festival.

YT PHOTO BY FOUAD AL-HARAZI

Cuban ambassador praises ties with Yemen

By: Khalil Al-Khaubari

SANA'A, Sept. 27 - At a recent press conference at the Cuban Embassy in Sana'a, the Cuban ambassador to Yemen H. E. Vienvenido Garcia Negrin discussed numerous issues concerning both nations.

He described such bilateral relations as distinctive, noting, "For more than 40 years, we've enjoyed this relationship for the benefit of the peoples of both countries."

He added that the most relevant aspect of such relations has been in the area of health. "Aden University's Faculty of Medicine was inaugurated 31 years ago with Cuban professors and has graduated more than 3,000 Yemeni doctors," the ambassador recalled.

Regarding the two sides' immediate plans, he indicated, "A joint Yemeni-Cuban commission meets every two years, alternating its sessions between Sana'a and Havana. We're preparing the next joint session at the end of November, which will take place in Sana'a."

He continued, "In the joint commission, representatives from concerned areas in both governments evaluate the fulfillment of agreements from the last session, discuss ongoing exchanges and new projects and set the plan for the next two-year period."

Mentioning Yemen's recent elections, the Cuban ambassador congratulated Yemenis for holding an open democratic electoral process and a very quiet election with high participation. "On Sept. 20, I witnessed many citizens going to vote and I particularly was impressed by the number of women, which is a clear expression of growing participation by Yemen's female population in the country's political and social life," the ambassador remarked.



Vienvenido Garcia Negrin

14th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement

Regarding last September's 14th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) held in Havana, the Cuban ambassador hailed it as a success for its members. "The Havana summit's contribution to strengthening and increasing NAM's role and prominence enhanced its position to work in a more united manner and more firmly to defend its member nations' collective positions, in what should be its main thrust: defending international law, defending multilateralism, preserving the United Nations charter, struggling for the right to peace with justice and developing our countries," he explained.

Attended by 56 heads of state and/or government and 90 foreign ministers, as well as other dignitaries and senior officials, the summit created conditions for a new stage of work by NAM

characterized by greater prominence and greater efforts to raise its voice and be heard in the international arena.

Members adopted documents such as a declaration regarding Palestine, reaffirming solidarity with the Palestinian peoples' cause, and a declaration regarding Iran's nuclear question, thereby reaffirming every state's fundamental and inalienable right to undertake research, production and use nuclear energy with pacifist aims. The final document was a fundamental statement advocating promoting and preserving multilateralism, thus reaffirming that the U.N., its charter and international law continue to be indispensable.

The Cuban Five

Simply known as "The Five," they were sentenced to lengthy prison terms for "conspiracy to commit espionage" three months before the events of Sept.

11, 2001. The men were arrested September 1998 in Miami and tried in the same city. Five years later, their case remains very much in the public eye.

The Five deny any involvement in espionage activities, saying their mission had nothing to do with undermining U.S. security and everything to do with trying to safeguard Cuba's security.

Cuba has called for world solidarity with The Five and American citizens answered with a Sept. 23 rally on their behalf in Washington, D.C. The demonstration involving U.S.-based solidarity groups gathered in front of the White House and demanded the government free the five Cubans.

Yemen participates in the Non-Aligned Movement's 14th summit

A Yemeni delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi participated in sessions of the 14th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

"Yemen is one of the movement's founding countries, having participated in the 1955 foundation conference. It has played a great and active role within the movement," noted Abdurrahman Mana', who is in charge of NAM's file at the ministry.

He added that the summit aimed to revitalize the movement and activate its objectives, as well as strengthen aspects of cooperation between its members.

When asked about a paper to be presented at the sessions, Mana' noted, "No paper was presented, except for a speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which addressed Yemen's attitude toward international, Arab and Islamic affairs, particularly issues involving Lebanon and Palestine, nuclear weapons, the Somali issue and peace initiatives there."

Jordan recalls ambassador to Qatar

Jordan has recalled its ambassador to Qatar for consultations over Doha's decision not to back Amman's candidate, Prince Zeid bin Hussein, to succeed UN chief Kofi Annan.

Qatar reacted with surprise on Tuesday, with Shaikh Hamad bin Jasssem bin Jabor al-Thani, the Gulf state's first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, saying that Arab states had decided six months ago to back Thailand's candidate, long before Jordan announced its own man.

"The government has decided to summon the Jordanian ambassador from Doha to Amman for consultations," Jordan's state-run Petra news agency said, without giving further details.

Tension between the two countries erupted when Qatar cast its vote for the South Korean candidate Ban Ki-Moon in the latest straw poll for Annan's successor.

Shaikh Hamad told Aljazeera on Tuesday night that Jordan's decision to recall its ambassador "is a matter for our brothers in Jordan, and we respect their decision".

However, he said Qatar was surprised by the reaction, given that 14 Security Council votes had gone to Ban.

Jordan's complaint

On Saturday, according to a Jordanian official, Qatar's UN envoy broke ranks with a unanimous Arab stance to back Jordan's candidate by voting for Ban.

"During the Security Council straw poll, the Qatari representative did not vote for Prince Zeid bin Hussein, even though the council of the Arab League unanimously backed his candidacy," the official said.

"The Qatari representative not only broke with the unanimous Arab position, he even campaigned for the South Korean candidate."

Ban won the backing of 14 of the 15 Security Council nations at another decisive straw poll on Monday. He now appears certain to be picked as the next UN secretary-general.

The council did not release an official tally for the poll, the fourth since July. But Qatari Ambassador Nasser al-Nasser said 14 of the council's 15 members voted in favour of Ban, while the 15th cast a "no opinion" vote.

Qatar's response

Shaikh Hamad explained that Qatar, after originally supporting Thailand's candidate, had switched its backing to South Korea, with Jordan coming forward later.

"We said that at the Arab League meeting, and the Jordanian foreign minister knows that well," he told Aljazeera.



Shaikh Hamad said the campaign to spoil relations would not succeed.

"We know that there are certain countries that seek to complicate the relationship [between Qatar and Jordan] and if they [the Jordanians] move in this path, we won't do the same. This is neither a media battle nor anything else."

Punitive measures

A senior Jordanian official earlier told AFP that Amman was considering punitive diplomatic measures against Qatar for failing to abide by a unanimous Arab decision to back Jordan's candidate to succeed Annan.

Government spokesman Nasser Jawdeh spoke on Monday of Amman's disappointment with the Qatari position. "Qatar has refused to back a unanimous Arab decision and this shocks us, surprises us and we are displeased," he said.

The senior Jordanian official said "it is as if Qatar is doing everything in its power to prove its bad intentions against Jordan".

Qatar had adopted "a negative attitude towards Jordan because of its rapprochement with Saudi Arabia".

Media campaign

Qatar's Shaikh Hamad accused an unnamed "party" in Jordan of stirring up a media campaign against Qatar "seeking to create a crisis in relations", adding that it would not succeed.

Referring to the "Arab decision made six months ago to support the Thai candidate", he told Aljazeera: "Then, when the Jordanian candidate came up, the Arab brothers said - and you know Arabs' courtesy - 'We support your candidate.' But we said we can't do that since we honour our pledges. We had already given our word to the Thais, and then to the Koreans."

Shaikh Hamad denied that Qatar had any objection to the Jordanian candidate. "On the contrary," he said, "he is a good person and will be good for the Arabs."

Source: Al-Jazeera

Abbas, hosting Rice, hints at new government

By: Arshad Mohammed

RAMALLAH, West Bank (Reuters) — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, bolstered by a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, said on Wednesday he might dissolve the Hamas-led government and unity talks with the group were dead.

Rice promised at a news conference with Abbas to "redouble ... efforts to improve the conditions of the Palestinian people" and press Israel to ease a closure of Gaza border crossings.

Abbas made clear his patience was running thin in efforts to persuade Hamas to soften its policy toward Israel and form a unity government with his Fatah faction which Palestinians hope can lead to an end to a Western aid embargo.

"If this doesn't happen in the near future, all options are open," he said at

the news conference with Rice. "But the only option I reject is civil war."

Twelve Palestinians have been killed in fighting between rival factions over the past week, the worst internal violence in Gaza and the occupied West Bank in a decade.

In comments to reporters before he met Rice, Abbas said he would use his "constitutional powers" under Palestinian law at the appropriate time, a clear reference to a possible edict to dismiss the government and hold new elections.

"The dialogue now does not exist," Abbas said about talks with Hamas, which has rejected three Western demands to recognize Israel, renounce violence and accept existing interim peace deals with the Jewish state.

Rice is on a regional visit partly aimed at bolstering the moderate Abbas in his power struggle with Hamas. The Islamist group, dedicated

to Israel's destruction, defeated Fatah in January elections and formed a government in March.

Working Paper

Abbas's chief of staff said the president gave Rice a "working paper" to convey to Israel on ways to move toward a resumption of peacemaking and ease Israeli restrictions on Palestinian trade and travel.

Israel has kept Gaza crossing points largely closed since militants abducted an Israeli soldier in a cross-border raid from the territory in June. He is still being held.

Rice said she and Abbas had discussed ways to "make possible a life for the Palestinian people that is not subject to the kind of daily humiliations that we know have been associated with the occupation. That is my programme here."

She was to see Israeli Prime Minister

Olmert later in the day. Olmert and Abbas have voiced a readiness to meet but set no date.

One senior Palestinian official who attended the meeting between Rice and Abbas told Reuters "there was a lot of talk on the next Palestinian government".

The official said Abbas wanted Hamas to agree to a political platform that satisfied the three Western demands.

"President Abbas told her he has given Hamas less than two weeks to give him an answer," the official said.

In Gaza, Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas accused Rice of serving "an American and Israeli agenda".

He called on Abbas "to avoid using the sword of time" by setting any deadlines in unity efforts.

"There is an elected Palestinian government which expresses the will of the Palestinian voter. However, we have said we do not have a problem to resume the dialogue to form a unity government," Haniyeh told reporters.

Prospects for renewed peacemaking with the Palestinians and concerns over Iran were likely to be high on the agenda of Rice's talks with Olmert, a spokeswoman for his office said.

Referring to Israeli fears that Iran could build a nuclear bomb, the spokeswoman, Miri Eisin, told reporters in Jerusalem: "The prime minister yesterday said this is the first time he honestly feels ... this is a threat to Israel's existence."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had "said that the Zionist entity should be annihilated", she noted.

Iran insists its nuclear programme is for energy needs.



Palestinian Fatah militants hold their weapons during a march in the village of Ellar, near the West Bank city of Tulkarm.

Turkish hijacker surrenders to police

The Italian authorities say only one Turkish man has surrendered after an airliner with 113 people on board was hijacked and forced to land at an Italian airport.

Earlier on Tuesday, those aboard a Turkish Airlines plane flying from Tirana, Albania, to Istanbul in Turkey said two Turkish men had hijacked the plane and forced it to land in Brindisi, Italy.

The plane landed safely and all 107 passengers and six crew left the plane after brief negotiations with the hijacker, Italy's aviation authority ENAC said.

Antonio Lattarulo, head of ENAC for Brindisi, said: "At the moment, one person has given himself up. We are trying to verify whether there was a second hijacker on the aircraft."

Protest

Turkish television reported one of the hijackers had recently converted to Christianity and was a conscientious objector, going against their initial reports that the hijack was staged in protest over the Pope's planned visit to Turkey.

It said he had sent a letter to the Pope in late August asking for his help to avoid compulsory military service in



The Turkish airliner waits on the tarmac in Brindisi, Italy

Turkey. It quoted the letter as reading: "I am a Christian and I do not want to serve in a Muslim army."

A Greek defence ministry official said: "The plane sent the [coded hijack] signal twice while in Greek air space. Four Greek fighter jets took off and accompanied the plane as it left Greek air space towards the Italian city of Brindisi."

The plane contacted Italian air traffic controllers just before 5.30pm (14.30 GMT) and asked to land in Brindisi, according to Nicoletta Tomiselli, a spokeswoman for the Italian air traffic agency ENAV.

Tomiselli said the aircraft, carrying 113 people, was escorted to the ground by two Italian military planes.

Source: Al-Jazeera

غردت العصافير وطارت البلابل فرحاً واحتياجاً
وهذه الأطلال والأصدقاء الأبعاد

عبد الكريم الشامي

بمناسبة ارتزاقه المولود الجديد والتي اسمها

يسرى

فألف ألف مبروك

المهنتوه /

أ/ نادية عبدالعزيز السقاف

رئيس التحرير - رئيس مجلس إدارة مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة
والنشر

أ/ خير الدين محمد النصور

نائب رئيس مجلس إدارة مؤسسة يمن تايمز للصحافة والنشر

أ/ رشيد السقاف

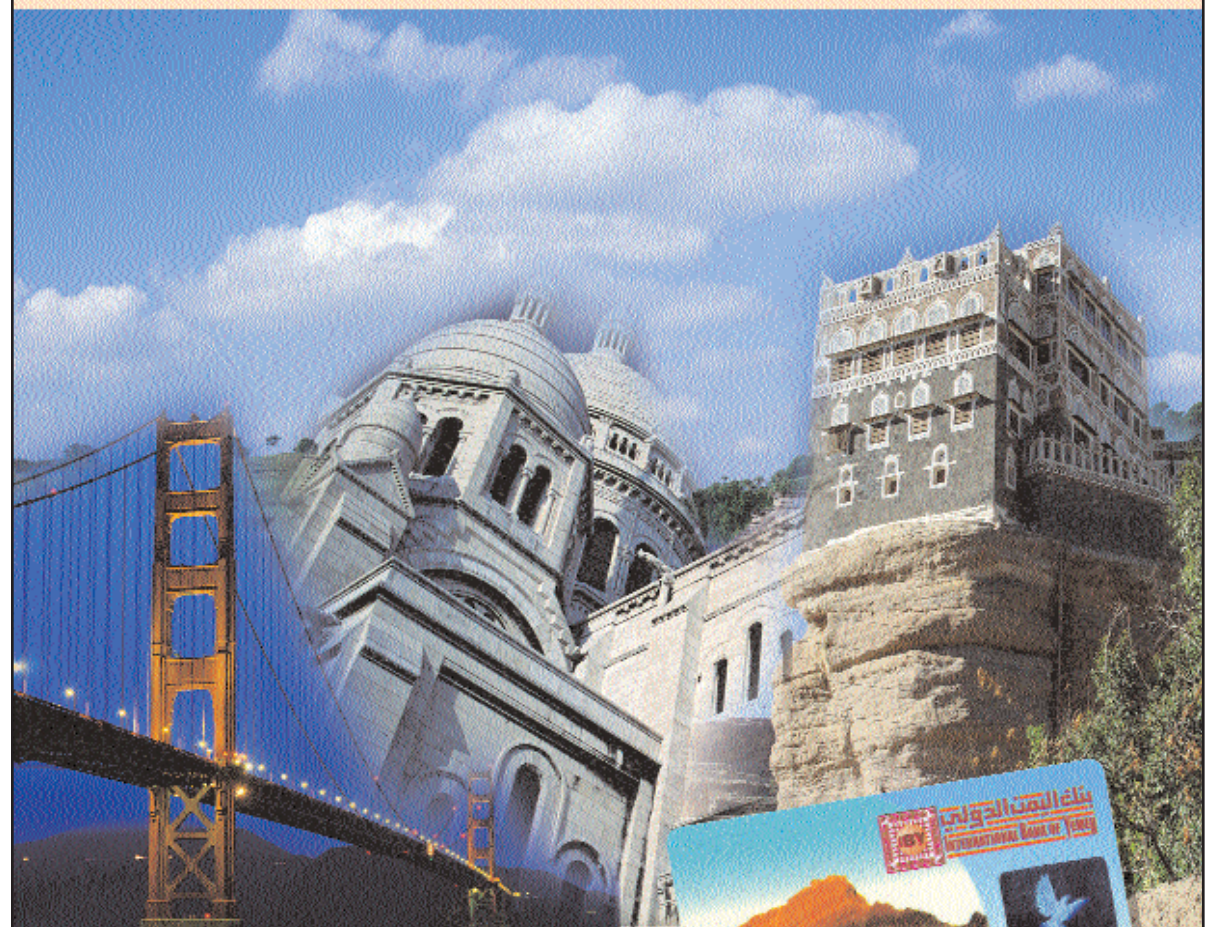
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Yemenia اليمنية

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Ramadan in Aden

By: Aden Bureau

Aden residents received this year's Ramadan – whose expenses exceed those of the entire year – by preparing all house utensils and foodstuffs needed during the month.

The Yemen Times made a small tour of Aden to learn Ramadan habits and norms followed there.

Donia Abdullah from Aden's Al-Tawahi district explains that Ramadan is the month when the Qur'an was revealed to Mohammed. Further, the month has a special flavor among Yemeni families, particularly in Aden. Ramadan preparations are done early, as families buy requirements including drinks, spices, dates and other edibles.

"Though families spend too much during Ramadan, the month stimulates mercy and harmony among members of the same family, as well as other families. All family members gather around one table, which never happens at other times of the year," Abdullah adds.

When asked about special Ramadan dishes, she notes that there are several like *sambousah*, *bajiah* and *al-maqmesh*, which are necessary for Iftar. Further, *shorbah* (soup) as well as

meat, *labaniah* and some drinks are prepared for the Iftar meal.

On one Saiyrah district street, an elderly man named Hamed Saleh was going with his family to buy Ramadan requirements. When asked about Ramadan, he said, "Ramadan is a worship and prayer month. It's a time for drawing close to Allah. Heaven's doors are open wide to Muslims' prayers and invocations."

According to Saleh, Ramadan was different in the past because a cannon was fired at the time of Iftar and food-stuff prices were reasonable. Also, mercy and harmony were present, which no longer exist.

"This year, Ramadan came while citizens were busy with presidential and local election results, so they didn't prepare well for it. Following the announcement of election results, prices increased remarkably, such as flour, which rose to YR 3,500 and gas bottles mounting to YR 1,000, as well as fruit and vegetable prices," Saleh adds.

Concluding his thoughts, he asked the government to fix prices, particularly during Ramadan.

Speaking about Ramadan and its beautiful nights, Safa'a Ahmed from Crater district says, "Everything is

beautiful in Ramadan, especially the harmony people have for others for Iftar, thus embodying the meaning of cooperation and mercy between people, for which Islam calls.

"Ramadan is beautiful, especially at night, when citizens come out to buy their monthly needs or things for Eid Al-Fitr," she adds.

According to Ahmed, what's distinctive about Ramadan on a spiritual level, is that Muslims draw near to Allah this month by performing the five prayers, reciting the Qur'an in mosques and doing night prayers (*tahajid* and *tarawih*). Others prepare themselves to Mecca's visit sacred lands in Saudi Arabia to perform the *umrah*.

Regarding dishes made during Ramadan, Ahmed noted that most Yemeni families in general, and Adeni ones in particular, agree on Ramadan meals. Adeni women prepare *sambousah*, *bajiah*, *shorbah*, *shajout*, *labaniah* and beverages. They also make *fattah* (bread with milk) for *sahoor* (the dawn meal).

Closing her speech, she asked the government to make prices stable, especially when merchants exploit the opportunity of Ramadan's advent to raise prices, particularly for meat, fish and other foodstuffs.



During Ramadan streets are crowded with buyers and sellers.

YT PHOTO

Analysis: Yemen after the vote

Yemen is a poor country with a reputation as a haven for Al-Qaeda militants. The country is an ally of the US in the "war on terror", but it says it needs development assistance in order to tackle the challenge of religious extremism.

The holding of what is being seen as a relatively clean election could convince Western donors - including the US - to put more money into the country.

President Ali Abdallah Saleh of Yemen has been returned to office for another seven years after elections declared by European observers to have been open and genuine.

The opposition quibbled over the figures announced by the electoral commission, but even they recognise that Mr. Saleh won.

Poetry against violence

In a cramped room surrounded by fellow poets sitting on cushions on the floor chewing qat, the mildly narcotic leaves that are central to Yemeni social gatherings, Amin Mashreki recites some of his verses against violence by religious extremists.

"This poem speaks about the people who carry out bombings," he said.

"It deals in particular with the attack against the American warship, the USS Cole. In it I ask: 'What has the ship done? What has the sea done? What have the fish done that you should do all this damage?'"

Mr. Mashreki's poem refers to the attack in 2000 by Al-Qaeda. Seventeen American sailors were killed when a small boat laden with explosives rammed their vessel in the Gulf of Aden.

The view in Yemen is that the battle against al-Qaeda cannot be won without substantial development assistance from the outside world.

That event immediately catapulted Yemen into the international spotlight. The country acquired a reputation as a dangerous spot, a place where Islamic militants operate.

Mixed results

Since then, the government in Sanaa has been trying to contain Al-Qaeda, but with mixed results.

The 11 September 2001 attacks in the United States added a new urgency, and Yemen became an American ally in the "war on terror".

In that fight, poetry has not been the only weapon.

"After the USS Cole and after 11 September, Yemen was accused of being the next Afghanistan," said Faris Sanabani, the publisher of the Yemen Observer.

"But what is happening now is that we have managed to control our country, we have launched campaigns -



Happy to give his purple thumbs up for the Saleh poster in behind.

YT PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN

whether it's with security, whether it's awareness, whether it's by negotiations, and religious discussions with the Islamists. The list is long."

But it has been a tough job for a weak government which cannot always exert full authority over outlying areas where tribal leaders lay down the law, sometimes taking Al-Qaeda fugitives under their wing and refusing to hand them over.

To compound the government's problems, Yemen itself supplied the second largest contingent of Arab

fighters in Afghanistan at the time when the United States was encouraging Muslims to go there to fight the Soviets.

Now, Yemenis make up one of the largest groups at the US detention centre in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Unruly

It has been difficult controlling this large and unruly country with its porous borders and difficult neighbours.

Across the Gulf of Aden lies the Horn of Africa, riven with rebellions and civil wars, awash in weapons and a place where Al-Qaeda has established a foothold.

Northwards, just over the land border, there is Saudi Arabia, a main target of Al-Qaeda and the source of much of the militant group's ideology, not to mention home to many of its members.

Given the many difficulties, few in Yemen would deny that mistakes have been made, such as the escape of 23 Al-Qaeda members from a high-security jail in February.

"Definitely there are gaps in what Yemen has done or is doing, but these are gaps that are understandable in a way," said Nabeel Khoury, the deputy chief of mission at the US embassy in Sanaa.

"They are due to the less than fully developed institutions, they are due to corruption and sometimes lack of competence on the part of some. However Yemen is still considered by the United States as a friend and an ally in the war on terror."

Seeking assistance

Speaking a few days before the election and just after the Yemeni security services foiled two attacks by Al-Qaeda against oil installations in the country, the Yemeni interior minister said the authorities had succeeded in limiting the threat from militants.

But, he added, there was no doubt that there were still sleeper cells in country.

The view in Yemen is that the battle against Al-Qaeda cannot be won without substantial development assistance from the outside world.

International aid to Yemen is, at about US \$13 per capita, regarded as minimal.

The country remains one of the poorest in the world.

"It's a big country with very limited resources," said Mr. Sanabani.

"Not a lot of money comes into Yemen, and we need the international community to come and hold our hand, help us to stand up."

"And the reward they will get from such a move will be tremendous compared to the pain and the headache that will be caused by Yemen if Yemen goes astray."

Indeed, experts suggest that Yemen is among those states most likely to disintegrate going the way of Afghanistan and Somalia. Western officials say they recognise that investment in Yemen amounts to investment in regional and world security.

"You go north to Saudi Arabia, to Iraq certainly, to Afghanistan: there are serious problems," said Mr. Koury.

"There is fairly easy access back and forth, there are smugglers, fighters, terrorists. Yemen can be a factor for stability, or a factor for destabilisation. It's crucial that we help Yemen become a force for stability and not the opposite."

Source: BBC



Saleh addressing the people in one of his electoral rallies..

YT PHOTO BY GLYN GOFFIN

"Yemen can be a factor for stability, or a factor for destabilisation. It's crucial that we help Yemen become a force for stability and not the opposite"

Nabeel Khoury
US embassy Sanaa

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

MTC Yemen announces the following vacancy:

Salesman in computer field

Requirements:

- College degree (Bachelor's)
- 5 years in computer industry
- Proficiency in English (spoken and written)

All applications along with C.V.'s must be submitted through fax No. 01-510438

A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for an interview.

Please make sure your application contains all the needed personal, contact and qualification information.



Best congratulations to the maker
of modern Yemen and achiever of
successes

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الحديث وصانع الإنجازات فخامة الرئيس

H.E. Ali Abdullah Saleh

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عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ

For his great victory and for the
trust between Your Excellency and
the Yemeni people

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بين فخامتكم وشعبنا اليمني الحكيم

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and all Employees

SAFER

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Safer Exploration and Production
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JOB VACANCIES

ISLAMIC RELIEF YEMEN

Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY – A British INGO) is announcing the following vacancies for National Professional Personnel based in Sana'a

1. Position: Disaster Preparedness and Response Coordinator
Reference: DPRC/IRY/3009

Responsibilities:

- Assist IRY to develop and strengthen its disaster preparedness capacity to respond to disasters in an effective and efficient manner
- Assist to reduce the impact of disasters on people / communities most at risk through capacity building and organizational development activities
- Coordination and liaison with stakeholders, and, policy/program development
- Design, implement, coordinate, develop, monitor and evaluate IRY's disaster activities in line with IRY strategy
- Provide direction and support to programme staff
- Establish linkages with GO, NGOs and other institutional donors
- Prepare project related narrative and financial reports for IRY and donors

Requirements:

- Graduate in Development studies or any other Social Science
- Minimum of 3 years experience in development and emergencies
- Proven experience in participatory assessment, programme planning and effective management.
- Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages (written and spoken)
- Ability to write proposals and develop linkages with INGOs and GO
- Skills in financial, time and management are essential together with working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Internet applications
- Database use, and advanced Internet search engine tools

- Handle petty cash
- Assist in management; follow up, monitoring and carrying out different tasks related to custom clearance, vehicles, visas, etc...
- Assisting in different secretarial, clerical, administration and general services, like management and monitoring of stationary and other material in office, driver log books, compiling driver reports on car conditions, filling, etc...
- Maintain smooth office operations including provision and operation of equipment
- Perform other duties as deemed necessary

Requirements:

- University Degree in Business Administration or related field
- Minimum of 3-5 years of related experience
- Excellent command of the English and Arabic languages
- Experienced in using computers including (Word processing, Excel and PowerPoint)

3. Position: Secretary
Reference: SEC/IRY/3009

Responsibilities:

- Provide secretarial duties for the office
- Produce accurate correspondence, answering queries, diary management and maintenance of office records
- Develop and maintain filing system
- Communicate with other departments, local and international NGOs and other official agencies and governments
- Be responsible for the initiation, maintenance and update of a computerized data system to include all information about donors, other NGOs, government departments and different services within Yemen, and if necessary in some overseas countries
- Perform other duties as deemed necessary

Requirements:

- University degree
- Minimum of 3 years experience in secretarial work
- Experience in computer skills including (Word processing, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Excellent command of English and Arabic language

2. Position: Administrative Officer
Reference: AO/IRY/3009

Responsibilities:

- Oversee purchasing inventory, transport and procurement of project material

Please send a copy of your CV latest by 14th October 2006.

Admin Department
Islamic Relief Yemen,
P O Box 15088, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Fax No: 01-219017 Or Email: infoir@y.net.ye

Applicants should be sympathetic to the values and principles of Islamic Relief
Islamic Relief is an equal opportunities employer. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Yemeni Nationals Only

Canadian Nexen Petroleum East Al-Hajr Ltd announces the following vacancy:

Corrosion/ Lab Technician **Field**
Sr. Electrical & Instrumentation Technician **Field**
Electrical Technician **Field**

For further information or to apply for this position please visit our website:

<http://www.nexeninc.com/Careers/Yemen/>

Application Criteria:

- All applications must be submitted through our online application system.
- Online Applications must be submitted No later than October 14th, 2006.
- A member of our recruitment team will call you if you are selected for a test and interview.
- Selection will be based on the most qualified applicants.
- Applicants can check the status of their application online using the above URL.
- Please make sure that your Application contains all the needed personal, contact and qualification information.
- Faxed or Handed-in CV's will NOT be considered.

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Public Health & Population
(Third time notice)
"SERVICE PROCUREMENT NOTICE"
Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib

CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

- Description of the contract**
Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib.
- Procedure of the tender**
International Open Tender.
- Contracting authority**
The Government of the Republic of Yemen, represented by the Ministry of Public Health & Population.
- Source of Funding**
A grant from the USDA (416 B) to the Ministry of Public Health & Population.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

- Eligibility**
Participation is open on equal terms to all natural and legal International Consultancy Firms or Organizations of reputation in the field of management and operation of hospitals.
- Number of tenders**
Tenderers (including firms within the same legal group, or other members and sub-contractors) submit only one tender. An entry fee of US \$ 500 is applicable.
- Tender guarantee**
Tenderers must provide a "tender guarantee" of 2.5 % of their offer for the contract when submitting their tender. This guarantee will be released to unsuccessful tenderers once the tender procedure has been completed.
- Performance guarantee**
The successful tenderer will be asked to provide a performance guarantee of 15 % of their offer before countersigning the contract. This guarantee must be provided within 15 days of notification by the Contracting Authority.
- Information meeting and/or site visit**
Site visits could be organized by the Ministry of Public Health & Population, with no costs incurred on the Ministry.
- Tender validity**
Tenders must remain valid for a period of 120 days after the opening date of tenders.
- Maximum period for the initiation of the service**
Within two weeks from the signature of contract.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Selection criteria**
Compliance with technical specifications and capacity to execute similar contracts specified in the "Terms of Reference" for the (Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib).
a) Economical and Financial Capacity.
b) Professional Capacity.

TERMS OF REFERENCE & TENDERING

- How to obtain the "Terms of Reference"**
The "Terms of Reference" for the (Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib) is available from the following internet address: <http://moh.gov.ye>. The "Terms of Reference" is also available for collection from the Ministry of Public Health & Population at the address shown below.
Tenderers with questions regarding this tender should send them in writing to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministers Office, P O Box: 299, Sana'a, Yemen. Tel + 967 1 252 198 / + 967 1 257 775, Fax: + 967 1 252 247 (Mentioning the following; Management & Operation services for the President Hospital Marib) at least 3 weeks before the deadline for submission of tenders. The Contracting Authority would reply to all tenderers' questions at least 1 week before the deadline for submission of tenders.
- Deadline for submission of tenders**
The deadline for submission of tenders is the 29/10/2006. Any tender received after this deadline will not be considered.
- Tender opening session**
The public tender opening session will take place at 11:00 am local time on the 29/10/2006 at the Ministry of Public Health and Population, Ministers Office, Sana'a, Yemen.



General Tender Announcement Number (9-a) Year 2006

For The Third Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the third time for the following:

- **Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of TV Cameras for the Satellite Channel.**

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 500\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

Place and date for opening the envelopes:

The envelopes are to be opened at 11 AM on Saturday 4/11/2006 at the corporation premises.

A woman's courage

While I was in a hotel in Beirut last June I discovered the director of the National Democratic Institute in Sana'a, Robin Madrid, happened to be in the same hotel. I did not hesitate in contacting her at her room to ask for a meeting. The lady was surprised because of the intruding journalist without knowing the reason behind his interest.

Madrid may or may not know the heaviness of the task she is carrying out in Yemen.

I knew more about her through the Washington Post newspaper. I used to hear a little about her but the Washington Post had made clear the degree of her bravery in her job in Yemen, her courage in standing by the Yemeni people's civilian forces and the tribal society in their opposing of despotism and backwardness.

Unfortunately I could not indulge in discussion with Madrid in Beirut because she was waiting for an important long distance call from Washington



By: Munir Al-Maweri

and the following day morning she was due to leave for Sana'a. Nevertheless, I felt that she was showing a kind of security caution and fear, which is an excusable behavior in a city like Beirut that could be more dangerous than Sana'a. The following day I met her by chance, preparing to leave the hotel and learnt from her she was determined to continue her difficult mission in Sana'a despite discomforts she faces. I therefore appreciated her spirit for the sake of serving the values she believes in, for serving democracy and freedom and the fact in Yemen as well as for serving the people who are in very much need for her services.

I recalled this courageous woman as I was reading about her in one of the Yemeni newspapers as she was expressing anxiety on possibility of acts of violence during the local and presidential elections. And instead of pondering on the statement by a researcher experienced in Yemen's affairs, I found

out the newspaper accusing her of heralding acts of violence as if she was going to carry out violence. The newspaper has moreover accused the NDI of carrying out intelligence activities and working for instigating violence during the electoral process. The same newspaper unleashed accusations at the American Republican Institute and other American institutions. Those accusations were in harmony with a description made by advisor of president Saleh who in his talk about the relations with America described them as an unavoidable evil.

In this way the people at the top of authority look at America as an evil because they no longer trust them and wants to deal directly with live forces of the people and their live organizations and even with the sheikhs of their tribes, away from mediation and interference of the government.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh ridiculed Madrid in one of his speeches saying she wanted to spread democracy with US \$300,000. The president does not realize the American taxpayer holds accountable the responsible institution for every cent and they could not spend the money of the richest country in the

world in the way he spends the property of the Yemeni poor people. America is not an absolute good or an absolute evil and we have to benefit from those who intend good for us. We have to benefit not from their money because their money is far from us and will be so under the existing corruption. We should rather benefit from their ideas because they do not represent the American government or its intelligence bodies but rather represent the highest human values. These values make Robin Madrid a value in Yemen by offering services to the population of Mareb, Al-Jawf and Sana'a, instead of staying in Washington in luxurious offices, pure air and clean water.

Madrid is a courageous woman and knows the president of the country does not like her or wishes her to stay and despite that she sticking to the people who she loved and they loved her. The Yemenis will remember in future books and recognize her favor as soon as despotism removal of despotism from their shoulders.

Munir Al-Maweri is an American journalist of Yemeni origin.

Source: Al-Wasat newspaper

COMMON SENSE

The signs are not there

The observer cannot fail to recall that the Yemeni people have heard a lot of people saying that things will not be the same after the elections are over with and many almost believed that there can only be one way to go and that is forward. But as the days go by, one realizes that we have really been given the "number" as they say. Surely a democratic society deserves a lot more than to see large state dinners for the people who least need to be fed in the country or long cues of past, present and future officials waiting to shake hands with the head of state, so that by the time all the handshaking is completed, the dinner of the guests would have probably turned cold.

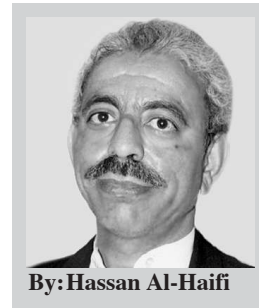
The truth of the matter is that if we are really going to see change, it should start with the public media. There, talk should start to be translated into meaningful action. If Yemen is embarking on a period, in which Yemen will supposedly turn a new leaf on life, the media should be the first place where the observer expects to see a reflection of the new policies that are put in place to reflect this new period. Yet, realistically, we are not seeing dramatic changes in the media to convince us that all that talk on a "new Yemen", a "corruption-free Yemen", a Yemen with a "dazzling future", was no more than an attempt to mislead people into believing that even all the "President's men" are really going to make sure that at least some of these things will materialize in real life.

Unfortunately however, the official media people cannot get over their old habits of giving us absolutely boring long newscasts that extend way into the night just to see who has had the great honor of dining with His Excellency the President or reading the texts of congratulatory cables to the Head of State for: Ramadan, the Anniversary of the September Revolution, the Anniversary of the October Revolution, the Anniversary of the Withdrawal of British Troops from Aden and of course the re-election of the President. This is while most of the other satellite TV channels have already gone through three hourly newscasts already, while the Yemen TV is still on its first Evening News bulletin.

With the Government budget already on a tightrope, are all those expensive dinners for the fairly well-to-do a significant development that shows we are in the right direction of managing our meager resources and directing them to where they can be most effective in harnessing our natural and human resources to efficiently produce the economic setting that will eliminate poverty and create job opportunities. On the contrary, it is the misuse of such extravagant funds that has led to the poverty one sees so widespread throughout the land. Furthermore, there is a lack of taste apparent, when our media has to waste so many hours on such meaningless displays of opulence amidst a society in which more than half of the population have already reached the poverty line and heading down further down the abyss of misery and despair.

One economic observer said: "Yemen has so much potential: a diversified natural resources base; an excellent tourist venue, an industrious and robust labor force, an enterprising private sector, and more... All that Yemen needs is a slight bit of intelligence in Government, resourcefulness in its Government apparatus, sincerity in the way public officials deal with the public, whether in official business or through the way the official media is displaying the useful work of government to an ever hungry audience for meaningful news that shows that indeed Yemen is not going to be going through the same "business as usual" attitude, which the media unabashedly is displaying these days without regards to the possible contempt this would raise amidst an already disappointed electorate.

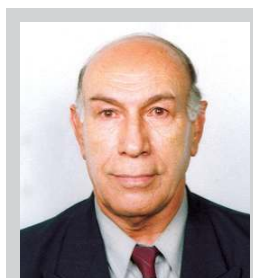
Hassan Al-Haifi has been a Yemeni political economist and journalist for more than 20 years.



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Foreign NGOs have their own agenda

Undeniably, various European and American non-governmental organizations have been playing large roles in defending human rights the world over particularly with regard to developing countries where most of the ruling systems and the regimes are lacking democratic approach in dealing with their peoples. It is basically the question of rights pertaining to freedom of expression, freedom of the press and other essential human rights. There are numerous examples of the good results achieved by those NGOs leading to mitigation and in some cases cancellation of certain restraints used to be imposed on the peoples of developing countries regimes, especially those that have not yet adopted democracy in their governance. In countries with emerging democracies foreign NGOs offer assistance and training to national NGOs to help them develop their work and to become capable enough to play their required role defending rights of their peoples and protesting if possible preventing any violation of them. To further assistance offered to third world countries some



By: Mohammed Khidr

NGOs have opened offices in those countries to be closer to and make their humanitarian job easier and on the spot. Those offices are more important in offering assistance in countries that have recently adopted the pursuit of democracy. Workers of those

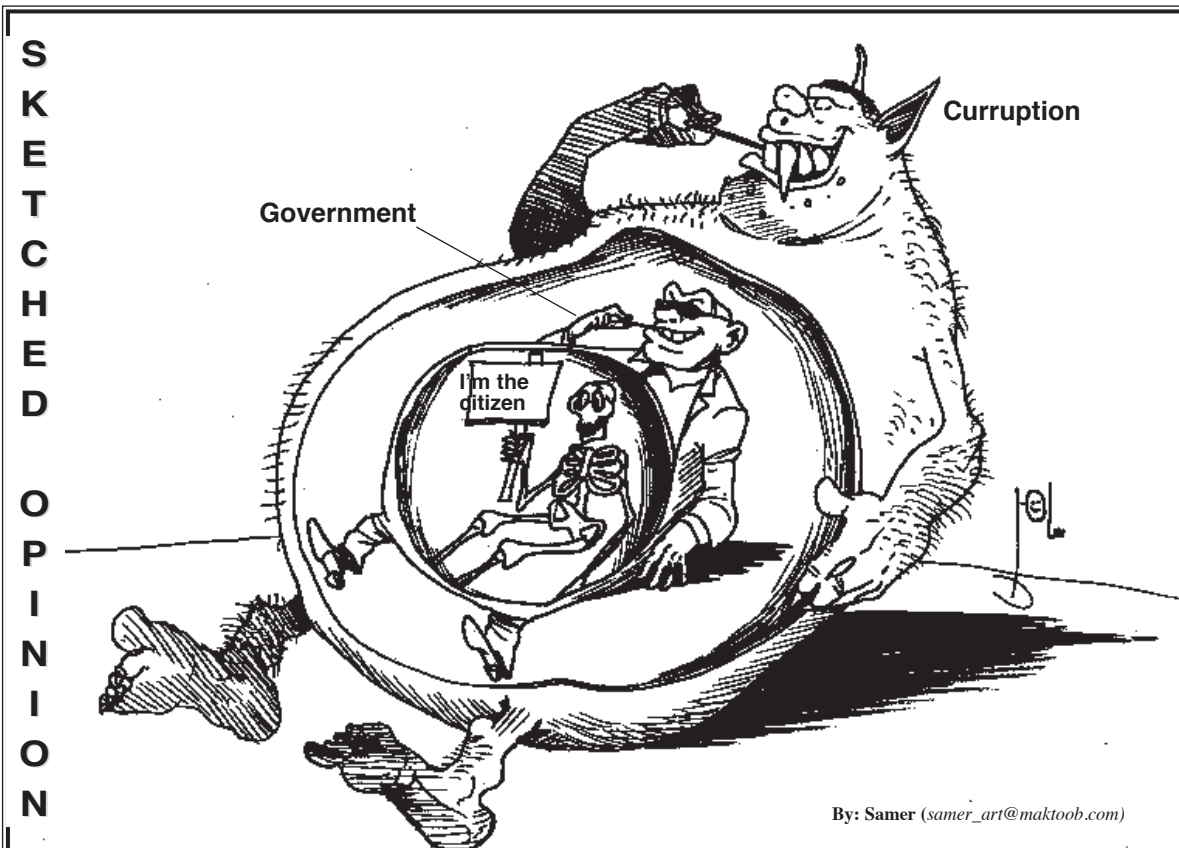
offices have dual jobs. On the one hand they help train national civil society organizations in those countries especially technically to develop their work and sometimes offer material assistance if needed, on the other. Their offices in those countries enable them to have direct contact with political parties, and various segments of the people and this gives an idea on the ground on how to help and what kind of help to offer. Of course those NGOs are allowed to open their offices in countries following democracy and thus they are permitted to act without thinking about borders of those states. Organizations such as Journalists Sans Frontiers and Doctors sans Frontiers operate freely, but should those organizations act in a big or excessive "sans frontiers" manner? Should they behave

as if there are really no state borders in the sense regarding sovereignty of those states, or must they put in mind certain boundaries they must not trespass? I think foreign NGOs hosted by countries where there is a certain degree of democracy have to act and behave in a way avoiding provocation of the hosting country. They must not ignore the sovereignty of that country in a way causing them trouble and then disrupt their activities and mission. Unfortunately, instances where some foreign organizations have behaved in a manner violating sovereignty of the states hosting them. Since their goal is humane and helpful they should not forget there is a government where they are practicing their activities and should not ignore that fact but rather keep friendly and cooperative relations with the government to facilitate solving any problems or mistakes they perceive that government is doing to its subjects. Even in their own original countries those NGOs have respect towards sovereignty and power of their governments to avoid collision of interests that both governments and organizations should coordinate their efforts to serve the objective of respecting the people rights and not to violate them by some public institutions.

Every NGO has its own agenda that

is not necessarily identical to all domestic interests of the peoples and states that are the target of the organizations' activities. Those organizations are not the angels who we have seen on television. Therefore, we as recipient people should not over exaggerate in our faith in them or in respecting them to the extent that we think they can be the alternative of our governments or states. It has happened that some foreign NGOs, through their offices based in some countries, have violated their original declared mission and faced troubles with governments of those countries. We should respect and appreciate the good and sincere missions of these organizations in extending their helpful and caring hands to our society but we must not over exaggerate that trust and belief to the degree making us forget that they are not the alternative of our state and could not be so and we should not be too trustful in a naive way. We also have our own national NGOs to seek their help and they know better about what we need or suffer from. Let's support them and develop them for our own interests and welfare.

Mohammed Khidr is a journalist and a senior translator from Iraq. (mmkhidr@yahoo.com)



Letters to the Editor

A Ramadan message from the Islamic Society of Britain

Strange as it may sound for what is essentially a simple religion, I meet Muslims quite often who tell me they are confused about living their Islamic faith. Sometimes they spell this confusion out for me themselves, and sometimes the confusion comes through when we begin to talk.

We have been watching our most beloved, Muhammad the Messenger of God, may God bless him and grant him peace, being made the subject of ridicule, and worse. How someone as important as the Pope - whatever the motive - vilified him and how caricatures smeared him. These were false charges and lies that hurt us deeply.

It is difficult to take it all in sometimes. We can let our emotions get the better of us, and some of us do, much to the media's delight it seems. The world has been seeing a range of images, of an Islam where followers display a consistent pattern of behaviour: boiling rage and vengeful hate, screaming slogans and burning symbols.

In my honest judgment, displaying

such anger is the easiest of responses. It is the costliest of responses too, if we but understand properly the role, the crucial role, that we as a faith society must play in our part of the world, today. Fostering a perception of Islam that is a false Islam is simply too high a price.

The welcome news is that the month of Ramadan has arrived. A period in time that brings us much needed respite from our emotions and anger. Teaching us restraint, discipline and self control. Recharging our spiritual batteries as we strengthen our personal relationship with Allah. A collection of personal moments and thoughts all of which I pray bring a sense of order to any confusion in our minds. Let us make Ramadan a time to reflect.

Let us see any false charges as a test of our faith. Our country needs men and women to stand firm on God's Final Revelation and the Sunnah of His Messenger. And what was this Sunnah the world saw? Boiling rage and screaming slogans?? They saw love and

kindness in the face of mockery and contempt; they saw love and kindness in a cruelly unfair world. Even after the immense physical and verbal assaults in Mecca and Taif, in the depths of despair, Muhammad would always respond with love, concern and hope. Muhammad, may God bless him and grant him peace.

"If you love me, follow me," he said. Yes it's a simple religion, but there is some small print too: the way forward has no shortcuts. There is much work to be done, but I believe that done together and with the right intentions, we can also achieve much. We must be genuine in our service to humanity, caring for, sharing with and helping all of our neighbours. This month, remember every person around you in your prayers. That is the Sunnah of the Messenger. That is living your Islamic faith.

I wish everyone a beautiful Ramadan. Yours in prayer,

Dr Zahoor Qurashi, President
Islamic Society of Britain
isbegroup@isb.org.uk

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E-mail: editor@yementimes.com

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Letters: letters@yementimes.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
Nadia Abdulaziz Al-Sakka

Managing Editor
Dr. Hamdan Zaid Dammag

Head of News Dept.
Mohamed bin Sallam

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Interns

Al-Khabari, Khalil

Goffin, Glyn

Shadad, Nisreen

Offices

Aden Bureau:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed

Tel: +967 (2) 347-057, 346596

Fax: +967 (2) 347056

Email: ytaden@y.net.ye

Taiz Bureau:

Imad Ahmed Abdullah

Tel: +967 (4) 217-156,

Telefax: +967 (4) 217157

P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz

Email: yttaiz@y.net.ye

Ibb correspondent:

Nashwan Dammaj

Mobile: (+967) 733840609,

Email: naschuan2000@yahoo.com

Hadramout Correspondent:

Saeed Al-Batati

Mobile (+967) 7783733

Email: albatati88@yahoo.com

Fax: +967 (05) 360303

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Press and freedom of expression:

The victims of Yemeni elections

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (HRinfo) observed closely the recent Yemeni elections, particularly in relation with the falling down of freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

HRinfo is sorry to reach the fact that the Yemeni government has spared no effort to hinder the nascent democratic experiment in Yemen. Some human rights organizations monitored several violations during the electoral process. That is in addition to imposing further restrictions on the freedom of the press and blocking many websites. The latter is monitored by HRinfo herein.

Blocking websites:

1- Al-Mostakela Forum

"If they can block our website, they can never block the fact"

The above comment is posted by a member of the Yemeni now blocked Al-Mostakela forum www.mostakela.com. It is a traditional text web forum which includes about 1450 members. The Yemeni government blocked the website on 18 September 2006, only two days prior to the beginning of presidential and local elections.

The blocking took place through the state-owned IT Yemen The Net Company. Consequently, unprofessional members could not access the forum, while other experienced members used proxy software to skip the block. Those who were able to log in criticized IT Yemen The Net Company and the Telecommunication and Information Technique Ministry which is claimed to be its supporter, for blocking the website.

2- Nass Press website

Since its foundation early in the year 2000, People Press Institution reserved a unique position in the field of printed press in Yemen. Thereupon, it was



encouraged to construct Nass Press website which became a well-known website for those who are interested in Yemen affairs.

That is because the website provides a space for posting different approaches. Recently, Nass press witnessed intensive rivalry between the supporters and the opponents of the two major nominees (the current president and Popular Congress Party Candidate; Ali Abdullah Saleh, and Joint Meeting Parties of opposition candidate; Faisal Ben Shamlan).

Yemeni Telecommunication and Information Technique Ministry had had enough with the huge number of criticizing comments on Nass Press website www.nasspress.com. Although the website did not violate political criticism rules, the ministry blocked the website during the period from 13th to 24th September 2006. Then the website was unblocked just after Ali Abdullah Saleh won the presidential elections.

3- Hewarye web forum

Probably, this is the first time for Yemeni internet users to experience the blocking of a website without any reason, keeping aside the legitimacy of such action! Hewarye (www.hewarye.com) is a relatively new website. It was constructed only few months ago and it is famous for supporting the Yemeni president. However, the website was blocked on 18 September 2006 without providing any explanation or announcing any resolution by Yemeni Telecommunication and Information Technique Ministry or IT Yemen The Net Company. This proves the absence of logic and responsibility and that blocking decisions are arbitrarily taken.

4- The Yemeni Council website <http://www.al-yemen.org/>

5- Yemen Sound website www.yemen-sound.com

Journalism and Journalists, Usual attacks and Harassments

The independent and opposition Yemeni press is known for its boldness and sharp political criticism. Many Arab states seek to restrict the freedom of press by questioning and trialing journalists. In addition to such traditional methods, Yemeni authorities illegally punish and threaten journalists. They even go beyond this by abusing journalists physically or threatening them via phone calls which sender number is unidentified.

During the last 20 days, HRinfo monitored many violations in the electoral process. They are:

1- Khaled Al-Alwani

Since 7 September until now, the Yemeni Press and Publication Prosecution Department did not announce the reason why it summoned Al-Assema [the capital] newspaper Editor; Khaled Al-Alwani or the reason why he was referred to the West Capital Secretariat Court in Sana'a. Even worse, Yemeni security forces penetrated Al-Majd Printing House which prints Al-Assema newspaper, upon the Public Prosecution resolution. That took place without taking permission from the competent court and without declaring the reasons behind. Consequently, the resolution seems to be resulted from political bias to the president Ali Abdullah Saleh. This way it is regarded as an obvious violation of the freedom of press in addition to causing Al-Assema newspaper to suffer sever losses because it failed to be released on time.

2- Mohamed Sadiq Al-Adeny

According to human rights activist journalist; Mohamed Sadiq Al-Adeny statements, he experienced 18 incidents of harassment by Yemeni authorities within eight years. The most recent of them is sentencing him to three years in prison and causing him to pay a fine amounted to 1.200.000 Yemeni Riyals (equal to US\$ 6153), by the notorious Aden Court. He was not summoned for trial and was not informed with the dates of trial sessions. This proves the relationship between this trial and Al-Adeny's famous article entitled "Oh President, Silence them!" published at August. In this article, Al-Adeny criticized the democracy practiced under President Ali Abdullah Saleh reign that led to corruption in Yemen.

3- Samia Al-Aghebery

Samia is a journalist at Al-Wahdawi newspaper. The attempts to defame Samia Al-Aghebery in writings lacking

press ethics and honor by some semi-official newspapers did not succeed, last June. Consequently, they resorted to worse methods by causing some one to penetrate her house in a late hour on 21 September. The goal of such penetration was to get the originals of the documents showing the recount of votes results in some electoral committees, which Samia faxed to several websites. They threatened her and insulted her as a direct result to her journalistic activity, during elections.

4- Abdul Hafiz Ahmed Mogab

Mogab is a freelance reporter at several newspapers and news websites. He was arbitrarily arrested by Omran security forces on 5th September. He was threatened with death by some soldiers, and he received the same threatening via a phone call from an unidentified number. That is because he monitored some violations in Omran directorate elections.

5- The confiscation of Al-Tagheir newspaper

On Sunday, 17 September, Yemeni security forces in Aden confiscated almost one thousand editions of Al-Tagheir newspaper, without having a judicial resolution and for no legal necessity. That is in order to prevent Yemeni citizens from reading about the publisher of the newspaper; Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) of opposition. JMP Executive Committee informed Press and Publication Prosecution Department with such confiscation and called for providing an explanation for this action and eliminating it. However, no action was taken to bring justice for the affected and hold those who are responsible accountable.

Our Stance towards These Violations

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (HRinfo) believes that the above mentioned ten violations, whether

monitored by HRinfo or submitted by HRinfo insider Yemeni volunteers, are contrary to the Yemeni Constitution and beyond the law. In addition they violate Article no.19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, signed by Yemeni government. These violations require the immediate interference of Yemeni Press and Publication Prosecution Department, which is the body, entitled to defend press and journalists against those who violate their rights. The said prosecution usually becomes more active when investigating into violations committed by journalists.

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (HRinfo) also believes that these recent violations took place in a critical stage for the history of Yemen; that is the presidential elections. Governmental authorities were supposed to be more addicted to neutrality and transparency rather than such obvious bias to the president. This asserts the fact that Yemeni government follows the same arbitrary dominance methods adopted by most of the Arab states. The main characteristics of this dominance are fettering press and violating the right to freedom of expression and the right to exchange information.

Thereupon, HRinfo calls upon the Yemeni president not to start his new presidential era with overlooking such serious violations. The Yemeni president is also urged to conduct fair investigations into these incidents. That is in addition to implementing his promises in relation with respecting the freedom of press and the freedom of expression. HRinfo hopes that these promises will not turn into unachievable electoral promises.

The Arabic Network for Human Rights Information is a central repository for human rights information and websites in Arabic throughout the Middle East and North Africa. www.hrinfo.net

Zionazi is the best attribute

By: Jihad El-Khazen

Now, there are thousands and thousands of disagreements among the Arabs and Muslims. These disagreements are far more deadly than the plots of their enemies. While the most dangerous aspect is the sectarian clashes, the readers' mails I daily receive, and save, show that they disagree on everything.

I may take Lebanon as an example, as it is the mirror of the nation. I received messages that support Hizbullah and Sayyed Hassan Nasrullah. Others were harsh attacks that extended even to me. The Lebanese are in dispute over the latest war and every other past war, and even over the future, and peace.

Every Lebanese acts as though he were the president or prime minister. Each has his own opinion and thinks he can never be wrong. These differences mean that the Lebanese will inevitably agree on a bottom line that would give each party some of its rights. Lebanon would not be a theocratic State. It will certainly not become a religious Shiite country or a Christian State.

Moreover, the Druze will not have a State in the Chouf region. The only possible State in Lebanon is a State for all the Lebanese. I also found that the only thing shared by all the readers, if any, is that everyone puts his issue before any other issue. They think and move within the scope of these private issues. Let us take an unbiased example.

Siamand Ibrahim is a Kurdish journalist, who is renowned in the Arab region, and every now and then he sends me agreeable messages. He starts and ends his analyses with the Kurdish issue. In his last message, he wrote that terror killed less than 3000 in the US, and, ever since then, US actions have been ceaseless.

However, he writes, Saddam Hussein killed more than three thousand Kurds with poison gas in Halabja and was not instantly punished. What I recall of Halabja is that the US, Saddam Hussein's ally at the time, stated that it was Iran that used poison gas against the Kurds to lay the blame on Saddam Hussein. I found that the Arabs disagree on a point, which should not be that controversial. I had proposed to

respond to the use of Islamofascism by using the terms "Nazi Zionists" or "Zionazis".

I received messages supporting that. Nonetheless, a reader, Salem, thought that I was an agent of the Saudi government. But he did not elaborate on my so-called relation with the Saudis. But another reader, Muhammad, said I offered the best possible definition. I highly appreciate the opinions of both Tariq and Hisham, and wish they will not turn against me if I write something against their views.

Every week, I receive at least one message in French. This week, it was from Rasheed Sabbagh. Sabbagh said that I reflect his opinion as well as that of millions of Arabs (of course, not including Salem, who is an Arab). He said that "Zionazi" is the best description of those barbaric imperialists, and called on all the Arab journalists to use "Zionazi" instead of "Israeli". I ask all my readers not to drift into anti-Semitism when they attack Israel's Nazi government and cabinet members.

The majority of Jews around the world is moderate and wants peace. Some of the best writings I have read defending the Palestinians and Arabs are by renowned Jews. President George Bush is another example of how one should be disciplined and decent, and not oppose the law. I am against the US foreign policy in the Middle East. I sharply criticize the Bush administration and its key figures.

However, I exclude the State Secretary, Dr Condoleezza Rice, because she is relatively better than the others, not because she supports any Arab claim. I recently said that President Bush does not read; and even when he reads, he does not understand. This was in an article in which I dealt with the decisive influence of the extremist neo-conservatives, who are loyal to Israel, on US foreign policy.

Immediately, I was showered with messages, which were either comments or gave additional information. Also, there were messages filled with racial insults and abuses, among other things. I could not publish them, because there is a legal liability, in addition to professional and ethical reasons. We are in Britain, a law-abiding country, where the citizens

enjoy the freedom of the press and have immunity, which protects them from libel.

I will proceed with two messages worth noting. A reader, Aqeel, noted that I attack US policy and sometimes dwell on Prime Minister Tony Blair's affiliation with George Bush. But he sees that this is not important or useful, because I do not formulate Western policy. He thinks that it would be better if I talked about the persecution, injustice and misery in the Arab countries. I will skip the derogatory words in the message, although I could respond more harshly. I confirm that when I write on the Arab countries, I always state that they lack democracy, human rights, the rule of law, accountability, transparency and the rights of women. And, today, I reiterate this attitude. I wish the reader Aqeel would send his accusations to the right person; otherwise he will hear something he will not like.

Another reader, Lena Al-Hajj, asks why I do not write my articles in English "so that foreign journalists and those concerned can read them to know that their analyses and their superficial cleverness do not deceive us." She also said that I do not give Syria enough support. Dear Lena! My readers say that I support Syria too much, and this is another point of disagreement among my readers. More important, my articles and the articles of my colleagues in Al-Hayat and all the special articles of the newspaper are translated into English.

The problem is not in the availability of the material, but in understanding it. This is the problem of George Bush and some of my readers. - Al-Hayat Zionazi is the best attribute.

Jihad El-Khazen, columnist and former editor of the daily Al-Hayat. Source: The Star newspaper

Muslims are paramount allies in fighting "jihadism"

By: Abbas Barzegar

Last summer, following the London underground and bus attacks, New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote in an op-ed piece: "If it's a Muslim problem, it needs a Muslim solution." Almost immediately, his call spread across the global media network. Muslim leaders were summoned to offer answers. Many leaders simply offered that "true Islam" does not stand for such acts of violence and cowardice. Many recognize that Friedman's call was not truly directed at a Muslim audience, but rather at a Western audience frustrated with what it saw as Muslim complacency with so-called jihadism. Such thinking neglected the fact that it was Muslim, not Western, societies that have been most adversely affected by Islamic radicalism, and failed to recognize the great efforts Muslims have taken to challenge these dangers.

While Western societies have only recently fallen victim to Islamic militancy, it has been Muslim families, schools, cities and cultures that have been dealing with the much more insidious day-to-day challenges of curbing the enticing persuasions of Islamic militant ideology. In the wake of Cold War policies where Muslim societies like those in Somalia, Afghanistan and Palestine were treated like pawns in a game of chess, trying to argue against an ideology that deceitfully promises empowerment, dignity and eternal reward has for decades been the courageous and consistent work of Muslim religious leaders and the overwhelming majority of their constituents. By recognising

these efforts, the Western world might find allies in the fight against this perverted jihadism.

The first step in this direction is to recognise that Muslim societies have fought extremism in general within their tradition for centuries and have made such efforts central to the overall vision of creating a just and "God-conscious" social order. Enshrined in the ethical obligation to "enforce the good and eradicate the evil," Muslims in the founding days of Islam succeeded early on in overcoming extremist sects, such as the Kharijites, whose unbridled zealotry threatened the Prophet Muhammad's overall mission. In such cases, sincere Muslims combated these evils with both their hands and their pens. Many sections of the Muslim world today now stand poised to do the same: it is through this aspect of Muslim faith, accompanied by proper Western engagement, that Islamic radicalism will find its greatest threat.

In places as insular as Saudi Arabia, whose religious authorities produce some of the most myopic interpretations of Islam, the duty to stop extremist violence has been taken up with a noticeable degree of success. In 2004, the Saudi royal family, backed by the leading Islamic scholars in the kingdom, offered a month-long amnesty to terrorists to turn themselves in or thereafter suffer extermination. The effort led to the surrender of some of Osama bin Laden's top officials within days. What made the amnesty possible was the mediating role of the Sheikh al-Hawali, a former senior-ranking theologian at one of the country's leading seminaries, Umm al-Qurra University, who was, ironically,

also imprisoned for five years on account of his views against the U.S. military presence in the region. Militant extremists respected al-Hawali as a credible scholar whose words carried the weight of the hereafter.

Those regarded as the most authoritative curators of Islamic law - imams, mullahs, sheikhs and scholars - should be employed in the ideological struggle against terrorism, precisely because it is their voices that may be the only ones heard by renegades.

Al-Hawali's role might be compared to that of Ayatollah Ali Sistani's in Iraq and his successful effort at defusing the Muqtada al-Sadr standoff in Najaf in 2004. The creation of a national Muslim council in France designed to codify Islamic law and hold French Muslim citizens accountable to it might serve as yet another example. These cases highlight the fact that the Muslim world has at its disposal institutional resources, the foremost being clerical and legal authority, to curb extremism. These should be considered by all parties concerned about preventing further violence. By recognising that Muslims the world over have strong and sincere ethical commitments toward the eradication of all forms of corruption, vice and extremism, Western leaders and thinkers might find successful partners in places they never imagined.

Abbas Barzegar is a graduate student at Emory University. His research focuses on the complexity and cultural, religious, and political diversity of the American Muslim community. This article is distributed by the Common Ground News Service (CGNews) www.commongroundnews.org.



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Why schooling? An investigation

By: Raidan Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

Although half the population of Yemen are children less than 14 years of age, little focus and attention is given to them either through government policies, such as education and childcare programs, or as the community where our children are born and raised. Yemen has one of the worlds highest population growth rates of 3.4 percent, which means the Yemeni population will continue to grow and become a major concern on how the current generations ensure a secure and sustainable future for upcoming generations.

No matter how limited and constrained, efforts to contain the problem of population growth are underway and government policies and plans are formulated with the help of International bodies and NGOs in order to promote the concepts of population growth, social gender and reproductive health, but what about efforts exerted in order to raise mentally and physically healthy infants and knowledgeable children who could become an asset to the country, not a liability.

Fifty years ago, countries such as China and India were warned they would face real catastrophes and mass unemployment and starvation if their population continued to grow to the extent it has grown today, with populations of 1.3 and 1 billion people, what is it that China and India did and how did they do it?

Economics indicate that people have economic value because they can produce output, and the more people you have exerting physical or any sort of labor then economic output would subsequently increase. The simple strategy China and India implemented is a policy of mass qualification; to teach the people how to work.

Understanding that qualification is the key issue, Yemen has an opportunity at hand to create a giant leap forward by adopting a similar policy of mass qualification, starting from kindergarten level towards higher education and vocational



An Expense, an Investment or a necessary sacrifice?

Photo by Jamil AbdulKarim

training. However, Yemen's educational has flaws within it. YemenTimes took the opportunity to survey opinions on Yemen's educational system and if it can achieve mass qualification for Yemeni children in such a manner that would create a giant leap into the future.

Ms. Jalila S., a kindergarten teacher, said Yemeni children are among the brightest in the world: "Every day I am amazed and inspired how fast some children learn and understand, to the extent that you can have an adult-like conversation with them," she said. "Unfortunately, very few children have the opportunity to go to a kindergarten which can teach them many things to allow them to make the most of their childhood years." Saying that at a time when many children especially in rural Yemen start their very first learning at the age of six in primary school.

"This is the most sensitive and critical situation a young child can be put in" says Anees Al-Maini, a primary school teacher; "When the child comes as a clean slate to his first day at school, he or she either fits in or develops a complex with regards to

education," he adds "every child needs to be personally taken care of in order to develop a link with the teacher and the school, while the huge numbers of new students do not permit us to look after the welfare of the children for their education's sake." Perhaps several privet schools do some sort of orientation for teachers and also for children when they join in, but those are the exception.

Anees also said "Most teachers in public school only come to teach because they have no other job, as being a teacher is at the lower end of career choices in Yemen, and therefore many teachers are simply unqualified enough to shape and lives and minds of young pupils". From my conversation with Anees, I realized that several fundamental changes need to take place for Yemen's current educational system to become a mass qualification system. The survey went on to the hands of Mr. Emad Adel, who is deputy principle at one of Sana'a private schools, he said "There is huge contrast between the students in secondary schools, while some do have a genuine desire to learn, many others do not see the point of doing

their homework or studying for their exams other than the certification and grades, you find many students who have completed their primary school and got good grades, but when you ask them - for example - where is Turkey or Ethiopia, they don't know!"

He also added "It's not the fault of the education system if the students don't want to learn and acquire knowledge; it is the fault of the teachers and parents who don't motivate the children to learn or show them the true value of knowledge..." There is some truth to what Mr. Emad said; qualification isn't only the result of schooling, it's the result of a number of factors including guidance and commitment.

There are common ideologies and traditions in Yemen which dictate the upbringing of children, however, those ideologies do not necessarily help parents and teachers raise up children committed to learning and knowledge, what Yemen needs is a change of perception, says Dr. Waheeb Alwan, director of a training institute: "We receive young men and women with an ironic set of perceptions about life, thinking that by getting some sort of

Business in brief

PM: Ensures stable and affordable prices during Ramadan

Prime Minister Bajammal met with several food products manufacturers and importers as well as with the Ministers of Trade and Agriculture and agreed with them to keep production and import of food products at the maximum and ensure no monopoly or undersupply of any food product takes place to ensure that supply meets the increased demand to avoid any price hikes. Additionally, the Prime Minister has indicated that a monitoring mechanism is in place to ensure stable and affordable prices of food products.

50,000 employment opportunities for Yemeni workers in gulf annually

Sources at the Ministry of Finance has indicated that Yemen is negotiating with the neighboring gulf countries in order to allow 50,000 Yemeni skilled and semi-skilled workers to obtain work permits in the gulf countries annually during the 10-year habilitation phase of Yemen's accession to the Gulf Cooperative Council.

New Investments in Aden Free Zone

Sources at the Investment Promotion Authority said a delegation of investors is coming to Yemen to study the feasibility of establishing a plant for refining burnt oils, adding that investment in the first phase of this project will reach US\$ 10 million. The source said negotiations are underway for the establishment of a cement factory, a paper recycling plant, a steel works plant, a four-star resort and a medical

training institute among others.

Port of Aden Facilities Upgraded
The Port of Aden has invested over US\$ 540,000 in upgrading its facilities in order to minimize time wastage and ensure efficiency through the purchase of three additional cranes in order to carry containers from and on board Cargo ships, the port authority have also invested in two tracks to move containers from the port onto trucks.

Overseas Assets of Yemen's banking Industry Increase

A report by the Central Bank of Yemen said the assets of the Yemeni Banking Industry Abroad has increased by 2.05 percent by the end of August this year compared to last year, reaching US\$ 1.554 Billion in worth.

Yemen, China trade to hit US\$ 3.5billion

Trade forecasts indicate that trade between China and Yemen is expected to increase to US\$3.5 billion by the end of this year, while China continues to be one of Yemen's largest trading partners, Crude oil is Yemen's main export to China, while electronics, cars, food-stuffs and textiles are among the leading imports from China.

SOCO announces increase in Oil production

SOCO International plc of the UK has announced that its current daily oil production averaging 12,000 gallons per day in 2005 have a strong potential to increase to 45,000 gallons per day once production in the Khurair oil field in Shabwa among other oil fields.

Government share of oil exports rises to \$2.9 billion

By: Isamil Al-Ghabiri

SANA'A, Oct. 1 - The Yemeni government share of crude oil exports increased to almost 45 million barrels worth just under US \$3 billion over the past eight months, jumping up with 6 million more barrels and almost doubling their worth

According to a report by the Central

Bank of Yemen, the monetary and banking development and the 14.8 percent increase in the government share of exports are attributed to the rising prices of oil in international markets. The high oil prices helped increase the volume of exports and the average price per barrel in international markets.

The report indicated that the average price of Yemeni crude oil per barrel

rose to US \$65.62 from 49.43 in 2005 while the government share of crude oil exports constitutes 63 percent of the total exports, 70 percent of the state's general budget revenues and 30 percent of the gross domestic product.

The report stated the unified budget of commercial and Islamic banks working in Yemen increased by the end of last August from 36.4 billion to 94.9

billion Yemeni Riyals with a 49 percent increase compared to last year.

At the end of August, 2005, the unified budget of commercial and Islamic banks reached 746 billion Yemeni Riyals while the external assets of these banks came at 254.3 billion Yemeni Riyals last August, compared to 249.7 billion Yemeni Riyals by the end of last July.

OPINION

World Development Report 2007

By: Raidan Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
alsaqqaf@gmail.com

One of the most important documents for policymakers, economists, journalists, and any person who has a genuine interest in development is the World Development Report issued by the World Bank, below are excerpts from the report and the report abstract as well.

"Most developing countries have a short window of opportunity to get this right before their record numbers of youth become middle-aged, and they lose their demographic dividend. This isn't just enlightened social policy. This may be one of the profound decisions a developing country will ever make to banish poverty and galvanize its economy" says Emmanuel Jimenez, lead author of the World Development Report 2007.

"Young people today have more education, experience greater political openness, and have increased contact with the outside world through television, the internet, and migration than any of their predecessors, and this can ease their transition into being the law-abiding, engaged citizens of tomorrow" says Manta Murthi, co-author of the World Development Report 2007.

"Such large numbers of young people living in developing countries present great opportunities, but also risks... The opportunities are great, as many countries will have a larger, more skilled labor force and fewer dependents. But these young people

must be well-prepared in order to create and find good jobs" says François Bourguignon, the World Bank's Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics.

Report Abstract:

The theme of the World Development Report (WDR) 2007 is youth, aged 12 to 24. It focuses on decisions concerning the five phases with the biggest long-term impact on how human capital is kept safe, developed, and deployed. For each phase (continuing to learn, starting to work, developing a healthful lifestyle, beginning a family, and exercising citizenship) governments must increase investments directly and cultivate an environment for young people and their families to invest in themselves. The WDR suggests that a youth lens on policies affecting the five phases would help focus on three broad directions: expanding opportunities, enhancing capabilities, and providing second chances. Each pathway (opportunities, capabilities, and second chances) is applied to each of the transitions, generating reform suggestions. To mobilize the economic and political resources to stimulate such reforms, countries must resolve three issues: better coordination and integration with national policy, stronger voice, and more evaluation. In addition, the WDR examines both youth migration, and their increasing use of new technologies.

Complete Report is available for download at the World Bank's website: www.worldbank.org

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SHARYOOF FIELD PLANT OPERATOR

Dove Energy Limited invites Yemeni Nationals only to apply for the position of Plant Operator. The position is based in Sharyoof Field.

Responsibilities

- Operate the Sharyoof facilities in a safe and prudent manner so as to minimize the risk to personnel, company property and the environment.
- Closely monitor all and equipment checks, and record operational data as often as deemed necessary to ensure continuous running.
- Perform well and equipment checks, and record operational data as often as deemed necessary to ensure continuous running.
- Prepare production, safety and environmental reports as required.
- Closely monitor product quality and adjust process setting as necessary to maintain export specifications.
- Closely monitor and record all chemical, lubricant and fuel usage to ensure optimum equipment performance.
- Report immediately to the Senior Operator /Site Manager all safety issues, equipment malfunctions, and changes in well operation conditions that could potentially interfere with the safety of the on-site personnel, and/or crude export volumes.
- Work closely with the Maintenance Team to optimize the efficiency and safety of the plant.
- Train Junior Operators and Trainee Operators in the correct and safe operation of the Sharyoof CPF and well facilities.
- Maintain a high level of environmental awareness to ensure company and government policies and adhered to.

Qualifications and experience Preferred

- Minimum 3 years experience in the Oil and gas industry with knowledge of ESP operations, tank farm, 2/3 Phase Separation, Water Injection.
- Operational knowledge of a Diesel Production Unit would be of great advantage.
- Good knowledge of written and spoken English.

Interested candidates are request to submit their CVs and applications by mail to the Dove Energy, Human resources Department, by fax or by email to hr@doveyemen.com.ye

Responses will only be made to short listed candidates.

Mailing address:
Dove Energy Limited
P.O.Box 16910
Sana'a Republic of Yemen

Fax Detail:
Fax No. 967 1 413767

The deadline for receiving applications is 21st October, 2006

إبتارات - تدريب - تعليم

بمناسبة شهر رمضان

برامج تأهيلية جديدة ومميزة

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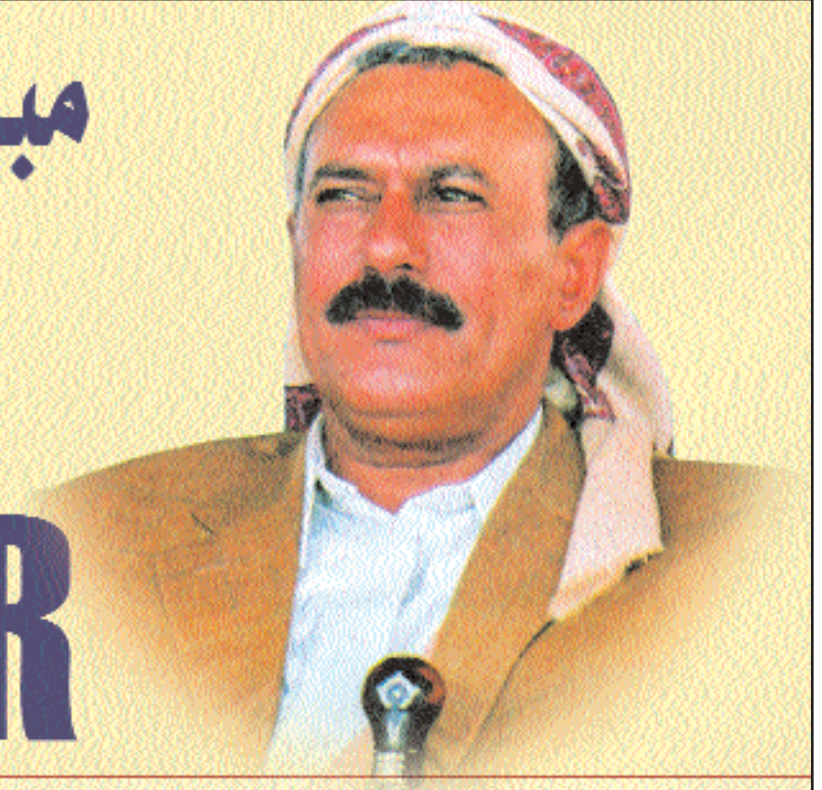
Consulting - Training - Qualifying

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و

26 SEPTEMBER

المبارك



شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

THE NATIONAL CIGARETTES & MATCHES
INDUSTRIES LTD.

ممثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة التنفيذي الشيخ /

Represented by Chairman of the Board of
Directors, Sheikh Saleh Salem Ba Thawab,
and all officers and employees

صالح سالم باثواب

وجميع موظفيها وعمالها

Represent their heartfelt congratulations
to the maker of Yemen's development, His
Excellency President of the Republic

تتقدم بأطيب التهاني والتبريكات إلى قائد النهضة

وباني اليمن الحديث الاخ /

Ali Abdallah Saleh

عَلِيٌّ عَبْدَ اللَّهِ صَالِحٌ

رئيس الجمهورية

For the mutual confidence between the
great leader and Yemeni loyal people,
which coincides with our people's celebra-
tions of the blessed 44th anniversary of
the 26th September revolution and the glo-
rious 43rd anniversary of the 14th October
revolution.

وإلى أبناء شعبنا اليمني العظيم

بمناسبة الثقة المتبادلة بين القائد العظيم وأبناء

And on the occasion of 44th Anniversary
of 26 September Revolution and the
advent of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

الشعب اليمني الوفي الذي يتزامن مع افراح شعبنا

بالذكرى الـ ٤٤ لثورة الـ ٢٦ من سبتمبر الخالدة

والذكرى الـ ٤٣ لثورة الـ ١٤ من اكتوبر المجيد

وبمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك

اعادة الله علينا بالخير واليمن والبركات

وكل عام وجميع بألف خير

Many happy returns




**BRITISH COUNCIL
Yemen**
**The British Council Yemen wishes to recruit an
IT / INFORMATION ASSISTANT**

Job aim: In conjunction with IT Support in Dubai, to provide effective and timely support to British Council Yemen users and to ensure IT systems and practices meet corporate standards and service level agreements; to provide information on British Council activities and services on Intranet and Internet and to respond effectively to general information enquiries.

Essential competencies and skills:

- University degree or equivalent in IT/ Information Science
- Two years' experience as IT Assistant
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English and Arabic
- Customer service orientation
- Achievement
- Team working

If you are interested in applying for one of these posts, please email recruitment@yc.britishcouncil.org for a job description and application form. Please do not send CVs.

Closing date for applications is 15 October 2006

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project "Masila Community Water and Sanitation".

Post Title: Community Development Associate (G-7)
Duration: Full Time-06 months (renewable)
Location: Field (Ressib village project office)

Responsibilities

- Assist the Team with gaining access to, and an understanding of, the Project communities while serving as the Team's main liaison with Project communities.
- Provide the Team with community development insights, socio-economic and cultural knowledge, and language skills.
- Provide insight and linkages to related projects and/or development agencies in the Project area.
- Ensure continuous Project liaison with all stakeholders, particularly those within the Governorate of Hadhramaut, and maintain similar liaison with UNDP Sana'a.
- Prepare and implement a field-based communication strategy to provide on-going Project information/awareness to stakeholders and the public in general. Contribute material to UNDP Sana'a based communication activities addressing the wider national and international audience.

Qualification

- University Degree in Community Development or Social Sciences or any related field of study.
- At least three years experience in the field of Community Development.
- Excellent command of Arabic and good command of English.
- Good communication and writing skills in both languages.
- Proven Leadership qualities.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.
UNDP, P.O.Box 551 Sana'a/Fax: 448892/E-mail: hr.ye@undp.org
The deadline for receiving applications is Thursday, 12th October 2006

UNDP IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION AND QUALIFIED FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.


VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites **Yemeni Nationals** to apply for the following position with its project "Masila Community Water and Sanitation".

Post Title: National Project Manager (NO-C)
Duration: Full Time-06 months (renewable)
Location: Field (Ressib village project office)

Responsibilities

- Work in close collaboration with all Team members under the specific guidance of the UNDP's Economic Growth Team Leader, assisted by the International Project Advisor, and with administrative support from the UNDP's Project Officer.
- Assume prime Field responsibility for the timely implementation of approved Project Work Plans and related Budgets.
- Be the focal point for the preparation and coordination of Team members' proposed Field activities.
- Provide overall guidance and professional support to all Team Specialists to encourage and assist with, the input of individual skills, recommendations and expertise to the Project in a creative and integrated manner.
- Identify, encourage and develop opportunities for additional developmental opportunities within the scope of the Project including socio-economic development, training, capacity building and technology transfer for and between Team members, beneficiaries and other stakeholders.
- Assist the Team with gaining access to, and an understanding of, the Project communities, key stakeholders and their interests, and other potential partners while serving as the Team's main liaison with these entities at the Field level.
- Provide the Team with community development insights, socio-economic and cultural knowledge, and language skills;
- Prepare and guide a formal process of Team, beneficiary and stakeholder coordination and reporting sessions. Prepare formal records of such sessions;
- Complete all UNDP-required, Field-level financial management activities, progress reports, monitoring and other administrative activities with guidance from UNDP's Project Officer and the Project Advisor, and supported by other Team members.
- Lead or assist with preparation of detailed Work Plans for all Team members;

Qualification

- A Master degree in Business Administration or Project Management or related field of study.
- At least five years of relevant experience.
- Excellent command of Arabic and English.
- Excellent communication and writing skills in both languages.
- Should have some project management experience.
- Proven Leadership qualities.

Interested candidates are requested to visit our website at: <http://www.undp.org/ye/undp-vacancies.htm> for detailed term of reference of the position and may submit their applications indicating the title of the post applied for by mail to Human Resources Unit and response will only be made to short listed candidates.
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UNDP IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION AND QUALIFIED FEMALE CANDIDATES ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.


**General Tender Announcement
Number (9-b) Year 2006**
For The Third Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the third time for the following::

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of Montag unites for the Satellite Channel. .

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 400\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

Place and date for opening the envelopes:

The envelopes are to be opened at 11 AM on Monday 6/11/2006 at the corporation premises.


**General Tender Announcement
Number (9-c) Year 2006**
For The Third Time

Yemen Radio and TV Corporation re-announces tender for the third time for the following:

- Supply, supervising installation, testing, hand-over and guarantee of lighting equipment handy for the Satellite Channel.

Interested specialized and manufacturing companies in this field are to come to the Corporation's premises- engineering sector, projects department in Sana'a near the Ministry of Public Health and Population during official working hours in order to obtain the tenders documents.

Tender fees: Non-refundable US 100\$ an additional 100\$ is charged for optional postal delivery.

General conditions:

- 1- Primary guarantee of 2.5% of the total tender cost and valid for 120 days from the date of opening the envelopes
- 2- Valid tax card for 2006
- 3- Valid commercial registration card for 2006
- 4- Valid Insurance card for 2006
- 5- Valid Alms (Zakat) card for 2006
- 6- The envelopes are to be sealed in red wax
- 7- Commitment to the general and special conditions stated in the tender documents

Place and date for opening the envelopes:

The envelopes are to be opened at 11 AM on Saturday morning 11/11/2006 at the corporation premises.

((وبشر المابرين الذين اذا امامتهم مصيبة قالوا انا لله و انا اليه راجعون))

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

الأستاذ / محمد أحمد الكهالي

رئيس مجلس إدارة البنك الأهلي

في وفاة المغفور له بإذن الله تعالى والده الحاج /

أحمد بن أحمد الكهالي

سائلين الله العلي القدير أن يتغمد الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته

وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان ..

ولا حول ولا قوة إلا بالله العلي العظيم

المعزون،

أ / نادية عبدالعزيز السقايف

رئيس مجلس الإدارة ورئيس التحرير

أ / خير الدين محمد النصور

نائب رئيس مجلس الإدارة

أ / رضوان علوي السقايف

مدير فرع الصحافة في عدن

وكافة هيئة التحرير في مؤسسة يمن تاييمز للصحافة والطباعة والنشر

Ramadan 2006 (Part III)

As for those who believe and do right actions—We impose on no soul any more than it can bear—they are the Companions of the Garden, remaining in it timelessly, for ever. (Qur'an, 7:42)



By: Harun Yahya
www.harunyahya.com

Whoever has three things discovers the sweetness of faith: that Allah and His Messenger are more beloved to him than all else, that he love another only for the sake of Allah Most High, and that he hate to return to disbelief as he would hate to be thrown into fire."
(Muslim and Bukhari)

Secrets of finding the straight path

Almost everyone has his own rights and wrongs. The criteria used to determine these rights and wrongs differ greatly. A book, a person, a politician, or, at times, a philosopher may well be the guide in life for a person. However, the right path, which is the only path that leads to salvation, is the religion which God has chosen. In this path, the unique goal is to earn the pleasure, mercy and paradise of God.

Other paths, no matter how attractive they may seem, are deceptive and lead to ruin, hopelessness, unhappiness and painful punishment both in this world and in the hereafter. Those who are guided to the straight path are a secret revealed in the Qur'an. They are the servants God has guided to His straight path and who earn His paradise.

Believing with certainty Before all else, one needs to have faith in order to be guided to the straight path. If one believes that the only possessor and creator of the heavens and the earth and everything in between is God, and is certain that the reason of his existence in the world is to be the servant of God, and seeks to earn God's contentment all through his life, God guides him to the straight path.

Faith in God, in the hereafter and the Qur'an should be a resolute and certain faith. Although some people say that they are believers, they may have doubts. When they are together with



disbelievers and remain under their influence, such people are likely to display weaknesses and assume a hostile attitude against God and His religion.

However, those God guides to the straight path have a resolute and

unwavering faith: And so that those who have been given knowledge will know it is the truth from their Lord and believe in it and their hearts will be humbled to Him. God guides those who believe to a straight path. (Surat al-Hajj: 54)

Turning to God with complete

submission Believers' turning to God with complete submission is another secret of being guided to the straight path. For one who believes in God and fears the hereafter, this world holds no charm.

When the only ambition is to please God, true believers turn to God in all their acts, and knowing that God is testing them, they submit themselves to the fate God has predetermined. God has informed that those who submit themselves to Him will be guided to the straight path: How can you disbelieve, when God's Signs are recited to you and the Messenger is there among you? Whoever holds fast to God has been guided to a straight path. (Surah Ali 'Imran: 101)

Believers who fear God strive to purify themselves of their wrongdoing and to attain the moral perfection God will be most pleased with. However, one needs humility to be absolved of mistakes and receive guidance to the straight path.

God gives good news to His servants who avoid following the Satan and obey those who call to the Qur'an and to its commands:

Those who shun the worship of false gods and turn towards God will have good news. So give good news to My servants. Those who listen well to what is said and follow the best of it, they are the ones whom God has guided, and they are the people of intelligence. (Surat az-Zumar: 17-18)

Living fossils refute evolution

The Assassin Bug that Led to Darwin's Death

Fossils refute evolution. This fact, one of the difficulties that faced Darwin's theory 150 years ago, is now plain for all to see.

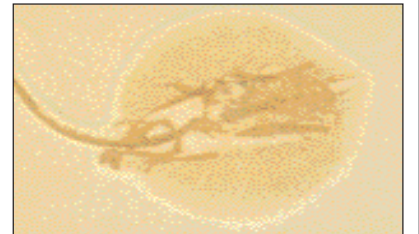
Assassin bugs are widespread all over the world and known so because of their speed and the way they poison their prey (Order Hemiptera). These 120-million-year-old fossil specimens are identical to assassin bugs living today.



A 50-Million-Year-Old Stingray

This 50-million-year-old stingray was found in Green River in Wyoming.

The details in the tail of this perfectly preserved fossil are striking, showing that this specimen is identical to pre sentday stingrays.



A 127-Million-Year-Old Needlefish

This fossil fish, known as a needlefish because of its shape, was found in the Ramlia Taouz region of Morocco. At 127 million years of age, it dates back to the Cretaceous period, and is identical to needlefish of today.



www.living-fossils.com

Signs of Allah's creation

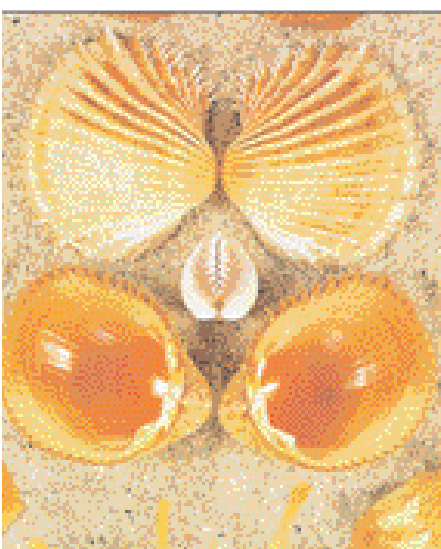
Perfect symmetry in living things

Have a look at your face in the mirror. You will see perfect symmetry. Pick up a magazine and start turning its pages. The people you see there as you turn its pages, and the birds, flowers and butterflies you see when you look at the outside world, share the same symmetry. Symmetry is one of the factors that provides harmony in the universe.

All creatures have asymmetrical structure. When you look at sea creatures, you see the same symmetry. Fish, crabs, shrimp... Take a pair of seashells in your hand and arrange them in a symmetrical way.

You will again encounter a perfect order and symmetry in the arrangement of the lines and in their arrangement from larger to smaller. No matter what creature you look at in nature, every time an extraordinary order, perfect symmetry and matchless diversity of color will be observed. The defenders of the evolution theory, which claims that everything in the universe has come into being as a result of haphazardly occurring coincidences, cannot explain this color diversity, symmetry and order displayed in nature.

It is evident that such a perfect order cannot be explained by blind chance or unconscious events. It is not possible



for evolutionists to explain, with any of the claims they put forward, the formation of the colors of creatures in nature, their designs or symmetry.

Even Charles Darwin had to confess this fact, even though he was the very founder of the theory: I value the cases of bright coloured, incubating male fishes, and brilliant female butterflies, solely as showing that one sex may be made brilliant without any necessary transference of beauty to the other sex; for in the cases I cannot suppose that beauty in the other sex was checked by selection. Surely, no one who is wise and reasonable can claim that the supreme beauty we see around us,

colorful butterflies, roses, violets, strawberries, cherries, all with their dazzling colors, and parrots, peacocks, leopards, in short, the Earth with all its magnificence, has come into existence by chance.

Allah created all living creatures along with their features. The knowledge of Allah surrounds us everywhere. There is no god but He. This is maintained in the Qur'an in this way: Allah, there is no god but Him, the Living, the Self Sustaining. He is not subject to drowsiness or sleep.

Everything in the heavens and the earth belongs to Him. Who can intercede with Him except by His permission? He knows what is before them and what is behind them but they cannot grasp any of His knowledge save what He wills. His Footstool encompasses the heavens and the earth and their preservation does not tire Him. He is the Most High, the Magnificent (Surat al-Baqara: 255).

If evolution had really taken place then living organisms should have developed by gradual incremental changes and continued to change over time. But the fossil record shows the exact opposite. Different groups of organisms appeared suddenly with no similar ancestors behind them, and remained in their original state for millions of years, undergoing no changes at all.

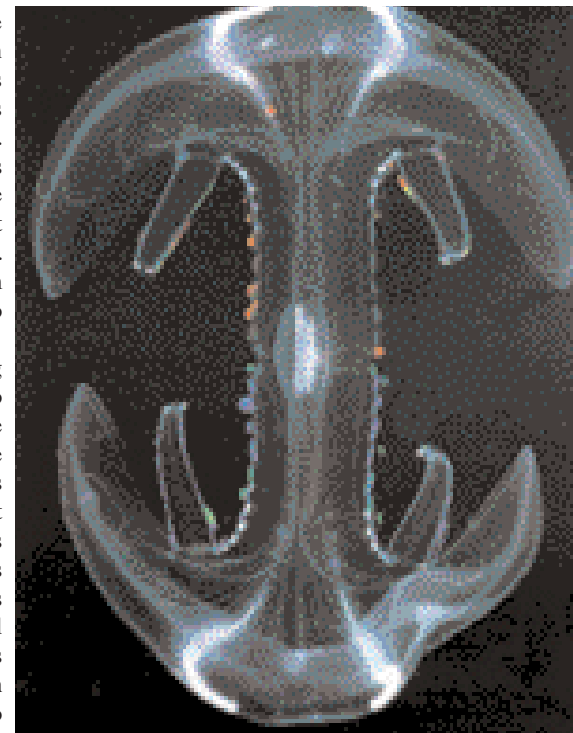
Magnificence of the luminous creatures

One of the best-known luminous creatures is the firefly.

Scientists have spent years of research trying to produce a light as efficient as the light produced by fireflies. Fireflies achieve maximum efficiency and lose almost no energy.

In fact, it is quite amazing that a creature is able to produce light yet, at the same time, is not affected by the heat of this light. Because, as we know, during light production made by today's technology, heat certainly is created and this heat is emitted outside as thermal energy. Therefore, for this reason, creatures which produce light should also suffer harm due to exposure to high heat. However, the creatures producing light are not affected by the heat they produce, because it is weak.

They produce a kind of light called "cold light" and their body structures are designed accordingly. Fireflies are actually a type of beetle which produces yellowish-green lights by means of chemical reactions inside



their bodies. Fireflies, which flash their lights to recognize one another or to give mating signals, use different lengths of flashes according to their species. In addition, in some species, it is the male who flashes first to attract the female, while in other species, the females do the "calling."

Some fireflies use their lights in

self-defense. They flash to warn enemies that their taste is unappetizing. Besides fireflies, a number of other insects, various sea creatures, and many other types of species produce their own light. Each species has different characteristics. These include the manner of light production, the fields of their usage of light, and the lengths and kinds of light they produce.

Who furnished these creatures with systems through which they produce the type of light they can make use of, and then maintains the continuation of these systems? It is not, of course, the creatures themselves. It is not possible for complex organs capable of producing light yet not harming the creatures of which they are part in the process to have come into being as the result of coincidences.

All luminous creatures are evidence of the superior power of the creation of Allah. Allah introduces us, through these creatures He has created, to the evidence of His endless knowledge, wisdom and might.

The Youth Forum section is an uncensored space for youth-related issues written by Yemen Times readers.

Top 10 ways to overcome tragedy & loss

By: Ms. Lakshmi Devi P K
Engineering Secretary
Mövenpick Hotel, Sana'a
littlalachu@yahoo.co.in

Life is fraught with setbacks of different magnitude most of which can be successfully averted if one is armed with the right attitude and if one takes reasonable precaution at the nick of moment.

The following tips my help:

1. Surround yourself with positive people who will act as your support group. This is vital to your overcoming the problem at hand. These people will be there for you through your time of need and will act as your emotional crutch when needed.
2. Never be afraid to ask for help or something you need. For example, if tragedy has caused you to be too emotionally unstable to finish your homework, ask for an extension. Talk to your teacher (s) after class and explain what's going on. Chances are excellent that they will understand.
3. Remember that it is okay to cry. If you feel the need, by all means let the tears flow! It will release some tension and can help you breathe better and even feel a little less burdened.
4. Teens often feel we are alone in an issue when the truth is that millions of people all over the world could be going through the same thing. Remember that you are not alone. If you feel like you don't have anyone to reach out to, there are places you can go to discuss your feelings.
5. When tragedy occurs, many of us blame ourselves. It is important to

remember that even if you were there you probably could not have prevented the unthinkable from happening. Even if you could have prevented it, you need to come to a place of acceptance that, for whatever reason, it just did not work out that way. Some things in life occur at a moments notice and there is nothing any of us can do about them. One thing we can do in a situation of this nature is to try to deal with it the best we can, whether this entails reaching out to others or taking time for ourselves.

6. It is important to find an outlet for all the emotions you are feeling whether its writing, playing music, talking to friends, etc. You may also want to set aside a time each day that's just for you where you can cry or just let out all your emotions.
7. Everyone has different ways and time frames of dealing loss. There is no time limit when it comes to mourning the loss of someone.
8. Try to find comfort in the things you once did. This is very important since you need to find something to numb the pain.
9. If you feel that what you are going through is too much for you to deal with, try to get some professional help. You can talk to counselor, or got to a youth meeting, etc.
10. Remember all of the good times you had. In the event of a death, believe that the person wouldn't want you crying because they're gone but celebrating how fortunate they were to live the life they had. Try to find another perspective, for example, they are just starting a new adventure and needed more than this world had to offer.

How do you spend your holidays?

By: Radhi yahia Alradhi
English Teacher
alradhinet@yahoo.com

Holidays at proper intervals are very important for people to refresh their energy. As the old rhyme says "All work and no play Makes Jack a dull boy"

Holidays are like stations on the journey along the high road of life. Continuous work with out break may

injure the health and end up with tire or fatigue rendering life cheerless and monotonous.

Short holidays, as weekends and festivals send people to their work with renewed zest and energy and they become refreshed and recharged to do their work again.

Students and teachers, in schools and colleges, are usually very eager to welcome holiday after they have finished an academic year of study.

Yet how do they spend their holidays? The answer may suggest a clear difference between a useful and a useless holiday.

The holiday is misused if it is spent in stupid idleness, or in an exhausting round of exciting amusement or any other unhealthy and useless pursuits.

The student or any other person, may come back to his work tired, listless, and uninterested. In this case, the holiday instead of doing well may do harm much more than steady work can do.

The holiday is more useful, if some one goes out into clean and pure air of the country and lives healthily enjoying games and sports and reading useful books or learning

useful skills.

However, one should not be completely idle. Change of occupation is rest, and if some one has little regular work it makes his holiday not only healthier but more enjoyable and useful and he is sure to come back to his work with renewed energy and interest.

For that, parents have to take care of their children's holiday and engage them in learning new skills and taking them in journeys to parks to have some fun and make their children's holiday more useful and fruitful.

Western cultures effect

By: Abdulkreem Al-Aawage
abdulkreem_h_alawage@yahoo.com

Culture isn't the information we get from our heritage or from the other cultures merely. It extends beyond that strongly. It is a series of behaviours, and modes of life affect the society it enters or practices it. It is a method of life actually.

And as we are similar to the other nations affect and influence each of other and because of our weakness of the artificial side before the superpower countries, they enforce their culture on our societies directly or indirectly. It is a natural result to influence the people each of other because the world becomes a tinny village react with all factors and elements around it. We are not out this reactions a Yemeni nation or as Arabic and Islamic nation. Therefore, we have to be aware of this large sea of habits, traditions, methods and behaviours coming from the West or from the East and affect us negatively. We can't seclude ourselves, too, from the recent globalisation, as we are organs share in forming its gesture even on the social level.

However, e has got our special habits, traditions, and culture, which have got their features, and characteristics, too.

They are influenced strongly because they are not out of the persons they believe them and take them as a style for life. Then, we will be affected through the dealing and reacting with those cultures. It is so obvious now that effects throughout the hair dress cutting, and the different fashions at the both sexes, males and females of our youths. It may extend beyond that really as to believe our youths some negative thoughts about their religion or culture. We are not against any culture refers back with the benefits on our society and nations.

So, we have take some steps to enhance our beliefs and confidence in our religion and culture as following: Mosques Imams, may preach about these effects and the way we have to trace to strengthen our confidence in our culture, specially by giving examples from the past and recent time. TH same role can be taken by the local intellectuals through out their different performances. Governmental and non-Governmental organizations can face such phenomenon using the sessions consernating on the great features of our culture.

Moreover, the different media which has its significant influence on the mass. Finally, the social figures have an important deal of influence on the people as we are still considered tribal society.

Life's what you make it

By: Shahid Perwej
English Teacher
Sam Yemen International School
Shahid_perwej@yahoo.co.in

If you take interest, evince enthusiasm and do something beyond the sphere of your routine duties, you are bound to excel and attract success. There is always a better way of doing any job and if you wish to excel, you must find that better way.

By actively seeking that better way of doing a thing, you are already on the march, on your way up and making progress. The great and constant urge to do better to bring about improvement and to accomplish more is the mark of self motivated and dedicated leader.

Good things do not happen because we merely desire them or even deserve them. Instead, we have to make them happen by our iron will, hard work, sweat and toil. Life is what you make it, whether winning a bride or battle, face or fortune, power or position, health or wealth, success comes through positive thinking, planned action and profound

enthusiasm.

If success is to come to you, you must play your part to encourage it by staking faith and displaying confidence. When you firmly believe in yourself and what you are seeking to accomplish as your life's missions, you will generate a force which will drive you to the successful attainment of your goal. If you believe in yourself others will automatically believe in you.

The leader who is fully confident of himself and of his ability to accomplish his task will radiate a certain pervasive influence which will inspire others to repose confidence in him and follow his leadership with zeal and enthusiasm, your disposition and attitude rather than your position or possessions will ultimately decide your success and happiness. Your tomorrow depends entirely what you do today. In a nutshell, life is what you make it.

The pathway to success is paved with sweat and toil and only those who venture to convert dreams into reality or the impossible into possible can claim the crown.

Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy E. Parker

ACROSS

- 1 Cornmeal concoction
- 5 Some meet at corners
- 10 Brightest cohort
- 14 Middle Eastern muck-a-muck
- 15 Like Audubon's interests
- 16 Feverish state
- 17 Jewish calendar month
- 18 Big-nosed Muppet
- 19 Hamstrung, e.g.
- 20 Knowledge and then some
- 23 Board partner
- 24 Harper Valley grp.
- 25 Millennial Church member
- 29 We like them boring
- 31 LAX datum
- 34 It has a flat neck
- 35 Cookie with filling
- 36 Among other things
- 37 What Bill Gates has, you'd think
- 40 Pirouette pivot points
- 41 Lousy eggs?
- 42 Cliched
- 43 Do the wrong thing

DOWN

- 1 To be, to Tacitus
- 45 Dissertation
- 46 Go downhill willfully
- 47 It can comes before dawn
- 48 Eternal trip
- 56 Inner tubes, geometrically
- 57 Acne years, for many
- 58 No longer spouses
- 60 Study, and then some
- 61 Upright
- 62 Little row
- 63 Odium
- 64 Is venturesome
- 65 Certain British party member
- 1 West, of films
- 2 Wrinkly tangelo
- 3 Stay away from
- 4 Word with brother or sister
- 5 Baseball great Honus
- 6 Circumvent
- 7 Curse of wool
- 8 Pass time idly

9 Seasonal road clearer

- 10 Lightweight wood
- 11 Dated expletive
- 12 Form of wrestling
- 13 Swarm
- 21 Iron girder
- 22 Possessive pronoun
- 25 Turtle shell
- 26 Part of a wedding vow
- 27 Comparatively fit
- 28 Singer Kristofferson
- 29 Mountain ridge
- 30 Comes one with another
- 31 Fashionable Perry
- 32 For the full band, on a score
- 33 Fire remains
- 35 Milo's partner in a film
- 36 Take off the coat
- 38 Took a firm stand
- 39 It's a gas!
- 44 ___ out (barely make)
- 45 Has faith in
- 46 Ooze
- 47 Explorer ___ de Leon
- 48 Engrave
- 49 Nick Charles' wife
- 50 Mild expletive
- 51 Part of Doris Day's theme song
- 52 Express derision
- 53 Finch's home
- 54 Public art show, e.g.
- 55 Time unit
- 59 Swine pen

"NO END IN SIGHT" by Travis Holt

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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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Made in Yemen - Ramadan delicacies

Every issue, we will bring you recipes of a number of Yemeni traditional foods made especially during Ramadan. We will also provide you with health tips regarding some of the food items for your benefit. **Bon appétit!**

Ma'souba:

Ingredients:

1 cups flour
3 cups wheat
Pinch of salt
- cup Ghee
Pressed dates according to taste (6 dates is recommended)
Warm water for making the dough
Madarah (Yemeni stone bowl used for cooking) - optional

Instructions:

Making the bread:

1. Mix the flour with the wheat and a pinch of salt for taste and make a soft dough with the warm water

2. Leave to rest for 10 minutes

3. Heat wide pan or oven

4. Cut the dough into 2 pieces or one piece if pan is less than 10 inches wide

5. Make a thick layer of dough by spreading it to about 10 inches in diameter

6. Place into pan and roast until golden from one side or in the oven Flip bread upside down to cook the other side until golden (if cooking in traditional oven "Tanour" no need for flipping) - bread needs to be half done

2. Heat the ghee a little

3. Make sure the dates are soft

4. Cut the still hot bread into small pieces and place in the bowl - because the bread is half cooked it could be scrambled easily

5. Mix it with the ghee and the dates and make sure the mixture is homogenous

6. Serve hot

Note:

If you can't make the bread at home, then use ready-made Malouj but it won't be as tasty or as soft when mixing with ghee and dates.

Preparing the Ma'souba:

1. If using Madarah, heat it first



Ma'souba is a typical Yemeni dish that is very nutritious and easy on the stomach. PHOTO BY FATIMA AL-AJEL

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Health benefits of Masouba

This dish is a typical Yemeni dish that is very nutritious and easy on the stomach. It contains wheat and dates, which are very healthy, and it contains ghee, which is a good energy source.

Importance of wheat:

Wheat is the most important cereal crop in the world and ubiquitous in our culture. Bread, pasta, bagels, crackers, cakes, muffins and other wheat containing products line our supermarket shelves and fill our grocery baskets. It is luck for us that this popular grain is available throughout the year. Wheat, in its natural unrefined state, features a host of important nutrients. The researchers concluded,

"Given that both a high cereal fiber content and lower glycemic index are attributes of wholegrain foods, recommendation to increase wholegrain intake may reduce the risk of developing the metabolic syndrome."

Eating foods high in insoluble fiber, such as cereals and breads made from whole wheat, can help women avoid gallstones, shows a study published in the July 2004 issue of the American Journal of Gastroenterology.

Whole Wheat is a true Anti-Cancer food. Research reported at the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) International Conference on Food, Nutrition and Cancer, by Rui Hai Liu, M.D., Ph.D., and his colleagues at Cornell University shows that whole grains, such as whole wheat, contain many powerful phytonutrients whose activity has gone unrecognized because research methods have overlooked them

Lignans Protect against Cancers and Heart Disease and has Significant Cardiovascular Benefits for Postmenopausal Women.

Wheat bran is not the only star when it comes to the health benefits of wheat; wheat germ definitely deserves its "health food" reputation. The germ is the vitamin and mineral rich embryo of the wheat kernel that is removed during the refining of whole wheat grains to white flour. Packed with important B vitamins, such as folate, thiamin, and vitamin B6, and the minerals zinc, magnesium, and manganese, wheat germ is a top-notch food that can be easily incorporated into casseroles, muffins, and pancakes or sprinkled over cereal or yogurt.

Source: whfoods.com

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Dr. Ramakanta Sahu
Associate Professor,
Department of English,
Faculty of Arts and
Education, University
of Science and
Technology, Sana'a
Tel: (01) 311117
Mobile: 733523970
P. O. Box 14533,
Sana'a
ramakantasahu@yahoo.com



Improve Your English: 296

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (93)

Wishes for a sister (ii)

A sister is a jewel to a brother the glow of whose affection never diminishes under any calamity. She remains a perennial source of solace and bliss for him.

- Loving sister! 'Anything you can do, I can do better', was our sibling motto, but when I look at the individuals we both have grown into - you surely did better. You are so sweet, sister.
- Never was a sister so loving, through and through, more understanding or more loveable than you. Never was there a sibling, who made such a dear and faithful friend. Never was there a closeness like ours, on which joy and happiness largely depend. Never was there a bond so very strong and so very special through and through, so very deep, so very true, and so very wonderful, too.
- Each bloom is happy, dear sis, for your birthday is a time to spread fragrance. And today every heart is overjoyed to wish the best for someone whose smiles matter a lot.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Talib live in the house next door.
- She plans to go to the college after she's finished the school.
- Did you buy any tomato when you went shopping?
- I've never seen somebody that tall before.
- There isn't many traffic along the streets where I live.

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- Shakeer is a lawyer, like his father.
- For most of the journey there was clear blue sky.
- Can you shut the door after you, please?
- When I was young, I used to collect stamps as a hobby.
- For some reason, Tawfeek doesn't want to come on holiday with us.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- A cheerful person who likes doing things rather than using his mind.
- State of overflowing
- Oozing out of drops of liquid
- Small hole in cloth
- Using cautious and slow strategy to wear out opposition

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- Handover a fugitive foreign criminal to the proper authorities of his own country: **extradite** (vt)
- Lectures from outside a university: **extramural** (adj)
- Perception of external events without the use of any of the known senses: **extrasensory** (adj)
- Going beyond what is reasonable in ideas, speech, behavior: **extravagant** (adj)
- Operating from the outside: **extrinsic** (adj)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out the difference in meaning of the following pairs of words

- abuse, misuse, disuse
- concur, conquer
- concave, conclave
- concurrent, recurrent
- hospitable, hospital

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- misappropriate** (vt) (apply somebody else's money to a wrong, especially one's own use): The Accountant misappropriated the Faculty's funds. **expropriate** (vt) (dispossess somebody from an estate): The defaulter was expropriated from his property to recover the outstanding loan.
- extant** (adj) (manuscripts, documents still in existence): The extant manuscripts of the deceased poet have been published posthumously. **extent** (n) (length, area; range): I'm amazed at the extent of his arrogance.
- contemporary** (adj) (of the time or period to which reference is being made): Contemporary trends in English poetry were discussed at length by the teacher. **extemporary** (adj) (spoken or written without previous thought or preparation): Although the speaker spoke in an extemporary manner, the talk was very informative.
- erosion** (n) (wearing away): Erosion of traditional values among some sections of the youth is a matter of concern for everybody.

corrosion (n) (slow destruction by chemical action or disease): Scientists are researching how to prevent corrosion of the antique monument due to the saline climate.

- contemptible** (adj) (deserving or provoking contempt; vile, base, mean): Those who are selfish or self-centered are contemptible.
- contemptuous** (adj) (showing or expressing contempt): He always shows contemptuous behavior to the minority community.

(C) Synonym and Antonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the one given at the top

- assiduity**
 - persistence
 - diligence
 - constant attention
 - unworn in application
- axiom**
 - a self evident truth
 - a universally received principle
 - a postulate assumption
 - to consider worthy
- baroque**
 - vigorous
 - exuberant style in architecture and art
 - whimsical
 - flamboyant
- boisterous**
 - wild
 - noisy
 - turbulent
 - stormy
- cacophony**
 - a disagreeable sound
 - discord of sounds
 - harsh sounding
 - jarring sound

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ameliorate | to improve |
| 2. annihilate | to put out of existence |
| 3. anomaly | irregularity |
| 4. askance | to look with suspicion |
| 5. arrant | downright |

(ii) Antonyms

Choose the word that is most opposite in meaning to the one given at the top

- debonair**
 - inelegant
 - safe
 - fashionable
 - fresh
- delicious**
 - pleasant
 - odious
 - sweet
 - none of these
- deviate**
 - stray
 - conform
 - abide
 - change
- diligent**
 - careful
 - lazy
 - intelligent
 - harmless
- emerge**
 - disappear
 - outcome
 - appear
 - none of these

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|------------------|------------|
| 1. cryptic | manifest |
| 2. contemptible | likeable |
| 3. distinguished | ordinary |
| 4. disparage | appreciate |
| 5. dissipate | economise |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- introgative
 - interrogative
- immediatly
 - immedately
- journey
 - journy
- knowledge
 - jerney
- knolege
 - knowlege
- litterateur
 - litterature
- litterateur
 - litterature

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- grammar
- heterogeneous
- humorous
- harassment
- imitate

(E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following phrases in sentences

- hold our horses
- bite (some one's) head off
- run a mile
- what's up with
- be not getting any younger

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- pluck up courage / screw up one's courage** (to force oneself to do something, although one might be feeling afraid or unwilling): She plucked up courage and asked her father's permission to go to the party.
- teething troubles** (problems or difficulties which occur at the start of something): The entrepreneur faced teething troubles to start the project.
- like a shot** (very willingly or eagerly): My wife jumped like a shot at the idea of going on the excursion.
- hit the hay** (to go to bed): My eyelids are heavy with sleep - I'm going to hit the hay.
- take a shine to (someone/something)** (to become fond of someone or something): She seems to have taken a shine to her classmate.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Verbs + prepositions

Fill in the missing verbs or prepositions in these sentences

- On her birthday, many friends came to — her.
- In my dream, everyone was laughing — me.
- You really — me of your brother. You look like him and you sound just like him, too.
- She was so terrified of speaking in the debate, she was — with fear and her hands were shaking.
- The court passed orders to prevent him — keeping animals again.
- I'm not interested — concert.
- We might have a picnic tomorrow or we might not — it all — on the weather.
- As she didn't know the town, she asked the bus driver to tell her where to — off.
- She — in passing her driving test at the third attempt.
- I have employed a nurse — looking after my baby girl.
- Our dog is very — at doing tricks.
- She got top marks in all her exams, so her parents were very — with her.

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

Requests and replies

- Would it be all right if I did my homework in the dining room?
Yes, that would be fine, as long as you clean everything before dinner.
- Would you mind if I made myself a cup of tea?
Of course not. The kettle's just boiled.
- Do you mind if I come back quite late this evening?
No, not at all. We'll let you have a spare key, if you like.
- Is it Ok if my parents phone me here?
Yes, by all means. Do they know the number?
- I was wondering if I could borrow your bicycle tomorrow.
Sorry, that's not possible. It's got a puncture.
- Would it possible for me to invite some friends over?
I'm afraid not. We've already got some other people coming over.

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim

114: A BIRD IN THE HAND

IS WORTH TWO IN THE BUSH

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

113: THOSE WHO LIVE IN GLASS HOUSES SHOULD NOT THROW STONE AT OTHERS

Most of us are susceptible to finding fault with others. When we are critical of others we tend to forget that to err is human. No one, including ourselves, is immune to making errors at one time or another. Each of us is fallible, each one of us is vulnerable. When we criticize someone we assume that we are infallible. But ironically, man's greatest fallibility is his sense of infallibility. So a wise man refrains from pointing accusing fingers at others because he realizes that all of us are errands and are in the same boat. We are metaphorically in a glass house in the sense that we are surrounded by a fragile cover which is brittle or easily breakable. If we throw a stone of criticism or accusation, we are most likely to be paid back by the same coin. Our bullet of criticism is most likely to boomerang on us and hurt us. So we should think twice before slandering or maligning any one. We should do unto others what we want to be done to us.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"For them will be a Home of Peace with their Lord: He will be their friend, because they practiced (righteousness)."

S6: A127

VI. Food for Thought

"I am still learning."

—Michaelangelo

Translation: A historical perspective



Moneer Al-Omari
alomari_mn@yahoo.com

It is difficult to give a certain date for the beginning of translation, but it could be said that it came into being with the existence of peoples and societies speaking different languages. The early form of translation was interpretation.

The first traces of translation date back to 3000 BC, during the Egyptian Kingdom, where inscriptions in two languages have been found.

In the west, translation became significant in 300 BC, the time during which Romans took over many elements of Greek culture, including the whole religious system.

Arabic culture started to bloom with the coming up of Islam. Islamic conquests made Arab people and Muslims come into contact with different cultures, among which were Persian and Indian cultures in the east and Roman and Greek cultures west wise.

Arabs and Muslims benefited a lot out of these contacts as they came to know about different cultures, slightly more developed and civilized. Muslims were not confined to reading others' scientific and philosophical books only, they added to them and also participated in them significantly. With these contacts, translation started to flourish, though it was basically

confined to individual attempts.

Translation, as a profession flourished during the Abbasids Caliphate, particularly under the reign of the Caliphate Al-Mammon who set up Dar Al-Hikma. This school of translation was headed by Hunain bin Isaac and it graduated a lot of translators and brought out a lot of Greek scientific, medical and philosophical classics.

Translators were doing their job in accordance with their interests, and they were handsomely paid. Hunain excelled in translating medical books although his translation was more or less literal, while others excelled in translating scientific or philosophical books. Under the auspices of Caliphates and supervision of Dar Al-Hikma, most Greek classics, whether scientific, philosophical or medical, had been translated into Arabic.

In the 12th century, the west came into close contact with Arabic culture in the Moorish Spain. At that time, the west was socially and culturally inferior to Arabic and Islamic culture, yet it was scientifically acquisitive and receptive to new things and ideas.

With the collapse of the Islamic state in Spain in 1492, the Teldo School of Translation translated Arabic books and Arabic versions of Greek scientific, medical and philosophical classics. Most of these books were reference material for hundreds of years.

Translation, over ages, has been an important science. It contributed and still contributes to the advancement of nations. Translation is more important in the present age, the age of globalization and new technology. We should pay more attention to translation to catch up with trains of advancement and development; otherwise we will lag behind other nations and people.

Where to, after school



Shareen Abdul Aziz
3rd year BDS,
Sana'a University,
Republic Of Yemen
channaalpy@yahoo.com

Yemen faces a huge crisis in terms of availability of advanced education for its students. This needs to be recognized and dealt with urgently, for mere exam reforms are insufficient. The first set of the 'dreaded' Board results are out and will soon be followed by more, that will see thousands of students and their parents collapse into a whirlpool of entrance exams, admissions and 'stress'. Even as the government finally seems to be waking up and has announced a spate of measures to reduce exam-related stress levels, one wonders whether exams are the crux of the problem, in so far as it is not certain whether a student who gets above 90 per cent is good enough. What are the other systemic weaknesses that should be addressed to give the upcoming generations a chance to participate effectively as we evolve into a 'developed' country?

A large part of the stress building up to the final exams stems from the need to be in the top ten percentile of the

student population passing out of high school, so that they stand a chance for securing admission into a decent graduate college. Obviously, and as everybody in the education sector has known for a long time, there are too few options being chased by hordes of aspiring young minds. As such, one of the first key steps the government needs to take is to significantly improve the quality of the plethora of institutions offering advanced degrees. This would require a number of actions. First, there must be regulatory supervision that would require educational institutions to file information reports on physical infrastructure and the qualifications of teaching staff. Then, the financial health of such institutions needs to be strengthened either through a system of performance-based incentives or greater flexibility in fee structures, again with appropriate regulatory guidelines.

But perhaps the key issue is that there is an urgent need to make teaching an attractive profession. At current remuneration levels, it is no surprise that, with the exception of a few dedicated teachers, it is the people with no options or those who consider teaching to be a low-level convenient activity are the ones who end up becoming teachers.

Every educational institution must necessarily define a time-path for achieving academic excellence. For this purpose, it is important to define the evaluation criteria for different types of educational institutions. Inability to achieve such excellence over a specified time frame should result in a management takeover.

Continued on page 2

ELT Panorama

Literature Textbooks series: Focussing "learning in context"



Dr. Frank R. Adams M.Ed., Dip. Ed., DPE, ILTM, former Associate Dean, Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh

In May 2006 the Department of English of Sana'a University submitted its B.Ed. degree programme in English for review as part of a United Nations Development Programme project* (April 29 to May 3, 2006). I was a member of the review team** which met staff and students in the English Department and looked at examples of the resources used for teaching. The review team was extremely impressed by the teaching resources, the *LTS Literature Textbook Series*, produced by Dr Ayid Sharyan to support students

as they read and analysed key texts in English literature as part of their academic studies. The review team was impressed not only by the extent of this series, which runs to more than 30 titles, but also by its quality verified by the work produced by students.

I came to the series not as a specialist in the teaching of English but as an educationist and one with a love of English literature. What has impressed me about the LTS series as an educationist is Dr Ayid's emphasis on the importance of learning within a context. The links between and among the various ways in which we

understand and learn about the world are, I believe, extremely important and this view of learning is fundamental to the LTS series;

'...nobody can ever have command over any language unless he/she has studied at least some of the literary masterpieces in the language concerned. ... There was a time when even students of medicine had to study philosophy and divinity/theology along with mathematics and the natural sciences. In this age of specializations some of us tend to think that the different subjects can be divided into watertight compartments while the fact

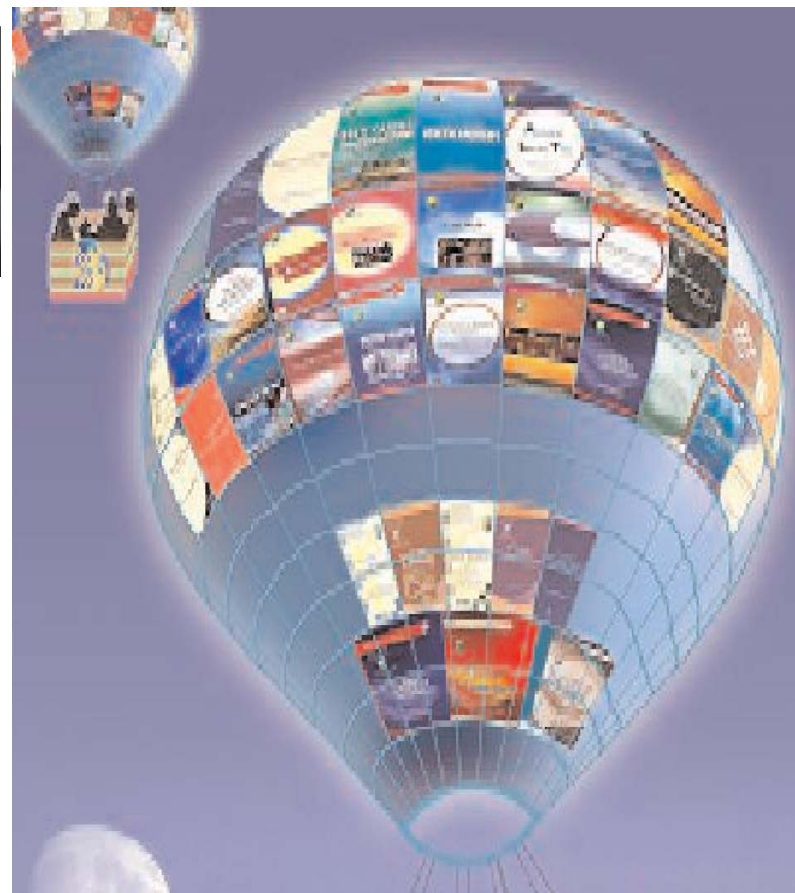
About the series

Literature Textbook Series (LTS) presented by Dr. Ayid Sharyan (M.A., Ph.D) of Department of English, Faculty of Education, Sana'a University, covers a critical review of a wide range of textbooks in English and American literature prescribed in the Universities of Yemen.



remains that things are more interrelated than ever in this age and time... (Sharyan (2004) Foreword to Introduction to Literary Forms (II))

Specialists may argue about the selection of the prose and literature that have been chosen but I believe that the series does what it claims to do – it provides a rich and exciting context in which the students can develop not only their skills of analysis but their appreciation of literature as *entertainment, escape, a source of moral/spiritual values, and aesthetic pleasure.*



Michael West's contribution to teaching English as a second/foreign language



Mr. Arif Ahmed Al-Ahdal MA student CIEFL, Hyderabad, India

Dr. Michael Philip West (1888-1973) is one of the most influential British writers on ESL. He is basically an educationist and a psychologist.

He came to India in the 1920s. He went to the undivided Bengal where he taught English for a number of years. There he noticed the language problems of the people, published a book

called Bilingualism and got his D.Litt (Doctor of Literature). Furthermore, he realized that the education system followed the notion of filtering i.e. giving government jobs only to the bright & well-qualified members of the society and all others were left unemployed. This system resulted in educational wastage i.e. a very high rate of school drop-outs (those who failed because of their inability to learn English) which disturbed him a lot. He started thinking of some ways to help these drop-outs learn English. He thus came out with a concept called Surrender Value i.e. the proportionate amount of benefit derived by any pupil from any uncompleted course of instruction. In other words, he argued that a class should not be a preparation for the following class. Rather it should be an end in itself. He linked this 'Surrender Value' to Spoken English (SE). With the help of a needs analysis survey, he realized that Spoken English wouldn't have a great surrender value for the Indian

learners as they wouldn't use it with their people who could only speak in their mother tongue. He also realized that SE would take a long time to mature. Thus he thought further and came out with the notion of "English as a library language", for which he developed what he called the Reading Method. In fact, reading was the alternative to him as it is an independent skill that learners could develop on their own if they happened to leave schools. It is also true that for having access to science and technology, English was necessary. By giving importance to the teaching of reading, West was trying his best to reduce the burden of Bengali learners who were unable to speak English. He thought of translating English books into Bengali for people to read in their mother tongue. But that was quite difficult because of the huge number of English books compared to the Bengali books then. So he found that the only way out was to teach the learners how to read in English. He also felt that people might become bilinguals and suffer the loss of their mother tongue. Being a thinker, he limited this Bilingualism to "Restricted Bilingualism" so that learners could be receptively bilinguals (Reading) and productively monolinguals (Speaking).

When he looked at the existing materials, he found two problems in them i.e. they were not written by experts in the field of ELT and that there was a gap between the mental age of the books/texts and the mental age of the learners. Thus he started thinking about producing reading materials. When he produced the New Method Readers (NMRs), he had two principles in mind i.e. the lexical selection (the selection and gradation of vocabulary items with their spaced repetition (the repetition of the new words at different times in the same text) paragraph and the lexical distribution principle (the reduction of the new words and increase of the running words (1-50)). In fact, this new Method of reading (NMRs) was tried in 3 different schools (an average high school, a bad middle school and a good government school that taught English using traditional methods and it worked wonders in the 3 schools with a difference in the time of the reading improvement. To his astonishment, West found that the learners' reading improved not only in English, but also in their mother tongue (transfer value) which was an unexpected gain. The said reading materials (NMRs) consisted of a Main Reader i.e. a collection of stories or a simplified novel presenting the selected new words, Plateau Readers i.e. supplementary readers to reinforce what's been introduced in the Main Reader, a

Student's Companion i.e. a list of comprehension questions and a Teacher's Handbook containing instructions to the teachers.

It is also important to mention that when the vocabulary and grammar control movement began in the 1920s, different people came out with different lists. That is, there was no consensus on a particular list and thereby there was a chaos. Therefore in 1934, Thorndike, Michael West, Palmer and Forster were invited to New York, commissioned by a funding organization and asked to:

- evolve a set of criteria (the use of frequency counts, the structural value of a word, subject range of words, words with a definition value and the universality of the word for doing the work) and
- apply these criteria and arrive at a list of words (Core Vocabulary).

They did so and submitted the report called "The Interim Report for Vocabulary Selection" that got published in 1936. Three out of these four Applied Linguists lost interest in the work and the remaining one i.e. Michael West worked further and came out with the General Service List (GSL) in 1953.

Michael West's contributions to ELT, as explained earlier, include his work on vocabulary control (GSL), the Reading Method, NMRs, New Method English Dictionary, etc. It is worth mentioning that Michael West prepared all these materials with systematicity, scientificity, respectability and sophistication. He is, indeed, a part and parcel of history and has currency and relevance even today.

TEACHER EDUCATION (6)

The craft of teaching: Its genesis and development

Dr. Ramakanta Sahu Associate Professor Department of English University of Science and Technology, Sana'a

Education is the process by which a person's mind and character are developed through teaching, or through formal instruction at a school or college. It is the process in which our thoughts get structured and refined. Educational system in any country, contrary to being amorphous lacking substance and direction, is modeled on the matrix of the traditional value system so as to inculcate in the individual a self-generating motivation for self-actualization. This is supposed to be the end product of teaching.

What is teaching

Cambridge Intellectual Dictionary of English defines teaching as giving (someone) "knowledge or to instruct or to train (someone)." According to Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, teaching means "to show somebody how to do something" or to "change somebody's ideas."

Teaching is an activity, which is characterized by a definite character. If we try to understand the history of the term "teaching", the word "teach" comes from the Teutonic term "taikan" meaning "to show", "point to", "call attention to acts, events, objects by signs or symbols". Obviously to teach implies showing someone something.

Teaching is an indigenous behavior, an ancient behavioral structure with its origin lost in antiquity. The need for education emerged out of the compelling need to transmit the folk culture, habits, customs, to successive generations. In

the dawn of civilization, when there was no language as a symbolic system to communicate ideas, the primitive man must have learned non-institutional behavior by imitation. Subsequently, as the complexity of culture increased, the need was felt for evolving a more organized system of transmission of ideas and information, leading to the beginning of more systematic procedure of teaching.

This system was initially confined to showing and telling. Eventually, it evolved into a more complex behavioral structure or pattern to serve the interests of tribal welfare. The modern system of teaching is an off-shoot of this.

To teach is to "show". It appears to be simple, but has complex ramifications, some of which are as follows:

- To show implies
 - to reveal one's feelings
 - to direct a person attention to something
 - to guide behavior
 - to make clear analytically
 - to make clear by comparing
 - to make evident by logical steps

Historically, trial and error, showing and telling, intervention and improvisation were the elements of ancient mode of education which were retained through the ages and became integral parts of education in culture after culture.

The earliest teacher were the medicine men, sorcerers, priests although they were not designated as such. As primitive societies advanced the craft of these professionals became institutionalized and, consequently, teaching became more formal and more explicit as a distinct form of behavior.

Components of teaching

Teaching is not only a natural form of behavior but also an inter-connected, inter-dependent and composite system. As the present sophisticated or developed form of teaching consists of teacher, learner, materials and learning context, similarly the primitive form of teaching included agents, subjects, ends and circumstances. The circumstances consist of learning tools over which the agent (teacher) has control. Conditions are the setting under which the material means (learning tools) are used and over which the agent has much less control. The ends are the learning dividends or outcomes consisting of the skills to be developed in the subjects. The agent is a jug full of knowledge. He is the bearer of knowledge superior to that of the subjects (learner). It is he who is the torch-bearer and who guides the learning.

In the advanced stage of teaching, the components became much diversified so much so that teaching became a complex phenomenon with lots of new insights from related fields such as psychology, sociology, philosophy, applied linguistics, so on and so forth.

Continued from page 1

Where to, after school

Thankfully, the mindset that the successful people of the world are either engineers or doctors, or IIM grads, is changing, but we are woefully lacking in career aptitude testing and guidance mechanisms, at the school and graduate levels. In spite of valiant efforts by some mainline dailies to fill this gap, students, and indeed their parents, are unable to think beyond the clutch of options that will yield the desired 'successes'.

It may be useful for the government to set up a 'committee' to chart out various educational options leading to alternative careers and maintain a dynamic website, apart from using other media, to inform interested parties about the same. While doing so, the committee could go into the issue of the relative value and attractiveness of such career options to check for effectiveness of regulatory correction. This relates to our current focus, that is the relative value of teachers is huge for the country but the attractiveness of teaching as a profession is at the bottom of all career paths.

Yemen is poised to become an economic super power. Its performance on social indicators, however, continues to be abysmal. The government needs some desperate help to provide entrepreneurship capabilities in rural areas, to take primary and secondary education to poorer segments of the society, to stem the spiraling rate of school dropouts and to create awareness on management of critical natu-

ral resources such as water. Can we devise a scheme wherein, in exchange for a couple of years of life of a high school graduate or an undergraduate devoted to social service, we are able to facilitate their access to a more advanced educational qualification in a quality institution? Can a partnership of this nature emerge between the academia and the governments? What role can the corporate sector play?

It will not be easy, but unconventional methods have to be adopted. Yemen has a huge crisis of advanced education on its hands that needs to be recognized and dealt with urgently. Yet, the numbers of graduates that emerge from the few good quality institutions that we have in the country have the global marketplace to choose from. The disparity is worth studying. As we look at it today, the government needs to take a longer-term view and evaluate the human resource base on which we hope to sustain the country's development. Merely addressing the problem of school leaving exams would make only a marginal difference to ease the stress on students. Shifting to the system of grades would move the pressure point from school exams to college entrance exams. On the flip side, for those who would not like to, or cannot, pursue further studies, the option would be to provide high quality vocational training institutions and career options.

QUESTIONS BOX

Any guesses?

- What is the difference between 'magazine' and 'journal'?
- What is a 'ghost-writer'?
- What does the idiom 'In limbo' mean?
- What is the meaning of 'glitterati'?
- Distinguish between the following sentences:
 - Are you going to Aden?
 - You are going to Aden, aren't you?

Suggested answers to the previous lesson's questions

- 'loo' is the shortened form of the French word 'gardez l'eau' ('leau being pronounced as 'loo'). 'Gardez l'eau' means 'beware of the water'. In Europe before indoor plumbing and sewers developed, people threw out

human excreta out of the window. In French, the person throwing out the human waste used to shout 'gardez l'eau'. As soon as the people on the street heard this, they used to run away from the window.

- The 'undertaker' is a man who buries people.
- (a) 'I had my dinner' refers to an event in the past. (b) 'I had had my dinner' is used when we refer to an action in the remote past before another action in the recent past.
- The phrase 'Thin on top' is used in respect of a man who doesn't have much hair or who is balding.
- A 'General Purpose Vehicle or 'GP' was used during the World War II to indicate a jeep. 'GP later became 'jeep'

Approaches to popular culture: Contemporary perspectives



Dr. Jitendra Narayan Patnaik
Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India
jnpatnaik2001@yahoo.co.in

In its traditional sense, culture is that realm of human life which is opposed to the barbarian and which distinguishes the human from the sphere of the merely natural. It constitutes a set of values and codes that regulates social relations and manners as well as the production and consumption of art products. This evaluative orientation of culture was emphatically asserted from the later part of the nineteenth century, with the emergence of the ideology of progress fostered by industrialization and the consequent growth of a huge mass of working class that threatened to subsume the Arnoldian 'sweetness and light' in the welter of materialism and utilitarianism. Today this normative sense of culture is not only marginalized, but also its very basis – the authenticity of the moral and aesthetic assumptions – is interrogated. The questions of perfection, decorum and social discipline seemed relevant at a time when class distinctions were taken for granted, when the elite-mass binary was treated as a natural aspect of social formation. However, with the spread of technology and education and the mass media, the very basis of the social organization is now under radical critical scrutiny. Cultural Studies, as an academic project, seeks to address itself to a descriptive task of approaching culture as "a whole way of life, material, intellectual and spiritual" (*Culture and Society* xiv). In other words, Cultural Studies seeks to investigate culture as a multi-discursive phenomenon that is mobilized in a number of different discourses including Mills & Boon, television soap operas, Superman comics and James Bond films, which have been traditionally dismissed as outside the canon of cultural discourse. Culture is not a storehouse of materials that constitute a canon but a concrete embodiment of the real condition of existence. It describes the ways in which societies make sense of the common experience of its members. Cultural Studies aim at salvaging what was once derided as mass or popular culture from the margins of social discourse and thus proposes a revisionary version of culture that eschews all paradigms of the Arnold-Leavis-Eliot tradition.

The most distinguishing feature of the contemporary Cultural Studies project is its problematisation of popular culture, its attempt at decolonizing "high" culture and legitimizing the study of those social and material practices that have been traditionally undermined as unworthy of rigorous academic inquiry. The debate centering round elitism and populism as dichotomous stances is being increasingly trivialized, generating a great deal of ideological polemics about the legitimacy of existing political and social structures and relations. Elitism is associated with such ideas as aesthetics, taste, cultivation, discrimination, sensibility and humanity and has a tendency to identify culture with some social classes and to dissociate it completely from others. It upholds certain values as sacrosanct and as grounded in certain beliefs such as tradition, continuity, judgment and competence. Popular culture, on the other hand, can be seen as providing space for producing and reproducing the actual arena of conflict and contest that constitutes social relations of everyday life. Elitism, as Stuart Hampshire aptly suggests, asserts that in every period of history, "a minority of otherwise intelligent persons, including artists, are deeply interested in one or more of the arts, and have devoted a considerable part of their lives to their involvement with them, and to thinking about them. The judgments of artistic merit by such persons... are the best guides to artistic merit that we have" (*TLS* 13 May 1977). Populism, on the other hand, stoutly repudiates the Arnoldian-

Leavisian position that popular culture is elitism's antithetical other, and shifts attention from the concept of a canon of 'high' cultural texts to an inclusive focus on all discursive and material practices. Contemporary Cultural Studies subverts the conventional sense of 'official culture' that "demands moments of attention that are separated from the run of daily life" (Chambers 120). It seeks to investigate culture as a set of activities, which is lived, which constitutes everyday life. This is what Iain Chambers implies when he speaks of popular culture as offering a "democratic prospect for appropriating and transforming everyday life" (13).

In repudiating all distinctions between elitist and popular culture, contemporary Cultural Studies Privileges "counter-hegemonic" culture, Gramsci developed the concept of hegemony in the 1930s whose central assumption was that in certain historical periods, the dominant classes exercised social cultural leadership and by these means rather than by direct coercion of subordinate classes, they maintained their power over economic, political and social institutions. As Graeme Turner puts in the *British Cultural Studies*, "hegemony offers a more subtle and flexible explanation than previous formulations because it aims to account for domination as something that is won, not automatically delivered by way of the class structure" (212). In this context, Althusser's distinction between state power and state control seems quite

relevant. State power is maintained by what Althusser calls repressive structures, which are institutions like the law courts, prisons, the police and the army, which are operated by external force. However, the power of the state is also maintained more subtly, by seeming to secure the consent of the citizens, using what Althusser calls ideological structures or "Ideological State Apparatuses" (136). These are political parties, schools, the media, religious institutions, the family etc. which foster an 'ideology', a set of ideas and attitudes, which are sympathetic to the aims of the state and the political status quo. Thus, each of us feels

that we are freely choosing what is in fact imposed upon us. The crucial aspect of the notion of hegemony is that it operates not by forcing people to concede power to the already powerful, but by their willingness to be subordinated. Hegemonic culture attempts to define culture from the top down. It eventually acts as an insidious instrument of power, as what Foucault calls 'governmentality', which is made possible by the construction of experts, institutions and disciplines such as medicine, psychology and psychiatry, which can wield power through producing "myths of truth" ("Space, Knowledge and Power" 239). Gramsci's counter-hegemonic culture resists this disciplinary power and proposes alternative formulations that challenge mainstream culture and promote non-traditional forms of cultural expression.

Popular culture undermines the hegemonic effects of 'governmentality'. It challenges dominant culture by providing what John Scott calls "a hidden transcript" (37) in which is written, "the anger and reciprocal aggression denied by the presence of domination" (38). Popular culture can thus become an instrument of resistance, a form of defiance, a weapon with which state power and state control can be challenged in such carnivalesque

forms as soap operas, jokes, folk narratives, rituals and euphemistic modes in which figures of authority are mocked in satires and comedies. Quite often, it elicits passions that are both familiar and novel. While it is customary to look at popular culture as a form of entertainment that is available to large numbers of people cutting across social barriers, implicit in this perception of popular culture is its ability to make people feel things and experiences sensations, its ability to move us. As Simon Frith says, "Pop songs do not 'reflect emotions... but give people romantic terms in which to articulate their emotions'" (123). In articulating emotions, popular culture, as John Street remarks, "links us to a wider world. Part of the pleasure of soap operas is their endless playing out of everyday moral dilemmas, posing questions and suggesting answers to our worries about what we should do" (9).

This view of popular culture as a form of protest against subordination, as embodying actual feelings and passions of the majority of people and as an alternative and legitimate mode of cultural expression is of course in contra-distinction to the concept of culture-industry, first developed in *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (1947) by Horkheimer and Adorno and later promoted by the Frankfurt school. The culture-industry suggests that (a) culture has been commodified in late capitalism: cultural artifacts are produced in order to be exchanged for money; thus degrading culture and diminishing its emancipatory possibilities and (b) people are narcotized to accept a subordinated relationship to the giant colossus of corporate cultural production: the relationship between production and consumption is one-sided, with production driving consumption through the media of advertising as well as through facilitating easy access to entertainment such as switching on the electronic receivers. These views, which imply that the pervasiveness of mass media has alarmingly led to the reification of culture, seemed sensible when the Marxist concept of a proletariat as an exploited and deprived class seemed real in the early capitalist

regimes. But today, in the ambience of late capitalism, the capitalist-proletariat distinction has lost validity as people shrink from being identified as workers, as employment opportunities expand, as technology replaces much of the manual labor and as the purchasing power of the people increases, leading to the so-called workers possessing telephones, television sets and refrigerators. Mass media have now made 'the high culture' easily accessible to a wide audience, and this is particularly true of the television viewers. Conditions of open society and con-

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Popular culture can thus become an instrument of resistance, a form of defiance, a weapon with which state power and state control can be challenged

popular culture has reified every aspect of human life leading to the perception of personality that "scarcely signifies anything more than shining white teeth and freedom from body odor and emotions"

Yemeni learners' strange attitude



Ibrahim Mahfooth
ibrahimenglish77@yahoo.com

Materials, teachers and learners as well as the situation (the classroom) in which the three interact with each other are the main pillars of the teaching process. If one of them is affected, naturally it affects the others. "Crescent English" lately captioned "English Course For Yemen" is currently the compulsory textbook for teaching English during six years of schooling. The course is introduced at the 7th class when students are about 12 years old.

In my perception, students at the 7th level are mature enough and are able to acquire English in a better way than is suggested in the prescribed textbook. I have been teaching English in 7th level (1st preparatory), 8th and 11th and the 12th levels (3rd secondary level).

I have noticed that Yemeni learners are very enthusiastic to learn English

even though the situation of TEFL in Yemen is facing a lot of problems.

Students are found to be doing well in English in the 7th class (the 1st year where English is introduced to them).

But surprisingly, the more the students progress with the course, the less enthusiastic they become and face difficulty in communicating fluently. It is intriguing to observe that instead of acquiring more proficiency, they lose their already acquired English in successive stages. A student completing the 7th level is endowed with good English, but he/she loses a lot of this English in the beginning of the following year (8th level) and so forth.

- Is this change due to material or students negligence to consolidate what they have studied so far?

- Does the problem lie in the methodology of teaching?

- Is the teacher the reason behind this impasse?

In my view, the problem mostly refers to the students' dwindling attitude and motivation due to primarily the unsuitable methodology followed in teaching. The methodology of teaching which is followed in our Yemeni schools tends to be forcing students to merely memorize rather than to apply the linguistic knowledge to communicate.

I would like to call upon my fellow teachers to try and make their classes as communicative as possible.

Toys and games as tools of learning



Abdulkareem Al-Aawage
English Teacher
Al-Sadda, lbb
abdulkareem_h_alawage@yahoo.com

Toys and games play a crucial role in cultivating some skills and talents in kids and children. However, not all dolls and games are suitable for all children or kids.

The makers of these things are supposed to manufacture them according to psychological characteristics of the specific ages of children or kids.

But ironically, there are hundreds

and thousands of dolls and games without any educational advantages. They are without any utility. In most cases they do not conform to the minimum criteria of manufacturing. You buy such dolls now and they do not sustain even for some hours.

With the help of suitable toys, we have to grow many skills and talents in children and kids such as forming shapes, solving puzzles, helping them get some experience in problem solving.

However, the reality is quite opposite. We see in all our large and small shops and in the souk in general trivial toys and bad games that generate bad habits and cause sometimes great injury to our children's sensibility. One such toy is the different types of pistols that instills killer instincts in sensitive children.

Therefore, if we want to achieve the educational goals. We have to choose what suits our society and benefits our children.

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

1. Most of the DNA in higher organisms have apparently no function. It is known as

- Selfish DNA
- Junk DNA
- Repetitive DNA
- All the above

2. The oldest of all the ecosystems is

- Tropical rain forest
- Estuaries
- Coral reef
- Mangroves

3. Pollination by wind is known as

- Anemophily
- Entomophily
- Zoophily
- Hydrophily

4. All warm blooded animals with hair who are members of the vertebrate class are:

- Reptiles

- Mammalia
- Aves
- Osteichthys

5. What is the literal meaning of 'Dinosaur'?

- Large creatures
- Ancient creatures
- Extinct species
- Terrible lizards

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- The food chain will not begin in the absence of **producer**.
- During blood clotting plasma (fibrinogen) is converted into **fibrin**.
- The source of nectar is communicated to other honeybees by performing dance of particular shape which is **Figure 6**.
- Isotopes are characterized in having **same number of neutrons**.
- The full form of HP is **Horse Power**.

Did you know that Foreign Language Exams need special studying techniques?

By: Kathy Steinemann

Studying for an exam can be a nail-biting ordeal. However, foreign languages require a slightly different approach than many other subjects. Here are some tips that will help you score higher on your next test. Many of the tips can be applied to other fields of study as well.

Prepare Well in Advance

Don't procrastinate until the night before a test to crack open your notes and textbooks. Careful preparation can save last-minute anxiety and pressure.

Even if you have a good command of English sentence structure and rules, you should purchase a comprehensive grammar textbook. An excellent knowledge of your own language will make any foreign tongue easier to learn.

Whether you find it on the internet or in a library, make sure that you have access to some foreign language prose. Short stories in parallel translation are an excellent choice. Spend a few minutes every day reading. Be sure to say each word aloud or whisper the words as you speak. This will reinforce foreign language speech patterns.

Familiarize yourself with the pronunciation and syllable emphasis of unknown words. To accomplish this, you must have a high-quality foreign language dictionary.

Whenever you encounter unfamiliar lesson material, skim through it and make mental note of new grammatical concepts and vocabulary. Then go

through it again, slowly and comprehensively.

Prepare your written assignments as soon as you receive them. The time interval between preparation and due date will allow you to reflect on what you have done, making corrections and revisions, and thereby receiving a higher mark.

If you are experiencing difficulty with specific words or phrases, develop a mental-image jogger. For example, if you cannot remember that the German word for 'crow' (die Kr_ he) is feminine, think of a big black crow with large red lips and curly blonde hair. The more outrageous the image, the more likely you will be to remember the material.

Try preparing your own self-quizzes. The entire process is educational, and will quickly reinforce your learning.

Save every piece of paper handed out in class. What seems inconsequential at first may later prove to be of great value.

Capitalize on Empty Time

How much time do you spend watching television? Every hour of North American TV contains about 20 minutes of commercials. Don't raid the fridge or daydream during commercial breaks - study! Amazingly, your brain will correlate these sandwiched breaks with material you are watching on the tube, and your learning will progress - even during the 40 minutes per hour of viewing time.

If you spend more than a few minutes every day on bus or subway commutes, be sure to take along some

study notes. Even in 'standing room only' you can often accomplish a few minutes of effective studying with a clipboard and a few pages of vocabulary printouts.

Forget the Last-Minute Rush

Ensure that your notes are *always* up-to-date. Spending a few minutes daily hitting the books is much more effective than last-minute cramming. Not only will you be less stressed, but the knowledge is more likely to remain with you over the long term.

Reviewing notes just before bedtime works well. Your brain is adept at collating, correlating, and filing while you sleep.

24 Hours Before the Examination

The night before your exam, go to bed on time and get a good sleep. If you have some information rolling around in your head that is likely to keep you awake, jot it down and review it the following morning.

Just before you write your exam, eat a light meal that has a good combination of carbohydrates (for immediate brain glucose) and protein (for delayed glucose release). Try something like a whole-grain bagel with ham accompanied by a piece of fresh fruit. Go easy on the coffee and soda. A full bladder during an exam can be uncomfortable and extremely distracting. (Don't forget to use the restroom before sitting down at your desk!)

Get organized - right now - and you will be rewarded with higher marks on your next quiz or test.

Source: articlesfactory.com

POETRY CORNER

Konark (temple of the sun god)



By: Anil K Prasad, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University.



The wheel of time drawn by the horses of the sun god - The horses - broken down by the constant hammering of the head mason Time - are lying on the ground with the carvings of human figures

posing to procreate - Seekers of blessed bliss on the walls of temples tempting the visitors to ogle at them. From the crowd the newly-wed couples watch with awed amusement

Why and how they harmonize the devotion for

human flesh and blood with their search of soul The crowd consist of common people unaware of the philosophy of vedanta, only bhakti, only shradha

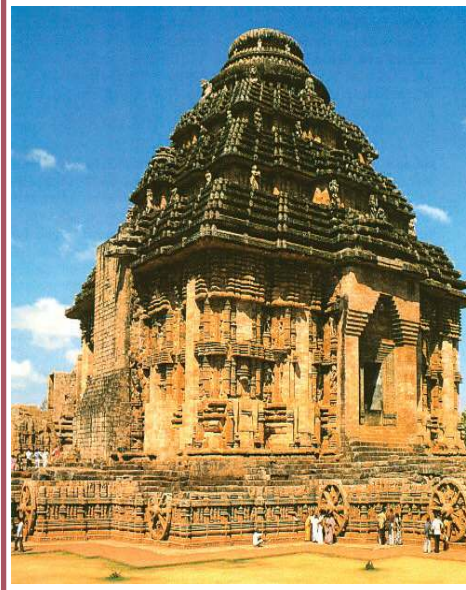
With devotion they sit cross-legged and take prasad and keep and carry some for their kith and kin

Stones stun, smiles talk take our imagination and blend emotion with passion

Elephant's huge trunk, truncated horse's head. Chandrabhaga is away, but

sun visits everyday and hears the cry of bemoaning masons and the sailors today can no longer see the dark profile of the sun temple far out in the bay of Bengal.

Konark is one of the 13th century sculptural marvels in Orissa, on the eastern coast of India.



What is the main function schools performs?

By: Paul Jones

Studying at school is remarkable in several ways. For a lot of people a school becomes the first place where they get basics of education and, what is very much important, schools provide children with socialization. Actually, a child spends a lot of time at school, receiving not only knowledge but communication options as well. Indeed, nowadays schools perform social role to a very large extent and this social function is gradually taking the first place, putting educational function to the second place.

Nowadays in civilized countries secondary education is compulsory. Maybe that is the reason why so many pupils do not like to attend school and feel frustrated with the very idea of schooling. Maybe there are other reasons, like imperfection and flaws of secondary education that influence students' attitude towards school. Sure, it is problematic to speak about secondary education in the regard that schools are different and while one can be an

educational and social paradise for pupils, the other one can only develop students' frustration and dislike of schools.

More and more people put under doubt the level of secondary education quality. Those sharing this position cite Mark Twain who ironically claimed, "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education". Though ironical, this statement has some seriously consider the way schooling is performed. Observers point to the fact that secondary schools play more and more social role, providing children with socialization and communication opportunities. Indeed, schools teach children not only knowledge but relations between people. So it may have too negative consequences if pupils see violence or humiliation at school, either on the level of hierarchical relations or on the horizontal dimension of communication. Instead, pupils should see examples of justice, order and humanity, while studying at school. Schools should motivate students, whereas it often takes an incentive away from them. If studying process is not interesting and teachers are not attentive to

pupils' needs and talents, a student will rather buy essay than prepare it independently. So, motivational function of schools should also be paid tribute to and developed. It is perfect if schools do provide students with opportunities to learn and get a proper basis of education in order to step to the next stage of education and get a degree. Even a school research paper may turn into the base of a serious project. Thus schools will nourish future scholars rather than burying someone's talents. Schools should also give options of full-fledged communication, feeling of community and thus bring up students. Really, a school in the person of a teacher brings students up; and if a student grows an independently thinking, mature personality, that only helps him in the future.

A lot of people underestimate the role school plays both in the individual life of a student and for society as such. If a student is learning in a healthy atmosphere, this student will definitely become a healthy personality, which is good as for this student so for the society as a whole.

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LETTERS TO THE PRESENTER

Dear Dr. Sahu I express my appreciation for your indefatigable work and your continual support to young writers. On behalf of the readers I wish you health to continue the good work.

Ali Alsofyni
alsofyni@yahoo.com

READERS' RESPONSE TO ARTICLES

Dear Amrita,

I am an English teacher. I read your "L'Affair teapot" in Yemen Times. It was wonderful.

Yours
Mohammed Rassam
rassam16@yahoo.com

YOUTH FORUM

The study of literature

The study of literature is not merely going through genres as the novel, the short story, the epic, etc. To study literature means to practice a language, to acquaint us as readers with the forces which motivate human beings and show the place of the individual in the society and in the universe. Moreover, literature provides the reader with intense and unique experiences ordered to give him the aesthetic pleasure that accompanies his appreciation of that literary work.

The study of some form of literature is common in our daily use of language. But the question that arises then is why is it important for a foreign learner to study literature? It is important because what is written in the

realm of literature is a part of our daily life, a part of our language competence. For example, telling a story is one way of learning and practicing a foreign language. It is fun to raise the listener's expectation and keep him in suspense. This is what is called practicing a language. In short, literature is a treasure and its study is like exploring that treasure. But what is very important is how we can get some jewels from that treasure trove!

Awaad Abu Al-Ghaith
English Department
Faculty of Education, Mahweet

My love

Charm's embellished
On your lips
Words flowed out in
A rhythmic order.

Time doesn't hang
I sit near you
An innocent soul,
An angelic heart.

Your steps echo
Sensitive emotion
Love generates happiness
And instills life into me.

As a flower, you are over burdened
With butterfly's rotation
And dew drops.

Who am I?
I find you on my way, shining.
Your charm enters my heart and blood
I feel stronger than before.

Khalida Abdullah Al-Hamdi
Level 4
Faculty of Arts and Education,
Amran

The Broken Heart

Love every where;
But every thing goes away
Love every where
But the birds flew away

Lovers, Lovers, Lovers,
But all the heart was dead
Lovers, Lovers, Lovers,
My poor heart shied

Every thing was changed
Blood, Blood, Blood,

My heart just imaged
How it died and stopped

Love every where,
O, what a pity!
Love every where
But no body loved me.

By Ahlam Al- Awkabi
Level 4
Department of English, Faculty of
Education, Sana'a University

WONDERWORD

by DAVID OUELLET

A PAINT JOB

Solution: 9 letters

HOW TO PLAY: First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It is best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell the Wonderword.

CLUES

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Aerate | Drips | Ladder | Profession | Surface |
| Apply | Edge | Latex | Reach | Table |
| Barn | Enamel | Layer | Renovation | Technique |
| Base | Fans | Light | Rinse | Texture |
| Bottom | Fence | Line | Roller | Thinner |
| Brush | Finish | Luminosity | Roome | Tint |
| Cans | Frame | Matching | Sanding | Tone |
| Cars | Fresh | Materials | Seal | Tool |
| Ceiling | Furniture | Messy | Section | Transparent |
| Cloth | Gallon | Moving | Sell | Tray |
| Coating | Garage | Opaque | Shade | Ventilate |
| Colors | Gate | Open | Shelf | Vertical |
| Contrast | Gear | Panel | Slip | Wait |
| Cool | Gloss | Pastel | Small | Wall |
| Cover | Glow | Patio | Sold | Wash |
| Deck | Hall | Porch | Sponge | Water |
| Decor | Help | Post | Spray | White |
| Deep | Home | Pots | Stain | Wipe |
| Door | Kitchen | Prime | Stairs | Work |

T	E	C	H	N	I	Q	U	E	S	A	N	D	I	N	G	P	A	H	Y
A	N	A	F	E	G	A	L	L	O	N	E	E	G	L	A	E	I	E	T
B	L	E	U	A	T	R	A	Y	E	L	P	N	N	T	L	S	T	L	I
L	P	O	R	C	H	I	L	S	M	O	O	R	I	I	Y	A	R	P	S
E	E	A	N	A	R	P	H	Y	O	T	A	O	H	A	L	B	W	P	O
R	G	E	I	E	P	O	S	W	H	B	L	A	C	I	T	R	E	V	N
E	D	R	T	A	R	S	C	I	S	O	A	P	T	W	A	S	H	T	I
N	E	A	U	S	E	O	N	E	P	M	T	N	A	H	R	H	E	I	M
O	M	T	R	M	A	N	L	A	D	D	E	R	M	S	E	C	A	A	U
V	D	E	E	P	E	R	Q	L	R	V	X	L	L	U	T	A	R	W	L
A	R	D	C	R	H	U	T	O	E	T	O	O	L	R	A	E	K	I	R
T	I	A	S	O	E	S	O	N	F	R	A	M	E	B	W	R	L	P	E
I	N	H	U	F	L	D	I	G	O	A	E	T	S	P	O	N	G	E	Y
O	S	S	R	E	K	O	N	N	E	C	N	E	F	W	O	T	T	E	A
N	E	T	F	S	R	I	R	H	I	I	O	S	O	L	D	S	T	C	L
S	C	O	A	S	L	U	T	S	T	F	T	P	L	R	E	A	T	O	E
S	T	P	C	I	R	R	T	C	O	A	T	I	N	G	H	K	V	M	
O	I	M	E	O	R	A	A	X	H	N	L	P	G	E	N	C	S	E	A
L	O	C	A	N	S	S	C	E	E	S	C	H	S	E	R	F	R	N	
G	N	I	V	O	M	W	O	L	G	T	N	T	T	D	P	R	I	M	E

ANSWER NEXT WEEK

Last Week's Answer: Reservation