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**Inside:**



**5**  
 Number of vehicles doubles in less than two years

**8**  
 Bahran: Please economize in using electricity

**EDUCATION**  
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**Readers' Voice**  
 Last edition's question:  
 Do you think the State could continue its control over wheat prices during the holy month of Ramadhan when demand is highest?  
 I don't know (2%)  
 Yes (42%) No (56%)  
 This edition's question:  
 What do you think is the number one reason for the difficult traffic in Sana'a:  
 - Irresponsible drivers  
 - Bad roads and infrastructure  
 - Road unworthy vehicles  
 - Inadequate traffic authority  
 Go to our website at: yementimes.com/#poll and have your voice heard

## New plan for better traffic

**By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf**  
 SANA'A, August 28 – The General Traffic Administration of the Capital Secretariat is completing the preparations for the holy month of Ramadhan starting Sept. 13. The on-field traffic wardens in Sana'a who exceed 1500 will be supported by a new batch of graduates and office administrators will be taking field shifts as well.  
 "The issue with Ramadhan is that we have to stand on a 24 hour alert because many people stay up throughout the night. It gets very crowded towards the end of the month because people are buying gifts and new clothes for Eid," said Colonel Yahya Shubail director general of the traffic administration in the capital.  
 The traffic administration will ban cars from passing through a few streets in Sana'a which are likely to receive many citizens such as the well known market place called Jamal Street.  
 He urged citizens not to cross the roads randomly causing traffic jams. He especially complained about bus drivers and taxis to abide by laws and not park chaotically. "Our biggest problem is with bus drivers and taxis who have no sense of discipline whatsoever and think the whole road is theirs," he added. The additional

traffic officers will help ease traffic jams during Ramadhan, however, drivers and pedestrians have a strong role to play in promoting a better traffic system.  
 The traffic situation according to Shubail and many other traffic wardens has become worse because of increasing number of cars, while the infrastructure has not improved. Lead by the ministry of interior, a new plan has been devised to solve the traffic problem in Sana'a completely in a 16 years span. Funding of this project which is estimated around 400 million US dollars, has not been secured yet.  
 Sana'a Mayor Dr. Yahya Al-Shuaibi commented on the importance of such projects as vital, stating that traffic concerns everyone and is the face of the city.  
 The baseline study of this project was carried by an Arab company. The project has two phases: 2007-2014 then 2015 – 2024, each phase costs around 200 million US dollars.  
 The main focus of this project is creating adequate parking spaces and fixing the roads and installing smart traffic lights, which will organize traffic according to the number of cars waiting for the green light instead of a fixed time for every road in the junction.



Additional traffic men will be sent to Sana'a streets in order to maintain traffic during Ramadhan 24 hours seven days a week.

## Around the country in search of the missing guarantee

**By: Nisreen Shaddad**  
 SANA'A, August 29 – Seven Yemenis from Hajja including three children aged 15 years old are detained in Hajja central prison for up to five months. They are imprisoned on grounds of potential terrorist activities that they may do in the future. In order for the security committee lead by Hajja governor to ensure stability in the governorate, he demanded, that before the detainees can be released, they must first present a guarantee of 'good behavior' promising not to indulge in future terrorist acts, especially relating to Al-Houthi.  
 The so-called 'good behavior' guarantee traveled from Al-Miftah district in Hajja where the local sheikhs endorsed it, to the main city, to the central prison security, to the political security office,

to the governor's office. Then it traveled to Sana'a where the governor and his deputies came for government business, and now it is on its way back to Hajja with the destination of the local council's office.  
 The reason why this document has been traveling around is no one has accepted it yet: each time it is presented someone finds fault with it. Ghalib Al-Ahnumi, a father of one of the detainees, has taken up the responsibility to travel with the document from one place to the place. He wonders what he is supposed to do and where to deliver the precious document that holds the hope for his sons' and many others' freedom.  
 However, Hajja governor Muhammad Abdullah Al-Harazi says he is willing to accept this guarantee provided it is endorsed by the local council. Yemen Times has a copy of the endorsed document by the local council, so what is it really that the government is looking for?  
 "We had asked them for the guarantee since long, but we feel they are stalling. Some people are trying to keep those detainees in prison for personal reasons and in order to make the government look bad," Al-Harazi said.  
 "I have prepared the guarantee of 'good behavior'. It is signed and endorsed by a Sheikh and three members of the local council, but no body wants it. The security officer has said the guarantee should be signed by a businessman. We did that, but still it is not enough," complained Al-Ahnumi.  
 This is not the only excuse Al-Ahnumi and other relatives of the detainees had been given. It seems there is a communication gap between the



Ghalib Al-Ahnumi holds the business guarantee which was the last thing he was requested to obtain in order for his son and another seven to be released. "What should I do with it? They asked for it now they don't want it and my son is still detained," he said.

met with the governor and he denied there are any children among the detainees. However, I visited the prison and found at least three who are aged 15. When I confronted him, he said they may be young but their minds are polluted with Houthi thoughts," said MP Ahmed Saif Hashid who had been following issues of illegal detention as a part of his job at the Freedoms and Human Rights committee at the Parliament.  
 However, governor Al-Harazi said that this is a state of instability where they were given "instructions" from the president to ensure Houthis do not succeed in spreading the Sa'ada war to neighboring governorates, such as Hajja.  
 "We had talks with the local citizens and agreed with them that it is their responsibility toward their country to make sure no rebels or insurgents infiltrate the local community. We asked them that if they found anything suspicious they should report it to us immediately," said Al-Harazi.  
 He also said that his office received a petition signed by the locals some months ago requesting the government not to allow religious schools and fundamentalists to operate in their area. This is why they closed down the religious schools and detained over 40 of its students and teachers. Yemen Times is trying

to get hold of this alleged petition to confirm the governor's statement.  
 According to Hashid, if the country is going through a state of instability, then it should declare it a national emergency, or local emergency in Hajja. In that case, the government would be on the safe side detaining people on mere suspicion – as they have done in the case of the seven detainees.  
 But according to Hajja governor all the detainees have proper case files that includes evidence against them. Although a member of the prosecution authority told MP Hashid they do not hold any evidence against any of the detainees and that they are the "territory" of the political security apparatus.  
 Though demanding a guarantee from the detainees is illegal, the conditions in Sa'ada has become the justification for that, according to Al-Harazi. "According to the law the guarantee must not be demanded unless the prisoners are referred to the prosecution and proved the prisoners are guilty, says

Ahmed Arman, the executive secretary of the National organization for Defending Freedoms and Rights.  
 "The problem we face is that any person could tip off the security about another without real evidence. Houthism has become an excuse to arrest and prosecute people sometimes for personal grudges. Then it becomes the arrested person's responsibility to prove his innocence or guarantee not to commit any terrorist acts in the future," said a teacher who used to teach at one of the religious dawaween (school) before being shut down by the government.  
 "The courses being taught in these dawaween are actually the courses have been taught in the Great Mosque in Sana'a. I studied in the Great Mosque the Islamic sciences and legitimacy and I am also teaching the teachers in al-Miftah district. If the similar courses taught in the Great Mosque in Sana'a are licensed, but ours are not...this means something different," he added.

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# In brief

## LAHJ

### The economical corporation sells wheat and flour

Aug. 28 — Applying the President's orders, the economical corporation sells the main foodstuff, directly to the citizens in all districts and markets of Lahj with the specific price and without a mediator. The prices of wheat should be 3700 and the flour 3800 in every center of sale. Also, there are moving trucks selling the main foodstuff to the far and rugged places, to avoid some sellers who play with prices.

## MAHWIT

### Opening the 4th exhibition for crafts and handiworks

Aug. 29 — The deputy governor of Mahwit opened the fourth exhibition for the products and the handiworks which are produced by the training course graduates of the Yemeni women union out of local raw. This exhibition has 600 different pieces for show including traditional women clothes, dressmaking, weaving, embroidery, cooking tools, and others.

## TAIZ

### IFAD discusses possibilities of supporting fisheries and agricultural projects

Aug. 28 — Assistant deputy governor of Taiz Abdul-Wahab al-Junaid discussed, last Tuesday, with a delegation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) the possibilities of supporting projects by the fund, especially a project of developing fisheries wealth and another project of the agricultural development in the coming five-year plan of the fund. Also, this meeting was to improve conditions of fishermen.

## SANA'A

### YFMF organizes debate on religions' dialogue

Aug. 29 — The Yemeni Female Media Forum (YFMF) organized, last Tuesday, a debate on religions' dialogue entitled "Dialogue of Religions...Islam and Christianity...silaritie and differences". The head of Religions' Dialogue Institute in Al-Eman University in Sana'a Asma'a al-Zindani presented a paper entitled "Dialogue is Islam's Method". The paper has focused on commons and differences between religions and some items mentioned in different holy books proving that the creature is only Allah, the Almighty. situations

**A workshop to insure the arrival of medicines to AIDS patients held**  
Aug. 29 — The First Deputy of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Abdu Al-Hakemi, affirmed, in the regional workshop of the Human Rights Organizations on the HIV virus

ADIS, that 7500 women in the popular areas of Sana'a and Aden as well as 2700 children and 400 employees took advantages of the awareness program of the UNDP in 2004.

The workshop that continues for three days with the participation of representatives from Home of Africa, NGOs and governmental organization in Yemen aims to enhance the abilities of the NGOs to insure the arrival of the medicine to the most exposed male and female patients who suffer HIV virus, AIDS. The workshop aims also to enhance the female clerics' abilities to apply the strategy of equality between the two sexes through spreading awareness, and comprehending the religious morals as they were shown by the initiative of clerics in facing AIDS in the Arabic region.

## ADEN

### Aden summer festival

Aug. 28 — This festival continues having the appreciation of the audience, despite the humble abilities it has. The participation of some singers and actors makes the festival more interesting. There are also many plays and traditional dances in the festival.

## HUDEIDAH

### Modern construction takes over Zabeed historical sites

Aug. 29 — Architecture and historical features of Zabeed are threatened because of changes made by locals. One of the reasons behind this change is that people opt to rebuild their houses in the cheapest possible way, instead of red bricks called Yajour, which are very expensive.

The Yemeni government represented by the General Authority for the Preservation of Historical Cities has specified certain areas in Zabeed as a preserved historical site. However, influential businessmen in the area rented lands in this site from the Ministry of Endowment and started building modern constructions threatening to change the face of the historical city.

Therefore, the public funds authority in Hudaidah which is in charge of Zabeed district instructed local authority in the city to prevent any further construction in the historical sites, especially the eastern wall and Bab Ashbareq.

Archeologists confirmed that the eastern wall is destroyed. They suggested rebuilding the historical wall and reforming other archeological sites.

The historical city of Zabeed has 29 mosques and 53 religious schools, the most famous is Zabeed Grand Mosque that dates back 16th century AD.

The private libraries of Zabeed still contain many rare manuscripts and books in various sciences. A scholar from Zabeed invented algebra. There are a number of tombs of the followers of Ismaeli sect visited by many people especially from India.

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 29 — A National petition calling for the release of the Yemenis held in Guantanamo prison has been launched. So far the campaign has 150,000 signatures. The aim is to present one million signatures to the Yemeni government.

The petition was launched by Al-Saraha independent newspaper. It has called on national organizations and individuals in Yemen to participate in the one million signatures petition. Several human right organizations have already responded to the campaign.

According editor in chief of the newspaper Saif Al-Washali, his establishment aims at promoting freedoms and human rights issues, and Yemeni detainees in Guantanamo is their first priority.

## Too many conditions

The petition is well timed. American and British lawyers who are representing Yemeni detainees, are becoming increasingly frustrated at the lack of progress in agreeing the details of their clients' release. The delay is caused by the list of conditions the US wishes to impose.

The US want reassurance that the prisoners will be detained in an humane way; that the US be informed if they are released and that restrictions should be placed on their movements when they are released.

The Yemeni Government says that the US conditions are irrelevant because the country's Constitution covers humane treatment and fair trial and that is sufficient guarantee. They do not wish to be told further how to handle the prisoners once they are back in Yemen.

Ordessa Hamad, a British lawyer representing four Yemeni detainees, arrived in Sana'a this week to meet with relatives of the detainees. He works with a British organisation called "Reprieve" that represents prisoners denied justice in the name of the War on Terror. Hamad said he felt maybe the Americans were asking for too much.



US government is considering closing down Guantanamo prison before the US courts do so.

"The Foreign Minister with whom I had a meeting yesterday gave me the impression that he did not wish to be told by the Americans how to handle the prisoners."

"I just wish the Yemeni Government would send a high level delegation to Washington to solve these issues. This is what other countries have done. Now is the time for action"

"I cannot understand why the process is taking so long. Perhaps it is something to do with the relationship between Yemen and the US; perhaps there are talks going on at a diplomatic level that we do not know about. Perhaps it is because Yemen is worried about having such people back inside the country. They will certainly be detained for some time while they are thoroughly investigated. There are indeed some queries about whether the 97 are all Yemenis, but nationality is easy to prove."

However, foreign minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi confirmed to Yemen Times last week that there are no negotiations regarding the return of Yemeni detainees between Yemen and USA.

However, Al-Qirbi confirmed that Yemen has not received any correspondence from the US government since the return of the four prisoners in June regarding the release of more prisoners. He also commented that the Guantanamo Bay authorities are busy with "legal problems" concerning the legitimacy of the prison and have not taken any action towards the release of more prisoners.

Hamad insists on the innocence of the four Yemenis he represents and accused the US government of detaining them without legal proof.

Marc Falkoff, US lawyer who is representing some 17 Yemenis who have been held by the US military since January 2002, also admitted that there was an element of hypocrisy in America's desire to ensure that the Yemeni prisoners are well treated: after all prisoners were not well treated in Guantanamo!

However, he said: "It is imperative that we move beyond the finger-pointing by both sides — Washington and Sana'a — in order to make bring about the repatriation of the Yemeni prisoners. Both sides must share some of the blame for the impasse, and work together to bring about a resolution. It is not enough for President Bush to declare that we want to close down Guantanamo, and it is not enough for President Saleh to say that we insist that our citizens be returned home. Both sides have to engage in true negotiation and diplomacy. Action means sending a delegation from Yemen to America in order to iron out the details of a transfer. True leaders do more than talk: they make things happen.

## Majority of detainees are Yemeni

Yemen is the country with the most prisoners at Guantanamo: The figure is 97. So far only 12 of the original 107 have been returned. Whereas, all of the Europeans, and Russians have been repatriated, all of the Bahrainis, 70 per cent of Afghans, 85 per cent of the Pakistanis, and more than half of the Saudis.

Why is Yemen, of all countries with prisoners at Guantanamo, the only country that has doubts about the nationality of the prisoners? Even if Yemen has doubts about a handful of prisoners, why doesn't it accept back the scores of men about whom it has no doubt? Questioned Falkoff.

"My point is simple. As Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Australia, France and the United Kingdom have demonstrated, the prisoners from Guantanamo will be released only when their home countries insist that they be returned. You read president Bush's statement in which he said the reason prisoners remain at Guantanamo is because their home countries would not accept them — well, he was primarily talking about Yemen," Falkoff said.

# Civil society calls for independent broadcasting

SANA'A, Aug. 27 — The Yemeni Observatory for human rights (YOHR) organized a workshop entitled "Media and Democratic Transformation in Yemen" on Saturday, August, 25.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Makatari, the executive director of YoHR said that, "The role of the media is essential. This workshop focuses on this role as well as obstacles and challenges faced by media and civil society organizations. It also discusses the requirements that can overcome such obstacles. And how media means can contribute to improve human rights."

The workshop made a number of recommendations that emphasized the importance of the role of both the media and of civil society, both separately and together, in creating a vibrant democracy.

A group of academics and specialists concerned with the media area called for an end to the state monopoly of radio and television. This, they argued would better serve the interests and development of the country by allowing free discussion of political, intellectual, and cultural needs of society. The media should then be free to reveal violations of human rights.

A number of work papers were presented. In his paper, Dr. Adel Al-Sharjabi listed requirements that would improve the situation. These included a commitment to human rights and equality for all and sound laws with an executive power to execute those laws and a qualified and impartial judicial system to implement those laws.

The paper also argued for civil society organizations to defend the econom-

ic, social, and cultural rights of citizens and to facilitate their political participation through fair and impartial elections.

It further demanded a cultural structure and social system that admit political plurality, equality, and freedom based on tolerance, dialogue, and resolving disputes in peaceful manners.

The second paper was entitled "Media role in the democratic transformation process", was presented by Rashad Al-Shara'bi. The paper stressed the importance of separating media from the executive power in order to exercise its role in monitoring the three powers the State is based on. Radio and Television not controlled by the media could then report on what is happening in the country without any prejudice or bias, allowing everybody to say what

they feel and see. Media credibility would be further enhanced with access to facts and figures and when officials gave the media complete information on the events they are covering.

The third paper, entitled "the mechanism of relationship between media and civil society organizations", was presented by Yaseen Al-Tamimi. The paper focused on the strong relationship between the civil society organizations and the media that has developed over in the last 20 years.

The fourth paper entitled, "media and protection of human rights" was presented by Basim Al-Haj. He discussed the vital role of the media in protecting human rights. The media can bring about social movements who stand against those who practice oppression and violations against human rights.

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# Opposition journalist fears for his life and his family

By: Mohammed bin Sallam

SANA'A, August, 29 — The journalist and political researcher, Abdul-Kareem Al-Khaiwani, who is a member of the popular forces political party, was abducted and attacked by unknown security personnel last Monday.

Al-Khaiwani stated, "I personally hold the president Ali Abdullah Saleh responsible for my life as well as the life of my family."

"The president should treat me as a Yemeni citizen, admitting my rights and preventing the security bodies from harming me. As president of the republic, he should not publicly declare me as his enemy. He should not write with fury and indignation against me, encouraging security bodies to annoy me. I fear they may murder me and my family members if I again write against the regime or against the president," Al-Khaiwani added.

A group of civil right organizations and opposition parties denounced the abduction of Al-Khaiwani due to his writings against corruption and ruling system.

They drove him by a car whose number plate was painted black. They took him to unknown place where they

bashed him severely. They also left him in undeveloped area.

The armed personnel confiscated the passport, ID card and the mobile phone of Al-Khaiwani. They also intimidated him with murder along with his family if he writes anything against the president or the national unity, according to the committee sources, specifying an article published by Al-Nedda weekly newspaper in August, 26<sup>th</sup>. The article was entitled "pro-state, a country behind walls". Al-Khaiwani discussed the prisoners' situations and how they are treated."

The JMP alliance of opposition parties commented on this: "These criminal acts are a reflection of the bully activists and gangs of the authority since 2004 with the associate Al-Khaiwani who was exposed to so many abductions. His family is now scared. These frightening measures will not stop penholders from writing such as Al-Khaiwani as well as those who call for freedom, justice, equality and human rights."

The Yemeni journalists syndicate expresses its sadness over a statement released by security source published by the ruling party media which denied the incident, describing it as a drama.

The syndicate also said, "The quick denial of the security bodies for the incident taking place in the center of in front of journalists and citizens, indicates that the security bodies are apathetic toward the crime." The source also appealed to the president to penalize the perpetrators and hold the concerned officials responsible for neglecting their duties.

The international journalists' protection committee demanded the investigation of the incident. "There are some doubts over the connection of the armed gang with the Yemeni security forces," according to local journalists who talked to the committee.

Likewise, hundreds of journalists spanning the country considered this incident a reflection of the suppressing mentality of a system behaving like guerrillas and bandits. They also considered the abduction of Al-Khaiwani is a message for those who practice the same job against a regime controlled by corruption and tyranny, demanding the syndicate as well as the political powers and human rights organizations to press authorities to reveal the perpetrators and present them before prosecution.

Al-Khaiwani was detained in June,

20 by the state security bodies, attacking his house. He was released by guaranty by the end of July. He was exposed to battery by a security personnel dragging him into the prison barefooted and with underwear clothes. Al-Khaiwani suffered a lot due to his criticism of bequeathing the rule as well as job nepotism in addition to criticizing war between the government and the Houthis in Sa'ada.

It was mentioned that when Al-Khaiwani was the editor in chief of Al-Shoura weekly newspaper and Al-Shoura' net, he was accused of insulting the president as well as publishing false news in addition to inciting discrimination between areas and tribal feuds. This is attributed to publishing articles criticizing the way the government treats most of the issues.

The State-run media affiliated to the ruling party published last Tuesday a



Abdul-Karim Al-Khaiwani talking about his ordeal in a press conference on Wednesday. Photo by Saddam Al-Ashmouri.

statement belonging to a security source in the capital secretariat. They denied the incident of abducting and attacking Al-Khaiwani, considering that Al-Khaiwani fabricated a drama of

abduction aiming at harming the security bodies. The source said that Al-Khaiwani was invited to attend a wedding party in Khawlan area before he pretended that.

## Journalists refuse "National Unity and Social Peace Project"

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri  
For Yemen Times

SANA'A, August 28 — During their 17th sit-in held in Freedom Square on Tuesday, journalists along with human rights activists announced their refusal of the so-called "National Unity and

Social Peace Project," recently ratified by the government to be presented to the parliament. The project contains articles that incriminate freedom of thought and expression, penalizing men of opinion by sentencing them to imprisonment or the death penalty.

In their issued statement, the protest-

ers committed themselves to holding peaceful sit-ins of opposition, urging all political parties and social figures to maintain solidarity with them in rejecting this project. They commented, "We have a government that considers freedom of thought and expression as a threat." Protesters called on all national powers to curb this aggressive trend of the authority.

They also condemned the abduction and attack of well-known journalist, Abdul-Kareem Al-Khaiwani. They urged the government to put forth an immediate investigation of the involved persons, considering it a barbaric act perpetrated by security personnel within a fragile state having no law sovereignty.

The protesters maintained their solidarity with Sameer Jubran, who was exposed to sever violation by the Ministry of Information, which refused to give Al-Massdar newspaper a license. The ministry's refusal to issue a license for Al-Massdar newspaper rebuffed false information regarding the registration of Without Chains newspaper. The ministry argues that the law does not allow civil society organizations to possess newspapers. Protesters demanded instant resignation of the minister of information.



Demonstrations covering streets around the Cabinet where slogans calling for mercy on people and sustaining the livelihood of the people.



Is that a finger or a loaf of bread? Journalists and activists joined in the price hike demonstration complaining about deteriorating living conditions.

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**Qualifications:**

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**How to apply:**

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Or

Fax: +967 (1) 417850

Or,

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## Final statement issued by the institutional conference of National Solidarity Council

The National Solidarity Council's institutional conference was held on Sunday, July, 29, 2007 in the capital city of Sana'a. It was attended by more than 1500 sheiks and dignitaries from around the republic. It came as an initiative for national solidarity to reflect the spirit of Yemeni unity as well as responsibility to improve the strained socio-economic and political conditions the country lives in. The conference motto was depicting the Quranic verse which says (And hold fast, all of you together to the rope of Allah and be not divided among yourselves.) and to maintain the national principles. These principles aim to endorse Yemeni unification and strengthen fraternal relations, as well as protect constitution and law. It was also held to fight corruption and to encourage the good norms of the community so as to limit fanaticism and sectarianism among citizens.

The conference poses as an invitation to all social figures of the country to drop fanaticism, and to maintain welfare of the country and promote stability of its values.

The conference commenced by reciting verses of the Holy Quran. Next, the conferees listened to the introductory statement of the council delivered by Hazam Ali Al-Asa'di. After that, Sheik, Hussein Bin Abdullah Al-Ahmar delivered a speech of the preparatory committee in which he focused on the objectives and initiatives of the council aiming at delivering services to the country and strengthening the bonds of affection between the citizens of the same country.

The working sessions were chaired by Sheik, Ali Al-Qafeesh, sheik Azam Salah and Mr. Sakhr Al-Wajeeh. In this session the objectives of the primary system were read and discussed. They also elected a committee to draft the final statement as well as recommendations.

The election process commenced through the election of Sheik Hussein Al-Ahmar as chairman of the council. Sheiks Yahya Mujahid Abu Shawarib, Awadh Mohammed Bin Al-Wazeer Al-Awlaqi, Saba Sanan Abu Luhoom, and Ali Abdu Raboh Al-Qadhi were elected deputies. Moreso, sheik Ali Abdu Raboh Al-Awadhi was elected director of the supervisory board. Mr. Mohammed AbdulElah was selected as chairman of the consultative council where sheiks Ali Mohammed Al-Qafeesh and Faisal Mana' were his deputies.

Additionally, Sheik Mohammed Hassan Damaj was elected as the secretary general of the council and Sheik Abdu Mohammed Bishr his assistant. Abdu Mahdi Al-A'dlah, Azam Abdullah Salah, Ali Hussein A'shal, Mathehaj Al-Ahmar, Mohammed Al-Shadadi, Senan Al-A'ji, Ali Abdulla-Mu'ti Al-Junaidi, Kasim Al-Kasadi, Monsour Al-A'rjali and Mohammed Saleh Al-Hadi were elected as members of the supervisory board.

However, the attendees recomended increasing members of the consultative council to 300 including members of the Parliament and Consultative Council. It was also suggested to increase the members of the supreme committee to 20 members.

Out of these discussions, the conferees reached to a number of decisions and recommendations:

- The conferees express their condemnation of the miserable conditions citizens live in due to price hikes and unemployment. They hold the government accountable for that,

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العاشرة صباحاً ٢٠٠٧ / ٨ / ١٩

**Working strategy**

- The political and social powers must stand equally without any discrimination.
- To cooperate with the authority as well as the political parties and civil society organizations regarding issues of public interest in compliance with the council's objectives.
- The council is open to local, regional, and international institutions in accordance to public interests but not opposing the effective laws.
- It avoids conflicts that do not serve the council's targets and harm the public interest.
- Working through peaceful and democratic means since they are allowed to be used according to the constitution, including serious participation in the democratic activities.
- The council is to stand by the national interest of the country.
- It is to pay very close attention to the citizens' needs and solve the community problems in all respects.
- It is to educate people about their rights as well as their duties and their role in defending them according to the effective constitution and laws.

**Main objectives and tasks of the council**

The National Solidarity Council was formed to realize the following objectives and tasks.

- To maintain the Yemeni unification as well as the objectives of revolution and republic, and national principles. It should take into consideration the protection of law and constitution as well as to educate citizens to have united attitudes in public issues.
- The council aims at deepening the tribal connection and uniting tribes of the Yemeni community, enjoying spirit of affection to enhance the fraternal relationships as well as to contribute to resolve revenge disputes and social problems through reconciliation.
- To focus on the economic and agricultural aspects and to maintain the public treasury in order to improve the living standards of citizens and to fight corruption by staging seminars and activities to mitigate the brunt of the corruption and high cost of living.
- To contribute to solve unemployment and begging problems in coordination with the concerned parties by providing assistance to needy and disadvantaged people. The council aims at supporting mass marriage and taking care of families to maintain the social relationships as well as to look after maternity and childhood issues to breed aware generations having virtues.
- It also aims at reviving good customs and traditions as well as changing the false views over the tribe inside and outside the country. It wants to pay attention to the popular and tribal heritage and to make an archive of it for the coming generations.
- To expand the participation rule of the citizens throughout activating the role of social figures, academic personalities and intellectuals in the public activities so as to exercise their constitutional rights in their lives.
- The council wants to strengthen relations and cooperation between the Arab tribes in order to unify their stances and attitudes.
- It also aims at improving education by providing free education to all citizens as well as taking care of teachers so they can convey their message in a proper way. Citizens must be provided with free health services in the urban and rural areas.
- The living standards of the council's members are to be improved, providing theme with assistance as much as the council can, in case they are exposed to calamities or setbacks.
- To support women and to enable them hold position, maintaining their rights and dignities in secure and transparent atmosphere within the Islamic law.
- To contribute in supporting the charity, cultural, and crafts associations as well as establishing new service associations in the society at the level of the districts. It is also founded to encourage scientific and cultural creativity, looking after creative minds and developing their talents and inventions by providing new job opportunities, engaging the local experts to enhance the council's role as well as to realize it targets.
- The council is to adopt media policy reflecting the objectives and principles of the council as well as tribal concerns by issuing newspapers and magazines and channels. The council exercises its activities using peaceful means guaranteed by the effective laws and constitution.
- Paying attention to political development and stabilizing democratic ways regarding the peaceful exchange of power, ensuring equal citizenship as well as free and fair elections.
- It finally aims at developing relations with civil and international institutions working in the capacity of sustained development and defense of human rights and freedoms.



# Number of vehicles doubles in less than two years

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Shubail.

Road unworthy cars, pollution, law-breaking drivers - and a shortage of staff - these are some of the problems traffic wardens suffer from in Yemen. It has become a difficult job; more and more wardens are quitting or asking to be transferred to other jobs. However, Colonel Yahya Shubail director of the Traffic Administration for the Capital sees hope in a new plan that is supposed to save the situation.

"The transition phase is going to be very difficult and very long. However, on the long term, results will be worth the trouble. It is like a going through a surgery in order to be cured," he commented on the 16-year traffic project proposed by his administration to the government and which is still looking for funding.

The current situation in Sana'a is dreadful, traffic authorities acknowledge this, and are asking for help. One of the main stakeholders concerned is the Ministry of Public Works, which is responsible for roads, construction, infrastructure and even traffic lights and road sign. According to the traffic administration, the number of licensed plate numbers issued for vehicles in Sana'a ranged from 35 to 40 thousand between 1990 and 2005. Since 2005 and until the end of 2006, this number has more than doubled exceeding 85 thousand. "But the roads are the same and the traffic workforce is the same, so what do you expect us to do?" asks

Shubail. Since 2005 the shift length for traffic wardens has increased from 4 hours to 6 hours. Some traffic men take more than one shift working 10 hours or more per day, exposing themselves to sun and rain, and worse lead coming from the air polluting vehicles.

The average salary of a traffic warden does not exceed 20,000 Yemeni Riyals (almost 100 US dollars).

Two years ago, former Prime Minister Abdulqadir Ba Jammal decreed that traffic men get a commission equaling 30 percent of the fines of each traffic violation they issue. Consequently, the revenue from fines in Sana'a jumped from hundreds of thousands to four million Yemeni Riyals per month. However, with a total workforce of 1500 traffic men this commission yields an average of 1000 Yemeni Riyals per month. Which is not exactly a big enough bonus to motivate traffic men to issue tickets.

"You could ask, why then not issue more tickets? To be honest, if we issue a ticket for every offence all the vehicles in the streets will get tickets. We take it easy on people especially when we know that life is hard," said Suhaib Abdullah a traffic warden who has been serving over 4 years.

Some traffic men admitted to taking bribes or letting violating vehicles go for a small amount of money.

A traffic warden admits to this: "personally I don't give a ticket for every offence. Sometimes when a bus driver violates the traffic law, he can't afford to pay 1500 Riyals for the ticket, so we



Traffic administration yard where confiscated and road unworthy cars are kept.

sympathize with him and take two or three hundred and let him go. We do this only for minor offences."

It adds up better that way because the commission is not worth the trouble, especially if the traffic man runs into a strong-headed driver who refuses to acknowledge the traffic warden's authority.

According to traffic officer Ahmed Ali Hassan, they normally don't issue tickets for government vehicles or VIPs. "because they don't pay them."

"VIP and police car drivers are the worst and most reckless drivers by far and are the culprits behind many accidents. I do not issue them a ticket because I fear being abused and I know they won't pay them," said traffic man Abu Ismail.

However, since the beginning of this year in tickets issued for army or police cars get sent directly to their accounts departments at the Ministry of the Defense and Interior and the money is deducted from salaries. Colonel Shubail believes this has reduced the offences caused by government and army cars significantly.

Street vendors especially during social and cultural celebrations also make traffic congestion worse. The municipality must play a role here through dedicating open markets away from the streets.

Demonstrations add another burden. Activists and protestors cause traffic jams through marching in the streets in large numbers, especially is not without a prior notice.

### The biggest enemy

Army officers and VIPs who think they are above the law seem to find out - at least concerning traffic - which they are not. However, there is no doubt that buses and taxis cause the biggest headaches.

All the traffic men Yemen Times interviewed agreed that buses and taxi drivers cause most offences. There

### Road and traffic statistics in 2006

Number of vehicles in the capital city	250,000
Junctions and crossings facilitated by traffic services	92
Number of taxi cars	40,000
Number of public transport buses	15,000
Number of traffic violations reported between 1995 - 2006	2,122,097
Number of accidents between 1995 - 2006	40,141
Number of deaths caused by accidents between 1995 - 2006	2,398
Number of injuries caused by accidents between 1995 - 2006	32,969
Revenues from issuing tickets between 1995 - 2006	1,543,973,591
Number of traffic men posted in the fields	1,343
Number of traffic patrolling vehicles	15
Number of traffic patrolling motorbikes	45
Number of wireless communication transmitters	45

Source: Traffic General Administration

تقسيم مخالفات المرور حسب درجات خطورتها		
الفئة الثالثة	الفئة الثانية	الفئة الأولى
شهادة المسلم غير مأمومة على المركبة	ممنوع الدخول/اليمين/اليسار	عدم الوقوف والإشارة الضوئية حمراء
لوحة الرقم غير واضحة	ممنوع الدخول/السير في اتجاه معاكس	رفض إشارة رجل المرور
الإشارة غير شفافة	ممنوع دخول الشاحنات	عدم الالتزام للوقوف الإيجابي
لا يحمل رخصة القيادة	حمل ركاب أكثر من المسموح بهم	تجاوز غير مأمون على الخط المستقيم في الطريق
لا يحمل وثائق المركبة	حمل بضاعة غير مأمومة (بدون ربط)	حمل ركاب في حالة خطرة (مقلتين)
إيقاف سيارة أجرة خارج المحطة	السيارة غير مأمومة / ممنوع	يسوق بدون رخصة قيادة
التدخين في سيارة الأجرة	يتدرب على القيادة بدون مدرب	سيارة غير مسجلة (بدون رقم)
عدم حمل أسطوانة الأطفاء	يعلم السائق ورخصته أقل من عامين	الوزن لينة غير صالحة
عدم حمل المثلث الفسفوري	يتدرب بدون إشارة (يتعلم)	قيادة مركبة أجرة بدون ترخيص
عدم حمل الاطارات الاحتياطي وعدم صلاحيته وعدة الإصلاح	جزء من الوار السيارة غير صالحة	طلب أجرة أكثر من المقرر قانوناً
استعمال المتأخر والزيينة الواجبة للروية	لوحة الرقم غير موجودة	تأجير بصورة غير قانونية
بدون مرآيات وسطية/جانبيه	الوقوف دون إعطاء الإشارة اللازمة	تغيير اوصاف المركبة بدون رخصة
بروز حمول إلى الأعلى/جنبي خلف	لف يمين/يسار دون إعطاء إشارة	تجاوز السرعة المحددة
استعمال البوق المزعج بدون مبرر	رفض الأيجار أو نقل ركاب (أجرة)	قيادة بطيش أو أعمال
البعث صوت مزعج من أجزاء المركبة	عرقلة حركة السير في الطريق	السيارة تحت تأثير السكر أو مخدرة
استعمال البوق في أماكن ممنوع استعماله	عدم إعطاء الألفية في السير على الطريق	عدم الرجل غير شفافة
ترك المركبة بدون تأمين مشغول / شغال فيها	مصابيح الضمائل غير شفافة	عدم إعطاء مصاب في حادث مرور
	سواعد عجلة القيادة غير صالحة	رفض المالك إعطاء الاسم والعنوان
	الاطارات ممتدة	إعطاء اسم وعنوان كاذب
	رخصة القيادة غير معتمدة	رفض المالك إعطاء معلومات عن السائق
	عدم تحويل ملكية المركبة	استعمال لوحة أو رقم على مركبة غير قانوني
	ترك المركبة في الطريق دون إشارة تحذير	السماح لشخص بسوق مركبة بدون رخصة
	عدم إفساح الطريق لمركبات الطوارئ	استعمال الأنوار المبهرة
	تغيير الاتجاه فجأة وبدون إشارة	تجاوز مركبة من الجانب الأيمن
	الوقوف في زاوية الطريق في أقل من 5 أقدام	إبعث دخان من المركبة (ثاني أكسيد الكربون)
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	السير/الوقوف وسط الطريق (المشاة)	
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Categories of traffic offences: the first category includes crossing red light, overloading passengers, unlicensed vehicles, driving while drunk...etc. The second category includes missing plate, stopping in undesignated areas, turning without warning, driving in opposite direction...etc. The third category includes smoking in a cab, no caring a first aid kit and honking in places where it is not allowed.



Many public transport busses are in bad conditions and emit lead and carbon dioxide from the exhaust.

isn't a fixed number for how many fines are issued daily in Sana'a. The average is between 20-30 tickets per day mostly for parking in undesignated areas, driving in the wrong direction, or crossing a red light.

Road unworthiness is not considered ticket-worthy by the wardens although it is stipulated in the list of traffic violations. The traffic administration authority with support from Ministry of Interior had succeeded last year in issuing a law to ban import of any vehicle manufactured before year 2000.

This helped enhance the quality of cars in the streets as any new cars since 2006 will have to be of good condition. However, loads of cars still wonder Sana'a streets in miserable conditions, causing accidents but more importantly belching black exhaust fumes that pollute the environment and cause health problems for all of us.

"If only the traffic man knew what is getting into his body because of the pollution from cars! Lead poisoning is very likely and many traffic wardens land up with lung diseases after a few years of working in the streets," complained colonel Shubail. There is no health insurance or risk management for the traffic men, and there is no provision for any improvement in this matter. "What budget?" fired back a gloomy Shubail when asked about the budget allocated for the traffic authority? The administration operates on its own revenues, which hardly covers the wages of the staff.

"We are suffering from problems that had been accumulated over the years and have become chronic. There was no vision when planning this city, all we can do now is trouble shooting," he said. He hangs all his hopes on the proposed plan that is still on paper because of lack of funding. His administration had proposed to the government adopting the example of Jordan where broken busses and taxis were taken away and their owners compensated with new vehicles. However, this proposal seems difficult to implement considering the deterioration of national economy.

He insisted that total blame should not fall on the traffic authority alone. Because there are other concerned authorities such as the Ministry of Public Works should "do their job and take responsibility for the damaged roads and traffic mess".

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# Arabs and waves of destructive chaos

What is happening in Iraq is terrible. Also, what is taking place in Sudan and Lebanon is terrible, but what is happening in Palestine and among the Palestinians themselves is more horrible at all the national, moral and human criteria. The worst thing is that such conflicts take place in Palestine and at the same time the Zionist forces are still tightening the noose around the Arab country and preventing its citizens from taking a good breath. The Zionist aggressors continue killing and arresting tens of innocent people and destroying public and private property almost everyday.

According to logic and reason, the Zionist aggression deserves all the bullets coming from the Palestinian guns, which turned to mercilessly shoot dead natives of the Arab land, instead of the enemies, without any feeling of stigma or fear of subsequent consequences.

Certainly, what happens in Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan and Somalia, as well as other parts of the Arab region is part of the comprehensive plot and conspiracy

stemming from the principle of destructive chaos, as described by the White House. This malicious chaos attempts to stain awareness of the Arab citizen, destroy his/her morale, foment seditions inside the Arab society and demolish any available assets in the Arab states. However, the Arab citizen is dreaming of unity and building the unified state, which is based on justice, freedom, and respect for human rights and spiritual privacies of man.

Seeing consequences of the comprehensive conspiracy, I don't know what is remaining at the hands of those who deny any conspiracy. They see this conspiracy as something else to justify their disability to protect their land and misunderstanding of the situation. I don't know what these people will say, particularly after the traditional and new plots have merged into one and started to shape the final map of the Arab region and uproot the identity of Arabs and Muslims. This conspiracy put the Arab region in an



By: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh

inflammatory environment of sectarian and ethnic wars and conflicts. It encouraged traitors to destroy any historic mosques and minarets in an attempt to set the Arab community ablaze, thereby making it difficult for Arabs and Muslims to extinguish.

Such an image is vicious and painful and it may not be limited to this amount of shame and viciousness. It is expected to prevail over all the Arab states that merely denounce what happens despite that fact that they anticipate the situation to be worse. The Arab states behave as if they haven't felt the fire, which moves from one place to another.

Supporters of the destructive chaos continue supplying the conflicting factions with what escalates the tensions and complicate any efforts to settle the conflict. The strangest thing is the powerful countries, which have the biggest and most vital interests in the region, play a major role in formulating the conspiracy and implementing it in real-life situation.

When judicious people sadly question what of the American

interests will remain after destruction, the answer will be: "We (the enemies of Arabs) are never concerned about what is on earth. We are interested in what is underground (wealth and resources)." Then the regimes may keep silent while peoples, who never accept to be submissive to what takes place, can no longer tolerate all the kinds of aggression and barbarism. These peoples won't hesitate to exert hard efforts in order to thwart the conspiracy along with its traditional and new components (plots).

The Arab peoples, not regimes, are more able to thwart all the forms of dominance and Zionist plans including the New Middle East Project, which seeks to eliminate the Arab identity and make the Arab world, after its fragmentation, an obedient servant to the Zionist orders. Remarkably, the more the aggression escalates and conspiracies multiply, the fiercer the resistance is. This resistance tells that victory and independence aren't impossible.

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh is Yemen's prominent poet and intellectual. He is the director of the Yemeni Center for Studies.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

## COMMON SENSE

### Success in Development

#### Attention to the Human Side

Anyone who scrutinizes annual or periodic world development reports issued by international or regional organizations will be quick to realize that countries that pay serious and monitored attention to the human side of development are the ones to realize the best results in the indicators of progress and development. This does not necessarily just mean development in the material sense; i.e., the accumulation of assets or an increase in services. More importantly, this should be viewed with heavy emphasis on the qualitative development of the population, in terms of educational attainment that leads to better living conditions and enhanced abilities of the population to generate income.

The attention to the human side of development is further viewed as the ability of a society to encourage public participation in all aspects of communal social interaction, which is regarded as the absolute prerequisite for success in all community oriented projects and the best means of providing monitoring for self-help community initiatives.

The human side of development is the guaranteed path towards progress and can only be realized when results reflect sound growth oriented economic conditions, with minimal unemployment and minimal poverty levels.

For Yemen, the attention given to the human side of development has been at best mediocre, with the obvious situation, manifested by increasing protest over many aspects of life: political, economic, social and even religious. An apparent lack of concern by the authorities as to the reasons behind these protests and an effort to dismiss them off as purely being acts motivated by political drives worsen the situation more. Surely, it is not hard to realize that with the vast majority of the population living at subsistence level or below the poverty line, an unemployment rate above 40% and rapidly rising prices, some of which have doubled in just under a year, there are enough grounds for the expression of discontent and frustration among the general population. It would seem rather naïve to think that laws that work to curtail public expressions of discontent or the handling of public demonstrations as purely security matters would not add fuel to the fire. With the public at large showing signs of disapproval, it is clear that there are sufficient grounds for an obvious need by the government to find the real roots for such mounting discontent.

Large scale and widespread unfavorable public reactions can be used positively by Government to indicate how successful the policies and programs adopted by the latter have been. Therefore, public disfavor requires government officials at all levels to redirect their attention towards adopting those policies and programs that would produce the best results for the public at large and the least reasons for public discontent.

Moreover, with the public actually seeing only a very few people apparently getting most of the rewards of development, while the majority of the population is left out in the cold, it is understandable that some of the discontent can turn into anger and frustration emanating from hopelessness.

To make the point more clearer, the Yemeni people are really worthy of better performing government in the areas that truly have a wider ranging impact on their lives. This would definitely exclude those areas that only tend to further narrow and selfish interests of quite a few in officialdom. The latter have forgotten that their own wealth is coming at the expense of greater poverty and despair for most of their fellow citizens.

Since the law and the relevant concerned government entities, including even our hibernating Parliament are unable to check this shady avenue to wealth, then it is not surprising that public demonstrations of disapproval of government performance should find their way into the list of adverse socio-economic conditions that Yemen is facing. This is further enhanced by a high rate of unemployment of mostly young people. Many of the latter find little to cling to in terms of hope of aspiring for a better future and a normal healthy family life; i.e. a better share of the pie now only enjoyed by a very small number of badly performing government officials and other elements of the chosen few comprising the elite, who have gained the latter's favor.

Those protestors after all come from the neglected majority, who are only asking for being regarded as human beings, no more and no less. Paying attention to their gripes is the best way to start paying attention to the human side of development. All other ways to deal with the protests only add fuel to the fire.

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

### Letter to the Editor

Regarding the Reuters article "Amnesty backs right to abortion despite church", August 17, 2007:

I wish to commend the Vatican, and more recently Catholic Bishop Michael Evans of East Anglia for condemning Amnesty International's new pro-abortion policy. Amnesty has fallen victim to a distorted rationale that tends to place a higher priority on human suffering than on life itself. Contrary to Amnesty's new position, human welfare depends upon a shared responsibility that involves moral limits. There are no "small" murders. The respect for every human life is an essential condition if a societal life worthy of the name is to be possible. When man's conscience loses respect for life as something sacred, he inevitably ends by losing his own identity.

While the term "choice" may sound

democratic the person who opts for abortion is neglecting to consider the fundamental right to life of the mother's unborn fetus. We must help those who are suffering, but we may not use a good end to justify an evil means. Human beings are not raw materials to be exploited or commodities that can be bought and sold. To suggest otherwise is to endorse a macabre interpretation of progress. To claim the right to abortion and to recognize that right in law, means to attribute to human freedom a perverse and evil significance: that of an absolute power over others and against others. This is the death of true freedom.

With respectful and cordial best wishes I remain,

Sincerely yours,  
Paul Koski.

pkoski@mountaincable.net

# Are we awaiting an unprecedented calamity?

By: Mohammed Al-Maqaleh

For years, Yemen has been going through various calamities, which make it difficult for us to predict any results of the repeated catastrophes that affected the country's security and stability, as well as unity and social fabric.

As Haidar Abu Bakr Al-Attas recently said during his conversation with Al-Hurra Space Channel that there are challenging issues posed to the country's regime and opposition, the most important of which are the congestions in the southern governorates, rebellion in Sa'ada, terrorism and deterioration of the democratic progress. As you notice, all these files have negative impacts on our lives without an exception and their consequences are expected to exacerbate over time.

There may not be a great controversy among us that all these challenging issues and their consequences have the same cause. This cause is represented by oppression, totalitarianism and refusing the principle of national

partnership in power and wealth. In case a calamity occurs, its impact will cover the totalitarian regime and all the Yemeni citizens without an exception.

As Allah said "Avoid a sedition, which may not only affect the oppressive ones." The matter necessitates that all those concerned about Yemen and the future of its natives in different parts of the country to work hard and be on full alert in order not to let the calamity happens. Everyone in Yemen is required to play an effective role in preventing the calamity from taking place and alleviating its consequences to maximum possible extent.

Resolving the above mentioned files and any subsequent consequences needs a real national dialogue with the serious and responsible participation of all those concerned. Such a dialogue should discuss all the persisting issues frankly and clearly without any fear or hypocrisy, on the one hand, and without any rage and irresponsible reactions, on the other. The nation is a possession of everyone and protecting it from division and fragmentation is

the responsibility of everyone.

There is no alternative to unity and the Yemeni identity except for the lengthy civil wars and conflicts between factions over ethnic and sectarian ideologies and other futile issues. The traditional and modern history of Yemen narrates these facts, and in the meantime, we obtain similar information from the experience of countries that suffered fragmentation and disintegration. Such a terrible alternative may be one of the preventive factors on the face of those who prefer their personal interests to the national ones. The situation remains temporarily the same under the current policies warning people of taking a fatal direction toward an unknown catastrophe or loss of identity.

Any talk with the regime to convert its current policy toward the southern parts of Yemen, Sa'ada crisis, terrorism and bequeathing power and key government posts to relatives, may not be feasible. These policies are expected to force the political regime and democratic progress to reach a deadlock. Talk with the regime about such unresolved issues that may lead

to unpredicted catastrophes is too late. Despite all this, talk is our option, which we always insist on to convince those concerned to accept the principle of comprehensive national reform, specifically reforming the state's administrative system to let all the political parities have equal opportunities in power and enhance the peaceful transfer of power. Through this option, we necessitate that local governance should be an essential requirement for protecting national unity and identity, as well as rescuing Yemen from fragmentation and division.

What should be noticed is that the first option, which is less dangerous, was not created by chance. There is no regime in earth convinced of reforming the situations of their countries and alleviating peoples' sufferings. Consequently, the first option needs another option; that is of the opposition to play a key role in the street and increase people's awareness about the future of their country. The opposition is recommended to play an integral role for the sake of Yemen, its stability and security, and building the modern state of law and order. All these are great issues that deserve sacrifice and hard efforts, particularly by those holding key positions in the government, as well as joint meeting parties and civil community organizations.

Once again, the situation of Yemen is alarming of an unprecedented calamity. In the meantime, the government and opposition have before them limited options. One of these options is that President Ali Abdullah should have the will to quit power peacefully and give up any plans to bequeath power to relatives. As far as I am concerned, Saleh's stay in power is one of the primary reasons for the repeated crises. The opposition parties are needed to play an important role to increase awareness of people about the peaceful transfer of power and the real democracy and to win their support. Otherwise, these parties will have to start from the zero hour. By this I mean they will face difficulty building a democratic state.

Source: Al-Thawri Weekly.



By Samer

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# Being Christian in Egypt

By: Adam Gonn,  
The Media Line Ltd.

The Copts live in Egypt, where they constitute some 10 percent of the total population of 78 million. Around 95% of all Copts are members of the Coptic Orthodox Church, which is the oldest form of Christianity in Africa and one of the earliest forms of Christianity in the world.

The Copt religion was established by Saint Mark in Alexandria at the beginning of the first century AD. The church grew at a steady pace and by the third century Christians constituted the majority of Egypt's population and the Church of Alexandria, the seat of the Coptic Church, was considered to be one of the most important Christian centers.



A modern Coptic monastery

The traditional language of the Copts is sometimes referred to as Coptic; however, the basis of their tongue appears to have been Demotic, which has connections to both Greek and local Egyptian.

The development of the script came from a practical problem faced by early Christian missionaries. They knew how to read Greek but not Demotic. The Egyptian peasants did not know how to read either, but they understood the sounds of the language written in Demotic script, which was referred to as Egyptian at that time.

To ensure that the words of God, written in the Scriptures, be preached in the same manner by the various missionaries, it had to be written in a way that they could read and the Egyptians could understand when it was read to them. As a result,



Coptic Cross

the missionaries translated the Scriptures into the Egyptian tongue, but wrote them using the Greek characters with which they were familiar.

In 641, Muslim Arabs invaded Egypt and a century-long process of ethnic and cultural assimilation began. One of the measures imposed was a tax called *jizya* that punished Copts wanting to maintain their cultural heritage by intramarrying.

Following the revolt of the Free Officers under the leadership of Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1952, Arab nationalism and Islamism began gaining popularity with the Egyptian population.

By the 1970s, Islamic extremist groups such as Al-Gama'a Al-Islamiyya and the Muslim Brotherhood were the main perpetrators of anti-Coptic violence, such as church arson, kidnappings and murder.

During the 1990s, when the fighting between the government and Islamist extremists almost triggered a full-

blown civil war, the Copts found themselves in a troubling position, both because of their minority status and relative wealth. They were caught in the middle of the struggle and on some occasions the Copts became the target of attacks by Islamists. There were rumors, for example, that Islamists financed their activities by robbing Coptic jewelers.

Youssef Sidhom is the editor of *Watani*, a Coptic newspaper in Egypt publishing items concerning today's Coptic community. He says the Copts are supportive of the efforts towards political reform in Egypt, but the outcome has not been what they hoped for. There are only two Coptic parliamentarians out of 444 in the ruling party – and, until recently, the only legal party – the National Democratic Party, which is loyal to President Hosni Mubarak.

He also pointed out that even today the Copts are underrepresented in the upper levels of Egyptian politics and the armed forces. While they constitute some 10% of the population, only 3% of the top officials within governmental bodies are Copts.

Sidhom also notes that because of the harassment the Copts have suffered, many of them have retreated from public and cultural life and such activities are now held in churches and within the community.

The political reform of recent years has also resulted in gains for the traditional adversary of the Copts, the Muslim Brotherhood, which, after the latest election, controls one fifth of the parliament, via its independent candidates. The rise of the Muslim Brotherhood has caused a mixed reaction within the Coptic community;



St Mark Coptic Cathedral in Alexandria

some have left the country, while others have chosen to stay behind and wait to see what happens.

Despite the reforms, there are still anti-Coptic laws in place such as the Hamayouni decree limiting construction and maintenance of churches and other places of worship and personal identification cards

omitting reference to individuals' creed. There is also a lack of school-curriculum reform to emphasize the equal human and civil rights of Egyptians of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

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# Breaking the Democratic Taboo

By: Muhammad Habash

I am often invited by religious authorities in the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia to attend meetings that are held to urge people to follow Islamic faith and law, while avoiding any debate connected to politics or political rights. Political rights, my hosts insist, are maintained by the ruling regimes themselves, and these follow the teachings of the Koran.

But recently an invitation came from the Faisal Center for Islamic Research and Studies, which actually wanted me to talk about democracy, or "good governance," as the participants called it.

Until recently, this topic was taboo in Saudi Arabia, where the regime doesn't allow any margin for political debate, and commands people to listen, obey, and leave matters of government to their rulers.

It was obvious that the conference

organizers' goal was to revive religious and political speech in order to find a middle ground between Islamic faith and democracy. I argued that, as many Islamic scholars have recognized, Islamic jurisprudence is compatible with democratic values. Every country that has chosen democracy has come closer to achieving Islam's goals of equality and social justice.

Democracy suffers in the Islamic world due to skepticism about everything that comes from the West, especially the US. Thus, some leaders view democratization efforts as a new form of colonialism or imperialism in disguise.

But the region's hesitancy to embrace democracy goes beyond mere fear of Western hegemony. There is a deep philosophical dispute about the nature of democracy. Some Islamic thinkers point to an inevitable contradiction between Islamic and democratic values. They argue that

Islam requires submission to the will of God, while democracy implies submission to the will of people. This notion was clear in the writings of Said Kotb, who saw parliaments as preventing people from submitting to the rule of God.

Yet Kotb's understanding contradicts with the established practices of the Prophet Mohammad, who created the first real state in the Arabian peninsula by declaring the constitution of Medina, which stated: "Mohammad and the Jews of Bani-Aof [who were citizens of Medina at that time] are one nation." Thus, social relations were to be based on equality and justice, not religious beliefs.

Indeed, the Prophet Mohammad's most important political truce, the Hodiabiah Agreement between his rising nation and the leaders of Quraish (the dominant tribe in Mecca at that time), stated clearly that "everybody is free to join the league of Mohammad or the league of Quraish."

Many non-Muslim tribes, like the Christians of Nagran, the Jews of Fadk, and the pagans of Khoza'a, joined Mohammad's league and became part of the Islamic state. All Muslim and non-Muslim tribes had equal rights and freedoms, and enjoyed the protection of the state. Most importantly, Mecca was later opened to protect the pagan people of Khoza'a against the attacks of Quraish.

So it was not Mohammad's intent to build a theocratic or religious state under the rule of mullahs. He was establishing a democratic civil state where people were equal in rights and obligations.

Reconciling the true understanding of Islam and democracy will, I believe, lead to a full realization of the richness of the Islamic experiment. It could also add great vitality to the democratic experiment by bringing it closer to the Muslim street. But the Islamic mainstream must first realize the

importance of democratic reform, which is possible only by clearly understanding the Prophet's message, which promises genuine solutions for every time and place.

Although the creation of study centers to debate the concept of Islamic democracy reflect the natural evolution of Islamic thinking, it will not go unopposed. Indeed, during one of the sessions I attended, Sheik Ahmad Rageh of Al-Imam University responded angrily to the Tunisian researcher Salah Edeen Al-Jorashi: "How do you expect us to accept the freedom of faith in Islam? It is something that exists only in your illusions. We believe in a religion that doesn't bargain with right, or hesitate in creed. We believe in a religion that orders us to kill the converts. There is no place in our nation for a malevolent or a renegade."

I find it hard to understand how Sheik Rageh can miss (or ignore) the clear verses in the Koran, which order

us to do the very opposite: "Let there be no compulsion in religion";

"Thou art not one to manage their affairs";

"We have not sent thee to be disposer of their affairs for them"; and "Say, 'The truth is from your Lord,' let him who will, believe, and let him who will, reject."

There are many other verses in the Koran that bear a message of tolerance and freedom. The mine of Islamic jurisprudence is very rich, but the problem is in the way its treasures are used. As the ancient Arabs used to say: "A man's choice is a piece of his mind." The struggle in the Islamic world nowadays is a struggle for a piece of the Muslim mind.

Muhammad Habash, a member of the Syrian Parliament, is director of the Islamic Studies Center in Damascus. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007. www.project-syndicate.org.

# Springs of hope

By: Benjamin Pogrud

Amid the gloom of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict it's a joy to go to a meeting in Jerusalem where hope and co-operation are the keynotes, and especially when it's on an issue that usually carries dire threats of war: water.

The threats exist because water is in such short supply in this part of the world. A primary reason for Israel annexing the Golan Heights in the north, for instance, is that they are the watershed for more than 55 per cent of the country's fresh water needs.

Yet behind the scenes, Israeli and Palestinian water experts, plus others from the region, have been co-operating for years. They were brought together recently by the Israel-Palestine Centre for Research and Information to launch a book of their conclusions — Water Resources in the

Middle East, edited by Professor Hillel Shuval of the Hebrew University and Professor Hassan Dweik of al-Quds University, both of Jerusalem.

Shuval estimates the minimum annual water requirement in the Middle East is 125 cubic metres per person per year. Lebanon has available about 1,000 cubic metres of water per person, Syria 800, Israel 240, Jordan 200, and Palestine less than 100. The worst-off Palestinians are angered by the sight of well-watered gardens in Israeli settlements on the West Bank, whereas not all Palestinian homes have piped water.

Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank draw water from two main sources — the Sea of Galilee, fed by the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers, which run from Syria, and to a lesser extent from Lebanon; and the Mountain Aquifer, most of which is in the intended Palestinian state.

The Mountain Aquifer can provide a safe yield of 700 million cubic metres

of water a year. Israel draws 500 million cubic metres, the West Bank 200. There were no legal restrictions on drilling for water on the West Bank under the successive rules of Turkey, Britain and Jordan, but after Israel's conquest in 1967, it drilled its own wells but restricted Palestinian water development.

In the Gaza Strip, where most of the water for the Palestinians derives from the separate Coastal Aquifer, the problems are more severe, since the aquifer is shallow and has been overpumped. As many as 1,000 illegal wells have been sunk in the years since the Palestinian Authority was established, and the rate of extraction is far in excess of what the aquifer can sustain. Brackish water from the sea has entered the aquifer and the quality of its water has been much reduced.

In spite of all this, Shuval says that "an equitable solution which will involve Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria is possible.

Agreement on the significant reallocation of water can be a motivation for peace."

It is in Israel's interests to ensure that Palestinians get adequate amounts of water, he says. Israel can forgo the 75 million cubic metres a year it is pumping on the West Bank. It has already given up five million cubic metres in the Gaza Strip. And it can afford to forgo a further 75 million cubic metres, as desalinated water is becoming available in large quantities and more agricultural needs are being met by treated waste water.

Thus a total 155 million cubic metres, 12 per cent of Israel's current usage, will become available. Indeed, notes Shuval, it is rumoured that at the 2000 Camp David talks, Israel unofficially offered to give up 200 million cubic metres to the Palestinians.

Change in policy is possible because desalination plants can now provide fresh water for a cost comparable to

that for supplies from other sources. These plants are not without problems; mass dumping of concentrated salts could damage the Mediterranean's ecosystem. But the cost of providing additional desalination plants over the next decade is estimated at between \$20m and \$40m a year — virtually meaningless compared with Israel's gross domestic product of \$100bn.

In addition, if Syria and Lebanon reallocate 250 million cubic metres a year from their share of the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers — that's less than 1 per cent of their water resources — the total amount would meet Palestinian needs until the year 2025. Turkey also has an abundance of water, and there is a proposal for millions of cubic metres to be floated to Israel in giant plastic tubes pulled by tugboats.

"There's no need for a war over water," says Shuval. "It's an easy dispute to resolve."

The benefits of co-operation are already in evidence. Since the peace

treaty between the two countries in 1994, Israel has transferred 75 million cubic metres of high-quality water each year to Jordan, regardless of rainfall.

"The shortage of water is becoming more important in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," Dr Alfred Abed Rabbo, of Bethlehem University, told his colleagues at the book launch.

But, as another Palestinian academic said: "Peace will solve many of these problems if we have good intentions."

Benjamin Pogrud was deputy editor of *The Rand Daily Mail*, Johannesburg and is Founder/Director of *Yakar's Center for Social Concern*, Jerusalem. This article is distributed by the *Common Ground News Service (CGNews)* and can be accessed at [www.commongroundnews.org](http://www.commongroundnews.org). Source: *New Statesman*, [www.newstatesman.com](http://www.newstatesman.com). Copyright permission has been obtained for publication.



# Bahran: Please economize in using electricity

In a brief Interview to a Yemen-Times subsidiary, Dr. Mustafa Bahran, Minister of Energy and Electricity, expressed some of his thoughts with regards to the power realities, problems, and possible solutions in place that the Ministry is working on. His Excellency also called on the Yemeni public to reduce consumption of power during peak hours especially as the Holy month of Ramadhan is almost here.

Interviewed by: Khalil Al-Qahiri

Your Excellency, power interruptions are a recurring headache for many people in different parts of the country all year long, will we see similar interruptions during the month of Ramadhan?

First, let me congratulate the Yemeni people on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadhan. Second, we have planned that this year's Ramadhan will experience less power interruptions as we are currently buying electricity from other sources beside the power we generate using our own infrastructure.

However, I call on the Yemeni public to economize using the power especially during the peak hours, such as the evenings of Ramadhan, and use heavy-consumption equipment during the day.

However power interruptions happen when people need power the most, why?

Because this happens at the peak hours, when there is too much demand for power that exceeds supply, therefore we find ourselves forced to cut some locations off power, however, these interruptions do not exceed an hour at most unless there is a technical fault.

In fact, we are working on long-term solutions to ensure more power supply.

Can you tell us about these solutions?

Yes, actually, in the short and medium term we buy power from the regional market or the private sector, however, for the long-term we are currently constructing a power generation plant in Mareb with a capacity of producing 341 Megawatts, which is expected to boost the national supply and therefore limit any interruptions. This power plant will work on natural gas and can be converted to work using nuclear power in the future. So, hopefully by Ramadhan next year there will be no interruptions across the nation.

This seems very encouraging; however, I'd like to ask you about your new no-tolerance policy for any overdue in the power bills even if it was less than two thousand Riyals, why?

The Ministry has a serious problem of overdue, there are around 18 billion Riyals in unsettled power bills across the nation, and this number have been accumulating for several years and is a major concern for me, therefore, the natural thing to do is to adopt a no-tolerance policy in order to avoid accumulating any additional overdue amounts.

Having said that, it still upsets me to know that the regular layman, who



Dr. Mustafa Bahran

has 2000 Riyals as overdue, has to pay it within the timeframe, otherwise, his power service is shut off, while other influential people may have a million in overdue, yet the staff of the Ministry are unable to shut their power off.

This is very upsetting and I am currently working on establishing the legal guidance for the Ministry in order to prosecute such influential people, as well as put a policing system in place to eradicate such scenarios and maintain equal treatment with all.

Looking into the future, what are your Ministry's plans within the next few years?

Our biggest project at hand is the Mareb power plant, which will be a state-of-the-art facility and is expected to increase the national power production, which, in return, will allow us expand our service areas to include more rural and remote locations that are currently uncovered by the power grid, such as the governorates of Ibb and Taiz which are underserved though they have a significant rural population.

## Business in Brief

Locusts cost Yemen over US\$ 747 million

Official Statistics by the Center for Locust Control stated that Yemen is expected to lose over US\$ 747 millions worth of Agricultural products as a result of Locust swarms invading the country; in which the worst affected areas are the governorates of Mareb and Hadhramout.

Locust threat underestimated

Director of the Center for Locust control Abdu Al-Romaih stated that the smallest swarm of locusts extends over 1 square Kilometers and includes 40 million locusts, while the largest swarm is 120 times bigger than the smallest one. Other sources indicate that the population of locusts in Yemen exceeds 100 billion locusts.

GCC to discuss

Yemen's economic rehabilitation

The Ministerial Council of Gulf Cooperative Council Countries will meet next week to discuss economic affairs including the rehabilitation of Yemen's economy following last November's donors' conference which rose over US\$ 5.5 million in grants and loans to develop the Yemeni economy.

PM unhappy with economic progress

In a meeting with members of the ruling party, Prime Minister Mujawar stated that he is unhappy of the country's economic progress, stating that the continuing decrease in Oil revenues might prove to be a big problem especially during the next financial year, stating that decreased revenue will affect reserves of foreign currency, and

will in turn, affect the value of the Riyal.

Al-Mutawakel:

Plan to monitor prices

For the first time in Yemen's history, Ministry of Trade has officially announced that it has developed a program to monitor the prices of food commodities throughout the country during the month of Ramadhan, this program will also work out as a pilot for a larger program to regulate retail prices of food commodities throughout the year.

Public Prosecutor looks into 188 minor corruption cases

The Attorney of the public funds office stated that some 188 cases of corruption are being looked into, including 101 cases where the verdicts has been issued to return 65 million Riyals to the treasury, averaging 643 thousand Riyals (~3,200 \$) per case.

29 companies bid on Mareb's power plant construction

29 local and International companies have taken part in the international bidding round for the second phase of construction of Mareb's Power plant, which will be expanded to produce around 400 MegaWatts of electric current using Natural Gas. The bids will be announced in the second week of September.

Muneeb Corporation to use Geo-physical

surveying in Oil exploration

Muneed Oil Corporation with GeoDynamic International in order to produce an analysis of oil fields in a more accurate and less time consuming manner.

## The healthier poor

By: Jeffrey D. Sachs

Life expectancy in the world's high-income countries is now 78 years, while it is only 51 years in the least-developed countries, and as low as 40 years in some AIDS-ridden African countries. For every 1,000 children born in rich countries, seven die before their fifth birthday; for every 1,000 births in the poorest countries, 155 children die before their fifth birthday.

These deaths are not only human tragedies, but also calamities for economic development, systematically reducing economic growth and helping to keep the poorest countries trapped in poverty. But a growing number of programs around the world are proving that the death and illness of the poor can be reduced sharply and rapidly with targeted investments in public health programs.

Big victories in recent years have come through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The Fund, established six years ago, has provided financing to more than 130 countries to scale up their programs against these three killer diseases. Since then, Global Fund programs have helped roughly one million Africans to receive anti-retroviral medicines to treat AIDS, financed the distribution of around 30 million bed nets to combat malaria, and supported treatment of around two million people with TB.

Malaria can be brought under decisive control through bed nets, indoor spraying of insecticides, and making medicines freely available to poor people in malaria-prone villages. In just two days last year, Kenya's government distributed more than two million bed nets. Similar mass distribution programs have been implemented in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Togo, Niger, Ghana, and other places. The results are amazing. The poor use

the bed nets effectively, and the burden of malaria comes down rapidly.

Likewise, a campaign led by Rotary International and several partners has nearly eradicated polio. The number of cases worldwide each year is now in the hundreds, compared to many tens of thousands when the campaign began. Success is being achieved in even the most remote and difficult places, such as the poverty-stricken states of northern India.

Indeed, India is doing much more with its remarkable National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which is the single largest mobilization of public health measures in the world. An astounding half-million young women have recently been hired as health workers to link impoverished households and public clinics and hospitals, which are being improved, and to increase women's access to emergency obstetrical care in order to avoid tragic and unnecessary deaths in childbirth.

Another remarkable success in India is the safe home-care of newborn infants in the first few days of life. Currently, an alarming number of newborns die because of infection, mothers' failure to breastfeed during the first days, or other preventable causes. By training community health workers, the NRHM has achieved a marked reduction in newborn deaths in Indian villages.

All these programs refute three widely held myths. The first is that the burden of disease among the poor is somehow inevitable and unavoidable, as if the poor are bound to get sick and die prematurely. In fact, the poor die of known and identifiable causes that are largely preventable and treatable at very low cost. There is no excuse for millions of deaths from malaria, AIDS, TB, polio, measles, diarrhea, or respiratory infections, or for so many women and infants to die in or after childbirth.

The second myth is that aid from

rich countries is inevitably wasted. This fallacy is repeated so often by ignorant leaders in rich countries that it has become a major barrier to progress. The rich like to blame the poor, partly because it lets them off the hook, and partly because it gives them a feeling of moral superiority. But poor countries are capable of establishing effective public health programs rapidly when they are helped. Recent success stories have been made possible through a combination of increased spending from poor countries' budgets, supplemented by aid from rich-country donors.

The third myth is that saving the poor will worsen the population explosion. But households in the least-developed countries have many children – an average of five per woman – partly because fear of high childhood death rates leads them to overcompensate with large families. When childhood death rates come down, fertility rates tend to decline even more, since families are now confident that their children will survive. The result is slower population growth.

It is time to make good on a basic global commitment – that everybody, poor and rich alike – should have access to basic health services. If just 0.1% of rich-world income were devoted to life-saving health care for the poor, it would be possible to raise life expectancy, decrease child mortality, save mothers in childbirth, slow population growth, and spur economic development throughout the poor world.

The success stories in public health for the poor are multiplying. Given the low cost and the huge benefits of supporting such efforts, there is no excuse for inaction.

Jeffrey Sachs is Professor of Economics and Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2007.



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تنظيم شركة ماس للإنتاج الفني والإعلاني



# A drop from sea

By: Salah Mose'sd Babak

Each year I am accustomed to share with my relatives and villagers their lovely traditions. Ameer Al-Eid is the most famous and important tradition of the people of Aldla'a, in Ibb governorate, particularly in Wadi Bana. This habit is being inherited among generations like a repeated process at the occasion of Aladha Eid.

For this event, which was invented by our forefathers 200 years ago, people prepare themselves and travel to villages to share with their families this glorious scenery, celebrating the Eid's days.

There are many steps people should follow to arrange for this custom. First, they specify around eight skillful men who are supposed to have some skills such as dancing, joking or singing. Then, they divide them into two groups. The first group should disguise themselves by wearing dreadful clothes in order to frighten the audience.

The second group must wear different clothes so as to be distinguished. These clothes are similar to bride's dress. Each one of the second team appears like a bride and they should know how to dance. Consequentially, they will be exposed to the audience's courtship.

While the two teams prepare themselves, drummers do their job to gather



people into a specific place, where the first day of the festival is spent. Then, on the other days they exchange visits with other areas.

Before acting, participants display their popular dances. After that, fun begins in the masked ball, where teams are going to have a competition.

After dancing together, songs, ballads, and jokes are displayed competitively. The winner will immediately get one of the brides. The judge in this sit-

uation is the bride who chooses the best actor in the contest.

Despite having fun from this custom there is another purpose. For instance, the event is used to discuss a lot of society's issues such as immigration that cause separating as well as neglecting families. Also, it is used to discuss how youth suffer due to the increasing of the dowry which becomes a real obstacle to those who would like to get married. Nay, carry-

ing weapons, which is one of the main issues clearly seen in our country, is discussed within this function.

I would like to say that this is just a drop from the sea of the Yemeni history which is so rich in different customs. However, the Ministry of Culture should realize the value of such events. Really, I wish that the government would support and care for these traditions which we inherited from our forefathers.

# Which is more important, language or literature?

By: Adel ALadlany  
English language graduate  
Amran Faculty



This was the title of a debate held last recently at the faculty of Education, in Amran governorate, for the students of English Department. There were more than forty male and female students participating. I was in favor of language.

Of course you will ask why? It seems to me that language is more important than literature because it happens first in the process of learning

a foreign language. Moreover, it is the main stone of building up a civilization.

Language is a medium of communication by which you can express your ideas, feelings, and can convey them to others.

Any culture over the world is preserved in language and transmitted through it. Additionally, language plays a central role in the process of education. It is also used in all the kinds of social and personal situations and no study can ignore the signifi-

cance of language.

Learning a language as a science is regarded as a logical way for the foreign-language learners. Therefore, the material of a language is graded from simple to more complex; it is presented in an organized sequence, which begins with objects and gradually moves to abstract things.

No one can swim in at the sea without learning how to swim; otherwise he/she will be drowned in the water. So, learning a language is like swimming and that's why language is more important than literature. And, we know that language has three compo-

nents: sound, structure, and meaning; every component has scientific studies to enable foreign learners to gain the basics of a language. For instance, phonetics is related to the sound of a language. Syntax, structure, and morphology are related to structure. On the other hand, semantics and pragmatics are related to meaning. Therefore, language learners are being helped, by those scientific classifications, to gain the basic knowledge in order to swim at the sea of literature.

Eventually, language learning is the first and important step towards producing literature.

# Don't be shy to love

By: Lamis Abdulkarim Shuga'a  
lamis\_shuga@yahoo.com

'Love' is a short word that has noble and merciful meanings. It was defined by many writers and in poetry, stories, novels, dramas, etc. It is a strong relationship whether it is among members of a family or a society.

Some simple definitions of love are mentioned here, just to have better understanding of it. Love is patient, peaceful and kind. It is not being jealous, proud, rude, or selfish. By love, we learn how to sacrifice for others and how to give and never wait to receive. It holds no grudges. In other words, it is not easily angered or happy about evil but it is happy about the truth.

Moreover, it doesn't brag nor lie. Love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres. In short, only real love will last forever. Of course this perfect (ideal) love can rarely be found. Even parents' love for their children is not up to that standard of perfect love.

Socially speaking, everyone wants to be loved and respected by others. However, that doesn't mean that we ask others directly to love us. Instead, our kind behavior and polite treatment will certainly help others respect and love us. According to our traditions and customs, love must occur only with a limited kind of people, i.e., members of



a family, relatives, and friends. That is because the idea of love, especially in some villages in Yemen, is something happening between a man and a woman just after their marriage.

In addition, it has been noticed that it is a shame for boys and girls to talk

about love in front of their parents. That happens, maybe, because those 'kind of people' ignore the fact that there are three kinds of love, according to the Greek tradition, not only that which is created between a husband and a wife.

The first one is (Agape) sacrificial love. It is that kind of love in which there isn't any gain or profit; it is just like parents' love towards their children and vice versa. The second one is (Konoinia) community love. That is found within friendship relations and

## THROUGH THE MIND'S EYE

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy  
majed\_thabet@hotmail.com



# Keep Yemen clean and tidy

The streets of most of our cities make me feel sad. They are full of rubbish. The government sometimes launches a campaign to clean at least some of the main streets. Cleaners work day and night: but the cleanness never lasts long. Unfortunately, our citizens prefer to be careless and indifferent.

Walking in the streets, you may not realize they are dirty. This is not because they are clean. But because you are used to seeing rubbish everywhere. As a result, you may get a shock if you see the streets clean.

Some people may not realize the ugliness of rubbish because they throw the rubbish themselves to the streets. They get used to do so. And they never feel that they are doing something wrong.

Sometimes, I am surprised by the cleanness inside some people's homes. They clean everything, and then feel that their only duty is to get rid of rubbish outside of the home. Then they step out of home, carrying that rubbish to find a place to dump it. This should not be immediately outside their front door: it's shameful to do that.

One should respect such people for they feel and think that homes and also 'in front of homes' reflect their personalities. But they should think more about their streets and how bad they look and how this reflects on our homeland.

A person may curse and condemn the dirtiness of those places, and at the same time he may throw Qat or any rubbish to the streets. Sometimes he feels angry for seeing such dirty streets. At the same time, he feels happy for throwing everything everywhere because that does not cost him time or anything else.

It really happens to every one of us dear readers. There are no restrictions on street litter as there are in other countries. And sometimes there is no sense of nationality, and homeland respect. If nobody punishes for such immoral and irreligious behaviors, at least everyone should observe him/herself.

The case becomes different when one of us travels abroad. There the streets may seem clean. So the Yemeni traveler behaves in a

different way. He puts rubbish in the special place provided. He keeps the place clean and condemns the state of his homeland. He enjoys this and never complains about not being able to drop rubbish in the street. The only thing he does there is condemning the state of homeland.

The moment he comes back, he starts another daily routine. He talks to his friends about the cleanness abroad, comparing it with the cursed state of the dirtiness here. Meanwhile, he drinks water and throws the battle to the street.

Really one feels ashamed when we find foreigners respect our country more than we do. They do best to keep it clean, feeling that it is a duty that everyone should do any where in the world.

A real story astonished me. In one of the universities, in one of the halls, there were two or three rubbish bins. But there were a lot of empty water bottles, drink cans, tissues, and plastic spread everywhere in the hall. The students as well as the Yemeni teachers do not notice this. They never attack such scenes as if they were interested in such a situation.

This is in a university, where suppose to find the most educated and cultured class of people. In comparison, we can imagine how bad the situation would be in the schools and the other institutions, and streets.

The university students got a shock when a foreign doctor came into the room, and began to collect the rubbish and put it into the special bins. The students were ashamed of themselves. They could not stop that doctor for he was doing that as a duty. ~That doctor taught us a lesson.

I wrote this article not to acquit myself and accuse others. My aim is to make myself first and everyone else accept the responsibility to keep everywhere clean and tidy. We all should deal seriously with this matter; it would make an immediate and noticeable difference in the appearance of our beautiful country. I hope, dear reader, that you will support me.

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

# The Truth

By: Hameed Assadah

When I see the sun  
I see your face  
Like the children I run  
And all the flowers dance  
Because of you  
I'll kill myself by gun  
Because of you  
I'll travel to the space  
That is the truth  
Really I love you  
When I see the moon  
I see your face  
I want to see you soon  
After I go to the jail  
Because of you  
I'll be as loon  
Because of you  
I'll be in the pile  
That's the truth  
Really I love you

within people groups, particularly people who belong to one country or society. The third one, on the other hand, is (Eros) sexual or romantic love which can be represented by wives and husbands.

Whatever the strength of love, of these kinds, is, there is still no perfect love. However, the ideal love can be found around us. Yes!! It is God's love for us because He wants us to be good people. Through the Holy Quran, He gives instructions and orders for all nations to obey Him and always to do the best deeds, to bring us happiness, to live safely in life, and to win paradise. As a matter of fact, God doesn't need our good or bad deeds, we have to understand that. He orders us to do the right and to avoid the evil, just for our own sake.

So, we have to do the right thing, because we really love our God who gives us innumerable gifts. Above all, our God forgives us whatever we sin only if we truly repent. This is our God, "the most merciful and the most gracious".

What I want to say, finally, is that "Love each other as God loves us" and deal with others as the same way that we want to be treated. As our Islamic Religion instructs us and as the prophet Mohammad commands us when he said "love your brother as you love yourself".



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المستشفى الاماني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠  
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E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

فنادق  
فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٣٥٧٧-١/١  
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠  
فندق موفيفيك ت: ٠١-٥٤٦٦٦٦  
فندق تاج سبأ ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٣٣٧  
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فندق وأجنحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٥٠ - ٦٠٣٥٠/٨

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

الانظمة  
تتمك  
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Numbers  
للإشتراك في هذه المساحة الإتصال على  
تحويلة ٢١١ ٣٨٦٦١

طوارئ الكهرباء ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة ١٩٩،  
الإطفاء ١٩١، طوارئ المياه ١٧١،  
الاستعلامات ١١٨، حوادث (المرور) ١٩٤،  
الشؤون الخارجية ٢٠٣٥٤٤/٧، الشؤون الداخلية ٢٥٣٧٠/٧، الهجرة  
٢٥٠٧٦١/٢، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون) ٧٥٢٢٢٠٢،  
الإذاعة ٢٨٢٠٦١، التلفزيون ٣٣٠٠١/٢،  
مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن ٢٦٢١١١/٣،  
وزارة المواصلات ٢٥٤٠٢٢، السياحة ٢٥٤٠٢٢،  
الصليب الأحمر ٢٠٣٢١٧/٣، تأمين ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

البنوك  
بنك اليمن والخليج فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤، ت: ١٦٠-٩٦٧-١  
فرع عدن ت: ٢٣٧٨٢٩ - ٢٣٧٨٢٩، فاكس: ٢٣٧٨٢٤  
البنك التجاري ت: ٣٧٧٣٤، فاكس: ٣٧٧٣١  
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٣٦٥٥٠، فاكس: ٣٦٥٥٠  
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يورب كار ت: ٣٧-٧٥١، فاكس: ٣٧-٨٠٤  
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مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر  
أبتك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الانترنت، مناهج، تجارة إلكترونية)  
شهادة ايزو ١.  
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تجز ت: ٤٠٢٥-٢٤٣  
المكلا ت: ٥٠٢٠٧٤٩٢

البريد السريع  
Infinet Education T: 444553  
NIIT لتعليم الكمبيوتر ت: ٤٤٥٥١٨/٧-٤٤٢-٧٣

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الحدوده ت: ٢٤٨٣٢  
إب ت: ٤١١٨٨٨  
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شبه ت: ٢٠٣٣٦٦  
سيئون ت: ٤٠٢٤٢٩

الإعلاناتكم يرجى التواصل  
مع قسم الإعلانات والتسويق  
على رقم 268661 تحويلة 211

## كوبون للإعلانات الشخصية المجانية (كل الاعلانات الشخصية بدون أي مقابل)

بيع شراء إيجار إستجار طلب وظيفة وظائف شاغرة غير ذلك

تفاصيل الاعلان:

عنوان التواصل:

قص هذا الكوبون وإرساله إلى صحيفة يمن تايمز على فاكس ٢٦٨٢٧٦ أو على صندوق بريد ٢٥٧٩ - صنعاء  
لمزيد من المعلومات اتصل ب (ت ٢٦٨٦١١/٢/٣)



## A child's plight, a man's charity

By: Saddam Al-Ashmouri  
For Yemen Times

While walking beside a local mosque, I saw many people gathered outside in the building's yard. Curiosity lured me to see what had grabbed so much attention, especially after hearing voices from the crowd say, "Let's send him to the police." Others stated, "Let us know who is his father, where does he live and who is teaching him to steal?"

I reached the gathering and passed through the crowd, coming upon a 9-year-old child whose face indicated that he was from a good family and not a street child.

He was sitting among the crowd, shivering out of fright. I almost heard the sound of his teeth chattering from panic. His cheeks were red, not because of shyness but because he had been subjected to strong slaps across the face. Moreover, his nose was bleeding.

While he was sitting, obviously terrified, a man kicked him strongly. I did not see tears in his eyes but I heard him moan when the man's foot made contact with his tiny body.

I had approached the boy's side when a man was sitting with him. This man saw in the child's features that he was a good boy. "What's your name, son? Where is your father? Why do you steal? Do you not know that stealing is forbidden and this is a holy place?" he asked the boy.

The boy could not talk, and out of his fright and pain, a white foam formed in his mouth. The man laid him down and told me to give him some water.

"Let's take him to the police. They will look after him and give him



Because of poverty and with half the population below 15 years of age, children are forced into the streets to beg and become exposed to the violent life in the streets.

water," one of the people from the crowd shouted. "He stole my shoes and you will give him water! We are supposed to cut his hand," another person added.

We tried to calm the boy down. The man let him drink and washed his face. Then he asked the boy what was wrong. After the boy felt relaxed, he started complaining, "They were beating me. I felt pain." He talked and talked then burst into tears until all those surrounding him were convinced that he was crying from the depth of his heart, not crying to gain sympathy or mislead the crowd.

The atmosphere suddenly changed. The people offered to help the boy with

anything. He ate and felt relief and the people went on their way. He once again cried with bitterness, grabbing the man who had been helping him strongly, and said, "Do not leave me, they will beat me."

The man took him aside and began to question him more intensely. "What is your name, son?" the man asked. "Ali," the boy answered. "Do you live in this quarter, near the mosque? What did you steal?" the man added. "I stole shoes," the boy replied. "Why are you stealing?" the man questioned. "My mother told me that I have to come home with food because my brothers are crying out of hunger. I thought to go to the mosque and ask people for help

but other individuals preceded me in asking for charity. I did not know what to do. Then I went out. During my exiting, I saw new shoes. I said to myself, 'these belong to a rich man. I will sell them to buy food and he will buy another pair,'" he explained.

"You tell lies," the man accused. "I do not," the boy pleaded. The spectators decided to collect an amount of money and accompany the boy to his home to see if he was being truthful. If he was, they would give him the money; if not, they would advise his family to reprimand him.

The Truth Always Prevails  
We went to the boy's house. His mother opened the door and quickly went inside. We waited outside while the man and the boy entered. Ten minutes later, the man returned and explained the tragic situation of the family.

"This family consists of four girls, three boys and their mother. Their father died ten years ago leaving nothing for them; even the furniture they sold. For two days, they haven't eaten," he explained. The man added that when he told the mother what happened, she wanted to beat her child but he prevented her.

Then she cried loudly, saying, "I swear, I did not tell him to steal; I told him to go to the mosque, wait until the end of the prayer, then ask people for help. What can I do? I have no work. Shall I let my daughters be prostitutes in the street to live? No! Death is better."

The man added that the woman had not paid rent for one year and sometimes the house owner would threaten to throw them out on the street.

The man offered to let the family live in an additional apartment in his house.

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I took his number to check up on the family's needs and progress. When I contacted him, he thanked me for my concern and stated, "I moved them to my house after many troubles because of the house owner. But, the police along with the quarter's official and the neighbors convinced him [the house owner] that he cannot get any money because they are destitute."

At the end of the call, he gave me their address and asked me to visit them. "I gave them the apartment and some furniture. I want you to be a witness that I did this for Allah's sake, until they drive away their troubles," he added.

I did not divulge my identity to the man. I was so affected by his rare and wonderful attitude, and I pondered, "Just by chance, if we were faced with this tragic situation and were the ones in need, would we find someone to assist us as this man had assisted this family?"

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## Oddly enough news

### Woman traps thief in back seat of car

BERLIN (Reuters) — A 54-year-old woman in Germany shocked a would-be thief into submission when she ran screaming and trapped the man in her car after seeing him rummaging around in search of plunder, police said Sunday.

The woman had just unloaded a refrigerator from her car when she saw a man had opened the door and was kneeling on the back seat, a spokeswoman for police in the western city of Bonn said.

"It's not like she was some kind of Arnold Schwarzenegger," the spokeswoman said. "She ran up screaming, pushed the man in and held him there. He was so impressed he didn't even try to escape. He just swapped her back seat for one of ours."

### Phantom professor claims salary for 15 years

PARIS (Reuters) — A French tax official cheated the government out of 600,000 euros (\$820,000) by creating a phantom identity as a university professor and claiming a salary for some 15 years, the government said Monday.

Education Ministry officials uncovered the scam in June and began legal and disciplinary action

immediately, Budget Minister Eric Woerth said in a statement.

He said he "desired action to be undertaken urgently to prevent a recurrence of an abuse of this kind."

### Thieves switch police dog for mongrel pup

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — An elite Mexican sniffer dog kidnapped five days ago was found abandoned in a Mexico City park on Monday and reunited with its police handlers.

Working on a tip, federal police found Rex IV — a highly trained Belgian Malinois sheepdog with a string of drug hauls to its name — tied to a tree in a park in the gritty Iztapalapa neighborhood, a Public Security Ministry spokesman said.

"When they realized the police were onto them, they abandoned him in a park," the spokesman told Reuters, adding that the dog's identity was confirmed by scanning an embedded electronic chip.

The dog, part of an elite drug squad, was snatched from Mexico City airport on August 22 while it was en route for an operation in the northern state of Sinaloa. The thieves left a black mongrel puppy in its travel cage.

Police only realized Rex IV was missing when the puppy turned up in Mazatlan airport, Sinaloa. They feared the stolen dog, which one offi-

cial compared to an intelligence agent, could help smugglers find new ways to conceal drug stashes.

Rex IV was in good condition and back with his trainers, while two employees at the company in charge of transporting him and other police dogs have been arrested, the ministry spokesman said.

Rex IV is part of an elite Special Canine Unit set up in 2001 to help hunt down the gangs that smuggle South American cocaine and other drugs to the United States.

President Felipe Calderon has sent thousands of police and soldiers to northern and western states in a new crackdown on the cartels whose turf wars kill dozens each week.

### Shoplifter nabbed trying to exchange stolen shoes

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israeli police arrested a woman who stole a pair of Crocs shoes when she returned to the store hours later to exchange them because they did not fit her son, a police spokesman said Friday.

"The store clerk identified her from security camera footage and called us," said Amos Shimoni, police spokesman in the northern town of Safed.

"Instead of exchanging the shoes for another pair, she exchanged them for a criminal record."

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# Education

A free monthly Supplement offered by Yemen Times and presented by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu

No. 19

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## Improve Your English: 307

### I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (98):  
Some frequently used legal terms (I)

It is an admitted fact that Law is a profession of words. Legal communication demands both uniformity and stability. But the ordinary language often betrays a lack of these features which renders it unsuitable to appropriately convey the embedded specificity, ambiguity, verbosity and complexity of the tangled web of legal communication. The language of law is marked by a dominance of words with a certain amount of alienness; use of jargon, archaic expressions, synonyms, repetition, and long sentences. Let's look at some examples:

**Archaisms:** Old English and Middle English words that have long since passed out of use except in religious register or at the pulpit of the church are found freely and plentifully in the legal documents. Most frequent among them are:

**Adverb-like words with prepositions affixed to them**

- hereafter, hither-to-fore, herewith, herein, hereinafter
- wherein, whereas, whereby, whereof
- therein, thereon, thereby, therewith, thereto, thereupon

**Adjectives referring to antecedents**  
Ex. such, said, aforesaid

**Words that have fallen into disuse:**  
Ex. notwithstanding

### II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors, if any, in the following sentences

- Because I'd lost my mobile, so I couldn't contact you.
- I can't understand what you say due to I don't know Arabic.
- I left for the airport well in time not to be late for the flight.
- I went to Edinburgh for doing higher studies.
- Although she worked hard, but she never looked like passing the exam.

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

- She's **rather/a lot** younger than me. (The adverb 'quite' cannot be used before a comparative degree)
- He may **even** help you if you ask. ('even' is placed in mid position)
- Have something to eat before you go.
- I was playing football **when** a stone hit me.
- Come and stay in my flat **while/when** I am on holiday. Or... **during the time that** I am on holiday.

### III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- Brightly colored and decorated.
- Easily bent without breaking.
- Not showing deserved respect.
- Make love for amusement, without serious intentions.
- Fully developed embryo in the womb.

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

- Something such as electric light fittings, fixed in place: **fixture** (n)
- Overwhelm with amazement: **flabbergast**(vt)
- Soft, not firm, muscles: **flabby** (adj)
- Openly and obviously wicked crime or criminal: **flagrant** (adj)
- Natural or instinctive ability to do something: **flair** (n)

(B) Words often confused

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

- dispatch, remittance
- rational, reasonable
- buy, purchase
- tax, task
- strum, storm

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

- flail** (n) (old-fashioned tool for threshing grain): Farmers in old times used flail to beat grain out of wheat etc.  
**frail** (adj) (one with a weak constitution): I have a frail physique, but a strong mind.

- shore** (n) (the edge of the land where it meets the water): She sells sea-shells on the sea-shore.  
**beach** (n) (part of the coast or the shore that is smooth, without cliffs or rocks. It may consist of sand or small stones): Children are playing on the beach.
- restive** (adj) (impatient of control or discipline): Students felt restive towards the end of the afternoon lecture.  
**restful** (adj) (peaceful; giving one a feeling of rest): We spent a restful evening gossiping and watching television.
- think up** (v-adv) (to invent an idea): The accused tried his best to think up a plan to prove himself innocent.  
**think through** (v-adv) (to consider something in detail with care): You should think through your future before deciding to marry him.
- massive** (adj) (large, heavy and solid): The engineers are busy assembling the scaffolding for a massive building.  
**missive** (n) (a letter of great length): He spent the evening drafting a missive to his sweetheart.

### (C) Synonyms and Antonyms

i. Synonyms

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

- august**  
a. common b. ridiculous  
c. dignified d. petty
- launch**  
a. review b. begin  
c. propel d. push
- relied**  
a. emphasized b. depended  
c. convinced d. followed
- obtained**  
a. combined b. procured  
c. acquired d. conquered
- garnish**  
a. paint b. garner  
c. adorn d. abuse

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

- | Word        | Synonym        |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. subtle   | insidious      |
| 2. fake     | imitation      |
| 3. infamy   | dishonor       |
| 4. repeal   | cancel         |
| 5. embezzle | misappropriate |

ii. Antonyms

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

- prototype**  
a. favor b. canvass  
c. repeat d. duplicate
- refrain**  
a. react b. avoid  
c. indulgence d. sunder
- rebuke**  
a. applaud b. criticize  
c. accuse d. blame
- robust**  
a. automatic b. weak  
c. restored d. none of these
- rigid**  
a. feasible b. flexible  
c. easy d. helpful

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

- | Word            | Antonym    |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1. pacify       | irritate   |
| 2. peevish      | cordial    |
| 3. protégé      | patron     |
| 4. cordiality   | antagonism |
| 5. parsimonious | generous   |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. absence b. absens  
c. absance d. absense
- a. absolut b. absalute  
c. absolute d. absaulute
- a. absorption b. absorbtion  
c. absorptan d. absorpshion
- a. abstein b. absten  
c. abstien d. abstain
- a. abstraction b. obstraction  
c. abstruaction d. abatracion

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

- abridge
- abroad

- abrupt
- abscess
- abscond

### (E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following in sentences

- bear fruit
- lose one's marbles
- separate the sheep from the goats
- be all over
- get your act together

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

- rush one's fences** (to act in haste without care): Don't rush your fences lest you would repent.
- play it by ear** (to do something without making any fixed plans before hand): We haven't chalked out any plans to organize the party - we're just going to play it by ear.
- as high as a kite** (very excited): Children were as high as a kite when the school closed for summer holidays.
- be crawling with** (to be full of): Sana'a is expected to be crawling with foreign tourists after being declared the cultural capital of the Arab World.
- pie in the sky** (hope of success or achievement which has very little or no chance of being fulfilled): His ambition to win the election is nothing but pie in the sky.

### IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar: Dialogue expansion

Make all the changes and additions necessary to produce a conversation from the words and phrases below

- Mahmoud:** When you get back home?  
(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ezaz:** We arrive last week.  
(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mahmoud:** What you do since you get back?  
(3) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ezaz:** We try / organize / house / children.  
(4) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mahmoud:** What your wife do while you / work?  
(5) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ezaz:** Well, she be very busy because she manage / get / part-time job.  
(6) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mahmoud:** You start look/job/this country yet?  
(7) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ezaz:** No. I not have / minute since we get back.  
(8) \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mahmoud:** Be that the time? I must dash. Come / dinner/ not / forget.  
(9) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Mammals:** chimpanzee, whale, leopard  
**Birds:** eagle, robin, crow  
**Insects:** cockroach, ant, mosquito  
**Fish:** shark, salmon, sardine  
**Reptiles:** tortoise, cobra, crocodile

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim  
**125. NEVER PUT OFF TILL TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY**

**Topic of the previous issue**

**124. YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW TRICKS**

Old people can't change their ways or habits easily. It's but natural because as Propertius rightly asserts, "Everyone follows the inclinations of his own nature." Over a long period of time, men acquire a particular quality by constantly acting in a particular way and, thus habits change into character. Old habits die hard. So, it is well nigh impossible for the old people to give these up and adopt entirely new ways, attitudes, values, perceptions and standards. In such cases, the younger generation needs to be more patient and understanding in dealing with the members of the older generation. Either, old people may be allowed to follow their own ways or to change but slowly.

### V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"He that doeth good shall have ten times as much to his credit." S6: A160

### VI. Food for Thought

"The great thing is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are moving."  
—Oliver Wendell Holmes

## Web casting: Some organizing principles



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### Web streaming technology

Streaming media are a set of technologies used to distribute video and audio on the internet and inside intranets. The content can be a real time or archived material. It is a one-to-many technology. This means that a single video or video feeds is sent out to multiple viewers. The stages in the preparation and transmission of streaming media are:

- Content Creation** - production of the content
- Encoding** - transforming into streaming media files
- Distribution** - sending the files to the audience
- Client Viewing** - the end users accessing the media

Defined simply, web casting is the transmission of audio and video data over the Internet in order for web users to watch or listen to any messages via a web browser. This can be in real time for a live event or on demand for archive materials. The phrase *web cast* is derived from *web* and *broadcast*. Its use has diversified over the past decade by different types of organizations and thus the nature of the medium came into public use.

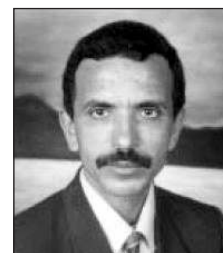
The term *web cast / streaming* has been inspired by pioneers Mark Cuban (Audionet), Howard Gordon (Xing Technologies) and Peggy Miles (InterVox Communications) when they got together with a community of web casters to pick a term to describe the technology of sending audio and video on the net. The generally accepted use of the term *web cast* is the "transmission of linear audio or video content over the internet".

Each stage in the process requires specific equipment. The encoding, distribution and client viewing stages are all effected by the selection of a Web casting format and requires suitable connectivity.

A web cast uses streaming media technology to take a single content source and simultaneously distributes it to many listeners / viewers. Web Streaming technology - enables the real time, or on-demand distribution of audio, video and multimedia on the internet. Streaming media is the simultaneous transfer of digital media (video, voice and data) so that it is received as a continuous real-time stream. Streamed data is transmitted by a server application and received and displayed in real-time by client applications such as the Microsoft's Windows Media Player or the QuickTime Player.

Continued on page 2

## Teaching practice at Yemeni universities: A suggested view for improvement



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invited about 100 of the major stakeholders who represent varied educational sectors in Yemen. The sample of the survey is 47 representing the Yemeni government and private universities, Universities Administrations, Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, research centers and the Ministry of Finance as well as regional and foreign experts in Education. Such a sample is unique in the sense that it is not always possible to find them in one place nor is it easy to get their responses due to the heavy schedules they have.

This symposium highlighted TP, necessary for student teachers (STs) to be trained on life-based skills and have first hand-experience to apply the learnt knowledge at the university. TP is not only to expose what the STs have learnt but to assume an important role in teaching and fill gaps in schools where there are not enough teachers. This event has an added significance in the wake of restructuring of TP from top-bottom dimension to horizontal evaluation.

It envisages an apprenticeship practicum where the STs take part in teaching right from the beginning of their career just as an apprentice. Another approach is to look at TP as an applied practicum where the learner applies his/her professional expertise.



Participants engrossed in discussion.

Continued on page 2



# ELT Panorama

## No magic ways to learn reading and writing quickly



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More and more students ask me to suggest ways how they can master the foreign language skills quickly, especially how to improve their writing and reading skills using the best and shortest way.

Most of them tend to think that there are magical tantrums that can enable them to master these skills like the native speakers of English.

The most important questions that my students often ask are:

1 - How much time does it take to master the language and what should I do? How much time should I spend every day?

2 - How should I practice remembering the words? Should I learn the word's spelling first, or know the meaning first?

3 - How do I improve the speed of reading, and should I learn the words while reading the paragraph itself?

4 - How should I communicate my thoughts to others? When I am speaking to somebody, I'm not able to speak for a long time because I lack words. How can I overcome that handicap?

My response to this battery of questions and suggested tips to go ahead in learning reading and writing quickly and efficiently are as follows:

### 1. How much time does it take to master the language?

One answer is that it takes a lifetime. English is a complex language with a huge vocabulary. Nobody can learn them all, but the more words you know (and know how to use them properly) the better you can express your ideas. Only you can decide how much time is available to study English. The important point is that you use that time well.

### 2. How should I practice remembering words?

It doesn't seem useful to learn how to spell a word if you don't know what it

means. Spelling it correctly, and then using it incorrectly, won't make your English better. So I would say it makes sense to first learn the meaning of a word and how to use it. In order to use it in your writing, you need to learn how to spell it. For me, both tasks go together. Why try to separate them? When you learn a new word, just decide that you will learn both meaning and spelling.

### 3. How to improve the speed of reading?

I think what you are really asking is whether you should stop reading in order to look up the words that you don't know. I would say YES. How can you hope to get the meaning from a piece of writing if you don't know what some of the words mean? You will only be guessing at the meaning. If you do that, you are not reading what the writer wrote, you are creating your own fiction using parts of what the writer wrote. It takes time, and makes reading slow, but I believe it is necessary. You may wish to scan a paragraph, pick out all the words you don't know, look up each one (maybe write them all down) and then go back and read the paragraph using what you have learned. Don't worry about speed. That's not the most impor-

tant thing.

The most important thing is to understand that if you keep doing this, the speed of your reading will increase automatically.

### 4. How should I communicate my thoughts to others?

I think it's true for every person who is learning a new language that when you try to speak, you often can't find the right word. The answer is interrelated with the other things I told you. When you write, you can take the time to think and to look up words in the dictionary. But when you speak, you have to start eventually to "think" in English. Once that begins to happen, you will be more fluent. It just takes time and practice.

To conclude, I encourage you to read as many English texts as you can. You don't have to limit it to academic subjects. It's good practice to read for entertainment also. You will be learning while you enjoy. If you have access to English language movies and television programs, watching those will also increase your familiarity with English. It will make you more comfortable with English, and that will also make you a better writer.

## A letter to the learners of English: 7 How to remember what you have read?



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Dear students,

I have written a lot about reading in my last few letters; you should now be convinced that there is nothing like reading that can help you to improve your language. Read anything and everything; make reading your hobby. You'll be surprised to see an incredible improvement in your English.

In this letter, I'll say how you can keep in mind what you have read with a lot of care. It is equally important, isn't it, to get the benefit of your reading because you spend a lot of time and energy to read a lot of things in your life and what is all that for? Why is it that you forget most of what you read painstakingly? I've seen students cursing themselves, especially in the examination halls, when they can't recollect what they have read, no, memorized for the examination. Why does this happen? One possible reason I can think of is this: most of you read only for the examinations and try to forget what you read immediately after the examinations, mainly because you tune yourselves to this habit and develop it consciously; your mind becomes set to this practice over a long period of time and it becomes difficult for you to get rid of this practice once you are grown. After all, most often our minds behave as we want them to, don't they?

How to get out of this problem? How to train our minds to remember things for long? I know I'm getting into a difficult area of psychology;

though I'm not a psychologist, with my experience as a teacher, I can make a few suggestions, I'm sure; all out of common sense and what I have seen happening with many successful learners.

First of all, as I've been suggesting, make reading your habit; read whenever you find time- while traveling, while chewing qat, while watering your qat fields, while waiting for your friends, while you don't get sleep and while, while, while you....; in other words, let books occupy your leisure. What books? Definitely not your textbooks all the time; but stories, novels, clippings, interesting anything. Carry them with you wherever you go; most of my friends never forget to pack books in their travel bags. How to get books? One good thing you can do is to ask your parents and relatives to present you books on your birthdays so you can have a good collection of them for reading; similarly let all your presents to your friends and brothers and sisters be books.

Once reading becomes your hobby, you'll tend to remember whatever you read, because your mind is full of what you have read, isn't it? More importantly, share what you read with others; talk to others what you've read; tell the stories or incidents or jokes that you've read. It has three benefits: first, it helps strengthening your understanding of what you've read, second, it helps you to remember them for a long time and third, it makes others enjoy and you add to human happiness. Of course you can't keep everything that you've read in your mind; that is not possible either. Keep all that is interesting, relevant and useful to you.

Try to do this consciously till it becomes your habit; then reading will not leave you. As I've said, reading is infectious, it will infect your brothers and sisters and friends - a good and welcome infection! Good luck.

Yours affectionately,  
Dr M N K Bose.

## Continued from page 1

### Web casting: Some organizing principles

These applications can start displaying video or playing back audio as soon as enough data has been received and stored in the receiving station's buffer. A streamed file is simultaneously downloaded and viewed, but leaves behind no physical file on the viewer's computer. The largest "web casters" include existing radio and TV stations that "simulcast" their output as well as a multitude of internet only "stations."

#### Web streaming in education

Web Casting is being used widely in education today especially in the servic-

es of online learning, technical research, campus events and classroom lectures. Events such as graduation, athletic events, festivals and various workshops / symposiums have been broadcast across the Internet using QuickTime, Real Media and Windows Media Formats.

Web casting is also used extensively in the commercial sector for Investor Relations presentation (such as Annual General Meeting), in E-Learning (to transmit seminars), and for related communications activities. However, web casting does not bear much, if any, rela-

tionship to the idea of Web Conferencing which is designed for many to many interactions.

The ability to web cast using cheap/accessible technology has allowed independent media to flourish. There are many notable independent shows that broadcast regularly online. Often produced by average citizens in their homes they cover many interesting topics. Web casting relating to computers, technology and news are particularly popular and many new shows are added regularly.

#### Benefits in education

The following are some of the benefits that education sector can manipulate from the progressively advancing technology in Web Casting.

The dynamic content of Video Streaming catches students' attention, helping to keep them focused on the lesson at hand.

- With Video Streaming, videos are always available from any internet-enabled computer.

- Video Streaming content is always current and up-to-date.

### Teaching practice at Yemeni universities: A suggested view for improvement

The third approach is inquiry-oriented where the ST plays the role of the reflective thinker who applies what is learnt, reflects over it and overcomes the difficulties to learn and teach at the same time. For this the symposium sought to:

- Develop a common conviction among all stakeholders
- Identify and prioritize the problems facing the reactivation of school-based education.
- Obtain agreement on an organizational plan for TP in Yemen.
- Establish a mechanism to devise a financial plan acceptable to the Ministry of Finance. MOHESR, MoE, and university representatives are taken as an integral part of this mechanism.

The participants discussed local, regional and international experiences that vary from spending all the time in school to only sketchy micro-teaching. The expected output is a shared vision on school-based training leading to a roadmap for implementing it as part of TE programs.

The keynote speakers in the symposium were Dr Abdullateef Haidar who presented the TP of UAE University where TP is 9 credit with 3 hours course (CAPSTONE) devoted for discussing STs experience in the field. These 12 hours are out of 162 in the last term. Dr K. M. Osaki presented the experience of Dar es Salaam University in Tanzania where students spend 8 weeks every year right from the first year. In the 4th year, they spend 3 months in school. Dr Wout from the Netherlands presented the experience of the Netherlands and Ghana where about 50% of the time of STs is spent in school. In Ghana students spend the fourth year in school. Yemeni participants who came from different places in Yemen reflected on a wide spectrum of experiences that vary from only microteaching to full semester.

After revising the papers of the experts and analyzing the related literature, I administered the questionnaire that contained the main issues relating to the participants' opinions about:

- What are the most important problems facing the reactivation of school-based education?
- What are the suggested solutions?



- What is the best way of supervising STs?
- What is the best organizational plan (including financial mechanism) for TP in Yemen?

Since the participants in the symposium were mainly experts in education with varied experience that ranged from 2 years to 30 years, it was a chance for me to try to identify the problems of TP in Yemen from their viewpoints. An analysis of the responses shows that in the opinion of about 74% of the respondents the current TP in the Yemeni universities is not enough.

The current situation shows that the period devoted for TP at the Yemeni universities is short. STs in other countries receive a more intensive training and a richer input than students in Yemen. For instance in the Netherlands, TP attracts 50% of the university curriculum in school, in Ghana one year, in Tanzania 8 weeks every year and one semester in the fourth level, in UAE full term in the fourth level, in Saudi Arabia full term in the fourth level. The experts believe that an optimal level of input should be between a semester to one year TP.

The other problem that hinders TP is the absence of clear rules and regulations.

In different faculties efforts are now initiated to outline some regulations to organize TP. Moreover, there is a crying need for increase in the number of STs keeping in view the needs of the faculties of education, regular teachers, and schools.

The problem becomes even more serious if we think of parallel students (self-financing program). Their number in the

Faculty of Education at Sana'a University is more than 300 students in the first level (in the academic year 2006-2007) and the regular students are only about 100. As a result, there is a shortage of supervisors for the enrolled students.

The other handicap is the absence of coordination between the MoE and the universities.

If the idea is to improve TP, there should be greater amount of cooperation from the ministry of education since the ministry is one of the main stakeholders of TP.

There is a common conviction that the staggering problem behind the inefficiency of TP is funding. Besides, some supervisors are not specialized in education. The training of trainers was highlighted as an important issue which the participants from other countries endorsed on the basis of their experience. But the question remains 'who needs training to supervise the STs?' According to the participants, people who have direct relation with STs have to be professionally equipped to evaluate TP.

Coordination between different stakeholders was one of the aims of this symposium. As part of the organizational plan, it was felt very necessary to involve others for the placement of STs in the schools.

One of the important issues that was brought to focus pertained to supervision, cooperative teaching and academic supervisors. The schools supervisors under the administrative control of the MoE, retired schools supervisors and senior teachers as well as the administration of the school were considered an important resource which needs to be

exploited. This was followed by a discussion on placement of STs in the schools.

The last point highlighted was on the number of STs who should be in one group under one supervisor. It was decided that the minimum number should be 2 and the maximum number 20 with at least 9 students for every supervisor.

The period of TP was considered grossly inadequate. In view of an increase in the number of the STs the number of supervisors was very small. Moreover, the school teachers, supervisors and school administration are not properly utilized in managing TP.

The survey ended by emphasizing the different components of TP: supervision (which is the overall responsibility of supervisors, whether he is the head of the TP Unit at the faculty, the academic supervisor, the cooperative teacher, or school supervisor); the rights and duties of the STs; stages of TP (including preparation for about two weeks, observations for about two weeks, TP for about 9 weeks); and mechanism of financing the TP for the supervisors and school administrations. Without specifying roles, STs cannot perform quite efficiently in planning lessons, controlling class, teaching efficiently, be responsible, improving the necessary skills of a trained teacher (i.e. ensuring the intended learning outcomes, using IT, evaluating learners, giving feedback, etc). The broad consensus reached at the conclusion of the meet was that TP in Yemen needs to be revamped incorporating the results of this survey if it is to succeed and compete with other experiences in the world.

## Private institutes and Summer vacation

Over the last few years, private institutes for languages and computer have mushroomed in different parts of Yemen. These institutions were limited in the past, but their number has increased in recent years with the increase in the need for English and computer. These institutes are open around the year, but when the school/academic year comes to an end students throng from the rural and urban areas to study languages in these institutes. The owners of these institutes must thank Allah, the Almighty, because their classrooms are full of students but the real question is: Do all the students learn meaningfully from these institutes?

Although there are certain advantages of these institutes, there are some shortcomings as well which I discovered during my teaching in the private institutes for five years. Some of these are as follows:

- The buildings of some institutes are not suitable for teaching. They are like residential flats.
- Some institutes don't accept the qualified cadres as instructors. Some of the teachers in these institutes don't possess basic qualifications such as B.E., B.A., M.A., or Ph.D. degrees. Some of these institutes engage their relatives and friends as instructors regardless of whether they are competent for the job or not.
- Some teachers lack the profes-



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sional expertise and experience. Experienced teachers ask for a higher fee which the owners decline to pay.

- Some of the institutes admit a large number of trainees/students who do not find a suitable environment for study. Classes consist of more than 20 or 25 students, making classroom interaction difficult.
  - The trainee students receive photocopy of books instead of original material.
  - Shortage of educational technology / pedagogical aids poses a serious handicap to the effective acquisition of a foreign language.
  - These institutes do not allot adequate time for acquisition of new language items and consolidation of the learnt items.
- These and other factors make the institutes more a place for whiling away time rather than centers of learning.







## The changing panorama of communication



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With the advancement of science and technology, the mode of communication has got a new impetus. Consequently, it has affected our style of expression both in speaking and in writing. Communication in the beginning was a matter of signs and gestures, then came sounds, then the hieroglyphs, ideograms, and then the rules of grammar were framed.

It has taken thousands and thousands of years for man to develop language as a suitable vehicle for expressing what he felt or thought, dreamt or discovered, experienced and stored as knowledge to be disseminated. It has continued to grow, evolve and change adopting to the material needs of users, and taking new shapes under the impact of every technological revolution.

Written language has changed drastically the nature of learning and created a new definition of education. As the living wisdom of the community began to yield to written and dated papers as a standard of truth, every important event or transaction was deemed important to be recorded. These records will ever remain as a timeless treasure of human knowledge and education. No education can be imparted in a vacuum in the absence of a language.

The English language has changed considerably in the last thousands of years. New words have appeared and some old ones disappeared. Words have changed in meaning. The grammatical endings of words have changed. Pronunciation has changed. These changes have brought about major transformation in the structure of language. There have been many changes in syntax, vocabulary and pronunciation.

One of the important reasons of linguistic changes has been technological changes that have taken place in different fields. Rail, road, airplane networks have profoundly affected our notions of time, distance and travel. Telegraph services and typewriters have made business communications more efficient; telephones have facilitated new kinds of interactions. In the recent years the advent of space exploration, new technologies and satellites, computers, and other

microelectronic devices have revolutionized human communication systems.

Latin during the seventeenth century gave way to English as the language of science and scholarship. The rise of scientific writing in English helped to establish a simple referential kind of prose. The plain style became popular. Many advances were made in man's knowledge of the universe. Early in the century, William Harvey discovered circulation of the blood and later Isaac Newton discovered the laws of motion and principle of gravity. Francis Bacon advocated a scientific and rational approach to the world, while Thomas Hobbes adopted a scientific attitude to the study of politics and psychology. Aldous Huxley, in his book *Literature and Science* published around 1962 tried to discern ways in scientific and technological revolution. He viewed the difficulties inherent in wedding science to literature as a challenge of intellectual combat.

On the whole, science and technology have significantly influenced the English language and literature. The twenty-first century continues to use its devices in sculpting new faces and figures of English language. Computers and microelectronic devices including mobile phones and websites have affected the English structures, syntax, lexicon and styles of expressions. The new technologies, like the seventeenth century sciences, generated endlessly new terms. New terms got minted which entered the new vocabulary. The personal computer revolution of the 1980's have brought new storms in the sea of English vocabulary. The word "language" itself has assumed new dimensions; it no longer stands only for English, Latin, Greek, German, French, Sanskrit & Arabic etc, it stands for newer languages also.

When communication was confined between man and man or man and animal, language itself had traditional shape, size and sensitivity. New communications have forced transportation of knowledge between man and machine, and between machine and machine. This takes us to new dimensions and directions, and students and teachers of language must prepare themselves to tread on new grounds. Students of science and technology have to acquire the latest knowledge that computers, electronics and other branches deal in through the medium of English. Chinese and Russians are facing great difficulties in capturing the world market because they are not well versed in English.

In the changing scenario of communication it is the duty of the language experts to explore new ways to trace out the panoramic changes in language, otherwise the basic purpose of language will lose its importance.

## Parents as teachers



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Parents are the first and the most inspirational teachers for the child. Learning becomes a delightful experience for the child because the soothing touch of their affection takes away the barriers to learning that limit their potential. However, this by all means is a difficult task to perform in so far as parents have to address themselves to children who demonstrate a wide range of behavioral characteristics.

It is a common experience that children fall under different categories. There are children who are bright but disorganized; some others demonstrate different kinds of behavioral difficulties; there are yet others who are wanting to overcome a weakness - academically or socially; there may be some who have suffered a trauma; those who have a physical difficulty or who need help in a particular subject; there are people who can't learn effectively, who panic, who have been identified as having learning difficulties or who want to learn techniques for success in exams. Parents have to learn the techniques how to be a veritable touchstone so as to transform all children, even those labeled dull, lazy, naughty or difficult into good learners. At the same time they have to make the gifted children scale greater heights preventing them from being bored and allowing them to fully utilize their innate potential.

First and foremost, parents should come to terms with their children and understand their behavior. They should deal with children in a friendly nurturing way by making them be conscious of their environment and promoting their coping skills and strategies.

Children have to be taught to be good communicators which would break psychological barriers and facilitate emotional bridge building between parents and children. On the other hand if parents become threatening, coercing or intimidating then the children's healthy mental growth becomes stifled. So building children's self-esteem is highly essential. Then children can get the best out of the school. Homework can thus be fun and adventure, an exciting exploration rather than a dull exercise.

Parents are children's best friend, philosopher and guide. As such, they can work together, learn together and can have fun together. Children learn best if they are confident of parent's love, support and sense of purpose. Between birth and 10, children should be helped to learn how to cope with everyday life, how to cooperate with other people in a variety of situations, how to think and how to learn. If we make sure of this, we lay the foundation for children's more specialized learning at secondary school.

Commonly parents don't have time enough to spare for children to supervise their home task. This is particularly so in urban settings and if both the parents are working. In such cases, parents need to carefully decide how much time they have and ration it judiciously. They may have time only to chat and not concretely help the children. They may just give tips that would enable the children to do the home task.

It is generally seen that home tasks are completed by parents. This is harmful for children. Parents should not overstep their limits and deprive children from getting the learning experience. If the children engage themselves in the activity, they will feel confident that they can do. If, however, the task is too difficult, parents can ask structured questions that can lead the children from the familiar to the unfamiliar. We should never leave them with the feeling that they are not capable of being successful.

Usually children return from school fatigued. We should help them recreate themselves by means of energy-boosters such as food, exercise, sleep, chat, TV viewing, etc. and then let them go at their own pace and own rhythm.

## Women's education in the Russian Federation



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Education makes us understand everything that is around us. Education provides input in terms of knowledge for judgment and experience.

The most significant dividend of education are two:

First, education makes one a right thinker, enabling him to take right decisions. Human mind is not enlightened without education.

Second, education opens vistas of knowledge from all over the world.

In realization of this, highest priority is accorded to education in the Russian Federation. Especially, women's education in Russia is developing very fast. They are allowed to pursue their higher studies in any branch of their choice.

In the Russian system of education students have to study a foreign language such as English, French, German from the second year of secondary schooling till the end of the secondary stage. The state makes it obligatory for the entire nation to study.

The authorities

have introduced stringent quality assurance measures to stick to the international standards of excellence in all the academic programs mounted by various universities across the country. In order to facilitate the foreign student enrollment in the universities, the prospective candidates are required to complete a course in the Russian language so as to be able to understand the classroom lectures.

Female students are given additional incentives to enroll themselves in such streams as teaching, engineering, medicine, economics and commerce, law, different branches of science, geology, linguistics, journalism and so on.

The Russian women are very progressive-minded. They have achieved their excellence in all branches of human endeavor. This is borne out by the fact that the first woman in space was Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova. Lomonosov Moscow state university is considered one of the world leaders in mounting many innovative academic programs, especially for women.

In the social sector, women enjoy the same status as men. In fact, they're treated as equal partners with men for social progress. There is no disparity on the grounds of gender. The Russian government is marching ahead with time and promotes women's education across the length and breadth of the Federation.



## Some interesting facts about the English language



**Terry O'Brien**  
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The average English-speaker knows around 50,000 words. That represents an astonishing diversity-nearly 25 times more words than there are individual stars visible to the naked eye in the night sky. And even 50,000 seems insignificant beside the half million recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Here are some interesting language facts:

- *Rhythm* and *zyzygy* are the longest English words without vowels.
- Spat-out food is called *chanking*.
- The letter *W* is the only letter in the English Language that doesn't have one syllable, it has three.
- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is *screeched*.
- The meaning of 'stool-pigeon' is an informer or a traitor
- The most common letters in the English language are *R,S,T,L,N*, and *E*.
- The most used letter in the English alphabet is *E*, and *Q* is the least used.
- The old English word for sneeze is

- fneosam*.
- The oldest word in the English language is *town*.
- The only 15-letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is *uncopyrightable*.
- The only contemporary words that end with *gry* are *angry* and *hungry*.

The phrase *rule of thumb* is derived from an English law stating that you cannot beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb. However don't try it today, not in the days of gender equality!!

## Do you know?

- Letter *a, b, c* and *d* do not appear anywhere in the spelling of 1 to 99. (Letter *d* comes for the first time in *Hundred*)
- Letter *a, b* and *c* don't appear anywhere in the spellings of 1 to 999. (Letter *a* comes for the first time in *Thousand*)
- Letters *b* and *c* do not appear anywhere in the spelling of 1 to 999,999,999 (Letter *b* comes for the first time in *Billion*)
- And Letter *c* does not appear anywhere in the spellings of entire English counting.

## READERS' VIEWS

**Dear Dr. Sahu**

I thank you for your great and invaluable efforts that you do with Yemeni students to learn English.

**Mohammed Hassan Bakheet**  
Albakheet77@yahoo.com

**Dear sir**

I've read two of your articles published in Yemen Times from which I came to know who Dr. Sahu is. I am the coordinator of SIG and first I would like to thank you for publishing our announcement. When I read the articles I was surprised to see how

much you are able to fathom the reality of ELT in Yemen. Our teacher Dr. Kundu has also a keen insight into the ELT situation in Yemen as a third world country. Most of other doctors fail to know the gap between the theories they teach and how much these theories match our real classroom situation. Once again I acknowledge your efforts for conducting my work. Let me thank you and Dr. Kundu for your valuable contributions.

**Abduh Mohammad Dawood**  
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## POETRY IN TRANSLATION

### A new definition of the Third World

By Suad Al-Sabah



**Translated by**  
**Sameer Al-Nuzaili**  
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Because love with us  
Is a third rate emotion  
And because women are third class citizens  
And volumes pf poetry are literature of the third rank  
They call us the people of the Third World.



### When the night came

When the night came  
And sleep went away  
Eyes started to weep  
Not because they didn't sleep  
But because they remembered  
The greed of the humans  
And the turmoil of the poor

So the night went without nourishing  
the eyes by sleep.

**Waleed Omer Mahawish**  
Level 4  
Faculty of Education  
Mahweeth

### Without Goodbye

You went without saying good bye  
You went without seeing me cry...  
You went without telling me why...  
You went leaving me alone...  
You went saying to me to feel strong...  
You went and left me high and dry  
with my thoughts...  
You went and left me to brood over my faults...  
You went and left me alone in my dreams...  
You went and made way for drawing fancies...  
To escape from sorrows...  
To run away from pictures, perfumes,  
Which will bring me sweet remembrance...  
How long will you be away?

May be some day when you come,  
You will find me a different person...  
Whom you may neglect...  
But I won't forget...  
How can I forget?  
Your tenderness, your sweetness...  
You are the rose in my bough...  
You are the tear in my eye...  
But after a while, You will be here.  
Asking how I dealt with my fear  
Then I will raise my face...  
Telling it was never an easy case.

**Ebtisam Saleh Senan**  
Level-4, Department of English  
Faculty of Education,  
Hadhramout University of Science  
& Technology Almahra,  
Alghaida City

### For You

You don't know how to cry  
You have learned how only to smile  
How to look happy all the time  
You have learned to cry for other's pain  
How to laugh when it comes to yours  
You have learned how to smile  
As a child under a spell or curse!  
You have learned to be happy  
With every trouble comes  
As long as you knew

And heard him once  
For you, this world isn't enough  
For you, their love is gone  
For you, it's on you so tough  
But everything up here's done  
Nobody loves you as much as I do...  
I love you, too, MY LORD..

**Ahlam Hamid Alwatary**  
Level 2  
Faculty of Languages  
Sana'a University

## Smart English

Department of English,  
Faculty of Education  
and Arts (Girls'  
branch), University of  
Science and

Technology has brought out a mini magazine titled *Smart English*, edited by Minya Nasher, assisted by Eman Saleh Kamel, Ahlame Mohammed Malik, Arwa Al-Thayai, Wafa'a Al-Shwaibi. It is a commendable effort and an eloquent testimony to the initiative of the students of the department under the inspiring guidance of members of the faculty. The enterprise is directed at unraveling the latent sparks of creativity in the budding professionals. Apart from an interview with Dr. Fatima Kahtan, Vice Rector of the University, and an inspirational exhortation by Dr. Ismael Masood, Head, *Smart English* is enriched by the contributions of several members of faculty and students. We wish this maiden venture by a cross section of smart students of the university a long, rewarding and sustainable innings embellished by the students' craving for enrichment, enlightenment and fulfillment.

**Dr. Ramakanta Sahu**

