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As French government warns visitors traveling to Yemen of potential terrorist attacks against foreigners, Total Oil Group says there are no exceptional security measures or employee transfers

By: Aqeel Al-Halali
For the Yemen Times

SANA'A, Aug. 2 — An official source at the private French-owned Total Oil Group working in Yemen says the company has taken no exceptional security measures in response to the French government's recent warning to its citizens traveling to Yemen to be on the alert for possible terrorist attacks against foreigners.

"No changes have occurred and we've taken no exceptional precautions," said a Total administrative manager. "Total already has returned 30 children of its employees to France as a precaution to secure the families."

Regarding the reasons for the French warning, Total's spokesperson said the company had no idea why it was released at this particular time, noting that the warning came from the French government, not Total, a private com-

pany unaffiliated with the French government.

France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ministry cautioned its citizens against traveling to Yemen as a "precaution against kidnapping and terrorist attacks against Westerners," in light of what the ministry called Yemen's "security deterioration." The ministry also advised its citizens desiring to travel to Yemen for tourism to postpone such tours.

"There's been no change in security procedures following the French warning," Total's head security official Osama Al-Halali said, adding that the Yemeni government has been implementing a tightened security plan to protect foreign interests in Yemen.

Al-Halali pointed out that, despite this warning, some French employees working at Total remain determined to visit various Yemeni governorates.

"This warning hasn't affected the

spirit of the company's French employees, as not one has requested to travel to France," says Rehab Al-Shaibani, director of employee affairs for the company.

Yemeni Foreign Affairs Minister Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi calls the warning "unjustified," noting that Yemeni security apparatuses have taken all required measures against any potential terrorist attacks.

"Security forces have increased their readiness to protect all foreign interests and citizens in Yemen and repel any acts of sabotage," Al-Qirbi stated, adding, "Such warnings only serve the terrorists."

He further emphasized that terrorist acts occur the world over, not only in Yemen. "Terrorism exempts no country and all efforts should come together in order to fight it," Al-Qirbi said.

Yemen's state-run Saba news agency reports that Denis Douvenau, first con-



Security at the French-run oil company, Total, is the same as it has been, said representatives. The French government recently warned its citizens against traveling to Yemen because of increased terrorist attacks against foreigners.

sul at the French Embassy in Sana'a, met with Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Muthana Hassan. According to Saba, the meeting

focused on "enhancing bilateral relations and mutual cooperation."

There was no reference to the French warning against travel to Yemen,

which noted that Yemen has witnessed a notable increase in terrorist attacks, many claimed by Al-Qaeda, during the past year.

Since the beginning of 2008, Yemen has witnessed terrorist attacks that have left approximately 35 dead, including six soldiers and two female tourists. The attacks also left some 91 people with injuries, most of them Yemeni citizens.

Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for an attack on a Belgian tour group in Hadramout in January, as well as two attacks targeting the Italian and U.S. Embassies in Sana'a this past March and April.

Following April's mortar attack, the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a ordered nonessential staff to leave Yemen, while Italy's Foreign Affairs Ministry warned its citizens against traveling to Yemen due to the risk of terrorist attacks.

Parliament report discloses corruption at government's Aden Oil Refineries

By: Yemen Times Staff

SANA'A, Aug. 3 — A parliamentary report reveals corruption over the past two years at Aden Oil Refineries, a company belonging to the Yemeni govern-

ment. Prepared by the Parliament-affiliated Oil and Minerals Development Committee, the report indicates that corruption at Aden Oil Refineries "consumed \$200 million from public finances." The committee prepared its report in light of its field visits to the refineries over the past four years.

Based on analysis of figures in the public budget and the Central Monitoring Apparatus, the results indicate that corruption was rampant within the administration of Aden Oil Refineries, one of the region's oldest established energy companies. The oil refinery dismissed the report as "mere personal speculation."

Considered the first of its kind, the report discloses corruption within one of Yemen's best-known oil institutions believed to yield high revenues for the

refinery's expenditures amount to 99 percent of its revenues most years, which minimizes its profit, despite the fact that it only has a 0.22 percent tax imposed upon it, in addition to global oil

price hikes during 2005 and 2006.

According to the report, refinery administration purchased oil derivatives from outside Yemen without any tenders. It depended on only three companies — the Independent Petroleum

Group, FAL and Vitol, which posed numerous questions, given that the refineries' oil derivatives procurement totaled \$1 billion in 2005 and more than \$1.5 billion in 2006.

The Saudi-based Economic newspaper reports that Abduljalil Thabet, head of the Oil Development Committee, said Aden Oil Refineries imported \$1.5 billion in oil derivatives without tenders during the past year.

The paper also reports that evidence of these violations is available based on information from the Central Monitoring Apparatus, as well as negative reactions from refinery officials who met with the committee during the report's preparation.

Aden Oil Refineries Executive

Manager Salim Al-Mashdali refutes the report's findings that the refineries sold \$16 million worth of oil, according to the Central Monitoring Apparatus's 2005 and 2006 reports.

Al-Mashdali maintains that there's a misconception about the refineries, pointing out that they don't sell crude oil. Further, he accuses the parliamentary committee of "defaming," falsifying facts and damaging the refineries, which have served Yemen's economic institutions for some 45 years.

The manager affirms that the refineries still are able to work and achieve profits for the coming years, adding that the facilities' total revenues were approximately \$8.2 billion in 2006 and 2007.

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Shortly after illegal Yemeni immigrants were shot to death in Saudi Arabia, Two Yemenis are found dead from thirst in the Saudi desert

By: Saddam Al-Ashmori
For the Yemen Times

AL-BEESHA, Aug. 3 — Saudi police recovered the bodies of 14 people who died of thirst in Al-Mahmal desert in Al-Beeshah governorate in the southern region of Saudi Arabia last Friday. Two of the dead were identified as Yemenis.

The Saudi-based Al-Watan newspaper reported that spokesman for the Aseer governorate's Police Force, Abdullah bin Ayid Al-Qarni said that when his department received a notification that a Saudi driver was lost, Al-Beeshah's police, detectives and civic defense went into the desert to find the driver.

"When they arrived in the Massrah region, they found the car sunk in Al-Mahmal desert, located between Al-Beeshah and Raneeh governorates," said Al-Qarni, who added that they found bodies scattered near the car, which was spotted far from the desert's road.

He said that police found two Yemeni passports on two of the bodies, but did not release any information about the other 12 people who died along with them. The Saudi police are still searching for more bodies, as they believe that some of the car's passengers are buried under the sand.

The Yemeni-based Naba News website reported last week that six boys between the ages of 14 and 16 years old were killed by Saudi border guards who shot at them while they were attempting to cross the Yemeni-Saudi border in order to find work in Saudi Arabia.

Naba also reported that the boys were accompanied by Abdu Ali Hussein Al-Yemeni, a smuggler who has helped Yemenis to reach Saudi Arabia illegally. Al-Yemeni survived the guards' shooting and escaped to an unknown location with one of the boys who was injured by gunfire. The article confirmed that the child later died due to loss of blood and that Al-Yemeni was able to deliver the boy's body to his family.

Three of the boys who died were from the governorate of Raimah, and the border guards in Al-Buqa region are still in custody of the other bodies, according to Naba.

This comes only a few months after 18 Yemenis who had entered Saudi Arabia illegally said they were burned by Saudi soldiers in Khamis Mushait. The victims said that they had attempted to cross the Saudi border illegally in search of work.

At a meeting held by various Yemeni and Saudi non-governmental organizations, the men said that Saudi soldiers poured gasoline into the hole where they were hiding and set fire to the hole. There were 25 Yemeni men in all who were hiding themselves in the hole, according to one of the survivors.

Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs began an investigation into the Khamis Mushait burnings soon after Al-Tagheer Organization, a local human rights group, sent a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abu Bakr Al-Qirbi, demanding that investigation should be held in order to know the causes and results of that incident.

Saudi authorities denied that the police had deliberately burned the

Yemenis, pointing out that the Yemenis were hiding themselves in a hole near the garbage area where the garbage is incinerated as a routine matter in that municipality.

Saudi authorities also accused the Yemeni of belonging to a gang that looted and robbed the area. The Saudi authorities claimed that the Yemenis had committed 189 crimes during the past 15 months. In addition, some of the Yemeni men confessed that they had attempted to murder some people in the area.

Nasser Al-Azazi, the leader of the Yemeni Community in the Aseer area, also denied that the Saudi security forces had set fire to the Yemenis intentionally, and noted that the Yemenis had violated regulations imposed by the two neighboring countries.

Yemeni attempts to cross the Saudi border illegally to seek work are common.

According to the Saudi-affiliated Islam Online website, the Saudi government reported that the security forces arrested 118,000 illegal immigrants during 2007 and 2008. A report prepared by the Yemeni Coast Guard showed that there were 13,000 Yemeni illegal immigrants who were deported from Saudi Arabia during the first quarter of 2008, including women, children and the elderly.

Saudi authorities have already increased their monitoring of the land routes that give passage to illegal immigrants on the Saudi-Yemeni border in order to prevent the infiltration of terrorist groups, illegal weapons and goods smuggling into Saudi Arabia.

Tribesmen protest as Sa'ada reconstruction committee fails to make progress on the ground

By: Yemen Times Staff

SA'ADA, Aug. 3 — A recently formed committee to reconstruct damage from the four-year fighting between the Yemeni army and Houthi loyalists has failed to make progress on the ground, despite the fact that it commenced working many days ago, tribal sources from Sa'ada governorate allege, noting that the committee's failure to reconstruct damaged infrastructure has enraged tribesmen affected by the war.

The sources continued, reporting that pro-government tribesmen in Nishour area prevented the field committee from surveying the mass destruction in the home district of Houthi field leader Abdulmalik Al-Houthi and former ruling party Member of Parliament Abdullah Al-Rizami. The angry tribesmen forced the committee to leave their area.

Likewise, other local sources in the war-ravaged governorate told Al-Sahwa.net that tribesmen related to General People's Congress-affiliated MP Sheikh Fayeze Abdullah Hames Al-Awjari prevented the committee from carrying out reconstruction work in Al-Rizami's area.

The tribesmen demanded the committee begin reconstructing their areas, which were exposed to mass devastation during the war, pointing out that they are loyal to the Yemeni government and, as a result, it must give top priority to reconstructing their area.

In related news, Houthi gunmen in Amran governorate's Harf Sifyan district now have released pro-govern-

ment Sifyan tribesmen, who were arrested when clashes between Houthis and the Yemeni army first erupted in the district.

According to local sources in Harf Sifyan district, Sheikh Abdullah Mohammed Talea, Ali Saleh Talea, Shoaib Edaira and his brother Mohammed Edaira and Mujahid Edaira were freed Sunday after being held captive by Houthis for more than two months. However, the sources noted that Muqbil Al-Rumi, who was arrested with the abovementioned tribesmen, remains in captivity.

Al-Houthi recounts how war ended
Abdulmalik Al-Houthi said that fighting between his supporters and Yemeni government troops halted due to a verbal understanding reached through local mediation efforts that persuaded both warring sides to abide by a signed truce and allow the transport of food supplies and medicine to Sa'ada residents.

Stressing that no international party intervened in halting the war, Al-Houthi said during an interview with Aleshteraki.net that, "Internal factors on the ground played a key role in ending the fighting, which is notable when looking at the [Yemeni] army's unsatisfactory performance during the most recent clashes."

He further concluded that complicated conditions and Sa'ada's harsh topography were the most significant factors behind the notable failure of the military's operations. The Houthi field leader described Yemeni President Ali

Abdullah Saleh's decision to end the war as "wise and judicious. Our side welcomes this decision and we believe that ending this war is a triumph for Yemen and all Yemeni people."

He continued, "Realizing his national responsibility as president of this nation, President Saleh decided to cease military operations against Sa'ada because he also understands that such fighting favors neither the nation nor the government, nor does it help maintain national security and stability."

Al-Houthi noted that his brother, Yahya Al-Houthi, a Yemeni MP currently in voluntary exile in Germany, undertook communications at both the international and Arab levels with the intention of pressuring Yemen's ruling authority to end the war in Sa'ada.

The field leader disclosed that 70 percent of government troops deployed in Sa'ada now have withdrawn, denying several media reports that his followers are seizing control of some areas following such troops' withdrawal. He further denied allegations that some of his followers are replacing government officials as district directors in some areas.

Admitting that the war ended via a government decision, Al-Houthi confirmed that good political will on the government's part is the only guarantee to prevent renewed clashes.

He refused to discuss the Doha-brokered peace deal that he reached with the Yemeni government this past February, saying that he's unwilling to talk about it at the present time.

Dhamar archeological sites are vulnerable to robbery

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

DHAMAR, Aug. 1 — Dhamar archeological sites are vulnerable to random digs by robbers, so much so that there are continuous theft attempts at the sites about every two months, said Hisham Al-Thawr, the General Director of the General Authority for Antique and Museums, also known as GAAM.

GAAM's Dhamar Branch Director, Ali Al-Sanabani, said that the countless archeological sites in Dhamar would need more than 3,000 thousand soldiers to stand guard over them.

He added that there are 700 sites in the governorate registered with the GAAM, while there are countless others still waiting for the government to count.

Dhamar's citizens, too, and not only antiquity thieves make random digs at these sites, said Al-Sanabani. These robbers often have relations or are paid by antique merchants to hold digs. "Sometimes they find nothing, but

cause great havoc to the sites because of the digs," he said.

On Monday, security forces in the Ans district in Dhamar governorate foiled a robbery attempt at the Masna'a Maria archeological site, where thieves were looking for mummies, antique gold coins and stone artifacts to sell to antique traders who are smuggling them to the other Gulf countries.

Masna'a Maria is located in western Dhamar and is the most important site in the governorate, according to Al-Sanabani, who added that it is rich in antiquities because it was inhabited for over 3000 years. Earlier Al-Sanabani told the state-run Saba News Agency that he received a notice from the Ans Antiquities Office about digs made by some site robbers who had sneaked into Ans and started digging in the site's western-most area.

He said that the site's guards caught a gang of three, arresting one of the robbers, while the other two ran off. Security forces in the area are currently trying to track down the other two

suspects.

Al-Sanabani added that concerned bodies in the district and the governorate were notified and that the seized assets have been submitted to the district for investigation to help find the other two men from the site. He noted that the GAAM's branch in the Dhamar city has received 30 notifications about the existence of random and illegal diggings at archeological sites in a number of districts in the governorate during just the first half of 2008.

Last year alone, 100 sites were dug up illegally by people from inside and outside of the governorate, said Al-Sanabani, who could not place a value on the goods stolen from the sites.

Dhamar governorate is rich in antiquities from the populations it hosted during previous eras. According to Al-Sanabani, Dhamar was the home of civilizations such as the Himyriates, who reigned from 110 B.C. until the fourth century A.D., who inhabited the area because of its agriculturally fertile land and mild climate.

Businessman wants the government to secure his kidnapped son's release

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

SANA'A, Aug. 3 — Tawfiq Al-Khameri, the president of Yemen Hotels & Investment Company and the father of hostage Omar Al-Khameri who was kidnapped by Bani Dhabyan tribe two weeks ago, denied any previous relationship with his son's kidnapers, though he said that they ask him for a ransom to release his 17-year-old son.

"I never knew them and what I know is that they want me to pay a ransom but I will never pay any money, and the state is responsible for releasing my son," said Al-Khameri, who asked the kidnapers to bring him to court if they have any complaint against him or his brother Nabil.

He said that the kidnapers contact him everyday and inform him that they are willing to return his son at anytime if he pays the ransom, though he did not confirm that the ransom was the reported US\$490,000. "I can kidnap many of them and I have the ability to release my son by many ways, but I will never deal with them by the laws of the jungle," said Al-Khameri. "There is a state, which is responsible for releasing my son."

Al-Khameri stated that a group of 15 individuals from Bani Dhabyan tribe dressed in military uniform and made a fake military checkpoint in front of the Central Organization of Control and Auditing, which is how they kidnapped his son with his chauffeur, Tariq Al-Matari. When they left Sana'a city, they released the chauffeur with the car, but kept the boy with them.

Bani Dhabyan tribe members have asked for a ransom of US \$490,000, in addition to a criminal court suit against Nabil Al-Khameri, Omar's uncle, whom they accused of killing one of their tribe and injuring four others back in 1998, according to Ali Mabkhout, one of the sheikhs of Bani Dhabyan.

Mabkhout has previously said that Nabil Al-Khameri wanted to buy mercury illegally from someone in that village and gave them a check for US \$490,000. When the seller, (Mabkhout refused to mention his name) went to the bank to get the money, Tawfiq Al-Khameri, Nabil's brother, had notified police of the transaction. Police were



Omar Al-Khameri

waiting at the bank and arrested the seller.

Mabkhout added that the seller spent six months in prison and was eventually obliged to give up his claim to the money. After released from prison, the seller returned to Bani Dhabyan and enlisted the tribe's help to get the money back from Al-Khameri.

Nabil Al-Khameri denied that he had ever done business with the kidnapers, either in mercury or in any other matter.

He did confirm that around 12 armed men from Bani Dhabyan came to his Sana'a-based company in 1998 to destroy his office and that the tribesmen killed mistakenly one of their companions and injured four others.

Both Mabkhout and Tawfiq Al-Khameri confirmed that the government has arrested 150 people from Bani Dhabyan tribe in order to secure the release of Omar Al-Khameri.

Tawfiq Al-Khameri said the government's arrests won't solve the phenomenon of kidnapping and suggested that the government find a more radical solution. "Arresting 150 individuals from Bani Dhabyan will

never solve the problem," he said. "Kidnapping destroyed the country and its economy."

I'm the president of Yemen Hotels & Investment Company and I lost US\$23,000,000 during the past few years because of kidnapping and terrorism."

"Who is going to visit or invest in Yemen when he hears that criminals kidnap a boy from the center of the capital city?" said Al-Khameri.

Yemen Times contacted the Ministry of Interior many times regarding this issue but the ministry refused to comment on the situation.

Last year, the Bani Dhabyan tribe kidnapped two teenagers and five male engineers, holding them hostage for more than seven months over a financial dispute and claiming they would not release their hostages until they received YR 70,000,000 (approximately US \$350,000). At that time, the Ministry of Interior declared its inability to release the hostages by force. In the end, according to tribal sources and the hostages, the Ministry of Interior paid US \$420,000 for the kidnappers to release the hostages. The Bani Dhabyan tribal area is about 40 kilometers to the east of Sana'a.

AMIDEAST encourages aspiring young business owners in Mukalla

By: Khalid Al-Hilaly

MUKALLA, Aug. 1 — A training workshop on opening small enterprises was held July 19-31 in Mukalla for numerous businesses owners and concerned youths.

The United States' Middle East Partnership Initiative and America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, or AMIDEAST, in cooperation with the Youth Association for Development and Creativity and Hadramout University of Science and Technology sponsored the workshop.

Participants were from Hadramout University, the Youth Association for Development and Creativity, the Small and Microenterprise Promotion Service, or SMEPS, and Tadhamon Islamic Bank's Small & Microenterprise Financing Unit.

The workshop was divided into three parts, with Abdulhakim Ba-Raedah from the Ministry of Industry lecturing on the basics of small enterprise management. He provided the definition of small enterprises and their characteristics in Hadramout governorate, legal and planning perspectives and the

essential needs for running such businesses. He also mentioned the obstacles small enterprises face, as well as the qualities of successful investors.

According to Ahmed Ba-Amer of SMEPS, attendance was good, particularly by women. Some presented their experiences in establishing small enterprises, explaining how they received financing. "In addition to information about marketing and administration matters, the practical training was very useful for us," he noted.

German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) representative Hanan Ba-Humaid talked about the obstacles women face in establishing small enterprises, while Mohammed Al-Aweni from SMEPS presented the various training and consultative services his firm provides for small enterprises. Additionally, numerous Tadhamon Islamic Bank customers also discussed the services of the bank's Small & Microenterprise Financing Unit.

Fatima Omar, a student at Hadramout University's Faculty of Administration Sciences, expressed her admiration for the workshop's content, retelling a story told at the work-

shop of a young woman who now owns and operates a small business after receiving a loan from Tadhamon Islamic Bank to establish an internet café in her home. Her venture has succeeded and she now has repaid the bank loan.

"University graduates who can't find jobs should take the opportunity to start small enterprises instead of waiting for employment," Omar says, adding, "Personally, the idea is on my mind because my friends and I could do it."

The workshop concluded with administrative and accounting training sessions financed by the United Nations Development Program and conducted by the Youth Association for Development and Creativity.

Mohammed Maflahi, AMIDEAST's project manager in Mukalla, described the workshop and its participation as both positive and effective. "It was a good opportunity for small business owners and youths to meet representatives from SMEPS, GTZ and Tadhamon Islamic Bank, since all are concerned about such projects," he concluded.

In brief

Yemen embassy in Malaysia warns students about fraud gangs

Yemen's embassy in Malaysia has warned Yemeni students in the country about active gangs working on fake visas, the state-run 26sep.net reported.

The cultural attaché at the embassy Adnan al-Sanawi said these gangs, which comprise of Arab and Malaysian members deceive those Yemeni students who must renew their visas by telling them they will update their visas impersonating the names of Malaysian authorities concerned with such responsibility.

Al-Sanawi said about 17 Yemeni students were victims of fraud by these gangs.

They were stopped by Malaysian authorities to make sure of the information printed on their visas.

43 persons died in traffic accidents last week

About 43 people died in 261 traffic accidents in various governorates during last week.

A report issued by the Traffic General Administration showed that the accidents caused approximately 396 injured persons of which 238 have serious injuries.

The accidents made a loss of YR 50 million, according to the report that attributed the reasons of these accidents to over speeding, drivers carelessness and other reasons.

SANA'A

Yemen to set up 18000 residential blocks for limited income people

Yemen is planning to build 18000 residential blocks for youths and limited income people within the upcoming three years in implementing President Ali Abdullah Saleh's electoral program.

Public Works and Roads Minister Omer al-Kurshmi said that President Saleh has ordered to build at least 6000 residential units in 2008 as a first phase, at the cost of more than YR 25 billion, in addition to 12,000 residential units to be build within upcoming three years.

The Supreme Committee of Housing headed by Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Abdul-Karim al-Arhabi has determined to start the implementation of those residential projects in Sana'a, Aden, Lahej, Abyan, Hadhramout, Dhala', Taiz, Hudeidah and Hajja provinces.

Prosecution finalizes cases of 12 Pakistanis in charge of drugs smuggling

Prosecution has finalized investigations with 12 Pakistanis in charge of drugs smuggling, sources told 26 Sep.net.

The cases of the Pakistanis would be sent to the penal court within coming days, the sources said.

Last June, police of Hadramout arrested the suspects and seized around 3 tons of drugs in their custody around.

Reason of delaying of the investigations with the suspects was lack of translator for Bostyah language, the sources said, the prosecution has found one lately.

Spanish medical delegation to carry out surgical operations in Yemen

A Spanish medical team headed by Professor Carlos Biasta Lopez chief of Barcelona Speculums Surgery.

Advisor of general and speculums surgery in Al-Thawra General Hospital in Sana'a Dr. Osama al-Sunaidar said to Saba that the team would carry out till August 19, 2008 a number of surgical operations in Al-Thawra General Hospital in Sana'a and Jumburia Educational Hospital in Aden. He considered the Spanish medical team's visit one of results of cooperation relations between Yemen and Spain in various fields, particularly in the medical field.

labor survey in Yemen delayed survey process till next October which was to start in August.

The member of supervisory committee Mona Salem told the state-run 26 September on Saturday that the survey was delayed till the beginning of school year 2008-2009 to survey the real number of working children and who drop schools. Salem made reference that the survey aims at getting a full knowledge about the number of working children and the kind of works children work in.

Spain to equip two hospitals in Saada

Spanish government showed on Saturday its readiness to equip two rural hospitals in Saada governorate. During his meeting with Public Health and Population Minister Abdul Karim Rase'a, Spanish ambassador to Yemen Marcos Vega told the minister that his country had accepted the Yemeni request to provide the hospital of 48 in Sana'a with medical equipments as well.

The meeting discussed means of implementing the protocol of health cooperation signed between the two countries during the visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Spain in January 2008. The meeting also dealt with the program of the Spanish medical team arrived today, Saturday, that will conduct surgeries in two weeks in the al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a.

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2nd Japanese cultural week in Sana'a inaugurated

Minister of Culture Mohammed al-Maflihi inaugurated on Saturday at the Japanese ambassador's house in Sana'a the 2nd Japanese Cultural Week activities which will continue till Sunday August 3, 2008. In the festival of the inauguration which attended by a number of Arab and Foreign ambassadors, al-Muflihi reviewed assistances provided by Japan to Yemen in the cultural fields.

The Japanese ambassador Masakazu Toshikage confirmed that the 2nd Japanese Cultural Week would witness significant show within Okinawa musical orchestra which will present a number of musical songs.

Child labor survey delayed till next October

The supervisory committee of child

WB grants Yemen \$10 mln to develop higher education

The World Bank (WB) announced that it would grant Yemen \$10 million to improve and develop higher education in the country. Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Mohammed Mutahar said on Saturday to the state-run 26sep.net that the WB grant was approved in the wake of the success achieved by Yemen in implementing the first phase of the project of developing higher education financed by the WB.

Mutahar pointed out that the grant would focus on future development of higher education, including the development of higher education institutions, such as financial management, funding of university education and the establishment of a centre of the development of university education.

"The grant will help improve and

develop teaching and learning process and training means of university officials in addition to developing university education programs and university libraries and introducing electronic library systems", said Mutahar.

The Yemeni official noted that a mission of the WB had concluded recently a visit to Yemen where they were briefed the project of developing higher education and the preparations for launching the new project.

ABYAN

Security situation in Abyan discussed
Abyan Lock Council discussed on Saturday security situation in the governorate, especially in Khanfar district.

The meeting, headed by the governor Ahmed al-Misari, also discussed efforts of improving performance of security bodies in the governorate.

Al-Misari affirmed importance of gathering efforts to help security authorities to follow up wanted people to bring them to justice, pointing out to the need for strengthening ties between the citizens and security authorities to enhance security and stability in all districts of the governorate. The meeting reviewed a report on measures taken against armed groups in Jar region that blocked roads and did acts of looting and bombing.

According to the report, around 26 wanted persons were arrested. In 2007, police registered 170 crimes in Khanfar district, the report said.



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ILO launches a campaign to create "decent work"

By: Almigdad Mojalli

The International Labor Organization, known as the ILO, launched the Decent Work Country Program (DWCP) in the Republic of Yemen last week. This program is the result of a collaborative three-party agreement with the ILO, the Yemeni government and leaders in the field of labor and businesses.

The Decent Work Country Program is a vehicle to ensure opportunities for men and women to obtain work in an environment of freedom, equality, security and human dignity while contributing to poverty alleviation and the overall development in the country.

The DWCP aims to support the existing policy framework, while integrating new ideas to help the workforce. By combining national development plans with new priorities, DWCP can address the challenges of enhancing governance and the legislative environment, improve the national capacity for increasing effectiveness, and extend coverage of social protection to Yemeni workers. Besides this, the DWCP will improve the government's capacity to generate new employment opportunities.

The DWCP defines priorities based on an analysis of pre-existing labor issues and identifies goals to be achieved and strategies for implementation during the period 2008 through 2010. The DWCP was drafted in close coordination with tripartite social partners, namely the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, the General Federation of Workers Trade Unions and The Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It reflects constituent priorities articulated during the DWCP drafting process, which involve extensive consultations with social partners. Social dialogue and active participation are central to the design, implementation and monitoring of the DWCP.

Yemen and the DWCP

While Yemen has ratified 29 different ILO conventions, in practice the national labor practices rarely conform to international standards. In 2007, the United Nations Development Program's (UNDP) ranked Yemen 153 out of 177 countries, identifying it as a problem country on the Human Development Index.

Yemen confronts serious challenges to human development, including a high poverty rate, estimated to be around 42 percent today, and the insufficient creation of jobs which has led to increasing unemployment in the country. In order to decrease



All Yemenis deserve what the ILO calls "decent work."

unemployment, 188,000 new jobs must be created annually. The predominance of temporary, unregulated, informal employment, mainly in agriculture, undermines social protection and safety in the workplace. Child labor remains widespread, particularly in its worst forms.

Broad gender disparities - women account for only 21.8 percent of the labor force - and rampant gender discrimination in the workplace contribute to the problem.

Weak labor administration and inspection capacities make the monitoring of labor conditions and enforcement of labor laws extremely difficult, and significant restrictions remain against employee rights of association, organization and collective bargaining (unionizing).

The DWCP lays out three main issues of priority for intervention as the most urgent development issues currently facing Yemen.

The three priorities are improving governance and legislative environment for compliance with international labor standards, improving national capacities to increase effectiveness and extend coverage of social protection and the improvement of the government's capacity to generate new employment opportunities.

According to Nada Al-Nashef, the regional manager of ILO, women's issues have been integrated into the priorities of DWCP based on past cooperation and achievements by the organization towards promoting and developing women's employment.

With regards to child labor, Al-Nashef stated that the future plan will focus on integrating child issues into the DWCP through implementing

international labor standards and promoting the abilities of labor inspectors. She added that they will integrate the national strategy of eradicating child labor in the frame of wider policies. A coordinated approach to institutional capacity-building will be promoted to enhance the capacities of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, employer and worker organizations, and other stakeholders relevant to the achievement of Yemen's national development goals in labor, employment issues, and poverty reduction.

As the first DWCP for Yemen, this program will have an initial duration of three years.

To highlight the importance of decent work conditions for the goals of poverty reduction and sustainable development, a communications strategy will be developed to promote the DWCP in Yemen. Messages and products will be developed in Arabic to equip policymakers as well as affected ministries and civil society partners with the materials to promote decent work practices at the national and governorate levels.

To translate the priorities articulated in the DWCP into reality, an implementation plan will be developed and will constitute the primary tool for monitoring and reporting. The implementation plan will define the necessary activities, timelines, resources needed, and indicators of completion and will be updated regularly. A tripartite committee will be established to monitor the DWCP, with a national team appointed by Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to ensure the coordination of activities with ILO.

A result-based monitoring system

will be established, specifying indicators, targets and data collection methodology, in order to measure progress and recognize success. All indicators will be sex-disaggregated. A biennial country program review will be undertaken and there will be annual self-evaluations, as well as independent evaluations to ensure that lessons learned during the assessment and evaluation process are used to self-correct and adjust the implementation plan where necessary.

The ILO also celebrated the launch of the National Employment Strategy last week, which focused on achieving

economic development, creating active policies for the labor market and increasing social protection.

The strategy includes the youth program, "Know about Business," which encourages youth to go to training and vocational institutes while providing the necessary knowledge for implementing small business projects.

Al-Nashef explained that the ILO and its partners are trying to strengthen the coverage of social protection to include as many laborers and their families as possible through two ways.

The first strategy is to provide support for the government to promote the social insurance programs.

The second way is to widen the coverage of social protection for laborers in Yemen's irregular economy.

Through the government, international organizations and social groups are trying to reduce unemployment and improve the economic situation for Yemenis, a large part of the population is still suffering from poverty and unemployment.

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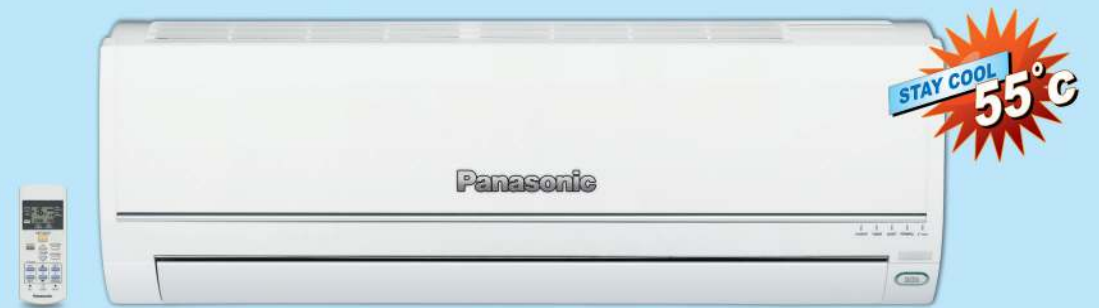
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Request for Expressions of Interest For Consulting Services for conducting a Random Sample survey of 500 schools in Yemen

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This request for Expressions of interest follow the General procurement Notice for this project that appeared in the development Business and Dg Market dated of Feb 2, 2005. The Ministry of Education (MOE), Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this to payments under the contract for the above –consulting service.

The Project Administration Unit now invites eligible consulting Firms to indicate their interest in providing the service for conducting a Random Sample survey of 500 schools. Interested consulting Firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the service profiles, description of similar assignments, experience in similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills, etc. And experience in Yemen and other countries in the region.

The selection of the Consulting Firms will be made in accordance with the procedure set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: "Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, May 2004". Interested consultants may obtain further information during working days Sat. –Wed. From 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the address below to which the expression of interest must be delivered by August 30, 2008.

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فألف ألف مبروك

المعشوقه :
عبد الجليل الاديبي - نبيل الاصبحي - عبد الحكيم الاصبحي - عبد الله الاصبحي - أحمد قائد الشاعر/رضوان الاسودي - سعيد الاصبحي - عبد الرحمن الاصبحي - وهي خاصة من ياسين

Words of Wisdom



In the Third World today, the rulers have no fixed budgets or allocations, even when these exist on paper. The rulers simply spend as they please. Actually, the only limiting element is the lack of funds or the general poverty of the country. Here in Yemen, this problem exists in a shameless way. Just a couple of weeks ago, a number of government palaces built by foreign aid were simply given away to the top president's men.

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

OUR
OPINIONA third option
for Yemeni youth

Minister of Technical Education and Vocational Training explained that the problem with the Yemeni job market is that "for every one, handyman there are 20 engineers, whereas the situation should have been the opposite as the market needs vocational workers more than engineers."

He was referring to the common conviction that an academic degree is more prestigious and worthy than learning a technical or vocational skill, although real life has proven that it is those with skills who are successful. There is a saying in Arabic, "Ana ameer wa anta ameer faman yar'a al-hameer?" The rough English equivalent is "too many chiefs, not enough Indians." This is exactly the reason why there are so many unemployed youth, yet ironically there is a severe lack of skills to cover local needs and market demands.

Now it seems that some authority figures, such as the Minister of Technical Education, are realizing this problem and are trying to do something about it. With the help of organizations such as the Social Fund for Development, new projects to bring workers to the labor force are starting to see the light. These projects help Yemeni youth to realize that they need not all be "chiefs," and that some should think about getting into non-academic trades or even starting their own service-related businesses.

The head of the Arab-Italian Chamber of Commerce visited Sana'a two years ago and explained that Italy recovered after WWII through cluster economy, i.e. small businesses in various trades working together through corporations and unions.

The point is that Yemen's economy does not need multinational companies or multibillion dollar industries in order to thrive. It needs small and micro-enterprises in various fields. This is not only the solution for the economy; it is also the solution for unemployed youth who are waiting for either the government or the private sector to give them jobs.

In order to make this third option work and become attractive to youth in Yemen, work has to be done on three levels; first at the institutional level where community colleges, technical and vocational training institutes and centers are established and made accessible to the youth. Second, stories of successful entrepreneurs should be highlighted by the media so that young men and women have role models to look up to, and finally a gradual cultural change whereby the society does not look down upon a vocational worker.

I am sure when a Yemeni young person realizes their options, that he or she would rather be a rich plumber or tailor than a penniless PhD.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Another political pain
Fifth round of constitutional amendments

By: Dr. Abdullah Awbal

I have a copy of the most recent constitutional amendments, which are currently discussed at the Shoura Council. Despite the fact that I understand nothing in the constitutional jurisprudence, I have seen that the high-ranking politician who proposed these amendments is not busy except in replacing governance of Parliament by governance of National Assembly.

I still remember a note made by Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf, who said that the constitutional talk about National Assembly in lieu of Parliament and Shoura Council implies birth of a third council from the womb of both Parliament and Shoura Council.

In fact, name of Parliament disappeared totally from all the legislative and oversight tasks in order to be replaced by National Assembly, and such a new council will be a jenny since identity of the previous two will disappear when it appears.

The surprising thing is that amendments referred the style of selecting Shoura Council

to the Law, which is due to determine how this will work. On the other hand, electing Parliament is very clear in the constitution while the Law of electing the Shoura Council may come through the shrewdness via which governors were elected.

Despite all this, the relevant law gives both councils the same legislative powers. Had but learned that Article (125) as per the proposed constitutional amendments, which is composed of (a, b, c, d, e and f), stipulates that tasks of the Shoura Council, plus the legislation clearly, this would indicate that this council is merely an advisory body for the Executive Authority and affiliated with it. The consultations it provides are not binding.

So, it is politics and not the legal jurisprudence. Therefore, it is easy for any observer to realize the flagrant violation and confiscation of legal tasks that must be performed by an elected Parliament. This also means that powers and rights of Parliament have been confiscated in favor of the Executive Authority.

Although the consecutive Parliament formations so far elected according to the

comfortable majority have been and still are unable to do anything in favor of voters, people fear the future may cause breakup and grinding of Parliament's bones in order not to survive for any longer.

In fact, this amendment doesn't aim to achieve the system of bicameral legislature. Instead, it is a trick to confiscate powers of oversight and legislation from Parliament. But, how? Suppose that the ruling General People Congress will lose in the upcoming parliamentary election, scheduled for April 2009 and hardly get half of the Parliament seats (151 seats) while vital matters in the council requires that the party should win two-thirds of the seats, the ruling party will resort to make deals with the opposition.

Arrogance of the ruling party doesn't allow it to make concessions and accept solutions less than it wants. However, the existence of a Shoura Council, constitutionally affiliated with the Executive Authority, will help ensure this part the two-thirds of seats required. The product will be 151 Parliament members plus 151 Shoura Council members, and this will constitute majority of the total members of

both councils numbering 452.

I haven't critically read the copy of constitutional amendments, which I have obtained, because I prefer that my colleagues specialized in law who are always generous in providing consultations to the Islah Party to do so. Consequently, I don't believe in the tale of returning the timer to the zero point, nor do I consider this as the direct outcome of efforts expended by veteran opposition leaders.

When I heard about proposing the constitutional amendments in a surprised manner as part of a series of discussions on pressing crises, calamities and devastation, I then started to read the amendments once again. I am searching for a method to prevent our political regime from approving any laws or decisions amid the current catastrophic situations.

I need Yemeni people to learn that Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, established via a popular referendum after the two parts of Yemen were unified in 1990, has turned into wreckage.

Source: Al-Masdar.com

Al-Zindani's New Authority: A Spoiler or Split in the Islah Party?

By: Farouk Al Salih

By launching the Authority for Protecting Virtue and Fighting Vice (APVVFV) that Sheikh Abdul Majid Al-Zindani has started preparations for, he seems to be putting the Islah Party in a dilemma to choose between its internal unity and its external JMP coalition, which in either way will affect the party and coalition's chances to win more seats in the incoming parliamentary elections in 2009.

The Yemeni Joint Meeting Parties Coalition has been perceived by a number of political observers as an impressive coalition in Arab politics. Its innovation is that it combines conservative and liberal parties in one front, an unprecedented act in the Arab World. Such a coalition has shown a potential for the main opposition parties to win general elections in the future and stimulated Western countries to reconsider dealing with these parties, especially the Islah Party.

By leading the JMP coalition, the Islah Party has shown that it is a moderate party willing to cooperate with those who stand on the other side of the political spectrum. Such a change has even qualified Islah to get some technical training by the American

Democratic Institute. However, the divide inside the party between the moderates who favor the coalition and the hardliners, lead by Sheikh Al-Zindani, who are not interested in it has left big question marks whether the party will continue to be in coalition or secede to protect its internal front. The presidential elections of 2006 showed clearly this divide when Al-Zindani and Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar declared personal support to President Saleh, and now the new Authority of Al-Zindani presents the second blow to the unity of the Islah Party and potential damage to its JMP coalition due the controversy of posing a threat to personal freedom and human rights.

How could Al-Zindani present a split in the Islah Party?

Sheikh Al-Zindani is the founder of the Islah Party, and until recently he was its spiritual leader, and a big portion of the party members still rally around his ideas and political views. Launching the new Authority will force the moderates inside the party to make difficult choices to either stand behind him disregarding opposition of the other coalition parties, or to show disinterest in the Authority and therefore concede for a split or further divide that will be difficult to gap before the close parliamentary elections next year. It seems that the

moderate party leaders will have to make intricate calculations to face this dilemma before the election campaign begins.

And how could he be a spoiler?

The JMP coalition survived the Islah Party divide in the elections of 2006 describing the Party's president and founder's decision to vote for President Saleh as personal choice, but the new Authority of Al-Zindani carries a clear ideological content strongly opposed not only by the other coalition parties, but also by many GPC members. Even if the Islah leaders convince the other coalition leaders of turning a blind eye to the issue, their constituents will pressure them to define their position which will unlikely be supportive of the Authority. In this case, Sheikh Al-Zindani will be a successful spoiler of the coalition that he did not favor that much, and therefore he will be helping in eliminating the chances of the coalition parties to win the aspired parliament seats.

But where might be the GPC of all that?

It depends. If either scenario comes true-- Islah split or coalition collapse-- Sheikh Al-Zindani will have been fought the battle of the GPC. In the previous elections, the coalition has followed a closed district system that gives a number of districts to each party and

urges its members to vote to the decided party, which is an effective tactic to bulk the scattered votes for one candidate, but either scenario is effective enough to negatively impact the chances of opposition candidates in the elections. But if the coalition parties succeed to handle the controversy of the Authority (third scenario), the GPC will bring it into the front, and it might be one of its best sailing issues in the election campaign. It will sell itself as the sole defender of freedom and human rights in the country and that will highly convince undecided voters to vote for its candidates.

In conclusion, Sheikh Al-Zindani's new Authority for Protecting Virtue and Fighting Vice presents a threat to the JMP coalition due to its predicted controversy of violating human rights. Launching the Authority might result in a split inside the Islah Party or a collapse of the coalition itself, which in either way will hamper the coalition parties' chances in the coming parliamentary elections, and if the parties survive this dilemma, it will be a good material for the GPC in the election campaign.

These are three scenarios predicted to ferment in reaction to Al-Zindani's Authority, lets wait and see! It's less than a year from now.

Yemen: Will stability totally collapse?

By: Raddad Al-Salami

Any pressing issue often necessitates occurrence of a crisis to draw our attention to other problems such as the ones faced by Yemen where society seems to be continuously pausing at the edge of collapse. In the meantime, it is difficult to differentiate between reality and fiction in the 'Arabia Flex'. Yemen suffers from real problems, to which main international actors, specifically the United States of America and Saudi Arabia must pay great attention.

Over the past six months, the language of international media coverage for events in Yemen has turned to warn of further threat. In the security sphere, there has been a thorough observation of the Al-Qaeda Organization's renewed activities in Yemen, particularly after the dangerous organization waged various offensives against government's institutions and foreign interests. This encouraged international security experts to warn that the new generation of Yemeni fighters will be more murderous than the former generations.

Also, talk about a failed state likened to Somalia or Afghanistan has become widely spread. Yemeni ministers, and international relief workers and journalists continuously expected a potential collapse due to skyrocketing prices of basic foodstuffs, the unprecedented damage of agricultural crops as a result of draught, continuant Houthi

rebellion in the north, as well as outbreak of rioting in the south over unmet demands and abused human rights, which have remained unsettled since the two parts of Yemen reunified in 1990.

Unlike journalists and other reporters, researchers reject the idea that Yemen is standing at the edge of collapse. They further confirm that President Ali Abdullah Saleh serves in an environment of organized chaos. Critics, on the other hand, claim that stability is being absorbed with the aim of gathering international sympathy and foreign funding.

However, the old formula of the authority that made scenarios of organized chaos renewable may have changed too. After his demise, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, who was an influential broker and a primary dialogue between President Saleh and the tribal current in the opposition Islah Party in December 2007, left behind a political vacuum, which the Salafis in Yemen tries to fill.

The upcoming parliamentary elections of 2009 will represent a principal test in this context while the presidential bequeathal of power will cover Yemen's future with mist.

In addition, President Saleh's reign is due to expire in 2013 and the number of hopefuls willing to succeed him will increase, most notably among members of his dynasty.

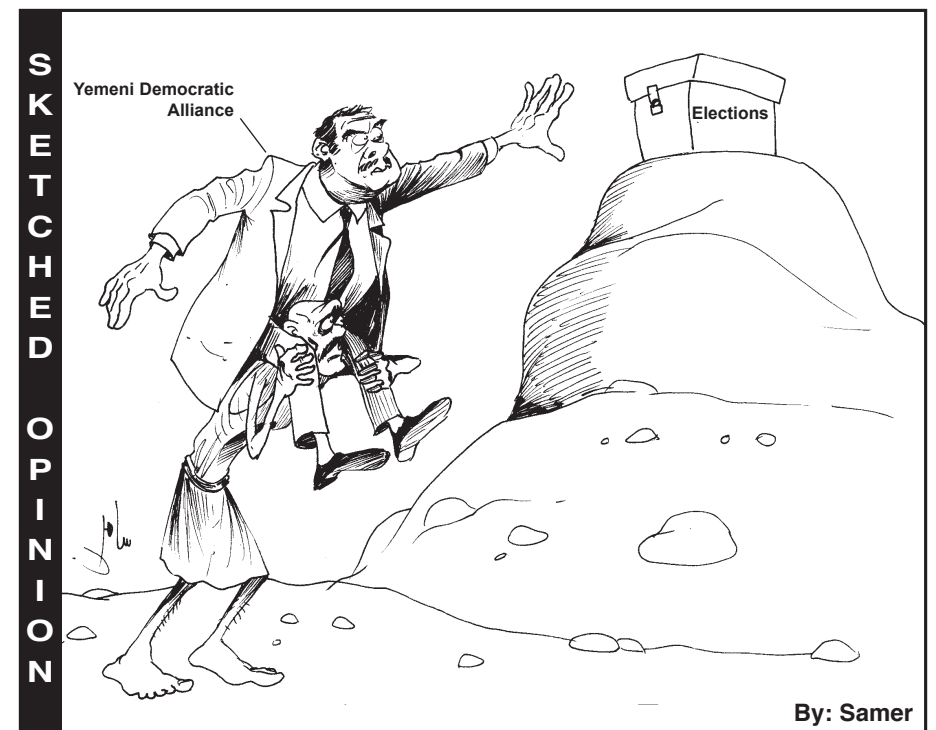
These hopefuls include the President's son Ahmad and half brother Gen. Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, currently serving as Commander of Northeastern Military Flank, who pretends to have sympathy with Salafis.

Civic society activists and international observers claim that pressures related with instability and economic recession increased the burden on the Yemeni government and levied restrictions on political freedoms.

On this past July, a state security court issued a verdict against the reputable independent journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani, sentencing him to six years in jail

on suspicion of having connections with Houthi rebels. According to observers, the regime targets Al-Khaiwani, whom Amnesty International granted a special award while being in jail in recognition of his investigative reports about Houthi-led rebellion in Sa'ada.

Source: Marebpress.net



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Yemen Press Review



26September.net, affiliated with Yemeni Army
Thursday, July 31, 2008

Top Stories

- Cabinet refers proposal of General Election Law amendments to Parliament
- Yemen celebrates graduation of 24 thousand University students
- Arab League praises Yemen's efforts to conciliate between conflicting Palestinian factions

Secretary-General of Arab League Amr Moussa hailed Yemeni efforts to achieve reconciliation between Palestinian factions on the basis of an initiative the Yemeni government made a few months ago with the intention of ceasing bloodshed and ending international conflicts between Palestinians, the army's website reported in its lead story.

The website went on to say that Moussa revealed that there are Arab movements toward Palestinian reconciliation, adding, "We shouldn't have to ignore Yemen's efforts in reaching reconciliation between the conflicting Palestinian factions."

Moussa also lauded Egypt's mediating role to tranquilize the dispute between Hamas and Israel.

According to the website, Yemen renewed its call for Fatah and Hamas to settle their differences and resume dialogue as per the Yemeni initiative and accords of Cairo, Mecca and Sana'a

The website continued that an official source affiliated with Yemeni Foreign ministry had called both Hamas and Fatah in Gaza Strip to work hard on suggesting workable situations to Palestinian conflicts and strengthen the unity of Palestinian people.



NewsYemen.net, an Independent News Website
Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Top Stories

- Yemeni government benefited from mistakes on the ground, says Strategic Studies Center's report
- Yemeni Coast Guards arrest 8 Eritrean troops including a woman
- Parliament members accuse government of being unable to place Kidnapping Law into effect

Parliament members, from ruling and opposition parties, accused the government of "being unable to apply the Kidnapping Law and use public funds to deal with some growing phenomenon of kidnapping", the website reported.

It went on to say that MPs' accusations came two days after armed people belonging to Bani Dhabian tribe of Sana'a kidnapped the son of businessman Tawfiq Al-Khamiri, Omer, from the capital Sana'a and managed to escape.

Head of the ruling party's bloc in the Parliament, Sultan Al-Barakani, mocked at security authorities'

inability to end the phenomenon, suggesting that Foreign Ministry should establish "diplomatic relations with the Republic of Bani Dhabian", famous for kidnapping.

Al-Barakani said that the Central Bank of Yemen is attempting to resolve kidnappings instead of the security authorities, referring to funds paid by the bank to solve some issues of kidnapping. Independent MP Sakhr Al-Wajeh said that security forces just "harass people", but they do not protect them.

The Parliament gave the government a chance until the coming Wednesday to get back child Omer.

The website concluded that Omer Al-Khamiri is not the only child, who was kidnapped by Kawlani tribesmen, as girl Susan Abdul-Qader Al-Maqtari, 19, was also kidnapped in Taiz by armed men two weeks ago, according to eyewitnesses. Security apparatuses told her family "Susan is not kidnapped, but disappeared".



Al-Methaq.net, affiliated with General People Congress (ruling party)
Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Top stories

- GPC University students hold consultative meeting
- National Meteorology Center warns of potential landslide and strong tide
- Ruling party leader slams opposition for being unserious to form SCER

Member of the ruling General People Congress (GPC) General Committee Dr. Ahmad Ubaid Bin Dagher, who is also head of the Head of Mass Organizations Sector at the party, affirmed that the major part of the elections law had been agreed on and was finalized in a joint dialogue with Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), which is still going on, but said the GPC would not continue it indefinitely, the website reported.

Stressing that dialogue between the GPC and JMP should be clear and open and its agenda and topics should be known to the people, Bin Dagher criticized the JMP's rejection of all the GPC's offers and suggestions concerning the formation of the Supreme Commission for Elections and Referendum (SCER).

In an interview with Al-Siyasa newspaper published Sunday, the GPC leading member said that JMP sometimes shuns dialogue for realizing some gains but it soon returns to the dialogue table.

He pointed out that the JMP prefers dialogue behind closed doors, adding that opposition parties have strong sensitivity toward clarity, frankness and transparency of which they talk in their media and addresses but in practice they prefer darkness and seek deals.

Bin Dagher also talked about the GPC's proposals regarding SCER composition, saying that JMP leaders first backed the idea of forming SCER from judges, and this was subsequently accepted by GPC and contained in the agreement of principles in 2006. "Afterward, JMP backed out on its decision.

"To avoid keeping this matter as a topic of difference in relations between GPC and JMP, the first offered other suggestions", Bin Dagher was quoted as saying. "The latter proposed SCER composition according party representation at Parliament but this idea was also refused by the JMP."

The ruling party then proposed nomination of 4 JMP members for SCER while GPC should nominate other 4 members and the president of the republic can appoint chairman of the commission. He said this idea was not accepted by the JMP, affirming that JMP always object to any suggestions and proposals offered by GPC.



Al-Sahwa.net, affiliated with the Islah Party
Thursday, July 31, 2008

Top Stories

- Security authorities arrest tens of Bani Dhabian tribesmen over kidnapping of Khamri's son
- Parliament's report demands investigating Commander of Abyan-based Central Security Forces
- Appeals Court refuses to released detained journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani

A Sana'a appeals court refused on Tuesday to release journalist Abdulkarim Al-Khaiwani along with other 14 suspects charged with forming an armed group to attack country's interests and support rebels in Sa'ada, north of Yemen, the website

reported. It added that The Court of Appeals delayed the case to October.

The website quoted Reuters News Agency as saying that the court put off looking into the demand for the release of Al-Khaiwani until the defence team presents its arguments at the next hearing on November 9, presiding judge Mohammad Al-Hakimi said.

Al-Khaiwani, who was jailed for six years, was one of 12 people handed prison terms of one to 10 years by a court in Sanaa on June 9 after they were convicted of forming an armed group and killing two security officers in support of Zaidi Shiite rebels.

Tuesday's hearing was the first after defence lawyers appealed against the verdicts. A 13th defendant in the case was sentenced to death. One of two women in the group of 15 was acquitted. The prosecution is appealing against the acquittal.

Defence lawyers are asking that the sentences be quashed, arguing that there was no evidence the defendants had agreed to form an armed group.

Lawyer Nabil Al-Mohammadi, who heads Al-Khaiwani's defence team, also called for his release, saying the original sentence did not provide for immediate implementation of the prison term.

During the trial, defence lawyers rejected charges that Al-Khaiwani backed the rebels. They said CDs and other material about the insurgents found in his possession was needed for his work as a journalist.

The US State Department condemned the jailing of Al-Khaiwani, editor of the Zaidi weekly Al-Shura, saying it pointed to a "distressing trend" in which Yemeni courts muzzle independent media.

China's Triumph of the Will

By: Nina L. Khrushcheva

When the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic Games begins in a few days, viewers will be presented with a minutely choreographed spectacle swathed in nationalist kitsch. Of course, images that recall Hitler's goose-stepping storm troopers are the last thing that China's leaders have in mind for their Olympics; after all, official Chinese nationalism proclaims the country's "peaceful rise" within an idyll of "harmonious development." But, both aesthetically and politically, the parallel is hardly far-fetched.

Indeed, by choosing Albert Speer Jr., the son of Hitler's favorite architect and the designer of the 1936 Berlin Olympics, to design the master plan for the Beijing Games, China's government has itself alluded to the radical politi-

cization of aesthetics that was a hallmark of twentieth-century totalitarianism. Like those regimes, whether fascist or communist, China's leaders have sought to transform public space and sporting events into visible proof of their fitness and mandate to rule.

Speer Jr.'s commission was to lay out a master plan for the access to the Olympic complex in Beijing. His design centered on the construction of an imposing avenue to connect the Forbidden City and the National Stadium in which the opening ceremony will take place. His father's plan for "Germania," the name Hitler selected for the Berlin that he planned to construct after World War II, also relied on such a mighty central axis.

China's rulers see the Olympics as a stage for demonstrating to the world the exceptional vitality of the country they have built over the past three decades. And that demonstration serves an even

more important domestic political objective: further legitimizing the regime's continuing rule in the eyes of ordinary Chinese. Given this imperative, an architectural language of bombast and gigantism was almost inevitable.

So it is no surprise that the Beijing Games may resemble the hubristic Games that beguiled the Führer and enthralled the German masses in 1936. Like the Beijing Games, the Berlin Olympics were conceived as a coming-out party. Josef Goebbels' Nazi propaganda machine was fully deployed. Athletic imagery – used to brilliant effect in Leni Riefenstahl's acclaimed documentary – appeared to create a link between the Nazis and the ancient Greeks, and to confirm the Nazi myth that Germans and German civilization were the true heirs to the "Aryan" culture of classical antiquity.

While designing the master plan for the Beijing Games, Speer Jr., an

acclaimed architect and town planner, also sought, like his father, to create a futuristic global metropolis. Of course, the language that he used to sell his scheme to the Chinese was very different from the words his father used to present his plans to Hitler. Instead of emphasizing his design's pomposity, the younger Speer insisted on its environmental friendliness. The 2,000-year-old city of Beijing should be transported into hyper-modernity, whereas his father's 1936 Berlin design was, in his words, "simply megalomania."

Of course, the sins of the father should never be visited on the son. But, in this case, when the son borrows essential elements of his father's architectural principles and serves a regime that seeks to use the Games for some of the same reasons that animated Hitler, is he not willingly reflecting those sins?

Totalitarian regimes – the Nazis, the Soviets in 1980, and now the Chinese –

desire to host the Olympics as a way to signal to the world their superiority. China believes that it has found its own model to develop and modernize, and its rulers regard the Games in the same way as the Nazis and Leonid Brezhnev did, as a means of "selling" their model to a global audience.

Obviously, the Chinese were politically tone-deaf in choosing an architect whose name carried such dark historical connotations. The name of Speer itself probably did not matter to the officials who chose him. They sought to stage an Olympics that made manifest their image of themselves, and Speer Jr., looking back to his father's mastery of the architecture of power, delivered the goods.

The realization of Speer Jr.'s Olympic vision, and that of his patrons, marks the end of a welcome interlude. For years following the end of the Cold War, politics had been removed from the Games.

A gold medal signified the sporting abilities and dedication of individual athletes, not the supposed merits of the political system that produced them.

But now we have returned to an aesthetic of political mesmerization, reflected in the host government's declared aim that China should win more gold medals than any country before. As the Olympic torch relay – itself a creation of the Nazis, first employed in the Berlin Games – makes its way down Speer Jr.'s avenue of power, the world will once again be made to witness a triumph of the totalitarian will.

Nina Khrushcheva teaches international affairs at The New School University in New York and is the author of Imagining Nabokov: Russia Between Art and Politics.

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Olmert resigns, peace at hand

Bank closing this September, Put your money here

By: Frank Kaufmann

Published several articles urging readers to suspend emotional attachment to or even interest in peace language and promises from Olmert, Abbas, and Bush administration representatives. Each for their own (many) reasons represents zero chance to effect peace. The US is at perilous juncture with its status and international influence profoundly threatened by this administration's forfeiture of America's stance and reputation as a champion for human rights that abhors inhumanity, Abbas does not speak for the entire Palestinian Authority, and Olmert never shed the shadow of corruption charges on top of having committed the unforgivable sin of losing Israeli lives due to bad military planning. Counting on this collection of people to broker peace is like counting on the Marx Brothers to sit peacefully through *La Traviata*. While no one is ill motivated, none are situated or

equipped to meet such expectations.

Yesterday Prime Minister Olmert tendered a graceful exeunt and opened the door to the mild madness known as Israeli electoral politics, a high-stakes clash of intensely held views related to survival itself. Olmert's resignation might compare to opening a crack the exit door of a burning theater, hardly a conducive environment for delicate peace conversations, and worse so when half those trampling others towards the door are war hawks.

The peace pursuits of this particular group always teetered on rickety scaffolding even in their best days. That so, imagine the "have I gone mad" disorientation that had to wash over *New York Times* readers to find these as the first words of the article on Olmert's resignation announcement:

The official line in Washington, Jerusalem and Ramallah is that the decision by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel to resign will not affect American efforts to negotiate a peace

deal between Israelis and Palestinians before the end of the year

The article then goes on to present assurances from Olmert, Abbas (speaking from Tunisia), and Rice's "senior administration official" ("Fundamentally, as Americans," the official added, "don't give up.")

But author Aaron David Miller is quoted later in the article saying,

The bottom line: Can Olmert reach a half-baked agreement minus Jerusalem with Abbas and with Condi looking on proudly in the next several months? Maybe," said Aaron David Miller, the author of "The Much Too Promised Land: America's Elusive Search for Arab-Israeli Peace

But can he sell it, let alone implement it, in an environment in which he has no popular support or moral authority, with Hamas threatening from the sidelines? No way."

But there is something more urgent and more fundamental than merely the inadequacies of this particular group (in

talent, disposition, or mere circumstance) to be effective agents for peace. The most debilitating problem facing our peace hopes is not the characters in the line up at present, but rather the anachronistic spell under which such efforts are conceived and sold. This is what must be changed, not the players on the scene at any given moment.

It is not a particular bias, strategy, political skill and insight (or lack thereof) that suddenly and magically will produce a coming era of stability and security. "If only we had a take-no-prisoners Nethanyahu at the helm, THEN we'd see progress." "Our only hope is an Annapolis-committed Livni, if we are to see the end of tensions and horror." Both views miss the point. Attachment to either dogma does nothing more than extend the spirit of political contention that itself inherently contradicts what is required to dissolve hatred and conflict.

Hope should not rest with whether or not this candidate or that matches my

own preferred degree of intolerance and aggression that I like to see in my political figures of choice. Hope must lie first in the prospect that peace actors and commentators awaken from the slumber and pig-headed view that state actors in isolation can succeed as agents for meaningful change.

Political reality and state to state negotiations are wholly inadequate as peace-seeking platforms when taken in isolation. They only can contribute positively when integrated into a creative, carefully designed treillage of related peace-seeking activity. These include religion, social service, empowerment economics, intercultural foundations for education, the arts, sports, and other long term investment, organizations, and activities devoted to peace. The narrow, parochial characteristics of state actors and politicians cannot in isolation bring peace. This expensive activity does not deserve the privileged, excessive attention and resources it enjoys.

The political arena itself is con-

tentious by nature. Political figures themselves are transitional by nature. Harmonization in political terms is characterized by compromise and self-interest. These characteristics are not evils. They have a role to play and cannot and should not be excluded from peace efforts. But the hubris, and the blind adherence old and failed mentalities that imagine political figures in isolation can bring peace, by now should be an embarrassing position to hold.

State level, politically based efforts for peace should not attract much attention until they are integrated creatively, strategically, and effectively into holistic peace-seeking agendas inclusive of central, more long term, and better suited enterprises for peace, such as civil society, the private sector, voluntary associations, and those from the enlightened sector of religion.

Frank Kaufmann is the Director of the Inter Religious Federation for World Peace.

Sabafon celebrates the annual 4th group wedding for 80 brides and bridegrooms of its staff



"Sabafon is in the head for organizing weddings for youths inside and outside the company." Says Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar.

In a cheerful group wedding, 80 brides and bridegrooms from the staff of Sabafon Liaison Company celebrated their marriage on Friday July 12. Group wedding has become an annual occasion for Sabafon which is the pioneer in sponsoring such charitable occasions in the history of the private sector in Yemen.

Marriage ceremony was attended by Kamal Al-Jabri, minister of Telecommunications, Nabeel Al-Faqeh, Minister of Tourism, Sheikh Sadiq Abdullah Al-Ahmar, member of Shura Council, cleric Mohammed bin Ismael Al-Amrani, Tariq Al-Haidari, Sabafon executive manager and member of Parliament and Shura Council members as well as sheikhs and social figures.

In an eventful ceremony, the great wedding began since the early morning in front of Sabafon blue building. Zubairi Street was congested with people who came to congratulate the grooms where they received gifts by Abdullah Al Kebisi, and then the convoy moved by cars through streets of Sana'a associated with folklores and popular dance that expressed happiness with this occasion. With the beautiful Yemeni dance, Bar'a, the grooms were received in Wadi Dhahr amid the interaction of citizens and tourists who participated in the folk dance and took photos of grooms and the gathering. After that, the procession of people turned toward Al-Hamza Palace Mosque located at 60 Street, where grooms were received by Sheikh Hameed Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Chairman of Sabafon's Board, to perform Friday prayer. Then the whole gathering left to Faj Attan tourist park, for lunch.

Chairman of Sabafon Board's word

Following lunch meal grooms and guests gathered at Al-Madeenah Hall where the program of wedding traditional songs "Zaffah" started. At the hall, Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar delivered a word in which he congratulated grooms on their wedding and welcomed all the guests who attended the fourth annual wedding ceremony, on behalf of Sabafon directors' board and all the personnel of the company.

Chairman of Sabafon directors' board considered that group weddings a positive step that aims to minimize the high costs of marriage through contribution to combating the phenomena of extravagance of most individual weddings.

"Sabafon is careful about supporting all the organizations concerned with group weddings in all the governorates of Yemen. It is the pioneer company at the level of the private sector companies as it contributes to the young and the society by easing such holy join through organizing such group weddings which are less costly.

Hameed Al-Ahmar expressed his gladness that Sabafon succeeds in organizing group weddings for its employees for the fourth year successively. He assured that Sabafon is concerned with group weddings out of its belief of the family importance in building a sound society, pointing out that group weddings play a major role in enhancing the social collaboration and intimacy among the company employees. Group weddings also strengthen the harmony and complementation among the employees.

Al-Ahmar renewed his call on the private and public sectors as well as all charitable people to encourage such group weddings and contribute to solving high costs of dowry and marriage costs, praising the companies from the two sectors which organized group weddings for its employees during past years, noting that they followed Sabafon which has been the pioneer in this experience for the first time in the history of public and private sectors. At the same time, he stressed group weddings should be enhanced to include

bigger numbers of youths inside and outside the companies so that good prevails.

Al-Ahmar thanked all the gathering for their interaction with group wedding and their contribution to the success of its different activities. He also thanked all the service, reception, artistic committees as well as official and popular bodies which contributed to the success of the wedding.

The bride grooms' word

Ali Al-Qitari, one of the grooms, delivered a word on behalf of the grooms in which he expressed his thankfulness and gratitude to Sheikh Hameed Al-Ahmar and all the members of the directors board who sponsored the group wedding, which indicates that they pay attention to the aspirations and needs of the employees, wishing Sabafon all success and progress as the first and pioneer company.

For his part, Mr Zaid Al-Shami, member of the parliament, praised in his word the company's initiative in supporting group weddings for the company's employees and from outside. He considered that a call to good and an exemplary for the rest of the companies. He pointed out that encouraging such weddings introduces a practical example of the private sector's constructive role in serving the society, calling on the government and private sector to support group weddings and make them easy for the young in order to protect the society.

During the group wedding, one of the attendants delivered a poem that caught the admiration of all the attendance. Other programs and songs which are taken from the Yemeni traditions were carried out during the wedding by Atyaf Marib band and singer Jameel Al-Qadhi.

In addition, two grooms were selected through a draw to spend a week of honeymoon in Malaysia. They were: Mohammed Najeed Al-Mansoob and Hassan Qayed Dammaj. Another groom Ahmed Basuhil, was given one week of honeymoon vacation in Malaysia as he and his bride are company employees.

Another six couples won a draw to spend one week in Mercure Hotel in Aden. The winners of the Aden honey moon are: Muheeb Muthanna Awadh, Abdul Rahman Al-Yamani, Ahmed Al-Kasadi, Ali Al-Tahish, Suhail Al-Azazi and Abdullah Al-Saiyaghi.

The remaining grooms and brides will spend their wedding night at Sheraton Hotel.

Zaffah

Amid a big interaction, the band performed the Sana'ani songs with the participation of all their friends. The night life ended with bride grooms leaving the hall accompanied by a big number of cars carrying their friends and relatives celebrating with them their joyful occasion and appreciating Sabafone's initiative and organization of the group wedding "Memorable wedding night".

It is worth mentioning Sabafone is the first private sector company that sponsors group weddings for its staff. The first event was in August 2005 when Sabafon held its first group wedding which included 21 employees. Following that, group weddings has become an annual tradition for the company as in July 21, 2006 the company organized its second annual group wedding for 56 grooms of its employees. In July 9, 2007, the company held a group wedding for 120 brides and grooms. In addition, the company supports a lot of group weddings organized by other organizations working in this field.





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- Experience in project management skills
- Yemeni national status, or the right to work in Yemen
- Excellent communication skills
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How to apply?

You can download a copy of the application form and job description from our website <http://www.britishcouncil.org/me-about-us-working-with-us.htm>. Once you fill in the application form send to recruitment@ye.britishcouncil.org. For any enquiries email us or phone 01 448356.

Closing date for applications will be 16 August 2008

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

A respectable International Development Agency is looking for a media coordinator to work in its Sana'a office.

The media coordinator will work for the agency's media projects in Yemen. These projects include media legislation, access to information, freedom of expression, strengthening the trade union sector of media and education and training of journalists. Projects are usually long term but also short term involvement is possible.

Responsibilities:

The media coordinator will be especially responsible of the following:

- Donors and agencies coordination in the media sector
- Liaison with local and international partners
- Following up media sector development in the country and report on it
- Manage project cycle and day-to-day affairs connected to projects
- Organizing incoming missions and visits, meetings and workshops
- Draft new project proposals in the media sector

Qualifications:

- Higher university degree in related area
- Oral and written fluency in English and Arabic
- 10 years work experience with media (public, private, commercial) and international organizations
- Experience in writing, reviewing and editing reports and project documents
- Good knowledge of Yemeni media and society
- Ability to travel both domestic and international

Candidates are required to submit an application with a one page cover letter explaining the applicant's interest and suitability for the position, indicating starting date if selected, updated CV and three professional references including their phone numbers. The application should be addressed to:

Head of Office, TAO, Post Box 18159, Hadda area, Sana'a, or delivered to the reception of the German Embassy, Hadda, Sana'a latest by 17th of August 2008 by noon. The envelope be clearly marked "Media Coordinator." No personal inquiries can be made. Only successful applicants will be contacted for interview.



VACANCY

Training and Grants Coordinator, Engaging Media in Social Issues in Yemen

Position Summary:

CHF International seeks an experienced Training and Grants Coordinator to oversee EMCAR program training activities, in coordination with the Program Manager.

The EMCAR program will focus on three main objectives to increase the capacity of Yemeni media and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): (1) enhance the ability of national and local media to provide accurate reporting on social issues; (2) develop the advocacy and leadership skills of CSOs, with a specific emphasis on engaging the media to disseminate their messages; and (3) promote national and local media campaigns on social issues to empower CSOs to disseminate their messages.

Program Responsibilities:

- Coordinate training activities for media and CSOs with regional trainers and local stakeholders;
- Ensure trainings are relevant and well-organized;
- Identify additional trainings, if necessary;
- Develop grants management application, monitoring, & evaluation system for CSO applicants;
- Provide guidance to CSOs on an ongoing basis; and
- Maintain records to feed into performance monitoring and evaluation plan.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree with 4-5 years of experience in grants management and organizing or delivering training;
- Knowledge and experience with NGO development programs, working with international organizations, and grants programs; and
- English and Arabic fluency required.

Program Assistant, Engaging Media in Social Issues in Yemen

Position Summary:

CHF International seeks a Program Assistant to provide administrative support to EMCAR program training activities, in coordination with the Program Manager and the Training and Grants Coordinator.

The EMCAR program will focus on three main objectives to increase the capacity of Yemeni media and CSOs: (1) enhance the ability of national and local media to provide accurate reporting on social issues; (2) develop the advocacy and leadership skills of CSOs, with a specific emphasis on engaging the media to disseminate their messages; and (3) promote national and local media campaigns on social issues to empower CSOs to disseminate their messages.

Program Responsibilities:

- Assist with the organization and implementation of training activities for media and CSOs;
- Provide support with the development of grants management application, monitoring, & evaluation system for CSO applicants; and
- Assist with the maintenance of records to feed into performance monitoring and evaluation plan.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree with 1-2 years of experience in grants management and organizing or delivering training;
- Knowledge and experience with NGO development programs, working with international organizations, and grants programs; and
- English and Arabic fluency required.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their CV's and applications by mail to CHFYemen@gmail.com (Please type the position title in the subject box)
The deadline for submitting applications is August / 15 /2008

Sana'a sewage plant attempts to treat double its capacity every day

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

The Sana'a City Water and Sewage Treatment Plant has been treating water for agricultural use since its May 2000 inauguration. However, a recent crop of problems has appeared that jeopardize the plant's ability to treat water safely and effectively.

Located near Sana'a International Airport, the treatment plant consists of inflow screens, water pumps, dirt removal tanks, equipment to separate solids from liquid, aeration tanks, a chlorination unit and waste and surplus storage units.

British consulting firm Howard Humphreys designed the US \$34 million plant to serve 500,000 residents with a daily inflow rate of 50,000 cubic meters.

The Yemen Times recently spoke with the plant's general manager, Hassan Zabarah, to hear about its important work and the problems it faces.

Tell us about the treatment plant's work.

The plant started operating on May 22, 2000. However, during its first five years, its work wasn't good. While its

daily capacity is 50,000 cubic meters, employees were operating all of its units to treat only 24,000 cubic meters per day, which caused operational problems.

Now with population expansion, the plant currently receives 120,000 cubic meters per day. Although this poses a great challenge for the plant, it also faces problems because of this, but we can overcome them.

How does the treatment plant run and from where does it receive its funding?

The plant runs on electricity, with monthly operation costs between YR 25 and YR 27 million, whereas the cost is YR 15 million when it uses its own generators. We receive support from the National Water and Sanitation Authority. The plant also generates revenue for itself by selling water and surplus to farmers.

How does this sewage treatment plant benefit the public?

The plant separates incoming water, surplus and waste in an effort to clean the water for irrigation use. Many farms surrounding the treatment plant depend on this water for irrigation.

The plant also dries the surplus to sell as organic manure to nearby farm-

ers and farms in Dhamar governorate. In this way, we save the clean water that people used for irrigation to be used for home consumption.

What about the purity of the water used for irrigation? Does it cause diseases?

The water's purity is 85 to 90 percent and harms neither people nor farms. In fact, most vegetables sold in Sana'a markets are fed on this water. If the water isn't clean, the produce is damaged.

How many employees are at the treatment plant?

We have 85 employees, including administrators, engineers, drivers, workers and guards.

Do employees receive any benefits other than their salaries?

Yes, they receive YR 7,000 each month and a liter of fresh milk daily, in addition to health services.

Do employees face any health problems or harm due to the nature of their work at the plant?

There are no major health problems. When there do happen to be any, they are simple, such as skin and abdominal diseases, which are easily cured. Plant



Hassan Zabarah, the Sana'a city Water and Sewage Treatment Plant's general manager, speaks with the Yemen Times' reporter.

administration pays the treatment costs for any employee who contracts such a disease or experiences any other type of bodily harm due to their work.

Does the plant plan to treat drinking water, like other plants in developed countries?

Our plant is designed for dual treatment, which cleans water to 90 percent purity for irrigation use only, whereas

the other plants you mention are designed for triple treatment that purifies water 100 percent.

What problems does the sewage treatment plant face?

The plant faces five major problems, the first of which is vast population expansion, which heavily burdens our capacity. Although our capacity is 50,000 cubic meters, we receive more than double that every day and the number will only increase in the future.

A second problem involves solid wastes such as pieces of plastic and metal that people throw away in public bathrooms.

A third problem is oil and grease waste from vehicles because such wastes kill organic substances and bacteria that the plant runs on, which is the backbone of our work.

The fourth problem involves slaughterhouse waste, such as blood and animal hair.

Because blood's organic acid concentration is very high, it's difficult for the plant to process it, so we've asked slaughterhouses to work with us to avoid this problem.

A fifth problem is flooding from rains, but this isn't a huge problem because we can handle it by controlling the plant's gates. If such a prob-

lem does occur, the incoming waters change the treatment process. In this case, we get rid of the additional water in the nearby valley where it's used for irrigation. We have people who notify us of impending flooding, so we plug up the plant's gates to stop these waters.

Why don't you tell the public about these problems in order to help avoid them?

That's a good question and we're currently working on that. We initiated an awareness campaign on the back of National Water and Sanitation Authority's monthly bills. On these bills, we tell the public how to use water that's been purified. We also want media outlets to take a role in this as well.

You mentioned that population expansion is a burden upon the plant, so how will you seek to solve this problem?

The National Water and Sanitation Authority now is working on constructing another larger plant in the area of Bani Al-Hareth, to be completed by 2012.

While I can't disclose the specific details, I can say that this new plant's daily capacity will be three times larger at 150,000 cubic meters.



Yemen desperately needs more water, and the Sana'a city Water and Sewage Treatment Plant is trying to help.



Youth struggle to find sporting venues in Yemen

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

Yemeni children often end up in their neighborhood's streets to practice sports. Other youth have found city squares and parks to be convenient places for their sporting activities. The most popular is usually football (soccer).

But the reasons behind this speak volumes: young people choose their neighborhood streets for their activities because their areas lack sports clubs, and even those few clubs that do exist lack proper planning and equipment. Football is their choice because it's the only game that doesn't need much special equipment – just a ball and four small rocks to form the goals.

"I only know football from the way we play it in our school yard," said Ali Jalal, a 14-year-old student in Al-Mahweet. "Our teachers are our coaches and there are no football goal posts or nets."

Yemen is privileged to have both mountainous and coastal terrain suitable for hiking, canoeing, cycling, climbing, swimming, sailing, diving and spelunking (caving). However, most of these sports that are suited to Yemen are not found in the country and remain uncommon.

According to the general administration of projects at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, there are several sports projects under construction. Stadiums in Aden, Ibb, Dhamar and Lahj are almost ready. However, in Taiz, Sayoun, Al-Hodeidah and Ataq, stadi-

ums are still in the early stages of construction. Several indoor sports halls and youth centers are being built in throughout the country, added the ministry's representative.

"At school we used to have only a period per week for sports, as they call it, but in fact there was only football," said Mohammed Al-Sayghi, a Sana'a-based university student.

"I went to a public high school where we used to play football and sometimes volleyball. At the university, we don't do any kind of sports," said Ibrahim Al-Ajami, another university student. "So I joined the Armed Forces Officers' Club to go swimming. I usually play football on the street in our neighborhood," Al-Ajami added. "I really wish there were clubs in neighborhoods."

Wafaa Abdullah, the Secretary of Sporting Activities at Bilqis Sports Club, said that sports started gaining popularity among Yemeni women gradually and that there is definitely a wider demand for female fitness centers, but male coaches or arbitrators are still a big obstacle and some women refuse to go to clubs or participate in competitions because of this.

"Transportation is also a problem for us," said Kholoud Al-Hamadani, a 16-year-old basketball player who practices at the Bilqis Sports Club for Women. "Since we come from the far corners of Sana'a, we face harassment on the street and providing the club with a bus could solve this problem and prevent families from worrying about their daughters."



The Armed Forces Officers Club has an Olympic-sized swimming pool along with many other sporting facilities within its grounds.

Abdul Hamid Al-Jarmouzi, the Manager of the Armed Forces Officers' Club in Sana'a, said that the club he runs is not only for military servicemen, but is also open to the public. The club is the first and grandest of the sporting facilities in Sana'a, with an Olympic-size swimming pool, tennis courts, billiards, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, an indoor track and a fully-equipped gym, in addition to a health club that Jacuzzi baths, saunas and steam rooms.

"There is an opportunity for people

to have a one-day entry to the club and enjoy the best sports facilities at Armed Forces Officers' Club," said Al-Jarmouzi.

Regarding future plans for the Armed Forces Officers' Club in Sana'a, Al-Jarmouzi said that they hope to open bowling lanes and plan to establish new club branches in coastal governorates such as Aden, Al-Hodeidah and Al-Mukalla. "One of our plans is to establish a special section for families," he added.

Latfiah Hamzah, the manager of

Bilqis Sports Club said that women now can practice sports freely and in privacy. "The staff members are all women who have been trained by professional trainers," she said.

The sports available in Bilqis Sports Club include basketball, volleyball, billiards, table tennis, karate and kung fu, plus a fitness center equipped with machines and an area for aerobics. "We plan to add a swimming pool and a health club with Jacuzzi tubs and a sauna in addition to providing a special place for children," said Hamzah.



Children play football (soccer) in the streets, with only the ball and four rocks as their goal posts.

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EH&S TRAINER Position # 0135

Job Duties:

- Develops, upgrades, documents and provides training courses and assessment where necessary to meet the needs of the company's emergency response plan, company policies and procedures or oil industry training requirements. Includes training in such areas as:

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terrestrial	Oil spill response e.g. marine,
Safe work permit system	Safety orientation
Defensive driving/driver evaluation	Environmental awareness
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Gas testing	Confined space entry
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Hazardous Chemical Handling	Lock, Tag & Try
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- Coordinates the maintenance of EH&S training facilities and equipment at the CPF.
- Provides materials and expertise for all levels of management as directed by the EH&S Manager for safety meetings, presentations and orientation.
- Conducts job site observations to establish training needs.
- Carries out other similar or related duties such as assisting his manager in the preparation of departmental objectives, action plans, annual training budget and AFE submissions for special projects, maintaining computerized training records, preparing weekly and monthly training reports, providing recommendations for improving training methods

Minimum Requirements

- Successful completion of 95% of EH&S Skills Ladder items or completion of Secondary (Technical) education (12 years) followed by 3 years' full time training leading to an Engineering Diploma.
- 7 years' oil field experience in an operational or technical role including safety training responsibility. Includes short specialized courses in fire and safety and computer skills covering Word, Excel and PowerPoint.
- Very good knowledge of English.

❖ To Apply for this Job and for further information on the Job duties and responsibilities you can visit our website Recruiting_yemsana@nexeninc.com

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Mechanical Superintendent Position # 17-6

Job Duties:

- Directs and supervises the Mechanical Maintenance activities of the Central Power Plant, Process Plant, Diesel Engine, vehicle and Machine shop sections. Includes checking on progress and quality of all work, interaction with other Maintenance and client Departments. Planning and organizing the deployment of manpower to meet priorities as identified by maintenance daily work schedule.
 - Provides direction in the following areas:
 - Wartsila, Ruston and Solar Central Power plant maintenance and overhauls.
 - Process equipment such as pumps, compressors, heaters and exchangers.
 - Machine Shop
 - Light and Heavy Vehicular Maintenance.
 - Condition Based Monitoring of equipment
- Initiates and establishes in conjunction with the Maintenance Planning department new and revised work procedures and methods to be used in maintenance work to reduce workload consistent with good operation and continuous improvement.
- Administers and develops, in conjunction with Planning Superintendent, Preventive and Predictive Maintenance programs for equipment, aimed at reducing the overall operating and maintenance costs of such equipment.
- Investigates, analyzes and resolves the causes of failures and initiates action to eliminate similar failures in the future.
- Recommends training programs to improve craft skill, to support Yemenization, and to improve overall efficiency. Works with the Company's Training department and Maintenance Training Co-ordinators to coordinate both on-the-job and formal training programs for personnel in this section
- Reviews administrative functions including recommendations for salary changes, promotion, disciplinary action, leaves of absence within the limits of Company rules and policies.
- Maintains constant attention to all aspects of safe operation and working of his section, ensuring that safe working practices and compliance with Company EHS policies and Procedures.
- Prepares and manages the Mechanical Maintenance department portion of the Opex and Capex Budget.
- Develops Manpower through the Management of the Skills Ladder and TOP programs
- Carries out similar or related duties as required

Minimum Requirements:

- Engineering Degree or Technician Qualification Mechanical.
- 15 years' experience in a Mechanical trade, including a minimum of 5 years of supervisory responsibility at Superintendent Level or equivalent.
- Computer skills using Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint.
- Demonstrated Strong Leadership, interpersonal and communication skills.
- Proficient in Maintenance Planning and Budgeting principles and practices.
- International driving license.

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Is AIDS still an emergency?

The rate of new HIV infections, which has fuelled the global HIV/AIDS epidemic since the 1980s, has peaked throughout the world and is now declining. But population growth and the life-prolonging effects of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment mean that the total global number of HIV-infected people is likely to remain about the same for another two decades and will continue to increase in sub-Saharan Africa.

Based on these findings from the study, Has the HIV epidemic peaked?, published in the June issue of Population and Development Review, its lead author, John Bongaarts, believes it is time for the international community and governments to rethink their prioritisation of AIDS over other infectious diseases.

"AIDS has gotten special treatment because of its emergency status; that view is no longer valid because the epidemic has peaked," he told IRIN/PlusNews on the phone from the New York headquarters of the Population Council, an international non-governmental research organisation of which he is vice-president.

The study, which Bongaarts carried out with three demographers from the United Nations Population Division, examined the course HIV epidemics have taken in different regions and used mathematical models that combined population projections with data collected by UNAIDS to project the future demographic impact of HIV/AIDS.

The authors explain that peaks in HIV prevalence, which reflect the total number of people living with the virus, lag about a decade behind peaks in HIV incidence - the rate of new infections. This is because someone infected with HIV can live with the virus for about a decade after infection, and for much longer if they start ARV treatment.

Research showed that the global peak in HIV incidence occurred as long ago as 1995, with the first peak occurring in North America in the early 1980s, and the last in Eastern Europe in 2001. According to Bongaarts, this finding is not new, but it has been against the interests of agencies like UNAIDS to highlight it.

"I think UNAIDS was afraid that donors would decide not to spend so much money

on AIDS and, secondly, that governments would say, 'this is no longer something to worry about,'" he said. "My own feeling is that the amount that's devoted to AIDS treatment is out of proportion to other health problems."

His comments come on the heels of recent admissions by former senior UNAIDS and World Health Organisation officials that they exaggerated the size of the HIV epidemic and its potential for further growth to create public alarm and maintain the flow of donor money to the global industry that AIDS had spawned.

The backlash against global HIV expenditure started in February with an article in the British Medical Journal by Roger England of Health Systems Workshop, a health-policy charity, who pointed out that AIDS receives about a quarter of global health aid but constitutes only five percent of the disease burden in low- and middle-income countries.

Speaking to IRIN/PlusNews, Bongaarts agreed with England's argument that more lives could be saved by investing in strengthening health systems and combating other diseases with inexpensive interventions like immunisations, mosquito nets and family planning.

"AIDS should now be treated like any other disease, and the world community should look at its investments in health and prepare the most cost-effective interventions," he said. "I'm not advocating less money for AIDS treatment, but I want more spent on AIDS prevention and other diseases. We can save lives for a few dollars."

What is new about the Population Council study are the predictions it makes about the future demographic implications of the HIV epidemic. According to the authors, the presence of AIDS will not prevent populations from increasing. Even in sub-Saharan Africa, where the death toll from AIDS will continue to be high, the population is expected to grow by one billion between 2005 and 2050.

However, AIDS will slow population growth in the worst-hit countries: in South Africa, for example, the population size by 2050 is projected to be 29 percent lower than it would have been without the presence of AIDS.

It's not over yet, says UNAIDS
The rate of new HIV infections is slowing in a number of countries, but the AIDS epidemic is not over in any part of the world, and is gaining pace in some.

This was the message UNAIDS officials drove home as the agency released new data, giving the most up-to-date snapshot of the global epidemic and the world's response.

The 2008 Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic notes that the number of people living with HIV around the world has stabilised at around 33 million.

There is some evidence that prevention campaigns have played a role, but the plateau in prevalence is also the result of deaths due to AIDS occurring at a similar rate to new HIV infections. About 2 million adults and children died from AIDS-related illnesses in 2007, but 2.7 million were newly infected; down slightly from 3 million in 2001.

"This is not the time for complacency," warned Elizabeth Mataka, the UN special envoy on AIDS, at the launch of the report in Johannesburg on Tuesday.

Heterosexual intercourse is still driving the epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, which shouldered two-thirds of the global AIDS burden and three-quarters of all AIDS-related deaths in 2007. In other parts of the world HIV is mainly affecting people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, and sex workers.

Nine countries in southern Africa are bearing the brunt of the AIDS crisis, accounting for one-third of global infections.

The epidemics in Malawi, Zambia and South Africa appear to have stabilised, and in Botswana and Zimbabwe they have started to decline, but Mozambique's epidemic is growing.

In East Africa, the epidemics in most countries have receded or remained at about 5 percent. It is too soon to determine whether a slight increase in Kenya's HIV infection rate represents a trend or a temporary blip.

The data shows that young women in many African countries are much more at risk of infection than young men. In South Africa, for example, women accounted for 90 percent of new infections among people aged 15 to 24.

"Unless we can reverse these trends, unless we can empower women and recognise women's human rights and deal with gender-based violence, we are unlikely to make significant progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS," said Mataka.

Reducing women's vulnerability to HIV would have to include tackling social norms, such as inter-generational sex and tolerance of male promiscuity, Mataka noted. "I think the time has come for us to say, 'yes, culture is what defines us', but if culture is killing us, then we need to be bold enough to say that."

Mark Stirling, director of UNAIDS for Eastern and Southern Africa, described the achievements of countries like Namibia and Botswana in improving the quality and coverage of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services as setting a "gold standard" for other countries around the world.

"Where there's clear and strong commitment, and a mobilisation of national and international resources, African states can demonstrate world leadership in their response around AIDS," he said.

By the end of 2007, nearly 3 million people in low- and middle-income countries were receiving ARV treatment - double the number being reached a year before - but still only about 30 percent of those estimated to be in need of the drugs.

"The intensity of the epidemic ... means we're far away from realising our goal for universal access by 2010," said Mataka. "For every person put on treatment, more get infected; we cannot sustain a successful response if we do not get on top of prevention."

In recent months UNAIDS has been accused of inflating previous estimates of the size of the AIDS epidemic in order to sustain donor funding levels, but an attachment to the 2008 report explains that the latest estimates should not be compared with those published in previous years because of constantly improving methods of collecting and compiling data.

Some public health experts still argue that funding directed to AIDS could better be spent on strengthening public health systems and addressing other deadly infectious diseases.

In 2007, US\$10 billion was spent on the



The number of people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa will continue to increase until 2030, Photo:

global AIDS response, but UNAIDS estimated that an additional US\$8.1 billion was needed.

Stirling told IRIN/PlusNews there was no contradiction between an effective AIDS response and stronger health sys-

tems. "Is AIDS funding adequate?" he asked. "The answer is no. But there also needs to be greater scrutiny of how the money is spent."

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Qatar Chapter of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) – 2008 How to deal effectively with oral mistakes

Eman M. Barakat
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Making mistakes is a natural part of learning. It usually shows that learning is taking place and learners are experimenting with the language. Instructors are recommended to look at mistakes positively since they give feedback on students' progress and needs.

Types of mistakes

Slips: These are mistakes learners make because of extra linguistic factors such as being tired, anxious, scared or when they speak quickly or with no enough concentration. For example, many learners miss the final *s* off when they use simple present with third person singular. Slips can be corrected by learners themselves

at a hint or a gesture made by the teacher.

Errors: Learners make errors when they deal with language items beyond their current level. They make them because they don't know what is correct. Errors can occur because of overgeneralizations. Students may produce things like *mouses, breaked*. Errors can also be caused by mother tongue interference. Learners tend to use patterns, lexis, and grammatical structures of their native language. They may say: "I a student.", "a place nice." Errors usually disappear as students learn more about the language and correction is not always needed specially in where it is unwise to interrupt students since this could negatively affect their fluency, self-confidence and motivation.

1. Correction methods

Gestures and facial expressions:

These are used when the teacher is confident that students can correct themselves.

Echoing: The teacher repeats what the student has said with a rising intonation stressing the mistake.

Reformulating: Sometimes we correct mistakes directly by saying the correct form or word for the purpose of saving time and avoiding students' confusion.

Identifying: This is to focus students' attention on their mistakes directly. The teacher may say: "Is this how you say it?" or "That is not correct."

Finger correction: Each finger is used for one word and learners can see where exactly the mistake is. This technique works well when students miss some words or with contractions by bringing fingers together.

Phonemic symbols: This is useful for correcting pronunciation mistakes provided that students are

familiar with these symbols.

Timeline: We use it to correct mistakes with tenses.

2. Ignoring mistakes

The teacher may decide – for many reasons – not to correct mistakes and only take notes and refer to them later.

3. Indirect correction

Students could be helped to correct their mistakes by exposing them more to the language, giving more controlled practice and allocating good time for classroom communication.

What to consider when dealing with mistakes

a) Students' level: It is not really wise to correct mistakes which are above students' level since that could frustrate them and take them away from the lesson's objectives.

b) Task in focus: It is important to

keep in mind whether the task is free or controlled, and whether much work should be done by students or the teacher.

c) Purpose of the activity: It should be clear whether students' accuracy or fluency is being tested.

d) Learner's personality: Different learners within the same class may or may not need to be corrected. They may also need to be corrected in different ways. What is good for one learner might not be so for another.

e) Pedagogic significance of mistakes

It is good to know that

- Making mistakes is a natural result of learning and students who make no mistakes are not actually learning.
- Mistakes give teachers feedback on students' level, weaknesses, and needs.
- Students who master language forms are not necessarily the best communicators. It is good when stu-

dents take the risk with the language and make mistakes for the purpose of improving their fluency.

In most cases, it is better to help students correct their own mistakes since this promotes their autonomy. Students do not forget easily what they have learnt by themselves.

In fluency tasks, teachers are advised to give students freedom to use the language, and not to interrupt them for correcting mistakes. Instead, they can take notes of these mistakes which can be corrected by students when they finish.

Indirect correction is used when the teacher feels that students need more input and the outcomes here are more permanent. Students learn better what they feel they really need to navigate the learning route.

Learning is a gradual process and even if mistakes are very skillfully managed, they will continue to occur.

I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (103):

Crime words (II)

Bail Remand: A suspect who has been arrested or charged with an offence is released by the police or court on condition that they report back at a certain date and time. Sometimes the suspect has to keep to certain conditions, such as living in a particular place, or not going near witnesses.

Barriater: A lawyer who has been called to the bar and is qualified to appear in all courts.

Caution: Official warning given to offenders who admit to their guilt. Only available for low level offences.

Community Order: A court sentence to be served in the community. As part of the Community Order the court may order the offender to fulfill a number of requirements. These include drug or alcohol treatment and testing, electronic monitoring (tagging), curfew, living at a specified address, unpaid work, doing or refraining from doing certain things or entering certain places, or attending certain offending behavior programs.

Conviction: When an offender has pleaded or been found guilty of an offence in a court he or she is said to have been convicted. The conviction then appears on the offender's criminal record.

Crown Court: The Crown Court is the second tier in the English court system. A judge hears the cases, and trials are heard by a jury. The Crown Court deals with crime which is too serious to be heard by the magistrates' court, and cases referred by the magistrates for sentence where their powers are not adequate.

II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct errors in the following sentences

1. Please answer to my question
2. He is up; his brother is down.
3. What is the cost of this watch?
4. My little brother he is at school.
5. I told him to not come on Monday.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. Don't do that, **will** you?
2. Ahmed goes to school **on** foot.
3. He is the strongest man in the city.
4. He is not eating **either**.
5. Mohammed does not play football, **neither** does his brother.

Note: 'too' and 'so' change into 'either' and 'neither' respectively when the sentences are changed into negative.

III. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

1. Student in his first year at a college or university.
2. Water, not of the sea.
3. Be discontented or bad tempered.
4. Consonant produced with audible friction.
5. Ornamental band or strip along a wall

Improve Your English: 318

10th Year of Publication (1999 -2008)

(usually at the top).

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. Absurd or most unusual idea, act, or occurrence: **freak** (n)
2. Be so cold that water turns into ice: **freeze** (vt)
3. Money changed for the carriage of goods from place to place: **freight** (n)
4. Violent excitement: **frenzy** (n)
5. Number of repetitions in a given time: **frequency** (n)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

1. healthful, healthy
2. liable, likely
3. lifelong, livelong
4. plaintive, plaintiff
5. politician, statesman

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **intense** (adj) (is used in the sense of very great, extreme): Many birds died due to intense heat.

intensive (adj) (is used to mean concentrated, deep and thorough): The patient is in the intensive-care unit.

2. **preserve** (vt) (keep safe from harm or danger): God preserve us all!

reserve (vt) (store for a later occasion): We must reserve our strength and energy for the celebration.

3. **pity** (n) (feeling of sorrow for the troubles, sufferings, etc.): I was filled with pity for the old man.

piety (n) (devotion to God and good works): Acts of piety make us nearer to Allah, the Merciful.

4. **sources** (n) (place from which something comes): Understanding from reliable sources that a post of accountant has fallen vacant, I want to offer my candidature for the same.

resources (n) (supplies of good, raw materials, etc.): Human resources are the most precious wealth for a country.

5. **rash** (adj) (too hasty): Avoid rash driving.

rush (vi) (to go or come with speed): The children rushed out of the school building.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

Choose the word that is closest in meaning to the ones in bold in the following sentences

1. Before I could **expostulate** he had spoken again.

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| a. explain | b. disclose |
| c. protest | d. postulate |

2. A bone got stuck in his **gullet**.
a. throat b. chest
c. molars d. stomach
3. He is not at peace because of a family **feud**.
a. trouble b. crisis
c. quarrel d. problem
4. Some people become **eccentric** in their old age.
a. miserly b. dull
c. peculiar d. irritable
5. The airlines has **confirmed** my reservation for the next week's flight.
a. approved b. obtained
c. verified d. ratified

Answers to the previous issue's questions

Word **Synonym**

1. put across to convey
2. disparity inequality
3. vehemently forcefully
4. arid dry
5. ascending rising

(ii) Antonyms

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

1. Don't leave your dog **loose**.
a. fit b. tight
c. chained d. free
2. We should not run after the **transient** pleasures of the world.
a. joyful b. unnatural
c. sinful d. permanent
3. Yours is a **heterogeneous** group.
a. strange b. homogeneous
c. complex d. vast
4. A lot of **spurious** liquor has been seized by the police.
a. genuine b. obvious
c. fictitious d. authentic
5. People respect him for his **humane** approach.
a. uncivilized b. uncultured
c. unsympathetic d. uncompromising

Answers to the previous issue's questions

Word **Antonym**

1. phony genuine
2. advance retreat
3. warm cold
4. rudely politely
5. broad narrow

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 1. a. admision | b. admishion |
| c. admision | d. admition |
| 2. a. adolescence | b. adoloscence |
| c. adolascense | d. adoloscens |
| 3. a. adalterate | b. adulterate |
| c. adulltarate | d. adolterate |
| 4. a. advans | b. advansh |
| c. advance | d. advantage |
| 5. a. advantage | b. advantege |
| c. advantag | d. advanteg |

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. adhoc 2. adieu 3. adjacent
4. adjourn 5. adjudge

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following in sentences of your own

1. under the influence
2. a hard act to follow
3. do a double take
4. be gunning for
5. down tools

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. **be not in the same league as (some one)** (to be not as good at something as someone): Firaz is quite good at studies, but he is not in the same league as his brother who is a good footballer.
2. **keep one's nose to the grindstone** (to work very hard without stopping): I had to keep my nose to the grindstone to have the book published.
3. **put a damper on (someone/something)** (to lessen the enjoyment or enthusiasm of someone or something): The news of our friend's sudden illness put a damper on the evening's party.
4. **out of one's depth** (in a situation which one cannot cope with, because lack of knowledge, skill, etc.): He joined the university gym but was completely out of his breath to find that he was only a beginner and the others are all experienced players.
5. **the golden boy/girl** (a young man/woman who is talented and expected to do well in his/her career): Ahmed is the golden boy of his batch.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Look at some replies that Tariq received from his wife. Write the questions he might have asked.

1. Do you ...
2. Would ...

3. Is ...
4. Would ...
- A. I'd rather you didn't. It's much better to keep it in the fridge.
- B. Yes, of course it would. As long as you don't play it too loudly.
- C. Yes, certainly. As long as you don't take all the hot water.
- D. No, I'm sorry. Our daughter can't do her homework with the TV on.

Answers to the previous issue's questions

1. A **dentist** fills, cleans, takes out teeth, and fits new teeth.
2. A **joiner** makes the inside woodwork of buildings.
3. A **plumber** fits pipes for water into buildings and repairs them.
4. A **postman** delivers letters, etc.
5. An **accountant** keeps and examines business accounts.
6. A **dress designer** makes dresses.
7. A **waiter/waitress** waits at table in a restaurant, hotel, dining room, etc.
8. A **publisher** publishes books, periodicals, etc.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the maxim
136: WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE

Answers to the previous lesson's topic
135: EDUCATION WITHOUT CHARACTER IS A SOCIAL SIN

The noblest aim of education is building up of character. It edifies the intellect and guides the individual to nurture his finer emotions. Joseph Addison, the well-known essayist of the 18th century, says "What sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul." Education is the very foundation of a society. Through its hidden curriculum, it fulfills its social commitment of preparing social engineers, the architects of tomorrow. Education understands the great hope of society which is individual character. Therefore, if education subsumes a role in which it only doles out bookish information, without paying proper attention to inculcate in the individual social, moral, ethical values and, above all, a high standard of individual character, then it fails in its most sacred duty. Thus the kind of soulless, lusterless and theoretical education is more akin to a social sin rather than social service because the individuals it churns out through its system are more likely to be liabilities than assets in future.

V. Verses from the Holy Quran

"But those who reject Our signs and treat them with arrogance, they are companions of the fire, to dwell therein (for ever)" –S.7: A 36

VI. Words of Wisdom

"It's not that some people have will power and some don't. It's that some people are ready to change and others are not." –James Gordon

ELT Panorama

Recreating knowledge societies

The changing role of universities in a globalized world (2)



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Digital Divide and Knowledge Divide

Digital Divide has been defined (see Wikipedia: 2007) as the "gap between those people with effective access to digital and information technology, and those without access to it." Groups often discussed in the context of a digital divide include socioeconomic (rich/poor), racial (white/minority), or geographical (urban/rural). The term "global digital divide" refers to differences in technology access between countries. According to Mehra (2004), the digital divide is "the troubling gap between those who use computers and the internet and those who do not". He further assigns the four major components that contribute to digital divide which are "socioeconomic status, with income, educational level, and race among other factors associated with technological attainment". Digital Divide is related to Knowledge Divide. Reports of Information Society Commission (2002) and UNESCO (2005) have showed the existence of Knowledge Divide. This is more associated with the infrastructure of ICT (Information and Communication Technology). And at the same time knowledge is distinct from ICT and its physical support of information. According to the UNESCO report (2005) knowledge is also linked with many other aspects of the ICT world such as freedom, democracy, plurality of information, the infrastructure of economy and the existence of successful educational process.

Just to give one example how poor electricity supply and lack of clientele might cause regional digital divide. Kaul (2006:3) begins the Section II of his working paper that "Never before was information so readily available at the press of a button, the Internet has changed the way the world behaves, does business, and thinks" and contends that "The student is now the customer or client. With globalization, universities are spreading their reach beyond geographical and political borders" (5) and offers valuable suggestions to bridge the digital divide. He states:

Good quality, market based e-learning courses and Internet café/schools with programme structures that are relevant to the Indian context need to be set up urgently. Libraries must [should] be equipped with computers that support high speed internet connec-

tivity. To bridge the digital divide the all night net libraries or late night accessibility at least, at a monthly charge, of course. Such internet cafes could be provided under private or co-operative licenses in residential area including slums. Personnel trained in computers and e-learning tools could man these edu-cafes and help students make better use of the facilities. The cost of e-learning, while market driven, could perhaps be subsidized through need based scholarships schemes. (12-13)

Likewise, he suggests that even remote areas with poor electric supply could be easily reached with a "wind-up computer machine and with a wifi wireless internet connection" and "the hundreds of millions of world's poorest pupils" can be benefited with a US\$100 wind-up laptops designed by the US scientist or by a cheap handheld computer designed by the Indian scientists. (13)

The role of universities in a globalized world

The universities can play the following role which are crucial in a globalizing world of today:

- To highlight issues of higher education that face many countries and about which an international discussion can contribute insights;
- To contribute to the internationalization of higher education through discussion of international initiatives and linking of people and institutions to a global perspective and expanded international programs;
- To create a network of colleagues and centers working in a field of higher education worldwide in order to foster ongoing dialogue, communication, and collaborative possible research; and
- To link policymakers, key administrators and higher education research community in a creative dialogue on the central issues facing contemporary higher education. (Altbach and Davis, 1999)

Chitnis (1999) while discussing the Indian experience in higher education underscores the following role of the universities:

- Higher education should be in close touch with the world of work and should interact with it meaningfully;
- There is a need to restructure higher education and to do this as part of restructuring the larger frame of secondary education and with full awareness of societal realities and needs.

This is also true to the state of higher education in the developing countries like Yemen where there is an "absence of participation expected from the society and the pioneering productive organizations in the decision making councils" (Educational Indicators of the Republic of Yemen: 2005-6; 43)

Professor Jarlath Ronayne, ("Managing Cultural diversity: Higher Education's Challenge for the Third Millennium" http://www.ucc.ie/publications/hee/Millennium/managing_cultural_diversity.htm), Vice-chancellor and President of Victoria University, Australia, assigns the role of universities as

• the direct provision of accessible and socially and culturally appropriate quality educational programs

• active and purposeful engagement of scholars and higher education institutions with local and global issues

• the development and articulation of creative and appropriate visions and solutions to the collective challenges that confront both educational institutions and the populations that they serve locally and globally.

He rightly remarked about the role of universities in the present contexts of "massification, globalization and diversification" as "universities occupy a unique position in our societies and more generally in the international arena, and are ideally positioned to promote the values of human understanding, cooperation, exchange and the promotion of equitable social and cultural development."

Lerner et al (1998: 268-9) while commenting on the role of the universities and the need to create "outreach universities" in the U.S. remark:

Universities have a critical role to play in these collaborative (community empowerment) regarding issues of economic development, environmental quality, health and health care delivery, and - ultimately of people, including children, youth and families, challenge the current resources (ad future viability of our nation). Faculty, administrators and staff can contribute technical assistance, asset mapping, needs assessment, knowledge development, demonstration, training and information dissemination.

Closing statements

Today the world is witnessing a global change in higher education with the growth of e-education, the establishment of off-shore campuses of the world's best universities in India, China, Singapore, and the Gulf, and the interrelationships between the knowledge societies and the market with the changing perception that higher education is a "commodity." Today there is shift in higher education from elite to mass higher education. Even though the largest part of the population particularly in the developing countries is

devoid of basic education and post-secondary education. Equity of access is a global challenge today when 66 percent of the world's illiterates are women. Today in the wake of liberalization, internationalization, deterritorialization, massification and diversification besides helping the disadvantaged sections of the society universities can also play a crucial role to mitigate the clash of cultures by bringing together the spiritual element of the Eastern method of imparting knowledge and the scientific spirit of the Western method of creating knowledge societies. The best of the East and the best of the West (4) should be integrated in such a way so as to provide opportunities to the disadvantaged sections of the society who are on the margins of knowledge and digital divides - to recreate knowledge societies with the help of latest developments in information and communication technologies.

The scope of this study is limited to the state of higher education in a globalized world. The indicators for this state are taken particularly from the developed and the developing countries in the last decades of the 20th century and the in the beginning of the 21st century. I would like to end my paper by pointing out our limitations in comprehending the state of higher education in a globalizing world which "seems/ To lie before us like a land of dreams, /So various, so beautiful, so new"; ever-shifting, has, unlike Matthew Arnold's feeling of unease, immense possibilities to recreate a new world order based on

knowledge capital which should be free, democratized, decosumerised, decemmericalised, for a better tomorrow for all. The need is to act with a vision, as Suárez-Orozco, Marcelo M. C. and Qin-Hilliard, D. (2004) observe:

Globalization will continue to be a powerful vector of worldwide change. We need [a] better understanding of how education will be transformed by globalization and how it, in turn, can shape and manage the course or courses of globalization. We need a major research agenda to examine how education most broadly defined can best prepare children [and youth] to engage in a global world. We need better theoretical understandings of globalization's multiple faces—economic, demographic, social, and cultural. We need more dialogue between scholars, practitioners, and policy makers.

"Universities occupy a unique position in our societies and more generally in the international arena, and are ideally positioned to promote the values of human understanding, cooperation, exchange and the promotion of equitable social and cultural development."

Notes

(1) I would like to thank Dr Ahmad Ghalib Al-Haboob, Associate Professor and Chair,

Department of higher Studies and Educational administration, Faculty of Education, Ibb University for providing the critical context in which this paper is written apart from his generosity in making some of the important books and journals available to me.

(2) For the various definitions of globalization, see "Definitions of Globalization: A Comprehensive Overview and a Proposed Definition" (June 19, 2006) by Dr Nayef R.F. Al-Rodhan, Senior Scholar in Geostategy and Director of the Program on the Geopolitical Implications of Globalization and Transnational Security, Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Ambassador Gerard Stoudmann, Director, Geneva Centre for Security Policy. Their proposed definition is: "Globalization is a process that encompasses the causes, course, and consequences of transnational and transcultural integration of human and non-human activities."

(3) Consumption patterns are now global. Market research has identified a "global elite", a global middleclass that follows the same consumption style and prefers "global brands." Most striking are "global teens", who inhabit a "global space", a single pop culture world, soaking up the same videos and music and providing a huge market for designer running shoes, t-shirts and jeans. (87)

(4) see Innis, Harold (1894-1952), and McLuhan, Marshall (1911-1980) According to McLuhan, the world needs a combination of both Western and Eastern knowledge. The West operates by way of visual space as a linear, quantitative mode of perception, while the East operates by way of acoustic space as a holistic, qualitative mode of perception. Because both worlds are constantly colliding, we need a mutual understanding in order to foster peace. As he writes, "A Westerner, for example, arranges flowers in space; the Chinese and Japanese harmonize the space between the flowers". Manipulating the discontinuous space, the Asians fill the void with imagination. In this sense, the overly logical Western world could learn from the East. At first Innis recognized that China had a time-biased civilization. It created mammoth temples and statues that stood the test of the ages. China later invented paper, ink, and books. The motivation was spatial. While temples and statues would last for millennia, their accessibility was restricted. Scrolls and books could be transported easily but were limited by physical structure and duration. They were space-biased. For thousands of years, China managed to reinvigorate its civilization through a finely tuned combination of temporal and spatial communications alongside oral and written traditions. The oral tradition assisted Buddhism in gaining popularity during its migration from India, while the written tradition helped solidify the reverence for Confucianism. Printing accommodated both: popular literature for Buddhists and classical texts for Confucians. These yin-yang polarities of writing and speaking had worldwide implications. As well the import of Chinese paper accelerated the influence of the Greeks, Persians, and Arabians throughout Europe. As such, Innis and McLuhan highlight positive functions of an archaic Chinese form of globalization. ("Globalization in Asia-The Global Village" and "Globalization in Asia: Asian Views" http://science.jrank.org/pages/9532/Globalization_in_Asia-Global_Village.html and 9531/Globalization_in_Asia-Asian_Views-Globalization.html.)

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This is the text of the speech delivered at the Inaugural Transpacific Forum on Global Education at St. Thomas University, Miami, Florida on April 3, 2008.

General goals for learning English

It is well known that English has become the language of wider communication in a globalized world. Therefore a large number of learners from different parts of the world learn English willingly. They invest their time and effort to fulfill their various personal and professional goals which motivate them to learn it enthusiastically.

The learners' goals for learning English may be summarized as follows:

First, learning English for a career goal. Many learners of English believe that learning English will be helpful to one's

future career goal. That is to say, learning English increases your chances to find jobs, either international or local. Therefore, numerous learners learn English academically in order to get a high and good position in the society.

Second, learning English to get access to knowledge. A learner could get knowledge from several sources such as: books, websites pages, magazines and newspapers, but there is a problem to get access to such materials; most of these materials are written in English. The learner of English could read about all his favorite topics/books because every important book is



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written in English or translated into English. Consequently, large numbers of students learn English so as to gain access to the ever expanding frontiers of knowledge.

Third, learning English for a communicative purpose. Actually, English is the language of wider communication, because it seems all people in the world have agreed to use English to talk to each other. That is to say, English is spoken all over the world as a first language, a second language or a foreign language. Moreover, English is the language of international summits and conferences. Diplomats and politicians from different countries use English to communicate with each other, since English is the main language of international organizations like the United Nations.

Fourth, learning English to take part in the culture of its people. Learners of English are interested in learning about cultures other than their own. In other words, learners of English believe that learning English enables them to read in the wide range of English literature and literature in English which reflects the life/culture of that society, instead of reading in the narrow circle of their culture. Hence, those learners who learn English academically need to pay attention to the four skills of the language: listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Finally, learning English for mobility/traveling. English is the language that is used in the international airports and transports. That means a traveler must learn English as it is regarded as the best guide for him wherever he goes.

To conclude, learners of English in different parts of the world have various goals for learning English, and these goals are regarded as their motives for learning this language. Actually, the above mentioned goals of learning English may answer the question 'why do large number of students like to learn English language?' These goals highlight the importance of learning English in the age of information technology.

Please, recharge!



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Recharge seems to be the drone of the day. If you can recall, we associated the word with all things mechanical or electrical. It was a not-so-very "happening" word like 'sunshine', or 'stars', or 'ice cream', or even 'ghost', et al. Considered an absolute dullard at one point of time, the word has certainly developed into a phenomenon to be reckoned with. I have always believed that some words have a life and a mind of their own, isn't it? Words can be romantic, insipid, boring, stupid, sad, happy, peppy, and many things more. The list can go on and on like a never ending saga. But some tend to make a foray into our lives and tend to stay put. Whatever the situation, you will never be able to make without them. They seem to define the zeitgeist of the times. Shakespeare is remembered to have likened the world to a stage and

its human residents to actors playing their assigned parts. Believe me it is these catch-words like our 'recharge' that delineate and denote essentially what we are. It almost assumes the role of a director that marks out the contours of the characters for the actors? 'Recharge' is a word that has taken centre stage. And no doubt as a popular song goes, it is going to take our *breath away*.

Whoever imagined that a day would come in our lives when we would feel the need to "recharge" ourselves? Well so much for battery life! We are being exposed to a succession of tasks, each one as diverse and different from the other. As a popular advertisement says 'we need to diversify', so also Gen Y2K demands that you should entirely surrender your existence to the call of 'Recharge'. I still remember, not more than a paltry 30 summers ago, we used to wake up in a leisurely languid fashion, to songs from the good old radio or to the excited chirps of the early birds, up and about in search of that elusive worm. And how can one ever forget the screeches and screams of our mothers - the inimitable clarion calls that unfailingly shook us back to life and reality from blissful sleep. Of course the alarm clock that so diligently chimed the hours and minutes to remind our sleepy brains to bid adieu to the Slumber fairy always graced our bedside table, often as a piece of ornament. And if you shared your life with those multitudes of beings in the shape of grandfathers

and grandmothers, uncles, aunts and the motley of cousins, it was possible that some old soul happily rang the prayer bells (as strongly as the spindly limbs could), with the avowed intention of appeasing the gods, much to the chagrin of the hapless and irate soul precariously hung in the hazy realm of consciousness at the wee hours nearer daybreak. So this is how we arose and posed to welcome another day in our otherwise un-recharged life.

Cut to today's life, a typical morning would see us beginning our chores with recharging our mobile phones and laptops (that would mean the laptop in today's lingo) - the two precious appendages to our being. Brushing teeth can wait for a while. As the day progresses our different ways and means of recharging also get going. If you can say, to recharge means to nourish ourselves, then the first thing that will come to our mind is food. Breakfasts a few decades ago consisted of the ubiquitous bread-omelette - a delectable treat to every adolescent's palate. Traditional homes relied upon age-old indigenous cuisines to nutritionally boost the ever hungry tummies of their young members. Whoever heard of power breakfasts, lunches and dinners? Cornflakes, Muesli, wholesome casseroles and an assortment of liquids ranging from juices of vegetables and fruits to a happy blend of both would amply recharge our mornings, fitness freaks will vociferously opine. If these were truly power packed then

we would all have been by now, metamorphosed to super heroes. I wonder what power-breakfast did Superman have; a food for thought, eh! Next come our professional lives - a harried and hassled way of life that thrives on a cellular and 'i' existence. From mobiles (that are in a constant state of monetary recharge) to i-pods, i-phones and i-what-not, our proficiency at work is directly proportional to the amount of charge in our gadgets. One glitch and you are deleted, disconnected or left malfunctioning or dysfunctional and possibly dead. And an equally matching social life that's always on a virtual recharge mode is the cherry on the cake. We are no more citizens of planet Earth. We are netizens of Facebook, Hi5, Orkut, Skype, Gtalk, and the list is nineteen to a dozen. You are free to walk into a virtually philanthropic and wide open doors of our psycho-social e-lives. This is how we recharge our tired selves. Once upon a time, a cup of hot tea, a walk in the rain, humming a few bars of a favourite song, a phone call or sighting the face of the neighbourhood postman with that much awaited letter used to cheer us up. Hercule Poirot, the admirable and adorable (and brilliantly witty) creation of Agatha Christie, needed a mystery or two to activate his grey cells. We need a dose of psychedelic power pills to keep our cells from drying up. What about recharging our EQs and SQs? The fickle emotions that keep flitting like a frivolous butterfly and the

turbulent spirits have to be kept in the right proportion in these maddening times. Years and years and years of rigorous meditation, ruminations and contemplations on the part of wise men and other varieties of ascetics led them to a state of nirvana. It is a pity they didn't live long enough to taste the success of instant recharge packs of 2 minute meditative techniques fashioned on the lines of our much loved 2 minute noodles. The body-mind-soul configuration needs to be kept intact to buffer the onslaught of negative vibes.

Enter new-age gurus, with their patented brands of power meditations, and do-it-yourself power aasanas - a set of holy formulations and concoctions for recharge purposes that would duly salvage our battered body and shredded emotions. And to add spice to our stale souls there is always the smart spa to amply recharge a.k.a de-stress us. So we have 'recharge' as the new chant connecting the divine and the earthly. The word has certainly taken over our lives like the Martians invading our planet. As a child I only knew 'recharge' pertained to putting new batteries to light up a torch or bring life back to a sputtering radio. Whoever thought that a few years later on 'recharge' would have a whole new gamut of connotations intricately woven into the very fabric of our lives? So much so that certain radio programmes are being aired under the title 'Recharge'; not to forget the Gen Next Yo bikes and solar powered cars that

need to be recharged to accelerate one's life from second gear to the top most one. There is little left to the imagination that this 'recharge' will propel the life style of the hi-fi herd from the sedate and sombre to the fast and the furious.

Renew and Refresh are the other two siblings of dear old Recharge, thanks to computing language. During my kindergarten years I was aware of these words but they had a mystic facet to them. Renew was always associated with something new and growing. I always felt life renewed and refreshed itself after a dark night or a spell of heavy rain. But a lot has changed since those times. Life and times have recharged themselves to don a few esoteric and perhaps somewhat exotic new attire. Even conversations have become automated as the word and the urbanite these days talk about "recharging" themselves, in a lounge, hookah bar or a pub, after a hard day's work. And this wordy director which has catapulted to fame is definitely here to stay. Of course there is nothing derogatory about the word. Just that it happens to be too perfunctory a jargon to delineate what it actually means to be a normal and ordinary human. And I could have to go on and on but am sorry to say my lappy is running out of charge. I guess the time has come for me to log out. And I'll be back when both my lap top and I are 100% charged. Take care and don't forget to... RECHARGE!

It calls for a mind-shift:

Local, global and the English language



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My article is essentially a response to a tendency that the English language is looked up to whereas our own languages are looked down upon as a result of the advent of globalization. Against such a backdrop I am prompted to reflect upon the possible peril the indigenous languages face in the wake of high premium paid on the promotion of English language. The issue of language should be viewed from a cultural angle more than the communicational perspective. Taking into account the concerns expressed by some of the Third-World thinkers from the former colonies, I express my view-points here on the language-culture issue.

The word, 'globalization', a buzzword has now lost its initial novelty, its magic, its music and its advocates as well as its detractors. It has made inroads into our lives, perhaps and is here to stay, not to go away. The globalization is being variously interpreted as 're-colonization', 'neo-colonization', 'Americanization' and so on. Whatever is the name it is not an indigenous phenomenon but an imported one. We have but little choice but to accept it: therefore the hymn, 'Go Global!', 'learn to be global'. I am still groping to understand the global, and hence I first wish to understand the 'local'. Language or languages is one aspect that one can definitely identify whether it is local, indigenous, 'desi' or otherwise.

What is the place and position of our / indigenous languages in relation to the English language in our new situation? Isn't there a sort of hysterical approach to the promotion of English language at the neglect of 'our own' languages? It is as though our youth have no future without English language! Reasons for such an outcry are obvious: career, success, position and placement. The mushrooming of English coaching centers, accent polishing, spoken English training camps, in addition to private, public Institutions of learning are symptomatic of the increasing demand for

English language. The issue that needs an urgent address is not so much the use of English or the profit of English but for whose profit? Whose cause does this global language serve? Isn't it further the cause of economic globalization; widening the gap between the privileged and the marginalized; the rural and the urban; haves and have-nots of English? Who if at all rearing the harvest of English advantage?

No doubt, a country like India is vastly benefitted in terms of reaping the harvest of IT revolution, mainly because of our so-called 'proficiency' in English language or 'English advantage'. But are we to cherish the notion of success in terms of 'enchasing' on the English language only? Millions of Indian youth have found jobs in BPOs (Business Process Outsourcing) and Call Centers because they can speak English. Is this real empowerment? Are we to really call this as progress, development? Can we be proud of our young boys and girls spending nights in the 'global sweat-shops' when most of India is asleep? All this is for a few thousands more! Where all this will lead to? And, where do we end up?

Contemplation prompts me to say, instead of moving forward, we in essence, stepping backward. We are back in colonial days; we have virtually a reinvented Macauleyan legacy. When McCauley laid foundation for the 'imperishable empire' through English education (1935), perhaps, seldom did he envision that he would be doing 'immortal service' to the colonized subjects. His intent is well ingrained in his famous 'Minute' "to form a clan of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinion, in morals and in intellect." Between his design and the achievement lay the story of the first British empire on which the sun never set for which Indian would say because the Indian never trusted Englishmen in the dark (Achebe: *Hopes and Impediments*).

It would be profitable to recall here the words of Macauley's celebrated minute:

We must at present do our best to form a clan who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern - a clan of persons Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinion, in morals and in intellect. To that clan we may leave it to define the vernacular dialects of the country.

It was Macauley's dream to lay foundation for the "imperishable empire".

What the promoters and devout pursuers of English language need to understand is the imperial nature of English language; the way it affected

our culture, our languages during the colonial stage as well as in the neo-colonial stage.

The question is how far have we progressed from Macauleyan colonial legacy? Paradoxically, we in India today have more vigorously reinvented Macauleyan policy than it was before. In an attempt to hone the communication skills of our pupils, we are creating a class ('*manufacturing native elite*'), to borrow phrase from Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* who will serve as transcript writers, interpreters for the multinational companies. This class is willing to alter its biological time; willing to be awake while the rest of his fellow beings asleep, and serve his western customer for low wages. This is a new Macauleyan class, Indian in blood and colour but British or American in attitude, in accent, in taste, in morals and in intellect.

I must remind you here at this stage, the present system of education (especially in English medium schools) is no different. And, the schools and colleges are becoming manufacturing centers, factories catering to the needs of MNC's, Call Centers and other capital finance organizations controlled by Western imperialism. This was also the kind of education system prevalent during the days of colonialism either in India or Africa. It is profitable here to take into account the reactions of the pioneer Indian and African writers with regard to the kind of education system they inherited.

Indian and African writers like Anand, R.K. Narayan, Achebe and Ngugi have responded how the kind of education made available to them in school. Anand says it was "imitative, giving little idea of Indian tradition, but mainly a bastardized version of English curricula, in English, with particular emphasis on English history, ideas forms and institutions, deliberately calculated to show everything relating to Indian history and tradition as inferior." And, he says further that he acquired "a bias against all indigenous customs and grew up hating everything Indian" (*Apology for Heroism*, 1946). Ngugi a Kenyan writer in exile has the precise term to explain this kind of child's upbringing: "Colonial alienation", by which he means a "disassociation of sensibility of that child from his natural and social environment." Ngugi recollects in his *Decolonizing the Mind*, 1982 how biased was his school education in favour of English: "English became the language of my formal education; in Kenya English became more than a language. It was the language, and all others had to bow before it in deference." The kind of 'witch hunting' that

was prevalent during colonial schools has once again been in practice in the public schools of decolonized countries like India and Africa. It is worthwhile to quote Ngugi who recounts the humiliating experience at school where students dreaded being caught speaking Gikuyu.

The culprit was given corporal punishment - three to five strokes of the cane on bare buttocks - or was made to carry a metal plate around the neck with inscriptions such as I AM STUPID or I AM A DONKEY ... how did the teachers catch the culprits? A button was initially given to one pupil who was supposed to hand it over to whoever was caught speaking his mother tongue. Whoever had the button at the end of the day would sing who had given it to him and the ensuing process would bring out all the culprits of the day. These children were turned into witch-hunters and in the process were being taught the... value of being a traitor to one's immediate community (*Decolonizing the Mind*).

Ngugi is even more indignant in his book *Writers in Politics* (1981).

In the racist list and colonial schools they say as of a people without history, and without meaningful values. This was drummed into our heads: Europe was the center; the universe revolved around Europe, the fountainhead of universal values and civilization.

In the name of that civilization, they destroyed our dances, our languages, our songs, our poetry. This was not a case of wanton carelessness; it was calculated. Let, songs, dances and stories embody the image of people have to themselves and of their place in the universe.

Ngugi perceives the move to suppress the African language was the deliberate attempt to deny the African his identity. He states in his *Moving the Centre*, (1993):

One of the obvious ways in which imperialism has affected the development of African literature is in the language choice. During the admiral stage of imperialism African languages were suppressed; and European languages were deliberately given a status that made them the inevitable vehicle of African peoples' self-definition.

... A situation arose where certain negative attitudes were associated with African languages and certain positive attitudes with European languages.

A glimpse into the system of education during the colonial days illumines the present education system, which is no different, and accords centrality to the English language. Our educational

policy is increasingly guided by the ethos of globalization that ignores the cultural aspect of language: language as a carrier of culture. When we speak a language, we speak a culture; the neglect of ones language is the neglect of one's culture. Also, language has the power to chain and change. An attitude to language is an attitude to life. It is this awareness that has led a writer like Ngugi wa Thiong'o of Kenya to abandon his English language in favour of Gikuyu language.

Therefore, the choice of language becomes crucial to the postcolonial writer. Should a people's writer write in a language of his colonial master who tried to oppress native language - 'the carrier and culture'. Ngugi is indignant about African writers' choice of English language and he says:

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Europe stole art treasures from Africa to decorate their houses and museums; in the twentieth century Europe is stealing the treasures of the mind to enrich their language and cultures. Africa needs back its economy, its politics, its culture, its languages, and all its patriotic writers.

The language is crucial in the decolonization of the colonized mind; in freeing the enslaved cultures of India and Africa from the mental control of the West. "Decolonization in cultural and linguistic terms", according to Armah (*Masks and Marx*, 1984), is "the search or research for positive African ideas, perspectives, techniques, values. That enterprise tautologically is centered on Africa". Decolonization therefore involves a parallel process of the 're-Africanization', or a discursive formulation wherein the artist, in a conscious act, is building or reconstructing an identity he was hither to denied or deprived of. The very act of writing becomes a means of *self-realization*.

Writing becomes a medium of reassertion of the past-dignity and self-respect. Ngugi insists that African literature and criticism must be written from the centre of African experience and for the illumination of African life. It is imperative on the part of the modern African writer to recognize the forces of imperialism that affected everything in Africa. In fact, the modern African literature has "grown and developed in response to imperialism". Imperialism is the most important social force that affects everything in Africa - politics, economics, cultures, and absolutely every aspect of human life.

The denial or rejection of the Western construct of Africa and the orient is another major concern of the postcolonial writing. Most postcolonial writers examine the colonial ten-

dency to deny the human identity for the native in terms of denying language.

There is an urgent need to shift the mindset of the people towards English language; a change in the attitude. The English language has enslaved our mind, colonized our imagination and there is a need to decolonize our mind. For, "the colonialism of the mind; colonialism that undermines once dignity and confidence is the worst form of colonialism". The English language is taking our children, our youth from our world to their world. The native child suffers a cultural 'alienation'. There is an attempt to inculcate a sort of negative attitude towards our own languages and positive attitude towards English language. A non-speaker of English in an English school is considered 'culprit', and there is 'witch hunting' to catch the pupil who is found speaking his mother tongue. Such a practice, which was prevalent during colonial days, is re-emerged in the present day English learning systems. The mindset concerning English language should give room for mind-shift. While it is imperative for the 'have-nots of English' to develop positive learning attitude towards English, it is equally imperative for the 'haves of English' to change their negative attitudes towards their own languages.

It was mainly through the colonial system of education that cultural and psychological colonization was achieved through colonial days. Both language and literature were the media that took away the colonial child from his world to the others' world; his language to English language.

Language played a crucial in the process of colonization:

Most important area of (colonial) domination was the mental universe of the colonized; the control through culture; of how people perceived themselves and their relationship to the world. Economic and political control can never be complete without mental control. To control a people's culture is to control their tools of self-definition in their relationship to others (*Decolonizing the Mind*).

What must be noted is the cultural aspect of any language. There is no denying of the importance of English as a language of communication. But language as carrier of culture is more important, and to ignore our language means is to ignore our culture. Hence, there is an urgent need for the promotion of our own languages along with the promotion of English language; to shift the 'Eurocentric' vision to the non-eurocentric world; to shift the center from English language to the plurality of Indian language.

CAMPUS CAUSERIE

The Open Day at UST: A pageantry *par excellence*

The Open Day celebrations at University of Science and Technology Sana'a was an extravaganza purporting to foreground the versatile creativity lurking in our budding talents. Staged on 1 July in the university auditorium and orchestrated by English Department the show typified a glorious milestone signaling the culmination of relentless efforts made by the members of the fraternity to nurture talents. The stimulating and thought-provoking presentations, beneath the apparent fun, frolic and frivolity, was a food for thought for the discerning member of the audience.



Dr. Ismael's welcome note



A section of the enthralled audience.

Negi, captain of the team, extended a cordial note of welcome to the university dignitaries as well as the rank and file of students across disciplines who were present on the occasion. In response to the mounting skepticism in the minds of a section of students pertaining to the academic appropriacy of the curricular package offered by the university, Dr. Ramakanta Sahu gave a balanced overview of the teacher-learner partnership which should not be lost sight of. Dr. Muhsin bin Shamlan, a noted Yemeni poet enthralled the audience by the excerpts from his poetic compositions. An important sidelight of

the event was the release of *The Symphony*, the first ever wall magazine by Dr. Fatima Kahtan. It was edited by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu and crystallized into its pleasant form by Eithah, Majdah and others. Mrs. Eman Barakat and Mr. Hussein Al-Bahaji led the colorful show through

its two-hour long breathtaking route. What lent grandeur to the event was the august presence of Dr. Abdul Fattah, President; Dr. Fatima Qahtan, Vice President (Girls affairs) and Dr. Abdulhameed Aqlan, Vice President (Academic) among others in the appreciative audience.



Dr. Fatima releases *The Symphony*.



The Symphony.

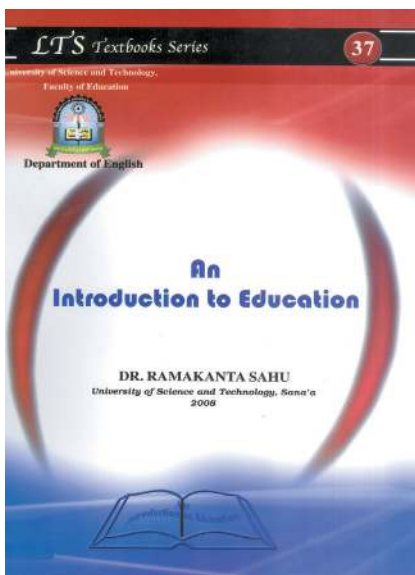


Dr. Sahu's response to students' perceptions



Dr. Mohsin's impassioned recitation of his poems.

New publication



An Introduction to Education is an attempt to sensitize those interested in education as a discipline about different aspects of the fascinating field. Compiled by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, the book is a comprehensive coverage of different facets of education. It covers topics such as

- Nature and scope of education
- Definitions of education
- Wider and narrower views of education
- Goals, aims and objectives of education
- Education and schooling
- Components of education
- Functions of education
- Range and forms of education
- Agencies of education
- Education and learning
- Education and values
- Value-oriented education
- People involved in shaping a country's education
- Educational planning
- Levels of education
- Leadership in education

- Globalization of education
- Coping with multiculturalism in education
- Education in Yemen
- Philosophy of education through different ages
- Thoughts of great educators
- The educational concept in Islam
- Universal mercy and education
- Educational psychology
- Learning
- Concept of individual differences
- Science of teaching
- Management in education
- Educational administration
- Community education
- Aspects of educational research
- Educational technology

The book is expected to be useful to students of education at all levels, researchers as well as general readers. The book is published by Awan publishers, Sana'a (phone: 464239)

Indian Embassy School Teachers' orientation workshop 2008

The Orientation Workshop for the Indian Embassy School staff concluded on 3rd June, 2008. The workshop was formally inaugurated by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, Associate Professor at Science and Technology University, on 1st June, 2008. In his Inaugural address, Dr. Sahu remarked that Orientation is a time for retrospection and new deliberations. Welcome speech was given by Mr. Amar Kant Jha. Dr. G. Manulal, Principal of Indian Embassy School, delivered the Presidential Address. The felicitation speeches were given by Dr. Mohammed Ejaz Alam and Mr. Sunny Mani. Spanned over three days, the topics discussed were Teaching Methods, Classroom Management and Discipline. The lead talk on Teaching Methods was



Dr. Ejaz's address at the inaugural ceremony.



Dr. Sahu inaugurates the orientation workshop.



Dr. Manulal, Principal, delivers the presidential address.

given by Mr. Pratap Rana followed by other subject teachers. Dr. Vivekanandan, Asst. Professor at Hodeidah University, shared his views on Learner-centered

Education. On the concluding day Dr. G. Manulal explained the phenomenon of dyslexia. The three-day Teachers' Orientation Workshop came to an end with a lead talk on

'The effective management of classroom communication' by Dr. Mohammed Ejaz Alam, Asst. Professor at Science and Technology University, Sana'a.



Dr. Ejaz's PowerPoint presentation on "The effective management of classroom communication."



Dr. Sahu, Dr. Manulal and Dr. Ejaz on the dais.

POETRY CORNER

Knowledge Run



Dr. V. Sam Sahayam
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Professor of English

only in sacred spells

when inflamed souls blend
in the sparks of
a fleeting second
and walls collapse
in blazing thrills

as the blood launches on
an uncharted leap
of glad cognition of a fact
or tact
braving all dark

Not just any "Olympic" fun fare
fuelling passions
fighting or fawning
for media hype;
carping and sniping
of contrary wills
clamouring for sterile attention...

igniting fresher minds in turn
in ever-churning gyres
and robbing them
in Hydra flames

ignoring alphabets
erasing atlas lines

Yet a relay, no doubt,
a totally joyous one as that
on all sides
run through generations...

smelting and licking
the shrinking globe
into a novel shape

under a new heaven!

a racing flame, lit up,

READERS' RESPONSE

Dear Dr. Sahu

Thanks for your contributions in the YT Education Supplement. I've a suggestion. Could you publish samples of lesson plans of English so that the students of education can benefit from them.

Kamal Maridi
Bajil, Hodeidah

Dear Mr. Kamal

We're planning to publish different models of lesson plan soon for the benefit of students like you.

—Dr Sahu

YOUTH FORUM

My Birthday party

Let me recall
When was I born.
Was that the time
destined?

Why do People celebrate
My birth day party?
When everything is
destined;

Nothing to worry or be
happy.
God must shower the
blessings
Needed and predestined.

Let's go ahead
To find out the ways

How God is to be
pleased.

If He is in our favour
Nothing will go wrong
We'd be playing,
singing a song.

Then, my dear friends!
Why do People
celebrate the day
That's to come soon or
late.



Bazla Um E Hani
Class-IX
Indian Embassy school,
Sana'a

The vices of mobiles

Don't worry, I won't talk about those outworn subjects like causing cancer by the radiation from the mobile phones or any other theme of the kind. "Thank God," You might say. Well, I think that there is still an important matter to be introduced. But to do it, I'll have to take a hand of a story.

One day I was walking down the street. I noticed people pointing at a girl rushing down the pavement, waiving her hands in a strange manner and apparently not realizing all that turmoil around herself. The men were staring their hands near their heads making every one understand that the lady must be insane. However, for me, one look was enough to provide the correct diagnosis – she was talking on the phone using headset, hidden under her veil. Then I laughed at the folly of the simple folks on the street and the unfortunate girl who became their scapegoat of the moment. It was very funny for me as I was safe – I always use my phone in a traditional manner.

But now, as I recall that instant I don't think it as funny as I then fancied. No, actually it was tragic in some way. So one piece of advice: simply be careful. Not every one enjoys the blessings of technology.

Magda Ghanim
Arts Level 3, UST

Why should we study literature?

Why should we study literature? Here are a few arguments:

Language and literature are products of culture evolved in the praxis of collective existence. They promote, re-circulate and perpetuate the dominant ideology of a society. Consequently, they suppress the contradictions in the society arising out of classists, racists and sexist biases.

Only if language and literature are related to the society and history, the suppressed contradiction can be exposed. Such attempts will help the forces that are struggling to create a better world for all human beings to live in. Formalist approaches contribute negatively to the progressive forces of the human society. The politics of formalism, then, is the politics of status quoism, and opportunism, though undeclared and unacknowledged and perhaps, undesired in some cases.

"Language and literature are sites to discuss cultural politics," Catherin Belsey

By relating a work of literature to the society and history, the suppressed contradictions of class, race and gender-biases can be exposed, and this will educate us.

The purpose of literature teaching is to "rehumanize the dehumanized humans," because such attempts at exposure will help the forces that are struggling to create a better world for all humans to live in.

Thus, literature will substantially contribute to make us into better human beings.

Saleh Hussein Saleh Masswar
3rd year, Department of English
Faculty of Arts
Hodeidah University, Hodeidah

