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**Inside:** **5** Drug prisoners, dangerous victims  **7** Bahai homes attacked in Egypt after media commentary  **8** No development if there is conflict 

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## Dutch kidnappers demand tribal tradition: Blood, sternness and pardon

Tribal mediations that usually succeed in assisting the government to free foreign hostages have failed this time with the Bani Dhabyan Siraj clan. The reason is that the kidnappers' demands this time are somewhat different from those the government is used to granting.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

SANA'A, April 8 — It has been ten days since Jan Hoogendoorn and Heleen Janszen were kidnapped just ten kilometers outside of Sana'a by five armed tribesmen. Access to the Dutch couple has been astonishingly easy as many media and socio-tribal figures have been able to visit them and talk with both them and the kidnappers.

Security is still surrounding the area and the government has so far rejected the kidnappers' three demands. Ali

Naser Siraj, leader of the kidnapping group demands "dam, hashm and affo" which literally translates into "blood, sternness and pardon."

The first refers to the Siraj tribesmen who were wounded in April last year when security attacked them in Marib. The kidnappers demand compensation for the men's injuries, either through medical treatment or cash.

The second part is retribution for the attacks, whether through the state's prosecution or tribal regulations. Finally, they ask for pardon for their kidnapping act, so that they do not have to fear being prosecuted or hunted down by the state after the hostages' release.

The tribal figures from the Bani Dhabyan tribe and from Dar Al-Salam, a non-governmental organization established to promote peace and non-violence, visited the Dutch couple to check on their wellbeing and to try and

convince the kidnappers to set them free. Tribal mediation focuses on Islamic and tribal principles of respecting "guests," as foreigners in Yemen are supposed to be considered as guests and should be honored and welcomed.

"After more than 32 hours talk with the kidnappers trying to convince them to release the hostages, we agreed that we, tribal mediators, are willing to leave four cars with the kidnappers as insurance that compensation for the attack and consequences against the attackers will be granted," said Sheikh Abdurrahman Al-Marwani, head of Dar Al-Salam. "As for the pardon, we have said that we would try to convince the state that it should not take measures against the kidnappers, but made no promises."

The government refused to negotiate anything unless and until the hostages are set free. Although it promised not to use force to free the kidnapped couple.

Tribal mediation included well-known tribal figures such as Abdurrahman Al-Marwani, Sheikh Al-Damani Al-Salami, Sheikh Abdulqawi Shareef, Sheikh Ali Hassan Al-Humaidi, Sheikh Naser Al-Hakimi, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Laeb, Sheikh Mohammed Al-Milqati, Sheikh Ali Mabhkhou Gharan, Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Taheri, Sheikh Ali bin Ali Najran and Sheikh Ahmed Nahshal.

Meanwhile, many members of Bani Dhabyan tribe are being arrested by the government, which hopes that their detention will encourage the rest of the tribe to exert pressure on the kidnappers to release the foreigners in return for their sons' and relatives' freedom. This strategy has been carried out several times by the state on previous occasions. But, although it has mostly proven to be effective and hostages

were generally released unharmed as a result, figures indicate that not all the detained relatives are then released.

This could be grounds for future kidnappings in order to secure their release.



Right-hand picture: Honoring and respecting foreigners is a part of Islamic and tribal tradition. Sheikh Al-Marwani apologizes to Jan for his and his wife's ordeal on behalf of the Yemeni people and promises that there are good tribesmen in Yemen who do not approve of the kidnapping. Left-hand pictures: Tribal figures such as Sheikh Abdulqawi Shuraif and Al-Damani Al-Salemi and Dar Al-Salam director Al-Marwani give hostages updates on the situation. Tribal leaders told the kidnappers that if they don't compromise they will not be there to assist them during the confrontation with the state security.

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## The deteriorating conditions of prisons in some Yemeni governorates

By: Ismail Al-Ghabri

SANA'A, April 7 — An official government report revealed worries about the conditions of prisons and prisoners in some of the governorates in Yemen.

The report was issued by a specialized committee at the Shura' Council as well as by the Commission of the Rights and Freedoms and Civil Society Organizations in the Council.

Most prisons buildings are old and lack proper living conditions for prisoners. Their problems are exacerbated by the large number of prisoners living in prisons exceeding the prisons' capacity as well as the lack of proper ventilation and health care.

The report warns against the lack of nutritional care and the inappropriate living conditions for prisoners awaiting their trials. This is the case in a number of central prisons where too many prisoners are awaiting trial. Some prisoners are still under investigation, while others might have already served their time but remain in detention pending special rights. Some prisoners stay in prison for an additional ten years past their sentence while they await such decisions.

The problems highlighted by this report include the absence of classification of prisoners in terms of crimes committed, their age, nationality, and other important criteria. Due to this lack of organized prisoners' data, some

prisoners who are supposed to have been acquitted remain in prison.

In addition, some prisoners who are too old are suffering under difficult conditions. The report called for prison administrators to play their role in organizing prisoners and to improve living conditions for them.

The report further pointed out that some of those guarding the prisons collaborate with prisoners regarding the illegal transfer of funds. Some guards assist prisoners in introducing prohibited things into prisons and some of them even try to assist prisoners in escaping from prison.

The report cited the existence of some cases of infectious diseases in prisons, such as hepatitis, in addition to some diseases that necessitate urgent treatment. Some prisoners are suffering from psychological and mental disorders as well from a variety of medical and physical conditions. There is one reported case of a prisoner with HIV who is living with the others prisoners. Prison administrators say that cases of undernourished prisoners are due to the lack of funds to supply adequate healthy foods.

As for female prisoners, the report similarly describes their difficult conditions in the absence of organized care for prisoners. The report indicates that there is no classification for women's crimes. There are cases of young girls who ran away from their families, and

some of them are homeless without any families at all. Other girls are at risk of the recurrence of the same crimes and deviations again and again.

Regarding prison cells, some prisoners are living in narrow rooms lacking in proper ventilation. Prisoners awaiting trial are mixed in with prisoners whose cases have not yet been decided. The report urged the immediate release of all prisoners who have finished serving their time in prison.

Furthermore, there must be a proper classification of prisoners in terms of crimes committed, risks to other prisoners, age, and gender. There must also be periodic inspections of prosecutors, prison administrators, and prison guards. In addition, prison guards must be qualified to carry out their duties in a perfect and professional manner.

The report also stressed the importance of the recommendations for concerned authorities to increase field visits to the rest of the prisons in multiple governorates and to solve each prison's problems separately since each prison has its own separate issues to deal with.

## British-Yemeni detainee transferred to National Security Prison

By: Ali Saeed

SANA'A, April 8 — Yahia Othman, a British citizen detained for almost two months in Al-Alaya Police station in Al-Qadisiya in Sana'a without charges, was transferred to the National Security Prison earlier this week.

Rasheed Al-Mohsen, prosecutor at the prosecution office in southwest Sana'a, formerly in charge of the case based on instructions from the Attorney General, explained that Othman's case is no longer a civil case.

"We inspected Al-Alaya Police station and were informed that he was transferred according to instructions from the National Security as his case has become one of national security," Al-Mohsen said, adding that the prosecution has no idea about the charges against Othman.

The sudden transfer from the police station were he had been detained since Feb. 17 this year was caused by a report Othman had allegedly written in English accusing Mohammed Najj Alaaw, director of HOOD and Khaled Al-Ansi, executive director of HOOD, other individuals in the Yemeni govern-

ment and Yahia Saleh Al-Faqih, a local businessman from Rada'a district in Al-Baida whom Othman went into business with 14 years ago, of being terrorists. The men he accused were part of a court case raised by Al-Faqih against Othman, who eventually lost the case to his former partner and was ordered by the court to pay USD 30,000 in compensation to him.

"I read the report that Othman supposedly wrote after he was detained and found that anyone who reads it would definitely decide that it is baseless," said Al-Ansi.

The report apparently suggests that a number of Yemenis working with the state and private sector have relations with Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. According to Al-Ansi some "concerned people" informed him at the time of Othman's arrest two months ago, that the latter had written such reports in English for the benefit of a foreign country and these reports were found in Othman's personal laptop.

Othman, who holds the British nationality, was apprehended on his way to work at 3.30 pm by seven men in plain clothes and one in military uni-

form. He was detained without visitation rights at the police station, before he was transferred to the national security prison this week.

"We requested the Yemeni government to allow us to visit Othman, but until now we are still waiting for the response," said Chantal Mortimer, press officer at the British Embassy, explaining that the embassy sent an official letter to the Yemeni Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately after Othman was detained. Officials from the National Security could not be found to comment, despite numerous efforts.

"I am still following my father's case with the general prosecution, the police station where he was detained, Parliament, human rights organizations and now National Security," said Othman's son Abdurrahman, adding that to date the state has not officially pressed any charges against his father, which, according to the Yemeni law and constitution, is illegal.

"I keep demanding that National Security outline the charges against my father, but they have not given me an answer yet," he said. "I wasn't even allowed to see my father."

## Government and Houthis exchange accusations

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

SA'ADA, April 7 — Unprecedented aggression against the Houthis, and even those neutral in the Sa'ada issue, has escalated in state-run media over the past weeks. Observers and political analysts have attributed this to the possibility of a sixth war against the Houthis in Sa'ada.

State-run media accuses Houthi followers of breaching the truce by attacking soldiers and military checkpoints. They further accuse them of purchasing new weapons, including heavy artillery and rocket-propelled grenades.

For their part, an official Houthi source said that a mediation committee in the district of Ghamir failed to re-establish tranquility in the area, as confrontations have been ongoing between the army and Houthi fighters for over two weeks.

"Ghamir has been a field for government violations," said the Houthi source, alluding to the "hostile tendency" of the head of the district, security forces and mercenaries from government-supporting tribes, who control the district.

"The district has witnessed the establishment of new military sites, and army gunfire from the military sites overlooking the area," said the source. "In addition, the army has set up ambushes which have affected many innocent victims. There was also an attempt to prohibit Houthi supporters from entering the district's market."

The source said that the fighting in Ghamir is a reaction by citizens of the area to "repeated violations by the security and militias, headed by Sheikh Ali Dhafer who supports the government." He confirmed Houthi supporters were able to control a number of sites which were previously held by the army.

The source revealed that a mediation committee has already paid a field visit to Ghamir to monitor "security violations." He pointed out that there were agreements whereby the "Houthi mujahedeen" evacuate the sites that they controlled and, in return, the government army would not repeat the violations that led the Houthis control the area.

"We agreed with the other side [the government army] to allow the mujahedeen [Houthis] to enter the market," said the Houthi source. "The mujahedeen withdrew from the sites that they controlled. However, the other side has not held up its end of the deal and continues to commit violations against citizens." The Houthi media office denied news circulated by the official media that the Houthis had also committed aggressions: "We confirm that it is the security forces and their militias who committed aggressions in the district," reported the office, calling the militias that support the government "hypocrites."

The Houthi media office held the government responsible for the fighting in the district, considering it to announce a sixth war. "What is going on in Ghamir is the beginning of a new war that the government aims to launch," it reports.

"The government doesn't have any option other than war," said the media office. "Real peace doesn't exist in the dictionary of the government except in its media. We choose peace as our sons, daughters, women and children are affected by war."

Sheikh Saleh Habra, political spokesperson for the Houthis, called on citizens in Ghamir and other areas where the government is involved in confrontations with the Houthis to avoid being involved in government conspiracies and not to degrade themselves in that

way. For its part, the website 26september.net reported that a source from the local authority in Sa'ada had said that Houthis attacked Ghamir last week and seized the telecommunications office, and taken control of the market and other public offices. It also said that the Houthis also occupied one of the mosques in the area.

"The [Houthi] elements took over the Ghamir hotel and set fire to it in the context of war preparations," said the source. "In addition, they killed a citizen, kidnapped one of the district's soldiers and continued shooting towards the Al-Khanshna military site. They continue violations including digging fortified trenches, and training their elements in war. They are also storing food supply and fuel."

The source pointed out that exchange of fire between Houthis and a group of Wald'Aamir tribesmen in Al-Harth market in Ghamir resulted in four civilians being wounded.

It further warned against "involving the governorate in sedition," accusing the Houthis of "committing repeated aggressions in Al-Sawad, Al-Osaimat and the nearby areas, causing over 30 citizens to be killed and 91 injured."

"The Houthis have committed aggressions since the war was declared over, against citizens in Harf Sufian, Wadi Ayyan, Al-Majra'a, Hibasha, Al-Rahwa and Qarn Shared," said the source. "They killed a number of citizens, blocked roads and destroyed a number of public constructions and private property." Habra told media outlets that tranquility resumed in the area last Saturday and that a mediation committee is continuing its efforts headed by Sheikh Fares Manna', one of Sa'ada's prominent tribal sheikhs.

## Italian caught smuggling ancient manuscripts out of the country

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, April 8 — Looking through x-ray images of passengers' hand luggage at the Sana'a International Airport, something didn't feel right to the security official who was on duty last Thursday.

The content of an Italian's handbag stood out and, suspicious, the official immediately ordered its contents be manually inspected. Rummaging through it, one of his employees found an ancient manuscript inside.

"I bought it from Bab Al-Yemen for YR 2,000," claimed the Italian, trying to explain that he was the manuscript's rightful owner. Despite his protests, the manuscript was confiscated and the man was allowed to carry on through the airport to catch his flight to Istanbul. Before he reached the airplane, his bag was checked a second time, and another

manuscript was found.

"The manuscripts contain Arabic script, in color and without any dots, with drawings symbols of human and animals," said Waleed Al-Aghbari, antiquities inspector at Sana'a airport.

Al-Aghbari explained the challenges of saving antiquities from being smuggled abroad and the difficult and lengthy process of determining whether antiquities are original or not.

"This prompts us to confiscate all items that we are suspicious of," he added, explaining that the authenticity of both manuscripts remains to be confirmed. "Tourists should avoid buying historical antiquities," said Hisham Al-Thawr, head of antiquities protection at the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums (GOAM). "If they do, they can take what they buy to the GOAM on Saif bin Thiyezzin Street to

have them authenticated."

The manuscripts passed through the first x-ray machine at the airport without being discovered, but when they passed through the second one the officer noticed something was not right, explained the customs officer at the airport. The Italian was a head of a heritage institute in Italy, he told the custom authorities at the airport.

During 2008 alone, Sana'a airport security, the Customs Authority and the General Organization for Antiquities and Museums prevented over 760 antiquities, including sculptures, coins and manuscripts, from being illegally transported out of the country.

Between 2004 and 2006, security prevented 3,551 archeological objects and manuscripts, as well as 761 grams of Himyarite gold, from being smuggled abroad.

## Tragic end to a bright future

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

SANA'A, April 8 — Still excited after receiving a distinction in school a day earlier, Khairallah Abu Asser, 10, was on his way to school when he was accidentally shot in the head.

Third grade student Khairallah was caught in the crossfire as two tribal groups from Bani Matar and Al-Hayma fought over a plot of land, west of Sana'a on Saturday.

Neither the victim nor his family was involved in the dispute.

Khairallah died immediately in front of his brother and friends near Al-Rahma School in Al-Susaina. When his father arrived, he was devastated to find his son Khairallah bleeding to death and his other son unconscious. The latter had passed out in fear.

His father explained the panic that ensued as students gathered around in horror, unable to understand what had happened.

Khairallah was awarded a certificate at the end of the last week by his school for his outstanding grades.

"His mother was taken to the hospital in shock," the father said. "I need to feel that the rest of my children are safe."

The distraught father is a major in the military, in the Sa'ada governorate. He has ten other children.

He refused to take the body until the security authorities find the killer and bring him to justice. The body was moved by the police to Al-Jumhuri hospital.

Some Parliament members and



Khairallah's classmates demonstrated outside Parliament demanding his killer be brought to justice

sheikhs have met with the child's father. On Tuesday, the Abu Asser family, relatives and classmates held demonstrations in front of Parliament, demanding justice.

Tribal conflict over the ownership of agricultural and other land in many regions of the country leads to bloodshed and many victims, according to a study by Fadhil Al-Rabaie, professor of Sociology at Aden University.

The government has been unable to

address disputes over land, although it is of grave concern because it leads to armed conflicts that result in the death of many.

Tribal influence often overrides Yemen's judicial system. While Yemen's laws are generally sound, enforcement remains problematic at best. The government has special commercial courts which outline the steps to resolve such a dispute, but they are generally considered unreliable.

## Journalists Syndicate forms committees

By: Mahmoud Assamiee

SANA'A, April 8 — Chaired by Saeed Thabit, the man who was elected as first deputy to the new Chairman Yasin Al-Mas'udi, the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate council finally agreed on the structure of its committees and duties of its twelve members.

Secretary General of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate Marwan Dammaj talked about the aims of the newly elected council. The syndicate will work on the approved state media employees' job classification system which was a debated topic for several weeks before the elections and because of which state media was on strike for several weeks. A committee has been designated to follow up on this issue.

The newly elected syndicate's plan includes establishing committees in governmental media institutions to communicate with the syndicate about the demands of journalists in the various institutions. Current demands include a job classification system and a raise.

"We formed the first committee at Sana'a Radio Broadcast and we will work on establishing the integration fund for journalists," Dammaj said. "The fund will help patient journalists receive free medication and other kinds of support he or she may need," he said. The fund will collect money from the government and from foreign and local institutions to help journalists who struggle to pay medical bills.

"The syndicate will work on giving free health care to journalists by getting exemptions from public hospitals to carrying out operations for journalists who can't pay the medical costs," said Ahmad

Al-Jabar, chairman of the committee of services.

He also stated that the syndicate will work on providing housing for journalists by including them in the Assaleh housing project. They will also work on solving the land issue concerning the land that was allocated to journalists in Aden governorate which were subsequently taken over by influential people. However, he did not elaborate on how this could be done.

"Meeting with the president remains a priority on syndicate's agenda," Al-Jabar stated. "When the chairman of the syndicate comes back from a business trip abroad, we will meet with the president and give him our demands."

Also on the syndicate's priority list is the case of Al-Masdar Newspaper, which was closed down by the state over charges of supporting the Houthis.

Executive Director of the syndicate Fatima Mutahar says they will work on fundamental issues regarding journalists working with public and private newspapers. "We encourage media establishments to sign contracts with the journalists in order to organize their work requirements and to ensure their employment rights," she said. She also confirmed that the syndicate will work on protecting the rights and freedoms of journalists. They plan to defend journalists who are imprisoned because of their writings.

Mutahar criticized journalists who accept money for covering events from the organizing bodies and said that she will try to limit this practice through working on increasing their salaries and demanding the bodies they work for to pay for them.

"The previous syndicate management

received notifications on journalists who were blackmailing institutions who did not give them money as a reward for covering activities that their institutions held," she said.

She also criticized the media culture in Yemen, where a lot of meetings or activities happen during qat chewing sessions that exclude women.

"This is why I was not voted in the council's internal positioning to be at any of the top four leading positions," she stated. "Apparently the management decisions require that they happen during qat sessions which I, being a woman, cannot be part of. As for me, I refuse this sort of discrimination and will not endorse any decision the council's management makes during a qat session," she insisted.

"I think we achieved a part of the job classification project through the cabinet approval of some of our demands," said Adnan Assinwi, Deputy Chief Editor of Assisiah newspaper issued by government mouthpiece Yemen News Agency (Saba). Assinwi, who was representing Saba's journalists in carrying out the journalists' job description project, added, "We are convinced that our colleges that we elected to the syndicate like Ahmad al-Jabar and Fatima Mutahar will work in making the project a success."

The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate held its fourth conference for electing a new chairman and council members last month. Three candidates ran for the post of the chairman: Yasin Al-Mas'udi, Dr. Raufa Hasan, and No'aman Saif.

Yasin Al-Mas'udi, who is affiliated with the ruling party General People's Congress, won the post of the chairman with 483 votes. Hassan got 392 and No'aman got only 85 votes.



## In Brief

**DHAMAR****Two people drown; floods besiege mud buildings**

At least two people were drowned and five others, including two children and a woman, were rescued due to heavy rains in Dhamar province.

Secretary-General of local council in Magerb Anns district Hamid Abdul-Razzaq said the rains buried five wells, swept agricultural lands and killed many cattle in Anns.

Hamed said to the GPC-run almotamar.net that the heavy rains ruined five buildings, fissured four others and swept 60 percent of agricultural lands in some districts of the province.

Due to the heavy rains, the rains still besiege the mud buildings in Gahr

**ADEN****Somali pirates hijack Yemeni fishing boat**

Somali pirates have seized a Yemeni fishing boat on board seven sailors to an unknown area while it was cruising the Indian Ocean.

Citing security sources, the state-run 26sep.net reported on Monday Yemeni Coastguards Forces have received a notice regarding this hijacking.

The number of attacks off Somalia has shot up this year, with pirates staging increasingly bolder attacks on ever-bigger targets.

The Somali pirates attacked and seized more than 25 Yemeni fishing boats at the Gulf of Aden and used them in their criminal activities.

**Malaysian warship arrives to Aden seaport**

A Malaysian warship arrived on Monday to Aden seaport.

The visit comes within the framework of reinforcing the two countries' efforts for fighting against maritime piracy and ensuring the safety of international navigation routes in Gulf of Aden and Arab Sea.

The visit also aims to enhance bilateral cooperation relations between the two countries.

The security authorities in the coastal

governorates have reported that about 2,478 Somali refugees reached the Yemeni coasts last March, Interior Ministry said on Sunday.

The reports showed that the refugees include 576 women and 167 children.

Somali refugees have arrived coasts of Taiz, Shabwa, Hadramout and Abyan governorates, the Ministry said.

It is worth mentioning that the number of Somalis arrived to Yemen from January to March 2009 reached 19,000 refugees, according to initial statistics.

**AFZ signs \$135,000 renting contract agreements**

An agreement was signed on Saturday for a renting contract of Snow Cream branch in block (C) in Aden Free Zone (AFZ) on area of 14,818 square meters worth \$195,000.

The agreement was signed by deputy head of Free Zones General Authority, head of Aden Free Zone Abdul-Jalil al-Shuaibi and Director of Seera Fun City Saeed Ali Mu'itab.

Head of AFZ also signed an agreement with Abdullah al-Haj on behalf of Ibn al-Haj company for to set up stores project in the industrial zone for storage in block (C) on an area of 3,000 square meters worth \$120,000.

The signing of the two agreements comes in framework of the Free Zone efforts to attract private sectors and offer all information that contributes for setting up their projects.

**First Aid course for 60 participants in Aden launched**

Yemen Red Crescent Society launched on Monday a training course on the First Aid for 60 participants from members of the central security and traffic in Aden province.

During the course, which will last for over a week, the participants will be introduced to an overview on the theoretical and practical guidance on first Aid, methods of patient's aid from the traffic accidents and natural disasters and how to transport the most severely affected cases to safe places.

**SANA'A****Al-Samawi: YCB applied all international standards on Yemeni banking sector**

Governor of Yemen Central Bank Ahmed al-Samawi said on Sunday that the bank applied all international standards on the Yemeni banking sector within financial reform program.

In his speech to the conference on the impacts of the global financial crisis, al-Samawi reviewed the program of the financial reforms in Yemen and its role of protecting the Yemeni banking sector from these impacts, highlighting achievement of the program which has been carried out in the country since 1995.

Such reforms protected the banking sector from affects of the crisis which hit world country, he said.

He added "But, we are like other world countries suffering from low resources and decrease of oil price in globally."

Al-Samawi also pointed out to the rate of liquidity in the sector which reached 50 percent to 60 percent, saying that the capital of the Yemeni banks including their reservation was YR 120 billion until end of 2008.

He made it clear that the unified balance of the Yemeni banks increased up to 1.5 trillion until end of last year compared to 240 billion in 1999.

The conference was organized by the Arab Organization for Administrative Development of the Arab League which aims at enlightening participants on real reasons of the crisis and its impacts on global economy.

**Workshop on implementing CEDAW recommendations**

A workshop on implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) organized by the Supreme National Council for Women.

The three-day workshop aims to brief the 40 participants on the convention to prevent any violation of the women rights and freedom.

Some speeches were delivered during the opening, affirming the impor-

ance of organizing such workshop to shade more light on women's issues as well as the role of civil society organizations and governmental institutions in interacting seriously with these issues

**New investment law to amend GIA's board of directors: al-Attar**

Chairman of General Investment Authority (GIA) Salah al-Attar said on Sunday that the new investment law will work on amending the structure of GIA's Board of Directors.

The GIA's Board of Director will consist of 50 percent from the private sector and 50 percent from the governmental sector, al-Attar made clear.

He pointed out that the investment motives in the new law will present more privileges to stimulate the private sector to contribute to investment development in Yemen.

Regarding the advantages, customs and tax exemptions existed in the current law, they will be moved to the customs and tax laws, al-Attar added. He demonstrated that the new tax law included decreasing income tax from 35% to 25% for the companies and 15% for the investment projects providing the investment cost and labor number.

He affirmed that kinds of these exemptions will be changed according to the productivity so as to contribute to motivating the investment projects for creating new work opportunities.

The new law focused on giving GIA a broad authority and financial and managerial independency to empower it to carry out its missions in supervising the investment potentials as well as providing all financial resources enhancing this independency.

**Interior Ministry investigates check-points soldiers**

Interior Ministry has ordered to open investigations with soldiers of the check-points kidnapers and Dutch couple's passed through, the military-run 26sep.net said on Sunday.

In this regard, the Ministry ordered the security bodies in the capital of Sana'a to take all possible actions to

release the Dutch expert and his wife, including the use of force if it is required. The Ministry stressed on the significance of cooperation and coordination among all security check-points all over the country.

The Ministry's leadership assured that it put the Dutch couple's safety in top of its priorities, asserting there would be zero tolerance against the kidnapers whom would be haunted till captured and got their fair punishment.

**Yemen, EU launch workshop on child protection against violence**

Child Welfare Body for Non-Government Organizations launched on Monday a workshop on child protection project against violence and discrimination funded by the European Union (EU).

The workshop aimed to introduce local council members, preachers of mosques and headmasters on the legal legislations for child rights, the current social situation of marginalized children and the community work with these groups.

**HODEIDAH****Hodeidah seaport receives over 19,000 tons of oil, fuel oil**

About 19,823 tons of oil, fuel oil and 927 containers of goods were unloaded in Hodeidah seaport during the past four days, an official source said on Sunday.

Two oil tankers unloaded 14,053 tons of oil and one unloaded 5,770 tons of fuel oil, while five ships unloaded 927 containers of goods, the source added.

Furthermore, Mocha port received two ships carrying 9,713 heads of sheep and 1,381 heads of cattle.

**HAJJA****CEDAW implementation workshop concluded**

A workshop on implementing the recommendations of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was concluded on Sunday

in Hajjah province.

The participants emphasized the significance of translating this international convention which deals with the education of rural girls.

They also called on the need to raise girls' enrolment rate in all education levels through adopting comprehensive programs for educating and training girls as well as raising awareness among the community.

The workshop recommended the need for having women programs dealing with women's issues to focus on aspects of girls dropping out and trafficking, in addition to women's involved in begging acts.

It also called for setting up a branch of the National Commission for Women in all ministries, as well as involving women in the preparation of budgets and policy as well as allocating budget to support girls and women in the province.

**ALMAHARA****Khawdam briefed on limestone exploration activities**

Al-Mahrah governor Ali Khawdam and the Chairman of Geological Survey and Mineral Resources Board (GSMRB) Ismael al-Janad got acquainted with the ongoing work carried out by the Belgian company Le-west at the site located between Qashn and Hasween districts for extracting limestone.

The governor and GSMRB chairman were briefed by the Belgian company's expert Per Kante on the project's practical steps, which include explosion works at the site which extends over an area of 40\_42 metres.

The expert also pointed out that the industrial experience of the project reaches 3000 metric tons, out of which is 1000 metric tons on the surface, 1000 metric tons below the surface, and 1000 metric at depth.

For his part, al-Janad affirmed that limestone quantities will be treated to get an amount of the products between 40 mm and 120 mm, noting that there would be a physical and mechanical test for these products and then some quantities will be sent abroad.

## Their News

**Japan to provide \$5 million humanitarian aid for Somali and other countries' refugees**

The Government of Japan has decided to contribute to the refugees needs in Yemen and neighboring countries with US \$5,000,000 in assistance, of which, US \$2,000,000 will be disbursed through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and US \$3,000,000 will be disbursed through the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

The contribution disbursed through UNHCR will be used to help Somali refugees (especially those living in urban areas such as Sana'a and Aden) sustain themselves in those difficult economic environments exacerbated by the food crisis.

The contribution disbursed to IOM will be used to promote the protection of migrants and asylum seekers from Somalia (and Ethiopia) and to address the root causes that generate this migration, including food security, by supporting basic infrastructure development while providing livelihood opportunities in areas that are struggling to cope with the strain of irregular migration.

The number of people crossing the Gulf of Aden from the Horn of Africa increased significantly in 2008, with more than 50,000 new arrivals reaching Yemen. According to UNHCR, some 82,000 Somali refugees are currently registered with UNHCR in Yemen, and some 150,000 Somalis are estimated to be living in the country. Most of them are living in very poor living conditions with rare employment opportunities. The contribution by the Government of Japan will be used for improving such harsh living conditions in the areas of food supply, accommodation, health, water, and income generation, including vocational training and starting micro-businesses.

**Spring & Summer 2009 Internships**

Soliya is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing a new generation of leaders with the cross-cultural knowledge, communication skills, and international connections to create a more informed, peaceful and just global society. This internship is an opportunity for students to gain hands-on outreach and programmatic experience at a small and rapidly growing international nonprofit organization.

Soliya Connect Program is a unique cross-cultural education program that directly connects university students in Europe, the United States and the Arab & Muslim world via groundbreaking online collaboration and communication technology. Using a web-based videoconferencing application, participating students collaboratively explore the issues that currently divide the West and the Arab & Muslim World by engaging in intensive dialogue, and creating videos and other media projects addressing relevant themes. After completing the Connect Program, students can continue to engage in dialogue and participate in Continued Engagement Activities such as facilitation training and weblog editing with other alumni from the Connect Program.

In the last four years, Soliya has gone from being the idea of two young social entrepreneurs with backgrounds in new media and conflict resolution to an established organization with more than forty universities in over fifteen countries participating in the Connect Program and strong established funding relationships in the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

In the coming years, Soliya plans to take its program to scale, connecting thousands of students each semester. The alumni from this program will form the foundation for the Soliya Network - a cross-cultural

online social network which will enable young adults around the globe to learn about these issues, express their perspectives on them, and engage in dialogue and collaborative action to address them.

**Soliya Internship Program**

Several Spring and Summer internships are available for qualified candidates in our New York, Boston and Cairo offices. Interns will have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in intercultural communications and international nonprofit work. This is a unique opportunity to get practical experience working with a growing non-profit while helping to bridge the divide between the west and the Arab & Muslim World.

Internships are available in a number of different areas, including Programming, Outreach, Development and Operations. We ask that candidates indicate in their cover letters a preference for which area(s) they would like to work in, taking into consideration their unique skills and experience. The successful candidates will quickly become integrated into our team. Based on interest and experience, interns will be assigned to a number of critical projects, including but not limited to:

- \* Research on West-Muslim World issues and new social media tools
- \* Academic curriculum development and research
- \* Assisting with the preparation of program related materials
- \* Coordinating the dialogue between students from around the world
- \* Researching potential university partners across the globe
- \* Researching new social media tools and trends
- \* Assisting with outreach plan and implementation of recruitment strategy for volunteer facilitators
- \* Database entry and administrative tasks as needed

\* Assisting in special projects that arise throughout the semester

Applicants should have a background and interest in issues of international affairs and/or media and have excellent research, writing, and web/computer skills. Interns must be detail-oriented, well-organized, comfortable working independently, enthusiastic about our work, and willing to do a certain amount of administrative work. We are a young and quickly growing organization and there are many opportunities for interns to help shape how the organization develops.

Soliya provides a pleasant, collegial small office environment for students interested in international nonprofit work. Interns must be able to work at least 10-15 hours/wk from now through mid-May for Spring internships and from June through August for Summer internships. Soliya is a flexible organization and we are open to making arrangements with desirable candidates about work schedules and preferred work locations. However, interns will be expected to meet all deadlines regardless of the arrangement agreed upon. All interns will receive a small stipend for travel and daily expenses. Work-study and course credit options can be arranged if acceptable to your academic institution.

Applicants should send a resume and cover letter to [internship@soliya.net](mailto:internship@soliya.net) as soon as possible. The cover letter should include the proposed starting and ending dates of your internship, the number of hours per week you would be available, and the days and hours you would be available.

We will begin reviewing applications immediately and positions will be filled on a rolling basis.

For more information, please email us at [info@soliya.net](mailto:info@soliya.net) or see our website at [www.soliya.net](http://www.soliya.net)

## New Lufthansa Tower Lounge with panoramic view Lufthansa guests enjoy unique vista at Frankfurt Airport



# Lufthansa

Lufthansa First and Business-Class passengers as well as customers with Hon Circle, Senator or frequent traveller status will enjoy a unique perspective at the end of March at Frankfurt airport: It comes on stream with the opening of the new Tower Lounge in Departures area A above gate 65. Aside from the customary amenities, the lounge offers an unusual ambience right beneath the new apron tower, with spacious panoramic windows allowing a spectacular view of the tarmac.

On a floor area of 1,100 square metres, big enough for up to 288 guests, the Tower Lounge is equipped with an array of amenities for guests to enjoy the time at the airport prior to their flight. In a large comfort area, deep leather armchairs invite lounge visitors to sit back and relax with a view of apron traffic through the huge glass façade. Awaiting them at the buffet in the bistro area are drinks and a variety of savoury snacks: a soup of the day, for example, and a choice of warm or cold sandwiches. Guests, who want to get in some work before departure, can retreat to one of the separate workstations. Apart from WLAN access throughout the lounge, the workstations are equipped with complimentary Internet PCs, a fax and copier, credit card payphones and power points to re-charge mobile

phones. Five modern and refreshing showers are also available.

The new Lufthansa Tower Lounge replaces the existing Lufthansa Senator and Business Lounges at gate A51.

**Lufthansa lounges around the globe**

Lufthansa currently operates around 65 lounges with total floor space of more than 28,000 square metres. Depending on their booking class and status, Lufthansa passengers have access to four different lounge types: First-Class, Senator and Business lounges and now the new Welcome Lounge in Frankfurt - all of them pleasant havens to spend the time waiting for their flight, relax in or work. Along with more than 660 lounges operated by Lufthansa's Star Alliance and cooperation partners, which can be used by Lufthansa guests, Lufthansa offers its premium customers one of the largest lounge networks in the world. In order to expand and enhance its lounge portfolio, the airline is investing around 150 million euros up to 2013 in constructing new lounges or refurbishing existing facilities.

More comprehensive information and updates on Lufthansa lounges can be downloaded from [www.lufthansa.com/ikoncern](http://www.lufthansa.com/ikoncern).





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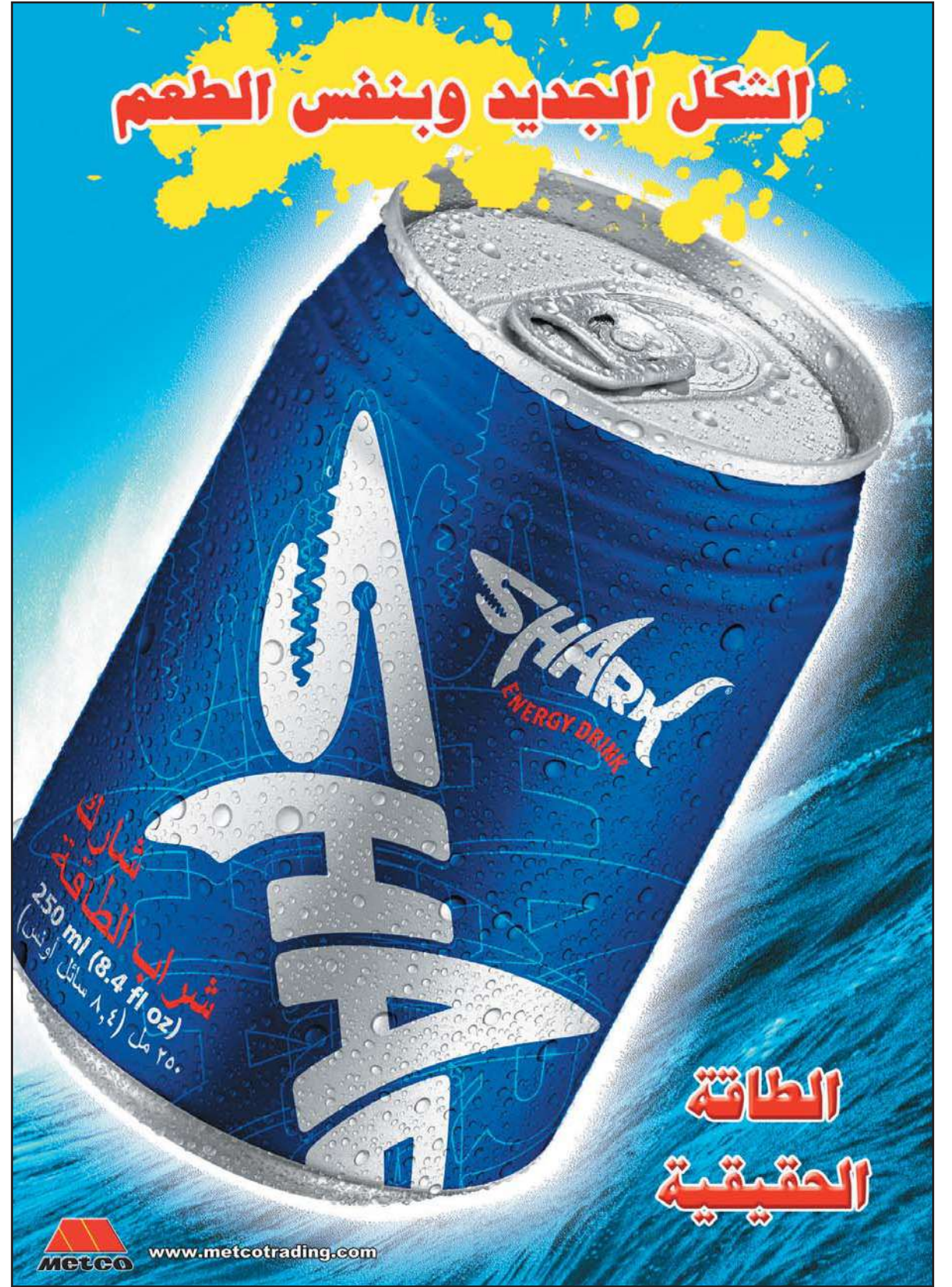
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Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Water and Environment  
National Water resources Authority – NWRA  
Water Sector Support Program – WSSP

## Announcement of Vacancy Procurement Specialist

### Terms of Reference for Procurement Specialist – National Consultant

The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide financing of about US\$340 million on a Sector-wide basis over a five year period, from 2009-2014. The sub-sector Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) is one of the WSSP five components, it aims to ensure sustainable and economical water resources management with estimated cost of US\$27.0 million to be financed from the Government of Yemen and the Donors Core Group (WB – Germany and Netherland). The National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) would take the overall responsibility of managing the (IWRM) component.

Now NWRA invites qualified and experienced local specialists to apply for the post of Procurement Specialist to manage procurement issues of the (IWRM) component.

#### Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of NWRA director who will be responsible for the implementation of IWRM component, the procurement specialist will perform without being limited the following tasks responsibilities:

1. Ensuring for all procurement activities of the IWRM component such as goods, works, and consultant services, ensuring that established procurement guidelines of the Government and Core Donors are complied with.
2. Develop, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive procurement plan for the whole period and activities of IWRM component, such plan shall be deal out annually, revised and updated on regular basis.
3. Provide inputs into the IWRM component annual work plan and budget.
4. Work with the relevant Specialists to prepare and revise the different bidding documents of works and goods, call for Expressions of Interest and RFPs consultancy services, staff recruitment notices and obtaining the necessary clearance from Core Donors and ensure their safe keeping and recording.
5. Prepare the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the different consultancy services required by the component.
6. Prepare Bid opening, evaluation and contract award recommendation reports based on the Bid opening and Bid evaluation committee report.
7. Responsible for management and maintaining of proper records of all relevant procurement documentation.
8. Participate with the IWRM team in clearing procured items through customs and arrangements for the transport and supervise their custody.
9. Participate with the IWRM team in the random and annual physical count of the component warehouses and assets.
10. Prepare quarterly and annual reports regarding the progress of procurement matters.
11. Coordinate for review and internal audit conducted by WSSP procurement advisor.
12. Any other issues that are deemed necessary for IWRM procurement issues.

#### Qualifications and Requirements:

1. 7 years of work experience in the field of procurement operations and related issues, of which at least 4 years experience with procurement and procedures of Foreign Donors.
2. 3 years overall experience with Government procurement procedures and regulations.
3. University Degree in Engineering, Business Administration, Commerce, Law, Economics, or related fields.
4. Working knowledge of English and Arabic languages.
5. Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Office software.
6. Good interpersonal and communication skills.

#### Duration of assignment:

Initially for a probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter.

Interested applications, who strictly meet above requirements, may submit their applications with CVs and supporting documents to National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) address given below before 15/04/2009.

National Water Resources Authority  
Amran Road, Al Hassabah, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Tel +967-1-256926  
Fax +967-1-231733 or +967-1-254274  
Email: NWRA-HQ@y.net.ye  
NWRAHQ@yem.net.ye



شركة ماس للإنتاج الفني والإعلاني  
إحدى شركات مجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

### – (فرص وظيفية متميزة) –

تعلن شركة ماس للإنتاج الفني والإعلاني إحدى شركات مجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه الرائدة في المجال الفني والإعلاني في اليمن عن حاجتها لعدد من العاملين في الوظائف التسويقية والبيعية لخدمات الدعاية والإعلان المختلفة وخدمة العملاء في مختلف المستويات الإدارية التالية :-

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- متخصصين في تنظيم المعارض والمهرجانات
- متخصصين في دراسات وبحوث السوق
- متخصصين في تنظيم وتنفيذ الحملات الإعلانية

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# Drugs in Yemen (Final Part)

## Drug prisoners, dangerous victims

About 1,000 people – according to the official institutions in Yemen- were involved in drug crime in the past 8 years. During the past 4 years, more than 800 people involved in drug smuggling have been arrested, 150 of them foreigners, mainly from Pakistan, Iran, Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Courtesy of the investigative reports department  
SABA News Agency  
Translated by Yemen Times Staff

According to surveys by the General Administration to Combat Drugs, drug smuggling is on the rise. In 2004, drug-related cases amounted to only 42, but soared to 113 in 2008. Seventy-five people – of which three foreigners – were suspected of involvement in drug smuggling or dealing in 2004. Four years later, up to 252 people were suspected of involvement, among them 72 non-Yemenis.

Drug-related cases have risen by up to 30 percent in the last four years, but the amount of drugs seized has risen much more dramatically: whereas Yemeni security seized one million pills between 2006 and 2007, they seized 13.5 million in 2008.

As for cannabis, illegal trade is also increasing. Whereas in 2004, 1,500 cannabis plants was uprooted and, in 2006, six tons of cannabis were seized, in 2008, up to 27 tons of cannabis was seized by the authorities and only 3 plants were seized.

Despite its basic capacities, the General Administration to Combat Drugs in Yemen is undertaking serious missions to uncover big operations between drug dealers. It has 50 officers and soldiers, who work with basic capacities in different governorates. According to the officials, 100 soldiers are expected to join them soon.

Experts think that those who are detained in relation to drug smuggling and dealing cases, are less than 20 percent of those who work in the illegal business.

### Bargains inside the prison

The head of the Prisons Department at the Ministry of Interior, General Ali Naser Lakhisha'a, mentioned an incident that shows the danger of detained prisoners of drug related accusations.

"An officer entered a room of prisoners arrested for drug-related crimes," he said. "One of the prisoners started shouting, crying and asking the officer to give him his phone so he would call his sick mother and check on her.

"This prisoner had arranged this with his inmates. When he started calling, the prisoners started having a talk on the side with the officer. The prisoner managed, during the call, to make a buying and selling deal with the officer's phone.

"When we found out about the incident, through monitoring the phone of the receiver in another country, we were informed that the monitored phone had received a call from a certain number. When we looked for the owner of that phone, we found out that it was an officer's number."

According to information from the prison where the officer worked, he was fired, punished and his rank was taken away. The imprisoned drug dealers do not stop looking for ways to con-

tact their gangs. One of them managed to get five phones inside some prison hidden in shoes.

Despite strict inspection, they manage to smuggle in pills, especially psychotropic substances [that act on the central nervous system, and alter brain function] for high prices. The prisoners brag about their creative ways of getting drugs past security. Many pills were seized in juice cartons, cake or bread, or between blankets and clothes. Many of those pills were caught.

### Criminals and victims in the same family

One of the most important obstacles is that the Yemeni prisoners are in contact with foreign drug dealers. One Yemeni prisoner stayed in contact as a friend with a Pakistani drug dealer, B.Kh.F., who was sentenced to death.

In prison, they say that the Yemenis and the Pakistanis are part of the same family because they are associated by drug dealing. They also speak of Syrians, Saudis and Iranians as if they belonged to one village.

In prison, you also find those who sadly relate their involvement with drugs. A.A.H. is serving his fourth year in the central prison in Sana'a for abusing drugs. He was imprisoned leaving 15 member of his family without a bread-winner. He is in his fifties and has a heart disease. He traveled to Saudi Arabia in his twenties, and that the beginning of his involvement with hashish.

*"In Yemeni society, it is very difficult for an addict to confess to his problem."*

"A few years ago, the policemen in Sana'a found an amount of local cannabis in my rental car, and I was sentenced to 5 year in prison," he said.

Prisoners explain that drug dealers tell on each other and using each other as decoys. They take advantage of the police being busy inspecting a reported car to smuggle a much larger amount of drugs across the border.

A.A. is a man in his thirties from Sa'ada, handsome and eloquent: "A drug dealer asked me to take his car to Haradh for SR 2,000," he said. "I agreed not knowing that drugs were hidden inside the car."

"I took my wife with me to deliver the car, on the way to Hodeida to spend some days there with the family," he explained. "The car was reported, and once I got to the crossing at Haradh, the customs stopped me and found the drugs, and then detained me and my wife."

M.H. is still serving the beginning of his 25 year sentence to prison. He is now 30. He was born in Saudi Arabia, and came to Yemen a few years ago to marry and settle down. He had been married for a year and a half when he



went to prison.

"I was in Ma'arib Street in Sana'a with a kilo of compressed weed," he said. "I was surprised when the policemen detained me. I was sentenced to 25 years in prison, which is like a life time. I admit that I started smoking hashish in Saudi Arabia at the age of 15."

A.T. was born in Kuwait and is over forty. He came to Yemen years ago with a good financial status. He met friends who used drugs and picked the habit up from them: "The first time, someone rolled up the weed for me as a cigarette," he said. "I liked it and started using it."

### Prisoners all over the country

The statistics of the General Administration for Prisons indicate that 350 prisoners are currently detained for the possession of drugs, among which 100 foreigners. Forty-one prisoners, of whom three are foreigners, are currently serving time for drug abuse.

The central prison in Sana'a houses the highest number of these prisoners. Of its 140 prisoners, up to 61 are Yemeni dealers, 67 are foreign dealers and only 12 are drug abusers.

In the Hajja prison, there are 41 prisoners, and all are Yemenis. In Al-Mahra prison there are 36 prisoners, of whom 26 are Yemeni and 10 foreigners.

In Hudaida prison, there are 34 prisoners, including 22 Yemeni dealers, one foreign dealer and 11 are drug abusers. In the Sa'ada prison, there are 27 Yemeni dealers and one foreign dealer.

In Aden prison, there are 17 Yemeni dealers, three non-Yemeni dealers and six drug abusers. In Al-Mukalla prison there are 14 Yemeni drug dealers and 11 drug abusers. In Shabwa prison, there are five prisoners. In Ibb prison, four people are doing time for drug-related crimes. There are three prisoners in each of the Seyoun, Marib and Rada'a prisons. In Al-Bayda, one person is in prison for involvement in the drug trade.

### Bold criminals

"The Saudi and Kuwaiti prisoners are very dangerous," said Colonel Motaaher Ali Naji, director of the central prison in Sana'a where there is the largest number of drug prisoners. "They once tried to smuggle in five phones to communicate with those outside. Those phones were caught."

"Despite being cautious and searching whatever comes in to them carefully, they always become more daring," he said.

He emphasizes that the problem of drugs in Yemen is becoming worse: "When I was appointed director of the central prison in Sana'a, there were only six prisoners convicted of dealing or using drugs," he explained. "Today, they are over 200 and include a big group from Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait."

"Unfortunately, there is leniency in facing the problem," he continued. "We, at the central prison, feel the danger of drugs because we are in contact with the prisoners."

"We suffer from the lack of individual cells for foreigners, because they have great experience in drugs which Yemenis benefit from by mixing with them in prison," he complained. "They help them to meet others and form new gangs when they get out of prison."

"Drug abusers inside prison try to smuggle drugs inside in any way possible. We caught lots of drugs like Diazim, Bolton, Valium and others which some of the visitors tried to pass in."

"The Ministry of Health, a member in the upper committee of prisons, is supposed to work on building a treatment center for addicts, equipped with the latest technology and provided with specialized psychologists and social specialists," he explained. "It should also be like prison in having strict security."

### Prisoners need qualified staff

The head of the Yemeni prisons department, Colonel Ali Naser Lakhisha'a, think that handling drug prisoners need trained, qualified staff to deal with them.

"Because drugs are new to Yemen, we need appropriate new policies to face the problem," he said. "We also need to train and qualify special forces to combat drug smuggling."

He indicated that the danger is "contagion of the state's institutions by drug dealers and abusers."

"We should protect the soldiers, officers and individuals that are in contact with the drug dealers inside the prison, and from those who have lots of money and influence," he said.

He emphasized that this group of dealers don't know desperation: "We consider them to be the most dangerous group in prison. We caught their visitors trying to coordinate smuggling

in drugs or strike drug deals in the strangest ways."

"The most important obstacle we face is the lack of special prisons for drug dealers and abusers," said the colonel. "When drug dealers and the abusers enter prisons, drug dealing starts within them."

"Not being able to isolate [drug offenders] in prisons is a problem in some countries," he explained. "We find a drug dealer in room 10 and the drug abuser in room 12 who meet, resulting in easy drug abuse and smuggling inside the prison."

"In Yemen, there is no center or special prison for such groups," he said. "We suffer from a lack of centers and demand a collective effort from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Social Affairs to build a special center like a prison to detain and treat addicts, because you cannot put addicts in an open center where drugs are readily available."

"I think that the Ministry of Health is responsible for founding at least one center to treat addicts in the capital to be run by specialized psychologists," he concluded.

*"In prison, they say that the Yemenis and the Pakistanis are part of the same family because they are associated by drug dealing."*

### Rehabilitation in prisons

Prisons also need a solution for prisoners who have AIDS as a result of drug abuse: "In Yemeni society, it is very difficult for an addict to confess to his problem," said the security official.

"We are currently raising awareness about the dangers of addiction among prisoners," said the head of the prisons' department. "Prisons offer educational, enlightening and guiding programs and assess the prisoner psychologically and morally."

"Program leaders give drug prisoners a great deal of attention," he continued. "Many of them were recruited to take part in Quran study. As for the young, they are encouraged to continue with their studies. Until now, we have not seen any former drug addicts return to prison."

Colonel Lakhisha'a emphasized that the addict, inside a prison, attacks those around him.

"Most addicts are in prison in Hajja and Sa'ada because these governorates are on the border, and those who live

there are affected by the drug trade in the area," he explained. "Some of them transport the drugs to the neighboring countries, and some start using drugs to try this substance that is sold for millions."

"Drugs containing heroin and codeine are hard to give up once taken, even if it was only once, unless prescribed by a specialized doctor," he said.

"There are addicts to medicine like Diazepam. Because of poor awareness, some take these medications when they don't need them. He takes his first Diazepam pill and it calms him down. Then he takes a second one and the interaction begins. By the third, he may pass out or even commit a crime without knowing. Such people become patients and in prison we have nothing but to refer them to simple sanatoriums inside the prison because of a lack of treatment outside the prisons."

He thinks that punishment prescribed in the 1993 drug law deterred many from using drugs: "Execution sentences were issued and many were imprisoned for 25 years."

"But it should be followed by other procedures," he said. "Those detained are less than 20 percent, according to us and specialists."

He emphasized that addiction is a great crime on its own: "Most drug abusers end up in prison for two crimes: abusing drugs, and attacking others after losing self-control. Some of them spend 5 years in prison, others serve 10 years, and some are executed, especially if they committed murder."

### Drug dealers avoid drug abuse

"Drug abuse is still rare in Yemen, but it has a very dangerous effect," he said. "The problem is that drugs are new and we are not prepared for it because there weren't any previous policies to deal with drugs."

"From the experience of the countries of the Gulf and North Africa, there are fears of prisons turning into a place where such problems escalate without proper preparation," he said.

Interestingly, the security official said, drug dealers rarely do drugs because they are cautious about their money. In contrast, the addict usually doesn't know what he is doing and doesn't control his financial affairs.

"Drug dealers are different: They look wealthy, go to big hotels and attend parties," he said. "They attract youth with their appearance, and the latter try to work with them to get rich fast."

"Our country is threatened by drugs because it is in a position between the drug-producing Golden Crescent [Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan] and is the neighbor of oil rich countries," he concluded. "On top of that, Yemen has large open coasts."

## وظائف شاعرة

يعلن الصندوق الإجتماعي للتنمية عن حاجته إلى مسؤول خدمات، للعمل لديه في المقر الرئيسي الكائن في فح عطان على أن تتوفر في المتقدم الشروط الآتية:-

- 1- أن تكون لديه خبرة لا تقل عن خمس سنوات في مجال الخدمات.
- 2- إجادة اللغة الإنجليزية.
- 3- أن يكون حاصلاً على مؤهل الثانوية العامة على الأقل.
- 4- أن تكون لديه مهارات في الإتصال والتواصل، استخدام الكمبيوتر.
- 5- أن يكون يمني الجنسية وحاصلاً على البطاقة الشخصية

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Visa Fees for the United Kingdom have been revised from 6 April 2009. Please check the British Embassy website at [www.ukinyemen.fco.gov.uk](http://www.ukinyemen.fco.gov.uk) to ensure you bring the correct fee. All fees must be payable by bankers draft payable to the British Embassy.

The Embassy will not be able to process applications where the incorrect visa fee is produced or the visa fee is not in the form of a bankers draft.

Visa Section  
British Embassy  
Sana'a



## Notice to British Citizens Change to Consular Section Opening Hours

The British Embassy would like to advise British Citizens of the new opening hours for the Consular Section. With immediate effect the Consular Section will be open to the public between 0900 and 1400 Saturday to Wednesday. We recommend that anyone who requires routine Consular services, such as passport renewal or legalisation, telephone in advance to ensure that a Consular Officer is available if required.

Can I also remind all British Citizens to keep a close eye on the FCO Travel Advice ([www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk)) and that we strongly advise all persons either visiting or living in Yemen to register their presence with the Embassy, this can be done either on line through locate on the FCO Website or in person at the Embassy.

HM Consul  
British Embassy  
Sana'a



## Where terrorism comes from

By: Adel Al-Shuj'a

**W**e should not be silent about terrorism incidents that target security and tranquility in Yemen. Rather, it is important to talk about what happened after such incidents. It is a truth that everyone was greatly surprised by the acts of terrorism, but Yemen remains stronger in its defiance of such acts.

These incidents created both public and international solidarity. We can benefit from these lessons to create a new beginning in the country in order to avoid repeating such criminal acts.

Frankly speaking, there should be a new stage that makes us overcome all manifestations of relaxation on the levels of security, culture, and media. We need serious action. Furthermore, we need a law that convicts those who commit, assist with, cover up, or protect terrorism.

I would like to confirm that the reason behind terrorism and extremism is certain religious groups that receive funding to disseminate their brand of religion. Therefore, it is required to pull politics away from religion and expand the idea of a civil state and not a religious state.

Religious groups that received official encouragement trained their members, made them well-prepared, and readied them to sacrifice themselves at a moment's notice. We shouldn't ignore that there is more than one religious group in Yemen that practices religious work under the cover of politics. Many of these groups augmented conflicts in Afghanistan with a large

number of volunteers. These groups attempted to reach tribes here in Yemen, as the poorer tribes are the weakest circle that can be penetrated and attracted to such causes. The reason is simply that the culture of tribes instigates daily conflicts. Consequently, these tribes consider tolerance as neglecting their rights and rights of the group. Therefore, revenge is the master of the situation. One of them was asked, "Will you be pleased to attain paradise and be tolerant with those who offend you?" He answered, "No, I would rather take my revenge and enter hell!"

As a result of this culture and psychology of conflict, such tribes are targeted either to provide protection or support for these religious groups. Those who carry guns against their relatives and cousins in a tribal or revenge war won't care about abiding by civil law, nor do they easily accept living under it.

In addition to this, these tribes don't understand the meaning of homeland or of religion, as there are no true religious jurists in the general sense of the word where these tribes live. Their understanding is simple, or they don't fully understand the concept of Islam. Therefore, they are easily infiltrated and deceived, and are taught to fight against the interests of the country.

What is more dangerous is that tribes legislate for the culture of violence both directly and indirectly. They target state interests and behave outside of the legitimacy of law. These tribes are assisted by some who use religion for their own twisted purposes. This is what happened when a man in the Ministry of Youth and Sports issued a

fatwa stipulating that celebrating Mother Day is illicit because it imitates Jews and Christians, as he said.

In addition, a preacher at a mosque considered the Parliament members to be unbelievers after they passed a law that determine the legal marriage age to be 17 years. He said that this act is blasphemy, as legislation comes only from God and not from human beings. Fatwas such as these prompt youths – particularly frustrated youths – to resort to violence and suicide.

In fact, the government's remissness with such people makes us suffer from a backward mentality that doesn't believe in reason. Rather, such a mentality believes in killing and destroying the laws, principles, and values that are the basis of solidarity in society. Security forces are aware of what is going on, yet they believe that such groups don't constitute a true security threat. However, many groups were weak in the past, but because they were left alone they turned into strong fanatics.

Therefore, we have to work on empowering the civil state. We shouldn't involve religion in state governance, as this will lead to violence which will result in repeating conflicts we've already had in the past.

What is mentioned above leads us to pose a question: Since Islam highlights tolerance and since it is the only religion that accepts religions – whose people are called 'People of the Book' – that contradict it, why do those who assume to be Muslims practice the worst acts of intolerance, including bloody violence? The problem with these people is not that they are intolerant of others; rather, it that they are not even tolerant of themselves and

people of the same religion, which makes us suffer all the more because of them.

As I already mentioned, these groups want to take us back to the past, which represents a kind of mythology for them. Mythology is, from their point of view, the best epoch that should be followed.

They don't refer to the past to read it and to infer the best lessons from it. Rather, they recall history in order to form the present and the future according to the image that the past has drawn for them.

This image calls for a truce with the ruler of a country until they are able to cast the ruler down, since he believes in democracy, has a parliament and, of course, might have intervened in affairs of God, the creator and legislator!

On this basis, these groups consider others who disagree with them to be unbelievers, whether they are Muslims or not. This tendency creates the framework of violence that we currently suffer from in Yemen.

In conclusion, the future should involve a review of our school curriculums and the eradication of naive compositional orations. We shouldn't allow subjects that encourage the culture of hatred against others to be taught to our children. We should teach children how to be global, how to understand other cultures, and how to appreciate their beauty and morals. We should make tolerance a part of education, as we all live in one world. We should coexist with each other on the basis that religion is for God and the homeland is for all.

Source: *alotamar.net*

## COMMON SENSE

### Hopes and Challenges As Mr. Obama Tries to Tell It Like It Is



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

**O**ne cannot help but notice that at the least of what one is picking up from Mr. Barack Obama, there is a definite change of tone, if not attitude in the way the recently sworn in President of the United States is seeking to draw the forthcoming lines that the foreign policy of the United States should follow. Of course, it is difficult to assess if this new tone can translate into concrete changes in the effects such changes in tone will have on the outcomes that the changes Mr. Obama envisages for US foreign policy will have both on the United States and on the countries involved. It is indeed pleasant for one to hear an American President admit that there has been much wrong done by a sometimes egocentricity driven policy bolstered by the possession of the largest arsenal of military hardware and ordnances - and the most destructive - in the world. But to hear an admission of being the first to make use of such mass means of destruction as the Atomic Bomb surely reflects an effort to reflect some degree of sincerity in the desired course that the United States will tread on as it seeks to outdo much of the bellicose wrangling that characterized the foreign policy of his predecessor, Mr. George W. Bush.

What one cannot escape noticing is that there are those who actually find great discomfort in even such a change of tone and are already working day and night to seek to prove that this kind of thinking as portrayed by President Obama in his recent speeches, especially those concerning foreign policy is unforgivable. What one can certainly confirm is that Mr. Obama is speaking his mind without reluctance and without ignoring the significant change of tone that he must be conveying, which indeed can trigger the unleashing of a great campaign to bedevil the President as he seeks to show his people as well as the people of the world that, for all its calamities and fumbling, the US Cheney Clique policy of George Bush the Younger's Administration was far off course as far as serving US interests and confirming the United States as a responsible uncontested global power.

There is a strong possibility that such change in attitude may herald a diligent effort to bring to an end any drastic changes in US foreign policy by - God forbid - violently halting this ongoing expressions of the desired courses that the US should pursue in its dealings with the rest of the world, before any of the rhetoric could be tested in application. For this Mr. Obama could be viewed as expressing a courageous revolutionary change in the way the United States should behave. That in itself is worthy of commendation and certainly adds more to the respect that this young man of discernible and even likeable intentions deserves from even those of us, who have been erroneously labeled as "enemies of the American people", because we insisted that there is no way any astute observer could find sanity in the policies pursued by the Cheney gang over the last eight years, even from an American perspective. The resulting economic demise in the US and elsewhere has been the outcome of these policies, which set out to serve the interests of a few sleazy adventurers (Medoff and Stanford, just to name a few) in the world of finance, a few of whom rose to billionaire status by sleazing millions of Americans and others in bogus investment portfolios that made many people broke, in addition to the impact of the economic slump that destroyed their sources of livelihood. This was the kind of laissez faire capitalism greatly endorsed by the right wing establishment that held sway over the Republican Party and the disdain the latter had for any thought of the distribution of the resources and the harvests reaped by honest economic activity. Such fraudulent dealings could not be dismissed as not having been helpful catalysts for the economic demise now confronting the world economy. As the world business establishment seeks to come out of the near bankrupt situation they now face, one cannot help but wonder how such well run organizations such as AIG, Merrill Lynch, Citibank, General Motors, etc are now as broke as anyone in the Bowery, until the sleaziness of their managements became apparent. The latter did not even hesitate to become the first beneficiaries of the bailout money doled out to them by the Government, in cash or in kind (bonuses or aircraft etc). Perhaps they presumed that the laissez faire attitude of the Bush Administration, which normally closes its eyes to such over extravagance, would continue on with the new Obama Administration, who would never care to delve into the intricate details of corporate accounting to see the great sense of irresponsibility that the Bush Administration has allowed to entrench itself in corporate conduct and to a considerable degree in the political fabric (Such as the excesses of politicians like the savvy Governor of Illinois, who felt that any appointments that emanate from him are good reasons for boosting one's net worth). Such kind of a venue has encouraged the already corrupt establishments that have implanted their feet in the corrupt countries of the Fourth World (let us leave the Third World for countries that have shown greater adherence to honest development pursuits that are filtered down to all the population). Where does Yemen fall? Many a Yemeni would be ready to actually place us in the Fifth World (which, in such a scale would mean countries that are hopelessly immersed in misery and hopelessness. The observer cannot but hope that Mr. Obama will also have an eye towards this sad lot of countries where despair seems to be an irreversibly enduring accompaniment to life.

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

## Qat stock market outside the financial crisis

By: Marouf Draein

**T**he world is undergoing a severe unprecedented financial crisis and economic recession. We occasionally hear about the collapse of world economic giants and great companies. The financial crisis includes all countries of the world with no exceptions. As a result, we hear that capitalists are retracting their projects and investments and are cutting their losses in the international stock markets. They are also backing out of their stalled projects in all different sectors and locations. Various mar-

kets and goods have sustained a painful blow whether their prices drew back or demand on them has grown weak.

However, the Yemeni market and goods were not affected by this global crisis, nor were demands retracted. On the contrary, we saw that the demand increased and prices rose in spite of the crisis, which obviously affected the entire world's markets. Any observer can realize in the Yemeni qat stock market (which is 100 % Yemeni) that the price of qat increased, even as the cold season finished and the world was affected by the wave of the global crisis. This brings to lights questions about the secret behind the high demand of the killer - I mean qat -

under these conditions in particular.

It is right that the government tries, or rather aims, to combat qat that consumes over 75 percent of income of the Yemeni family while simultaneously depleting water tables around Yemen. However, we don't see any tangible gestures on the ground for this governmental initiative. What we see is the opposite, whether in terms of the increasing area utilized for growing qat, or in terms of its high prices, or in terms of its spread to our cities and streets without monitoring and with little regard to public etiquette and the esthetic appearance of our Yemeni cities, our empty pockets, and our appearance as citizens.

There are really bizarre anomalies that we have here in Yemen alone. At a time when governments and citizens the world over are resorting to policies of austerity, we in Yemen tend to increase spending on qat at the expense of food that we need to survive. We can say the same thing about the 'effectiveness' of the government's policy, which so far hasn't even started to carry out its plan to reduce public spending by half.

There are fierce battles going on between ministers, deputy ministers, and financial officers in various ministries over the financial situation in Yemen. I believe that the first reason behind these battles and disagreements is that some parties in the government are not committed to or agree with the decision to reduce government spending.

I don't know how some people try to convince us that we were not affected with the global financial crisis even though we are poorer than other countries and have fewer resources than they do, as if we are living on another planet or we are infected with paralysis and we are unconscious. Otherwise, how can we account for these statements and such official and public practices?

Aside from those topics, a huge surprise occurred in qat markets. When I asked a number of qat sellers about the demand on qat, I was shocked by their answers. All of them confirmed that demand for qat didn't change. If anything, demand increased, and the price of qat is rising weekly. What this proves is that qat is not affected by the financial crisis. What this means is that we in Yemen are distinguished by the opportunity to invest in safe fields. Will businessmen head to the qat stock market and invest in it as it is the sole stock market which is less dangerous, more lucrative, and safer?



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# Bahai homes attacked in Egypt after media commentary

Scores of Muslim villagers attacked the homes of members of the Bahai faith in a town in southern Egypt following a TV show on Saturday when an Egyptian media commentator referred to a Bahai activist as an apostate and called for her killing.

By ALEXANDRA SANDELS

According to a joint statement issued by six Egyptian human rights groups, villagers shouted "No God but Allah" and "Bahais are enemies of Allah," while hurling stones and firebombs at Bahai homes in the village of Shouraniya, located approximately 350 kilometers outside Cairo.

The attacks on members of the Bahai faith, began on Saturday and lasted for several days, following an episode of the TV show "al-Haqiqa," where Egyptian media commentator referred to a Bahai activist as an apostate and called for her killing.

The village's 30 Bahai residents were forced to flee and police prevented them from returning to their village, rights groups said.

AFP reported that the assailants threatened the village's Bahai residents with death.

Egypt's Interior Ministry confirmed the attacks and said that police have made arrests. The ministry, however, denied that police had prevented the Bahai residents from returning to their homes.

"This is just an incident and we are investigating," ministry spokesman General Hamdi Abdel-Karim was quoted as saying by the Associated

Press. Abdel-Karim reportedly refused to provide more details. The rights groups are calling on Egypt's public prosecutor to launch an immediate investigation into the attacks.

In an interview with MENASSAT, Egyptian Bahai activist Shady Samir said that the recent attacks are a result of people's ignorance towards the faith.

"For years, people have been fed lies about the Bahai faith and the Bahais. This reaction is nothing but a climax of the ignorance they have about the faith. When someone like Gamal Abdel Rahem claims on a TV show that the Bahais have to be killed, someone will decide to carry out this killing by himself," he said.

The Bahai faith was founded in the 1860s by a Persian nobleman, Baha'u'llah, whom the faithful regard as the most recent in a line of prophets that included Buddha, Abraham, Jesus and Muhammad. Muslims reject the faith because they believe Muhammad was God's final prophet. Bahais have been subject to persecution in the Middle East, particularly in Iran and Iraq.

**"This woman should be killed"**

The show on Dream TV featured a Bahai guest from Shouraniya, a Bahai



Bahai holy site the Shrine of the Báb, Mount Carmel, Haifa.

activist and dentistry professor Dr. Basma Gamal Musa. Also participating in the episode was prominent Egyptian media commentator and senior member of Egypt's press syndicate, Gamal Abdel Rahem.

On the show, Abdel-Rahim denounced Dr. Basma, calling her an "apostate" while on air.

He then turned to the viewers and said that "this woman should be killed."

On Tuesday, Abdel-Rahim also hailed the Shouraniya attackers in an op-ed published in Egypt's state-run Al-Gomhouria newspaper.

It is believed that a comment made by the second Bahai activist on the TV show on Saturday may have served as a catalyst for the attacks.

"Ahmed," a Bahai currently living in Cairo after fleeing persecution in Shouraniya, said that his village was "full of Bahais."

In his commentary Ahmed had sought to illustrate that Egypt's 2,000 Bahais are not only living around Cairo.

**"Climax of ignorance"**

Egypt's Bahai community has not only faced criticism from commentators like Abdel-Rahem, but also from the

religious authorities.

Recently, Mohammed Sayeed Tantawi, the grand sheik of Al-Azhar, the high seat of Egypt's religious leadership, referred to the Baha'i faith as a "sacrilegious dogma" and a "deviant sect."

Tantawi also linked the Bahai religion with Zionism, which is a charge that Bahais frequently have to face since the religion's leadership has its headquarters in Haifa, Israel.

The rights groups are asking for the public prosecutor to question Abdel-Rahem over, what they call "his incitement to violence against Bahais in both the television program and his published article".

They are also appealing to the Egyptian Press Syndicate to take "immediate action" against Abdel-Rahem.

**The ID card controversy**

The Bahai community has been subject to discrimination as a minority in Egypt. Up until recently, they were fighting a dragged out court battle to get their faith recognized on Egyptian ID cards. Prior to the new law, only one of Egypt's three officially recognized faiths, Islam, Christianity, and Judaism, could be put as religion on the identity card.

Official papers like identity cards and birth certificates are obligatory in Egypt and not having them can cause immense obstacles. Egyptians cannot enroll in schools or universities, receive medical treatment, or even buy a car without a national ID card.

Four year's after his death, Samir's

father was still not considered officially dead by the Egyptian state since he couldn't obtain a death certificate as an adherent of the Bahai faith.

In order for Samir's father to be granted a death certificate, he would have had to convert to one of Egypt's three official faiths.

Samir previously told MENASSAT that it was his father's "last will to die as a Bahai."

In a highly publicized court ruling earlier this year, the Bahais were finally granted the right to put a dash in the field allocated for religion on the ID card or leave the slot blank.

Samir, however, does not believe the recent court ruling in favor of the Bahais has any relation to the attacks.

"This turn has nothing to do with the verdict. And I don't really believe it's an overall public turn. It's simply a reaction to Abdel Rahem's heated up allegations," he said, adding that he doesn't think the events of Shoraneya will be repeated elsewhere in Egypt.

Bahais have lived in Egypt for more than a hundred years. In 1924, Egypt became the first Muslim country to recognize the Bahai faith as an independent religion apart from Islam.

But ever since President Nasser shut down the Bahai national assembly in the 1960s, and the government proceeded to confiscate Bahai properties such as libraries and cemeteries, there has been no official record of the group.

Bahai institutions and community activities remain banned under Egyptian law to this day.

# Lebanese LGBTI organization wins international award

Beirut-based LGBTI support group Helem has been awarded the 2009 Felipa de Souza Award by the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) for its work to improve the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexed (LGBTI). Helem, established in 2004, marks the first organization of its kind in the Arab world.

By ALEXANDRA SANDELS

"We are so pleased to be able to present our 2009 Felipa Award to Helem. Helem works in very challenging circumstances to make a very real difference to the lives of countless LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersexed) people in the Middle East and beyond. We applaud their courage and commitment to human rights for all," said Paula Eitelbrick, Executive Director of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, IGLHRC.

The prize was handed to Helem

Director Georges Azzi on March 30 in New York and will be presented once more to the organization on April 2 in San Francisco.

Azzi told MENASSAT that winning the award was "symbolic" for Helem and that five years ago he thought it was an "impossible dream" to set up an LGBT organization in his country.

But Azzi's and other activists' dream did come true and Helem whose Arabic acronym means "Lebanese Protection for Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals and Transgenders," taken from Arabic word for "Dream" has been an active voice in Lebanon since its creation in 2004, advocating

the legal and social rights of LGBTI persons and providing free HIV testing.

The Felipa Award is named after Felipa de Souza, a woman who "endured persecution and brutality" after declaring her romantic relationship with a woman during a 16th century inquisition trial in Brazil. Nominations for the award are solicited each year from LGBT activist groups around the world.

This year, the IGLHRC received 23 nominations for the prize and Helem was ultimately selected from a group of five.

Last month, Helem, along with a number of other Lebanese NGOs, organized the Arab world's first sit-in demonstration in Beirut denouncing violence against homosexuals and other minority groups.

Hundreds of people gathered at Beirut's Sodeco square holding rainbow flags and signs condemning violence and discrimination against minority groups, in what was

considered a landmark event.

The sit-in was a direct response to an alleged gay bashing that took place in Beirut's Sassine square, in which two men purportedly engaging in sexual conduct on the ground floor of an apartment building were dragged out onto the street and severely beaten.

According to Helem, the two men were detained at a military barracks, handed over to the authorities and are still being held in custody.

When asked about the current situation of LGBTI people in Lebanon, Azzi specifically called on the abolishment of article 534 in the Lebanese penal code, which criminalizes "unnatural" sexual conduct. He said overturning such legislation was crucial in order to offer better protection for Lebanese homosexuals.

Rights activists say article 534 is used to intimidate the LGBTI community, and those convicted under the legislation can be penalized for up to one year in prison.



Last month Helem organized the Arab world's first sit-in demonstration in Beirut denouncing violence against homosexuals and other minority groups.

"It is high time that the country's lawmakers looked at an obsolete, ridiculous law that condemns and punishes homosexuality in Lebanon. At a time when gay marriage is

permitted in many countries, the [Lebanese] authorities hypocritically deny the simplest expression of reality that they will have to face one day or another," said Helem of article 534.

# Saudi lingerie blues

Appalled with always having to deal with male sales staff when purchasing intimate clothing items such as bras or panties, and other exquisite lingerie, Saudi women are campaigning to implement a policy of "women only" sales staff in the country's lingerie stores. MENASSAT met with Reem Asaad, one of the pioneers of the initiative, whose Facebook campaign has been gaining ground on the twist in Saudi's lingerie trade.

By ALEXANDRA SANDELS

JEDDAH, March 31, 2009 (MENASSAT) - In Saudi Arabia, a man and a woman sipping a latte together at the local Starbucks risk getting into trouble with the Kingdom's feared religious police, the "Muttawa", if they are not either spouses or related to each other.

That was recently the case when a 37-year old mother of three was detained by the religious police earlier this year for sitting with a male colleague at a Starbucks coffee shop in Riyadh.

Given Saudi Arabia's strict public morality code, it comes perhaps as a bit

of a surprise that Saudi women are forced to deal with men only when purchasing their most intimate and personal clothing apparel. Because in the Kingdom, all lingerie shops are staffed entirely by men.

So here in ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia, men are providing advice on bras and thongs to female clients, eyeing them up and down in order to figure out their cup size.

Expectedly, many female shoppers find buying lingerie in Saudi Arabia a daunting task and Saudi women are now embarking on campaigns that call for the system to be changed and for women to be employed in lingerie stores.

Most recently, a group of 50 women in the Red Sea Port city Jeddah launched a public boycott of lingerie shops last week, that will end when they start employing women.

**Facebook initiative**

One of the pioneers in the lingerie initiative is Reem Asaad, a finance teacher at Dar al-Hikma Women's College in Jeddah.

Fed up after facing several "inconvenient" situations with the sales staff in lingerie shops, Asaad started a group a few months ago on the social networking site Facebook that calls for the staffing of lingerie stores by women only.

"This is an initiative by women consumers in Saudi society. I myself teach portfolio management far away from the lingerie business. I did this from a female perspective," Asaad told MENASSAT.

Asaad's Facebook group "El Malabis Lilniswan Dakhiliyan", or "Women's Undergarments," quickly grew in size with nearly 1,700 people signing an online petition posted by Asaad.

Press coverage of the issue has also

increased with both international media outlets and Saudi newspapers covering the lingerie trade twist.

Asaad said that she chose the social media site as launching pad for her initiative because it is "the fastest and cheapest way" to get information out in her society.

**Law "already in existence"**

Although lingerie stores in Saudi are currently only staffed by men, Asaad emphasizes that a law stipulating that only women work in stores that sell women's products has been on the books since 2006.

Her Facebook initiative, says Asaad, aims to push for the implementation of that legislation.

"According to (Saudi Arabia's) Labor Law 120: 8, all stores that sell products tailoring to women need to be staffed by women only. We're trying to sort out the delay of the implementation by the authorities," she said.

The Saudi government has given little reason as to why the legislation has gone unenforced, but it is believed that the delay is partly due to religious hard-liners who oppose employing

women in mixed environments such as shopping malls.

For Asaad's part, she says her initiative has received "tremendous support" from the public and only the odd negative remark.

**Harassment and embarrassment**

When asked about harassment in lingerie shops, Asaad said that provocative remarks from the employees are common, using the examples of female clients being told by the sales clerks that a specific color "would look nice on them" or that they should pick a bigger sized panty - an apparent reference to their weight.

Twenty-three year old Jeddah-resident Hana who has the privilege of often traveling abroad says she would never buy lingerie in Saudi Arabia under the current conditions unless there is an "emergency".

"I wait to buy my lingerie until I travel abroad. It's just too embarrassing here. A random man giving me advice on panties and bra cup sizes? I don't think so," Hana told MENASSAT.

Finding the right sized lingerie is another issue since changing rooms are banned in Kingdom. So like other

Saudi women, Hana would not be sure whether she's chosen the right size until she tries the product on at home.

**Lingerie training program**

Unlike Asaad and Hana, Khaled, a young Yemeni employed in a lingerie store in a Jeddah mall claims his female customers actually prefer buying their lingerie from men, although he admitted being a bit uncomfortable with his job at first.

In response to Khaled's claim, Asaad emphasized the lack of trained saleswomen in the lingerie market.

"Those lingerie stores who have changed their male sales staff to women have lost seventy percent of their revenues. But we are trying to correct the problem," she said.

In a bid to bring trained sales women into Saudi lingerie shops, Asaad says that the dean at her university, Dar El-Hekma, has offered to provide training to 200 women in Jeddah with the help of "international lingerie experts" who will be flown in for the training program.

Asaad said that the application process for the program has already begun.



# No development if there is conflict

By: Ali Saeed

Mansour, a well-qualified, hard working school headmaster with years of experience in teaching and management under his belt is suddenly confronted with lobbyists trying to remove him from his position. Motivated by personal interests, student parents are campaigning to replace him with another headmaster.

Mansour's relatives and those who oppose the idea of replacing the school headmaster form another group to support him. From the situation arose a conflict between parents and the headmaster's supporters. It spread to include students, who stopped focusing on their studies to follow the events with their parents, who also neglected their children's education.

As the conflict escalated, the director of the Education Office in the governorate interceded as a mediator and resolved the disagreement with wisdom. He set up a meeting between parents, teachers in the school, the current headmaster and the teacher who parents were encouraging to become headmaster.

During negotiations, the mediator explained that any new appointee to the position of headmaster should have the qualifications that meet the education criteria. Parents asked the director what these criteria were. He replied that the headmaster should have spent a certain number of years teaching and have good administrative skills.

Parents who were lobbying to replace the present headmaster came to the realization that it is unjust to demand substituting a principle for personal reasons.



This is just one example of how mediation can resolve conflict in Yemen.

## NGO trains Yemenis on conflict resolution

The only statistics available on the cost of conflict in Yemen date back to 2005. Around 612 deaths as a result of conflicts between 2000 and 2005 alone.

Islamic Relief (IR), a British non-governmental organization (NGO) working in Yemen, held recently a workshop in Sana'a to evaluate the success of their conflict resolution program which started two years ago. Throughout the program period, IR had trained 665 people in new ways of solving conflicts. The trainees were selected from four governorates, Sana'a, Sa'ada, Aden, and Lahj. Selection was based on the person's influential competence. Tribal leaders, senior military officers, university students, Imams and general members of the public have been selected to participate in up to 20 work-

shops over the past two years.

"For the workshops, local and foreign trainers were brought to train the participants on conflict resolution," said Khalid Al-Mulad, country director of the IR.

"After that, the IR organized this workshop to identify the most distinguished participants and network with them to apply what they have learned to become trainers too," explained Al-Mulad.

Very excited, workshop participants talked to each other to share what they have learned in previous workshops, and recount any personal experience in conflict resolution.

The trainer first divided them in to three groups to sit together to do some brainstorming on their conflict resolution knowledge and experience. Each group then listened to the others as they explained the skills and styles they had learnt. Most imparted the same knowledge.

## Understanding the nature of the conflict

The first thing in any conflict resolution, they said, is to understand the nature of the conflict. This step can be achieved by talking to both sides of a dispute to resolve the conflict in a neutral manner. The mediator also should listen to differ-

ent points of view about the conflict.

The second step in conflict resolution is negotiation. Conflicting parties should sit together with the mediator in order to come out with fair resolution. The mediator should be patient, seek mutual interests, and let them as much as possible resolve the conflict by themselves.

The final step is to make sure that conflicting parties are satisfied with the resolution that they or the mediator have suggested.

A mediator should be interested in conflict resolution and show initiative. Moreover, he should be desired by the conflict parties to avoid becoming an inflaming factor of the conflict. The mediator should address conflicting parties in their own language. If they are academics, language should be academic, but if they are tribes, language and mediation concepts should be tribal.

The mediator should be flexible and have good communication skills that enable him to manage the conflict properly. He should be wise in the style he chooses and modest so as not to upset either of the disputing sides. He has to show sympathy during negotiations and be pleasant when the two sides reach a solution.

The ideal mediating candidate should be an active member of society so that he is accepted by both parties. He or she should have a good reputation and be a role model in dealing with conflicts in his or her own life.

Al-Sheikh Abdullah Yahya Al-Qarash, Islamic scholar and preacher from Sa'ada joined the training before and said that he had learned many skills that regard conflict resolution: "Above all I learned the

skill of conflict analysis to understand if a conflict is founded or accidental," he said.

Al-Qarash said that he had resolved many social conflicts, an example of which was an incident that resulted in the accidental death of 9 year-old child.

"Although the victim's parents were insisting on blood money from the poor who caused the incident, I was able to convince them to take little money," said Al-Qarash.

## Conflict in Saada of religious nature

Al-Qarash is concerned by the conflict in the governorate of Sa'ada where he resides. He says the conflict is religious.

During the Yemeni Scholars Conference held during the first Sa'ada war, Al-Qarash suggested that the conflict be resolved according to lessons learned from Islamic history, but the conflict continued.

At the conference, he said that this conflict in Sa'ada is a catastrophe that had shaken up the tranquility of the community, and that those who encouraged it were Khawarej [dissidents], a group of people who first appeared during the time of the fourth caliph Ali Bin Abi Talib (Blessings Be Upon Him), rebelled against him, accused him of blasphemy and killed him.

According to Al-Qarash, the Houthis in Sa'ada are similar to the Khawarej since their ideologies are based on the Al-Khawarej ideology.

Al-Qarash went on to say that, as the Sa'ada conflict is a catastrophe, esteemed Yemeni scholars should deal with it according to God's Judgment through the Holy Quran and the Suna of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH).

Al-Qarash said that he suggested at the

conference that the Houthis be dealt with as the fourth caliph Ali dealt with the Khawarej who outlawed him and accused him of blasphemy when he said, "Never take their women as prisoners. Never take their properties as booty. Never attack their injured. Never follow them when they escape."

Al-Qarash called on the government to prevent Yemeni bloodshed and bring about reconciliation, any Houthi who puts down his arms and returns home from must not be chased by the government, according to what the fourth caliph Ali said.

"If the Houthis agree to return to their houses and put down their arms and any one of them is treated wrongfully, he should come to the Yemeni Scholars Association so that they can help him reclaim his rights," said Al-Qarash.

"If Houthis did not agree with this resolution, but wanted war, you should know that they are small group fomenting sedition in the Yemeni society, encouraged by foreign powers who want mutiny for our country," explained Al-Qarash.

Participants said these workshops should be pursued and spread to Yemeni governorates and districts as much as possible.

IR country director Khalid Al-Mulad said that the conflict resolution program will continue in different governorates, not because Yemen is a conflict state, but because conflict leads to violence, in which development cannot be achieved.

"The conflict resolution program would build up Yemeni capacities to deal with conflict wisely," said Abdulaziz Saeed, the Conflict Resolution Program Manager at IR.

# Breaking through the glass ceiling: Part 2

In recent years, Yemen has seen more women achieving high level positions in both public and private sectors. Some had to struggle hard before they were given a chance, despite the fact that they were more qualified than many of their male colleagues. And while all admit that these days are better for working women, the glass ceiling still very much exists.

By: Nadia Al-Sakkaf

Just a few months ago Nadwa Younis Al-Dawsari became the director of Partners for Democratic Change in Yemen, part of Partners for Democratic Change International. After a career of 12 years in the various fields of English media, development programs, and international organizations, she was able to lead the newest center of this international organization in the Middle East working to promote democracy.

Nadwa is a Chevening Scholar, holds an MA in Development Studies from the University of Leeds, is a Humphrey Public Policy Fellow, and has a Conflict Resolution certificate from Rutgers University in New Jersey.

When Nadwa was asked about the reasons behind her success, she said, "I have a wonderful and very supportive family and I have great friends. I think I also was lucky that I had the chance to study in UK and the US, and most of all to work in my country with local communities." Her intensive travelling inside Yemen exposed her to the challenges that Yemen faces and helped her to understand local communities and sensitivities and ways to work through them.

It was not easy, especially when a woman has to go to remote areas and deal with traditional tribal figures and conservative men. She worked with the National Democratic Institute for about six years during which she was promoted from Program Office Manager to Senior Program Manager. "In my work in conflict resolution, I faced less challenges than men normally do in my country," Nadwa explained. "As a woman, I enjoyed access and respect because of the fact that women are protected and are granted access during conflicts in the tribal culture.

"Yet one of the challenges I face is that, due to cultural reasons, I cannot attend mixed qat chews even though it is during qat chews where people discuss politics and public affairs issues," she continued. "Important meetings and decisions are made over qat chews as well. So as a woman I feel I am missing a lot because of that."

Nadwa received the Golden Star Award from the NCIV in DC in February, 2008 for the work she is doing in Yemen. The recognition she gained inside and



Arwa Yahya Al-Eryani

outside the country gave her additional inspiration to achieve and work even harder. And this is precisely what she advises women to do who want to be something. "I would encourage ambitious Yemeni women to work hard and to try to get support from their families, and not to give up easily," she said. "My family objected to my travel in the beginning. In fact, I had to take a male escort with me when I travelled on a business trip the first time in 1999, but then it all changed when they saw my success. My family now supports me and is very proud of the things I have accomplished."

On how Yemeni women can deal with bosses, especially men with traditional mentalities, she thinks it is important to try to build trust and positive communication with him or her. "Trust in yourself, be strong, understand your rights as an employee, and stand up for them. No boss would want to lose a smart and hardworking woman," Nadwa said.

Arwa Yahya Al-Eryani has been working as the head of the Quality



Assurance Unit of Saba Private University since 2004. She had been teaching at the university for over 12 years, and in 2000 she was appointed as acting dean of the Computer Sciences Faculty in Saba University.

"It was a challenging assignment as the university was still new at that time. My job was to establish and develop programs, new departments, and to set up regulations," she explained.

Arwa described her promotion as head of the Quality Assurance Unit as a very



Nadwa Younis Al-Dawsari

welcome change since this unit plays a vital role in academic affairs and develops outcome-basis programs.

Reaching a decision-making position in a private university was not as difficult as it might have been in public universities. In twelve years, Arwa was able to rise from a lecturer to the head of a unit. Despite the encouragement she received from the management, she admits that some of her colleagues gave her a hard time since her job meant scrutinizing their performance. As she put it, "They did not accept the idea of a woman in charge."

Being an active researcher in the field of quality assurance, e-readiness and e-learning gave her the power to perform her duty and hence silence anyone else who would want to put her down or criticize her ability to provide quality work in a high level position.

"I reached this position as a result of my career path; the decision makers in the university trust my way of dealing with work and my way in making decisions to improve work," she said.

Arwa advises ambitious women to first like what they are doing before they demand to be promoted. Ambitious women should know that success does not come without experiencing failure, and that there will always be problems in every job, yet one can and should always learn from the mistakes.

However, she thinks a woman should not let her career overshadow her personal life. Arwa is married and has three children, and has enjoyed the support of her parents and husband. "My late father encouraged us to be well-educated in order to improve ourselves. He always felt proud of us. He agreed to send my sister and me to study abroad at Kuwait University at a time when it was very difficult for women to be away from their families. I also had the opportunity to travel to London with my husband for higher education."

Her husband also works as a university professor and he has helped her throughout her career. However, because she chose to start a family and have children, she had to make sacrifices, like not being able to study for her PhD after she completed her master's degree in systems analysis and design from City University, London. Only now does she have time to do further study, as she is

currently in a PhD program in "e-readiness for e-government in Yemen."

"Your family should always come first, and that will maybe delay your career for some time. Do not overwork, and do not feel always you are tired. Things work out in the end."

The golden advice Arwa gives to working Yemeni women is to manage their time right so that they can have enough time for everything, including a

personal life.

"Always do something new you like to do; never say it is too late. Find out what you like to do besides your job, such as writing, drawing, or making arts and crafts. These things will renew your life," she advised.

Arwa aspires to become a well-known researcher in the area of e-readiness, e-learning, and quality in higher education. Arwa has participated in many

conferences and has published multiple papers. She has even published two textbooks in databases and system analysis.

Women such as Nadwa Younis Al-Dawsari and Arwa Yahya Al-Eryani serve as shining examples for any Yemeni woman who wants a meaningful career. Women like these prove that almost anything is possible for hardworking women here in Yemen.



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Government of Yemen  
Ministry of Water and Environment — Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

**Terms of Reference for M&E Specialist**

**Background:**  
The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide funds of about US\$340 million on a Sector-wide basis over a five year period (2009-2014) to be financed from the Government of Yemen and their Development Partners (WB — Germany — Netherlands). Under the WSSP, the Executive Secretariat will establish an M&E Unit. Data collection will be based on a participatory approach, where sub-sector groups and representatives are responsible for M&E functions for their respective sub-sector. Staff at each level are responsible for M&E. WSSP's institutional strengthening and capacity building component will provide needed training and technical support.

**Objective and Scope of Work**  
The purpose of M&E Unit is to assist the WSSP Executive Secretariat in design, implementation and coordination of the M&E activities in the Water Sector Support Program and build capacity at the M&E Unit for long term monitoring, evaluation and management information systems. The prime objective of the M&E Unit is to keep decision makers informed of the progress on WSSP activities. Assessment criteria and qualitative and quantitative progress indicators will need to be either refined or newly developed during this period to help clarify achievable goals. The WSSP M&E Specialist will coordinate with the sub-sector working groups, the sub-sector mandated agencies and the core donor group on regular basis to collect, compile and analyze M&E data. This information will be compiled in progress reports to be published on quarterly basis. The quarterly data will feed into Joint Annual Review (JAR) to be held in June-July each year.

**Tasks and Responsibilities**  
The WSSP M&E Specialist shall have knowledge and experience in the areas of monitoring & evaluation of water and agriculture sectors in Yemen using results-based methodology. He/she shall have the ability to produce quality outputs in a timely manner, ability to work under heavy pressure, excellent organizational skills and sound judgment, ability to communicate with different levels of targeted populations, professionals and civil servants. He/she shall be fluent in English and Arabic.

The M&E Specialist would work within the WSSP Executive Secretariat, and report to the Head of that unit. He/she will execute the following tasks:  
 \* Review related NWSSIP and WSSP documents and participate directly in the WSSP implementation exercises;  
 \* Prepare the required analytic background for the institutional implementation arrangements based on the M&E knowledge;  
 \* Plan, design, and organize the proposed WSSP M&E system and draw useful lessons and recommendations from previous NWSSIP JAR exercises;  
 \* Develop a detailed work plan for the existing M&E Unit at WSSP Secretariat and the human and financial resources requirements to sustain the Unit;  
 \* Through effectiveness, finalize all baseline indicators;  
 \* Build capacity within the M&E Unit based on needs as they arise;  
 \* Assist in the preparation and review of TORs for local staff for the M&E Unit;  
 \* Upgrade skills in the design of indicators and reporting systems, socio-economic data collection, data analysis, and design;  
 \* Develop TORs and action plans for data gathering, needed surveys, data analysis, and computerization of the system;  
 \* Analyze regularly the results from the M&E system, reporting major findings to the project management and formulate options and recommendations for improvements;  
 \* Work closely with all water authorities as well as the Ministries of: Agriculture and Irrigation, Planning and International Cooperation, and Finance;  
 \* Work closely with civil society, and the core group of donors in all tasks;  
 \* Coordinate work with on-going development work by others;  
 \* Assist in discussing recommendations with GOY Counterpart Committee (MOF, MOPIC, MWE and MAI)  
 \* Work on other related tasks for WSSP as may be requested to support the M&E component; and  
 \* Assist in the M&E information preparation and conduct of presentations for stakeholders and donors in the Joint Annual Review (JAR) process.

**Outputs**  
The major outputs will be documents on WSSP M&E Implementation Program:

WSSP M&E Implementation Workplan — during the first part of the consultancy.  
 WSSP M&E Implementation Guidelines — living document prepared throughout the consultancy period.  
 WSSP M&E Quarterly Progress Reports — living document prepared each quarter.  
 WSSP JAR M&E Document — living document prepared each year before JAR.  
 M&E Unit staffing and Financial Plan — during the last part of the consultancy.

**Qualifications:**  
 \* University Degree in a relevant discipline.  
 \* A minimum of 5 years of professional work experience of which at least 2 years shall be in the field of Results-Based M&E Framework in water /irrigation/ agricultural sector in Yemen.  
 \* Good communications skills and a working knowledge of English.  
 \* Computer knowledge with expertise in Microsoft Office tools.  
 \* Good inter-personal skills and demonstrated ability to work closely with professionals from other disciplines.

**Duration of assignment:**  
Initially for a probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter.

Interested applications, who strictly meet above requirements, may submit their applications with CVs and supporting documents during working hours to the address below by (April, 29, 2009)  
**Dr. Abdul Wahed Mukrd — WSSP ES Team Leader (Office within Sana'a Basin Project)**  
 West Wide of Al-Seteen Street at end of 20th. Street  
 Tel. +967 1 469156/7/9 Fax +967 1 469158 Mobile +967 733725348  
 Email: awmukred@yemen.net.ye

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Government of Yemen  
Ministry of Water and Environment — Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM - WSSP

**Terms of Reference for Procurement Advisor - Local Consultant**

To follow up and support the preparation of (WSSP) Procurement Plan prior to Program Effectiveness and review and support procurement issues during program Implementation

**1) Context**  
The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide funds of about US\$340 million on a Sector-wide basis over a five year period (2009-2014) to be financed from the Government of Yemen and their Development Partners (WB — Germany — Netherlands). For the purpose of ensuring the proper coordination and execution of the Program, the Government shall maintain (Inter Ministerial Steering Committee) assisted with an Executive Secretariat in carrying out its duties. the Procurement Advisor would be a member of the Executive Secretary. Now WSSP Executive Secretariat invites qualified and experienced local consultants to apply for the post of Procurement Advisor, within the team of program Executive Secretariat.

**2) Tasks and Responsibilities**  
Under the supervision of WSSP team leader, and observing the procurement directives, the nominated (PA) would achieve the following tasks:  
 \* Act as WSSP Coordinator for Procurement aspects .  
 \* Develop, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive procurement plan for the whole WSSP period and include the whole sub-sectors activities, such plan shall be deal out annually and updated on regular basis.  
 \* Provide inputs into the WSSP annual work plan and budget .  
 \* Follow up on the execution of the WSSP procurement plan and develop related procurement reports .  
 \* Review and endorse the sub-sector procurement plans.  
 \* Support and assist the procurement specialists on the sub-sector level to prepare their plans and apply procurement guidelines of the Bank, Donors, and the Government .  
 \* Follow up with the regional consultant the preparation of the Procurement Manual of Practices (PMP) for WSSP to be adopted before program effectiveness.  
 \* Define management reporting tools for monitoring procurement activities on the sub-sector level .  
 \* Carry out procurement needs of the Program Executive Secretariat .  
 \* To be responsible of the procurement matters during the program review missions from the Donors and Government.  
 \* Any other issues that are deemed necessary for the program procurement issues .

The consultant will liaise his work with the sub-sector procurement specialists and submit monthly reports to the Executive Secretariat Team Leader on the procurement achievements and the arrangements applied .

**Qualifications and Requirements:**  
 \* 10 years of work experience in the field of procurement operations and related issues.  
 \* 7 years relevant experience with procurement and procedures of Foreign Donors.  
 \* 5 years overall experience with Government procurement and procedures and regulations.  
 \* University Degree in Business Administration, Commerce, Law, Economics, Engineering, or related fields.  
 \* Good knowledge of English and Arabic Languages .  
 \* Computer literate with strong skills in Microsoft Office and related software.  
 \* Good command with professional skills in transferring the knowledge.

**Duration of assignment:**  
Initially for a probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter. Interested applications, who strictly meet above requirements, may submit their applications with CVs and supporting documents during working hours to the address below by (April, 29, 2009) .

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Government of Yemen  
Ministry of Water and Environment — Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation  
WATER SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

**Terms of Reference for ACAP Advisor**

**Background**  
The Water Sector Support Program (WSSP) is a multi-donor initiative designed to support the implementation of the National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Plan (NWSSIP). WSSP will provide funds of about US\$340 million on a Sector-wide basis over a five year period (2009-2014) to be financed from the Government of Yemen and their Development Partners (WB — Germany — Netherlands). Under the WSSP, the Government has prepared an Anti-Corruption Action Plan (ACAP) to help ensure the funds provided under this program are used for the intended purposes, and contribute to the achievement of the development objectives of the NWSSIP.

The ACAP consists of seven components, to be implemented over the five years of the WSSP, with a total estimated cost of about US\$3.0 million, as follows:

- Procurement Reform and Capacity Development.
- Financial Management Reform and Capacity Development.
- Enhanced Information Disclosure.
- Education and Awareness.
- Community Participation and Consultation.
- An Anti-Corruption "Hot Line" Program.
- Investigative Capacity Development.

The underlying principle of the ACAP is that this will be a learning-oriented exercise for everyone concerned on both the GoY side and the donor side. Most of these activities will be introduced on a pilot basis. Monitoring and evaluation of results on an on-going basis will be critical in order to adjust the program in real time to opportunities and constraints encountered during implementation of the Plan.

A detailed Implementation Plan has been prepared which sets out the arrangements for coordination of the proposed activities. A key element of implementation will be the role played by the ACAP Advisor, to be located in the WSSP Executive Secretariat.

**Role and Responsibilities of the ACAP Advisor**  
The ACAP Advisor would work within the WSSP Executive Secretariat, and report to the Head of that unit. His/her primary responsibility will be to oversee the implementation of proposed activities under the seven components of the ACAP. Specifically, he/she will:

- \* Prepare Annual Work Plans and budgets for the ACAP components, and produce regular reports to government and the donors on the progress of implementation — including progress against plans and issues requiring attention.
- \* Take the lead in initiating work in each of the components of the ACAP, including the finalization of detailed Terms of Reference for technical assistance and studies to be carried out under various components, and managing the procurement process for the required inputs.
- \* Work closely with the other WSSP advisors and relevant units in MWE, MAI, SNACC, COCA, the High Tender Board, and other relevant agencies to ensure close coordination of activities under the ACAP with the mainstream activities of WSSP, and to avoid duplication of initiatives planned or already underway.
- \* Serve as the focal point for receipt of complaints and allegations from the independent operator of the proposed "Hot Line" program, referring those cases to the appropriate agencies/units, maintaining a database on the status of all such cases, and preparing regular reports on that program to government and donors.
- \* Monitoring progress of individual activities under the ACAP, recommending successful activities for possible "scaling up", suggesting adjustments in activities that are not meeting expectations, and proposing new activities for consideration, in line with the overall principles and priorities of the ACAP and within the scope of the funds available for such activities.
- \* Any other issues that are deemed necessary for the ACAP matters.

**Qualifications:**  
 \* University Degree in a relevant discipline.  
 \* A minimum of 15 years of professional work experience.  
 \* Good communications skills and a working knowledge of English.  
 \* Familiarity with major issues facing the water sector in Yemen.  
 \* Professional expertise with at least one of the major components of the ACAP, with a preference for procurement or financial management.  
 \* Good inter-personal skills and demonstrated ability to work closely with professionals from other disciplines.  
 \* A reputation for personal and professional integrity.

**Salary and Benefits:**  
Annual salary within the range of (\$14,400 to \$18,000) with annual increment of 10% on satisfied performance. Other benefits according to the applicable laws and regulations in force.

**References:**  
A minimum of three references required

**Duration of assignment:**  
Initially for a probation period of three months, then annual contract will be offered thereafter. Interested applications, who strictly meet above requirements, may submit their applications with CVs and supporting documents during working hours to the address below by (April, 29, 2009) .

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أ / كادية عبد العزيز السعاف  
الناسخ / رئيس التحرير

وكافة مؤلفي مؤسسة اليمن للتصحافة والطباعة والنشر



## Is it time to marry? This is the question

By: Mofeed Al-Gaad

It is a well known fact that marriage is the strongest social relationship, capable of combining two different people into one family. This relationship is the keystone of society and is based on all the traditions and norms of that society. Marriage as an idea can be found in all cultures and religions of the world, but the time and age for marriage isn't easily determined within even one society. This is because everyone in a particular society has his own distinguished concept about the best and most convenient time for marriage. Some people see that the convenient age for marriage is between 17 and 22 years old. The opinion of these people is in harmony with the recent Yemeni law that indicates that "the minimum age for marriage is at 17." Other people evaluate the matter from a different point of view, leaving aside the convenient age for marriage and focusing on the convenient time for marriage. These people see that marriage should be taken place when the suitable time comes. That is to say, a young man should get married when he is able to bear his domestic responsibilities. They take the following hadith as evidence for their resolution.

The prophet Mohamed (PBUH) said, "Young men, he who is able to get marry should get married, and the one who is disabled should fast, because fasting is a shield."

Nevertheless, these people can't determine the proper time for marriage because people have various desires

and endless aims to fulfill. To state it clearly, people see that the young man should build his future first and then get married later. However, there is a question that poses itself here: What kind of future should be built by this young man, and how can this young man build his future? This question confuses people and makes their unified opinion diverge into various paths. Some of them see that the young man could build his future by completing his study at college and then by getting a good public job. Such kinds of people sometimes deprive the young man from marriage even if he has completed his college education and has a private job. These people don't evaluate the convenient time of marriage according to the current difficult situation of the country and the psychological status of this young man who has become too old to marry. Rather, they evaluate the matter practically, looking at the high status that should be fulfilled by whoever wants to complete the missed half of his life. Such people refuse to marry their daughters to these young men who desire to marry and live their simple life peacefully because they see that the young man should make their daughter live a luxurious life. As a result, a lot of well-mannered and educated young men are deprived of marriage and become sick psychologically.

The story of a friend of mine can be taken as an example of those poor young people who are deprived of marriage because of the greediness that reveals the world of girls' fathers.

My friend is a well-mannered and

educated young man who recently finished his college education. As he is a hardworking man, he got a good private job that enables him to bear the domestic responsibilities. His cousins also promised to provide him with all of his marriage demands. Therefore, he made up his mind to engage an educated girl whom he dreamed of marrying when he was in college. However, when he went to the home of that girl to ask for her hand in marriage, her father refused, saying "You graduated recently and you are still an unofficial employee, so I could not marry you to my daughter even if you have a good private job." After that, my friend did his best to get a governmental job in order to satisfy his beloved's father, but his efforts went in vain because the government is even greedier than the father, requesting a large sum of money as a bribe to get his dreamy public job. In the end, my friend stands alone, unable to do anything, leaving the matter for destiny to solve in the future.

For those fathers, I wonder what kind of future should be built by a young man in order to be qualified enough for marriage. Should he become a rich man via any means? Or should he spend at least 28 years struggling and challenging life's ups and downs? If so, why is it that simple young men who never entered college get married and live their lives happily and peacefully?

Moreover, the young man may achieve his lofty dreams and fulfill the demands of those greedy fathers at the age of thirty, but what good is marriage in this old age after the flowery years

of youth have faded away?

Another sort of people see that the future isn't within any young man's hand but rather within the hands of God who prescribes the livelihood of every creature on earth. Such people don't see any relation between future building and the appropriate time for marriage. In other words, they evaluate the matter from the point of view of the Islamic religion. The Holy Qur'an urges Muslims to marry their unmarried young people, even if they are still poor, because their livelihood is within God's hand and He is the Lord who will enrich them after marriage. Marriage is the shield that protects young men from corruption, and it is also the solution that enables young people to avoid committing sins, enabling them to obey God in the way that He ordered them to do. Consequently, young people should get married as soon as possible, throwing away the lust for wealth in order not to be an easy prey for the temptations of today's world.

In the end we know that marriage is a strong social relationship that makes the young people of the society chaste and stable psychologically. It is good to think about the future before marriage, but it's better to think about what life is really all about, throwing away the lust for wealth and power which deprives us of our rights in this earthly life. Marriage is a crucial social issue which arouses a hot debate about determining the appropriate time, so the topic puts itself for the readers of youth page to express their own thoughts about the matter.

## Through The Mind's Eye

By: Maged Thabet Al-kholidy  
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## Obama's nuclear-free world

Recently there was breaking news in all the media forms. The news was Obama's call for a "Nuclear-free World." This was welcomed by many people all over the globe. Partly because the idea is still abstract, nobody knows how this new world will be. I also tried to think about it, but my mind could not create such a logical vision. I left my mind, and used my imagination, which is my only shelter in such complex matters. Through my imagination, I came up with many ideas.

The Nuclear-free World called for by Obama will enjoy peace. Of course, America will be the model in destroying its nuclear weapons and in giving up the development of any military nuclear program. Other countries will not hesitate to follow America in this historic procedure.

Obama, as it is said, is clever. Therefore, I expect him to make a radical change in the history of America so that he can achieve a radical change in the world as a whole. My expectation is that the name of America will be changed from the "United States of America" to the "Nuclear-free America." Such a change will shake the world, and consequently, each country will try to imitate America and become a nuclear-free country. But Obama must be careful about the time of his decision to change the name of his country, because if the other countries know this, all countries, especially the Arab countries, will immediately change their names too because they are already free from nuclear weapons.

These days, almost all the countries of the world do their best to buy weapons as a matter of protecting themselves from the other countries. America, which has been recently classified as the number one manufacturer of weapons in the world, will no longer sell such large quantities of weapons. Currently America is dominating the world, and because of this, every country is trying to acquire more and more weapons. The Nuclear-free America will no longer be a military threat to other countries. Subsequently, they will no longer need to buy such quantities of weapons. This, however, will affect the economy of America. Was this point considered by Obama?

As we all know, nuclear power can be used for both military purposes and peaceful purposes. Obama's call is not specific to military purposes or to peaceful purposes; possibly the call is aimed toward both of them. Since Obama's major concern is peace, he might have meant only the military purposes rather than the peaceful purposes. If this is true, this means he will leave a chance for some countries to develop their nuclear programs under the name of peaceful purposes, such as the generation of electricity. Again, countries like Iran will be accused for developing nuclear

programs. As a result, the world will not be as nuclear-free as Obama wants.

To make the world completely free from nuclear weapons, Obama has to end all nuclear programs, including ones intended for peaceful purposes. In this case, America will have to find an alternative to nuclear energy. Such an alternative, however, must also have only peaceful purposes and cannot be used for military purposes; otherwise, the same story of nuclear weaponry will be repeated with this alternative source of energy. The difference in this case will be that other countries will try to find alternatives, and the world will be nuclear-free.

I almost forgot. The situation will not be good for Yemen. President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced three years ago that the government will construct a nuclear station to produce electricity. This was the only solution to tackle the problem of the electricity shortage. Though the President's announcement was three years ago, the station has not been constructed yet, nor has the electricity problem been solved. The Nuclear-free World will cancel this project in Yemen. In this case, Yemen will need years and years to find an alternative. When it is found, there might be no electricity at all and there would be no more electrical machines in Yemen. This will bring about a crisis for Yemen. Obama must take this point into mind; otherwise, Yemen will be in even more darkness than it is today.

Though the topic of Yemen's electricity is very sensitive, I feel confident that the President will do anything to find a solution. The President is famous for mediation and tribal conciliation to run the country. I think the President has no better course to take in keeping the project of the nuclear electricity station except through mediation and tribal conciliation. I expect him to take a "bull" to the White House. The bull would be slaughtered at the gate of the White House to make Obama grant an exception for Yemen to continue its peaceful nuclear program. I think Obama will not refuse for two reasons. The first because of the "slaughtered bull," and the second because he believes and knows well that such a project will take tens of years. At that time, any potential nuclear weapon would be of no use in comparison with the modern technologies in the future.

That is enough to imagine. There is not enough space for me to write everything I came up with; otherwise, it would not be published, not because of the length, but because of the "crazy ideas" that my imagination may produce. I hope all of you take a moment to imagine, like me, how a nuclear-free world will be in the years to come.

Maged Thabet Al-Kholidy is a contributing opinions writer from Taiz. He holds a Master Degree of Arts in English and is the former editor of Taiz University's English language magazine.

## Man isn't born for bread alone

By: Hanan Al-Shibami  
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Allah the Almighty created all things such as the sun, the moon, mountains, birds, animals, and human beings. He created each of these with a divine mission and nothing is created in vain. Each one of these has its role in this universe and knows exactly why it exists.

Although man is just one of the many creations of God, he is the most important one and God prefers him to all His creatures. It is important to notice that His preference isn't only in shape, because there are animals that look similar to man, but the preference is in the mind that God gave to man to distinguish between good and evil and right and wrong. But this doesn't mean that man is perfect. It's true that

sometimes man can reach the level of angels by his noble deeds. However, he also can sink to the level of animals, depending on his achievements in this life. He is the same person, but he does different deeds. Therefore man has great purpose in this life.

Man is born for worshipping God alone. Allah said, "I created mankind and evil to worship me." So the first and foremost purpose of human being is to worship Him.

Undoubtedly, man is comprised of a soul and a body. The soul relates to the sky whereas the body relates to the earth, and each one of them needs a certain kind of food. The food for the body is bread and water, tangible things that nourish it. However, the food for the soul is the worship of God. The soul and the body are united; we can't live without either of them. It is true that both kinds of food are important to continue living, but from

my point of view the food for the soul is more important than the food for the body. If a man is given only the food of the body, he might live, but in fact he is a dead person. However, if man is given only the food for the soul, he may die a physical death, but he will live forever.

In addition to worshipping God, there is also another purpose to man's life that is sustaining and nourishing. Allah said, "Remember when your lord said to angel 'Verily I am going to place mankind generation after generation on earth.'" Allah selected man from all His creatures to place him on the earth and make all His creation serve him in order to apply His rules. This is the second purpose to man's life.

In addition to what is mentioned above, I want to shed light on two pictures of two different kinds of men and how they live their lives.

One of them is a man who lives for

eating, drinking, sleeping, and physical enjoyment. He doesn't have a noble purpose in his life. He is like an animal, but unfortunately animals are sometimes better than him in at least the animal knows the purpose of its life. He goes from this life as he comes, and there is no value in his existence.

The other man is a man who eats both kinds of foods. It is a wonderful picture. He knows the purpose of his life; he worships Allah, and helps to establish harmony on earth by applying Allah's rules.

He does his best without any expectation of reward because he knows that the real reward is not here but in the hereafter. He is like the sun that gives us its light everyday without taking anything.

To sum up, man is not born for bread alone. He is born to carry out Allah's wishes and to play an important role in this life.

## Violence against women

By: Mohammed Shujaa Al-Deen  
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Before addressing violence against women, I would like to talk about our Islamic religion which has taught and continues to teach us how to deal with women. Our great Islamic religion has served to protect woman. It invites us always to deal well with her and to reject violence against her in all its form. Islam is the main director for our behavior

and ethics, and teaches us to deal with the other in a good way.

A woman is an emotional entity, a sensitive and gentle creature, existing to be dealt with in mercy and gentleness.

Men should deal with her in good way because she is a source of safety and stability. She is a compassionate mother. She is the candle who lights up society and family life.

We hear of violence against women in the form of beating. But there are other kinds of violence. Women are

subjected to harsh words, for example, which aim to belittle her. Thus some men say to their wife, "You are an unsuccessful woman and don't deserve to be a wife. I regret the day we got married. You are unsuccessful mother." Needless to say, such words destroy her self-esteem and shake up her confidence, as only some of these words' negative impacts.

Some men think that their masculinity is threatened if they do not insult and humiliate women. They can also deprive a woman from her inheritance

as kind of punishment, in a new form of violence against her without any fear of God.

Where is what we were taught in Islam? Does this behavior agree with the religions principals that showed us how to deal with women, who represent half of our society? There would be no life without women, and we should appreciate women's role in daily life.

The Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) says: "Take good care of women."

## "Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly"

By: Rashad Almagrebi  
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Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly" is taken from the poem "Blow, Blow, thou winter wind" by William Shakespeare. Although it sounds vague, it carries profound meaning.

Love and friendship are the most important things in one's life. They are also the most dangerous things in life. Fake friendships are widespread nowadays. One can hardly know where a true friend is. You may trust a friend and consider him as a brother, but over the course of time, he turns into a snake that looks for chances to bite you and spread his killing poison in every part of your

body. He may eat with you and live with you, but when you are not there with him, he starts his poisonous actions. This kind of friendship has terrible consequences. When a friend discovers the reality, he will stop at nothing in taking revenge on that fake friend. Thus I surely say that friendship is just pretence. It is true that this rule cannot be generalized, but I am talking about the negative side of friendship.

Some friends can be more dangerous than enemies. Think, for instance, of your best friend, and write his name on a piece of paper. Remind yourself of all the things you have done with him and all your secrets that you have revealed to him. If after sometime this friend turned into a fake one, what will he do? He might reveal all your secrets and exploit all your weaknesses to achieve what he or she wants. Thus, he will be the most dangerous person in your life.

On the other hand, your enemy can-

not be as dangerous as your friend because you know him as an enemy and you try your best to avoid him. As a result, you are barely harmed by him. What your enemy can do to you over years, your friend can do easily in a matter of hours. That's why one has to be aware of such fake friends. You may wonder how you can know whether your friend is a good friend or a fake one. One can diagnose good friendship from many different angles. For instance, one can experience his true friends when he is in need of them because most of the fake ones disappear.

The second part of our topic is the foolish kind of love. I would like to be very frank with you; I am quite confused with the different connotations of the word 'love' nowadays. In the good old days, when everything was true and there was no place for "fake" values, love meant a noble sentiment that tied two persons together and made them

dream of being united for the rest of their lives. Their true feeling stimulated both of them to take responsible action towards the realization of their dream.

Without love, one cannot get the taste of life. One can live disabled but cannot live without love. Every one of us, with no exception, loves, regardless of the different kinds of love. But unfortunately some people have stained this word with their bad deeds. They use this word to do something immoral.

Let us take, for instance, the type of love that takes place among the youth of today. Some young people use technology negatively. They spend days and perhaps months looking for gullible girls. During this period, they raise the flag of love while it is, in reality, the flag of murder. A boy for example is using the internet looking for girls. He gets a girl after spending weeks surfing the internet. The innocent victim does not know that the wolf is waiting for her, so

she starts writing to him. They may fall in love with each other; as it is said, 'love at first letter,' similar to the concept of 'love at first sight.' Actually, this love might take place after they have exchanged hundreds of letters. The wolf swears to the victim that he is the most honest person in the world and that nobody is as honest as him. The victim crazily believes this. If they are from the same country, or perhaps from the same province, they can start shamelessly dating each other. As the wolf is wearing the mask of a human being, the victim believes in everything he says. So he starts addressing her as his future wife, and she addresses him as her dream knight. They keep on dating and exchanging romantic words. The fearful act is about to take place.

Most women are as gullible as our victim and that is why they are so easily tricked. The wolf asks his FUTURE WIFE for the forbidden thing. In the

outset, she refuses strongly, but in the course of time, she starts to wear down till she gives him what he was looking for. Meanwhile, the tragedy (amour) has taken place, and the only loser is the girl whom nobody will forgive. After he has finished his meal that he has been hunting for months, or perhaps for years, he disappears for good, leaving the victim crying. She has lost the most important thing in her life: her honor and her dignity. What is the reason behind this terrible tragedy? It is, of course, the fake love that most of the youth of today pretend to have. I would like to say that love can never be at first sight as some people claim. The aforementioned story is not fictional but is real, and it leads us to many similar stories which are taking place currently in our society.

So please be careful who you chose for your friends and for your love, because "most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly."



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طوارئ الكهرباء: ١٧٧، طوارئ الشرطة: ١٩٩،  
الإطفاء: ١٩١، طوارئ المياه: ١٧١،  
الإسعافات: ١١٨، حوادث المرور: ١٩٤،  
الشرطة الخارجية: ٧٠٤٤٠٧، الشؤون الداخلية: ١/٧،  
الجمهورية: ٢٥٠٧١٢، وزارة المواصلات (تلفون): ٧٥٢٢٢٠٢،  
الإذاعة: ١٨٢٠٦٦، التلفزيون: ١/٧، ٣٢٢٠٠،  
مؤسسة الباصات للنقل داخل المدن: ٣٢٢١١١/٣،  
وزارة المواصلات: ١/٧، ٢٢٥١١٠٠، السياح: ٢٤٠٠٣٢،  
الصلب الأحمر: ٢٠٣١٢/٣، تعين: ٧٥٢٢٢٢٧

**مستشفيات**

مستشفى الثورة ت: ٠١/٤٢٩١٦٧-٦٦  
مستشفى الجمهوري ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٢٨٣/٨٧  
مستشفى حده الأهلي ت: ٠١-٤٢٣٨٨  
مستشفى الامني الحديث ت: ٠١-٦٠٠٠٠٠/٦٠٠٠٠٠  
مستشفى الامني الحديث ت: ٤٢١٨٦٦  
E-mail: felixpene@hotmail.com

**بنوك**

بنك اليمن والتلج ت: ٢٦٠٨٢٤ فاكس: ٢٦٠٨٢٤  
فرع عدن ت: ٢٧٢٨٤٠٠ فاكس: ٢٧٢٨٤٠٠  
بنك التضامن الإسلامي ت: ١/٧١١١١١  
البنك التجاري ت: ٧٧٧٢٤٤ فاكس: ٧٧٧٢٤٤  
مصرف اليمن البحرين الشامل ت: ٢٦٤٧٧٠٣٢٤٧٠٣  
فاكس: ٢٦٤٧٠٣٢٤٧٠٣

بنك اليمن الدولي ت: ٠١-٤٠٧٠٣  
البنك العربي ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٥٨٥/٣  
بنك التسليف الزراعي ت: ٠١-٥٣٢٨١٣  
البنك المركزي ت: ٠١-٢٧٤٣٢٤

**فنادق**

فندق فرساي ت: ٠١-٤٢٥٩٧٠/٧٠/٢  
فندق شيراتون ت: ٠١-٢٣٧٥٠٠  
فندق موفيك ت: ٠١-٤٤٦٦٦٦  
فندق سيا ت: ٠١-٢٧٢٣٧٢  
فندق ريلكس ان ت: ٠١-٤٤٩٨٧١  
فندق واجحة الخليج السياحي ت: ٠١-٦٠٣٢٥٥ - ٦٠٣٢٥٥/٨

**عقارات**

للإيجار (لأجانب فقط): فيلا في الأصبحي، ٣ أنوار  
الإيجار: ١٢٠٠ نولار - كما وتوجد فيلا دور وديوم ب  
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للتواصل: ٧٣٤٣٧٩٨٠

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لسيارتين - الموقع: حده  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٦٩٩٧٩١ - ٧١١٥٠٦٠٠

للبيع: أرض مساحة ٢٤ لينة في منطقة حده (صنعا)

**مكاتب ترجمة**

الشهاب للخدمات الترجمة (عربي - إنجليزي/إنجليزي - عربي)  
تلفون: ٧٧٧٧٢٢٠٢ - ٧٧٧٧٢٢٠٢ فاكس: ٧٧٧٧٢٢٠٢  
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**تأجير سيارات**

زاوية (Budget) ت: ٢٠٩٦١٨٠٠-٢٠٩٦٢٧٢ فاكس: ٢٤٠٩٥٨  
ديوب كار ت: ٢٧٠٧٥١ فاكس: ٢٧٠٨٠٤  
ميرتول لتأجير السيارات صنعا ت: ٠١-٤٤٠٣٠٩  
فرع شيراتون ت: ٥٤٥٨٥٠  
عدن ت: ٢٠-٢٤٥٦٢٥

**شركات للتأمين**

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مركز للتأمين صنعا ت: ٢٠-١١١٩٨/٨/١٣  
الشركة اليمنية الإسلامية للتأمين وإعادة التأمين  
صنعا ت: ٢٤٤٣٨٠  
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تعز ت: ٢٤٤٣٨٠

شركة اليمن للتأمين صنعا ت: ٢٧٧٧٣٢/٢٧٧٧٣٢  
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تعز ت: ٢٤٤٣٨٠

**مراكز تدريب وتعليم الكمبيوتر**

أبك لتعليم الكمبيوتر (تركيز على الإنترنت، مناهج، تجارة  
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تعز ت: ٤٠-٢٥٠٣٤٢  
الكلتا ت: ٠٥-٢٠٧٤٢٧

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**مدارس**

مدرسة رينيو ت: ٤٤٤-٤٤٢/٤٤٤-٤٤٢  
مدارس صنعا الدولية ت: ٢٧٠١٩١/٢ فاكس: ٢٧٠١٩٣  
مدرسة التركيبة الدولية ت: ٤٤٨٢٥/٩  
مدرسة الماجد اليمنية ت: ٢٠٦١٥٩

**البريد السريع**

صنعا ت: ٤٤٠١٧٠/٧٧  
الحدية ت: ٢٩٩٨٢  
إب ت: ٤١٩٨٨٨  
المكلا ت: ٣٠٣٢٤١  
شبه ت: ٢٠٣٣٦٦  
سبيلون ت: ٤٠٠٢٤٦٩

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**مبصرات**

النسيم للسفرات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠  
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٨/٦٠

**مطاعم**

مطعم وخيازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)  
تلفون: ٢٦٦٢٧٥ - ٥٠٢٢٠٠ - ٤٤١١٥٨/٦٠

**مبصرات**

النسيم للسفرات ت: ٢٧٠٧٥٠  
العالمية للسفرات والسياحة ت: ٤٤١١٥٨/٦٠

**مطاعم**

مطعم وخيازة الشيباني (باسم محمد عبده الشيباني)  
تلفون: ٢٦٦٢٧٥ - ٥٠٢٢٠٠ - ٤٤١١٥٨/٦٠

خبرة عامة في تقنية المعلومات، أرغب في العمل في  
مجال التخصص.  
للتواصل: ٧٧٧٢٤١١٥

• عبد الملك عبدالواحد، بكالوريوس في العلوم  
الجيولوجية تخصص مياه وبتروك، يجيد التعامل  
مع معظم البرامج والأجهزة الجيولوجية كما يجيد  
التعامل مع الحاسوب بالإضافة إلى مستوى جيد في  
اللغة الإنجليزية، يبحث عن عمل في شركة نظمية  
داخل الوطن أو خارجه للتواصل: ٧٧٧٩٤٩٦١٤ /  
٧٣٥٦٤٦٥٢

• ديوم مهني بعد الإعدادية تخصص مساحه وطرقات،  
ديوم تقني بعد الثانوية مساحه وطرقات، إجازة العمل  
على جميع الأجهزة المساحية، التعامل مع برامج  
الرسم على الحاسب، خبرة في مجال نفس العمل.  
للتواصل: ٧٧١٩٢٢٠٨٨

• سيف عبدالله عبده سيف العريقي، حاصل على  
ديوم عالي تحكم ميكانيك، المعهد التقني الألماني،  
ديوم صيانة كمبيوتر لمدة ستة أشهر من معهد القدس  
للكمبيوتر واللغات، خبرة عمل تسعة أشهر في مصنع  
الإسفنج والبلاستيك - تعز - الحويان، خبرة في  
تشغيل آلة (تتراياك) ثمانية أشهر، عملت في ورشة  
لحام لمدة خمس سنوات - لدي رخصة قيادة سيارة،  
مبتدأ في اللغة الإنجليزية.  
للتواصل: ٧٣٢٢٩٠٧٢٨ / ٤٢١١٥٧٩

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# Yemenia organizes a visit to Lebanon to honor its top agents in Yemen

The Yemen Airways honored its top agents in Yemen for the year 2008 through organizing a field visit to Lebanon for six days. During this period, agents got to know about Lebanese cities, tourist locations and archeological sites. During the visit, Yemenia held an evening party during which the top agents in Yemen and Lebanon for the year 2008 were honored. In addition, the Yemenia ideal employees were honored in Lebanon. Shields and cer-

tificates of recognition were distributed among the awarded agents and employees.

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Muhiaddin Al Dhebbi, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Nada Al-Sarduk, General Manager of Tourism Authority in Lebanon, Mr. Faisal Abu Rass, Yemen's Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Melhem Karam, Director of the Journalists and Editors in Lebanon, Mr. Mohammed Yusuf Baidhon, Ex-minister and Member of the Parliament, Mr. Khair Allah Khair

Allah, the well-known writer, Othman Al-Qubati, Representative of the Yemen Airways and deputy general manager of the trade affairs, Abdulla Qassem, manager of sales administration, Ahmed Ahmed Al-Haddi, manager of revenues administration, Mohammed Al-Arashi, director of the Yemen region, Fuad Abdurabbu, director of the Middle-East and Africa region, Saddam Al-Jayfi, manager of public relations, Alawi Al-Seba'ei, manager of Lebanon region, a number of members of the embassy, journalists

and media people as well as those who are concerned with the field of travel and tourism. Mr. Fahd Al-Ariqi, manager of Sana'a administration who is also the organizer and coordinator of the journey, delivered a word in which he welcomed the attendees and thanked the topper agents of 2008 in Yemen and Lebanon for their efforts and accomplishments in raising the level of sales. He demanded them to raise revenues, exert more efforts, and withstand with their national company, Yemen Airways, under the increasing competition of the other companies. He further requested the official activities that attended the party to translate the political initiatives of leaderships of the two countries through activating tourism and visits and removing obstacles to facilitate entry of citizens of the two countries in Yemen and Lebanon. Following that, Yemenia organized a training field visit for employees of the Yemen region to Lebanon during which they recognized activities of the Middle East Airways and the Beirut International Airport.



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## German cruise ships continue to visit Hodeida

By: Hussein Tanam  
For The Yemen Times

Tourism continues to be an important source of national income for Yemen and, despite security issues, foreigners continue to flock to the country eager to explore all that the historical country has to offer.

Since the beginning of 2009, about four cruise ships have arrived in the port of Hodeida to visit the historical sites of the city, including Al-Metraq, Bab Moshrif, and the fish market. Many spend a day in the ancient town of Zabid, a mere two-hour drive away

from Hodeida. The Yemeni guides they travel with double up as security.

Last March, a cruise ship called Astor sailed arrived in Hodeida waving the Bahamas' flag, with 451 German passengers on board. Their stopover in Yemen was organized by the Abu Talib tour group located in Sana'a.

Although eager to start exploring, the tourists spent the first night resting after their journey to Yemeni shores. The following morning buses were waiting to take them to explore the city.

Drivers noisily compete for the tourists' attention. A two-way trip costs USD 5 per head, and the tour includes a visit to the fish market and the souq in the city center. Each driver is responsi-

ble for bringing back the same tourists he left with, according to the port's security system.

Other trips are offered to Manakha. In the mountains of Sana'a, they visit the traditional village of Al-Hegira, where ancient artifacts and manuscripts have been found. Just recently a Dutch cruise ship carrying 135 tourists also visited Manakha, according to Mohammed Abulghani, the tour agent of Abo Talib Tour Group.

Near the ship, a small post office has beautiful postcards of Yemeni landscape, exotic fruit and people on display. Tourists buy these cards to send home to their relatives as well as to keep for themselves.

Their tour originally started in Dubai, from where they sailed to Oman and on to Yemen to visit Hodeida and Sana'a. From Yemen, the ship will sail on to Aqaba, Jordan. The package costs about US 3,000 dollars, according to Brian Dove, the cruise liner's agent.

Rudolph, a German tourist from the cruise ship, said that it was his second time to visit Yemen and Hodeida: "The Yemeni people are friendly and helpful, and I would not hesitate to come back to Yemen."

Tanja Guaffer, 25, a nurse, and her girlfriend Heidi Siebold, 3, a spa manager, both working on a ship called Amadea, agreed that Yemen is a very friendly country.

"Yemen is not dangerous; nobody has to fear the Yemenis. It is just a different culture," said Guaffer who had already visited Yemen once before.

"People in the south are very safe, but there are a few problems in the north," said another staff member from the ship. "But the Yemenis are very friendly: Yemen is one of my favorite places to visit, and the capital Sana'a is breathtaking."

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# Education

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

No. 38

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## Foreign Language Learning in Ibb University A new horizon



Dr. Mahmoud Al-Maqtari  
Head, Department of English  
College of Arts  
Ibb University

Foreign language education in Yemen is one of the highest national priorities. Hence, language education, particularly English

education, has been increasing dramatically over the past few years. This phenomenon is not confined only to the private sector but extends also to the public sector. The public universities are steadily increasing in different governorates. New universities would mean new colleges and new departments of English or French and so on. Moreover, the awareness that foreign language education is a prerequisite nowadays has led the authorities to think of opening centers for languages in big universities like Sana'a, Aden and Taiz. Ibb University recently joined the train by opening its own Center of Languages which, one hopes, will give a push not only to English education but also to that

of other languages, particularly those of the emerging new nations.

Establishing a Language Center in Ibb University is a well-merited response to the felt awareness that language learning is necessary to equip learners with the different language skills so that they can compete in the job market where proficiency in English and may be in other languages is an essential imperative. It is also an indication that the officials concerned have begun to address the real needs of the potential employers and those of the changing job market. There seems to be a highly conscious accent for investment in higher education, which lies at the heart of the contemporary higher education in the

modern world.

This new Language Center is expected to train learners in different areas including foreign languages. Though English will take the lion's share, yet it is not the only one. New languages such as Chinese and German are being planned to be introduced for the first time in Yemen. For this project to succeed and bear fruit there must be full support to establish the Center on a strong foundation. Advertising for the project is part of this support. Moreover, a good contact with the embassies and other foreign establishments concerned with the teaching of these languages will mean more support and therefore a welcome beginning.

## Human and machine translation



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In the last few years, a new discipline in the field of translation studies has emerged which is known as Machine Translation. This mechanism has come to fill

the void existing due to the small number of good and acknowledged translators. It is an advantageous way of translation in that it saves both time and money; a large quantity of articles and documents can easily be translated in a short time at a low cost.

The fact that machine translation is carried out by machines does not mean that humans are totally absent from the process of translation. In fact, humans undeniably play the most important part in the translation process. So any attempt to replace Human Translation totally by machine translation would certainly end in failure for the simple reason that there is no machine translation that is capable of interpretation as human translators can accomplish.

Continued on page 3

### I. What to Say

Situations and Expressions (104):  
Money and monetary transactions (V)

In all ages, a man without money has been likened to, "a bow without an arrow" (Thomas Fuller). Money is truly, "ace of trumps." However, the real wisdom lies in spending it prudently. C. H. Spurgeon is right when he says, "A fool may make money, but it needs a wise man to spend it."

**Corporation tax:** Companies pay this tax on their profits

**Tax rebate:** Money you should be given back if you pay too much tax

**Overdraft:** If you spend more than you have in your account you can have an overdraft.

**In the red:** You have taken more out of your account than you had in it.

**In the black:** You are in credit. That is, you have some money in your account.

**Inflation:** Rise in prices brought about when too much money chases too few goods.

**Deflation:** Take action to reduce the amount of money in circulation in order to lower or keep steady the prices of saleable goods

### II. How to Say it Correctly

Correct grammatical or idiomatic errors, if any, in the following sentences

- On a rainy day like this, I prefer to be at home to going out meeting friends.
- Having been inspired into writing poems by his mother, he is writing consistently good poems over the last five years.
- Do you know one of my best friends Shahid has won a scholarship to study abroad?
- As a gesture of kindness the Director agreed to ignore the past records while giving him promotion.
- Nowadays we find artificial fibers made in India are superior than similar ones made in foreign countries.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Neither my friends nor the manager is planning to ask for a raise in salary.  
*Note:* When you have two subjects joined by either 'or' or 'nor' then the verb you use is determined by the subject that comes after 'or' or 'nor'. In the above sentence 'Manager' is singular, so the verb that follows it should be singular as well.
- Among us three brothers, I am younger than Mujib but older than Majeed.
- His eyes caught sight of a heap of letters which were lying on the table.
- Had he told me earlier, I could have lent him the money to save him from disgrace.
- With such talented players in tennis to compete with, he had hardly any chance of winning or '.... he had no chances of winning.'

### II. Increase Your Word Power

(A) How to express it in one word

- All persons born about the same time
- Nobility of mind, greatness of heart
- Science dealing with heredity
- Very great and exceptional capacity of the mind or imagination
- Extermination of a race or community by mass murder

## Improve Your English: 327

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Test of how a representative sample of people think about something as a means of making a forecast: **Gallup poll** (n)
- Member of a gang of criminals: **gangster** (n)
- Military force stationed in a town or fort: **garrison** (n)
- Talking too much about unimportant things: **garrulous** (adj)
- Showing family descent: **genealogical** (adj)

(B) Words often confused

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

- haggle, higggle, hassle
- dispense, dispense with
- comment, commentate
- quote, cite
- short, sort

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- wound** (v) (past tense and past participle of the verb 'wind' meaning to turn or twist): He wound his wrist watch.  
**wounded** (v) (past tense and past participle of the verb 'wound' meaning to hurt): Several passengers were wounded in the car accident.
- metal** (n) (an opaque, elementary substance): Gold is a precious metal.  
**mettle** (n) (temperament, spirit, courage): He was put on his mettle in the recent election.
- job** (n) (any definite piece of work): My friend has at last been able to find a satisfactory job.
- position** (n) (a more permanent engagement or appointment): He is working on a very high position in the company.
- immeasurable** (adj) (used more in a figurative sense of being too big or vast or important): The principle of love and brotherhood will do immeasurable good to the humanity.  
**unmeasurable** (adj) (often used in a more literal or physical sense for both small or big things): Viruses are so small that they are unmeasurable.
- beautiful** (adj) (implies a certain degree of softness and so not used for men): Anyone would be charmed by her beautiful eyes.  
**handsome** (adj) (applies to the beauty of men. It applies to moral conduct also): 'Handsome is that handsome does.'  
**pretty** (adj) (applied to external beauty on a small scale, something attractive without being beautiful or magnificent): She looks pretty today.

(ii) Antonyms

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

- The patient looked **cheerful** when he was discharged from the hospital.  
a. stupid b. energetic  
c. dull d. depressed
- A crowd **gathered** to see the roadside play.  
a. disappeared b. spread  
c. dispersed d. collected
- She got a **provisional** admission to the course.  
a. permanent b. lasting  
c. abiding d. unconditional
- In the ancient age people believed that the earth is **stationary**.  
a. standing b. shunting  
c. speeding d. moving
- Such a mischievous act should never be **condoned**.  
a. forbidden b. disliked  
c. condemned d. disparaged

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

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

- They feel that we should be fully aware of our own **environment**.  
a. nationality b. heredity  
c. nature d. surroundings
- Everyone was listening to the news of earthquake with mounting **anxiety**.  
a. curiosity b. grief  
c. uneasiness d. eagerness
- Firaz **neglected** to remit the fees in time and therefore had to pay a fine.  
a. refused b. failed  
c. promised d. exempted
- All the characters in the novel are **fictitious**.  
a. unbelievable b. unreliable  
c. infamous d. unreal
- We didn't believe in his statement, but **subsequent** events proved that he was right.  
a. later b. many  
c. few d. earlier

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word         | Synonym                       |
|--------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. pantheism | belief in worship of all gods |
| 2. out-go    | expenditure                   |
| 3. show-biz  | public entertainment business |
| 4. shrew     | bad-tempered, scolding woman  |
| 5. honorary  | unpaid                        |

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a. forbidden b. disliked  
c. condemned d. disparaged

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word          | Antonym   |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. distinct   | similar   |
| 2. forbidding | handsome  |
| 3. dejected   | elated    |
| 4. trivial    | important |
| 5. lavish     | frugal    |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. allegory b. alegory  
c. alligory d. allegary
- a. aliance b. alliance  
c. allience d. allians
- a. aliterason b. aliteration  
c. alliteration d. aliterashun
- a. alokeit b. allocate  
c. allokeit d. alocate
- a. allot b. allott  
c. alot d. allott

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- album 2. alchemy 3. alcohol 4. alien 5. align

(E) Phrases and idioms

Use the following in sentences of your own

- be in with the bricks
- need one's head-examined
- playing the fool
- blow the whistle on (someone)
- look a gift horse in the mouth

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- give (someone) the willies** (to make someone feel nervous and afraid): The Manager's angry looks gave him the willies.
- put (something) on the back burner** (to set something aside in order to attend to it later): Our plans to buy a new house has been put on the back burner for the moment.
- go at it hammer and tongs** (to have a fierce argument): The college environment was tense when two rival group leaders went at it hammer and tongs about who will win the election.
- have a fighting chance to** (have a chance of success if great effort is made): If you work hard, you have a fighting chance to get the top position.
- have a memory like a sieve** (to be very forgetful): Neha forgets about important commitments as she is known to have a memory like a sieve.

### IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Give advice using you'd better (not) for these situations

- Your friend has had too much to eat already.
- Your colleague is falling asleep during an important meeting.
- You don't want your friend to tell your parents what you have done.
- Your husband/wife seems very run down and

tired.

- Your son/daughter has some important exams in a few week's time.
- You don't want your daughter to forget her passport when she goes abroad.
- Your friend is driving too quickly on a wet road.
- The fuel gauge on your friend's car indicates empty.
- Your brother's hair is too long and he has an interview next week.
- Your friend is catching a flight at 6.00 and it's 5 O'clock now.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Amitabh Bachhan has **acted** as an angry young man in some of the best Hindi films.
- At the end of the film I saw the other day, there's a wonderful **scene** where the young girl finds the rest of her family.
- The **plot** is so complicated that you need to see the film twice to understand what happens.
- Before television became popular, people had to go out to the **theater** if they wanted to see a film.
- The disadvantage of watching films on TV is the small size of the **screen**.

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

145: A MOMENT'S THINKING IS AN HOUR IN WORDS

144: DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE A BIG STEP WHEN ONE IS INDICATED. YOU CAN'T CROSS A CHASM IN TWO SMALL STEPS.

Chasm is a very deep crack or opening in the surface of the earth or ice. Two small steps are not enough to cross it. What one needs is a huge leap. 'Chasm' here is a metaphor which means a wild misfortune or a formidable problem. In the face of calamity, we should not be crippled by weakness like a coward, but have an abundance of patience, fortitude, courage and self-trust to take a bold step and surmount the apparently insurmountable odds. As Plautus puts it: "Courage in danger is half the battle." In the face of a terrible challenge we should not relent, waver, procrastinate or sit in a protected corner, but be prepared to take the plunge. We have to muster up all our strength – moral, spiritual and physical – pull all our resources, draw upon our inner reserve of strength and energy so as to brave the hazard. The challenge of the moment must be met at any cost. So, like a man of action we should rise to the occasion and prove our mettle so as to boldly and successfully face the adversity. Without danger we cannot get beyond danger. Difficulties strengthens the mind, as labor does to the body, says Seneca. The greater the obstacle, the more glory we have in overcoming it.

V. Pearls from the Holy Quran

"But those who do wrong but repent thereafter and (truly) believe, - verily thy Lord is thereafter oft-forgiving, Most Merciful."

—S7:A153

VI. Words of Wisdom

"It is better to live rich than to die rich."

—Samuel Johnson



## ELT Panorama

## Acquisition of English vocabulary



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When learning a foreign language, one of the most difficult objectives to accomplish is vocabulary building. All learners of English know that words they come across in a reading text are not necessarily remembered and recalled when needed for spoken or written expression. Studies show that the learner has to encounter a word at least 14 times before it enters long-term memory. This is why the learner should expend more effort to remember lexical items than what he/she does with grammar, for instance. Actually, the learners of English in Yemen face this difficulty during reading textbooks, listening to lecturers and radio programs, watching English movies or TV in English, speaking with tourists and native speakers of the language.

As a matter of fact, no one can

achieve optimal proficiency in a foreign language in a short period of exposure to it. No one can memorize all the English words even in a year. The learner needs two things: time and effort. Here in this article I want to suggest some strategies to learn vocabulary efficiently in English or any other language.

Using notebooks is a very good method to collect new vocabulary. The learner writes down the difficult vocabulary in his/her notebook, sometimes with some explanations, synonyms, antonyms, definition, drawings, pictures, etc. Then he/she reads them and uses them in sentences in a variety of contexts.

The second strategy, the student should read articles and stories to improve reading comprehension. Don't try to know the mother tongue equivalent of every word. Getting the general meaning of the paragraph or the text is enough. Taking new words and expressions out of the context of an article is actually one of the best ways to remember vocabulary because you can use the word list as a memory aid to reconstruct the text. The separate words are part of the bigger story, and we all find it easier to remember stories than word lists. Try not to disturb your reading by checking up the new words in the dictionary. You can use the dictionary after finishing your reading. Moving on, as you read a text, mark new or interesting words and expressions, and continue reading. For understanding the paragraph's main idea

you do not have to know every word.

As words have different meanings in different contexts, do not just copy words in isolation but use the full phrases as used in the source, for example the verb 'take' has many meanings that go beyond its basic denotation. We can see the following:

Take up = start

Take off = the plane soared to the sky

Take on a new teacher = to employ a new teacher

The learner can learn the words in sets (group words), for instance, colours, clothes, diseases, drugs, buildings, insects, animals, plants, metals, etc.

The student of a foreign language is supposed to know the derivations of the word, called the 'branch word', i.e. the infinitive form of verbs, the third person singular, the first person singular, the second person; then the noun of the verb; then the adjective; and the adverb. Sometimes we can see two different nouns for the same word, such as 'vaccine' and 'vaccination' are two nouns for the verb *vaccinate*; we also can see 'immunity' and 'immunization' for the verb 'immunize'. Furthermore, the same word can be a verb and a noun at the same time, for instance 'hurt, fish, water, can, ride, taste, ...'. The meanings can be understood through the sentences. *I fish the fish. I taste the food, and its taste is good. We must water the plants, because water is life.*

Here the words 'fish, taste and water'

can be nouns and verbs according to their place in the sentences. In the funny sentence *I can can the can, but the can can not can me.* The word 'can' is used as a modal verb, a main verb, and a noun.

Besides, words can be learned with prepositions. The same word has different meanings when it is followed by different prepositions. *This car is made in Japan. This car is made of metal.* The meaning of the two verbs 'made in' and 'made of' are different because of the different prepositions.

In addition, knowledge of prefixes and suffixes and word roots (often Latin and Greek roots) will help you both decipher and memorize a word, as you analyze the word into its constituent elements (prefix, prefix, root, suffix, suffix).

A key factor contributing to the success of language learners is creativity and imagination. You can yourself start thinking a little bit about how you remember the words you study in English. These strategies derive from different learning styles people use. Learning styles open new channels to learning. Mastering the grammar of the language is not enough to master the language. In the long run, it is your level of vocabulary and how you use it in your writing, which determines how well you are at English. Whether you need English for personal, academic, or business purposes, always use any opportunity to acquire more and more words.

A letter to the learners of English: 20  
Be careful about your English!

Every one wants to speak English well; whenever I asked my learners of English what they wanted to learn in English. They always said it was spoken English, they were so much in love with spoken English, though they didn't understand that it was the most difficult skill to learn and moreover they didn't have many opportunities to speak with others in English. Yet their love for spoken English is undying.

One way to learn spoken English is to practice speaking English with someone you have trust in such as your friend and classmates. There is no short cut at all. You should also learn to avoid mistakes which are common in the use of English of people around us. In this letter, I am providing a few examples of common mistakes in the use of English. Try to identify the mistakes in each excerpt and avoid it in your use of English:

Excerpt 1\*

It was very hot in the afternoon when the teacher entered and tried to switch the fan on but there was some problem. Then she said 'why is fan not oning' (ing form of on).

Excerpt 2

Our class teacher once said 'pick up the paper and fall in the dustbin!'

Excerpt 3

"shhh... quiet... the principal is revolving around college" someone said.

Excerpt 4

"I'll illustrate what I have in my mind" said the professor and erased the board.

Excerpt 5

Our chemistry HOD comes and tells us... 'My aim is to study my son and marry my daughter'.

Excerpt 6

'Why are you looking at the monkeys outside when I am in the class?!" shouted the teacher angrily.

Excerpt 7

Our computer lab assistant said this when my friend wrote the wrong code... 'I understand. You understand. Computer how understand?'

**The earth tolerates those who dig it; you do so with your critics. (Kural)**

(\* these excerpts are a part of a forwarded mail from a friend of mine in India) In these episodes, you could have noticed that the speakers have either used the wrong words in the wrong places or used the expressions wrongly in situations, may be because of the influence of the mother tongue. This has resulted in mistakes, most of which create laughter. Avoid them in your use of English, will you?

## Sharing Experience

If seeing is believing, experiencing is realizing. So what one could realize would be a valuable lesson that could be shared with those who wish to. Here, I simply share my teaching experience which has been gained both in India and abroad.

It is well known that English, in schools and colleges of India, has been taught as a second language and the same, is taught in Republic of Yemen and Libya as a foreign language. In fact, it is the Arabic language that influences (mother tongue interference) the learners and they take it as a challenge to study English. The improvement is slow



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but steady. They concentrate and never leave until they understand the concept clearly.

In Hodeidah University where I happened to teach I had enough satisfaction of having taught the students of Faculty of Arts and Education. As part of teaching practice I went to a school. The help students need from the teacher is drill and confidence which goes a long way to ensure learning. Of course each teacher is born with a gift of his own teaching techniques.

In Garyounis University of Libya (Africa) also English is taught as a foreign language. The students are almost

similar to the students of Yemen and the Italian influence could be seen here and there in their daily conversation. As pointed out, the Arabic influence makes learning little slow but it is not a deterrent factor. The drills in pronunciation, stress, intonation are all learnt with all avidity besides study of grammar and literature.

To conclude, English that the students learn is well received and the interest the learners evince is encouraging in Yemen and Libya. So teachers with real dedication can not only derive satisfaction but get nice experience of transferring the foreign language skills to them

Shakespeare's Macbeth:  
A challenge to the metaphysics of anthropocentric presence (Part 4)

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Rosse and the Old Man obviously point out to the ecological balance that is disturbed and as a result "threatening" the scene in which "the travelling lamp" is the sun, which is "strangled" or killed by the darkness "as troubled with man's act". Shakespeare's *Macbeth* furnishes a vision that is profounder than the anthropocentric conception "releasing a vision of the sacredness and miracle of the created world, the ecosystem upon which mankind wholly depends". Shakespeare's *Macbeth* questions about the proper role of the human beings in the cosmic scheme of things emphasizing the ethical propriety of the individual action.

The question of value is linked with the propriety of the individual action of the doer because of his hubristic pride which he considers "outside of and superior to the natural world". Throughout the play it is expressed through such binary oppositions as: lost/won, foul/fair, black/white,

night/day, kill/heal, hide/know, good/bad, friends/foes, heaven/hell, holily/foully, done/undone, welcome/unwelcome, darkness/light which reflect a register of difference pointing to a larger scheme of things which are beyond the human-centered theory of value. In biocentric terms Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's actions are unjustifiable (Lady Macbeth's character is not discussed separately in this paper because I agree with Sigmund Freud (1916:137) when he says that they are "like two disunited parts of a single psychological individuality..."). In biological terms Scotland, the living place must be purged:

Meet we the medicine of the sickly weal;  
And with him pour we, in country purge,  
Each drop of us. (Act V, Scene II ll. 26-28)

It is as if "they" are medicine going to be poured into the country to cure it. This image of cure for an illness is continued in the succeeding lines with the use of the words: *pour, purge, drop*, in the process of cleansing the country which is a living entity. The image of healing continues in the following speech of Lennox in the same Act and Scene:

Or so much as it needs  
To dew the sovereign flower and  
drown the weeds.  
Make we our march towards

Birnam. (ll. 29-31)

With dew, and water they hope to make grow the new king of Scotland, Malcolm, the "sovereign flower" (In Modern English we speak of a "sovereign remedy") and "drown the weeds", Macbeth and his followers (see *New Swan Shakespeare* notes on page 204). Macbeth, the "untitled tyrant" as Macduff calls him, in his madness has caused the sickness of the country. Here the political crisis is linked with the ecological disturbance in the state as Malcolm speaks of its plight in Act IV, Scene iii - "It weeps, it bleeds; and each new day a gash/Is added to her wounds" (ll.39-40). The normalcy in Nature will be restored after "Nature here is torn into fragments" by the witches "symbolizing the nauseous violation" (Long 1989: 13) of the ecological order "even till destruction sicken". With the symbolism of the returning spring, renewal of nature was evoked by the "sacred-magical advance of the forest's 'leavy screens'. Here is what Northrop Frye calls Shakespeare's "green world" emerges... to repossess a human house fallen into sickness" (Ibid: 13).

Locations and terrains are never accidental matters in *Macbeth* (Ibid. 16). In the very Act I, Scene i of the play we meet the three witches who are planning to meet Macbeth "In thunder, lightning or in rain?" "Upon the heath". They introduce the present confusion and point to the confusion that is going to come. His meeting

with the "weird sisters", the "instruments of darkness" is instrumental in instigating him on the path of the "bloody business" with the "every possible resonance of the verb 'to do' with the repetitions of "Do", "Did", "done", and the cognate noun "deed". In this connection it has been rightly remarked that they "carry the play's cogent exploration of what it is to be a separate, acting individual rather than an unperturbed particle of social acquiescence or the breath of nature's quiet" (Ibid: 32).

His separation from others and even from his wife, after the murder of the king, as a result like the sailor described by the witches he shall sleep "neither night nor day", "He shall live a man forbid". For he chooses the path of violence and destruction causing "breach in nature" with his bloody acts of tyrannical intentions. In Act III Scene i, at Forres, in a room in the palace he feels "cabined, cribbed, confined bound in/To saucy doubts and fears (ll.23-24) and realizes the barrenness and fruitlessness of his "deed". The "hurlyburly" of the heath has entered the room of Macbeth's castle at Inverness "with great news" of Duncan's arrival. Act I Scene vi unfolds the complexities of man and his environment with the images of paradisiacal bliss and procreation.

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## ANY GUESSES?

1. What is the meaning of 'full of beans'?
2. What does a 'nit-picker' mean?
3. How to use 'upstage'?
4. What is 'lingua franca'?
5. What is the meaning of 'plethora'?

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

1. Both 'administer' and 'administrate' are correct. *Administrate* was used in Britain as early as the 17th century. 'Administrate' is not used as frequently as 'administer.' *Administrate* is increasingly used in business correspondence.
2. A lot of people use 'waste' and 'wastage' as if they were synonymous. They have different meanings. 'Waste' means 'rubbish', 'useless excess material.' Example: *These are the waste products.* It is a waste of precious time and energy. 'Wastage' means 'amount that is wasted.' It also means 'loss by use, wear or leakage.' *Wastage is the result of natural causes.* When a person is told that he has wasted something, there is tone of criticism. 'Waste' implies moral censure. 'Wastage' has no such moral undertones.
3. 'Early' and 'early on' do not mean the same. 'Early on' means 'soon after the start of a past event.' It refers to 'an early point or stage in a process or course of event. Example: *Early on, his father told him that he would be a poet.* 'Early' means 'before the appropriate time.' Example: *He gets up early.*
4. 'Clue someone in' is an informal expression. When you clue someone in on something 'you inform someone of something.' Example: *The President's chief advisor clued him in on what was happening in the rebel camps.*
5. 'Bomb along' means 'to move very fast (usually in a vehicle in the specified direction. Example: *He bombed along the highway at 100 miles per hour.*



# English language teaching in Yemen



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This brief study is an attempt to highlight some of the negative aspects and problems in teaching and learning of English in the Yemeni EFL situation. English is the most dominant language in the world. It is the world language used as a means of international communication. Arab people need English to communicate with the native speakers of English and also they need English to have access to different fields like books, business, politics, education...etc. English is the language of medicine; mass communication, computer and industry. So there is a great need for learning English. Nowadays, there is a strong motivation for learning English.

English is taught in all governmental and private institutions as a compulsory subject. Though English is taught from the seventh grade up to the end of the secondary stage, Yemeni students complete their secondary education

with but a poor level of English. The majority of the students are not able to write or speak some correct sentences or even to introduce themselves to someone else. Furthermore many graduates with bachelors' degree do not have the ability to use English fluently. If we discuss the reasons, we find that there are many problems and difficulties that affect teaching and learning of English in Yemen, especially in schools. For example, English course-books are given to the students too late at the end of the first term especially in rural areas. The duration of the course is very short which makes it difficult to enable good teachers handle all activities, tasks and achieve the expected objectives. The methods of teaching and learning English used by teachers are still unsatisfactory. This is because of the lack of good planning and suitable methods. This could be observed in the classroom. For instance, in the English classes teachers rarely use English. Some teachers work in the class as word-translators. They spend the 40 minutes period in translating the English words into the mother-tongue. Some other English teachers work as grammar-teachers while the students listen passively to the teachers, copying what's written on the black board without any interaction evoked either by them or by the teacher.

In this sense, English teachers need prequalification and training on how to teach a foreign language and think of appropriate methods that fit the students' level and styles of learning to

encourage them learn actively. Teaching is not only teaching grammar, vocabulary or as some do summarizing the English pupil's books (synonyms, antonyms, rules) in the form of a small handout. It is said that language is practice, so learning a language involves constant practice of different skills (speaking, writing, reading, and listening). These four skills are the basic elements in learning a language.

Unfortunately in Yemen, speaking and listening skills are almost absent in teaching English in schools or universities. In neither of the institutions, are students motivated and encouraged to use and practice English in natural situations or be involved in problem-solving exercises, dialogue, games... etc.

One of the problems is related to the learners themselves who are not interested in English classes. The majority of students think only of passing the exam. Their focus is on how to memorize some grammar rules. This may reflect teacher's ways of teaching and testing. There are many reasons contributing to these problems which create passive learning. First of all the system of teaching should be modified and developed into more appropriate, interactive methods. Some say that the reason for this passive learning is the students' dislike of English. Here a question may be raised, why do the students dislike English? The basic premise here is that English in Yemen should be taught as a language of communication.

It is the teachers' prime responsibility to create and simulate the students'

creativity by engaging them in many language games, activities, puzzles and competitions. Students should be motivated and encouraged. Good and hard working students should be rewarded. Teachers should try to create and evoke the students' interest and love for the language, and teach them that learning English in Yemen is very important for their future development, building up their knowledge, and improving communicative relations with the external world's culture, experience... etc.

Regrettably, in Yemen English has no official status for being taught as a compulsory subject. Teachers do not try to encourage the students, build up their confidence and ensure their enjoyment in what they are doing. Teacher-dominated classrooms cannot by their nature be interactive classrooms. This is what language teachers need to learn. They need new ideas to refresh their mind and revitalize their teaching, considering that exchange is the basic unit of interaction. Interaction can be two-way, three-way, four-way not only one. 'Interactive language teaching means elicitation of willing students' participation and initiative. It requires a high degree of indirect leadership along with emotional maturity, perceptiveness and sensitivity to the feeling of others. When a teacher demonstrates such qualities, students lose their fear and embarrassment and are willing to try to express themselves'.

It can be noticed that the Crescent English courses (course and workbooks) for Yemen, that is taught in the

Yemeni public schools are found useful for teaching and learning in Yemeni situations. The CECY materials for the preparatory and secondary schools contain cassettes for each class with the listening materials (cassettes are not accompanied with the books in public schools). The materials include jobs in Yemen, facts about a few foreign countries and tourism and future prospects of Yemen. Students feel familiar with such activities. Besides there are many communicative games. The syllabus the CECY follows is a combination of functional and structural components. So the problem may not be with the materials but with the system of teaching.

Psychology plays a very crucial role in influencing the teacher's performance. Teachers receive about 200\$ a month of which 100\$ goes for rent and utilities, 40\$ goes for transportation, and 50\$ for food, clothes, and other things. This meagre salary does not help them at all. Many teachers have to look for part-time jobs. Consequently, they remain frequently absent from their schools.

Moreover, there is a lot of difference between teaching English in private institutions and public ones. Students who study in the private English language institutions usually graduate with proficiency in English, while students in public institutions graduate with a poor level in English, the reason being that private institutions teach English following an interactive and communicative methodology. The

course books are provided with class cassettes, the classrooms are also provided with recorders, maps. There are no crowded classrooms (no more than 20 students in the class). Students are encouraged and given a chance to practice speaking, listening reading and writing skills through many games, and activities inside and outside the classrooms. But public institutions do not apply such techniques. There are no cassettes, no recorders. Classes are overcrowded with more than 100 students in the class forbidding any meaningful interaction.

Regarding this, many international conferences for English language teaching development have been held in Yemen but little visible change and development has come into practice. For there is no cooperation among the stakeholders.

To conclude, teachers should be taken care of and trained well, and given good salaries. Methods of teaching and English textbooks should be continually developed and reviewed to cope with the great developments taking place around us.

Interactive and communicative teaching is very important for using a language. All those problems result in spoiling teaching and learning not only English but other subjects. Thus teaching a language is a theoretical as well as practical process. Effective language teaching materials and classrooms procedures depend on principles deriving from an understanding of what language is and how it is used and taught.

## Training workshops for English language teachers



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It is heartening to note that the Ministry of Education is doing its best to improve the quality of teaching learning in Yemen. One of the current strategies being adopted is to offer educational training workshops for all teachers around Yemen in urban and rural areas in order to equip teachers professionally for achieving teaching/ learning objectives. As a key official in charge of these training workshops said "Teachers are the foundation stones for building up well-educated and patriotic citizens who are the architects of tomorrow." He added "All trainees are supported with all required gadgets such as sheets, data show, computers, books ...etc to make teaching more effective and to help them carry out their duties in schools."

English is taught as a foreign language in Yemen and is taught as a main language in schools. Therefore, training workshops are held regularly for all teachers of English in primary and secondary schools to help teachers overcome the difficulties and obstacles that they encounter during their teaching.

The training workshops start with a discussion about the importance of English, how teachers can creatively

shape the way they teach English and how to improve classroom practices. I summarize below the most important topics covered in the workshop.

### Using contextualized language

It's the meaningful use of language for communicative purposes. It helps students to construct language in a given context by involving them in interactive activities, language games and dramatization or presentations, keeping in view the fact that in today's world, there is a growing need to learn how to use language appropriately in context. So English language teachers treat language as an integrated communication system and use that system as a "context" to facilitate their students' learning.

### Building language awareness

It is concerned with focusing on techniques for helping learners become aware of language forms as they practice language in context. It aims to stimulate students' interest and curiosity about language and ask questions about language in order to develop understanding of and knowledge about language in general. This objective is achieved by giving them interesting topics to talk about and problems to be solved.

### Integrating skills

We notice that most school students concentrate on just one skill i.e. writing. They memorize some grammatical rules and vomit them on exam paper. However, the long-term goal of successful language learners is to achieve communicative competence – the ability to communicate in a target language for meaningful purposes. That requires an efficient use of language skills in social interaction together with sub-skills such as pro-



Deliberations in the training workshop.

nunciation, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, analysis...etc that contribute to success in the use of the primary skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. In cooperative learning, students work together in groups to describe a picture, complete a task or create a product. Working in pairs or groups helps students to share information and save time. It encourages them to think and talk. It helps them to build self-confidence and motivates them to make the lesson more interesting.

### Managing large classes

The huge number of students in the class is the main problem that most teachers are confronted with. When there are more than seventy students in each class especially in cities, teachers are handicapped to use a lot of activities resulting in students' getting little opportunity for actual language production and practice. To avoid this problem or at least to reduce its magnitude, teachers need a set of effective pedagogical techniques and classroom

management practices to maximize the amount of students learning in large classes. Teachers may give diagnostic tests at the beginning in order to discover each student's strengths and needs. They may design purposeful activities that keep learners involved in the tasks. There is usually a possibility for negative behaviors on the part of students. In such situations teachers should try and be proactive (plan ahead) rather than reactive (try to fix problems after they occur).

### Using authentic materials

Teachers in schools don't use audiovisual aids during their teaching although these aids have the potential

to attract the students' attention. There are different kinds of materials that are easy to get, such as realia (objects), printed texts (books, newspapers), images (photographs, posters) and multimedia materials (audio tapes, CD, computer-based programs). For authentic materials to be effective, teachers must learn how to choose them and how to use them for activities.

### Individual learner differences

Individual differences should be taken into consideration during teaching. So teachers can vary teaching approaches and techniques to facilitate learning for a wide variety of students by using

a wide variety of different tasks and activities that focus on the integration of language skills.

### Peer observation

This kind of observation is useful especially for fresh teachers who have graduated from college recently. There are two kinds of observation: *formative observation* through which teachers observe each other to improve their teaching, to help them develop professionally and get more experience. *Summative observation* is used to evaluate teachers for an administrative purpose such as salary, promotion... etc. So both have developmental and judgmental purposes.

When I asked Ms Laila, a trainer, about teachers' abilities to achieve their goals, she said "After this workshop, most teachers will do their job well and I hope they will apply the techniques they have learned." Teacher Marwan, a trainee, said "The course was useful and interesting. I got knowledge of new teaching styles and techniques as well as new interactive activities. Most importantly, I shared my experience with other teachers and made new relations." He added "The course was great. The trainers were skilful and interesting, and the programme was well-supported and successful."

Such training workshops are useful and effective for improving the teaching/learning of English in Yemen.

## Why should teachers be big mouthed? Teaching intelligence



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Intelligence of the teacher plays a very crucial role not only in the field of building up his personal qualifications but also in widening the room for more meaningful learning. Thus, those who are most concerned to

educate are supposed to have multiple abilities that can be appropriately utilized.

Intelligence of the teacher is activated not only when he follows a pre-planned pattern of teaching but also when he uses his mind in creating and responding to new ways that suit the situations in the classroom.

Beginner teachers always care for what they do as their background about the lesson is fresh. In addition, they become more conscious of the patterns of teaching behavior as that develops periodically.

Conversely, over routinized behavior creates a kind of clash between the teacher and the learner. A static teacher creates a static atmosphere leading to static minds of

learners. Thus, teaching should have certain degree of routine but it should not be overroutinized. Sometimes a pattern of routine is given to a group just for learning to become flexible.

Teaching intelligence is concerned with augmenting what the teacher possesses in terms of creative skills and abilities. They help the teacher not only to be in control of the class but also in caring for the recurrent responses, pits and moments. That is to say, a part of the teacher performance is conscious in so far as it is pre-planned, but a large section of it is semi-conscious. It is made by his deep insight into the situation and his response to the feedback coming from the class as well.

## SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

- Why do we hear roaring when a sea shell is placed near the ear?  
 It's a psychological phenomenon  
 Sound of sea roaring is actually produced by the insect inside the shell  
 Due to multicurved inner surface it produces multireflections producing vibrations resembling sea roar.

- Which is the genetic material in human beings?  
 RNA  
 Nucleic acid  
 DNA  
 None of these

3. The most abundant polymer present on our planet is

- rubber  
 wood  
 PCV  
 Mud

4. Fission process is a

- Chemical reaction  
 Nuclear reaction  
 Mass reaction  
 Thermonuclear reaction

5. The immediate environment of organism is called

- Microclimate  
 Atmosphere  
 Macroclimate  
 Biome

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Human body can easily withstand a blood-loss of 1/2 liter
- A total set of producer-consumer and feeding relationship in an ecosystem is known as **food web**.
- The swinging period of a girl swinging in a sitting position **will now be shorter if she stands on the string**.
- The chemical composition of Milk of Magnesia is **Mg(OH)<sub>2</sub>** in water.
- The law governing the force between electrical charges is given by the name **Laplace**.

## Continued from page 1

### Human and machine translation

Indeed, it is only the human translator who is capable of interpreting certain cultural components that may exist in the source text and that cannot be translated in equivalent terms into the language of the target text.

One of the most difficult tasks in the act of translation is how to keep the same effect left by the source language text in the target language

text. The automatic translation has often proved its limitations when compared with a human translation. Only the human translator is in a position to understand the different cultural, linguistic and semantic factors reflected in the source language text which can be retained in the target language text.

To sum up, the emergence of

Machine Translation is not at the expense of human translation because the latter proves to be capable of translating not only by means of substituting words for words, like Machine Translation, but also in terms of respecting linguistic, semantic, and more importantly cultural differences between languages.



# A glance at the early American literature



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The early American literature began with the myths, legends, and songs of Indian culture. There was no written literature during this time. Perhaps the first documented written literature is the historical literature in journals recounting the exploration of early settlers of the United States.

Topics of the early American writings were prompted by discussions of

religion. John Winthrop wrote a journal discussing the religious foundations of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The War of 1812 prompted an increasing desire to produce unique American work. From this emerged a number of key literary figures, including Edgar Allan Poe, Washington Irving, and James Fenimore Cooper.

In 1836, Ralph Waldo Emerson published a shocking nonfiction work called *Nature*. In it, he claimed it was possible to do away with organized religion and reach that spiritual state by studying and responding to the natural world. Emerson's friend was Henry David Thoreau. Thoreau was a nonconformist. After living alone for two years in a cabin by a wooded pond, Thoreau wrote *Walden*, a memoir that urges resistance to organized society.

Mark Twain was the first major American writer to be born away from the East Coast—in the state of

Missouri. His masterpieces were the memoir *Life on the Mississippi* and the novel *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Twain's literary style was direct, highly evocative, and irreverently funny. Mark Twain's literature changed the way Americans write. John Steinbeck was born in Salinas, California, which set the scene for many of his stories. Steinbeck wrote about poor, working-class people and their struggle to lead a decent life. *The Grapes of Wrath*, considered his masterpiece, is a novel that tells the story of a family's journey to California.

At universities across the United States, students entering a class in American literature will find that their curricula include books that are stunningly diverse. Future American writers will write of a new experience. New American literature will chronicle the experiences of different ethnic groups and immigrants who make up the United States.

# Thesaurus or dictionary?



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English language learners need to use different tools, one of which is a Thesaurus. It is the tool that provides lists of words that have similar meanings. For instance, an entry for the word "happy" might have listings for synonyms like "joyful," "giddy," or "gleeful." Even though many people trying to learn English purchase a thesaurus, they rarely use it to its full potential. Unfortunately, doing so denies you a number of opportunities to improve your English language skills and vocabulary.

Becoming a natural sounding

English speaker means using more than simple words in conversations. On the other hand, using high-sounding words that aren't used in conversational language by native English speakers won't help you either. A thesaurus can help you find the right words for every occasion. In addition, if you take note of the words that native speakers use regularly, you may be able to form a pattern of varying synonyms that makes your vocabulary seem more natural.

In many cases, you'll know when a word or phrase isn't correct. However, you may be unable to formulate a response that conveys your meaning using natural sounding English. This happens to ESL speakers most often when using irregular verbs and verb tenses. If you're having trouble coming up with a response, look up the word you want to use in a thesaurus and you may find a common equivalent that follows the rules and makes sense. As you develop more of these workarounds, you'll be able to observe how others use the English language and, eventually, become a more fluent speaker yourself.

Regardless of how many years you've been speaking English or how advanced your language skills are, you

may always have an accent. Even though there are many dialects of English, you may feel self-conscious about pronouncing certain words in front of groups. By looking through a thesaurus, you may be able to find words similar to the ones that you have difficulty verbalizing and that you can use instead.

As you become more advanced in your English language practice, you can take sentences and try adding new words from a thesaurus. This will help you practice everything from verb tenses to creating a specific style of expression. As you read the new sentence, you'll gain new insights into possible meanings and see how sentences need to be changed to accommodate different words. This will help you identify stylistic differences as well as subtle changes in meaning. You may even find that you can improve your grammar skills much more quickly this way.

If you are trying to learn English, you'll probably use the dictionary more than a thesaurus. While a dictionary is a valuable tool, it won't do as much to help you learn a broad range of words that have similar meanings as a thesaurus will. Once you begin working with a thesaurus, you'll find that you can convey your meanings more accurately and better distinguish the more subtle elements of the English language.

**Spoken and written abbreviations**  
Modern age is the time of shortcuts. As a dutiful servant, language does serve its people to take on the changes of the time. With the advent of the multitude technological advancements, newly introduced mediums of writing involve a lot of abbreviations. People today abbreviate words when they textualize a message (sms) or an email. They also shorten words and phrases when they speak. This has become the fancy of modern English users particularly adults and hackers. Here is a handy guide to some of the most common written and spoken abbreviations.

**Speaking abbreviations**  
gonna = is / am going to (do something) e.g. "I'm gonna call him now."  
wanna = want to, e.g. "I wanna speak to you."  
gotta = has / have got to (or have got) , e.g. "I gotta go!"  
innit = isn't it, e.g. "It's cold, innit?"  
ain't = isn't / haven't / hasn't, e.g. "He ain't finished yet.", or "I ain't seen him today."  
ya = you, e.g. "Do ya now what I mean?"  
lemme = let me, e.g. "Lemme see ... tomorrow's a good time."  
whadd'ya = what do you ..., e.g. "Whadd'ya mean, you don't want to watch the game?"  
dunno = don't / doesn't know, e.g. "I dunno. Whadd'ya think?"  
dida= did you, e.g. did you see that?  
Askm = ask him, e.g. ask him a question  
Teller = tell her, e.g. tell her that  
Whatsr = what is her... , e.g. what's her name?  
Doesi = does he ..., e.g. does he know it?

**Text messaging abbreviations**  
2 = to / two  
4 = for / four  
8 = ate  
U = you  
C = see  
B = be  
msg = message  
pls = please  
cld = could  
gd = good  
vgd = very good  
abt = about  
ths = this  
asap = as soon as possible  
tks = thanks  
txt = text  
LOL = lots of love / laugh out loud  
CU L8r = see you later  
Now, can you make head or tail of these texts?  
• U cld askm 2 c if he cld b at home at 8.  
• Didya cim?  
• Plz, c my txt.  
• Tk 4 & 8 pens 4 u.

# Time and tide waits for none



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Imagine that this is the last moment of your life, how are you going to spend it and what are the priorities that you will achieve first? For sure, you will make a perfect use of it. Likewise, you should spend your entire time. You should not leave a minute to go without any benefit. And you should also remember that there is no going back. There is no drawing against the "tomorrow". You must

live in the present on today's deposits. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success! The clock is running. Make the most of today. Time is more precious than gold.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time... and remember that time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift, that's why it's called the present.

Everybody knows the clock, but almost nobody has thought of getting benefits of its work. The clock is always ticking. It struggles and never stops until its battery gets low. Even when its battery is low, it does not stop suddenly but goes on working until the last second of its life. Human beings should follow the same path and never surrender. We take such fantastic and valuable lessons not only from the clock but from other things as well. The tiny creature of the

ant is a great example to everybody. The ants do not waste their time but work day and night hunting for food everywhere. Even if they have enough food for a year or years, they keep on working, never wasting a second of their time.

Parallel to this, in our life we never realize that we have lots to do. Between every big task we can always find enough time to fit in a plethora of smaller tasks. If you are waiting for a bus or a train at the station, you can always read a magazine or rather chalk out your study timetable for exams. While traveling in the bus too one can find enough time to at least skim through the previous days' notes.

Be like the clock. Always keep on ticking by involving yourself in various things and learning new things. These small knowledge and experience modules will perhaps one day take you to greater heights. They say "Time and Tide waits for no man". If so, now stop staring at the screen and utilize your time effectively!

# YOUTH FORUM

## Exam phobia

A phobia is the fancy name for a fear. It is normal for students to be afraid of exams. Before the examination, students suspend their activities. They also cancel their picnic schedules and postpone visiting their relatives and friends. They are busy with their books and handouts. They go on reading while sipping a cup of tea or coffee or chewing qat (in Yemen). They go on revising while lying down in their beds. They discuss questions; talk about books and dream about answers.

The exam fever touches the highest point on the night before the examination. One gets disturbed sleep. Students get up early in the morning and pray to Allah to bless them so as to pass the exam successfully. In front of the examination hall, one feels that everything has drained out of his brain. A friend

says, "This question is sure to be set." Another says, "Have you prepared these questions?" The student feels disturbed and desperately turns the pages of notes or books. He/she tries to hurriedly swim his eyes over the answers.

As soon as he/she takes his seat in the examination hall, he/she prays to Allah and revises the questions. If the question paper is difficult, glasses of water are ordered. An easy question paper may make the choice of questions difficult. As he/she settles down to answering the questions, he/she might feel that most of what he/she had learned has evaporated from his brain.

Even after the examination, the phobia still haunts the students. He/she tells his friend, "I was a bit confused" or "I could not do justice to some of the questions." He/she counts his marks daily

and thinks that he would get a second class. He/she remains in this type of suspense till the Judgment Day arrives. He/she tries to find his roll number on the list. This moment is very critical and troublesome because failure would invite taunting remarks of the friends and relatives. Even if he/she gets through he/she may be heard saying, "There is something wrong with the examiner. Perhaps my answer sheets were replaced by those of weak students."

At the end, I want to say that exam phobia is, in fact, a painful experience for each and every student, so students should try and get rid of this kind of fear.

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## Cheating: Causes and cure

Among the most serious problems in the educational sector, cheating comes at the top. Cheating is an attempt by the students to get high marks they do not deserve. It has so many forms; such as, looking at another student's answer book, writing something on hand, having written pieces of papers, etc. The reasons behind this phenomenon are many, but the teacher is the most important factor contributing to this phenomenon.

If a student is not well prepared, he tries to get marks illegally. However, the teacher should make sure that the students have understood the lessons in order to prevent cheating. Memorizing, either short sentences and paragraphs or just words, may constitute a problem to those who cannot learn by heart.

However, there is a very vital strategy to deal with this problem by ensuring that understanding is the real learning. Therefore, the teacher can encourage the students not to memorize mechanically, but to understand and reproduce the same meaning in their own words. Fear and anxiety make the student forget a thing memorized, but the teacher can calm the students before the exam and enable them to feel confident and believe in their abilities. Another reason that makes the students cheat is caring too much for the marks. The student who does not care for how much he has learnt does not make learning his first priority. Rather, his only concern becomes the marks. As a result, he tries to get marks illegally regardless of his bad perform-

ance. One of the teacher's jobs is to make the students feel the need for the language and their performance but not the marks. Additionally, problems at home, an emergent visit of a relative and wasting time on playing make the student unable to prepare for the exam and therefore resort to cheating. Still the teacher has to make students study lesson by lesson daily.

To conclude, if we understand the problem, there is no problem. That is to say, the teacher should be open-minded and patient in order to help students stop cheating and overcome any problem that may hinder their progress.

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## Abode of love

Days've never gone  
Without thinking of you.  
I do dote on you  
Life becomes vibrant  
By the rhythmic memory of you  
Yet, you have never known  
And you won't learn  
You are everywhere,  
Everyday, every night with me...  
You'll die when I die

But I won't!  
While you are inside me.  
One thing that I wish,  
Never be parted from me.

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Dept of English,  
Faculty of Education  
University of Science and  
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Sana'a

## Why do we watch the clock?

People always hurry up before the time is over, but they do not mind the quality of the task at all. I have seen many people, teachers being one of them, who try to finish their work regardless of the quality of the work itself. So, teachers are supposed to reach the target well before time rather than wait for the deadline.

When the teacher focuses his mind on doing his job competently, he will get the result of his sincerity. Of course, the teacher has to see that he feels a sense of self-satisfaction about his job. In fact, no country can progress if people are careless about how to invest the time properly. For example, the Japanese are in the forefront of industrial countries only by virtue of hard work. Thus, we must be aware of the value of time as it brings success and excellence.

"Time is money but work quality is wealth," reminds us of the importance of work. It tells us that we can not achieve progress if we neglect our career prospects. Therefore, there must be some respect for our performance rather than an unnecessary sensitivity about time as to how early we can escape from work, because if this happens we will be misfit and un-called for in our workplace.

In conclusion, paying a proper attention to build up our career saves time, serves the needs and facilitates the task itself. In addition, we learn about how working attentively gives us satisfaction.

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## Lessons from the first semester exam

Dear students,  
By this time, you are sure to have seen your results of the first semester of this year. You may also realize that the students can be classified into four categories: some students have failed, some have just passed, some have passed successfully and some others have reached the top, while those who were expected to be in the top did not.

Actually, no attention is paid to the first three categories. Rather, students, pay more attention to the last. For example, they wonder how that could happen as if it was a miracle. It is commonly believed that the first rank is only stuck on those who had already got it in the first level. The students wrongly think that no one can improve his / her skills and perform better than those who were on the top in the previous semesters. In other words, the students find it hard to overcome the fixed image through which they are always treated.

On the other hand, the students who lost the top position held by them, feel depressed and keep silent, implying that

such results are a piece of luck predetermined by fate and destiny. However, there are some students whose hopes were wrecked accuse those who got the first rank that they have gratified their teachers in order to get high marks. They are professionals in cheating, and are not worthy of their rank.

To the students who say such things, I'd like to ask these questions:

- Is it an election or study? If it is study, why are you prejudiced?
- Is the first rank fixed to certain people and do the results violate the law of fixed image?
- Don't you have the same mind of your classmate or ...?
- Can they get 'excellent' grade without knowledge or hard work?

I think, whatever your impression is, if you answer my questions honestly, you'll never ever say such words again.

As a matter of fact, reaching to the top is neither so difficult nor so easy. It needs strong will power, motivation, hard work and desire to fulfill your dreams. You'll probably encounter some difficulties on

your way to the top. You'll defeat them gradually if you really want to have a rest on the top. But always staying on the top is the problem for all.

To conclude, my advice to students who have failed or got less marks is: Let nothing frustrate you from trying to succeed in life. Consider this result as an alarm that gives you a strong motivation to work hard and compensate it in the next semester. Congratulations to all the students who have passed successfully. A special and BIG congratulations to our talented students who got the first rank. It's really from the depth of my heart, wishing you all the best in your academic career and your whole life.

Remember; "Life has many ups and downs"  
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# READERS WRITE

**Respected Dr Sahu,**  
I had the pleasure of going through Yemen Times (March 02, 2009) and the Educational Supplement - presented by you. It was a superb compilation and kindly accept my heartfelt compliments.  
With Best Regards,

Dhiman Gupta  
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**Dear Dr Sahu,**  
Words won't be enough to thank you and your efforts to help Yemeni students. This education page has helped a lot of students to get rid of so many difficulties in their study. All the students were extremely happy when they heard your plan of publishing these lessons in a complete book, so please tell us your progress in this.  
Rashad Almagrebi  
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**Dear Prof. Sahu,**  
I feel a sense of thrill and excitement when I write an article, particularly when I intend to send it to you.  
Thank you so much.

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