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Inside:



5
Tribal conflicts cause political, social and economic loss



8
A day with Brigadier Ali Mohamed Naji, Director of Military Hospital



10
Saga of Yemen coffee

EDUCATION
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Situation in Sa'ada likely to erupt Government-Houthi relations remain tense

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam

Sana'a, March 1 — The security situation in Sa'ada remains tense according to tribal sources, despite official statements to the contrary.

"Citizens are increasingly worried as the government has not upheld its side of the agreement signed between the president and the Houthis, particularly in releasing 1,200 Houthi detainees from security prisons," said the sources. "In addition, military and security leaders in the governorate insist on re-stationing troops in areas that the government had agreed to withdraw from."

War may break out between the army and Houthis at any moment, said the same sources. "The situation is also tense between Houthi supporters and tribes loyal to the government, particularly as some centers of powers aim to escalate the situation into tribal revenges and turmoil."

Local sources in Sa'ada confirmed that clashes took place between armed Houthi supporters and security forces in the Ghamr district located west of

Sa'ada city. Despite the use of light and medium weapons, said the sources, the clashes didn't result in any victims on either side.

They said clashes took place after soldiers prevented an armed group of Houthi supporters from entering Ghamr for fear that the group resume clashes with the Wald A'amir tribe that lost two men in bloody confrontations with Houthis last week.

On the political level, Houthi political officer Saleh Habra commented on the attention that the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) paid to the Sa'ada issue in their held last February 22.

"People of Sa'ada value the JMP and the supreme committee of the national dialogue for their role, is considered to be a victory for the Sa'ada issue and unity of the Yemeni society," said Habra in a statement to media outlets. "The JMP adopting this issue results from their care to maintain the security and stability of the country as well as their

faithful will for the nation."

"The JMP's support of the Sa'ada issue has made people in Sa'ada feel that they are not alone and that the JMP and all honest people of the country are concerned about their issue," he said.

"The symposium assured people of Sa'ada that peace and stability are approaching Sa'ada and other governorates. The Yemeni people of the country rely a lot on the JMP to deal with crises, wars and the failed policy of the ruling party. Dominance and unilateral critical decisions are no longer accepted."

In the same context, Yahya Al-Houthi, a Member of Parliament who currently lives in Germany, questioned the utility of postponing parliamentary elections based on agreement between the ruling party and the JMP last week.

In a statement published early this

week on Houthi website, Al-Houthi said, "The opposition gave the ruling party the opportunity to rule for two more years. The JMP benefited nothing from this suspension except promises that we all know to be no more than ink on paper."

He said that the result of the dialogue between the ruling party and the JMP is too far from the political reform "as the corrupt government was given two more years to play with the country and interests of the people. This result is too far from the aspirations of the Yemeni people in establishing a sound political system that represents all groups and works to achieve peace, justice, equality and a decent life."

Traffic held up at Yemeni-Saudi border

In a new case of security tension, local

sources in Sa'ada said that armed elements believed to belong to Sheikh Ahmed Mohammed Maqet of the Baqem district in Sa'ada had blocked the Elb crossing on the border with Saudi Arabia and prevented people and trucks from passing through.

Al-Ishteraki.net reported that hundreds of vehicles and trucks were still at a standstill on the either side of the Saudi-Yemeni border since early morning on Saturday. The Elb crossing is one of the main border points between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, in addition to the Al-Buqa'a crossing.

The same sources said that Maqet, leader of the Baqem sheikhs, demands the Yemeni and Saudi governments to allow his tribesmen to enter Saudi Arabia for work without being under control Saudi controlling sponsors. He

said that Yemeni citizens in Saudi Arabia are subjected to insults by Saudi sponsors, although the latter receive money from Yemenis.

He said that the Saudi government should be committed to enabling his tribesmen to work in Saudi Arabia, based on an agreement between Imam Yahya and King Abdul Aziz signed in 1936. In addition, he said that his grandfather "signed an agreement with Aal Saud family to allow Yemeni tribes on the Yemeni-Saudi border, including Baqem and Munabbah tribes, to work on Saudi soil without official residency or paying money to their

Sources said that supporters of Sheikh Maqet demand the Yemeni government fulfill its promises made during Sa'ada war, including recruiting 200 Baqem tribesmen into the Yemeni army.

Residents relieved as security cordon around U.S. Embassy retracted

By: Almigdad Mojalli

SANA'A, March 1 — The Ministry of the Interior has reduced the security cordon surrounding the US embassy in the Sa'wan area of Sana'a since Feb. 21. The reduction came after complaints and rallies by the citizens living in the neighborhood in protest at the protected area around the embassy being extended to a diameter of around 800 meters around the embassy.

Local leaders of the area explain that the retraction of the security cordon is due to the government's control on security in Sana'a generally as well as citizens protests at their daily live was disrupted by tight security measures.

Hostility against U.S. Embassy personnel had increased as a consequence of the security measures which were until recently hindering local residents' businesses and movement. The embassy had to resort to fixing special transport for the staff from a distant

roundabout into the embassy to help local staff avoid walking through the streets and face the wrath of angry citizens.

The U.S. Embassy public relations officer, Ryan Gliha, refused to comment on the issue: "I'm sorry, but the Embassy does not comment publicly on its security arrangements," he said.

Following the reduction of security measures in the area, residents expressed their relief and extended their thanks to the Ministry of Interior. Salesmen have reopened their shops, inhabitants can now walk to and from their homes at ease, and students are no longer late in school.

"We suffered a lot along the past period, although we knew that the security cordons were saving the reputation of Yemen and protecting the U.S. embassy whose security we are responsible for," said Nasser Al-A'awaj, Sa'wan resident.

Mohammed Al-Ja'dabi said that his

two sons didn't go to the school for three days and arrived late on many other days because public transport was not allowed into the neighborhood. Now they are able to arrive at school on time.

Ahmed Al-Shar'abi, a grocery owner, said that he lost at least YR 20,000 during the security cordon period.

"The security of the zone in general and the U.S. Embassy in particular is not the duty of the government only but it is our duty as well but the security of others shouldn't contradict with

the interest of the citizens," Al-Shar'abi explained. "I lost at least YR 20,000 last month."

Public transport drivers expressed their happiness and gratitude to the Ministry of Interior for responding to their demands.

"In my opinion, we were the most disturbed by the security cordons because we had to make huge detours to reach Sa'wan," explained minibus driver Mohammed Melhani. "Many bus drivers stopped working because passenger fees didn't cover the costs of fuel, oil and maintenance."

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Mismanagement aggravates water crisis in Lahj

By: Khaled Al-Hilaly

LAHJ, March 1— Increasing water shortages in the Lahj governorate have led to increasing complaints from residents, especially in the capital district of Al-Hawtah, as well as Al-Qabitah and Radfan.

Al-Hawtah residents attacked the building of the Lahj Local Water Supply and Sanitation Corporations (WSSLC) two weeks ago in protest at the lack of water supply. They threatened employees working there and damaged water pipes, demanding a solution to the current “unfair” water distribution policy.

“The solutions they provide are not durable,” said Sanad Shihab, resident in Al-Hawtah. “They gave water to some neighborhoods at the expense of others.”

“Some people are left without water for extended periods, sometimes up to three weeks. They are compelled to buy water from water trucks at YR 1,500 to YR 2,000 [a water tank], or go to farm wells to bring water to their homes,” he added.

Water authorities in Lahj are complaining about the reaction of some residents towards water shortage. They believe that residents do not understand the full extent of the problem, rather contribute to it. Both individual pumps set up on main water distribu-



Flood irrigation aggravates the water crisis.

tion networks and the millennium-old old flood irrigation further aggravate the problem.

“Water is distributed between the eastern and western parts of Al-Hawtah on alternate days,” said Nabil

Saleh, deputy manager of WSSLC in Lahj. “The central water reservoir has a storage capacity of 1,200 cubic meters, but it lasts only for three hours because some people randomly use electrical water pumps to bring more

water to their homes, which affects water distribution.”

Wajdi Saeed, who also lives in Al-Hawtah, complained that water pipes stay dry for days and only few can afford to buy water from trucks:

“Water shortage makes life difficult. At this moment in my home there is no more than twenty liters of water. Every 48 hours, the pipes supply water to our home, but it only last for four hours.”

In Al-Hawtah, there are six wells currently providing water for the district but water in these wells is diminishing by the day because of the decreasing rainfall since 2003.

Up to 5,000 households depend on governmental water distribution in the district of Al-Hawtah, which has a population of 45,000 people.

The water crisis has arisen due to scarce rainfall and mismanagement of water resources. Because the district’s water pipes are old and have not been replaced since 1979, the rate of wasted water is very high.

Although there are about 3,500 wells that extract groundwater from Lahj’s Tuban basin, the popular use of traditional flood irrigation methods wastes water, according to Mansoor Haz’a, IT manager of the WSSLC in Lahj.

“In recent years, the water level has dropped in wells from 30 to 60 meters deep, and their productivity has decreased too,” he said.

In January 2009, a USD 13 million project was launched to dig ten new wells in Al-Hawtah to improve the water and sanitation network in Al-Hawtah. Ten million dollars were

loaned from the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), US 2 million dollar from the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID) and US 1 million dollar from the Yemeni government.

In rural areas, dozens of water projects have been implemented all over the 15 districts of the governorate in the recent years. About 41 projects are planned to be established in Lahj for the year 2009, according to the General Authority for Rural Water Supply Projects (GARWSP).

Radfan and Al-Qabitah are the most affected areas of the water crisis in Lahj governorate, according to Anwar Al-Marfadi, head of the GARWSP in Lahj and Aden.

“Al-Qabitah is a mountainous area and there are rainwater harvesting projects but this year rains were not enough,” he said. “To help people overcome this crisis there is an urgent project to provide the two areas via water trucks from areas where they have enough water. The project is in progress and, as soon as the contract is signed, two water trucks will be given to Radfan area and three to Al-Qabitah.”

“We are working to find a radical solution for the crisis,” he added. “We have a future plan to provide these areas with water via pipes from other areas where water is available.”

Police detains man illegally, prosecution helpless

By: Ali Saeed

SANA’A , March 2 — Yahia Abdullah Othman, 47, has been in jail for two weeks for unknown reasons and without charges. He is a Yemeni citizen who also holds a British passport.

“While I was walking with my father on Monday Feb. 17 at 3:30 PM near our house in Al-Qadisia area in Sana’a, eight people riding in a Mercedes car, one of them wearing a military uniform, stopped by us,” said Mohammed, one of Yahya sons.

The 17 year-old boy explained that the eight men asked his father to go with them to Al-Alaya’a, the local police station. When the father obliged, Mohammed ran home to tell his family of the incident.

“When my brothers came to my work place and told me about the news, I was shocked,” said Abdulrahman Othman, Yahia’s son. “We hurried to the police station but the officer in charge denied that my father was there. After consulting relatives and friends about what to do, they advised me to report the issue to the closest prosecution which was East Capital Prosecution. There the attorney general referred me to South Capital Appeal Prosecution.”

While there, they filed a case of illegal arrest. However, the hearing had to wait until Saturday because of the

weekend. Following the hearing, one of the persecution’s officers, Abduljabar Al-Qirshi, went to Al-Alaya’a police station to investigate the accusations. However, he was not given a clear answer according to a memo written by Al-Qirshi that reads: “The officer in charge refused to allow us to inspect the station in search for Othman until the zone officer arrived. The officer in charge refused to call the zone officer, so I called him myself and he also refused our request, saying that the station’s custody is not a ‘market that could be inspected whenever and by whoever’ and that we should come back the next morning during official working hours...”

Al-Qirshi emphasized that as the prosecution they have the right to inspect the police station at any time and demanded the keys from the man in charge. The official declined, saying that he doesn’t have the keys and that custody officer is not there, nor is the station’s officer or any concerned officials.

The officer in charge confessed that Othman was indeed present at the police station, although he denied knowing why he was in custody.

Al-Qirshi reported the case to his superiors who raised the issue to Capital Security last Saturday.

“I went to Al-Alaya’a police station



Yahia Othman has been in custody without charges for over two weeks.

three days after the arrest, and the guards at the station told me that visits to Yahia Othman are not allowed,” said Hashim Al-Dawla, Othman’s lawyer. “I asked them the whereabouts of the station’s officer in order to ask him what are the accusations against my client were, but they said the officer was not at the police station at that time. I called him several times, but he did not respond.

“This kind of detention is illegal and

arbitrary since the detainee has been in solitary confinement for almost two weeks without any charges,” Al-Dawla continued, referring to temporary custody laws that allow police to detain a suspect for 24 hours at the most without charges.

Yemen Times went to Al-Alaya’a police station to visit the detainee but the station refused the visit. Yemen Times also tried to interview the station officer about the case, but the guards said that the officer was not there and refused to give his number.

Othman’s sons think that their step mother, Ebtisam Ahmed Saleh Al-Riayashi, is behind the detention of their father since she had an argument with him and left their home, leaving her three months-old baby behind.

“After the arrest of my father, I received phone calls from my step mother’s sister, Abeer Ahmed Saleh A-Riayashi, threatening that if I don’t deliver her sister’s baby to her I would join my father in jail,” said Abdulrahman Othman.

One of Othman’s colleagues at work, under condition of anonymity, said that Othman had started an investment project with a man from his village in Rada’a, a district in Al-Baida. The colleague suspects that this partner is teaming up with the wife for financial reasons.

Encouraging girls’ secondary education

By: Almgidaj Mojalli

SANA’A, March 1 — The Education Ministry launched a project to improve secondary education and girls’ enrolment in schools which will target about 90 schools in 30 different districts.

Only 25 out of every 100 girls

enrolled in primary school complete their primary schooling, restricting the number of the girls who will pursue secondary education.

The project, which started early last month, aims to improve the indicator between girls and boys enrolment in secondary education in the targeted districts from 0.42 to 0.66. It also aims

to develop the rate of continuing on to classes 10-12 in the districts from 80% to 85.4% for boys and from 84.2% to 89.1% for girls.

The project works on bridging the gender gap and modernizing schools facilities to reach the accepted standards.

The project will also finance

facilities like science laboratories, computers, and multimedia rooms. Intensive training for members of society will also be offered, especially to the councils of fathers and mothers as well as to school administrations.

Financial aid for transportation and partial scholarships will be provided for girls in classes 4-12 and for boys in classes 10-12 in the targeted districts, where 50% of people are living under the poverty line.

Training for teachers, supervisors, and directors of the targeted schools will be developed and schools’ syllabi will be updated throughout the course of the project. Teachers’ training will commence during and before the period of service. A follow-up study for the graduates of the secondary schools will be conducted in order to evaluate outcomes.

The project will begin in five of the target nine governorates within the next 18 months. It will later expand to cover the other four governorates within 18-24 months after launching the project.

The incompetence in secondary education coupled with the unreasonable distribution of teachers plays a huge role in the high rates of failure and dropouts. These issues will be targeted by the Education Ministry via this project.

The project is mainly financed by the International Development Agency and other supporters at USD 20 million.



The government is taking measures to ensure girls reach secondary school.

Journalists threaten to escalate protest

By: Ola Al-Shami

SANA’A, March 2 — More than four thousand journalists working in Yemeni official media extended their daily protest from one hour to two as they launched a strike lasting from four to six in the evening.

The two hour daily protest started last Saturday and includes journalists from the Al-Thawra Newspaper, 14 October, Al-Gomhoria, SABA news agency, and the Radio Corporation. The only public media not participating in the strike is Yemen TV Corporation.

Journalists are demanding better pay through a job classification strategy proposed by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to the government.

The three member coordination committee declared that if no solution is established by the end of this week then they will use the coming syndicate elections on March 14 to elect the person they feel is really concerned with journalists’ welfare, to lead their battle against the government.

“We [protesting journalists] feel that there will be a breakthrough this Tuesday. However, if it does not happen then this Thursday’s meeting will result in an unprecedented escalation of protest that will show how serious we are,” said Adnan Al-Sinwi, member of the strike coordination committee.

This Tuesday the chairperson of the syndicate, Naser Taha Mustafa, is due to meet with Prime Minister Ali Mujawar to discuss the journalists’ demands.

Protesting journalists are meeting every Thursday at the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate in order to discuss the follow-up of their demands. According to their last meeting on Feb. 19, they rejected the government’s proposal and agreed to continue the strike.

The Ministry of Civil Services, who is the body responsible for endorsing

the wages and pay classification, had rejected the syndicate’s proposal and came forth with another that was not satisfactory to the protesting journalists.

“The difference is that we want a clear mechanism by which the degree or level of the promotion of journalists happens. We want more delegation given to the directors of the media institutions based on experience, skills, or qualifications,” said Mohammed Al-Qarari, another member of the coordination committee.

According to the ten-point complaint document issued by the protesting journalists, there is a basic disagreement over how this job classification is viewed by the government. The government is currently handling the situation as a job allowance amendment and not as an integrated strategy for defining the public media sector.

Other points concern the sustainability of allowances, the inclusiveness of all media jobs. An important demand in the complaint document is that the syndicate’s proposal classified journalists into three categories composing a total of ten levels.

They demand that all ten levels that include editors in chief, senior and junior editors, reporters, journalists, designers, photojournalists or any other job title related to media; must be included in the new system. Military and security media personnel are also included in the proposed media job classification strategy.

Journalists started wearing red badges on Feb. 11 as a sign of a gradual protest until their demands for better economic remuneration were fulfilled.

This protest comes just a few weeks before the third phase of the salary and wages strategy is to be endorsed by the Ministry of Finance in coordination with the Ministry of Civil Services. These ministries are the two bodies responsible for defining and allocating the salaries of official media employees.



Journalists on two hours strike at Saba News Agency.

In Brief

Yemen, Russia set \$1 billion arms deal

Well-informed sources said on Thursday that the visit's outcomes of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Russian capital Moscow were significant and would enhance bilateral relations and the areas of joint cooperation between Yemen and Russia, especially the economic, trade and investment levels as well as the military level.

"The most important result of President Saleh's successful visit to Moscow is the signing of a Russian military equipment deal, including land, sea and air military equipment in order to enhance the defense capability of Yemen in the fight against terrorism and piracy", said the sources.

Pointing that the cost of the contract amounted to \$1 billion, the sources said that the deal included a number of MiG-29 fighter jets and offensive and military transport helicopters, in addition to modern (T-80) and (T-72) tanks, (BT R 80) armored vehicles, cutters, modern telecommunications and other military equipment and supplies needed by Yemen's army and security

forces to carry out their tasks and duties in the field of defense and security and combating terrorism and piracy.

For the economic and investment side, the talks held by President Saleh with Russian officials included the possibility of generating 3000 MW of electrical power of BOT power and exploring for oil, gas and metals by Russian companies.

"A number of Russian companies stated willingness to invest in Yemen in these areas and the implementation of a number of projects in the fields of dams, irrigation, gas pipelines, railways, fishing and cement industry", added the sources.

The February 24-26 visit, the first to Moscow by President Saleh since 2004, is the second leg of Saleh's international tour, which was started with a trip to Syria last Monday. He will also visit Tajikistan and Indonesia.

MAREB

Two arrested after thwarted attempt to kidnap foreigners

The interior ministry has announced two persons have been arrested in connection with a thwarted attempt to kidnap foreigners in the province of Mareb during the last two days.

The arrestees were also wanted on charges related to other foreigner kidnappings that took place in recent months.

On Thursday the two tried to abduct four German archaeologists of the German archaeologist mission working in the Serwah area while they were on their way to the capital Sana'a.

The arrestees intercepted the car carrying the Germans but the military patrol accompanying the archaeologists intervened on time forcing the two to run away.

An Investigation and a hunt were launched immediately after the incident.

ADEN

Yemen allocates YR 4 billion for 20th Gulf Cup projects

The Office of Public Works and Roads in Aden province has approved a plan

of YR 4 billion for carrying out projects needed to host the 20th Gulf Cup Championship to be held in Yemen in 2010.

A report issued by Statistics and Planning Department of the Office showed that the projects include rehabilitating and reconstructing roads and paving and blacktopping some streets of the province.

At the end of the 19th Gulf Cup held last January in Oman, Yemen was confirmed as the host country of the next championship.

Ministry of Public Works and Roads has signed four contracts at a total cost of YR 5.6 billion for carrying out the first phase of a football stadium in Zunbar town in Abyan province.

The signing of the contracts comes within the practical steps taken for completing the sports infrastructure to host the important sport event in Yemen in 2010.

Educational workshop on literacy to be organized

Literacy and Adult Education Office is to organize here next Monday an educational workshop on a strategy of national organizations working in the literacy and adult education field.

"The workshop prepared in collaboration with the UNICEF' Regional Office in the Egyptian capital Cairo, aims at activating the organizations' activities in the literacy and adult education field and availing from the successful experiences of some governorates in this field", Planning General Director in Literacy and Adult Education Office Fisal al-Adeeb said.

"During the workshop, officials of the Office and a number of the national organizations' representatives will get acquainted with the weaknesses and strong points and how to make the suitable solutions for the problems accompanied the strategy implementing during the last year", al-Adeeb added.

HODEIDAH

Up 30 water projects operated in Hodeidah in 2008

The number of rural water projects operated at 13 districts of Hodeidah

province in 2008 reached 34 projects at the total cost of YR722 million financed by local, governmental and foreign bodies.

"The undertaking projects locally financed have reached 60 projects at cost of YR 821 million in 17 districts which 124,155 people avail from", General Director of a Branch of the General Authority for Rural Water Abdul-Ghani al-Ghazali said.

Al-Ghazali added that the projects financed by the government were six projects in three districts, indicating that the extra support of the undertaking projects financed by the government reached 10 projects in eight districts at cost of YR 134 million.

"During the last year, 24 contracts of water pumps were signed at cost of YR 139 million and 458,342 and installed in 10 districts of the province while 12 pumps were supplied at cost of YR 52 million", al-Ghazali told Saba.

SANA'A

189 thousand Yemeni women benefit from reproductive services

Yemeni Family Welfare Association (FWA) said on Saturday that more than 189 thousand women benefited from the reproductive health services in various governorates, particularly in rural areas.

The state run 26sep.net quoted the FWA executive director pointed out the FWA is preparing studies to establish population training center to promote capacities of cadres in the population program and to realize the national strategy for population.

Paintings showing Japanese architecture in Sana'a University

Japanese Embassy in cooperation with Sana'a University is to organize "Art of the State of the City - Kumamoto" exhibition for modern architecture on Wednesday.

It is scheduled the exhibition will be held in Al-Ershad Center's hall and will include more than 70 wall portraits show models and designs of modern architecture of Kumamoto Japanese state.

The exhibition to be held in the University will contain more than 70 paintings showing the modern architecture at Kumamoto.

"Art of the State of the City - Kumamoto" exhibition comes within a cultural project started in 1988 in order to improve the architectural culture of the state and the whole world.

The project has gained a wide reputation. It implemented more than 70 projects included cultural centers, libraries, theaters, schools, residential buildings and bridges during the past twenty years.

Syrian surgical team started doing heart operations in al-Thawra Hospital

A Syrian surgical team started its mission on Saturday by doing four open heart operations and other 14 heart catheterized operations at al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a capital.

Head of the team Dr. Majed Othman told Saba that the team is first one Syrian team came to Yemen to do such operations which come within efforts of enhancing ties between Yemen and Syria and exchanging experiences.

Dr. Othman said that the team is ready to do any kind of heart operations, pointing out to the coordination to organize scientific session in cooperation with the heart center in the hospital to exchange knowledge between doctors in both countries.

Trial of suspects in kidnapping child started

A penal court started on Saturday a trial of four suspects of kidnapping a child, 9 years, last December.

In the hearing, the court asked the prosecution to bring witnesses and evidence against these defendants in coming session which is determined by the court to be held on 14th March.

The prosecution accused the four suspects of kidnapping the child Ali al-Awdini and taken him a hostage in Bani Dhabian region of Sana'a governorate subjecting his life for risk. Last month, the Ministry of Interior received the child attended by sheikhs in Bani Dhabian who condemned the acts of kidnapping.

Their News

World Water Youth Forum

World Water Youth Forum (WWYF) 2009 organization team cordially invites you to submit proposals for workshops which will be held within the WWYF, March 16-20, 2009 in Istanbul. The main goal of the WWYF 2009 workshops is to stimulate and facilitate active exchange, interaction and comparison of approaches, methods and ideas related to water issues in a comfortable setting where participants will have the chance to discuss specific topics in an environment that fosters the active exchange of ideas.

You are invited to submit workshop proposals to the WWYF 2009 by filling in the workshop proposal form. Please save completed forms under a new document name in the following format: Your Last Name- Workshop title. E-mail your completed form to youthforum@worldwaterforum5.org with "Workshop Proposal" in the subject line, no later than Saturday, February 28, 2009. No proposals will be accepted for review after this time. All submitted papers will be reviewed on the basis of technical quality, relevance, significance, and clarity. Accepted proposals will be notified within a week after proposal submission.

For further information about World Water Youth Forum 2009 click to <http://youth.worldwaterforum5.org/>

United Nations Journalism Fellowships

The Dag Hammarskjöld Scholarship Fund for Journalists is now accepting applications from professional journalists from developing countries for its Fellowship Program.

The Fellowships are available to radio, television, print and web journalists, age 25 to 35, from developing countries who are interested in coming to New York to report on international affairs during the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Fellowships will begin in mid-September and extend to late November and will include the cost of travel and accommodations in New York, as well as a per diem allowance.

The Fellowship Program is open to journalists who are native to one of the developing countries in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. Readmore:

<http://cambodiajobs.blogspot.com/2009/02/united-nations-journalism-fellowships.html>

New Dates Confirmed For World Newspaper Congress

The World Association of Newspapers has confirmed the new dates for its World Newspaper Congress, World Editors Forum and Info Services Expo, the global meetings of the world's press, which will now be held in Hyderabad, India, from 30 November to 3 December 2009.

WAN announced last month that the events, originally scheduled for March, would be postponed until later in the year due to the impact of the global financial downturn on travel and conference budgets at newspaper companies.

"Our Indian colleagues have done a fantastic job in rescheduling all the arrangements, which is not an easy job for an event of such size and scope," said Timothy Balding, the CEO of WAN.

"For our part, we believe newspaper companies will, by necessity, learn to live with the crisis over the year and be more willing to invest again in conferences and travel by the end of the year. These events have long been a major opportunity for newspaper executives from around the globe to meet and exchange strategic ideas, and the need for such exchanges is more important than ever."

Last year's events drew more than 1,800 participants from 113 countries to Göteborg, Sweden, a record for the 61-year old conference.

Full details of the 2009 events, including the evolving conference program, can be found www.wanindia2009.com. The events are hosted by the Indian Newspaper Society.

The Paris-based WAN, the global organization for the newspaper industry, defends and promotes press freedom and the professional and business interests of newspapers world-wide. Representing 18,000 newspapers, its membership includes 77 national newspaper associations, newspaper companies and individual newspaper executives in 102 countries, 12 news agencies and 11 regional and world-wide press groups.

UDHR YouTube Competition

On the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), share with the world your thoughts on what Human Rights mean to you. Make a short video expressing your opinion

and post it as a response video on YouTube. The most creative and original video will be selected by a jury of peers.

Topic: What Does Human Rights Mean to You?

Deadline: February 28, 2009

Video Length: No longer than 2 minute

Prizes

First Prize: Personalized Flip Minodigital video camera with 2 GB memory and 60 min recording time

Honorable Mention: WLP Gift Bag

How to participate in the competition:

1. Watch the introductory video on the articles of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
 - Full text of the Declaration, available in 337 languages.
 - United Nations UDHR 60th Anniversary web page (also contains UDHR logo and photos).
 - Know Your Rights Website
2. Make a video responding to our video question "What Does Human Rights Mean to You?"
 - BBC: Make a one minute movie
 - YouTube: Video Toolbox
 - Witness: Tips & Techniques Training Video and Manual
 - Creative Commons: Copyright free audio, photo, or video collection
3. Upload your video. Post it as a response video.
 - YouTube: Uploading videos to YouTube and Video response
 - If you don't have a YouTube account, but would like to participate in the competition, please contact us
4. View and rate other submissions. Start or participate in discussions by posting comments.

Contest Rules

1. Be as funny or inspiring as you want. Originality and creativity are our two main criteria
2. No personal attacks, profanity, or violence permitted. Videos breaking these rules will not be approved for entry into the contest by the moderator.
3. No copyright infringement please. Use photos and videos that are available in the public domain.
4. By participating in the competition, you are granting WLP permission to use, publish, edit, adapt, and/or modify your videos for promotional or other purposes.
5. Tax obligations, if any, are the sole responsibility of the winner.

Felix airways receive third aircraft

The third aircraft Bombardier 200-CRJ of Felix Airways Company has arrived coming from Montreal, Canada. In this occasion, Mohammed Abdulla Al-Arasha, executive manager of the company, stated that arrival, of this airplane confirms the methodology that the company follows in timetabling its flights and well-studied operation. With the arrival of this plane, the second phase of operation will commence by moving from local to regional operation through launch of direct flights from Taiz and Aden to Djibouti and the some regions selected and studied carefully in the Horn of Africa and Gulf countries.

Al-Arasha pointed out that Felix Airways has completed the internal connection between capitals of the Yemeni



governorates through daily flights. For the first time in Yemen, the company operated flights to connect the governorates with each other such as connecting Al-Hudieda city with Aden and Mukalla with Taiz through direct flights. It also operated flights from Suqatra peninsula to Taiz city and intensified flights between Sana'a and Aden to reach five flights daily and between Sana'a and Al-Rayyan to reach three flights daily during the upcoming phase. All this aims first to serve the Yemeni citizen and eases travelling between the Yemeni cities to facilitate movement of

businessmen, tourists and all those who care about time, safety and comfort.

Al-Arasha concluded his statement by extending thanks to all those who supported Felix Airways during the first phase of operation on top of whom H.E. President of the Republic who followed up in person activities of the company; Prime Minister, the main supporter of the company; Minister of Tourism, Director of the General Civil Aviation Authority; Director of the General Investment Authority; Captain Abdul Khaleq Al-Qadhi, Director of Board of Administrators of Yemeni Airlines Company; and all those who supported the company since it was established mid last year and achieved success that exceeded expectations.

VACANCY
TWO FINANCIAL OFFICERS

An international human rights organization is seeking two financial officers in Yemen to be responsible for the financial matter of our programme activities and capacity building of the Yemeni partners.

Professional and personal skills required for both positions:

- Degree in accounting and business administration or similar degree
- At least 5 years professional experience in accounting and financial management
- Written and spoken Arabic and English must be fluent
- Be a good facilitator, team player and teacher
- Hold computer skills in the office software package

Position # 1, Civil society

The position will among other things include the following tasks:

Capacity building of the Yemeni civil society network partner in financial matters. Facilitate the Yemeni partners in preparing their own budgets, accounts, setting up financial systems, procedures etc.

Concerning the overall Yemen programme accounts responsible for:

Payment authority, preparing requests for withdrawals and payments, develop and update the accounting system and procedures, preparing monthly, bi-annual and annual cost accounting statements, preparing budgets, reconcile the bank accounts and petty cash accounts, prepare bi-annual financial reporting to the donor, prepare accounts for regular control visits and audits etc.

Position # 2, State institution

The position will among other things include the following tasks:

Capacity building of the Yemeni state institution partner in financial matters. Facilitate the Yemeni partners in preparing their own budgets, accounts, setting up financial systems, procedures etc.

Deadline for submitting applications is 8 March 2009

The basic salary for each of the financial officer will approximately be 1.300 USD/month.

Written applications should include attached CV and 3 professional references. Applications should be sent to this e-mail address: hrYemen08@yahoo.com



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BEST



YEMEN

VACANCY

A full time position as and English-Arabic Translator is now available at the Yemen Basic Education Support and Training (BEST) Project funded by USAID. Under the supervision of the Operations Manager, this person will be responsible for providing translation services in Arabic and English for project documents and at a variety of project-related events. His/her responsibilities will include:

1. Written Translation of Word, Excel documents from Arabic to English and Vice Versa.
2. Written Translation of incoming and outgoing Letters and Memos from Ministry Partners
3. Verbal Translation during Meetings and Workshops as necessary

General Requirements:

- Yemeni Nationality.
- Bachelor's degree in English Language
- Previous experience in verbal and written translation.
- Excellent command of written and spoken English.
- Demonstrated computer skills relevant to the above responsibilities.
- Ability to work under pressure and, as required, outside regular office hours.

Qualified applicants should send their CVs with cover letters no later than two weeks after the date of this announcement by mail to the following address:

Attn: HR Officer
PO Box 22377
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen



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Tribal conflicts cause political, social and economic loss

By: Almgidgad Mojalli

Tribal conflicts have weathered Yemen's history for thousands of years and a complex tribal justice system has arisen as a result. Although today illiteracy eradication and development projects have played an important role in reducing tribal disputes, much remains to be done to address long-standing truces and other unresolved tribal arguments.

Ongoing tribal conflict has stalled the implementation of decentralization measures in many governorates. Security concerns prevent government institutions from functioning effectively in certain areas and hamper participation in activities of local governing bodies. Furthermore, citizens of the effected areas are increasingly alienated from the state and educational and medical staff is fearful of serving in tribal areas.

Not only do tribal disputes impede proper development on a district level, but they also extend out of the tribal frame to reach the state, its interests and foreigners. As a result, theses conflicts lead to substantial economical, social and political losses.

Tribal sheikhs reported a total of 612 deaths as a result of conflicts between 2000 and 2005 alone, according to the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Yemen. Up to 410 of these deaths were reported to be associated with conflicts started before the year 2000, and 202 were related to conflicts that started between 2000 and 2005.

Ahmed Mohammed is a tribal conflict victim. Ten years ago, he used to go to school and play with his brothers and friends. When tribal conflict broke out in his village five years ago, Ahmed lost his father, uncle and two other relatives and was compelled to flee from his village because of his fear of being a victim of revenge killings. Four years have passed and Ahmed has still not returned.

The dispute in Ahmed's village left many people dead, including many from rival families. Loss of property, infrastructure, houses and farms are among the targets for each of the fighting parties.

"The tribe aimed to destroy everything," said Ahmed with a frustrated and sad voice. "The dispute was over a piece of land but, instead of winning back a small piece of land, the people lost not

Tribal conflicts in Yemen

Period	Number of new conflicts
2001-2005	35
1996-2000	22
1991-1995	14
1986-1990	26
1985 and earlier	67
Total	164

National Democratic Institute, 2005

only their souls but also their properties and relatives."

Ahmed fled from his village and decided to continue his education with a different name fearing that his family's opponent may follow him and take revenge from him.

Yemeni society consists of many main and sub tribes that have specific customs and rules which determine and organize the all the different fields of life including the punishments and provisions.

As a consequence of the weak power of the state and in the context of widespread illiteracy, tribesmen in the past thought of setting rules and customs to organize daily life.

Tribal custom dictates that every member of a tribe must participate in any war against it or be renounced by it, whatever the reasons of the war. Thus no member hesitates to take part in tribal conflict, even if he does not believe in the reasons of the conflict.

"The tribal community has very strong customs that organize the rights and duties of its members and anybody who violates those customs will be punished in accordance to the tribal customs," said Sheikh Mohsen Al-Nini.

"Some tribal conflicts happen because of a dispute over a land while others are caused by revenge killing," he said, adding that abduction can also be a trigger.

In Yemen, it has been noted that developed districts in which education is widespread are less prone to tribal conflicts than other districts.

According to Sheikh Al-Nini, development and education have a strong role in reducing the rate of tribal conflict because, as people become busy with their jobs, businesses and academic research, their attention is diverted from tribal affairs.

Widespread presence of arms, illiteracy, weak power of the state, lack of reli-

gious faith and the abuse of power by tribal leaders are the main reasons of the tribal conflicts.

The head of Dar Al-Salam Organization, Abdul Rahman Al-Marwani, stated that there are no specific statistics as to the exact number of the victims of tribal conflicts: "Even the statistics of the Ministry of Interior aren't precise because not all the murder cases are notified to the police, organization or hospitals."

To address the widespread presence of weapons, the government has tried to reduce the rate of crime by banning weapons from cities, but there are many gun markets in the suburbs of many governorates which sell all kinds of the light arms.

"The decision of banning weapons was a wise one," said Naj Salah, a tribesman from Arhab tribe, "but, in my opinion, this was mainly done to ensure the government's safety not that of the citizens, otherwise it would ban weapons from the markets in the suburbs. We have a very big market in our tribe that sells all sorts of light arms that are used in tribal wars."

The weak power of the state in the remote rural areas is a supporting reason for the perseverance of tribal conflicts in the country, with many individuals committing crimes without any fear of the state. In these areas, sheikhs hold much more power than the state and they can put an end to a conflict that the government cannot control.

Sheikhs, whether from the tribes in conflict or from other tribes, are much more likely to be involved in mediation efforts to resolve conflicts than other individuals or institutions. They are the key actors in discussing and resolving conflicts.

"In remote rural areas, the power of the state is weak, so the end of any tribal conflict is in the sheikhs' hands. Sometimes, the sheikhs prevent the security apparatuses from dealing with tribal conflicts under the pretext that they conflicts will only be solved by tribal customs, not by state law," noted Ahmed Al-Etheri, a tribal village elder.

What is more, tribal customs are sometimes used by tribesmen to extract demands from the government, leading to national political repercussions and economic losses. Usually tribesmen resort to kidnapping foreigners or blowing up

pipelines to exert pressure on the government, gravely affecting tourism and foreign investment in Yemen.

Many tribesmen attribute these methods to government weakness and procrastination: "Sometimes the government takes a long time to implement projects in a particular district," noted Ahmed Al-Tam, a sheikh of the Bani Dhabyan tribe. "As a result, people resort to kidnapping foreigners or blowing up pipelines."

Attacks on pipelines, foreigner kidnappings and the deaths they entail cause considerable loss to government and other stakeholders. Yemeni-German relations are constantly tried when German tourists are kidnapped by tribesman with a grudge against the state.

Yemen's economy is affected not only by a drop in tourism, but also by a decrease in foreign investment. Businessman Tawfeq Al-Khameri said that his company has lost USD 13 million over the past four years because of kidnappings and tribal conflicts that create an unsafe environment for investment.

"Over 50,000 workers have been affected directly and another 90,000 workers are affected indirectly by the decrease of tourists in the country because of the kidnappings," said Nabeel Al-Faqeh, the Minister of Tourism.

Addressing tribal conflict

Escaping the state's modern justice system, persisting tribal conflict is detrimental to tribes involved, destroying resources, livelihoods and opportunities for development. But some tribal leaders have recognized the problem and are seeking outside help.

In 2004, Yemeni Organization for Development and Social Peace (YODSP), an organization formed by a group of tribal leaders from Mareb, Al-Jawf and Shabwa, approached the Yemen office of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) for help in addressing revenge killing and tribal conflicts in their areas.

Following almost three years of research, a program was launched, involving governmental body the Higher National Committee for Combating Revenge (HNCCR) and three local NGOs.

"We [the NDI] help the HNCCR create a database on conflicts in the said governorates through training," explained



A mediator (center) carries the belt and jambiya of an alleged criminal in his left hand at a tribal arbitration session.

Nadwa al-Dawsari, NDI's senior program manager. "We also train them on managing and analyzing armed conflicts."

In March 2008, NDI held training courses for trainers on conflict management and analysis for 16 people from its partner NGOs and, in April 2009, NDI will launch a tribal conflict awareness campaign in the three governorates. According to al-Dawsari, the campaign will target students, mosque preachers, women and tribal leaders.

In December 2007, Islamic Relief started a two-year program aimed at reducing violent conflict in the country through what it calls "the mainstreaming of conflict transformation and the promotion of responsible citizenship" through work-

shops for 665 individuals in Sa'ada, Lahj, Aden and Sana'a.

Furthering efforts to reduce and understand tribal violence, the NDI has also assisted Mareb College and local NGOs to establish a regional center for tribal conflict research, where students will study the causes and nature of conflict in addition to receiving training in conflict resolution. The center is expected to open in early 2009.

Research increasingly indicates growing realization from the tribes themselves that in order to move the areas they live in out of poverty and underdevelopment, they will have to rely on governmental institutions to prevent and resolve tribal disputes.

Request for Expressions of Interest

National Epidemiologist for Avian Influenza Preparedness and Control Project

No. EOI-AVIAN FLU/001/2009

Closing date:-21st March, 2009

NAME OF COUNTRY: Republic of Yemen
NAME OF PROJECT: Consulting services
GRANT NO: TF092693 — Yemen

The Republic of Yemen has received a Grant from the World Bank and the Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) Facility; and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this Grant to payment under the contract for consulting services. The services include:

National Epidemiologist for Avian Influenza Preparedness and Control Project

The Avian Influenza Preparedness and Control Project is complementary to the World Bank financed Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project -(RALP) of the Government of Yemen. The Project Support Unit (PSU), constituted under the RALP comprising representative from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) will be responsible for the overall coordination, monitoring, procurement, and financial management of project activities and support staff.

The Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project - (RALP) now invites eligible parsons to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultant must provide information indicating that he is qualified to perform the services (C.V.). Consultant may associate to enhance his qualifications.

Main Tasks:

- ¥ Work with the international epidemiologist to describe measures to be taken to ensure the viability and continuity of the epidemicsurveillance network's operations;
 - ¥ Assist the international epidemiologist to prepare a manual of procedures including the role and duties of each of the network participants, the circulation of data and information, the methods and standards to be followed to carry out surveys and sampling activities according to the network's programme of activities;
 - ¥ The analysis of initial investment costs and recurrent costs related to the operations of the network;
 - ¥ Organization and animation of a national workshop and programming of 3 to 4 regional workshops (to be organized by DGAR's selected network's animators) for the information and sensitization of key animators, participants and stakeholders;
 - ¥ Review and comment of the draft national policy and strategy document with the international epidemiologist to contribute to its finalization;
 - ¥ Creating Standardized Regional and District surveillance and reporting mechanisms;
 - ¥ Contributing to monitoring field data and the performance of field personal; suggest and implement improvements where necessary;
 - ¥ Sustain all the activities that will be done by the international epidemiologist after his missions finish.
 - ¥ Implement the recommendations of the international epidemiologist.
- A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of consultants by World Bank borrowers, May 2004.

Interested Consultants may obtain further information at the address below from (8:00 am to 3:00 pm). Sat -Wed. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below.

Ms. Bilquis Anwer A. Sattar- Manager Project Support Unit
Rainfed Agriculture and Livestock Project
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen - P.O.Box 13181
Tel: - + 967-1- 441 770 - Fax: - + 967-1-441 768
Email: - ralp@yemen.net.ye

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

FOR PROCUREMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES

FOR SANA'A AND ADEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA) of Republic of Yemen hereby announces its desire to invite International Airport Management Companies to indicate their interest in providing their services for management of Sana'a and Aden International Airports for seven years term to be financed by CAMA.

Interested Companies shall provide evidence of their qualifications to carry out the whole of the above services especially:

- General information and experience of the Company, previous projects it was involved in, work experience in similar conditions, references, etc.
- Specific experience of the Company in the field of the assignment in minimum one international airport in the last five years, main task of the Company and years of experience in the required services.
- Qualifications of key personnel and availability of required skills to carry out the required services.
- Minimum annual turnover of the Company shall be not less than US Dollars four million.
- A firm may associate to enhance its qualification.

Short listed Companies will be invited to submit their proposals. A successful company will be selected using Quality and Cost based selection (QCBS) method, which is explained in the Bidding Documents.

The deadline for receiving two copies of EOI from each company shall be **2nd May 2009**.

Interested Companies may obtain further information between 07:00am and 10:00am GMT, Saturday to Wednesday via the following:

Mr. Hamed Ahmed Farag
Chairman, Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority
P.O.Box: 1042 , Sana'a ,
Republic of Yemen
Tel.: ++ 9671-274717, 274714, 486173
Fax: ++ 9671-274718/ 272645
Email: has708@yahoo.co.uk or hasconst@cama.gov.ye

Words of Wisdom



Corruption is a worldwide plague. It exists because it is part of human nature to deviate. But the public guards against this deviant behavior. At least when exposed, a corrupt person is subjected to penalties. Here in Yemen, it doesn't happen. If the deviant person is influential, he/she gets away with it. In some cases, the deviant official is removed from his present post, but is quickly given another.

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

OUR
OPINIONYemen Times
20th anniversary

Every year while celebrating Yemen Times anniversary we look back and think of the newspaper's journey and to the future to our ambitions and aspirations. Two days ago Yemen Times completed 19 years since its first issue on Feb. 27 in 1991. Looking back at old issues different sizes and different styles of writing, through three managements maintaining the same mission statement yet in different ways, I can't help but feel proud.

We have managed to stay on our feet despite the various challenges, some of which were extremely hard. And at times of hardship, and when there is a sense of depression in both the media and management fields, a ray of light miraculously finds its way to our world and we feel reenergized.

This year, a total of seventy journalists and other media staff were killed world-wide because of their profession. Thankfully, none were killed in Yemen, despite the aggressiveness towards media and the innovative ways of harassment by governmental and non-governmental points of power. Iraq continues to be the deadliest place for journalists as fourteen journalists were killed last year, although this number is relatively comforting compared to the 44 killed in 2007.

According to the World Association of Newspapers which issued the report on media death toll in 2008, the 2008 death toll was released after investigation into all potential media murders, compares with 95 killed last year, 110 killed in 2006, 58 killed in 2005, and 72 killed in 2004.

In addition to the deaths attributed to war and conflict, journalists in many countries are also being targeted and killed for investigating organized crime, drug trafficking, corruption and other crimes. "In the vast majority of cases, nobody is brought to justice for their murders," said Timothy Balding, CEO of the Paris-based WAN.

Nine journalists have already been killed in 2009, in Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Russia, Sri Lanka, Somalia (where two were killed) and Venezuela.

Working as dedicated investigative journalists is not easy, especially in countries where there is not much respect for the media role combined with a dominant lack of rule of law. Although it has become relatively easier to do journalism in Yemen there is still a long way to go before we can say we are living in a free democratic country.

Nadia Al-Sakkaf

A strange silence

By: Dr. Terry Lacey

There is a strange post war silence about Gaza and Palestine in Indonesia as if the activists and political leaders that got involved have discovered a can of worms.

The conflicts and complexity of the political divisions between Palestinians have astounded Indonesians who learned about them as a result of the recent conflict.

Activists have hunted through web sites to try and understand what happened between Fatah and Hamas that led to civil war and then the Israeli war against Gaza.

The recent chronology on the BBC web site summed it up. In January 2006 Hamas won Palestinian general elections. In March the Hamas Government was sworn in. Israel, the US and EU immediately suspended all links with it.

The West abandoned Palestinian democracy, failed to help lead the new democratic government towards dialogue and moderation and instead led by boycott and blockade towards a Palestinian civil war and then a war between Israel and Gaza.

The Palestinian split cannot be blamed only on Palestinian politics. It was engineered by Israel and the West and they are partly to blame for its consequences.

In February-March 2007 Fatah and Hamas agreed to form a new coalition to try to end growing factional warfare amidst a tightening Israeli and Western boycott and blockade.

It becomes easier to understand how

the Palestinian unity government was dissolved and a nominated West Bank government installed, as Palestinian faction fighting increased.

Then Hamas seized back by force in Gaza that which it had already won by democratic vote. The West took sides and backed the Presidential militia and hoped it would win, but it did not.

Think what would have happened if the British had ignored the electoral successes of Sinn Fein in Northern Ireland and instead set up a Northern Ireland "moderate government" ignoring election results and excluding Sinn Fein. The war with the IRA would have gone on, and could have spread to England and Scotland.

The Israelis should take note of this parallel. For they and the West have helped to destabilize the West Bank through these maneuvers and the Gaza war.

Now the talks in Egypt are needed not only to try to promote Palestinian national reconciliation but to try and save the West Bank cities from a similar fate to Gaza.

If that happens the pressure falls on Jordan and on Egypt, and violence could spread to Israeli cities and towns with Arab populations.

The real aim of the talks in Egypt is not to secure the twin state, but to save the West Bank from political implosion, while the Palestinian Presidency is severely weakened, and to end the Gaza blockade to prevent another war with Israel.

The Gaza construction program is the sugar on the lollipop, a moral imperative for those who helped cause this war, and a lever to try to bring about

changes another way. It should also be to make up for this shameful sequence of events and their possible consequences.

Now Indonesians read in the Jakarta Globe, from Associated Press, (26.02.09) that Hamas believes the West Bank Fatah Abbas government ran a spy ring in Gaza to feed targeting information to the Israelis during the war, while Fatah accused Hamas of killing and wounding Fatah activists in Gaza under cover of the war.

The awful truth is gradually reconstructed for us after waves of silence and obfuscation.

The democratically elected Hamas government was brought down by a coup d'état backed by Israel, the West and Fatah and now we should all smile and support national reconciliation. The coup failed, the blockade failed, the policy to bring down Hamas failed. It is now more powerful than it was before.

These are not the conditions in which President Obama can hope to bring unwilling parties together to discuss a twin state solution, when both Palestinian and Israeli voters have voted against any rapid final peace talks towards a twin state.

Focus first on holding the line and preventing regional destabilization. The solution comes a lot later, maybe not the way that many have predicted and cannot be forced upon Israelis or Palestinians.

Terry Lacey is a development economist who writes from Jakarta on modernization in the Muslim world, investment and trade relations with the EU and Islamic banking.

Several factors lie behind
youth frustration

By: Dr. Samia Al-Aghbari

I feel extremely concerned about the state of our youth who turn to suffer frustration in a terrible way these days. They became unable to cope with everyday life that is full of numerous complications and contradictions, none of which are trivial or unimportant.

I don't know why the youth suffer frustration to the extent of losing personal desires and aptitudes to continue their education or develop their knowledge and skills.

What raised my concern and fears is the way many youths interact with articles I write about their issues, plus their credible and serious desires to get rid of meaningless living as a result of frustration.

Our youths need judicious people to guide and direct them. They also need outstanding examples in order to help them positively integrate into their communities, discover their oppressed talents, and express themselves freely and clearly.

One of the most important letters I received from the readership came as follows: "Dear Madam, I am one of those who adore your writings, however, you this time held youths accountable for idleness and frustration. I would like to confirm that unemployment is the primary reason for our frustration and idleness. Unemployment makes us suffer from humiliation, psychological complexes, and escapism from bitter living.

"I hope that you address youth problems through your writings by addressing them to the public and private sectors so that they may create job opportunities for youth.

I and thousands like me couldn't find work to achieve our ambitions for a good life in this beloved homeland." He added, "The private sector doesn't consider the human side of things since it treats skilled

individuals as slaves amidst an absence of oversight on the part of those relevant agencies in the government."

He concluded, "The relevant agencies in the government should reinforce laws on the private sector to treat workers like the public sector does so that people working for private institutions or companies feel assured about their future. Thank you Madam for being concerned about the youth issues." Frustrated reader Mubarak Badr.

Dear readership: I don't hold the youth alone accountable for the state of frustration and idleness they are suffering, nor do I deny the negative impact of unemployment on the psychology of our youths and their creative capacities. I discussed the phenomenon of unemployment several times, most notably among youths, but no response was made to what I did.

More new youths expected to suffer
from unemployment

Those organizations claiming to be concerned with the youth don't help them or solve their problems, particularly if they need them to provide good jobs.

From a humanitarian perspective, if these youths, be they those who are currently idle and jobless or those due to join the caravan of unemployment in the near future following their graduation from institutes and universities, don't come together to bring about workable solutions to unemployment, nothing will be achieved in their favor.

Dear youths: your main concern should be how to improve your work conditions for those who work, and press the relevant authorities in the government to provide appropriate job opportunities for all youths.

Joint projects may help reduce unemployment

Truly, unemployment is a critical disease

affecting youths negatively because work is what makes people, notably youths, enjoy life, forget about concerns relating with their living, stop being dependent on others, and liberate themselves from slavery caused by need.

Dear idle youth: What you should do now is not only press the government, but you can engage yourselves in joint projects to be established by you as individuals, who know each other well. You need to understand all the positive and negative changes in our local communities and stop engaging your minds with past experiences.

Various factors, such as family upbringing, lack of awareness, a culture of nepotism, and the sterile education system in our society must be considered by the relevant organizations while attempting to overcome the state of frustration experienced by the youth.

Source: Al-Thawra State-run Daily.

SILVER LINING

Election Delay:
What should be
done now?

The deal both the ruling party and the opposition coalition made

last week is a gesture that the two sides were too tired enough to take further steps. The opposition had no option but to continue resisting all pressure of the ruling party to reach some of the objectives it set. At the same time, the ruling party and president Ali Abdullah Saleh in particular has realized that going into election without the opposition is going to be a headache and would embroil the country into turmoil; it will be a sort usurping power but through ballot but with no legitimate ground and credibility.

This, would, of course, push some groups to take the law into their hands and follow suit with al-Houthis. In other words, Saleh understood that running elections in such a situation where his hands are full with a number of challenges means committing suicide.

I understand the approval of the proportional list system might be one of the most important outcomes of this agreement for the current single constituency system will not lead to any progress of democratic transition in a society like Yemen where influential tribal sheikhs, military personnel and businessmen continue to dominate the parliament. This system has produced the same sort of people throughout the three parliamentary elections since the unification in 1990.

I believe, however, no one has been defeated in the sense that this deal has released the tension that has been dominating the political life. However, this agreement to postpone the election until 2011 should not mean postponing the problems and points of disagreement. As long as the two sides have agreed to postpone the election for two years and agreed on main issues, they should use this period of time to go into details of the outlines of their agreement.

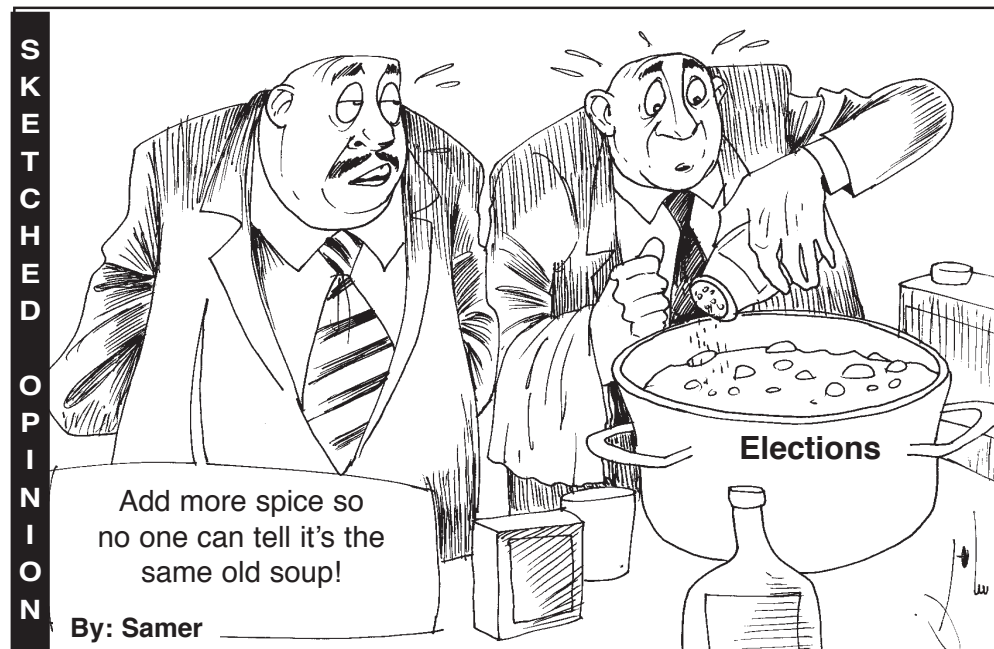
They should start from this week working on these reforms. It is very important the two sides agree on these focal issues that would guarantee a fair play.

Clerics or child marriage fans

The Yemeni parliament made one of its best achievements when it minimized the marriage age at 17 years. However, a few members backed by fanatic clerics are making a big fuss, asking for re-opening of debate of this provision. These clerics led by Sheikh Abdulmajeed al-Zindani never speak about major concerns of the public like corruption, poverty, smuggling of children to neighboring countries, war in Sa'ada.

But, they are breaking hell loose about limiting the age of child females; they want to leave it open under the pretext of religion and ban of illegal sex relationship. But, marriage in this way is nothing but a legalized prostitution. I do not know what kind of clerics are those fans of child marriage.

Dr. Mohammed Al-Qadhi (mhalqadhi@hotmail.com) is a Yemeni journalist and columnist.



By: Samer

YEMEN TIMES

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Yemen Press Review



NewsYemen.net, an independent news website
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2009

Top Stories

- Government accused of being indifferent toward religious minorities
- GPC, JMP agree to postpone parliamentary elections by two years

The ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and Joint Meeting Parties (JMP) reached an agreement yesterday to postpone the parliamentary elections for two years, after they were supposed to take place next April, the website quoted official sources as saying.

The source added that a recent dialogue between GPC and JMP came out with an agreement to postpone the elections. It said that further details may be announced today.

However, Secretary-General of JMP Sultan Al-Atwani was quoted by Al-Ayyam Daily as denying any final agreement with the GPC, but said "when we reach any thing important, we will announce it."

The Al-tagheer.com reported that senior leaders of both sides met Saturday afternoon over issues related to the parliamentary elections, supposed to be held in April 27, 2009, in response to a call by President Ali Abdullah Saleh on GPC and JMP to resume dialogue, but said GPC and JMP did not determine the period of time the elections should be delayed.

Parliament member from GPC Yasser Al-Awadhi said, "GPC does never object to the parliamentary elections postponement if the delay may help in reforming the political system in Yemen."

From his side, Ali Shaye Mothana,

another Parliament member of GPC, has called in a statement to NewsYemen on his party not to run in the parliamentary elections without the competition of the JMP member parties.

Unilateral parliamentary elections represents violation of democracy and serves foreign powers which benefit from disputes in the region, said Mothana.

On the other hand, European diplomatic sources told NewsYemen that the donors canceled a meeting on Yemen, scheduled for February 22, 2009, due to Yemen's failure to keep promises it made at the Donors Conference for Yemen in 2006 in London.

Yemen has not accomplished the national reforms, local sources were quoted as saying.

Official media quoted an official source in the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation as denying media reports that the donors meeting was delayed over the lack of national reforms. The official source said the meeting was delayed as it coincided with a meeting of donors on Gaza. The official stressed that the donors conference would be shortly held.

On a side note, the website quoted U.S. ambassador in Sana'a Steven Seche as saying last month that the ruling and opposition parties to make compromises to allow the vote to proceed and give Yemen's people the opportunity to express their will "freely and fairly."

Yemen's political parties are engaged in a "protracted dispute" over elements of the election such as voter registration, membership on the country's Supreme Commission for Elections and Referenda (SCER) and other procedural disagreements.

"This is disappointing to everyone who has watched Yemen in recent years," U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Stephen Seche told America.gov. Until recently, the country had been building "a pretty good track record in

terms of its commitment to democratic processes, including elections," he said. He urged politicians to "look beyond narrowly defined party interests and make the necessary compromises, so that the people of this country have the opportunity to go to the polls and participate in a process that they can be proud of."

As with all countries holding elections, the process "is not an issue of ownership by either party that participates, but it's owned by the citizens of the country and the parties need to bear that in mind as they go forward," Seche said.

Through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States has trained technical and research staff at the SCER, which is conducting voter registration and making other practical preparations for the elections. USAID also supported the establishment and training of the local monitoring network for observation of the parliamentary elections.

Along with promoting democracy, USAID provides educational and economic assistance, as well as health care targeted to maternal and child services and toward underserved areas of the country.



Al-Wahdawi.net, affiliated with the Nasserite Unionist People Organization (NUPO)
Thursday, Feb. 26, 2009

Top Stories

- YLNG contracts an Israeli firm to install electronic network of gas export project
- JMP Chairman hails compromise with GPC to postpone elections, reform election system

Chairman of Joint Meeting Parties

Sultan Al-Atwani hailed the compromise reached with the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) to postpone upcoming parliamentary elections and reform the current election system, the website reported.

According to the website, President Saleh had called for dialogue between the Yemeni parties concerning the upcoming parliamentary elections, but those parties could not find any workable solutions to the turmoil related with the upcoming elections scheduled to take place in April 2009.

Members of the opposition alliance strongly rejected what they called unilateral procedures so far taken by the ruling party to hold the elections alone.

According to the website, during a meeting on Friday, President Saleh called on senior JMP leaders to adopt the option of postponing the elections clearly by both GPC and JMP, and no either side may hold the other responsible for such a decision.

Opposition leaders agreed on the suggestion to postpone the upcoming elections, on condition of determining those issues that lead to postponing the vote. President Saleh accepted this condition, and therefore formed a dialogue committee to assess and deal with those issues raised by the opposition.

The committee is comprised of Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Eryani, Ismail Al-Wazeer and Yahya Al-Raei as GPC representatives, plus secretary generals of Islah, Socialist, Nasserite and Baath parties (JMP members).

The website learned from political sources that the newly formed committee held a meeting over the following two days, however, it failed to reach a compromise on the key issues included in its agenda (one of them is applying the proportional list).

JMP representatives condition that the current election system (First Past-the-Post) must be replaced by the proportional list while other legal amendments must be undertaken

ahead of the upcoming elections, proposed to be postponed for a considerable time period.

GPC representatives, on the other hand, suggested the idea of conducting a public referendum on this issue, to be timed with the elections, adding that the proportional list may be applied in event the referendum results appears in its

favor.

The GPC's representatives' suggestion was rejected by JMP leaders, labeling it as an early cheat of their demands. JMP said the ruling party wants to conduct the elections according to its own mechanism, which is why Al-Atwani declared to the media that his side couldn't reach a compromise with the ruling party.

Vacancy Announcement



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SIPC is a subsidiary of SINOPEC. SINOPEC is rated as the 19th largest Company in the world. SIPC has 3 exploring blocks as an operator & 1 development block as a partner in Yemen. SIPC invites you to apply for the position of

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- Preparing contracts and ensuring that they are timely approved, signed and notified in accordance with the procures described in the procurement manual.
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- Identify interface issues between the contractors and the company to optimize the use of resources for all contracts, and ensure their performance in a cost effective manner.
- Recommends cancellation of contracts when unwarranted deviations occur.
- Assisting and advising other departments on certain legal matters.
- Providing support on all legal matters to the company.
- Systematically attend all bid opening, evaluation, and contracts award sessions and preparing minutes of bid opening and evaluation reports, in according with the company policy.
- Prepare specifications for requests for bids in order to identify and select appropriate bidders.

Qualifications and professional requirements:

- A University degree (law degree is preferable)
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- Know how to avoid the legal gaps
- Know contract language structures
- 3 years in the same field

Interested, please send your C.V.s and covering letter to the following e-mail:

Recruitment@sipcyemen.com.ye

Note: (only Short listed will be contacted for the interview)

Deadline for applying is 20 / 03 / 2009

Invitation for prequalification Hassan Dam Project

The Republic of Yemen represented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has received a loan from the Abu Dhabi Fund towards the cost of the Hassan Dam Project and it intends to apply this loan to payment under the contract for Package 1: Hassan Dam and Appurtenant Works (AC-01) and Package 2: Works in Wadi Hassan (AC-02). The **Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation intends to prequalify contractors for Construction of Hassan Dam & Appurtenant Works, and Works in Wadi Hassan.**

Prequalification will be conducted through prequalification procedures specified and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the guidelines.

Eligible Contractors of first class grade according to top classification in their countries may obtain further information from and inspect the prequalification document at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, (address below). A complete set of the prequalification document in **English** may be purchased by interested applicants on the submission of a written official application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 50 US\$ during twenty five days (25) from date of this announcement. The method of payment will be cash.

Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address below by hand. And be clearly marked □Application to Prequalify for the two components□

**Hassan Dam and Appurtenant Works (AC-01)
Works in Wadi Hassan (AC-02)**

The deadline for receiving the documents will be 30th of March 2009.

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**Republic of Yemen
Minister of Water and Environment**

**National Water Resources Authority
Water Sector Support Program— WSSP**

Financial Management Specialist — Individual Consultant

Terms of Reference for Financial Management Specialist — Individual Consultant to build capacity of the accounting department staff of National Water Resources Authority NWRA - The managing agency of the water sub-sector (1) Integrated Water Resource Management

Context

The objective of the Component Integrated Water Resource Management is to ensure sustainable water resources management and economically efficient and equitable water resources development and use under the Water Sector Support Program (2009-2014), with estimated cost of US\$27.0 million to targeted budget support through pooled annual financing plan to be financed from the Government of Yemen and the Donor's Core Group (WB — Germany and Netherlands), the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA) would take the overall responsibility of managing this component and in order for the NWRA accounting department to efficiently and properly manage and account for the funds of this component, a qualified FM consultant would be fired to build capacity of the NWRA accounting department staff.

Tasks and Responsibilities

Under the direct supervision of NWRA director who will be responsible for the implementation of component 1 of this program, the consultant whose duties to build capacity of the NWRA accounting department staff through the following:

- 1) Developing, with the help of the accounting department staff, an acceptable Financial Management policies and procedures manual that depicts the controls and policies and procedures applied to ensure funds are being managed at acceptable risk level.
- 2) Assist the NWRA finance department in the selection and operation of acceptable accounting and reporting system than can record the program transactions and issue the quarterly IFRs.
- 3) Training the NWRA accounting staff on the financial management accounting and reporting system that will be operating.
- 4) Preparing and submitting to the MWE timely acceptable IFRs and disbursement plans with appropriate variation analysis.
- 5) Developing acceptable filing system for the program supporting documents.
- 6) Developing acceptable assets safeguarding system whereby the program assets are recorded in a traceable manner.
- 7) Managing the flow of funds from donors.
- 8) Insuring that internal auditing by the Program Executive Secretary (FM Advisor) is being implemented on regular basis.
- 9) Handling the process of hiring an external auditor acceptable to the donors and ensuring that auditor's needs are smoothly fulfilled to timely deliver of the audit report.
- 10) Any other needs that may be deemed necessary.

Qualifications and Requirements:

1. 10 years of work experience in the field of financial management and related issues.
2. 7 years relevant experience with financial matters and procedures of Foreign Donors.
3. 5 years overall experience with Government financial systems and regulations.
4. Bachelor Degree in Accounting.
5. Good knowledge of English language.
6. Computer literate with strong skills in Microsoft Office and related financial software.
7. Good command with professional skills in transferring the knowledge.

Duration of assignment:

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

**Contact Chairman Office
Tel: 256926
Fax: 231733 - 254274
Email: alhindi72@yahoo.com**

The man for the difficult missions

A day with Brigadier Ali Mohamed Naji, Director of Military Hospital

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam

Brigadier Ali Mohamed Naji, Manager of Sana'a Military Hospital is considered by those who know him and his work, an active, honest self made man.

He studied hard till he finished high school in Aden.

He pursued his university abroad where he graduated from military college in Egypt. He moved then directly to work in the field of military and, during a short time, came to be known as the man of difficult tasks.

Ministry of Defense entrusted him to run the Military Hospital in Taiz and then Military Hospital in Sana'a 1980. During his job in the hospital, for many centuries and within great management capabilities, the military hospital of Sana'a topped the Yemeni hospitals- both civil and military- in terms of performance and management.

The fifty eight year old brigadier maintains his fitness through practicing sports regularly. His imposing presence is noticed immediately when he enters the room, yet the first people remember of him is his sense of humor and good nature.

Naji gets up early and begins his work at 05:00 in the morning and leaves the hospital by noon. He resumes his work at 04:00 in the afternoon and continues till 10:00 pm.

Early morning and as soon as he arrives at the hospital, he walks around the admission departments to ask patients about services they receive, asking if there is any negligence or intimidation by the hospital personnel.

He jokes with patients about the hospital food and asks one elderly man about his favorite fruit. The man says strawberries and so Naji looks back and tells the nurse that this patient deserves his favorite dessert that day for being such a good patient.

As he walks around a sad heart



Known for his strict management and care for patients, Brigadier Ali Mohamed Naji sets an example of a successful hospital leadership.

patient called Basel attracts Naji's attention. He leans forward and touches the Basel's forehead and asks him what the problem is.

"I miss my wife and daughters, I am from Taiz and it has been weeks since they visited. We don't have relatives here and can't afford rent," says Basel.

Naji then smiles and says "that's it?" and grants Basel's wish as he arranges for renting a place for one month near the hospital sharing the costs of the rent with the hospital's administration.

At 07:00 in the morning, doctors and administrators hold a meeting and Naji reads the reports that he received from the personnel who work at night and the notes that they registered during their work. He gives them the directives to perform their duties each according to their specializations.

Asked about his job and how he was able to run the hospital and make it one of the best hospitals in Yemen in

terms of health services, cleanness and performance, Naji answered, "You don't need me to explain to you a lot. Rather, patients can answer about all your enquiries."

The hospital runs around the clock with hundreds of staff offering medical services to both military people and civilians.

"I don't like to appear on mass media. It is enough for me to have peace of conscience for the duty that I perform toward my country, both civil and military people," said Naji. "I also don't like you to take a photo of me as I consider myself as the anonymous soldier who never asks for praise from anyone except from God."

The hospital's had a capacity of no more than a hundred beds before Naji took over. After sincere advocacy an eight story building was constructed.

Many employees and patients expressed their admiration about the tolerance and patience of Naji. "He



The military hospital is one of the most respected hospitals in Yemen, known for its good medical health care and disciplined administration.

visits us more than once a day and also in the evening and discusses with us our problems. His morals are one of a kind," said one of the patients in the hospital.

"Naji's strictness with doctors, nurses and employees obliges everyone to perform their best and in accordance with the plan. Any mistake committed by anyone of the employees is encountered with strictness by Naji. He doesn't have any scope for bargaining," said one of the employees in the hospital. "All the personnel in the hospital consider Naji as their father; he is just and never knows bias toward anyone. At the same time, he never oppresses

anyone."

The staff commented that they do feel under the microscope even if he is not around. He makes them take their job seriously because he acts as a role model and leads by example.

Every morning between 8:00 and 8:30 Naji holds a staff meeting with the heads of departments and discusses that day's activities.

"We have to be patient and forget about ourselves and our own ego when dealing with patients. Our first duty is to the people we provide service to, and this in the eyes of God is a very important duty that we will be rewarded for if we do correctly," he told the

staff after a complaint that some patients are grouchy and irritable. "Don't forget that they are suffering and in pain."

Fifty percent of patients in the hospital, both males and females, are civilians or, rather, relatives of the military people.

When Dhekra learned this information, she didn't hesitate to talk about her health problem and ask for health service. Naji directed one of the specialists in the hospital to conduct

checks-up on the journalist and provide her with free and proper medication mostly for the military patients, except for emergency cases.

الشركة اليمنية للغاز الطبيعي المسال Yemen LNG Company



Job Vacancies

The Yemen LNG project involves the construction and operation of a gas pipeline, a harbour and a liquefied natural gas processing plant at Balhaf on the Gulf of Aden which will export 6.7 million tons of LNG per annum. The project offices are based in Sana'a and the project has an anticipated lifespan of over 20 years. Yemen LNG Company is now recruiting the temporary and permanent staff who will construct and manage the project.

To ensure the ongoing development of our Yemeni Maintenance Technicians and Production Operators, Yemen LNG has vacancies on a fixed term basis, for two years. Within the framework of the Yemen LNG training project, the Instructors and Coaches will prepare and deliver the established and structured technical curriculum and/or competency programme. The roles will focus on classroom training, workshop practical exercises (Sana'a based Instructors only) and an on-job competence development programme (Balhaf based Coaches).

All candidates applying for these posts must be Yemeni nationals

Contract Type: 2 years fixed term contract
Department: Human Resources
Section: HR Development
Location: Sana'a
Work Schedule: Rotational (30 days on / 26 days off)
Job title: Electrical Instructor (1) - Ref. No. 233
Instrument Instructor (1) - Ref. No. 234
Mechanical Instructor (1) - Ref. No. 235

Duties & Responsibilities:

Within the framework of Yemen LNG training project, the Training Instructor will prepare and deliver the required training materials covering the core technical aspects as well as the discipline specific subject matter. Their scope includes formal classroom teaching as well as the delivery of practical assignments in the workshop. Through periodic examination, close observation of performance and capability, the instructor will monitor and document the progress of the trainees against the curriculum framework, report on problematic areas and provide remedial action.

Qualifications required :

- A minimum of an Engineering Diploma in a relevant engineering/operations discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years experience in maintenance or plant operations in the oil & gas or petrochemical industry plus a minimum of 5 years of classroom/on job training experience.
- Exposure to the development, implementation & operation of competence assurance programmes.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English (general & technical), with high level communication skills.
- The ability to produce informative and concise technical training documents and reports.

Contract Type: 2 years fixed term contract
Department: Operations
Section: HR Administration
Location: Balhaf
Work Schedule: Rotational (29 days on / 27 days off)
Job title: Electrical Coach(1) - Ref. No. 236
Instrument Coach(1) - Ref. No. 237
Process Coach (RSI Simulator) (1) - Ref. No. 238

Duties & Responsibilities:

Within the framework of Yemen LNG training project, the Training Coaches, under the supervision of the Training Coordinator, will prepare and deliver the required classroom training materials required to enhance the on-job competence development programme. Their scope includes formal classroom teaching as well as the on-job coaching in the field. Through periodic on-job assessments, and through observation of performance and capability, the instructor will monitor and document the progress of the maintenance and process technicians against the competence development programme framework, report on problematic areas and suggest remedial action.

Qualifications required :

- A minimum of an Engineering Diploma in a relevant engineering/operations discipline.
- A minimum of 5 years experience in maintenance or plant operations in the oil & gas or petrochemical industry plus a minimum of 5 years of classroom/on job training experience.
- Exposure to the development, implementation & operation of competence assurance programmes.
- Excellent computer skills.
- Excellent knowledge of written and spoken English (general & technical), with high level communication skills.
- The ability to produce informative and concise technical training documents and reports.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Visit Yemen LNG's website at (WWW.YEMENLNG.COM).
- Go to Careers, then to Vacancies to enter our Web Application System.
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- Do not make duplicate applications by fax, etc.
- Yemen LNG Company will contact the selected candidates for interview and further assessment.
- Applicants who are not contacted have not been successful but can still apply for future positions.

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S O F I T E L
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1
DAY ONLY

Tracing Yemen—Mysore (India) coffee connections Saga of Yemen coffee

Dr. Lingaraja Gandhi
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Professor of English
University of Ibb
For the Yemen Times

It would perhaps be appropriate to begin my coffee tale on a personal note! Urge to write on this topic originated partly with my own obsession for coffee—Mysore Coffee, and partly in an attempt to answer my ten-year-old son's query that "what is special about Yemen?" One thing, a typical Mysorean (Indian) living abroad immeasurably misses in his daily life would be 'Mysore Coffee'—its aroma and nitty-gritty taste. That was indeed what I missed for a year and a half since I came to work as Professor of English in IBB, Yemen—a mountain town situated about 2000metres above the Sea level. In fact it is one of the coffee growing districts, which has mountain ranges as high as 3000metres altitude. One day, over a cup of evening tea, ruminating over Mysore Coffee and my son's query, I chanced to glance upon the Yemen national Logo—"Eagle". I noticed on the chest of the eagle two drawings: one, the Ma'arib Dam and the other, was the Coffee Tree. While Eagle symbolises the aspirations of freedom, the dam and the coffee tree symbolise the Yemeni heritage and agrarian civilization. That is how my discovery of Yemen Coffee story began, and resulted in interesting revelations—very importantly, between Mysore (Indian)—Yemen Coffee connections.

Remembered as 'Arabia Felix' (Happy Arabia), Yemen, is perhaps the poorest, yet a great country in the oil-rich Middle East. Greatness belongs to antiquity rather than to material prosperity or modernity of a country. It is the past, the relics that bring dignity and respect, and the source of Yemen's importance is its heritage. Yemen has an ancient and glorious past to pride itself of. It's age-old archeological sites—Temples, Castles, Citadels, Forts, Mosques—scattered all over the country stand a testimony to the life well flourished. Gifted as it were in Yemen, with a unique, picturesque, fertile land and landscapes. Its breath-taking lofty mountains and deep valleys are constant reminders of God's own country, and a country worth visiting by any foreigner.

But there is something else about Yemen! Yemen, a little-known and neglected country outside the Arabian Peninsula has given something so memorable that world can never ever ignore of! Or take off its daily routine without having it—Coffee! 'Mocha Coffee'! If there is any one product, one culture that can be undisputedly be claimed global, that is, Coffee. Coffee culture—culture involving coffee—is truly a global culture. Yemen is the world's home of coffee; it is the origin of Coffee. Although, Coffee is first found in Ethiopia, neighboring country across the Red Sea, Coffee cultivation, innovation, consumption and export began from Yemen—from a tiny port of Al-Makha (which became Mocha in the course of time). Coffee made its way to the world from this little port, and the world famous 'Mocha coffee' derives its name from Al Makha.

Indigenous to both Ethiopia and Yemen Coffee made its way to the world from a tiny port of Al-Makha (later Mocha), Yemen. Originated in Yemen, Coffee traveled across the world cultures and societies, transforming cultures and undergoing its own transformation! Coffee, which began as early as 9th century in Yemen- Arab world, is now a global drink pervading all cultures. It is interesting to note it was once resented both by Islamic and Christian communities. There were even prohibitory orders banning coffee consumption. There is now a new culture, say, a sub-culture developed around coffee. It is a borrowed culture—a culture of colonization. With the advent of Western coffee houses like Starbucks, Seattle, Bigby Coffee, Hudson, Espresso House and their Indian imitators like Café Coffee Day, a neo coffee culture is being created. The modern cafes are the new hubs, alternative to pubs—hangouts for the urban rich, especially for the youth. Coffee House is being described as 'third space' between work place and home. Anyway, it is not so much my purport to talk much about this cultural onslaught in this essay, but mainly to relate the saga of Yemen coffee. More interesting is the way Coffee entered Indian soil through a legendary Yemeni Sufi saint, 'Baba Budan' (Hazrat Shaikh Jamer Allah Mazarabi) who planted the coffee beans he brought from Al Makha (Yemen) in the hills of Western Ghats of Chikkamagalore of Karnataka State, South India. That was during 1670s. The first ever coffee was grown in India over those hills—the hills are now named after that Yemeni saint, 'Baba Budan Giri Hills'. Not only that, India's



unique Coffee also derives its name from that Sufi—"Baba Budan Giri Coffee". It may be likely that Baba Budan was from Badan Mountain (AL-Badan) in Ibb, Yemen. And, this coffee narrative is attempted from an educational, cultural and historical perspective.

Origin of Coffee

Coffee—both the word and the bean—has Arabic-Yemen root. The word, coffee, made its debut in English in 1598 after its long journey which began in the 9th century. Both the word and the bean traveled. The English word Coffee is from the Italian word Caffè which in turn came via Turkish Khavé. And Khavé is being created from the Arabic word Qahwa—which is a truncation of 'Qahwat al bun'—"wine of the bean". The two Arabic words used for Coffee are—"Qahwa" and 'Bun'. The journey of the word also marks the travel route of the coffee bean. I have already noted that coffee made its way to the world through Yemen's Makha port which became Mocha in the passage of time. The Turks found the Arabic word 'Qahwa' difficult to pronounce and pronounced it as Khavé, and for Europeans, Turk's pronunciation was easier. And in the course of time, it was truncated as 'caffé'. It should be noted here the Turks (Ottomans) occupied Yemen for a considerable period of time. Thus coffee traveled to Turkey, and the world's first coffee House, Kiva Han started in Istanbul in 1471, and from there it was exported to Italy. The first European coffee House was opened in Italy in 1645. And, largely through the efforts of British East India Company and the Dutch East India Company, Coffee entered England in the 16th century. Coffee Houses in Europe were owned by Arabs and Turks.

Coffee: History and legend

The first writers of Coffee have been Arabic scholars who have noted that the coffee consumption began with Arabic scholars, especially with Sufi scholars in the 10th century who invented it to prolong their working hours as well as a source of concentration. In his 1587 coffee account Abd-Al-Quadir, traces its first use among Sufi scholars and the spread of coffee from Arabia Felix—Yemen Northward to Mecca and Madina (Saudi Arabia), and in subsequent years to Cairo(Egypt), Damascus (Syria), Bagdad (Iraq) and Istanbul (Turkey). As for the origin of Coffee beans and beverage among many accounts, one account has it that an Yemeni Sufi mystic of the 10th century one Shaikh Al Shadili, in his travel in Ethiopia noticed the goats going frisky after eating the coffee berries. Another legend traces its origin to the Kingdom of Kaffa in Ethiopia where the coffee plant originated. But the credit of using it as a brew, and its cultivation as a commercial crop, as well as the coffee trade began and spread to the world from the port of Yemen.

Mocha Coffee Yemen

Yemen is the first country in the world to plant the coffee and to innovate the coffee drink. Also, Yemen is said to be the only country in the world where coffee is grown in different weather conditions, and by using till today the traditional natural organic methods. The world renowned Mocha coffee owes its origin to Yemen. Mocha is not only a truncated name of Makha port, but also is a variety of Coffee indigenous to Yemen. Mocha also grows Arabica Mocha Coffee beans that are a chocolate bean from which might have come the association with chocolate and the development of chocolate—espresso drink. 'Yemen Mocha' known as the best coffee of all times for its unique aroma and taste was the only commercial coffee exported to Europe for over 150 years starting in the 17th century. Mocha coffee unique to the soil of Yemen is grown on the mountain terraces at the altitudes varying from 1000 to 3000 meters above the sea level. Unlike the Indian coffee plantations where coffee plants are protected by trees, the mountains here are bald. But the plants are protected from too much sun by the surrounding mountains, and also the mountain dew serves to some extent as source of water to the rain-fed coffee terraces. Yemeni farmer is also known for his cultivation skills.

The Europeans' 'coffee love', it seems, originated from the Yemen Mocha coffee, and led a long way in the saga of 'Coffee, Café Culture' of the present-day global village. But it is noted that almost all the Yemen Mocha coffee is exported, especially to America, leaving very little for the domestic consumption. Because of the high premium on Yemen Mocha, the brand is also abused in the Coffee Market, some other mocha is being sold as Yemen Mocha.

From coffee to qat

However, Yemen Coffee plantations are now being drastically reduced due to the expansion of Qat fields. Qat is also a commercial crop indigenous to Yemen and Ethiopia. It is a kind shrub having leaves like coffee tree grown on the mountain terraces. Almost entire country is addicted to chewing qat leaves, and the chewing of which said to give them energy and vitality. A true Yemeni can be unthinkable minus this habit, and daily spends a lot of money on it. It is indeed the most lucrative crop today which is eating up the farming land meant to grow grains and vegetables. Coffee is now replaced by qat, and perhaps one can safely say it will be the ruin of all other crops. Reference to qat might look a digression from my coffee narrative in progress, but to those who know Yemen know that nothing could pass here without its reference! Let me proceed with the Coffee story, as how it entered Europe and the Western world as well as the Indian sub-continent, and gave way to a neo-culture of coffee?

Yemen coffee's European journey and coffee-house culture

While the British and Dutch East India Companies played pivotal roles in transplanting Coffee seeds from Arabia to the rest of the world, Coffee drink traveled, and coffee houses mushroomed in Europe starting from Italy and Turkey through the enterprising Arabs in the 17th century. And Yemen Mocha Coffee played the magic!

Coffee House culture that began in Turkey in the 15th century entered Italy (Europe) in 1645 where the first Coffee House was opened. There began a new culture. Coffee houses traditionally the social hubs as well as centres of intellectual discourses among thinkers, artists and writers. It is worth recording here the Modern French Philosophy was literally born in the café Les Deux Magots in Paris which was a favourite haunt of Jean Paul Sartre, an existential philosopher-writer, and a renowned feminist thinker, Simone de Beauvoir. A comparison of today's luxurious coffee houses which are mainly pass-time hubs, especially, for the urban-rich with those traditional cafes of culture and art where the great minds met and gave something valuable to the world, would be an illuminating exercise! The kind of culture and activity that one notices in the global Coffee Houses like Starbucks, Seattle, X Café, Café Coffee Day are stark reminders of the way in which Western cultures Colonizing the minds of the youth in the developing countries. Coffee Houses essentially serving the Western culture. Let us go back to the coffee journey to unfold its past account, the initial obstacles it encountered before it was accepted in the world.

Coffee stigma and Coffee Bans

While coffee beverage was invented, and favorite among Arabian scholars it was viewed by the conservative Muslims as a sort of wine. In fact the Arabic description of the coffee beverage was 'Qahhwat Al Bun' (meaning 'wine of the Berry'). And, Islam prohibits any alcohol. Thus Coffee was viewed as anti-Islamic drink, and coffee ban was imposed by the Ottoman Empire, Turkey in 1511, in Mecca 1524 and in Egypt 1532.

Coffee was equally resented by the Christian world as Coffee was considered 'a Muslim Drink' as it was an Arab-Muslim invention! The Ethiopian Orthodox Church banned it before the 17th century. The European Christian community made similar appeals with the Pope that 'something so good had to be the work of the devil'. However, it so happened that the Pope, Rev. Clevent VII who was himself a Coffee lover baptized it and declared it a truly Christian drink. Soon spread the coffee

houses and with them the coffee culture. Thus Coffee came to dwell, and prosper in the European world first, before it impacted other parts of the world.

Yemen coffee's Indian journey

The tale of Indian Coffee is as interesting as European. Indian coffee is also known as 'Mysore Coffee' or 'Mysore Nuggets'. It is called so because Mysore Region (State) which was the first region to grow coffee was also known for gold mines. Chikkamagalore and Coorg are the two famous coffee districts of old Mysore region, and both hold a lion share in India's coffee production. Chikkamagalore is the Indian home of Coffee; first coffee plantation began there in the 1670. Not only the first ever Indian coffee was grown over the sylvan hills of the Western Ghats of Chikkamagalore but also the most distinct Indian coffee—Baba Budan Giri Coffee—is from there.

Sufi and coffee

Indian Coffee which took its origin in the soils of Baba 'Budan Giri' (Giri meaning mountain, hill) of the Western Ghats of Chikkamagalore was brought from the legendary port town of Al Makha (which has become Mocha in the Coffee world), Yemen, by an Yemeni Sufi in 1670. The legend has it that 'Baba Budan' on the way from Mecca picked seven fertile coffee beans from the port of Makha and wrapped them around his belly and smuggled out of Arabia and planted them in his habitat in Mullayyana Giri, the highest peak (1926 meter above Sea level) in the Baba Budan Giri range. And from those seven beans grew the coffee trees of India, and later the British developed coffee as a commercially viable crop and spread it to other parts of India. And coffee became an important cash crop spread during the period of colonialism. Coffee grown in these hills has a distinct flavour because of the soil conditions and has acquired a brand name Baba Budan Giri Coffee.

Who is Baba Budan?

Known as the legendary progenitor of Indian Coffee, Baba Budan whose real name was Hazarat Shaikh Jamer Allah Mazarabi arrived from Yemen in the 17th century and settled down in a cave (in Mullayyana giri, the loftiest peak in the range) that was previously inhabited by another Sufi Saint Hazarath Shaikh Abdul Aziz Makki (also known as dada Hayat) who too came from Yemen in the 10th century with a view, of course, to spread Sufism. Years after the demise of Baba Budan, his cave was sanctified and emerged as a sacred site of pilgrimage and there is an annual fair where thousands of Muslims gather to worship. The cave—shrine is also a sacred place for the Hindus as the believers of Hindu legend claims it a seat of Dattatreya, an incarnation of Vishnu, and son of Atreya Rishi—one of the Sapta Rishis (Seven sages). Thus the first coffee territory is also the territory of the communal conflict.

Also, the Forest Range of this part of 'Malenaadu' (wooded hills) is named after him, Baba Budan Giri Range. How he got the nick name 'Baba Budan'? After living here in Ibb, Yemen for nearly two years now, it appears to me that he might have hailed from the mountain of Badan (Al Badan) facing the Ibb Town of Yemen. Also, one sees remarkable similarities between the two mountain peaks—Mullayyana Giri (India) and Badan (Yemen). The similarity prompts me to think that Baba Budan may be from Badan! Like coffee districts of Chikkamagalore and Coorg, Ibb and Hadramout districts of Yemen are famous for honey! It would be interesting to note that the world's most expensive honey comes from Yemen, and Yemeni's honey love is indeed obsessive.

The Yemen-Indian Coffee story which is traced to Yemen Sufi's journey is an accident of history. Of course coffee would have entered the Indian soil otherwise! Isn't it? Because of colonization! That is a different story! The saga of Coffee can go on! I share my coffee thoughts—thoughts surrounding coffee, from Yemen, the world's first Coffee Land with readers back home and elsewhere. Read it over an extra cup of coffee, Yemen Mocha Coffee!

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Muhammad Said Jarada

A Savant Poet in the History of Yemeni Poetry

By: Eyad N. Al-Samman
alsammanworld@yahoo.ca

Jarada, Muhammad Said, was a Yemeni poet, educationist, lyricist, critic, historian and diplomat. He was born in 1927 in Al-Shaikh Othman quarter in Aden city. At age seven, Jarada finished his study of the Holy Qur'an in the *Kuttab* (primitive primary school) and after two years his father died and left behind two other siblings for Jarada. Consequently, Jarada brought up under the wing of his uncle who was fascinated by reading different books. This feature was imparted to Jarada who read numerous and diverse literary books. His literary trends directed to reading and memorizing many books tackled pre-Islamic poetry. At the same time, Jarada continued his education at the hands of sheik Ahmed Al-Obadi in Zakko mosque located in Al-Shaikh Othman. In Al-Obadi's educational school, Jarada learned religious sciences including the prophetic tradition and jurisprudence. He also studied Arabic language sciences such as grammar, rhetoric, poetry, and Arabic literature and also studied Arabic and Islamic history.



In the beginning of his professional career, Jarada moved to Ta'izz governorate in 1946 looking for a proper work. He moved after that to Sana'a but returned during the 1950s again to the South Yemen. He worked as a teacher for several years in Abyan city. Afterwards, he moved to teach educational subjects in Al-Nahdha Al-Arabia School in Aden. Jarada spent more than 25 years of his life teaching in that school and was promoted to be its principal. Then he worked as a technical instructor before he was appointed manager for educational documentation in the Ministry of Education. He worked also as a presenter of cultural programs broadcast at the Aden Radio Station. He was a member in the Yemeni Unity's committee of education, culture and information. His last governmental position was working as a cultural counselor for the Yemeni Embassy in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and later on he was appointed minister plenipotentiary in the same embassy during the early 1990s.

Jarada made his debut as a poet when he was only 13 years old. Among his first poetic works two booklets entitled "*Firdous Al-Qur'an*" (The Qur'an's Paradise, 1963) and "*Wahi Al-Burda*" (Revelation of the Prophet's Mantle, 1967). "*Firdous Al-Qur'an*" was a poem which included many religious and ethical samples. The second poem was versed about the prophet Muhammad

(pbuh) and his followers who propagated Islam all over the world. Jarada's first divan was entitled "*Masha'il Al-Darb*" (The Paths' Torches) which was published in 1971 in Aden. The divan included 23 poems varied between national, elegiac, romantic and humanitarian poetry. Among the divan's poems the one entitled "*Dama'a Ala Al-Zubairi*" (A Tear on Al-Zubairi) in which Jarada eulogized the revolutionist Muhammad Al-Zubairi and expressed his severe grief on Al-Zubairi's assassination. The humanitarian poem entitled "*Vietnam in the Liberation's Battles*" discusses the war's savagery against the unnamed Vietnamese people. In 1976, Jarada published his second divan entitled "*Lil-Yaman Hubbi*" (My



Love is for Yemen) which contains 39 poems versed from 1946 to 1974. The divan's pomes tackled issues such as homeland, revolution, politics and friendship. "*Ardh Al-Shi'ar*" (Land of Poetry, 1985) was another divan which comprised 30 poems versed by Jarada during the 1950s and up to the 1980s.

Jarada last divan was published posthumously in 2000 and entitled "*Qasa'id Lam Tunshar*" (Unpublished Poems). It included a study on the poet's life and additional 51 poems that have never been published before. In the field of lyric poetry, Jarada versed in both colloquial and classical Arabic more than 40 lyric pomes. These lyrics were sung by several Yemeni famous singers like Muhammad Murshid Naji in songs like "*Liq'a'a*" (Date), "*That Al-Khal*" (The Girl with a Mole) and singer Ahmed Qasim in songs as "*Shurooq*" (Sunrise), "*Al-Qamar Al-Saji*" (The Calm Moon).

Regarding his critical and literary works, he published a book entitled "*Al-Adab Wa Al-Thaqafa Fee Al-Yaman Abr Al-Osoor*" (Literature and Culture in Yemen Through Ages, 1985). The book chronicles the literary and cultural movements in Yemen and studies most prominent writers and poets of each period starting from the pre-Islamic period until the contemporary time in Yemen. Among his works which still in press "*A'alam min Al-Adab Al-Arabi*" (Masters from the Arabic Literature) and "*Dirasat Naqdiyya*" (Critical Studies). During the early 1990s, Jarada decided to issue a divan entitled "*Shakhshi Jiddan*" (Very Personal) comprising his poetized poems about a group of his close friends but he could not accomplish this work.

Among his other cultural activities, Jarada participated in establishing Al-Shabab Cultural Club in Al-Shaikh Othman in 1947, participated in establishing Union of Literature and Art in the same quarter in 1961 and also participated in establishing the Union for Yemeni Authors and Writers in 1970. He was also awarded the first-class state's decoration for literatures and arts from both governments in Yemen during the 1980s.

Jarada passed away in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on January 21, 1991, at age 64 and was buried in Aden. Jarada was an icon of struggle, a master of Yemeni culture and a talented poet who enriched cultural and literary movement in Yemen with his unique and moving poetic works. It was said once about him: "*Jarada stands at the end of a past era and enters from the gate of a new era which thrusts its way into pales of poor returns and fragments of original and unoriginal. He performs in the history of Yemeni poetic movement the same effective role that Dante previously performed in the history of European literature.*"

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By: Alice Hackman

For over two decades, women have

Nuria Ahmed, 42, from Sana'a, has lent her expertise to the center for the last 14 years. She first joined the association after her father died and has been working here ever since. Divorced with three children in her care, she designs embroidery patterns inspired by motifs on dresses, doors



With nimble fingers and a sharp eye for detail, women at the national center work to support their families.

Both Ahmed and Um Nabil have turned their lives around by producing exquisite handicrafts to sell in the association's shop. Displayed beside dazzling golden sashes styled on the Yemeni jam-

4U

Both shops are located in Souq Al-Manjara behind the Great Mosque. To find the National Women's Center for Handicrafts, walk straight down through the souq's main gate. The cobbled way curves to the left. When you come to a T-junction, turn right and walk down the alley. The center is at the end on your right.

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biya [dagger] belt, kohl pouches and antique wedding robes, their wares compete for visitors and tourists' attention. For each item sold, they earn 50 percent of its price and the other half is re-invested into new materials.



"Even the guard is learning to weave," says one of the women.



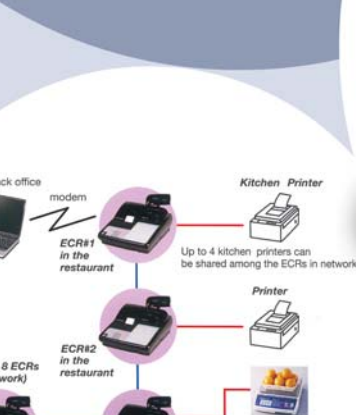
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No. 37

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Arabic loan words in English



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English is a language of the Indo-European family and Arabic is a language of the Semitic Family. So, when someone from Britain or the United States visits Yemen for the first time, he may have the feeling before he enters Yemen that words in Yemeni Arabic, as perhaps in Arabic in general, will be utterly unfamiliar to him. It will be a pleasant surprise to him when he finds that many of the words he has been

using are originally Arabic words borrowed by English. It is likely that many of these words were borrowed directly from Arabic while the others travelled from Arabic to Spanish or some other language and were then borrowed from that language.

It is also likely that the words borrowed from Arabic into English are not originally Arabic words but are words that Arabic borrowed from Greek, Latin, Persian, Hebrew, Aramaic or Coptic.

The following are some of the words that English borrowed from Arabic.

admiral

This word was derived from the Arabic *amir al-bihar*, which means "commander of the seas".

albatross

This word seems to have been derived from the Arabic *alcatraz* or *al-ghattas* meaning "diver".

alchemy

This word was derived from the

Arabic *al-alkimiya*, likely to have been derived from the Greek *khemia*, meaning the art of transmuting metals

alcohol

This word comes from the Arabic *al-kuhl*, *al* being the definite article in Arabic. *Al-kuhl* in Arabic is an expression for the powdered antimony used as a cosmetic for darkening the eyelids.

alfalfa

It was derived from the Arabic *al-fis-fisa*, which meant "fresh fodder".

algebra

As John Ayto, an etymologist, has said, *algebra* "symbolizes the debt of Western culture to Arab mathematics". When this word first entered the English language, it was used as a term for the setting of broken bones.

alkali

It was derived from the Arabic *qali* meaning "to fry", "to roast". Originally, this word meant a saline

substance derived from the ashes of plants.

almanac

This word was derived from *al-manax* or *al-manakh*, which meant "the climate". It is very likely that this Arabic word was from a Greek word meaning "calendar".

amber

It was derived from the Arabic *amber* / *anbar*, which means "yellow"

assassin

This word was derived from the Arabic *hashashin*, which means "those who use hashish. (cannabis resin)".

attar

This word is a derivative of the Arabic word, *itr* / *utur*, which means "perfume", "aroma".

camphor

It was derived from the Arabic word *kafur*. The ultimate origin of this word is the Sanskrit word *karpuram*.

cotton

This word was derived from the Arabic word *qun*

elixir

This word was derived from the Arabic expression *al-iksir*; *al* being the definite article in Arabic. Earlier this word was used for a dry powder for treating wounds but later it was used for a substance which could change base metals into gold and then for a substance that could confer immortality.

hashish

It was derived from the Arabic word *hashish* meaning "cannabis".

jasmine

This word was derived from the Arabic word "*yas(a)min*".

lime

This word was derived from the Arabic word *limah*, or *limun* meaning "citrus fruit", "lemon".

monsoon

This English word was derived from the Arabic word, *mawsim*, which means "season"

muslin

This word has its origin in the name of the Iraqi city of Mosul, where cotton fabric was manufactured.

Satan

This word was derived from Arabic *sheytan* meaning "evil".

This list of words borrowed by English from Arabic is only illustrative and not exhaustive. "Neither a borrower nor a lender be," said Shakespeare. But no living language can help borrowing words from other languages of cultural, commercial or scientific relevance to them. We all know that Arabic has borrowed a large number of words from English. But in relation to English, Arabic has not only been a borrower but also a lender.

I. What to Say

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

Money is for circulation. But to hoard or to store money secretly in large amount is detrimental to the economic health of a country. The squirrel hoards up nuts for the winter, but greedy individuals are inclined to store money secretly, more than is allowed. But Plautus is of the view, "You must spend money, if you wish to make money."

Public finance

Inheritance tax: Money paid on what is inherited after some one dies.

Income tax: tax collected on wages and salaries.

Customs or excise duties: Taxes to be paid on goods imported from other countries.

VAT or value added tax: A tax paid on most goods imported from other countries when they are bought or purchased.

II. How to say it correctly

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

- Neither my friends nor the manager are planning to ask for a raise in salary.
- Among us three brothers, I am younger than Mujib but elder than Majeed.
- His eyes caught sight of a heap of letters which was lying on the table.
- Had he told me earlier, I may have lent him the money to save him from disgrace.
- With such talented players in tennis to compete with he had hardly no chance to win.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Truly speaking, there was little merit in the complaint **written** by my employee.
- Hardly had she finished** the typing when the manager entered the room with some more work.
- Dr. Ejaz along with his wife and children **was** invited to the party.
- The fact that the compact car is better than the **conventional** car has been proved by its sales.
- The airport is **farther** from my house than the railway station.

III. Increase Your Word Power

- Test of how a representative sample of people think about something as a means of making a forecast.
- Member of a gang of criminals.
- Military force stationed in a town or fort.
- Talking too much about unimportant things.
- Showing family descent.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- Irregular band of stars not seen separately but making the sky bright: **galaxy** (n)
- Occasion of public merry making: **gala** (n)
- Showing special respect and courtesy to women: **gallant** (adj)

Improve Your English: 326

- Room or building for the display of works of arts: **gallery** (n)
- Wooden framework on which to put criminals to death: **gallows** (n)

(B) Words often confused

Bring out differences in meaning of the following pairs of words

- wound, wounded
- metal, mettle
- job, position
- immeasurable, unmeasurable
- beautiful, handsome
- pretty, lovely

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- look-out** (n) (concern): Don't bother yourself. My family's welfare is my look-out.
outlook (n) (a person's way of looking at something): He is a person of very wide outlook.
- loveable** (adj) (worth of love): Dr. Ismail is a loveable person.
lovely (adj) (beautiful. It refers mainly to things): What a lovely rose!
- low** (adj) (not high, not loud): Learners with low level of proficiency in English should work hard to improve their proficiency.
lowly (adj) (humble, simple, meek, modest): Saints lead a lowly life
- lustily** (adj) (vigorously, strongly): The spectators lustily cheered the players.
lustfully (adv) (with sensual desires): Some mischievous men lustfully stare at young girls.
- loud speaker** (n) (person who speaks loudly): A loud speaker as he is, he needs no public address system.
loud-speaker (n) (a sound amplifying device): A loud-speaker is needed to address the crowd.

(C) Synonyms and Antonyms

(i) Synonyms

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

- Wordsworth advocated **pantheism** in his poems.
a. belief in worship of all gods
b. belief in all religions
c. belief in the presence of a god in every object of nature.
d. belief in divinity of all human beings.

- One should be careful about one's **out-go**.

- go out
- get stumped
- result
- expenditure

- He is keenly interested in **show-biz**.

- media connected with films
- effective theatrical performance

- public entertainment businesses
- business publicity

- The old woman is a **shrew**.
a. bad-tempered, scolding woman
b. miserly usurer
c. shrewd, clever person
d. perjuring witness

- He is the **honorary** secretary of the society.
a. honest
b. dignified
c. unpaid
d. praiseworthy

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Synonym |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 1. delivered | announced |
| 2. realize | fulfill |
| 3. hushed | silenced |
| 4. commands | possesses |
| 5. travelogue | description of a journey |

(ii) Antonyms

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

- The two sisters are **distinct** in everything: dress, manners, hair-style and food habits.
a. opposite
b. different
c. uniform
d. similar

- People are scared of him because of his **forbidding** appearance.

- handsome
- lenient
- tranquil
- mild

- He felt **dejected** to learn about his failure.

- gleeful
- hilarious
- impressed
- elated

- You should not be serious over such a **trivial** matter.

- important
- small
- easy
- difficult

- My friend gave a **lavish** party to celebrate his wedding anniversary.

- big
- wasteful
- frugal
- expensive

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- | Word | Antonym |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. mandatory | optional |
| 2. delayed | expedited |
| 3. impetuous | quiet and gentle |
| 4. fragile | strong |
| 5. augment | diminish |

(D) Spelling

Choose the correctly spelt word

- a. albom
b. albaum
c. alboom
d. album

- a. alchemy
b. alchemi
c. allchemy
d. alcemy

- a. alchohol
b. alcohol
c. alchohoul
d. allcohol

- a. alien
b. alein
c. aline
d. aleen

- a. aline
b. align
c. alignn
d. aalign

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- agile
- agnostic
- agreement
- agriculture
- alacrity

(E) Phrases and Idioms

Use the following in sentences of your own

- give (someone) the willies
- put (someone) on the back burner
- go at it hammer and tongs
- have a fighting chance to
- have a memory like a sieve

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

- not a bad sort** (quite a pleasant person): My new neighbor seems not a bad sort.
- throw in one's hand** (to give up a plan): He planned to study abroad, but he had to throw in his hand when he did not get the scholarship.
- hold a pistol to (someone's) head** (to force someone to do as one wishes, by making threats): The kidnappers held a pistol to the diplomat's head by asking him to leave the country.
- keep one's hair on** (to stay calm): Keep your hair on in the face of unfavorable circumstances.
- win hands down** (to win very easily): I'm sure in today's match our team will win hands down.

IV. Grammar and Composition

(A) Grammar

Complete each sentence with a word connected with films.

- Amitabh Bachaan — 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 — where the young girl finds the rest of her family.

- The — 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 — if they wanted to see a film.
- The disadvantage of watching films on TV is the small size of the —.

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

some advice, an office, some homework, an exercise, some furniture, a sofa, some work, some baggage, some assistance, some news, some help, a newspaper, some information, a job, a handbag

(B) Composition

Expand the central idea contained in the following maxim

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

143: VICTORY BELONGS TO THE MOST PERSEVERING

Napoleon Bonaparte, the great French general, focuses here on the crucial role of hard work to achieve victory. There is no substitute to perseverance to win one's goal. I Ching perceives good fortune and misfortune taking effect through perseverance. The tao of heaven and earth becomes visible through perseverance. The tao of sun and moon becomes bright through perseverance. All movements under heaven become uniform through perseverance which is undeniably the key to success. Success forsakes those who always dream of fate; it favors those who persevere. One should therefore always be active and alert. Amy van Dyken, an eminent sports person, says: "The most important lesson I've learned from sports is how to be not only a gracious winner, but a good loser as well. Not everyone wins all the time. As a matter of fact, no one wins all the time. Winning is the easy part, losing is really tough. But you learn more from one loss than you do from a million wins. You learn a lot about sportsmanship." In fact, when a good scorer comes, he doesn't see whether you won or lost, but how you played the game. All these reinforce the importance of perseverance. Michael Jordan aptly sums up the significance of perseverance when he says, "I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying."

V. Verses from the Holy Quran

"Those who reject Our Signs and the Meeting in the Hereafter, vain are their deeds: can they expect to be rewarded except as they have wrought?" —S7: A147

VI. Words of Wisdom

"All books are divisible into two classes: the books of the hour, and the books of all time."

—John Ruskin

ELT Panorama

Alphabetical whispers for innovative teachers



Mohammed Al-Kameem
alkameem2007@gmail.com

Nobody knows everything and no body knows nothing. Every one's personality grows and changes across time according to the twist and turn of circumstances. Everyone must remember that whenever he has learnt something, he should, at the same time, realize his mind's insufficiency and be aware of the areas of his ignorance.

Teachers who are regarded as transmitters of knowledge can exercise their craft more competently if they identify the areas of darkness in their minds and stuff themselves with appropriate facets of knowledge so as to become sound professionals. With a view to accomplishing this objective they should learn how to:

APPLY their own imagination to creatively transform theory into practice in the classroom processes. This cannot be achieved if they merely follow the plethora of the textbook instructions but lack adequate knowledge in the subject concerned. There must be a balance between the textbook instructions and the teacher's content knowledge coupled with his capacity for innovation.

BRIDGE the gap between both the outside world and the classroom. Here visual aids are of great importance. Integrating them into learning experiences is a matter of the teacher's sensitivity and creativity.

CALL up new strategies to draw the veil of over-routinisation. There will be no room for students to feel bored if the teacher is innovative. The more the teacher innovates on the existing teaching-learning strategies, the more

the students enjoy the learning experience and vice versa.

DETECT what is there in the learners' minds. A tactful teacher always masters the art of prediction because this enables him to keep track of the learners' evolution. So, awareness about the ideational scaffoldings in the minds of the learners wins their attention.

ESTABLISH an intimate relationship with the students but not sacrificing one's dignity. Maintain a respectable distance from them. This would accelerate successful learning process and pave the way for more difficult learning tasks.

FACILITATE and augment the learning experiences for the learners. This can be achieved not only when he makes the learners understand the lesson but also when he gives them chance to build up confidence. That's to say, a teacher should not be dominant all the time; he should let the learners handle the best part of each activity themselves.

GO up with the smallest changes in the mental growth of the learners. Consciousness is of vital importance here. Learners feel rewarded when what they just guessed matches with the teacher's explanation. Additionally, their motivation for acquiring new experience will make them ready for achieving the learning goal.

HEED what learners say, whether they give clarifications or offer relevant suggestions.

INVOLVE students in topics that would interest them. Psychologists mention that the learners need to be prepared for learning. They cannot work appropriately if they receive everything without readiness. So, a teacher has to assess their present level of information before presenting new information.

JOIN the two essential parts of the class; teacher and student, by starting the class with chatting about any interesting topic. Chatting enlivens students' minds and gives them the confidence. They feel involved in the lesson.

KINDLE in their minds a dose of inquisitiveness and a ray of self-confidence to integrate the new, incoming information to their present knowledge base.

LET them explore, expound, so that they learn "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

MAKE use of available opportunities to make the learners speak English. Even simple expressions can help greatly in promoting students' level and they can easily acquire great amount of vocabulary and expression.

NARRATE some stories to students in simple English to show them models of literary texts, modules of literary writing and help them to imitate such stories. They can ask students to tell about themselves. It will encourage them to talk about their own life.

ORGANIZE your teaching in a well-orchestrated manner so that the learners discover the fun and excitement of navigating the learning route by themselves.

PORTRAIT some imaginative situations and ask students to read according to the external features. If the students grasp the value of this, many tasks can be devised. After a period of time learners will have this skill of depiction and they will be able to motivate themselves constantly.

QUALIFY the dry mentalities. That is, in each class there must be noise-makers as well as problem shooters. Here, the role of the teacher lies in diverting the mind of the inattentive students and bringing them to the mainstream of classroom processes.

RAISE genuine points of argumentative value which need to be discussed. Such discussions warm up the class and dispel boredom from the minds of learners. It does not take a lot of the teacher's time, rather it makes comprehension quicker and easier.

START the lesson with a bang and

sustain learners' interest and curiosity. Teaching, thus, will not be a tedious process but a systematic one. The teacher should activate students' minds first before rushing into the lesson details. This way students will gradually explore the realm of learning successfully.

TRANSLATE their thoughts and the information with the help of some visual aids. It is said a picture is worth a thousand words. He who uses visual aids, actually hits two birds simultaneously. He clarifies the meaning and maintains students' interests as well. He should be tactful on what, how and when to use them.

UNIFY the text book language and the real life language and come out with a significant mixture that will stimulate students' imagination.

VARY the questioning phrases among the students according to their level, abilities and psychological state. This way, the teacher can regulate the pace of learning.

Wow the students with tactful performance. It is very common that a work-shy teacher gives but boring, static information, and gets negative feedback from the students.

XEROX nothing that will frustrate the learners. For example, take a lesson plan notebook from one of the colleagues to save time.

YELL no more at the students for any reason. Teachers are role models for their learners. Students, in their turn, will keep yelling at their friends, brothers and parents as well.

ZERO at each student's complains, details, more clarifications and even critical points of view.

A teacher must have a high sense of responsibility to be able to conquer any big or silly prompts that may happen at any time. Furthermore, if they are sensitive and sincere, they can win their students' hearts.

A letter to the learners of English: 19 Reading, the only way to learn English

Dear Student friends,

The title of this letter may be in contradiction with most of your assumptions or what most of your teachers say. In a casual chat, I asked about 25 students what they want to learn in an English class, and all of them said in chorus 'spoken'; this is the common aspiration of an average Indian child, I think, Yemeni children can't be different. This is mainly because a language is primarily oral and synonymous with its spoken form. Nothing wrong with a child's desire!

Why is speaking preferred to writing?

Is it because writing is more time consuming than speaking? Is it because that some status is attached to spoken English (someone whose spoken English is not good is looked down upon, though his knowledge of the subject is strong)? Is it because most people think (wrongly though) that speaking is learnt easier than other skills? Is it because spoken English has a face validity i.e. your proficiency in English is evaluated by if you speak English or not?

Whatever be the reason the fact is that speaking English has an edge over the other skills in the learning of English. Let's think for a moment a bit critically. Answer the following questions in your mind:

- How often do you speak English in a day?
- How many of your friends do you speak to in English in a day?
- How many of your friends like you to speak to them in English?
- How much time do you spend in speaking English?
- What are the different places where you have to speak to in English?
- How much time do you spend in speaking English in your classes (if you are a student of English or a professional course)?

Have you answered my questions? I guess the answers point to the fact that very little time is spent for speaking and there are very few occasions for speaking either. This is not to undermine the importance of spoken English; it simply means that in practical terms, in Yemen, like most parts in India, the opportunities for listening to and speaking in English are not many. There are opportunities such as when you meet a non-Arabic speaking person, when you are a teacher of English or teach through English, when you are a newsreader in the Yemen TV or Radio Network, when you work with tourists, when you listen to the TV channels like BBC and Al Jazeera International and when you happen to be abroad, but these are rare and people who face these situations are in small number as well. There is no doubt that those who have these opportunities often should give priority to the learning of spoken English.

What about the others who form the majority among the Yemeni youth and how can they learn their English? My suggestion to all of them is 'read, read and read, and it is the only way to learn English'. More to come. Good luck.

**Injuring someone with fire is less
harmful than with words. (Kural)**

*Yours affectionately,
Dr M N K Bose.*

ANY GUESSES?

1. Which of the following is correct:
a. administer
b. administrate
2. What is the difference between 'waste' and 'wastage'?
3. Do 'early' and 'early on' mean the same?
4. What does the phrase 'click someone in' mean?
5. What is the meaning of 'bomb along'?

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. 'Her remarks got up my nose' means that her remarks annoyed me.
2. 'Oriented' means 'directed towards.' 'Customer-oriented' means 'directed towards customers'. A customer-oriented organization is one that aims at satisfying its customers.
3. 'Belie' means to give a wrong or untrue idea for something. *His report belies facts.* It also means 'fail to justify or fulfill.' *War belied hopes for peace.*
4. 'Educationist' or 'educationalist' is a specialist in education. In American English 'educationist' is a term that suggests that he is small in value or importance.
5. One of the meanings of 'dump on' is to criticize someone severely. For example, *the Prime Minister dumped on the opposition in the parliament.*

Shakespeare's Macbeth: A challenge to the metaphysics of anthropocentric presence (Part 3)



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Evidently, the range and appeal of ecocriticism is interdisciplinary. It attempts "to understand the connectedness of all things – including the life of the mind and the life of the earth" (Dean: 1994). Ecocriticism is integrative, holistic and "value-centered that honors the interconnectedness of things. As the interconnectedness of things is valued, so too is the integrity of all things, be they creatures of earth, critical practices, spiritual beliefs, or ethnic backgrounds" (Ibid). Contemporary accounts of increasing environmental concerns in creative and critical writings have strong "tradition of such thinking within the domain of literary art" as argued by Branch (1994) in the following lines:

First, questions about the proper role of humans in the cosmic scheme have always engaged the literary imagination, and concerns about maintaining or restoring a right relationship to nature are both thematically and symbolically present in the literature of

every culture. For example, when *Oedipus Rex* opens with a plague upon the land, or the Bible begins with Adam and Eve's expulsion from the paradisiacal garden, or *The Divine Comedy* starts with Dante lost in the rank wildness of the dark wood, we understand that the ethical propriety of individual action is metaphorically conceived of in terms of the health and balance of nature. Second, literature has always struggled with questions of value comparable to those being asked by ecosophy. For example: should humans be valued as creations of God, as Milton might suggest, as creatures of nature, as Rousseau might suggest, or as creations of culture, as Henry James might suggest? Should wilderness be feared, as it was by Puritan exegetes, studied scientifically, as it was by the Enlightenment rationalists, or revered, as it was by Romantic poets? Third, literature has always been concerned with the creation and recreation of a sense of place. For example, Frost's New England and Faulkner's Mississippi are the subjects rather than simply the settings of their work. This powerful sense of emotional location is produced by a convergence of artistic and natural spheres, a kind of literary bioregionalism in which the writer imaginatively inhabits a particular locale. Fourth, a great deal of literature has dealt explicitly with nature, whether to speculate upon our place within it, or

to explore or express its beauty irrespective of human concerns. Both ecosophy and literature are born of a meeting between nature and culture; both deeply explore and often deeply question relationship between human and their natural surroundings.

Macbeth deals with all the four aspects referred to in the above quote: a) it questions about the proper role of the human beings in the cosmic scheme of things emphasizing the ethical propriety of the individual action, b) the question of value, c) creation and recreation of a sense of place, a sense of emotional location and d) the inner and the outer aspects of nature. But there is something more in *Macbeth*, which is the question of unjust authority that theory contends that, this "stems from a belief in 'presence' while ecosophy holds that it has its source in anthropocentricism" (Ibid: 1994) "whose authority is guaranteed by a divine transcendental signified" (Grodan and Kreiswirth:1997).

Discussion

Renaissance individuals tended to see themselves as independent personalities. Renaissance portrait-painting reflected this tendency in the portrayal of individual human beings. The individual sitter becomes a subject to be glorified; he or she is frequently placed against more realistic backgrounds, and is thus located in a specific world of time and space (Browning's "My Last Duchess" is a beautiful example). The sitter is represented in living attitudes, with realistic facial expressions revealing personali-

ty. In novelistic terms Francois Rabelais' *Gargantuan and Pantagruel*, and Cervantes' *Don Quixote* are such studies of the individualized human characters. In dramatic art, the medieval emphasis on allegorical representation of individuals finds expression in Shakespeare's plays - the individualized human character becomes the legitimate object for study. *Hamlet*, for instance, which presents a man given the task of avenging his father's murder, can be seen primarily as the psychological portrait of an individual man, torn by doubts, and weak because of his own vacillation. In medieval drama, however, such serious explorations of private human suffering are seldom presented on stage. Instead, in plays like *Everyman* (written shortly before the close of the fifteenth century), perhaps the best of the "morality" plays, though *Everyman* "suffers" the disconsolation of finding that his friends (Fellowship, Kindred, Worldly Goods) will not follow him into the next world, he remains essentially a constituent part of a dramatized sermon or homily. *Everyman* fails to assume the individuality of *Hamlet*, or of Shakespeare's Cleopatra, Rosalind, Lady Macbeth, or Falstaff, Richard III, or Othello (see *The Renaissance Introduction*: 2004).

Macbeth's personality has this tendency to see himself as an individual right from the beginning. His reaction after his first encounter with the witches, in Act I, Scene iii, is ample evidence of his thinking in terms of an individual. His soliloquies are also an attempt to rationalize his individuality trying to achieve a philosophical freedom from a world-view which advo-

cated individualism fostered by ambition and upward mobility in personal terms which caused moral and physical chaos. His actions are responsible for the moral and physical chaos upsetting the political order in Scotland causing turbulence in natural environment by an "unnatural" act of "A falcon, towering in her pride of place, / Was by a mousing owl hawked at, and killed" (II. 10-12) which is being described by Rosse to an Old Man outside the castle of Macbeth in Act II, Scene iv:

And Duncan's horses (a thing most strange and certain)
Beauteous and shift, the minions of their race,
Turned wild in nature, broke their stalls, flung out,
Contending against obedience, as they would make
War with mankind. (II. 14-17)

The Old Man who is "Threescore and ten" is not able to remember such "Hours dreadful and things strange". The same imagery of the individual man vis-à-vis a superior, more powerful, and more sanctified cosmic pattern is continued when Rosse says:

Thou seest, the heavens, as troubled with man's act,
Threatens his bloody stage: by the clock 't is day,
And yet dark night strangles the travelling lamp. (II. 5-6)

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Motherese or teacherese?

The title sounds strange, doesn't it? Do not try to look up these words in your dictionary. That may not help you to find out their meaning. *Motherese* is a technical term that has been recently introduced and widely used in the study of language acquisition. It refers to the way mothers talk to their young children, for mothers play a significant role in the development of children's language. Mothers are really amazingly natural teachers. They watch their infants and listen carefully to what they utter and respond accordingly. They modify their speech style to encourage interaction. *Teacherese*, on the other hand, refers to the way teachers structure teaching talk to their students. Recent



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researchers insist that teacherese should be like motherese if language learning is to be successful.

Mothers and infants engage in a sequence of looking behavior, sounds, and gestures which later become the foundation for adult conversational speech. They watch their infants' behavior very carefully and they work very hard to get a response. They stay focused on their children's ability to understand and to interact. They do not assume they understand all that is said to them. They make their language very simple. They are repetitive and use a lot of gesture and facial expressions.

Language is a by-product and learning is incidental; speech involves short and simple utterances about what the child needs and is involved in; words are about "here and now" not about "yesterday and tomorrow". The attention of the

mother is on the things to be done not on the language at all. To know whether it understands or not, the mother watches the actions of the child. Slowly the mother adds new utterances with information. If the expressions are too complex, the child will pay no attention. So, mother-infant talks are lively learning experiences. Mothers develop the framework for the most important aspects of human communication step by step. These features of motherese help to develop the infant's perceptual categories for acquiring his or her native language.

These characteristics of motherese, if applied to teacherese, can help a lot in acquiring a second language easily and naturally. They can also help minimize

the use of the mother-tongue in the classroom besides getting students naturally interested in learning another language subconsciously or unconsciously. When learners do the activities which interest them and engage their minds using the target language, they actually get in touch with the target language without their knowing that they are using it. Further, they don't feel pressurized by the rigid grammar rules or/and functional norms that they should keep in mind. Rather, learning a new language becomes such an amusing experience, which determines the success of learning. To put it in another way, teachers should behave like mothers in teaching a new language, at least in the way they use the language, if not in any other way.

That is, they should maintain a natural atmosphere that makes it easy and comfortable for learners to use the target language freely and naturally while they learn. This should be the main objective of teaching English in Yemeni schools and universities.

To put it in a nutshell, mothers are great natural language teachers, so should teachers be. Teachers of English should use as simple and natural language and style as that of mothers'. They should give their students activities that they feel like doing and keep their minds engaged and turn the classrooms into real situations that enable them to use English naturally; this is difficult but not impossible. Can we give it a try? Why not?!

Tips for teachers to improve their performance

The role of teachers, in any society, cannot be underestimated; their contributions to the advancement of our life are indisputable. Although teaching is substantially demanding, it is no doubt much more rewarding.

Teaching, as we know, is a noble profession which requires a lot of dedication, patience, and creativity. In as much as teaching is a developing art, and learning is a life-long process, teachers need to strive and toil in order to improve their performance. Additionally, they are obligated to devise new ways so as to perform their



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duties with a sense of professionalism and leave a lasting impression on their students. In fact, what sets a teacher apart from others is his perseverance and determination to excel and surpass his colleagues.

Education has undergone drastic changes over the past few decades. New approaches and techniques have been discovered and employed in this respect. Likewise, others have been attacked and rejected. As such, teachers need to be innovative to meet the new and upcoming challenges. Being a teacher does not mean the end of a long journey; it is only the beginning. It is an

ongoing development. Most accomplished teachers did not become well known overnight; they sweated and struggled for many years. They have even made a lot of sacrifices to deserve this recognition. Teachers need to bear in mind that no one has conquered the kingdom of knowledge; there is always so much to learn.

Hence, teachers need to update their knowledge as often as possible to keep pace with the changes taking place in their major. In this article, I would like to propose and suggest some vital approaches for my fellow teachers to adopt. Firstly, teachers are expected to

prepare their lessons well in advance so that they can be well prepared for any questions they might be asked, otherwise students can give them hard times. They should spend more time knowing their materials using sources such as books, dictionaries and the like. They need to make notes of the most important points to be used later on. Secondly, they should not hesitate to ask their senior colleagues any awkward questions they might encounter. They should not be ashamed of it, since their ultimate goal is to learn. Thirdly, teachers should make good use of the internet to locate any information needed. You will be

surprised how fast and beneficial this source is; you can find any topic. All you have to do is to write key words and let the computer do the job. Even teachers of literature can find poems recorded by native speakers.

To conclude, teachers are invited to make use of the resources available to them. Good teachers are always learning so as to meet professional challenges. All they have to do is to allocate some time to study. Our dear students are worthy of our sacrifices and endeavors. So let us get started. It is never too late. And as they say, "Practice makes a man perfect."

How can technology benefit students?

Although talking about technology needs more space than this short article will afford, I will try to shed some light on some important ways in which technology can benefit students.

To live, learn and work successfully in an increasingly complex and information-rich society, students must be able to use technology effectively. Technology has become more and more important to our society. Technology can benefit students to accelerate, enrich and deepen basic skills. A student should not depend only on his teacher but should look for other resources that will enable him to gain a lot of information. Computers



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are becoming more affordable and are depended upon by many people to aid them in their daily lives.

Nowadays, students, who know how to use the Internet, get no difficulty in solving any problem in their study. Internet has made it possible to get by one click, whatever information you're looking for.

I would like, in this article, to talk about the two known and widespread technologies and how students can get benefit by using them - Internet and mobile phones (cellular phone). Internet has become widely popular. It is said that the illiterate person in this age is the one who does not know how to use computer and internet. There is an easy way for students to look for information. This way is so easy that even a computer illiterate can learn it. Students, for example, can go to

www.google.com and write whatever they want to look for. For example, they can write, *English idioms* and the moment they click the button *Enter*, they will have so many links which will lead them to uncountable number of idioms. Students and teachers can also go to www.bbclearningenglish.com and have so many topics. For example, teachers can download from this website lesson plans and many other materials.

Moreover, students can communicate with one another if they have access to the appropriate technology from different universities. A student in Sana'a University can communicate with a student in Taiz University. There are so many ways that will enable them

to do so. First, they can keep in touch through emails. I heard someone asking, "from where can I get such emails." I think there are so many ways, one of which is the emails that appear continuously in the Education Supplement of Yemen Times. Students who use the technology for real communication with a real audience are much more capable of talking to adults because they are getting used to it. Technology facilitates cooperative learning, encourages new roles for learners and the ability to work independently. Second, students can use calling service of the Internet to practice their language with each other which are very useful for them.

The second aspect is mobile phone. I

think majority of students use this device. It is good to have it but it is better if you make proper use of it. Some students use them to show off and this is the worst form of its use. But the best way to utilize this technology is when students are able to install so many useful programs that help them in their study. I, personally, make use of my mobile. I have three dictionaries and so many other programs that benefit me a lot.

Students must have a range of skills to express themselves not only through paper and pencil, but also audio, video, animation, design software as well as a host of new electronic devices such as e-mail, Web sites, message boards, blogs, streaming media, and so forth.

POETRY CORNER

Never regret

Rania Hagag

I love you but my heart refused to say,
I have waited for more than one day.
Its your choice to leave... Is it a child's play
Separating us was such a cheap price to pay
I did nothing but to pray
not for coming back where pain never goes away
You've left me as a broken set,
as a blind person in a foggy night wet
trying to put the pieces together again,
deleting everything off my brain
looking back and crying
No... Whatever the suffering
I'll never regret.

This is life

Don't be sad if your dreams
deceived you
It's a normal case as an early
morning dew that
disappeared when the sun rose and
the darkness flew
Or like white summer clouds that
wait for a moment and go.

Don't be surprised when you have
friends in a long queue
They wear masks on faces that can't
show
What's behind: whether a perfect
friend or a mere fellow;
In a serious need they give an
apology except few
Who know how friendship lasts
strong and new.

No wonder if you are alone and

Dreams can come true



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Just dream, as dreams
can become true,
Say not I can't fly,
Whenever you stumble
Say yes I can soar to the high
Never let your spirit be low
Just dream, because dreams
can become true,
Before your dream,
You may not know,
Who's your friend
Who's your foe
Just dream, because dreams
can become true.
Life with no dreams is
As beehive-less bees
Life with no dreams is
Mere leafless trees
Or as morning without breeze
When people dream
Share with them your dreams
Just hope and cope
Be as fast as an antelope
Try to see in the sky stars
With no telescope
Sometimes dreams stimulate
As do musical anthems
As time flies
Dreams turn true
So just come and dream
Because you now know
That my verse has an echo
Just dream when dreams
Can become true.



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none says "hello"
Even if you do some thing and no
one thanks you
Please don't be like them but better,
You know
Time'll pass, things'll change and
people'll change, too.

For remembrance

Time passes but only a few
sweet experiences remain
with us until the end of
our life. A few days ago,
we were celebrating the
New Year 2009, bidding farewell to
2008. I still remember the celebration
of last year. Time passed very quickly,
waiting for no one. We should try
to shape our present in the light of the
wealth of our past experience. For this
purpose, one should stay alone in a
quiet place and try to recall all the
achievements he has accomplished.
Sometimes, one finds himself not
achieving anything and not making
any progress which is really a tragedy.
Planning for future is one of the pillars
of success. Without planning, one



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has to walk as a blind man. If you just
feel that you did nothing last year,
don't keep on regretting, but stand
firm and plan for the current year.

SCIENCE QUIZ LINE

Tick (✓) the most appropriate choice

1. Human body can easily withstand a blood-loss of

- ☐ 1 litre
- ☐ 2 litres
- ☐ 1/2 litre
- ☐ 1/4 litre

2. A total set of producer-consumer and feeding relationship in an ecosystem is known as

- ☐ Tropic level
- ☐ Food web
- ☐ Food chain
- ☐ Community

3. How will the swinging period of a girl swinging in a sitting position be affected if she stands on the string?

- ☐ The period will now be longer
- ☐ The period will now be shorter
- ☐ The period will be untouched
- ☐ The period will first increase, then decrease

4. What is the chemical composition of Milk of Magnesia?

- ☐ Mg(OH)₂ in water
- ☐ MgCO₃ in water
- ☐ MgO and MgCO₃ in water
- ☐ MgSO₄ in water

5. The law governing the force between electrical charges is given by the following name:

- ☐ Faraday
- ☐ Gauss
- ☐ Laplace
- ☐ Coulomb

Suggested answers to the previous issue's questions

1. An ion that has a positive and negative charge on the same group of atoms is known as **Zwitter ion and Ampholyte ion**.
2. A technique that detects radioactivity labeled molecules by their effect on photographic film is known as **Autoradiography**.
3. According to Law of Gravitation the attraction between two bodies increases when distance between them is **decreased**.
4. A hand pump water is cold in winters and warm in summers **because of the temperature difference**. During winter the outside temperature is lower than that of the water which comes out from the ground. Reverse is the case in summers.
5. The lines on the map joining places having same atmospheric pressure are known as **isobars**.

Campus Causerie

Milton's 4th Birth Centenary Year celebrated by the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Sana'a

John Milton, an internationally known and respected great poet of English, known particularly for his epics, *Paradise Lost* and *Paradise Regained*, was born on 8th December 1608. So lovers of English all over the world celebrated 2008 as the 4th birth centenary year of that great poet. The Department of English in the Faculty of Arts, which has been like the matrix of all Departments of English in Yemen also organized a function, with the support of the Dean of the Faculty to highlight the importance of that poet for users of English, for students of English in particular. Dr. Kapil Muni Tiwary, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Translation in the Language Centre of the University of Taiz presided over the function. Dr. Hamid Al Awadhi, Dean of the Faculty of Arts was the Chief Guest. Eman Abdel Latif Al-Baksh, Gada Al-Qubati, Rania Mohammed Al-Ansi, Safa Aqil and Mohammed Dabuan recited extracts from Milton's writings. The three persons who spoke on the occasion were: Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Vinod Kumar Sinha and Professor Damodar Thakur.

In his tribute to Milton, Dr. Rakesh Kumar quoted two poems on the great bard, one by William Wordsworth and another by the American poet H.W. Longfellow. He praised Milton for writing the poetry of what Eliot said in his essay on Dante, poetry of "high dream" and for asserting eternal providence and justifying the ways of God to men. Kumar also made mention

of Milton's views on liberty and freedom of the press. He denounced the attempts of those critics who criticize Milton's grand style and find him lacking in qualities that one finds in Shakespeare. He said that both Shakespeare and Milton are the two makers of English language and if the former is a supreme master of visual imagination, the latter is the grand master of 'auditory imagination'. Both are great in their own ways and are indispensable for modern readers.

Dr. Vinod Kumar Sinha, Department of English, Faculty of Arts, Sana'a University paid glowing tribute to Milton. However, he raised the question, 'Does Milton matter to us?' Milton, he said, is a professional and pedagogical compulsion. So, he matters to a teacher and a student of literature because he defines the style of English epic. Dr. Sinha drew attention to recent publications on Milton which stress his relevance to the world today. Majority of these critical works include in their discussion not only Milton's poetry in general and *Paradise Lost* in particular but also his prose works. Critics like Nigel Smith value Milton because "he places liberty at the centre of his vision", and also because he speaks against censorship and favours people's right to speak freely. They quote lines from *Paradise Lost* and *Areopagitica* to lend support to their contention. What is surprising is the fact that in their enthusiasm to prove Milton's relevance they have ignored what Milton says about the total freedom of expression. Milton was never



Prof. D. Thakur, Head, and Prof. K. M. Tiwary (Taiz University) at the seminar.

in support of total freedom but in favour of a kind of freedom that is regulated by 'a judicious authority'. He expresses his willingness to suppress writing that is 'aesthetic, blasphemous, treasonous and scandalous'. Milton gives a theological interpretation of freedom; a conception of freedom that is alien to the modern mind. Dr. Sinha also questioned his attitude to man-woman relationship. Milton, in his opinion, accorded a subservient position to women as is clear from his *Paradise Lost*. Adam is the boss; Eve is not his equal. Adam is for God only, implying that Adam is under only God's authority, whereas Eve must find her God in him. He has 'absolute rule', her task clearly being to serve Adam and thereby God. Dr. Sinha reminded that poets live so long as their works speak to the succeeding generations. They fade away when they no longer have anything to say beyond their own age. Milton in our age adorns the shelves of libraries as does an invaluable and rare piece of antique in a museum. Milton is a part of history. However glorious that part may be, it is a thing of the past unlike Shakespeare. Is there any shade of emotion or feeling that Shakespeare has not expressed? Dr. Sinha said, "I get angry and some lines from Shakespeare leap to my lips. I have some tender moments of affection and love, Shakespeare's lines wake up to my lips. I feel pain and dejection and Shakespeare offers lines with almost identical feelings and emotions to soothe my frayed nerves. That is why Shakespeare is closer to my heart. There are so many meeting points between Shakespeare and us but, in the case of Milton, there are very few".

Professor Thakur said that next to Shakespeare no other poet in English seemed to stand as tall as Milton and so, as expected, Milton was very highly respected by later generations of poets, critics and biographers. His biographer, William Hayley described him as the 'greatest English author'. Dryden described him as "the poet of the sublime". William Blake was convinced that Milton was a 'major English poet'. He revered Milton to such an extent that he saw himself as his 'poetic son'. In his 'Milton: a Poem', he used Milton as a character. Edmund Burke, an internationally known theorist on the concept of sublimity, considered Milton to be a poet of the sublime, and in his book, *The*



Prof. B. T. Desai proposes a vote of thanks.

Beautiful and the Sublime he wrote that 'No person seems better to have understood the secret of heightening... or of setting terrible things, if I may use the expression, in their strongest light, by the force of a judicious obscurity than Milton.' Wordsworth had a great admiration for Milton and said:

*Milton! thou should'st be living at this hour:
England hath need of thee*

He compared Milton with a bright star, with a star that has its own striking uniqueness and therefore stands apart from all other stars. Praising Milton's magnanimity and his love for sublimity, he said that his voice was like the voice of the sea.

*We are selfish men;
Oh! raise us up, return to us again;
And give us manners, virtue,
freedom, power.
Thy soul was like a Star, and dwelt apart;
Thou hadst a voice whose sound was like the sea;
Pure as the naked heavens,
majestic, free,*

Imitation, they say, is the highest form of flattery, and Wordsworth seems to have modelled his blank verse epic *The Prelude* on Milton's *Paradise Lost*. John Keats found Milton's grand and elevated style to be ungenial and said that "Miltonic verse cannot be written but in an artful" manner. He declared *Paradise Lost* to



Prof. D. Thakur presents his remarks.



(L - R) Prof. Al-Awadhi, Dean addresses the audience as Prof. Thakur and Prof. Tiwary look on.

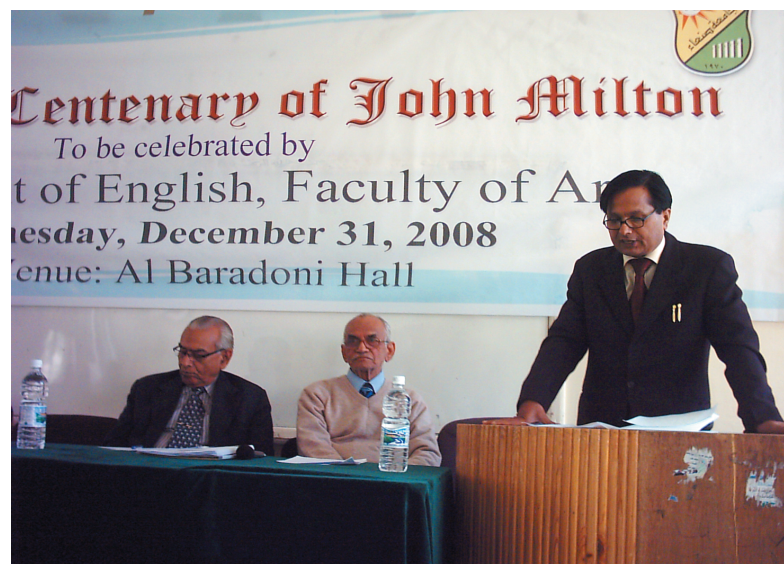


Ahmed Al-Lisari and Eman Abdulateef Al-Baksh participating in the deliberations



be a "beautiful and grand curiosity"; but he could not help making a profuse use of Miltonic inversions in some of his poems, in his *Hyperion*, in particular. Mary Shelley, the wife of the famous Romantic poet P.B. Shelley, too, was highly influenced by the Miltonic loftiness of style and it is now widely believed that her novel, *Frankenstein*, is "one of the key 'Romantic' readings of *Paradise Lost*." Milton continued to be praised during the Victorian Period as well. George Eliot and Thomas Hardy are believed to have been particularly inspired by Milton's poetry, by the elegance and loftiness of his style in

particular. In T. S. Eliot's and Ezra Pound's critical writings, one finds a reduction in Milton's critical stature. Eliot was of the view that "of no other poet is it so difficult to consider the poetry simply as poetry, without our theological and political dispositions... making unlawful entry". The Critics of the 20th century were not, however, all against Miltonic style. Harold Bloom, in his famous book *The Anxiety of Influence*, describes him "the central problem in any theory and history of poetic influence in English". The function ended with a vote of thanks by Professor B. T. Desai.



Dr. Rakesh Kumar presents his paper.



A section of the audience in rapt attention.

YOUTH FORUM

Traditional methods of teaching English in some Yemeni schools

As a Yemeni student, English is not my mother tongue; but as it is an important world language, I like it very much and look forward to studying English and speaking it fluently. But I have faced many difficulties during my study of the language.

One of these difficulties to study English is the traditional methods of teaching English in schools.

We the students are the vic-



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tims of these old methods through which we have been and are still being taught English by those unqualified teachers who always focus only on a few words and some grammatical rules to make it easy for us to learn the English language by heart, recite it inside the classroom and then write it down in the exam paper.

Actually, I was highly motivated to study English in school since I got high marks (more than 90%) in this subject in all levels including the final examination in the secondary school. And wherever I used to go, I used to appreciate the great efforts of my teachers who simplified the subject. Some of them used to give us a copy of the test written on the blackboard which was, in fact, the exam itself.

In schools there are no practical activities, no listening practice, and no communication in English and no atten-

tion to pronunciation at all. To make matters still worse, teachers themselves do not pronounce the words correctly. As a result of that, students do not know anything about the phonetic symbols in English. As a matter of fact I felt disappointed and initially hesitated to join the English Department, Faculty of Arts since I lack language skills.

When I joined the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, University of Ibb, I wondered how the teachers speak so fluently in English. Moreover, I discovered that I was not able to pro-

nounce even the alphabet correctly. For example, I was surprised why Dr. Shamiri, a teacher of spoken English, asked us to pronounce the alphabet. So many questions came to my mind: Does he make fun of us? Does he show his pride to us? Then I realized that I was wrong to talk about him in that way.

Two weeks later we were asked to practice a dialogue in front of our classmates. That was the most difficult task for me and my classmates because we did not do anything like that before.

Moreover our pronunciation of the English words was completely wrong.

Therefore, my submission is "Please pay more attention to students in schools, especially in rural areas. Choose qualified and competent teachers to help them overcome the problem of pronunciation for a new, creative generation."

To conclude, I hope not to face the same problem after graduation from the English Department, Faculty of Arts, Ibb University.