

YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

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OUR VIEWPOINT



THE NEED FOR PUBLIC AWARENESS

Over the last few years, the daily behavior of most Yemenis has become very self-centered. Most of us do not care about the damage we inflict on others due to the way we handle things. To meet our direct needs and to satisfy our personal desires, we customarily break the law, by-pass others' rights, and do not fulfill our obligations. Take manifestations of this behavior. People drive their cars in the wrong direction, and park them in wrong places without any apologies. Employees don't show up for work, or don't stay at their work place, and even if they are there, they are unwilling to do their work unless prodded. Citizens dump their garbage and other refuse at any place without consideration to anything or anybody; people regularly damage public property without flinching. Let me list some examples of this last point. Students break school furniture on almost a daily basis without remorse, officials mis-use government vehicles thereby depreciating them at a phenomenal rate, government office machinery is "lost" and damaged as a matter of daily routine. In short, cheating the government is considered a virtuous act. There is very little respect for property in general, even one's own. This is partly because most people have not earned it the hard way.

The crucial element in all of this is that a nation cannot be built by careless and unpatriotic citizens. It is natural for people to try to maximize personal benefits, but not at any cost. The rule of law must prevail, and everybody must respect the law. Otherwise, there will a dangerous level of uncertainty and unreliability. We do not customarily think about this, but reliability is an integral part of the development process. If something is promised to us, we must be able to bank on it; if somebody promises to deliver a good or a service, there must a certain degree of reliability. The whole theory of linkage-effect in economics is built on the sole premise of reliability, whereby one company relies on the products of another which it then uses as an input to produce its own products.

In Yemen, promises are broken every day. Trust has become a rare commodity, as everyone is trying to get away with as much as possible in any way possible. This is a short-sighted policy which has a high cost to all of us. We need an immediate campaign to enhance public awareness if we are to succeed in building a modern state abiding by the law.

The Publisher

HAIL TO OUR DEMOCRACY

It was a first. It was a manifestation of the workings of a true democracy. The Council of Deputies (Parliament) summoned the government for a hearing, and the government, headed by the Prime Minister, Haider Abu Bakar Al-Attas, obliged. Both the parliament and the government played by the rules in a way that made many Yemenis, irrespective of their political inclination finally believe "This is a totally different thing than we have ever known."

The Council of Deputies put forth seventeen queries on issues ranging from security matters, to economic growth, to the bureaucratic nightmares, to agricultural project financing, to cost of living. The issues are, of course, very important as the representatives of the people are trying to do their job. But more important is the fact that we are laying down the ground rules for democratic procedures - the most important of which is holding the executive authority accountable for the things it does, or the things it should be doing. The representatives did their homework very well, and they proved they are not bored with details and that they know the technical background to the issues being discussed. On the other hand, the government was very patient, cooperative, and forthcoming. The Prime Minister, accompanied by the whole cabinet, came to answer all the questions in a very frank way. The Prime Minister indicated that the government was putting the final touches on a comprehensive new plan that would help solve most of the problems raised by the parliament. "We share your concerns on most of these issues, and we ask for your cooperation in tackling them," said Al-Attas. I am asking the relevant ministers to provide adequate answers to your queries," he continued.

The parliament continued its hearings for another day in an attempt to obtain full answers from the government. The fact that both sides have behaved in a way congenial to the principles of democracy gives much hope to us about the future of our new experiment. We take this opportunity to hail both the parliament and government for their constructive roles.

WORLD OFFICIALS JOIN YEMEN IN CELEBRATING FIRST UNITY ANNIVERSARY

SPECIAL TO THE YEMEN TIMES

The Yemen Times has learnt that prominent officials from all around the world are flying into Yemen to participate in the celebrations of the first anniversary of the unification of the country - May 22nd. According to the Department of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the country is expecting over two hundred senior dignitaries to arrive in less than one week. These include Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, Vice President of India, Mr. Thierry de Beauce, Minister of State in France, Mr. Ahmed Al-Ghazali, Algerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the National Assembly, Mr. Mohammed Ghannoushi, Tunisian Minister of Finance, Mr. Ahmed Wald Khalifah, Mauritanian Minister of Information, Mr. Yang Hue Sob, Chairman of the People's Supreme Council in the Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea), Mr. Laslo Sharooshi, Minister of State in Hungary, Mr. Kwang Soo Choi, Minister at the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Mr. Adnan Abu Awdeh, Political Advisor to H.M. King Husain, and Dr. Ziyad Freiz, Minister of Trade and Supply, both from Jordan. The list continues to grow.

According to Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, confirmations are expected for some more senior officials to arrive in Sanaa for the occasion.



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PERSONAL VIEW

UNIFIED YEMEN CAN BUILD A SOUND ECONOMY



FADHLE MOHSIN ABDULLAH MINISTER OF SUPPLY AND TRADE

Our present economic difficulties are the culmination of the divisiveness and mismanagements of the past three decades. In other words, we today reap what we have sown until now. The first step in finding proper solutions is to accept there are problems, to measure them correctly, and to contend with them accordingly. In the formerly South Yemen, we pursued a socialist policy and we failed. In the formerly North Yemen, we pursued a capitalist policy and we failed. The South failed to implement a truly socialist system, and the North failed to implement a truly capitalist system. So today, we have a system that is a hybrid, and I am happy that it is based more on the local fabric and structure. We have to undo the distortions of socialism and capitalism that had existed hitherto.

We try today to provide our citizens with the necessary services, and we try to create the atmosphere conducive to hard work and investments. But, the state is not a "cow which everybody can freely milk". There are limits as to what the state can provide. As such, expectations should be based on the correct capabilities of the state as well as the citizens. We have suffered greatly from the so-called "demonstration effect". We tried to live beyond our means. It has been our destiny at this moment in history to be the poor neighbors of much richer countries. It would be prudent to check our resources and live by our own capabilities. In the past, both North and South Yemen were assisted by foreign powers because of political considerations. Those are now gone, and we must look inward for the continued development of our country.

We can build a strong and sound economy based on our own capabilities. All we have to do is live and work as Yemenis, not as others. This should be our policy in the coming days.

PROTEST AGAINST CONSTITUTION

Thousands of demonstrators marched in the capital's main streets last Sunday (May 12th), protesting against the referendum on the proposed constitution to be held on the 15th and 16th of this month. The demonstrators, estimated at about 30,000 people were led by some Islamic groups and political parties. The demonstrators demanded the amendment of the new constitution before holding the referendum. Marching to the Presidential Palace, the demonstrators asked President Ali Abdulla Saleh to meet their representatives. According to Radio Sana'a, the President received the delegation which consisted of representatives from the ulama, tribal sheikhs, and politicians from the Yemeni Reform Congregation Party, and Rabitat Abnaa Al Yemen Party, who delivered a letter addressed to him and the other members of the Presidential Council. The letter asked for the amendment of the constitution before holding the referendum and in the light of the communique issued by the Presidential Council on 22nd April, 1991. The letter also requested the Council to find the proper remedy for the current political situation. During his meeting with the delegation, President Saleh declared that the Presidential Council and the Cabinet would look into the demands spelled out in the letter. The statement issued by the Presidential Council on April 22nd, 1991 affirmed that Islamic Sharia would be the dominating factor as well as the source governing all laws and legislations in the Republic. The protestors ask that the constitution should state that any laws or regulations issued before the unity and inconsistent with the Sharia would be rendered automatically null and void.

US\$ 14.4MILLION INITIALLED FOR ADMINISTRATION

Sadeq Ameen Abu Ras, Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, has initialled during his visit to Washington last week, a loan agreement of 10.8 million SDRs (US\$ 14.4m) with the International Development Association of the World Bank. The money is earmarked to improve administration, extension services and research projects in the agricultural sector. These projects aim to upgrade the efficiency of government agricultural policies and planning, and to increase productivity through the infusion of modern technologies. The projects will specially emphasize new techniques in agricultural credit, manpower development and improving personnel capabilities through agricultural research, technical training, and field services. The projects also aim to establish strong linkages between extension services and agricultural research in order to transfer and develop modern technical know-how and adapt new techniques in agriculture.

WORLD JOURNALISTS TO HOLD NEXT SESSION IN SANA'A

The Executive Committee of the International Journalists Organization, currently meeting in Prague, has agreed to hold its next meeting in Sana'a in November, 1991. Mahboob Ali, member of the General Secretariat and Secretary of the Foreign Relations of the Yemeni Journalists Union, who is currently attending the Prague session, told Yemen News Agency that this would be the first session to be held in an Arab capital since the organization was established forty years ago. YEMEN TIMES learnt that the Sana'a meeting will constitute a watershed in the organization's policies as it will discuss the implementation of its new strategy adopted in the resolutions passed last January in Zimbabwe. It is worth mentioning that the Yemeni Journalists Association is presently serving as Vice President of the Organization.

HOTEL STUDIES INSTITUTE IN ADEN

As part of its development plan, the Ministry of Tourism will lay the foundation stone for "Hotel Studies Institute" in Aden during the coming weeks. Mr Mohamed Al Eemad, Tourism Under Secretary, Aden Branch, added that the surveys and technical studies of 26 out of the 123 tourist projects proposed for the Aden Free Zone area have been finalized by national and foreign investors. These projects involve the construction of several hotels and beach resorts. Speaking about future plans to meet tourist requirements in Aden, Al Eemad said the ministry has a ten-year master plan to build a number of hotels that could accommodate 10,000 persons a night. Expressing his confidence in the ministry's ability to implement its ambitious plans, Al Eemad pointed out that 140 applications have so far been received for tourism-related investments. The Ministry of Tourism, Al Eemad said, has also prepared a plan to repair and renovate the existing tourist establishments in Aden. In this respect, Al Eemad stressed the need of keeping these establishments under the management of the public sector in order to create competition between the private and public sector hotels.

US\$ 32 MILLION INITIALLED FOR EMERGENCY PROJECTS.

Dr Ja'afer Hamed, Under Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development has initialled a loan agreement of 24.8 million SDRs (US\$ 32 m) with the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank as a contribution to fund the 'Emergency Project' designed to improve the situation of the returning Yemeni immigrants. It is agreed that this loan will be allocated to finance projects covering agriculture, road construction, education and housing in the aim of absorbing Yemeni immigrant manpower which recently returned from the Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

SALWA: "I DON'T MEASURE POLITICAL PARTIES ON THEIR POSITIONS ON WOMEN'S ISSUES"

YEMEN TIMES continues to highlight the role and contribution of career women to the development process in Yemen. In this interview, we went to speak with Mrs. Salwa Mubarak, development economist at the Presidential office. Mrs. Mubarak is one of the Yemeni staff members who were transferred from Aden to Aden after the unification of the country. Below are excerpts of the interview:

Q. Could you give a brief background of your education?

A. I received my primary and secondary education in Aden. I then went to London to pursue my higher studies and obtained my B.A (Honors) degree. I majored in Economics and minored in Mathematics. I pursued my higher studies (diploma program) in fishing. Then I obtained my master's degree in agriculture and rural development.

Q. Could you give us a brief summary of your career?

A. I started my career in Aden as a Planning Officer in the Ministry of Planning and moved up to the post of Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture. During the last three years, I worked in various international Organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organisation and also worked for Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. And finally, here I am.

Q. What is your present post?

A. Temporarily, I have been working as a consultant in the office of the Presidential Council. After the unification, I was appointed as Director General for Technical Cooperation in the Ministry of Fisheries. I am sort of on loan here until I go to the Ministry of Fisheries.

Q. Can you give us a brief description of your duties and responsibilities of your present post?

A. I have been seconded from the Ministry of Fisheries as Consultant to the General Department for Economic Development of



the Presidential Council. My job involves giving my views on certain economic issues and policies. As yet, there has not been much work, as we are all settling in. I hope we will soon get busy since there is so much to be done.

Q. What are the major differences in the working atmosphere here in Sana'a as compared to Aden?

A. In Aden the atmosphere is more relaxed for the working woman; while here, it is still very conservative. That is to say, in Aden there are fewer inhibitions. Men and women work shoulder to shoulder in a system which was developed under the influence of the British. In Sana'a people still do not accept working women as colleagues. Thus, I find some difficulties accommodating myself here.

Q. Are you trying to educate the public in any way in this regard?

A. As an economist and career women, I can say that there exists a close relationship between the economic needs and the social structure in society. The economic needs in Aden dictate that women should take up employment, a fact which has assisted men in accepting such a situation. In Sana'a, the economic structure is different. Men don't depend on their salar-

ies alone, but also have other sources of income; e.g., inheritance, lands owned by them, etc. Thus there is no economic need for the women to work to supplement the family income. As a result, they consider women taking up jobs as unnecessary.

Q. Do you foresee conditions in which due to the rising costs of living, more and more women would take up employment in the future?

A. The majority of people in this country are poor and there exists a widening gap between the rich and the poor. If not now, sooner or later, people will realize that women taking up jobs is important from the economic point of view. I would say that this issue is not related just to economic factors. There are many social, religious, political and cultural variables all working together. However, it is the economic factor that is most crucial, in my view.

Q. Are you involved in any organized efforts to educate people on the importance of work to both me?

A. I have tried in my own circles to transmit this message. In our society, our attitudes are deep rooted. Our way of life is predetermined by our religion. The way some people understand religion is not con-

ducive for the socio-economic development of our society. We are almost in the 21st century, thus our life is more complex than it ever was in the earlier centuries. Islamic tenets and teachings are broad and so their interpretation is crucial for the well-being of our society. If such teachings are understood in a wider perspective with due consideration to the changes of time, that will be very helpful. However, if they are understood with the narrow interests of certain segments of society, we will end up in a bad shape.

Q. The evolution of the women's movement has been uneven between the two parts of Yemen. How do you see further development?

A. I have a feeling it would be preferable to come to terms with radicals rather than oppose them. In Aden, women were given, in theory, a status which they didn't deserve, or which they could not attain. It was done all in one shot. I believe that development is a gradual process. It should take a longer time to rise to the level of our expectations. I am a reformist, especially as far as social and cultural issues are involved. We really cannot be revolutionary about them.

Q. Can you tell us a bit about your political background?

A. From 1964 to 1967, I was actively involved in the freedom struggle for the independence of the southern part of the homeland. After we got our independence, I devoted myself to the economic development of the country. Soon I realized that winning independence was much easier than creating a viable system. We needed more mental maturity in our society. I was a very frank person and my views were never appreciated. Thus I could not afford remaining as a member of the political party. I was a very frank, and critical of abuse of power and resources. Had I remained in the party, my views, even on economic development, would have been interpreted negatively. In 1986, I was finally removed from

my job and suspended from the membership of the party. Since then, I am an independent person not affiliated to any party.

Q. Could you give examples of your participation in the struggle for the liberation of South Yemen?

A. I was a member of the NLF which was the leading freedom movement. In cells composed mostly of students who were very active, we worked to support the revolution. I come from a rather liberal family, so I could freely move in and out thus being able to carry missions, messages, leaflets and weapons. My comrades and I helped in carrying weapons concealed in cars, distributing leaflets, in the streets and to the houses, provided financial aid, etc. My family offered our house to shelter the revolutionaries who were pursued by the British army. This was very risky since we housed some people for days and sometimes for weeks. We confronted the British soldiers bravely.

Q. Were you involved in any female movements after the independence?

A. I was only marginally involved, and I was never an active member of the women's movements. You see, I believe in the comprehensive development of the society. Therefore, I do not work for the progress of just one segment, albeit, an important and large one. My orientation and approach is more broad-based.

Q. Which party do you favor from among the political parties. Do you think female-related issues and positions on them will help you choose?

A. Of course I will support those parties that are more favorably inclined towards women's rights. But I will choose the party with the most viable economic development program. You see, to me, the comprehensive program is more important than just positions on women's rights. I don't think I will judge on the basis of just this one issue. As yet, in any case, I am still looking with the hope of making the right choice. It is so nice to be independent and to make a free choice.

RETHINKING DEVELOPMENT

part II (final)

by David Landes,
abridged from *Dialogue*,
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In the meantime, the emphasis on quality and the abandonment of the homogeneity assumption necessarily raised the question of the human factor. If people are different... well, that makes the story of growth very different. The issue came to the fore with the growing awareness of the spectacular rise of the Japanese economy to industrial pre-eminence, especially in some of the most advanced branches of manufacture. This was an achievement that no one would have dared predict in the aftermath of World War II. The Japanese economy was then in ruins, and the loss of empire left the country with little in the way of industrial raw materials. The prospect of recovery seemed small enough; the notion that Japan would soon compete successfully, even dominate, in such heavy industries as steel and motor vehicles was inconceivable. Japan's performance since then has given rise to a new industry: that of explaining Japanese success. For some, it lies in the venerable virtues: a high savings rate (thrift), hard work, good planning. For others, these are in themselves the manifestations of deeper characteristics of Japanese society and culture: the Japanese are different. Over these same years, moreover, we have seen similar instances of ultra-rapid growth elsewhere in East Asia—in Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the so called little dragons and this raises similar questions about them and about East Asian societies in general. The assumption is that if all of this is happening in the same part of the world, an area that shares certain cultural characteristics, we ought to be able to find some common feature or features that have contributed to this result. So we have looked, and it is clear that most efforts to understand and explain these developments include the human factor. What is more, by including attitudinal and cultural elements as well as levels of education and professional

training, these explanations introduce variables that are not only hard to measure, hence uncongenial to economists and planners, but hard to change and even harder to transfer. (Our individualistic Western societies may not be ready to emulate Japanese patterns of collective behaviour, even in the glorious cause of industrial supremacy.) And this is indeed a major change in our intellectual apprehension of the process of development.

CRISIS OF EXPECTATIONS

This brings us back to the problem of those Third World countries that have not done well. We have seen the initial conventional reactions to their and our disappointment have been to blame it on politics and power. There is clearly much truth in that. Here too, however, there has been an increased willingness to look at the influence of social and cultural variables. Not so much, of course, as with the high growth countries. If one wants to impute success to such factors, no feelings will be hurt; but to attribute failure even in part to human shortcomings can be wounding. Some would say that such characterizations are intrinsically racist. And coming from the outside, from those who have "made it", they will almost inevitable smack of condescension. Even so, there is an implicit recognition of the human problem on the part of growing numbers of people in the LDCs. It takes the form, not of an effort to transform social structures and cultural patterns in the pursuit of modernization, but the reverse - a deliberate rejection of the values associated with industrialism, consumerism, and all the other preconditions and "rewards" of economic growth. Such economic refuseniks are as yet a small minority, drawn primarily from among religious fundamentalists and cultural conservatives. There may even be an element of sour grapes in this reaction. There is certainly pride. Yet this movement's success can't be but temporary and local - partly because most people prefer shoes and transistors to spiritual value, partly because mod-

ern technology is an important component of power, and power drives nations. If we admit the significance of this complex, relatively intractable human factor, what becomes of the effort to help the poor become richer, to spread the benefits of modern technology throughout the world, to narrow and even eliminate the gaps between haves and have-nots? What is left of the comfort that latecomers could take in their lateness? The answer has to be nuanced. On the one hand, the recent success of the East Asian countries is evidence that it can pay to be late - if one possesses the social and human requisites. Lack of capital of its own will not prevent a thrifty, productive society from generating and attracting all the capital it needs, as we have seen in postwar Japan. Even the sophisticated technologies are not beyond reach. On the other hand, today's would be developers do seem to face greater problems than earlier followers did. Examples: 1. The very size of the gap is a discouragement. Even success looks like failure, because a large percentage gain on a small base is still smaller in absolute terms than a small gain on a large base. In real terms, then even rapidly growing developers lose ground initially in terms of the difference between their income and that of the rich. This initial stage of relative deprivation, which easily translates into a sense of injustice, foments impatience and jealousy and contributes to the instability and inefficacy of government. (Students of revolution have long noted that trouble comes not from the depths of misery but from the appetite that grows with better eating.) It also encourages counterproductive ideology: why should poor countries have to pay for knowledge? But if they will not pay for it, or even protect it, why should rich countries bring it to them? 2. It is a fact of history that most LDCs are also new countries. Their institutions are young and untried and the administrative structure falls far short of the tasks implicit in their ambitions for power and wealth. In many instances, they still have no firm identity, no sense of national purpose, no common interest. On the

contrary, they suffer the pains and after effects of colonial arrangements imposed without regard to reason or circumstances. Governments are unstable even brittle. The regime may call itself democratic, but the people are subjects rather than citizens. As a result, whatever the economic gap that already separates many of these countries from the rich states, it is even bigger for the want of the direction (in both senses) of the would be followers.

3. The new technologies are so esoteric and difficult as to be almost unlearnable, except for those who leave to study in advanced countries. This very process of study abroad is both gain and loss. For these students, once they have learned, are often reluctant to go home, if only because they can do much more with their knowledge abroad. Indeed, the better they have learned, the more reluctant they are to return, because the gap is bigger between earnings potential abroad and at home. The brain drain is further aggravated by the material, political, and cultural gap between the West and the Rest. Even in the straitened circumstances of the typical foreign student visitor, life tends to be better in the rich countries - the social life more exciting, the politics more interesting and, very important, much safer. Most of the world's industrial nations are democracies, and students from Third World countries who learn and train there typically enjoy far more freedom than they know at home. To be sure, they also encounter the distance and hostility of racism, subtle and overt. On balance, though, the university years build expectations that the home country is not able or willing to satisfy. One more good reason not to go back.

4. One should not overlook that category of difficulties that derive from "human nature." This includes among other things what economists have called the demonstration effect: seeing is wanting. For various reasons related to communications technology, the poor people of the world are bombarded by testimonies of the material advantages enjoyed by others. They do not have to travel

to learn these things: they see them in films and on television, hear of them on the radio and by word of mouth. The result is a sense of impoverishment and grievance (why they and not we?) and a great impatience.

HARD CASES

Does it pay to be late? On balance, no. This is not to say that today's latecomers are condemned to remain poor. Not at all. Many of them are growing faster than their predecessors and are substantially richer than a generation ago. But they are probably less happy. The knowledge of difference and deprivation is something new. We have taught them that they are poor and given them to taste of the fruit of the tree of knowledge. It is a bitter fruit. What is more, the earlier confidence that history is teleological, tending irresistibly toward industrialism and modernity, no longer seems tenable. Is it time for a paradigm shift? Suppose the process of economic development is not the destiny of all humankind. Suppose instead that what we are dealing with is a pool of candidates. Some are favored by circumstances; some are not. The ones most favored go first. Others follow. And as the pool is exhausted, the hard cases remain - not only because of the misfortunes and misdeeds of history, but because they do not take to these new ways. They don't like them; they don't want them; they are discouraged from learning them; if they learn them, they want out; etcetera. Perhaps what we now see is simply that we're getting down to the hard cases.

Hard cases make bad economics and politics. We must and shall keep trying to help, but we're going to have to choose our targets better and aim straighter. Otherwise, the costs go up and the returns go down. For starters, direct investment in competitive enterprise is probably better than giving to governments (where money goes in the pockets of so-called leaders). If we can find some way to improve these human possibilities and prospects, we'll not only overcome some of the penalties of lateness but reclaim some of its advantages. **Better late than never.**

CUSTOMARY LAW AND TRIBAL STRUCTURE IN YEMEN

From Husain Ali Al-Hubaisbi's *Legal System and Basic Law in Yemen* (London: Spinx Publishing, 1988).
With the author's permission.



A. INTRODUCTION:

There has been a good deal of debate among anthropologists on the meaning of law in non-centralized, non-literate societies, like tribes including the proposition that such societies have no law, but only custom. I do not intend to engage myself in that argument here, therefore, I shall confine myself to agreeing with those who assert that among the tribes there, as in every society, commonly enunciated and accepted norms of behaviour and settlement of disputes. To give a provisional definition of the term custom as a law; Customary law is the body of accepted unformulated rules and principles instituted by human conduct, for a long period in accordance with accepted criteria and forming part of the immanent

sources of law.

The term "Custom" may mean either the legal norm which is derived from a lengthy usage and/or the source which is the usage itself. Such custom may be general and universal or local and concerning a category or a group of people. But for the custom to be effective and accepted, it must not be in contradiction with a legislative provision or public order, must be ancient, continuous and lasting. Lastly those who apply it must be convinced that it is binding. This last stipulation, is what makes a custom different from usage, factional usage, or a courtesy practice. In all, the obligatory nature of custom is derived, according to different opinions, from "consensus omnium" (as if it is a tacit referen-

dum), "patientia principis" (implied assent by the ruler), social necessities or approbation judiciale.

B. TRIBAL LINEAGE

The tribes which concern us in Yemen are those which occupy the northern plateaux and the eastern slopes. Many are referred to as early as the 10th century A.D., at which point they occupied much of the same geographical positions as they are now. In most of that territory the tribesmen live as villagers and farmers, few of them are farmers-artisans. Agriculture is predominantly substance-oriented, and the utmost north has been subjected to a monetarization and commercialization of the agriculture sector. In the south of Yemen the picture is different, the terrain creates a new socio-economic situation. Tribal organization is scarcely in evidence and most of the population are share-croppers, and a good number of them work on the property of some large land-holding families.

As for the tribes of the north, whose customs are

the subject of our study here, we will be content with the two famous confederations - Hashid and Bakeel. Their genealogical connection was elaborated, according to which they descend from Hamdan, who is the brother Madhaj. Both brothers are bescendants of Kahlan who is the brother of Hamyar, and both brothers are the descendants of Saba.

C. TRIBAL POWER

The tribesmen is these two confederations have their own way of perceiving their relations with governments and the world. Their history is marked by casual systematic turbulence and interbulency, by intelligibility and unintelligibility and by equilibrium and biased relations between them and government.

Apparently, and in certain instances, as vis-a-vis the government and "les-autes", tribes stand solidly as a coherent group, but in many cases they are not solid groups, and individuals may not be interested in tribal disputes and consequently may not meet their obligations. In one way, and as result of scarcity, life

makes these tribesmen stand together desperately and resist outside threats or evolutions. The sheikhs, in most cases are the benefactors, whenever they contain those threats to their authority by moulding their rule to join the bourgeois or order their men to penetrate the secular army. However, there is no reason to suppose "a priori" that sheikhly power and the tribal structure match.

In (the formerly) North Yemen if we venture to mention some reasons which made tribes what they are; we may mention proximity of the desert, constant raids and wars, ignorance and poverty, instability, remoteness from cities and centres of civilization and consequently the absence of effective existence of government and its services or enforcement of its rules. The Imam's view of the tribes was, to say the least, contradictory; they were "his warriors in the cause of god" and "true Muslims". On other occasions, they are a fertile ground for factionalism, threat to unity, evil ones, and "followers of taghut".

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A		Palestine	217306/348
Afghanistan	217691	Qatar	217488
Algeria	247755/56	Romania	215579
Bulgaria	217244	Saudia Arabia	240429/30
China	275337/40/41	Somalia	208864
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Czechoslovakia	247946	Syria	247750
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THE WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY: MAY 17th

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) is the oldest (founded in 1868) international organization and it has survived many a war. The ITU, headquartered in Geneva, has 168 countries as members and is one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations. It is due to endeavors of this technical body that world wide standards of telecommunication equipments, systems and operating procedures had been arrived enabling a telephone anywhere in the world to connect to any other. The world's countries have over 740 million telephones (about 13 per 100 inhabitants) with the advanced countries having 50 to 70 phones per 100 persons, while the number of phones in the poor countries ranges from 0.2 to under 2. Countries and continents are linked by undersea and underground copper and optical fibre cables, each, of the latest giving over 40,000 telephone circuits, communication satellites, the latest generation of which gives 120,000 circuits and terrestrial microwave radio systems. Two thirds of the international circuits are now through satellites. Revolutionary and rapid advances have been taking place in telecommunications which are now totally based on digital electronics and computers. The traditional, mainly telephone network is being transferred into a globally interconnected transportation system in electronic form. Voice, text, image (video) and data. As societies evolve and progress from agricultural to industrial and there to service economies, telecommunications are to post-industrial societies what transportation (rail, road, sea and air) had been to industrial societies. While in the advanced countries, new services like mobile telephones (in cars, boats, ships, aeroplanes and in pockets), electronic mail, paperless money are becoming available: in the de-



T.H. Choudhary,
ITU Expert, Sana'a

veloping countries, great efforts and investments are required to establish the plain old telephone service itself. International cooperation, ITU's technical assistance and World Bank's lendings are helping the developing countries to establish, expand and modernize their telecommunication systems. What a comforting thought it is that unlike personal international travel which involves passports, emigration and immigration clearances, visas, customs checks, change of flights at several airports, etc.; over the telephone, two persons anywhere in the world, at any time can instantaneously communicate with each other in the privacy and convenience of their homes and offices, just by pushing buttons on a telephone instrument. The telecommunication organisations all over the world are urged by the ITU to interact with the people and policy makers to promote better awareness and appreciation of telecoms information and global networking for a country's economic development. For personal communications from people to people to increase understanding and for balanced development of regions and countries and how this can be achieved in rural areas as well as in cities by application of the latest technologies. That is what the World Telecom Day, May 17 is intended to be observed.

reporting on the reporters

Over the last few weeks, so many journalists have made the trek down to Yemen. For most of them, it was their first visit to the infamous land known to the ancients as "Arabia Felix" or Happy Arabia. It has fallen on less happy times, but it still romantically attracts caravans of visitors. Of course, there are the tourists, and the flow of these has grown from a trickle to a steady stream. But more importantly, quite a few of the more recent visitors have been nosy reporters. They come from all corners of the globe, but most notably from the West.

YEMEN TIMES decided to report on the reporters. At first, most of them were taken aback. Soon their surprise was transformed into a gratified feeling of self esteem. "You want to interview me, Yah, sure!" We put a number of questions to the few that we cornered. These include Detler Aahlers of Die Welt from Germany, Tim Haynes of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and Olivier Chermann of the French Radio Monte Carlo.

Our questions looked like this: What triggered your interest in Yemen? Why now? What do you expect to find? What have you found? What are your impressions? How free were you in your efforts? What do make of the freedom of the press in Yemen? What is your assessment of Yemen's foreign policy? What do you think of the economic conditions? What do you think of the newly installed multi-party democratic system? How do you compare Yemen to its neighbors? etc.

The answers were almost identical. Everybody had a romantic notion of Yemen, something out of a fairytale book - maybe it is the one-thousand and one nights. All of them knew the story of the Queen of Sheba and the ancient civilizations. But there was no disappointment, they came to see something different, they did, although not in the way they imagined. The architecture, the landscape, the culture... it is all a hold-over from the past. So they came to satisfy a romantic personal urge. But that is not all, they

came to see this little country that stood up to the most powerful military coalition the world ever assembled. Not that it was opposed to it, it just did not support the thirst for blood. Yemen wanted a peaceful exit to the whole Gulf drama. Were the journalists aware of this position - vaguely. The timing of the visit is justified by the first anniversary of the unification of the country - May 22nd. In addition, there is the continued rumblings associated with democratic systems. Any issue calls for divergent points of views which clash (the views, that is). At the moment the viewpoints that clash relate to the constitution.

The visitors were intrigued, almost could not believe it. It is like a play, one of them said. Out here in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by some of the most unyielding autocracies and dictatorships, this little country is taking its democratic experiment seriously. "I am very surprised that the West is at odds with the only democracy in the Arabian Peninsula," said Mr. Aahlers. "Germany is not at odds with Yemen," I comforted him.

All the journalists expressed worry and anxiety as to the future of this nascent democracy. "You have a real free press. It is amazing. But I can't help but worry about it. It all seems so fragile," said Mr. Haynes. But it is worth trying, and it is a fantastic experiment. A Swiss writer and archaeologist, Dr. Ueli Brunner said, "Yemen today reminds of the Sudan in 1979. I realize there are many differences, but I just hope it does not follow the same path." We all hope so too.

But the system is not that fragile. Only seventy days in its life, the infant Republic of Yemen witnessed the ravages of the Gulf War almost in its backyard. Kuwait is only 1500 kilometers away from Yemen. It withstood the crisis, it withstood regional conspiracies to shake it, and some of them continue, it withstood the return of one million Yemenis working in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf, and it withstood the near-total cut-off of foreign aid. It continues to uphold its democratic values more strongly than ever.

What have the reporters found? They found a very courteous, proud and friendly people. As Olivier Chermann explained with a highly francized English, "I go everywhere, and the people are happy to help. I find it easy to go into a shop and ask to use the telephone. And they refuse to let me pay for it." The journalists are free to arrange their programs; they get no unnecessary "help" from any quarters. Asked what could be done to facilitate their visits, most of them say, "Just continue to grant us visas whenever we request them. You see, in most of the other countries (meaning neighbors), it is very hard for journalists to come in."

But what are some of the things you are annoyed with? The dirt. With a little bit more care, the place could be much cleaner. The plastic bottles, tins and cans, and various kinds of papers litter the cities as well as the villages. "The country needs to be environmentally more conscious," says Aahlers. "The economic conditions also look like they are in bad shape," says Haynes. So they are. In one blow, the country lost some 12% of its GNP due to the Gulf crisis. Still, some of the world's champions of democracy want to strangle this infant democracy to please a few rich autocracies. It is a strange world. Yemen needs its friends to help it cross over to better times. It needs to bridge three-to-four years of hardships. After that, the picture looks much rosier. How about foreign relations? Yemenis pride themselves in a very correct and independent foreign policy. "It is true; that is what it is on paper. But you need the mechanism to explain your point of view. If you do not have the mechanism (media), then however good your foreign policy, it is not going to work," says Chermann.

All in all, "How do you rate Yemen?" There is consensus - the result is a definite "A". We as Yemenis need to keep working hard to preserve this "A" score. As more reporters come in this week, we will see how they rate Yemen!

BRITISH EMBASSY, SANA'A REQUEST OF ALL BRITISH NATIONALS IN THE YEMEN TO REGISTER OR RE-REGISTER WITH THE BRITISH EMBASSY BEFORE 15 MAY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES PLEASE TELEPHONE 215630-33 EXTN. 230

WHY ARAB ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PROGRAMS FAIL?

Mohammed Al-Nidhari,
National Institute for
Administrative Sciences.



In most developing countries, but specially in the Arab countries, the bottleneck in socio-economic development is proper management of our resources, projects, and organizations. We in the Arab World have attempted several reform packages with minimal success, I must add. This situation has puzzled me for a long time. Why do our administrative reform programs fail?

Intrigued by this question, I decided to embark on an extensive study. My study was based on field surveys supported by answers from questionnaires which were filled by decisions-makers, consultants, and other experts. Most of the sample base was chosen on the basis of experience in and contribution to administrative reforms aimed at socio-economic development. My studies led to several conclusions which I think are very important. The most important factor seems to be the socio-cultural environment which in the Arab World is dominant. My conclusions are:

1) The decision to make reforms and changes is often taken by the higher echelons on the administrative apparatus. Sometimes, the decision may be taken outside the organization itself. In both cases, the need for the change and logic behind it are not convincingly and quickly relayed to the lower levels of administration.

2) The reform process is not sufficiently studied, and it is not planned properly. In most cases, the decision to make changes and to implement them is spontaneous and whimsical.

3) The structure of administrative leadership does not welcome new ideas, and it often shuns diverging viewpoints. Thus, there is minimal contribution from the grass-roots level of the administration, and there is almost no feedback from other sources. As a result reform decisions are based on insufficient and/or incorrect data.

4) Most administrative leaderships fight change and seek to preserve the status quo in an effort to avoid accountability. This

is especially true in systems which penalize wrongdoers and do not reward achievers.

5) Senior administrators are not prepared to take risks, and they are haunted by the uncertainties associated with transitional periods (in-between jobs).

6) The Arab individual clings to his/her customs and traditions, and is uncomfortable with and unenthusiastic about change.

7) The Arab individual is raised in an environment in which seniority by age is translated automatically to mean better and wiser persons. Thus, juniors understand their ideas are less valuable, and so their contributions are unimportant.

8) The Arab individual's resistance is usually in suppressed form. This leads to conditions of indifference and carelessness even to things which are unacceptable. In fact, people who are opposed to any program or action force out a meek consent as a way of getting away from involvement.

9) Sometimes, the tendency not to declare one's opposition to certain programs or reforms is based on the need to avoid the backlash of one's superiors. Superiors often resort to punitive measures against their uncooperative juniors.

10) Many senior staff members do not acquire their high positions through proper qualifications. Thus, they resist change and reform out of fear it will expose their inefficiencies.

11) Many people fear their resistance to certain programs and changes will be politicized, and could be taken to mean they are against the institution, and possibly against the nation.

12) The Arab individual grows in a culture dominated by one person. This makes the chief executive officer monopolize all authorities in his/her hands. Thus, he/she takes the decisions alone, in which case, the reform programs are alien to everybody else..

SUPPLY AND TRADE MINISTER SHARES NEW IDEAS IN REGULATING FOREIGN TRADE

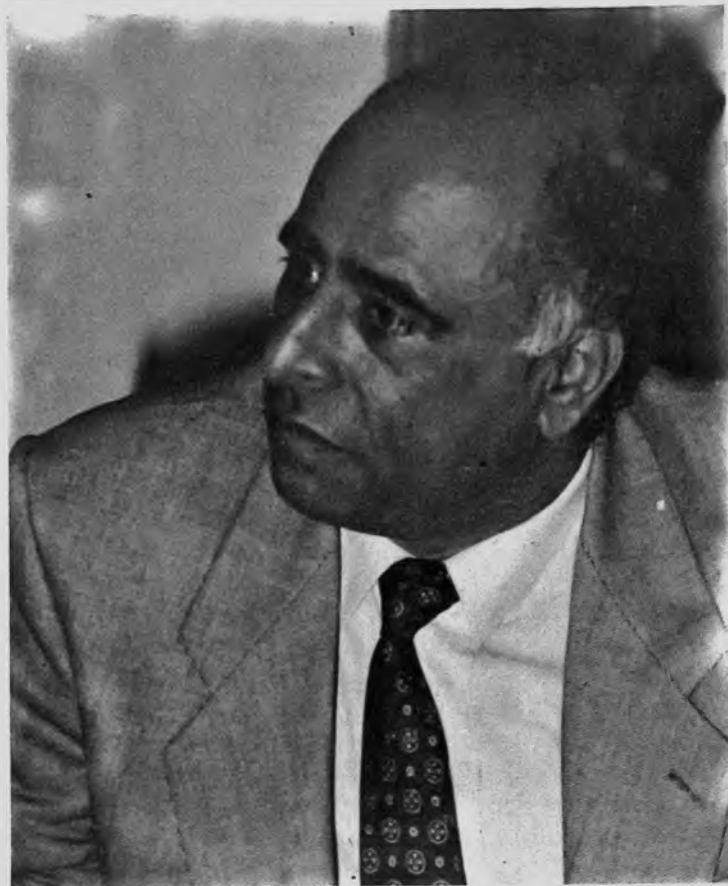
At the Faculty of Economics and Commerce at Sanaa University, H.E. Mr. Fadhle Mohsin Abdullah, Minister of Trade and Supply, delivered a lecture on the new policies related to our international trade. The following is a summary of the lecture.

The Ministry of Trade and Supply has been trying to balance out the various demands and pressures under which it works. We have a basic responsibility to make sure the country has adequate supplies of its needs - whether imported by the government or the private sector. We are also obliged to create the climate and environment most conducive to a prosperous and growing commercial sector. We have to execute government policies within the available resources. The bureaucracy represents one more force in the way we handle ourselves. These and many other forces push us in different directions as we carry out our responsibilities. I think that we have succeeded in pursuing a policy that satisfies at least the minimum of all those forces.

To us, the first priority is make sure there is a sufficient supply of basic commodities in the market. In light of the severe shortage of foreign exchange, this sounds to be a Herculean task. I am happy to confirm that we have succeeded in security credit lines from France, the USA, and Australia to finance wheat and other commodities imported from them. This has given us a breathing space upto the end of 1992.

The thrust of our new policy is to try to influence the consumption habits of Yemenis. For example, Yemenis prefer to consume only the most expensive variety of wheat. We have decided to import a large quantity of French wheat which is less preferred by the consumers. But this is good wheat consumed by the French people and other Europeans. I think we need to force ourselves to live within our means.

We have been under



pressure to regulate the import business. In the past, there was a quota system, which failed very badly. Then, for almost one year now, we have had a system in which importers financed their imports. But again there are complaints. Now we are going to have a mixture of those two systems. The Central Bank of Yemen will finance the import of basic commodities (such as wheat, flour, and rice). The importation of other goods will continue to be self-financed (by the importers).

I have proposed to the

cabinet a system of inter-commodity subsidization. This means that we will levy on certain commodities fees. The fees will constitute revenues earmarked to support other commodities. In this way, goods consumed by a small group of (wealthy) people will subsidize the basic commodities. This is one way of controlling the continued rise in prices of basic commodities. At the end, however, our ability to control the bureaucracy and its corruption and inefficiencies will determine the success of all these plans and efforts.

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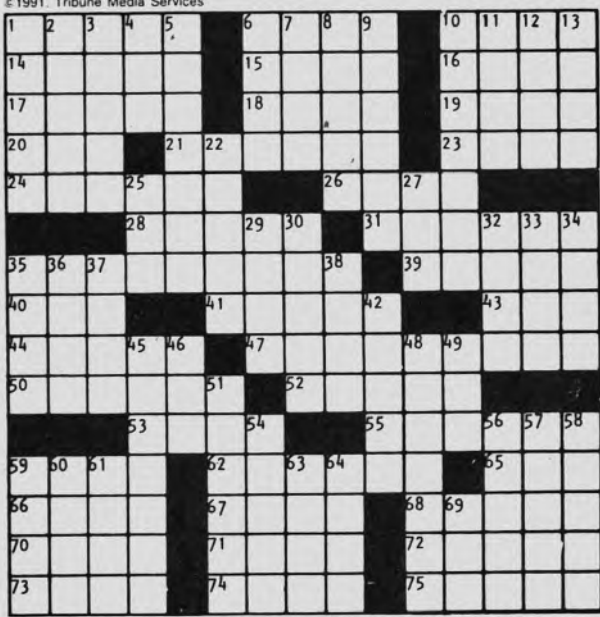
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★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 43 Treasured object | DOWN | 35 Campus residence, for short |
| 1 Ring melodiously | 44 Ta-ta in Tijuana | 1 Insensitive | 36 Change the decor |
| 6 Brothers | 47 Place for 6 A | 2 Slave of old | 37 Wading bird |
| 10 Early man's dwelling | 50 Worked on a salad | 3 Miss Massey | 38 Unit of loudness |
| 14 Kind of race | 52 New car, sometimes | 4 Isle of — | 42 Not so spry |
| 15 Tibetan monk | 53 Pour | 5 Place for mascara | 45 Emu's relative |
| 16 Bauxite and galena | 55 Complete | 6 Linen source | 46 Observe |
| 17 Isolated | 59 Wound mark | 8 Like — around a flame | 48 " — from the Portuguese" |
| 18 Swear | 62 Grotto | 9 Famous Tom | 49 Explosive |
| 19 Grocery list item | 66 Certain points | 10 Fruit dish | 51 Pour |
| 20 Family boy | 67 Jejune | 11 Plane surface | 54 Madame Curie |
| 21 Negligence | 68 Ham it up | 12 Scallopini meat | 56 Presses |
| 23 Colorless | 70 Guinness | 13 Villa d' — | 57 Fixed costs |
| 24 German prisoner-of-war camp | 71 Place for Cleo's barge | 22 Type size | 58 Abrasive |
| 26 Man of the hour | 72 Solution for photo-graphs | 25 Haul | 59 Bang |
| 28 Accepted procedure | 73 TV hit | 27 Actor Steiger | 60 Soft drink |
| 31 Take turns | 74 Youthful ending | 29 Bacterium | 61 Experts |
| 35 Says "boo" | 75 Fresh | 30 Enter: var. | 63 Despicable |
| 39 Fabric | | 32 Seraph: Fr. | 64 First garden |
| 40 Johnny — | | 33 Stadium section | 68 Extinct bird |
| 41 Flynn of flicks | | 34 TV award | |

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MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! (Sol.: 8 letters)
 A-Adore, Appreciate; B-Beautiful, Best; C-Call. Card, Care, Celebrate, Charming, Children. Close; D-Dear, Dinner; E-Express; F-Family. Female, Flowers, Fond; G-Gentle, Gift, Give. Glad, Good, Gratitude, Great; H-Heart; L-Lady. Love; K-Kiss; M-Mommy; N-Need; P-Pamper. Present; R-Reflect, Remember, Rely on; S-Send, Show, Sincere, Smile, Sweet; T-Telephone, Thanks, Time; V-Visit; W-Warm, Wife. Woman

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EEAWDGLTFSSIKDE
 FVRONENOHPLETF
 IOHEREMEMBERTO
 WGRSSPRESENTISN
 ANEIFAMILYUMMOD
 PIPNWRCLOSEIYSI
 PMMCYEHLVBLGWN
 RRAEDFIUEEESREN
 EAPRALLFYRDSAE
 CHAELEDIMOAEETR
 ICALLCRTMDLRTV
 AHEARTEUOAGPTAI
 THANKSNAMOWXUES
 ETARBELECAREDRI
 SREWOLFBGIETEGT

Words of Wisdom

Never mortgage your future for the sake of living well today.

Betting is a fool's argument.

The sun always shines above the clouds.

When your ship finally comes in, take care that you don't scuttle it in the harbor.

Some people are like blisters — they only show up after the work is finished.

Your best gift to your enemy is forgiveness.

When passion rules, reason suffers.

Admitting possession of a secret is half way to telling it.

Better to do and not promise than to promise and not do.

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RANOB
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

TAABE
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

ZARWID
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

YINTTE
 [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print surprise answer here: [] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

Would You Believe.....

Goldfish don't always stay golden. If they're kept in dim light, they lose their color.

A lot of snakes can go an entire year without eating.

Who says land isn't cheap? In all, nearly 300 million acres of land in the United States have been given or sold cheaply to homesteaders over the years.

In 1934, the temperature reached 118 degrees in Idaho.

More than 200 major-league baseball players will make \$1 million or more in the 1991 baseball season.

Nearly one in four U.S. taxpayers waits until April 15 to file a tax return, the government says.

President Andrew Johnson's political career wasn't over after he narrowly averted impeachment in 1868. In 1875, Johnson, a former member of Congress, returned to the U.S. Senate, only to die later that year.

ALL ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE TWELVE. GOOD LUCK!!

SLAPSTIX

SOCIAL DISEASES ARE GERMS OF ENDEARMENT

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"I'm starting to feel dependent."



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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Romance could become a problem as singles and maybe even loyal lovers may temporarily stray.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Do for others as you wish they'd do for you. Get all the important stuff done.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Chalk up your mate or partner's impossible behavior to the moon's passionate influence.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Erratic moon scatters your forces a bit. Find a partner to help you pick up the pieces.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Children may be focus of energy, or a love affair comes into your life quite suddenly.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Ongoing family adjustments reach a climax. New friendships and a flirtation.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your mood is delightfully different; share the interests of a friend.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Extra money comes from a friend, you may use it to visit family far away.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Express your feelings. Little trips mark the whole week. Business travel yields a profit.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Someone at work is saying terrific things about you behind your back. Friends call.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You don't have time to read this; you're already late for a full schedule of social action.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The boss brings rewards for your hard labor; practice your acceptance speech.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Legal matters culminate over next few weeks. Make money deals with boss this week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, LETTERS TO THE

Our Note:

We appreciate the flow of letters which has been coming to our mail box. We also appreciate the beautiful sentiments and words of encouragement expressed in those letters, as well as in telephone conversations. Below are responses to those letters and extracts thereof:

To: Mohamed Ali Shidle, Teacher, Tariq Religious Institute, Taiz.

We received your article on "The State of Civil War in Somalia" and we are pleased to reproduce same below.

THE STATE OF CIVIL WAR IN SOMALIA

In a nutshell at the beginning of this year, the Somali National Front overthrew the regime led by Siad Barre. The United Somali Congress representing the Hawiye clan achieved tangible victories for the Somali people. Most of the Somali people have taken up for this

goal. It was an indispensable duty. This was a great triumph and there was an unreserved zeal. The state of the civil war in Somalia was so stupendous that it had brought about many casualties. There has been widespread ravishing, genocide and an unsettled tribal crisis. The former ruler invaded the rights of the Somali citizens everywhere in the country. Social unrest was rampant. Evidently, there is a considerable crackup in both Hargeisa and Mogadisho where most of its inhabitants immigrated and ran away to the neighbouring countries in search of shelter, social security, food and medical treatment. The social living conditions in Somalia have in fact been on the verge of collapse. Both Hargeisa and Mogadisho are turned into necropolises. The aftermath can be seen from far and near. After the overthrow of Siad Barre, the stand-bearers of the United Somali Congress attempted to join hand in hand with the other opposition groups such as the Somali National Movement, the Somali

Patriotic Front, The Somali Salvation Society, etc. As a matter of fact, the U.S.C vanguards could not do other than what they did. On account of lack of telecommunication systems, they were not able to communicate with the heads of the mentioned fronts. In order to restore the stability, security and peace of the whole land, an interim party was formed. A spell-bound speech was delivered by the transitional government's president, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who is from the largest and well known tribe in Somalia and is everywhere recognized as such. He is also a rich man. All opposition parties have been asked to mop up Siad Barre's armed forces until they give in and lay down their weapons. Because disarmament makes peace. Unless these actions are not carried out; there will be an unsettled life. Furthermore, the Somali National Salvation and Security Committee was established. Their duties were to exterminate the hooligans who had taken the occasion to vandalize public funds, and to reunite the Somali tribes which were in discord.

Without any rhyme or reason, some of the fighting fronts were going against the interim regime. They said it was a rush order. Instead of making a common cause against the enemy, they started criticizing the new system of the polity. Their proposals threw a monkey wrench into the peace negotiations. Woe be to everyone who intends to dismantle and dismember the unity of the Somali broad masses. Straight from the shoulder, the S.P.M fighters pulled for the so called Somali National Front of the Darod Clan, which the ex president belonged to. The Somali Patriotic Movement was anti gov-

ernment in the past. The leaders of the S.P.M struggled hard for the disposal of Siad Barre's ruling system inside the country. And now they are opposing the U.S.C's future plans. They are coming about the common aims of striving. Isn't it ridiculous? The Somali Patriotic Movement fought off the ex regime and went in for the junto in different sharp battles. All the same, they did their best yesterday. No one would deny such a fact. But nowadays it becomes a flash in the pan. There is a breach of faith! Our S.P.M brothers have begun upholding the remnants of ex strongmen's loyal soldiers. At all events, the vanguards of the Somali United Congress are willing, even eager, to convene mutual meetings for the Somali unity and the future of the nation. If this is not realized in a hopeful manner, a commotion is imminent. As far as I know, the Soma-

li society always suffers from the tribal affiliation and nepotism that is hampering the progress, prosperity and unity of the whole nation. Every tribe is rampageous for injustice. In respect of war, it is ruinous. It is evident that the civil war turned the biggest towns of Somalia into shambles. The war had been very destructive. In conclusion, the status quo of the social disorder in Somalia can be kept out and resolved by going over the Holy Quran and the Sunna which are in fact the real keys to our life. Let us apply the tenets of the Islamic Religion to our daily living conditions. It is full of adequate legislation. At length, the Somali community is in need of theocracy but not of tribucracy (tribal bureaucracy). Also they are in need of concord and civil liberty. They hate an oligarchy.

STUDENTS MEMORY OF SCHOOL

*Let us reflect on our school for a while
We could go on for a mile and a mile.
From the beginning and up to the end
Our teachers have gone round the bend.
Excitement and disaster all put together
Make our abilities marvellously better.
Subjects like Music and Games
Put the teachers' hair to flames.
Others like Physics and Chemistry
Make the students feel jittery.
In Maths teachers face problems from the floor
That one and two don't make four.
Molars, bladders, lungs and hearts
Mammals, reptiles and all green plants
To study these, oh no we can't.
But when the game lessons do start
All teachers' nerves begin to part.
In language, verbs, adverbs, and nouns
What with the saying, phrase and sounds.
In Geography with locations and sites
All the children begin to migraine fight
History. What do we care for days and dates?
When we can chatter with classmates!
Pulses speed up and heartbeats go down
Teachers smile, while the students frown.
What with increasing demand and supply
If they were on sale, brain cells we'd buy.
It would have been nice to watch and laugh
But to get over the pain can be tough.
Goodbye for today, next year we'll come back
To study and learn and fill all we lack.*

Composed by
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WALKING THRU YEMENI HISTORY



Marianne Manda is a German artist who has written six publications, and organized twenty one exhibitions in the Middle East and Europe. She has been coming to Yemen regularly since 1987 with the aim of putting together an exhibition on Yemen. During her frequent visits, she spends weeks in a row,

Yemeni civilization has created a very special soul, and Marianne has been reaching out to understand it, to document it and to find similarities with her own culture. After five years, she is finally organizing an exhibition in the museum in Munich. The exhibition will start on the fourth of July and will continue for three months.

The idea on which the exhibition is built is a unique one. The whole Yemeni culture and history is represented by a house, and each room is a manifestation of different aspects of the Yemeni culture and history. Moreover, given the dominance of religion in

one of the five daily prayers. After all, the five prayers punctuate the activities of Yemenis in their daily life.

their history. So this room has symbols from Yemeni history. The most outstanding symbol, is, of course, the Queen

sound comes from the heart - it is the heart-beat. The togetherness of Yemeni families is reflected in the pictures, which combine symbols of Islamic and Christian traditions and values.

Room 5: The 'Isha' Prayer:

In Yemeni life, the nights are quiet and serene, almost ominous. Everyone's deepest fears start coming out. The smell of the earth (dirt) fills the room, and yowls of dogs is overheard. The most disturbing aspects of history are manifested here. The wars, the turmoil, the sufferings, and the anxieties.

The rooms are connected by corridors which link up space and time. The exhibition is based on a vast and limitless imagination conceived only by a professional artist - and Marianne Manda is one. We take this opportunity to thank Lufthansa and the Munich museum for their contributions to meet part of the costs of this exhibition. Thanks also go to Dr. Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, Vice President of the Organisation for Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums, for his continued support and assistance to Ms. Marianne Manda during her years of preparations for this project.



Room 1: The Fajr Prayer:

This room is an embodiment of the puritanical nature of Yemeni life. Therefore, it is accentuated by religious attitudes and feelings. The pictures show the skyline of buildings dominated by the minarets and the domes of mosques. The smell of roses fills the room, and the call to prayer (muezzin) provides the background sounds. Alongwith the the sound of the call to prayer, the church's carol is raised, thus symbolizing the one-ness and similarity of humanity and religions.

of Sheba. In one picture, hoopoe is bringing to her the news of King Solomon, in another one, we see her fall for Solomon's trick and expose her legs. Another symbol is Queen Arwa Bint Ahmed. The background smell is jasmin, and the music intertwines with the Spanish guitar.

Room 4: The Maghrib Prayer:

The maghrib time, early evening, is when Yemeni families get together. They meet, chat and eat as a group. The family aspect of Yemeni life comes clearly in this room. The most frequently used scent in Yemeni homes, the bakhour, fills the air. The background



thus she spent almost two a half years in Yemen altogether. According to her, the historical depth of the

Yemeni life, the history is broken down into five components, each of which is represented by

Room 2: The Dhuhur Prayer:

This room involves the high-noon prayer. It also represents the outside world - the markets, the landscape, the urban nature of Islamic life. Pictures show the various spices on sale, and their smell alongwith the noises of the market form the background to the scene. From the Arab history, the pictures recall great scientists, philosophers, doctors, mathematicians, astrologers, and others. The vibrance and activity of mid-day Yemeni life is clear.

Recluse, tranquility, and calm characterize the early afternoon of Yemeni life. It is the time people sit back to look deeply and far into their lives,



الله
محمد





SPORTS



AL-KIBSI: "NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NORTH-SOUTH YEMENI SPORTSMEN"

For me, a sports writer and fan, visiting the office of the Ministry of Sports is a little like spending an evening with my family. The walls are decked with massive sports memorabilia, olympic souvenirs, Asian Games logos, lots of people moving around and sitting behind desks. But there is one person who always catches my eyes. He sits in the Public Relations Office, wearing a coat and tie and a broad smile. He is the 30 year old guy from the small town of Al Kibs in Khawlan. "Working here is like a dream, although I am not happy all the time," says Abdulla Mohamed Al Kibsi, the deputy Director General of External Relations at the Ministry of Sports. Excerpts of our conversation follow:



resignation, I visited a friend in this ministry and he told me of an opening in the Department of Public Relations. And here I am.

Q. Are you happy with your job now?

A. Yes, I am happy with my job here. I have a very good relationship with the Minister and with the other staff in the Ministry. We are like one family. Of course, all kinds of works have their problems, but I am happy here.

Q. You graduated from the University in English literature. Do you have plans to continue your education or to change careers to benefit from your education?

A. I plan to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where I feel I have better

prospects. Given my linguistic and other capabilities, it would probably be a more suitable place. It will also help me achieve a better future for me and my family.

Q. What is it like working with the staff from Aden (after the unity, some officials from the formerly South Yemen joined the staff of the ministry). Are there any real conflicts?

A. There are absolutely no negative feelings between us. There aren't many differences in opinion. You know people may have real differences in politics or similar fields, but not in sports. There has always been loyalty to our job and towards our brothers.

Q. Some athletes train very hard preparing for future competitions. Suddenly you notify them that the federation cannot send them to participate in the events. How do you convince the athletes to continue training under such circumstances?

A. Yemenis do not take such things seriously. Once we inform them to train, it does not necessarily mean

that they will make it to the national team. There are many factors. We have set certain standards and only those who meet those standards are chosen to form part of the contingent. During the selection process for the last Asian Games, for example, there was quite a bit of controversy as some veterans had to be left out. The selection committee pays much attention to the athletes' performances during the try outs. Decisions are not based simply on seniority or past record.

Q. I understand that you have a close relationship with the athletes. Yet, you are known to implement the rules to the letter. How do you do it?

A. Some people have given us a bad name for they feel that we are exploiting our athletes. It is not true. They don't like the way we implement our rules and regulations. Sometimes you have to put your foot down. In my view, however, we have to be also understanding and keep our lines open to our athletes. Mutual respect, good feelings and attachments with the athletes are necessary if we want

them to perform their best and continue to play at their peak.

Q. Are there any athletes whom you have failed to support or develop? Are there problem athletes in your life?

A. The athletes before being selected for their debut appearance have to undergo many phases. They have to undergo strict training rituals, abstain from smoking, drinking, stay awake late at night, etc., as well as learn the latest techniques in their respective sports.

Those who come out with shining colors are then supported and developed to become champions. Of course, some athletes are easier to work with than others, but I would not call anyone a problem athlete.

Q. Are you optimistic that the prospects of a unified Yemeni team in terms of emerging as champions in the Arab World eventually?

A. In my opinion, the combined talent of the two former Yemens can form a formidable sporting force to be contended with in the near future.

GILBERT MAANO EXPLAINS HOW IT IS TO BE A SPORTSWRITER IN SANAA

It hardly seems like two months ago that an impulsive publisher appointed me as the sports writer of the YEMEN TIMES. It was a position for which some would say I was uniquely unqualified. I was still a baby in this field. My resume would have mentioned a distinguished, if brief, career as a copy boy on a paper, a turn as a city room reporter and barely two years as an apprentice sportswriter. The publisher Dr Abdulaziz Al Saqqaf has valued me as his faithful reporter for the past two months. I tried to do my best and report all sports items in Yemen. Since all the other local newspapers in the country are published in the Arabic language, no newspaper

bothered to cover the special sports events from the angle I did. As the newly installed sportswriter, I have had to work six days a week without any fixed hours, following up interviews and appointments. There were no night games of any kind but I had to fill the sports page by the deadline. The other newspapers do not report anything big on sports, so I have to hustle up my own stories. Sports reporting is an esteemed area of journalism and one needs to appreciate the niceties of the language. The credential of this sportswriter is that of an off the street guy who somehow landed in the sports department due to good knowledge of local sports. Anyway, I am

glad to know the sports-page has been noticed by readers. It was sometimes a practice by other newspapers to shunt their own incompetence by budding louts into the sports sections as a means of cleaning the house. Always the attitude is that the standard of sportswriting should not be lowered. But, now conditions are getting better and lately we, sportswriters, began getting our much overdue respect. The publishers are learning one of the shortcuts to ensure more circulation is to include a sports section in the newspaper. There are now more sportswriters than ever before. Before I became a sportswriter in Yemen, I used to write articles about my favorite

sports. Since then I have come a long way. At the same time, Sanaa has evolved rapidly as different sports were introduced Sana'a became a prominent exhibition and sporting city. Abdulrahman and Al Thawrah stadiums were always full of people cuing for their tickets. The leading clubs in the country are full of athletes training for special events. It was a big advantage for me since I can cover more sports events and meet with local sports stars. As I get more and more established, my job becomes a lot easier. I get more and quicker "Yes" answers to my interview proposals, and people appreciate my work. I also welcome receiving all those letters and queries.

VACANCIES

YEMEN TIMES announces two job openings according to the following specifications:

1) **Female secretary:** The required qualifications include ability to type well in Arabic and English, fluency in both languages and some managerial office skills. This is a full time job, and the salary will depend on the experience and qualifications of the candidate.

2) **Proof-reader:** Needed a proof-reader to make language and style corrections in English texts. Must be a native speaker of English. This is a part-time job and there is considerable flexibility in working hours. Salary is negotiable.

Apply to the paper's address by 31 May, 1991.

