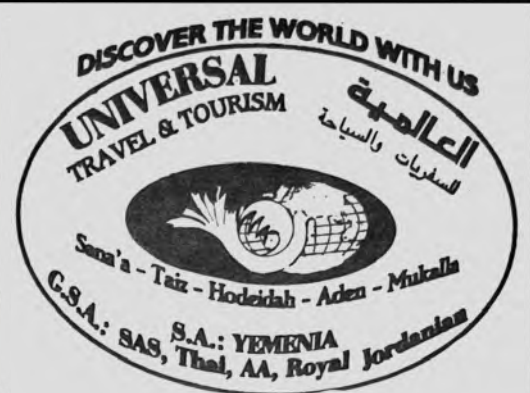


YEMEN TIMES



YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH - LANGUAGE WEEKLY

SANA'A; 3 - 9 JULY 1991; VOL I, NUMBER 18

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**Industrialist
Abdul-Galeel
Radman Talks
of Industrial
Investments
in Yemen**
p. 3



Race of Handicapped Persons;
p. 2

- **A Total Solar Eclipse on July 11th;** p. 4
- **Deforestation in Yemen;** p. 6
- **More Promising Oil/ Gas News;** p.7
- **Choudhary's Last Comments on Yemen;** p. 10

OUR VIEWPOINT



Building Academic Traditions at Sanaa University

On Sunday evening, it was on television. On Monday morning, it became the talk of the town. Sanaa University has taken the graduation ceremony of the second batch of graduates of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences to the Presidential Palace. The main reason behind carrying the whole thing to the President's Office was to ensure the personal presence of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. I was shocked, and as a member of the teaching staff of Sanaa University, I was humiliated as I sat watching the Sanaa University administration break yet one more of the basic traditions of academia.

Graduation ceremonies are a symbol and an important part of university traditions. The hero of the occasion is the graduating lot, not the rector, provost, dean, or even the lecturers. The graduation hour is their hour. Thus, relatives, friends, and neighbors are invited to share the proud moment. Other students, specially future graduates, attend. It is also an occasion for the university to become part of society and the public at large, as the campus becomes the center of action and attraction.

Although it adds to the honor and prestige of the occasion to have the head of the state attend the celebrations, it is not a necessary condition. In light of this, was it wise on the part of the Sanaa University administration to carry the celebrations to the president's office? The answer is a definite "No!". Many people are asking why the university administration wants to involve the president of the republic in the occasion. We all appreciate that the President of the Republic is interested in the progress of all institutions and sectors. But the fact that he could not go to the university for this occasion is an indication of his many other commitments and responsibilities.

My final comment - I call on the Sanaa University administration to please observe academic traditions and symbols and help build them.

The Publisher

Dr. Al-Iryani: "We Work for the Return of Stability to Horn of Africa."

In a statement to the Yemen Times, Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, said that Yemen continues to play a constructive role in helping achieve the return of peace and stability to the Horn of Africa. "We have responded favorably to the requests of both Ethiopia and Somalia in lending a helping hand," he said. Asked to give examples, Dr. Iryani stated that Yemen supported the peace talks held in Djibouti by the leaders of the fighting factions in Somalia. As the faction leaders needed to travel to many locations in Somalia for consultations on the reconciliation talks, and since land transportation was impossible, Yemen provided an antonov plane which for a whole week carried the faction leaders between Djibouti, Mogadisho, and other sites, he said. In a similar way, many of the ships that brought humanitarian aid to Ethiopia could not unload their cargo at Assab. At the request of Ethiopia, the Yemeni government has offered to provide a 2200 horse-power tugboat to pull the ships into the harbor. "We have also informed the Ethiopian authorities that the Yemeni government considers all the military hardware (vessels, helicopters, etc.) that was brought to Yemen to be the property of the Ethiopians."

What Dr. Iryani was pointing to is not the actual assistance that Yemen provides to its neighbors, for this is minor; but the spirit of trust and cooperation that exists between the Yemeni leadership and the new leaderships in Ethiopia and Somalia. Yemen is affected by the developments in the Horn of Africa, therefore, it does what it can to help its neighbors achieve peace and stability. According to Yemen Times sources, the new leaderships in Ethiopia and Somalia feel comfortable in consulting with the Yemeni authorities and in asking for cooperation at one level or another.

YEMEN TO CUT BACK SIZE OF ITS ARMY!

"Yemen's political command decided to reduce the size of the armed forces with the intention of cutting down on expenditures," said President Ali Abdulla Saleh in response to a question from the French monthly magazine "Afrasil", regarding the initiatives on elimination of arms of mass destruction in the region. President Saleh said that in line with democratic principles of Yemen, the army will be a national reserve to protect our security and provide us with stability and peace. In the aftermath of all the wars, President Saleh said, "We see no need for any destructive weapons in the region. Moreover, we ask for the elimination of even the conventional weapons not give any excuse for problems or disputes but to maintain peace and stability in the region." Referring to problems in the African Horn, President Saleh said, "This situation worries us as they happen to be our neighbours. We follow closely all the events in Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan and we offer our good relations to help resolve these problems. Speaking about Yemen's relations with U.S.A. and France, President Saleh described the relations as excellent. "We are making good progress despite the effect of the Gulf crisis." In response to a question whether Yemen will ask Saudi Arabia for border demarcation, President Saleh said, "Having achieved Yemeni unity, we are confident to discuss this issue in a climate of cordial relations and understanding."



RETAIL PRICE PER COPY = 10 Y.R.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (INCLUDES POSTAGE/DELIVERY AND HANDLING): YEMEN = US\$80, MIDDLE EAST = US\$150, ELSEWHERE = US\$ 250.

YEMEN TIMES

YEMEN'S ONLY ENGLISH-LANGUAGE WEEKLY

An Independent Political Weekly
Published by Yemen Times
Publisher : Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Editorial & Management Staff:
Chairman and CEO: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Editor-in-Chief : Abdul-Rahman Al-Haideri
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P. O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.
Telephones : 236434/35

Advertising to be agreed upon with management.

PERSONAL VIEW

PRIVATIZATION IS NOT A MAGIC WAND!



Mohammed A. Al-Nidhari,
National Institute for
Administrative Sciences

If a public sector project falters, or even collapses, it does not mean that the whole public sector is a failure, and therefore it should be done away with. And if a private sector project succeeds, it does not mean that the private sector is inherently a winner which we should fall for. If that were the case, it would have been very easy to remedy all our economic problems by simply privatizing the whole public sector. Success and failure are due to many factors, and the kind of ownership—public or private—is only one of those factors. Unfortunately, some people try to prove that public (government) ownership is a recipe for failure, and they contend that private ownership by necessity, brings success. We in Yemen have many examples to this scenario. There is no one who can deny that an atmosphere of fair competition and an efficient and effective management are the cornerstones to any success. Ownership patterns are important only in as far as they influence those two cornerstones. In the advanced countries, projects live and die on the basis of their merits and demerits, by and large. In the developing countries, such as our own (Yemen), projects are not allowed to die. If a public sector project falters, it gets direct support from the government. If a private sector project falters, it gets indirect support from the government. In both cases, the project is not allowed to die, and it becomes a burden on the national treasury. Thus we see many projects which should have died long ago, continue to linger on.

We should analyze and study the causes behind the success and failure of our projects so as to take the appropriate action. Privatization is not a magic word that will cure all our problems.

POLITICIANS DISCOVER HUGARRIAH

Within less than a month, the leaders of the three largest political parties personally went down to Hugarriah. President Ali Abdulla Saleh, Secretary General of the People's General Congress (PGC), visited Rahidah and held extensive talks with the Hugarrians, in the presence of one of its natives, Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Member of the Presidential Council and one of the leaders of the PGC. Then Vice President Ali Salim Al Beedh, Secretary General of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) visited Turba. In a major drive to create a foothold, the YSP quickly established recruitment offices in the various towns of Hugarriah. Finally, Sheikh Abdulla Bin Hussain Al Ahmar, Leader of the Preparatory Committee of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, better known as the Islah, paid a historic visit to Turba. All three parties enjoy a visible presence in Hugarriah. Many leaders of the smaller parties have also visited Hugarriah recently. Why is Hugarriah so important? The answer is obvious. First, over a million people live in Hugarriah, by far the highest density among the Republic's regions. Second, Hugarrians enjoy the highest rate of literacy in the country; therefore, they make up an important segment of the country's intelligentsia and educated class. Third, Hugarrians - males and females alike, have a very high participation ratio in political activities. They show up at the polls. Fourth, among the writers and journalists, Hugarrians represent a major bloc. They are frequent writers and vocal orators. Finally, Hugarrians make up an important block of the technocracy, bureaucracy and teaching staff at the schools. No wonder, the politicians and their parties scramble for Hugarriah. It is a worthwhile catch!

Misuse of Pilots' Union

The pilots union of Yemen Airways went on strike starting on the 17th June resulting in serious disruption to Yemenia services.

The strike was called to coincide with the start of the peak season for Yemenia - outbound flights from Yemen to Egypt, Sudan and Syria carrying expatriate teachers and their families. Their demands included a hundred percent hike in salaries besides additional benefits.

The strike was suddenly called off on Friday 21st June following intervention by the President of the Republic and the pilots were instructed to resume their normal duties or face disciplinary action.

Yemenia employs about 45 pilots and co-pilots (all Yemenis) and they belong to a privileged class enjoying the best of facilities. It is reliably learnt that the average salaries of these pilots range between YR 14,000 to 21,000 per month in addition to approximately US\$800 per month by way of out station allowances (per diem given to them on night stops at out-stations besides covering their hotel accommodations). They also get overtime for excess hours flown and all this adds up to a very comfortable pay check. It is believed that the Yemenia pilots take home, on average, about double the money received by Sanaa University professors and triple the salaries of engineers.

This strike caused untold misery and discomfort to the passengers besides intangible losses to the airline. According to Yemen Times sources, the public has very little sympathy to the pilots, and perceives it as an exploitative group trying to selfishly maximize their interests at the expense of society at large, and even at the expense of the airline that employs them.

Yemeni and Cypriot Agreements:

The Deputy Foreign Minister of Cyprus recently paid a week long visit to Yemen and signed an agreement with the Ministry of Planning and Development regarding economic, educational, technical, and industrial cooperation between the two countries. He also signed a five year agreement with the Ministry of Supply and Trade to promote trade relations between Yemen and Cyprus, participate in international trade exhibitions, organize trade booths in both countries, and exchange visits of businessmen.

THE HASH ORGANIZES THE RACE OF THE HANDICAPPED:

The Sanaa Highest Hash House Harriers, an informal club of Yemeni and non-Yemeni runners organized a race on July 1st, 1991 for the members of the Yemen Physically Handicapped Society. The Yemeni leader is Salah Ahmed. The afternoon race started from in front of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Sanaa University and headed towards Wadi Dahar for about three kilometers. The HASH grandmaster, Mr. Robin Warner, told Yemen Times that several local and international organizations have contributed to make the race a success. Notable among these Yemen Hunt Oil Company, the German Airline Lufthansa, the Haddah Water Company, and of course, the Hash. Many countries were represented in the race, including Denmark, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the USA, and of course, Yemen.

It is worth mentioning that the Hash grandmaster, Robin Warner, is leaving us after ten years. He is to be replaced by another Englishman, David Ross. We wish both success in their endeavors.



Abdul-Galeel Radman:

THE YEMENI ECONOMY HAS COME OUT OF THE RECESSION AND IS NOW FACING AN UPWARD TURN IN BUSINESS.

Most of Yemen's industrialists are originally merchants, and quite a few of them continue to combine the two professions. One merchant-turned-industrialist is Abdul-Galeel Radman Ahmed Qassim, born in 1943 in Bani Omar in Hugarriah. Starting from a modest rural background, Mr. Radman built a successful business through continued and persistent efforts which spanned (30) years. Today, he is the owner of several major factories and businesses, and serves as the Assistant Secretary General of the Chamber of Industry in Hodeidah. Yemen Times discussed with him issues regarding his business as well as the overall climate for industrial investments in Yemen. Following are excerpts of the interview.

Q. Could you describe to our readers briefly the beginnings of your business operations?

⌘ I left my native village in Hugarriah in 1963 where I started a small business in Aden. In 1970, I decided to move to Hodeidah, which at the time, offered more opportunities and options. In 1978, I felt that commercial activities could grow within a limited scope only. So I moved over to industrial investments. That is how it evolved.

Q. How did you decide on industrial investments in icecreams?

⌘ Having located at Hodeidah with its relatively hot climate, I felt a product that would help people cool off would be viable. So I thought of icecream and other similar products. It also helped that the initial capital required in this field was rather small. We started with a YR.15 million investment employing sixty five workers. At hindsight, I feel we made the right choice.

Q. You later expanded?

⌘ Having started with icecream products, we moved on to the whole range of dairy products. We expanded once from a paid-up capital of YR15 million in 1978 (employing 65 workers) to YR23 million in 1983 (employing 110 workers), and to YR63 m. in 1985 (and employing 200 workers). Today, we employ more than 250 workers.

Q. How did you finance your expansions?

⌘ Of course, it was mainly self-financed. But we did get credit financing from abroad as well as from the Industrial Bank of Yemen, specially to meet the foreign exchange requirements of the expansion. I must mention here that our experience with the Industrial Bank of Yemen was a sad one. The bank behaves like a commercial bank which seeks to maximize profits, and it does not seek to encourage investors.

For example, as the exchange rate of the Riyal deteriorated, it shifts the whole burden on the investors. In our case, we borrowed YR10 million, which was used to import machines.

The bank simply converted the Riyals into US dollars at the old rate (thus the loan amount became US\$1.73 million). As the machines had arrived at Hodeidah harbor, I had to accept the bank's action because I was trapped. I was watching the machines degenerate at the harbor, and the land fees of the customs authorities soar high, I decided to cave-in to the Industrial Bank. Such behavior on the part of development banks does not help investors.

Q. How do you evaluate the contribution of your industries to the national economy?

⌘ Our total assets are about YR220 million; we



employ over 250 workers (supporting about 1500 persons); we pay in to the government treasury about YR350,000 in consumption taxes each month. We also pay each month about YR60,000 in payroll taxes. There are other taxes such as stamp, customs duty, profits, etc. At another level, there are the contributions in the form of value added and import replacement which I cannot estimate at the top of my head, but they are substantial.

Q. Have you branched out to other products?

⌘ Yes, I have established two factories in Taiz for two different lines of products. The first is a YR30 million factory that produces nails, and iron rods which are used in window-making and other construction purposes. By the way, we are now considering expanding this plant. Another factory is a sponge producing plant. The product is used in household furnishings (bed mattresses, etc.).

Q. What are the chances of your investing in the Aden Free Zone?

⌘ We have put our people to the task of studying the viabilities. No decision has yet been taken, but we are interested and we are following the possibilities closely.

Q. What is the one request that industrialists would like the government fulfill?

⌘ One major problem relates to our ability to import spare parts. At the moment, there is a US\$5000 monthly allocation in the foreign exchange budget

for each plant. This, at times, is insufficient. Thus, we are forced to keep a large inventory of spare parts. This creates inefficiencies as we are forced to tie up capital for an unknown period of time often unnecessarily. So, I wish this limitation is removed.

Q. What are your new plans of investments?

⌘ I have several projects which I am considering. The thrust is towards an agro-industrial project, especially in the paste and pulp areas. Our country produce a lot of agricultural products which could be processed into paste and pulp. I am now looking into plants in this field.

Q. You have special personal relations with a number of European firms, specially in Austria. Do you think you can interest them in investing in Yemen?

⌘ We don't have to motivate international capital to come to Yemen. It will come by itself, if the conditions are right. In any case, we are all playing our roles in informing about the opportunities that exist in Yemen.

Q. You were going to be appointed as honorary consul for Austria in Yemen. How far has that come?

⌘ The process is nearing its completion. I have signed the necessary documents with the Austrian side. They are going to present them directly to the Foreign Ministry. I expect the whole process to be completed in the

next few weeks.

Q. With the political openness of Yemen, there has come a parallel trend in unionization. What do you think of this trend?

⌘ I must tell you, it worries me. I am not opposed to unionization per se, but I worry about the misuse of union power, and the damage it could do to Yemeni capital, and the workers themselves. We have to make sure and insist on the fulfillment of all the rights of the workers. To supervise that, there are government entities and ministries. Therefore, we have to be careful not to rush into unionization.

Q. What do you think of the investment climate?

⌘ I think the leadership is sincerely interested in involving national capital in the development process of the country. They are trying to make the conditions as conducive as possible for investments by Yemeni capital. Things have improved, even at the procedural levels. For example, since 1990, constraints on import licences have been eased. So, with the enactment of the new investment law, and other pertinent regulations, I expect for improvements in the investment climate.

Q. What is your evaluation of the general prospects for Yemen?

⌘ We are now, as you know, in a period of a recession. My feeling is that we have come out of the bottom point, and the economy is facing an upward turn. To add to the bright picture, the results of the oil and mineral explorations have been more than good. The unification of the country gives us a larger market to work in, although we should always link up within the region and create channels with the outside world. We should continue to support improvements in the services, agriculture, transportation, and tourism. By the way, tourism can play a very important role in accelerating our economic development.

JULY 11th: A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

Naomi & Jay Pasachoff,
The World & I (#7, 1991)

BACKGROUND

This week a total eclipse of the sun will cross a long, narrow path from Hawaii to Mexico and beyond on July 11, 1991, and partial phases will be visible through almost the whole Western Hemisphere. The moon is 400 times closer to earth than the sun, and it is also 400 times smaller; thus, they appear to be the same size. This remarkable celestial coincidence is not shared by any other planet and moon in the Solar System. When the earth, moon, and sun are in a straight line we usually experience a new moon. When the alignment is exact, we are fortunate enough to see the beautiful result of the apparent equal size of the sun and moon: a total solar eclipse. From somewhere on earth about every 18 months, we can see the moon gradually covering the sun. Little by little, for an hour or so, the bright solar surface is hidden. It is only the height of the eclipse that brings dramatic change. The sky becomes eerily dark, and shadows sharpen strangely. As night comes on, even at noontime, ripples of light and dark known as shadow bands flit over the landscape. The last bright bead of sunlight, visible at the edge of the moon, glows so brightly, compared with the surrounding darkness, that it seems like the diamond on a ring; thus, the phenomenon is known as the diamond-ring effect. Then, the total part of the eclipse begins. The diamond ring is obliterated, and a white halo appears around the moon, as our eyes adjust to the darkness. We see the solar corona peering around the dramatic black silhouette of the moon as it hides the sun. Overlying the innermost corona, bright red loops and curves come out from a reddish border that is gradually covered over. This chromosphere, from the Greek words for "color sphere," is like the corona, gas that surrounds the sun. Totality or total eclipse, may last only a fraction of a second, or it may last as long as 7 minutes. The seconds or minutes are an emotional time for those

fortunate enough to view the spectacle. All too soon, the darkness is broken by the appearance of the other side of the chromosphere and then a second diamond ring, this time on the opposite side from the first. The crowd may cry out in jubilation. Daylight has returned, and viewers feel exhilarated, drained, and safe.

ONCE IN FIVE LIFE TIMES

The homebound person, though, will probably never get to see this magnificent show. On the average, a total eclipse is visible from each spot on earth only once every 330 years. There is a total eclipse somewhere on the earth every 18 months, but some of these eclipses are very short. The most desirable ones to watch are the long ones, which occur at intervals of 18 years 11 1/3 days. The ancient Greeks knew of this period and called it the saros. The 1/3 day is important, for it means that the earth rotates 1/3 of the way around. Thus the long total eclipse that was viewed in Africa on June 30, 1973, will repeat 1/3 of the way around the earth on July 11, 1991. This extra rotation means that the path of totality on July 11, 1991, will cross Hawaii, reach its midpoint near the southern tip of Baja California, and then will continue over Mexico, Central America before it ends in the middle of Brazil. Only those people in this long path, no more than 250 kms wide, will see the total eclipse.

THE JULY ECLIPSE

Though there is a total eclipse about every year and a half, not all of these eclipses are considered major. There are a dozen different eclipses in each saros interval, but one of these eclipses is longer than the others. This eclipse gives totality of up to about 7 minutes. During this prolonged eclipse, the sun's path passes relatively close to the earth's equator, where the earth's rotation keeps up relatively well with the moon's shadow as it sweeps through space, and the moon is relatively close to the earth. In the early morning on July 11,

the moon's shadow will meet the earth in the Pacific Ocean northwest of the island of Hawaii. The shadow will cross the whole island. The eclipse will be viewed by about 50,000 tourists - many of whom will have come especially for the occasion - and by scientists from around the world. Some scientists will observe from sea level, while others will take advantage of the telescopes on top of Mauna Kea, the 14,000 foot high dormant volcano that is the site of many of the world's largest telescopes. Totality will occur at 7:30 am, with the sun 21 degrees above the horizon, and will last just over 4 minutes. An hour or so later, at noon local time, the total eclipse will sweep over the southern tip of Baja California in Mexico. Totality will last about 6 minutes and 50 seconds there, and the sun will be almost exactly overhead. Tens of thousands of tourists, along with groups of scientists, will be viewing the eclipse there. Next, the eclipse will sweep over the populated regions of Mexico, including the cities of Guadalajara and Mexico City, so tens of millions of people will be in the zone of totality. A partial eclipse will be visible from almost all of the United States, Mexico, Central America, and South America. Southwestern Canada will have partial phases as well. The sun will be more than 70 percent covered in Los Angeles, about 40 percent covered in Denver and Atlanta, and covered only over a small percent in New York and Boston. It will be at least 80 percent covered through almost all of Mexico and Central America.

SCIENCE AND THE ECLIPSES

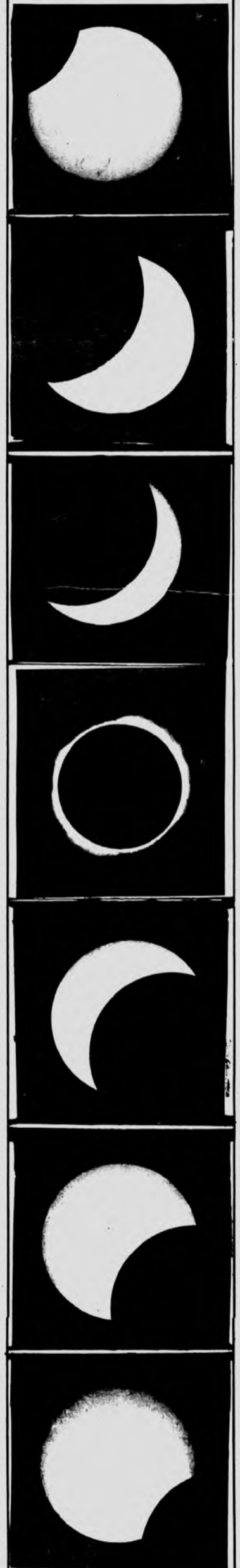
The few seconds or minutes of total eclipse give astronomers their best chance to study the corona's light. Some of the experiments are to explain the properties of the sun, and thus of the many stars like it. The solar corona is made of gas that is 2,000,000 degrees Celsius. Astronomers think that waves of energy are carried by the sun's electric and magnetic fields into the corona from deeper, much

cooler layers, and they are eager to know just how. Other experiments take advantage of the unique passage of the eclipse over a major observatory. The big telescopes on Mauna Kea will make images of the corona at the highest resolution. Scientists will study the images to see how the corona moves. Other scientists will take pictures with identical cameras spaced along the eclipse path to see if the corona changes during the few hours it is in view. Still other experiments take advantage of new technology. For example, special television type devices that are sensitive in the infrared (a type of light whose waves are too long for us to see) are newly available. Some of these devices will be used to make an image of the region extending outward from the sun, to see if the sun has a giant ring of dust, a bit like Saturn's. The 1991 eclipse is also of special interest because now is a time of maximum solar activity, as shown by the great number of sunspots. Sunspots are regions of high magnetic field on the sun, and magnetic field draws the corona into beautiful streamers, so it is interesting to study how the corona changes over the sunspot cycle. The cycle lasts 11 years, so only occasionally does it coincide with a long eclipse. At sunspot maximum, the corona is so active that streamers come out in all directions, making the corona look much rounder than at other times.

FUTURE ECLIPSES

Astronomers will take advantage of future eclipses, but it will be quite a while before a long eclipse crosses so many populated areas with favorable weather forecasts again. There are several eclipses to look forward to; a 4 1/2 minute total eclipse in South America on November 3, 1994; a 4 minute eclipse in Central and South America on February 26, 1998; and a 2 1/2 minute eclipse across Europe on August 11, 1999. But scientists and serious tourists will be waiting for July 22, 2009, when the long total eclipse of 1991 recurs, this time on a path from Yemen to China through India.

Partial Phases of a total solar eclipse



THE IMPORT DUTY (CUSTOMS) LAW: Part 4

YEMEN TIMES prints the fourth segment of its translation of the customs duty law:

Article (41):

Basically, no goods may be unloaded from ships and other carriers except in harbors with customs officials.

No goods may be unloaded or transferred, to another vessel except with the written approval of the customs department, and which should be carried out within the hours and conditions thereof, and the presence of customs officials. Fishing boats and carriers of marine products may load and unload outside the designated harbors provided they carry an annual permit from the minister (of finance).

Article (42):

The captains, or their representatives are responsible for any missing pieces or parcels or the contents thereof until the goods are officially transferred to the customs authority storage or the owners' storage once permitted to do so and in accordance with article (65) of this law. The by-laws determine the acceptable margin in quantity shortages for loose items or for goods affected in size

by natural factors, or due to weak or porous packaging.

Article (43):

If the missing quantity in pieces or parcels is beyond the acceptable margin as stipulated in the resolution of the chairman of the customs authority, the captain of the ship or his representative must provide justifications coupled with the supporting documents. If such documents cannot be presented on the spot, a six-months period is granted during which the documents are to be presented, provided the necessary guarantees are given to protect the dues of the customs department.

B. Land Transport:

Article (44):

All goods imported by land routes are to be directed to the nearest customs office. The truckers are obliged to use the road leading directly to the customs office, and as stipulated by the chairman of the customs authority and which has been announced in the official gazette. The truckers are not permitted to bypass the customs office without permission, or to

store the goods in homes or other places before presenting them to the customs office. Under exceptional circumstances, and by a decision from the chairman of the customs authority, it is permitted to bring-in goods through undesignated roads.

Article (45):

The truckers and the accompanying persons must present, upon arrival at the customs office, a list of the goods. Such a list must be signed by the driver, and attested by the transportation company, and must be organized according to the conditions stipulated by article (39) of this law, and must include the prices of the goods being transported.

The chairman of the customs authority may issue exceptions to this requirement, as deemed necessary. The list of goods is attached to the supporting documents according to the conditions specified by the customs authority.

C. Air Transport:

Article (46):

The pilot of the plane, once having crossed the border, must chart the course fixed for the plane.

Article (47):

All cargo must be stated in the cargo manifest which is to be signed by the pilot. The manifest is to be prepared according to the stipulations of article (39) of this law.

Article (48):

The pilot of the plane has to present the cargo manifest to the customs officials at their first request. Upon landing of the plane, he has to submit such documents to the customs office, with a translation thereof, if necessary.

Article (49):

It is forbidden to unload goods from the plane while in the air. Such an act is permitted only if the plane's safety is at risk, and provided he notifies the customs office immediately upon landing.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article (50):

The provisions of articles (41, 42, 43) of this law are applied to land and air transportation regarding the unloading of goods and their transfer to other carriers and the drivers/pilots and shipping compa-

nies are responsible for any shortages thereof.

Part Two: Exports:

Article (51):

It is forbidden for any ship, train, vehicle, plane, or any other carrier - loaded or unloaded, to leave the Republic without submitting to the customs department a statement of what it contains according to the provisions of article (39) of this law, and supported by all the documents thereof, and may leave only after getting the departure permission, unless there are exceptions specified in the by-laws.

Article (52):

All goods prepared for export must be directed to the nearest customs office to give a detailed statement of the contents. Truckers are forbidden to go beyond the customs points without permission, or to follow undesignated roads to bypass the customs points. All goods subject to the provisions of customs must observe the resolutions of the customs authority according to this law.

To be continued..

DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY DIARY



EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

SANA'A		PALESTINE	
Afghanistan	217691	Palestine	217306/348
Algeria	247755/56	Qatar	217488
Bulgaria	217244	Romania	215579
China	275337/40/41	Saudia Arabia	240429/30
Cuba	217304	Somalia	208864
Czechoslovakia	247946	Sudan	265231/2
Djibouti	265469	Syria	247750
Egypt	275948/9	Tunisia	240458/9
Ethiopia	208833	Turkey	215478
France	275995	U.A.E	248777/78
Germany	216756/757	U.K.	215630/33
Hungary	216679	U.S.A.	238842/52
India	241980	U.S.S.R	78272/203142
Iran	206945/948	Vietnam	216998
Iraq	216681/790		
Italy	73409/78849	ADEN	
Japan	207356/208753	Czechoslovakia	32101
Jordan	216701	China	32604/30
Korea (Dem)	232340	France	32129/090
Korea(Rep)	245959/60	Germany	32162/011
Kuwait	216317/319	India	53000
Lebanon	203959	Iran	31893/361
Libya	208815/6	Italy	31848
Mauritania	216770	Japan	32081/33282
Morocco	247964	Palestine	32717/340
Netherlands	215626/7/8	Saudi Arabia	32760/32526
Oman	208933/4	Somalia	41421/101
Pakistan	248813/14	U.K.	32711/12/13
		U.S. S.R.	32729/32625



AIRLINES

Aeroflot	74930
Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Alyemda	240896
British Airways	272247
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272435
Gulf Air	272551/49/677
Iraqi Airways	240091/240909
KLM78093/76968/270879	
Kuwait Airways	272503/4
Lufthansa	272583/667/678
Pakistan Int'l	240909/091
Royal Jordanian	275314/275028
Sabena.	205865
Saudia	240958/9/60
Sudan Airways	272503/4/5
Syrian Arab	272543
Yemenia	
Hadda Office	204538/550
Zubeiry Office	260834/5
Abdul Moghni	274803/4
Shoab Office	250833
Head Office	232381-9
Airport	250868/831
Reservations	250800/1



HOTELS

Sana'a (02)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372
Hadda	215214/5
Aden (0911)	
Movenpick	32947/32070
Gold Mohur	324171
Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239197
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	75852
Taiz (04)	
Mareb	210350
Marib (063)	
Bilquis Marib	2666-2371
Sadah (051)	
Al Mamoon	2203/2459

COURIERS:

Aramex	208887
DHL	275355
Live Express	207885
Skypack	77310



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity Problems	177
Telephone Enquiries	118
Aljumhury Hospital	202192/3
Athawah Hospital	246970/9
Kuwait Hospital	203282/4
Red Crescent	203131/3
Central Bank	274371/3
YBRD	271623/4
Banque Indosuez	272801/3
Government Offices:	
Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Inter-city Bus Co	262111/3
TV Station	250001/03
Radio Station	200060/61
Tourism Ministry	271970/2

YEMENI FORESTS FACE DEFINITE EXTINCTION

Special to the YemenTimes

B. FORESTS IN YEMEN:

A. BACKGROUND:

Forests play a significant role in economic development. In addition to their important influence on the environment, they provide innumerable products of vital use to man. The ecological usefulness of forests is most readily observed in their beneficial effect on water catchment areas, where they have a regulatory influence on stream flows and where they protect soils from erosion and prevent silting of dams and canals. They have pronounced microclimatic effects of benefit to humans and livestock, provide a habitat for wildlife, and are attractive places for recreation. Forest products are extensively used in most societies; they provide food, fuel, fiber, building materials, and industrial products such as gums, resins, oils, transmission poles, newsprint and other papers, packaging materials, textiles, and clothing. Almost every modern industry is, to some extent, dependent on forest products in one way or more of its processes.

Forests in the full sense do not exist in Yemen, although they had existed in the past. However, thick tree concentrations in isolated parts of the country continue to survive, in spite of the massive damages done by modern man. According to informed sources in the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, (the General Department of Forestry and Grazing Lands), the country has four major areas which the ministry classifies as forests. These are the Jabal Bura' area, about fifty kms. east of Hodeidah, Jabal Nihm area, some seventy kms south-east of Sanaa, Jabal Asselw area, fifty kms south of Taiz, and Al-Udain area, about forty kms west of Ibb. There are also other locations, notably river/wadi beds in which large concentrations of trees continue to exist. Over the last few decades, the hunt for cooking wood has left many regions of the country barren. Cutting down trees is a process that continues relentlessly, even today. It is estimated that the Yemeni population consumes every day about 40,000 barrels of oil equivalent in tradi-

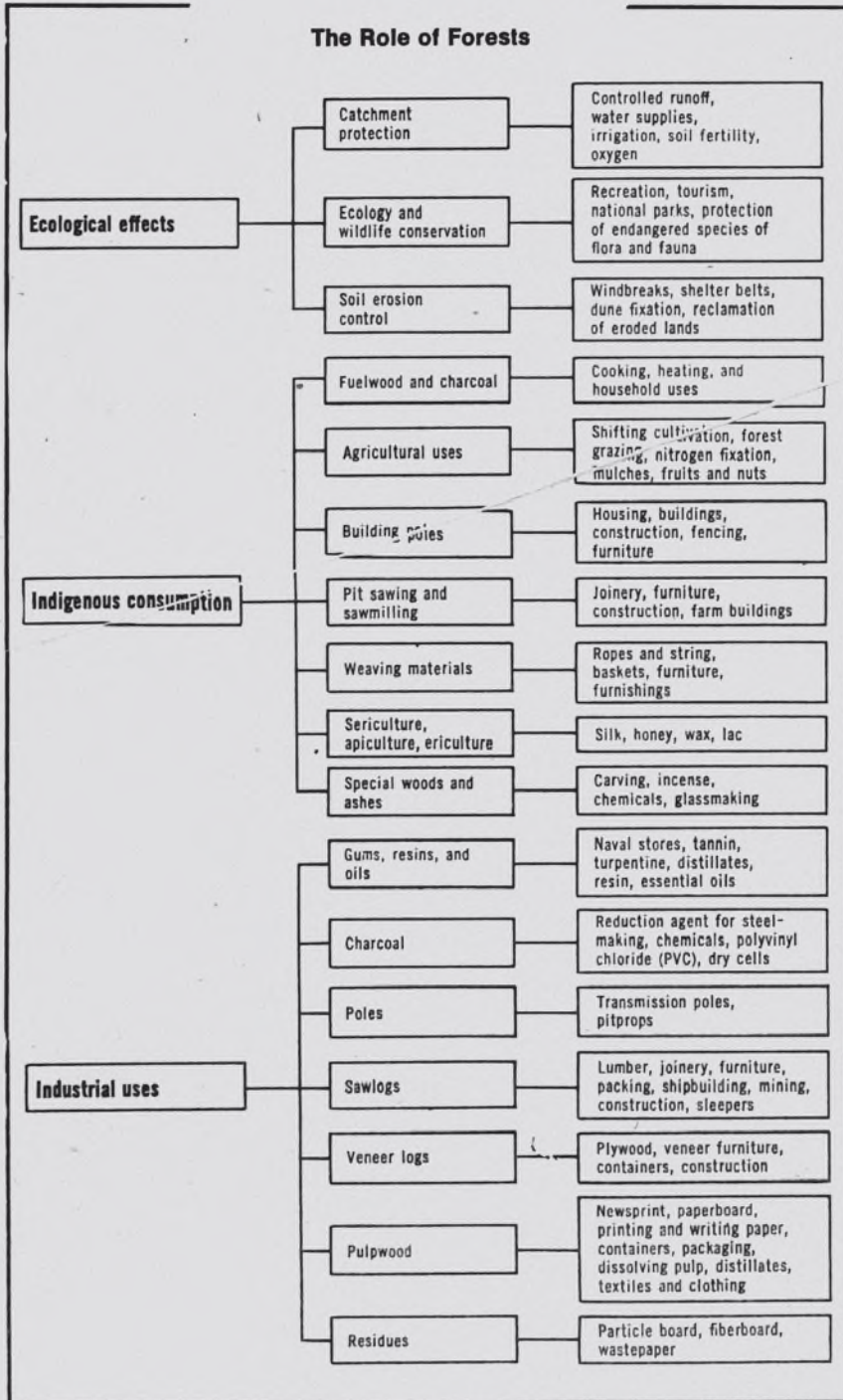
tional sources of energy (read wood). To add to the problem, the rising level of unemployment, especially after the return of about one million Yemenis from the Gulf States, has led to massive clearing of trees and forests in order to eke out a living from the land. As a result, the only surviving forests face certain extinction in a matter of a few years. As a matter of fact, the Swiss team leader helping in the preservation of the Jabal Bura' forest, the only temperate forest in the Middle East with many balanites aegytiaca and acacia trees, is going to disappear in about two years if present trends in chopping down trees continues. The Nihm forest, with the only juniperus procera (cedar) trees in Yemen, faces the same fate. The trees in Asselw are the hyphaene thebaica, the ziziphus spina-christi and acacia seyal. In the Udain region, the trees are mostly tamarix articulata vahl and cordia abyssinica.

The government has embarked on annual reforestation and afforestation programs, but due to lack of follow-up and continued sustenance, these programs have neither succeeded in adding to the forest area of the country, nor in stopping


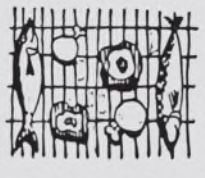


the deforestation trend. The major accomplishment of the tree-planting efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture has been decorating some of the city streets.

Yemen Times went to Directorate General of Forestry and Rangelands to find out the plans they have for this sector. According to the Director-General, this sector does not represent a priority item in the government's policies. Thus, they suffer from shortages of everything, although some resources are available through international donors. Engineer Mahmoud Shidiwah, the Director of the Afforestation and Desertification Control Department, expressed doubt whether they will be able to tackle this problem seriously. "We don't even know who owns the forests," he exclaimed. Legal ownership of the forests would go to the state, according to article (7) of the constitution. But, while the legal ownership issue is itself unclear, the actual control over the forests by the government is even more remote.


Yemen Times takes this opportunity to call on the government to give this matter its priority, and to define its legal position vis-a-vis the forests as soon as possible.



All Time Favourites

<p>THURSDAY</p>  <p>SEAFOOD FIESTA</p> <p>7.30 PM - 9.30 PM</p>	<p>FRIDAY</p>  <p>FAMILY BRUNCH</p> <p>12.30 PM - 3.00 PM</p>
<p>SATURDAY</p>  <p>MONGOLIAN BARBEQUE</p> <p>7.30 PM - 10.00 PM</p>	<p>MONDAY</p>  <p>STEAK NIGHT</p> <p>7.30 PM - 10.00 PM</p>

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CAN OXY BRINGS MORE GOOD OIL NEWS !

Special to YEMEN TIMES

Oil drilling operations in Sunah area, 60 kms east of Seiyoun town in Hadhramaut will be increased during the current year. Mr. Saleh Abu-Bakar Bin Hussainoon, Minister of Oil & Mineral Resources, stated while on an inspection visit to the sites during the Eid holidays.

Canadian Oxy, the minister said "Will drill five additional wells in a number of geologically surveyed areas in Sunah, Al Haiga, Kamaf, Gheil Ben Yameen, Mulgun, Raida, and Al Arrah in Hadhramaut". To speed up the operations, the minister said that the company's third drilling rig is expected to arrive here any day now, and the fourth one will arrive during August 1991. The minister added that Canadian Oxy is busy analysing the result prior to its evaluation of the oil reserves in the area. To speed up the interpretation of data, a team from Canadian Oxy is expected to arrive here later this month to study and decide the directions of the pipelines planned to be constructed from the oil fields to the exporting port on the coast along the Arabian Sea.



Can Oxy's Umberto Brovedani

Referring to oil operations in Shabwah, 250 kms south east of Sana'a, the oil minister said "Some of the international oil companies involved in oil explorations will start drilling operations during August this year and some during November this year."

Yemen Times has reported earlier (issue number 16) that Canadian Oxy drilled three wells and the results indicated oil finds of high quality. Mr. Ahmed K. Barakat, Vice Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, told Yemen Times that the fourth well also found oil, although in a different geologic formation. Well informed oil ministry sources said that Canadian Oxy's fourth well in Maseela valley, the most promising one released so far, yielded upto 15,000 bpd. Commenting on these developments, Al Ayyam weekly reported that the construction of a pipeline of 120-150 kms long will need no pumping sta-

tions as it will run through a flat coastal strip.

The government also plans the construction of a small refinery (capacity of upto. 10,000 bpd) to meet the requirements of the eastern governorates. The proposed site for the refinery is reported to be between Mukalla and Shihr towns in Hadhramaut and the crude would come from Canadian Oxy's Maseel oil fields. At another level, new reports from Block 4 in Shabwah are very promising. As a result, the government is planning seriously to increase the operations in this area. Reports were leaked out stating that British Petroleum (BP) has been granted a concession to explore oil in the B4 area, but official sources in the oil ministry could not confirm this. B4 covers an area of 6000 square kms, which the Soviets have recently relinquished after many years of oil exploration. They have struck oil in Ayad East and Ayad West which pump oil at the rate of 10,000 bpd through a pipeline from the oil fields to the exporting port of Beer Ali. The Russians ceased oil explorations due to technical problems and lack of foreign exchange. Minister Bin Hussainoon indicated that following lengthy talks between Yemeni and Soviet officials, an agreement was reached in which the Soviets agreed to relinquish the concessions awarded to them in the area. Accordingly, on 13th June, 1991, an agreement was signed allowing a Yemeni company to take over the B4 concession area including the Soviet built installations and pipeline. One of the clauses in this agreement stipulates that the Soviets will keep 25% of the shares of the new company. This arrangement gives Yemen a free hand to re-award the B4 concessions to new companies.

Unconfirmed reports say that B.P. has offered Yemen US\$360m. to buy the Soviet data, documents and other expenses incurred in this bloc. Private sector sources say that representatives from the American oil company APCO are going to arrive here shortly to discuss concessions in B4 area and are willing to offer upto US\$500m.

Vice Minister Barakat indicated that the similarity in the formation and geologic strata in the area stretching from Mareb to Maseela is remarkable, although it is possible to come up with anomalies and other complications. Commenting on the prospects of the Jennah concession, Mr. Barakat said, "From the information we have from Safer, the Jennah area, itself an extension of the Safer hydrocarbon formation, is very promising. Drilling will start in August. It seems this is a special area, and the story coming out of the Jennah concession will be no less wonderful than the Maseela discov-



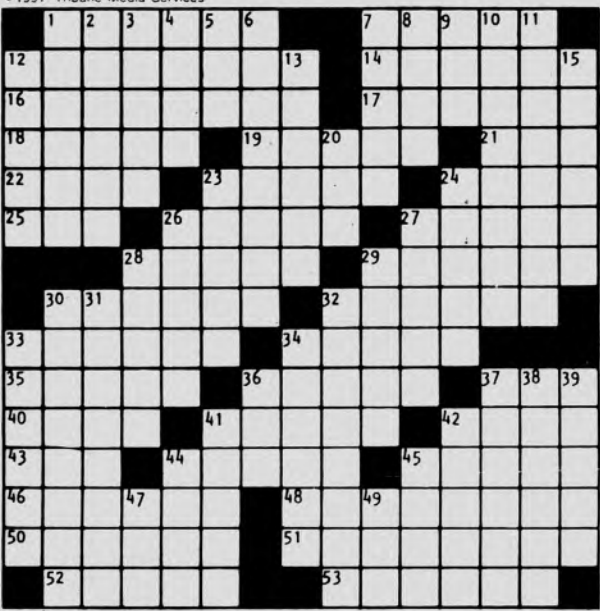
eries." He added that the concrete, accurate and complete picture will be obtained only after drilling. On the mineral side, we have two areas. The first, the Jabaly area which has a good mining potential for zinc, silver and tin. A prefeasibility study has been started by a British company some of whose experts have already arrived in Yemen. The second area is in Hadhramaut, and is called Wadi Madan which has been mined by Russians. There are many other areas such as the Abyan site which is similar to Jabaly. "We are very much interested in all these areas." Vice Minister Barakat also indicated that efforts are well underway to exploit the gas resources. There is

a lot of gas in the Safer area and we have discovered a big area in Rajah and the gas in this field is equal to the total gas discovered so far in the whole area. It is a very big gas field and we are discussing with various companies to use it in industries and possibly for export. We are also considering the implementation of a new policy to use gas for domestic needs, and have thus requested the private sector to help in gas exploitation. For example, the private sector could be responsible for distribution of gas to the markets. One of the scenarios we are working with is the possibility of the private sector importing gas trucks with the facility to refill gas cylinders.

★ CROSSWORD PUZZLE ★

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 35 Certain fuels | 5 WWII command | 33 Small herrings |
| 1 Frightened | 36 Basketball player | 6 Certain drillers | 34 Plague |
| 7 Reduce drastically | 37 Existed | 7 Sparse | 36 Coolidge's nickname |
| 12 Full of energy | 40 Evaluate | 8 Endure | 37 Beatty of films |
| 14 Nut | 41 Revealed | 9 Remains of a fire | 38 Agree |
| 16 Evergreen item | 42 Impetuous | 10 Place for displays | 39 Piece of paper |
| 17 On land | 43 I love: Lat. | 11 Central female characters | 41 Consecrate |
| 18 US rocket stage | 44 — once (suddenly) | 12 Blank area | 42 Lace again |
| 19 Ridicule | 45 By itself | 13 In a fond way | 44 Arabian port |
| 21 Trouble | 46 Abusive speech | 15 Did garden work | 45 Household animals |
| 22 Unconscious state | 48 Foot-shaped device | 20 Exploit | 47 Service address letters |
| 23 Leading | 50 Shoots at from ambush | 23 Evil one | 49 Small bill |
| 24 Parched | 51 Finely aware | 24 Collective farm | |
| 25 Greek letter | 52 Hired ruffians | 26 Jungle beasts | |
| 26 Thread | 53 Take offense | 27 Dwindle | |
| 27 Disposed | | 28 Dish | |
| 28 Devoutness | | 29 Cast a ballot | |
| 29 Turned down | | 30 Sweltering | |
| 30 Skillful lawgivers | | 31 Musical piece | |
| 32 Clan emblems | DOWN | 32 In a body | |
| 33 Leave in the lurch | 1 Faucet | | |
| 34 Place for conventions | 2 Movie | | |
| | 3 Place of combat | | |
| | 4 Costa — | | |

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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.

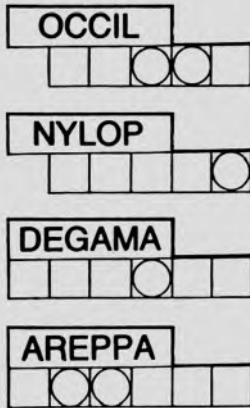
FAMOUS MAY BIRTHDAYS (Sol.: 11 letters)

A-Alberghetti, Ameche, Astaire; B-Berlin, Berra, Burr; C-Cher, Cocker, Como, Cooper, Crosby; D-Dali, Dylan; F-Finney, Fonda, Freud; G-Gobel, Gonzales, Goodman, Gore; H-Hepburn, Hope; J-Joel, Jolson; L-Liberace, Louis; M-Mays; N-Namath; O-Olivier; P-Peale, Plato, Price; S-Seeger; T-Tennille, Thorpe, Truman; U-Unitas, Unser; V-Valentino; W-Wallace, Wayne, Welk, Winwood, Wonder

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N V E C A L L A W R E K C O C
R A R R E B I L M P L A T O R
U L E E L U B B R E D N O W O
B E G S E R E E W E C H E R S
P N E N B R R R I R P H L O B
E T E U O I A G N I E O E M Y
H I S G G G C H W A A E O O E
F N A L Y D E E O T L P J C N
G O O D M A N T O S E O H N N
E L N A M U R T D A L H I T I
P I A D L O U I S S I L A D F
R V M W A Y N E O P R I C E R
O I A E L L I N N E T I N G E
H E T N S Y A M B S A T I N U
T R H S E L A Z N O G A L E D

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



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

Answer here: HIS "O O O O" "O O O O" (Answers tomorrow)

Words of Wisdom

Those who sip from many fountains will drink from none.

Anyone who refuses to admit error when confronted with the truth loves himself more than truth.

You can be content with what you have as long as you're not content with what you are.

Love is like the moon; when it does not wax, it wanes.

There is nothing so gentle as real strength.

Any friend who has to be bought won't be worth the price paid.

Don't be in too much of a hurry for fame; it's usually bestowed only after death.

Self-deceit is the first and worst of all frauds.

Would You Believe....

Isaac Newton had figured out almost all of his most brilliant theories on gravity and motion before he turned 26 years old.

The skies are full of constellations. In fact, astronomers the world over generally recognize 88 such star groupings, many of which date to ancient times.

The lowest temperature ever recorded in Hawaii was 12 degrees in 1979.

Secretariat sired more than 300 offspring before he died in 1989.

Despite its major links with the American anti-war movement of the '60s, the famous peace

symbol was first used in Britain in the '50s as a symbol for nuclear disarmament.

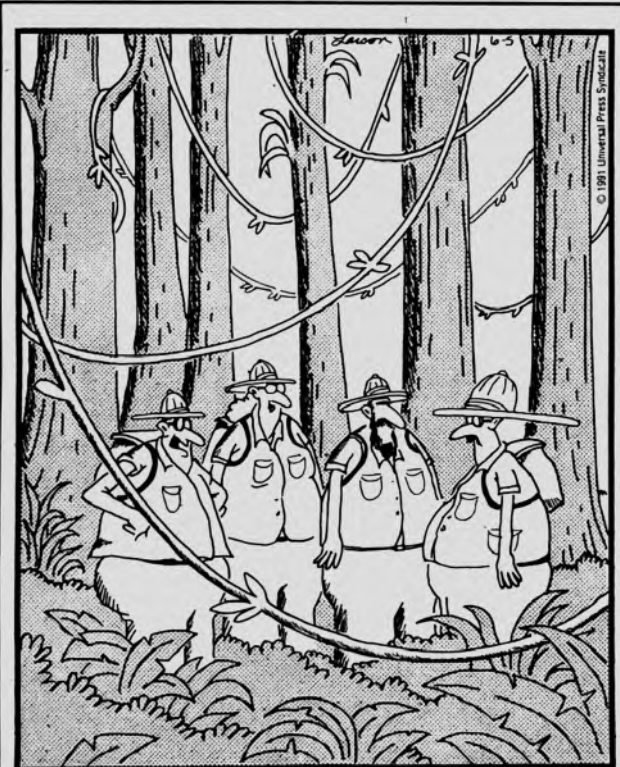
The population explosion is a very recent thing when you consider the history of humankind. In 1800 there were only about four dozen cities in the world that had a population of more than 100,000.

Some people who live in western China and Tibet find salt a more appetizing addition to their tea than sugar.

SLAPSTIX

SYNONYM: A WORD YOU USE IN PLACE OF ONE YOU CAN'T SPELL

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"Well, we're lost. I knew from the start that it was just plain idiotic to choose a leader based simply on the size of his or her respective pith helmet. Sorry, Cromwell."



"Don't be 'fraid, Dug. Me teach him sit on finger. ... Closer, Dug, closer."

ALL ANSWERS ARE ON PAGE TWELVE. GOOD LUCK!!

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

By Joyce Jillson

Weekly Tip: Stay grounded in reality. Upbeat mental energy will be refreshing.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Bring financial deals to a close. Enterprising ways pay off. Keep more than one iron in the fire.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) You have more say-so this week about what goes down. Gain from travel, sales, or publishing.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Conservative financial tactics are best. Peak experiences and personal advancement.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Keep yourself on solid emotional and financial footing. More avenues of self-expression.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Personal recognition can put the smile of satisfaction on your face. Treat people like royalty.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You finally get to air some of your views. Quiet and efficient progress.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Bring joint financial matters to a conclusion. An expanded and entertaining social life.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Handle emotional undercurrent; make an effort to stay on good terms with everyone.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Give your health the period once-over. Job endings for some.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) More play time makes this a week to remember. Expanded travel possibilities.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) When you feel at peace at home, you can be more relaxed about the rest of your life.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Work off excess energy by getting out of doors if possible. Get away from the nest.

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

WHERE DO
WE BELONG ?

By: Fatima S. Rawah



It is not surprising to see immigrants all over the world. It started long ago, people moved from one place to another for different reasons or environmental conditions. Whatever the case may be, they had their reasons. Some might have been committed to business and they moved, some ran away during wars, some liked to try their luck in other countries, and so on.

It also happened here in Yemen. Some of our grand fathers migrated to other countries, mostly in African countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, as well as countries of the West. The majority of immigrant Yemenis decided to settle in those countries for reasons beyond their control. They got married there and as a result many Yemenis were born of mixed parentage known as Muwalladeen in Yemen. Many people don't understand how difficult it is for the Muwalladeen as to where they really belong. They face problems wherever they are. In their motherland, they face discrimination and they are sometimes told "Hey, what are you doing here. You don't belong here. Go to your country." When they come to their fatherland, they face the same situation. They are told they don't belong here. Muwalladeen women face even more problems. Yemeni males think of them as an easy prey. We can't blame them for a different lifestyle and a different language.

Whose fault was it to be born of mixed parentage? Who is to be blamed? Us, our parents, or the Yemeni society? Is there room in Yemen's new democratic environment and human rights observance for us Muwalladeen?

OUR
DISTINGUISHED
RULERS!By: Saeed Ali Gimale,
Teacher.

The former presidents of Somalia and Ethiopia were the worst presidents in Africa. But who was worse?

First, in Somalia, the anti government S.S.D.F began fighting in 1978 in the central regions. The attempts to overthrow the government did not succeed.

Next, the Somali North Movement (S.N.M.) began fighting in 1987 in the northern regions. The army of Siad Barre was too well equipped for them. At the end, there were many S.N.M. and many of their fighters ran away from their houses. The second capital of Somalia, Hargeisa, was totally destroyed. If one visits Hargeisa today, it is very hard to believe that people had lived there a few years back.

Finally, the United Somali Congress (U.S.C.) began fighting in the central regions. Siad Barre's troops tried their best to halt them but could not succeed. The people's support was with the U.S.C. However, Siad Barre did not flee the country like Mengistu. At least 20,000 people are feared to have been killed in the fighting. The capital Mogadisho was destroyed and Siad Barre and his followers fled to the Gedo region.

On the other hand, in Ethiopia, the E.P.R.D.F began fighting in January this year and after a few months were very near to taking over the capital Addis Ababa. President Mengistu saw his defeat and fled the country to seek asylum in Zimbabwe where he has his own farms.

Therefore who is better, Siad Barre or Mengistu?

And where is Siad Barre now? Some say Siad Barre and his followers are living in Bur Dhobo (near Gedo region) but when the U.S.C took command of the whole country, they were unsuccessful in finding the whereabouts of Siad Barre. He did not leave the country and they did not find him in the country. So where is he? Some people believe that he died a few months back, but there are some people who want to surprise the world.

TRIBAL PROBLEMS
IN YEMENBy: Hasan Mujahed,
Third Year Student,
Faculty of Commerce and Economics,
Sana'a University

Everybody hears about tribal problems in Yemen especially in the north and north eastern regions of the country. We only get to hear of fighting between tribes and police authorities or between tribes and the army, but we do not hear much of inter-tribal rivalry and wars, most of them for trivial causes.

More than three hundred people get killed or wounded each year as a result of the tribal warfare and the number is growing every day and is of serious concern. It is high time that the government paid a serious attention to end this problem. It is very important that the government finds an immediate and permanent solution to this serious social problem. Most of the troubles are in the oil rich areas of Yemen where the tribes are known to own and use dangerous and heavy weapons.

The tribes are basically brave and patriotic citizens but are easily deceived by dubious opinions spread by enemies. A small spark can result in a wild fire!

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

تتقدم أسرة صحيفة "يمن تايمز" الى
أحد أفرادها الأستاذ كُدَّاف حسن صديق
الرياش بأحر التهاني و أطيّب التبريكات
بمناسبة عقد قرانه على الأنسة فتحية
حسين المزجاجي ، والجميع يتمنى لهما
بيتاً زوجياً سعيداً وبالرفاء والبنين .



YEMEN TIMES congratulates one of its staff, Mr. Kuddaf Hasan Saddeq Ar-Riyash on the occasion of his betrothal to Miss Fathiyah Husain Al-Mizgagi. On this occasion, the paper wishes the newly-wed couple a happy marriage and family life.

DREAM

By: Nabil Mohammed Al-Shoukani,
Fourth Year Student,
Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
Sanaa University

I sat in the library after a hard day's work, trying to read a book. While I was reading, I felt very tired and put my book aside. There I saw her sitting on a chair in front of me. I didn't know when she came in and when she passed in front of me. I looked at her surprisingly. She was beautiful with long black hair covering her shoulders and reaching to her waist. Her eyes were shining. She placed all her books on the table and chose one of them to read. She opened it and it looked as if she did not have any desire to read.

I thought to myself maybe she had a problem or was anxious. She looked blank and began to dream. She looked at the bookshelves pretending to read the titles. Her eyes reflected something that bewildered me. I stopped reading and started to think about her. She was, as I saw, from a rich family or maybe her husband was rich if she were married. She was young with good health. Suddenly, I noticed that she was staring at me. Then she looked back and pretended to read and again began to dream. I said to myself surely she has a problem or something has happened to her to behave in such a manner. Suddenly, she gathered her books and I felt relaxed because I thought she would leave and let me do my reading. I was surprised to see her go leaving all the books on the table. After half an hour, she came back. Although she looked more relaxed than before, something continued to disturb her. She opened a book, read for a few minutes, put it aside and started to read another book. I was confused about her and could not concentrate on my reading. She then started to look all over the library anxiously and her eyes were full of tears. She bent over the books and started to weep. I closed my book and looked for signs for me to intervene so that I could help her. I was still confused and hesitating. What could I do?, How could I help her? I was not sure how she would react to my offer of help. Finally, I gathered all my confidence, got off my chair and went to her to ask what the matter was, and how I could help. I said to her with hesitation, "Excuse me, could I?" I felt something shaking me and I felt like everything around me was shaking too. With a jolt, I stood up to see my friend trying to wake me up. There went my dream and fantasy!

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FAREWELL, YEMEN (FOR A WHILE?)

T.H. CHOUDHARY, ITU EXPERT

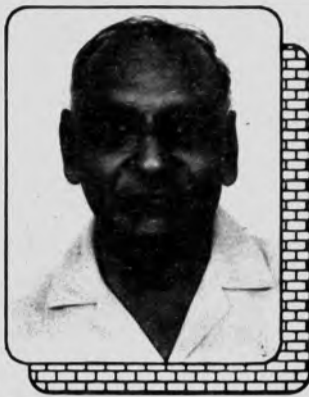
A year's sojourn in the young Republic of this ancient land, Yemen, has been highly educative and rewarding. Most of Yemen has never been under total foreign rule. That is a fortune which few people have; but can also be a disadvantage in that there may not be an interest and urge to understand that there could be better social systems, governments, philosophies, and practices. I believe that this young Republic has a great future. From comparative isolation, immunity from western civilization for long, Yemen is in the thick of international exchanges and encounters, especially because of its membership of the Security Council. As a sincere friend of Yemeni people and the land of Yemen, the cradle of Arab race and its sword in the seventh century, in humbleness do I express my following hopes and anxieties.

1. The population is growing fast, too fast at about 3.5% per year. 52% of the people are under 14 years of age and less than 5% are above 55. Every land and country has a limited population sustaining capability. If the population grows beyond that, or the growth rate is more than the rate of development of agriculture, health, education, energy and housing and transport, there will be internal instability. The frustrated and unemployed

are a danger to themselves and to neighbors.* Population planning is essential.

2. The literacy must be increased. At under 40% and with women at under 10%, there is a mammoth task for the young Republic to turn its human resource potential into performing and achieving engines. Informed, skilled and free thinking people, able to sift truth from propaganda, reason from rhetoric, realism from sentiment are essential for a democracy to succeed. Knowledge and not ignorance is the first step from which achievement proceeds. How can a nation whose women, 50% of the population, are illiterate, ignorant, and incapacitated, achieve greatness? The health, development and culture and intelligence of children is cultivated and nurtured by mothers. If incessant child bearing and domestic drudgery drain them of energy, health, information and education, ill will fare the nation. The noble leaders should, emancipate women and promote liberal, inspiring, enquiring and unprejudiced education with science, medicine, engineering, and liberal arts, receiving attention.

3. Sadly have I seen inappropriate work habits even among office workers not to speak of shop keepers. You are speaking to and discussing with an officer. A visitor pushes his way. The officer leaves you and attends to the new comer keeping you waiting. And then another visitor comes. The officer switches his at-



tention to the latest visitor leaving the former two idling. And so the officer may have even ten people in his room at the same time, the first nine waiting partly attended and the tenth being attended. What a waste of the waiter's time! What a lack of concentration on the part of the officer! What a brutal lack of consideration on the part of the visitors who push their way and impose themselves on the officer and ignore the right of the earlier visitors! I reckon that this practice of not attending to the last one at a time must be detracting from the productivity and effectiveness of people. Discerning foreign friends believe that this is a symptom of the inability to concentrate, to be thorough.

4. Allied with inelegant practice of the receiving person's shifting attention is the peoples total lack of forming a queue and waiting to take one's turn. Whether it is a shop or a bank, people thrust themselves forward, pushing out the weaker, stretching their hands and heads over others' shoulders. It appears that they are not aware that this wrong. As the country modernizes, and as institutions of democratic and civilized government come up, it is the duty of the officers, leaders, teachers, and educated parents to teach and guide those who are moving from rural and tribal communities into urban industrialized and organized societies, proper behavior, respect for time, punctuality, appointments, others rights, queuing for one's turn, speaking softly and not bawling, waiting to be received, attended to or listened.

5. As Yemen Times has on several occasions pointed out, there appears to be much overstaffing in many offices. I have seen people coming to office as a late as

half an hour, read newspapers and then go to the canteen for tea, reappearing after about an hour, talking to their friends then, making liberal use of the telephone and disappearing again, to be back at about 13 hours wind up and move out by about 13:15 hours. I used to ask my officer friends whether these are part time employees! In some offices people have work for about 15 to 30 minutes and some have none at all. The jobs created appear to be employment oriented and not work oriented. Idleness and employment requiring attendance and hardly any work are destructive of morale and may eventually create a parasitic class of "officialdom". While presently there may be a pretense of progress and work. In the year 1991, salaries, wages and other remuneration of government servants amount to YR 26.1 billion. It means there are about 500,000 government officials. Of the 13m population, 6.5m. are women. Of the 6.5 m. males, 62% are under 19 years of age. That leaves 2.4 m. males above the age of 19 years. The government employees therefore constitute 20% of the working age population (including all the living old)! Considering that literacy among males is 40%, the literate male working age population is 40% of 2.4m or 960,000. Of these 500,000 are in government? Government is not for production; it is usually for regulation, policing, rule making, etc. I wish all these figures are wrong but if these are right (see Yemen Times, number 1, page 6 and number 14, page 9) then the intelligent should get disturbed.

6. Lack of systematic file keeping and records and archiving is another grievous thing. You give an application, a request, a note and enquire about it after a few days. You are told "mafeesh"- papers are not traceable. You start all over again. What a loss of time and annoyance and injury to the applicant! There could be better filing of papers and document keeping.

7. And then there is the sorry spectacle of wash basins, toilets and urinals in

the unusable and repulsively stinking state. I have seen lady employees cleaning and flushing till the office opens. But in the next half an hour, wash basins and toilets are flush with cigarette butts, clogged, full with unflushed use and no water! What happens? Are we not having toilets at home? Don't we know how to use and care?

8. No discerning person can refrain from writing about "Qat" chewing habit. There is a rush to the "qat" sale places at mid day. Many people are engaged in chewing qat until about 1800 hours. A person may spend YR 50 to 100 per day! How can this be afforded? Can the money be not better spent on milk and education for children? Precious, fertile agricultural land appears to be diverted from grain growing to qat raising. The farmers may grow rich but the country gets poorer.

9. Gloriously I have written about only the ineluctable aspects. That is because my love for this young and vigorous nation impels me to caution my friends against some dangerous tendencies and practices. I am confident that the leadership is aware of these and will be trying its utmost to educate and inspire the people to nobility of thought and actions. This young but ancient, virile and confident republic can be in the forefront of Arab renaissance as it was the carrier of a new faith over much of the settled world 1400 years ago. History does not repeat itself mechanically but can be recreated on a higher plane in tune and harmony with the scientific and industrial advances the entire world is making. Humanity has a common destiny and the plurality of peoples, races, cultures, faiths and practices can all add color and splendour to our common endeavour For the happiness and well being of people everywhere. May Yemen prosper! May it benefit itself and the world!

Editor's note:

It has been a privilege to know a learned man and an intellectual personality like T.H. Choudhary. We wish him all the best, and we thank him for his services to Yemen.

YEMEN TIMES

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KUWAIT GETTING BACK TO NORMAL: MAIN FIRMS BACK IN BUSINESS

The main players in the accounting profession that had Kuwaiti operations as of last August, have, in the last two months, moved back into the war torn nation. Their return filled with hopes of mending business relationships and helping to rebuild a nation shattered by the Gulf war. Of the large firms, Talal Abu Ghazaleh International, Arthur Andersen, Ernst & Young, DRT International and KPMG had offices situated in Kuwait. All four of these firms report that they have moved back into Kuwait during the past eight weeks. While providing service to the region, Price Waterhouse and Coopers and Lybrand had no Kuwaiti offices.

LARGEST STAFF RETURNS

Among the firms that have returned, **Talal Abu Ghazaleh International** has the largest team present with 50 partners and staff on the ground in Kuwait. According to managing partner, Talal Abu Ghazaleh, the offices have been broken into three times but client files remain intact. "All Kuwaiti partners and staff are safe and our work in progress is undamaged," he said.

Talal's home was occupied but repairs are underway, and he and his staff hope to return to Kuwait shortly. He said that business is picking up quickly, and there is a "determination in the government and business community to return to normal."

Talal Abu Ghazaleh International had the largest operation in Kuwait before the occupation with 30 offices in the region. The firm will be working with the public and private sector in auditing and consulting work. The latter is badly needed said Talal, particularly in light of the massive reparations claims that will be submitted in the near future. "We want to confirm our commitment to serve Kuwait", he said. "I lived there for 30 years and am keen and eager to see the country's reconstruction." Currently working out of Cairo, he said his staff has been able to provide clients with the necessary representation during the occupation and war. But as soon as communication systems in Kuwait are up to speed, the firm will fully return to Kuwait.

BANKS LEAD THE WAY

Ernst & Young has resumed work with the Kuwaiti banking sector and the central government, the two areas that comprised the bulk of its work in the country. "We are serious to get back to work," said a spokesman for the firm. Robert Aitken, the partner who oversees the firm's Kuwaiti operations, said

that 15 people had returned to the Kuwaiti office since mid-March. He expects that by the end of the year that figure will be 50 or more. Initially, much of the firm's work will involve assisting with documentation of claims for reparations. But with the banks and trading companies moving back at steady rate, other business should pick up soon. Aitken said that although the building that housed the office was damaged during the war, the office itself sustained only minor damage. A temporary telecommunications network has been set up and, with persistence, the office can be reached directly. KPMG has a partner back on the ground in Kuwait, although reaching him is a bit more difficult. "He's working out of a hotel," explained spokesman Tim Roberts. There is not, as yet, a lot of business back in Kuwait, so a full staff has not returned to the country. KPMG is working not only with clients with interests in the country, but also with the city of London in its initiative to administer claims for damages. "It is an immense task" said Roberts, "but we have experience in justifying and registering claims and our interest in Kuwait is much directed to that end."

CLAIMS FOR REPARATIONS

The Andersen Consulting office reopened two months ago, with 40 consultants present. According to a spokeswoman for the group, there is lot of potential work in the oil, gas and banking industries. Arthur Andersen accountants have also submitted a proposal to the Kuwaiti government to assist in claims administration work.

DRT International says its office in Kuwait is "fully operational" as of mid March. According to a press release, the office is intact, and a full complement of staff is expected once telecommunications are restored in Kuwait City. Until then, all calls are being routed through various European and US offices. C&L Director of International Affairs Mike Stillwell said that his UK firm, Coopers & Lybrand handled all the firm's Kuwaiti business - primarily management consulting and some tax work. "We intend to go back when the time is right," he said. "We will establish ourselves there when the condition is a bit more normalised." The firm has sent people to Kuwait to investigate business possibilities, and is "watching carefully." A task force out of the Bahrain office is dealing with the situation, with support from the UK, US and Middle East practices. Among clients in the region are several working on relief efforts and within a short time, Stillwell said the need for an audit practice in the country will become evident.

USA Officials Outline Policy on Mideast Security Plan

Mr Frederick Smith, Director of the Near East and South Asia office of the Department of Defence stressed the continuation of the basic security interests of the U.S.A. in the Middle East region during the remainder of the 1990s and beyond. In a testimony on Saturday 27/06/1991 in front of the Sub-committee for Arms Control, International Security and Science, and the Sub-committee for Europe and the Middle East of the US Congress, Mr Smith outlined what he termed as America's basic national interests in the region, as:

1. To consolidate the security of the regions.
2. To protect American lives and properties.
3. To preserve free access to oil.
4. To protect the free access of the allies to the naval and aerial routes.

Explaining the apparent contradiction between the new US security plan, and the prospective sale of arms to some of the countries in the region, Mr Smith insisted that "this government's (USA's) policy will seek to sell arms only to consolidate the defensive capabilities of countries". Commenting on his recent trip to the Gulf region, and the security arrangements for the post-war period, the American Defence official said, "I feel encouraged in light of the results of our joint security efforts." Richard Clark, Assistant Secretary of State for Political and Military Affairs, who also testified in the same session, supported the sale of twenty apache helicopters to the United Arab Emirates. He said the helicopters were well suited to protect the oil platforms/terminals and to participate in the activities of the ground forces. He described the legislation under discussion and which calls for a total ban of arms sale to the region as frustrating.

CONSOLIDATION OF LEBANESE LEGITIMACY

Lebanon is finally regaining its sovereignty. Gradually, but steadily, the Lebanese state is coming back into form and authority. There is a real change going on. On the 22nd of May, 1991, a bilateral agreement was signed between Lebanon and Syria which defined their relationship. On the 6th of June, the Lebanese government appointed forty members of parliament to fill up the vacant seats. Both steps were within the Tayif accord. At another level, the era of militia forces may have reached its end as the regular army continues to take over militia posts and to collect their arms.

Yet, Lebanon today faces three major problems - a military problem represented by the presence of non-Lebanese military forces on its soil, a political problem represented by the Israeli occupation of its southern region and relations with the Palestinians, and an economic problem represented by the reconstruction of the country.

Lebanon needs the support of the key countries in the region, as well as the international community to overcome those three problems. The UN is also required to implement the resolutions it had passed vis-a-vis Lebanon.

This week, the Lebanese army is trying to expand the territory under its control, primarily in the Saïda area. This will bring it in direct contact with the Israeli army and its surrogate forces. It will also bring it in direct contact with Palestinian and Shia strongholds. It remains to be seen whether and how far the smooth transition of power to the regular Lebanese army will continue. The Lebanese Defence Minister, however, seems set on completely regaining control over all of Lebanon.

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DETAILED RESULTS OF THE REFERENDUM AND LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE

The Referendum on the Constitution was Yemen's first real experiment with democratic practices at the grass-roots level. The three stages of the process are now complete. The first stage was the preparation, the second stage was the execution, and finally, the third stage was the documentation of the results. Yemen Times decided to take the whole file of the referendum in order to shed more light on that experience and to draw lessons from it for the future. The first lesson has to do with the level of participation of the Yemeni people. We are new to this situa-

tion, and therefore, not all the people would understand the importance of exercising their rights, and how to do that. From the results of the participation levels, it is very clear that many Yemenis have taken the initiative and burden, and went to exercise their democratic rights. But, many others have failed to show up at the polls as can be seen from the table indicating participation levels. Actually, the issue of participation is one of the major problems of all democratic systems, and Yemen is no exception. Therefore, the lesson to draw is that we should inform our people, and educate them on the importance of interacting with the democratic machinery so as to make the system work. Unless our people exercise their rights, the grass-roots level interaction becomes the business of the active minority that takes its rights and duties seriously. At another level, we should motivate our female population to also interact fully and effectively. This is specially important in the rural areas, particularly in the remote countryside.

The second lesson to be learnt is that organizing such a grass-roots level activity is a costly process. Total costs stand at more than YR100 million and more than 25,000 persons were involved in the execution of the referendum. The idea is to employ part of the infrastructure and

mechanisms used in the referendum to organize similar endeavors in the future. For example, in about fifteen months, the country will need to hold parliamentary elections. Can we re-use some of the tools on which we now spent such a vast amount of money.

The third lesson is that we have to avoid last minute changes in the program of action. The Presidential Council issued a communique which involved the presentation of forms to be filled by the people who have comments to make. To supervise this matter, there were many committees. In the final results, the whole process which costed about YR12 million yielded only 2500 forms. Only 2500 Yemenis found it necessary to use the forms. The whole amendment was marginal. Another amendment to the program was the one-month extension. This costed about YR22 million, and it added less than 7% of the registered votes, and only God knows how



many of the 7% actually went to the polls. To avoid last-minute amendments and changes in future operations, it would wise to start preparing as early as possible. For example, why don't we start preparing for the parliamentary elections from now?

A fourth lesson is that we have to implement strict rules and regulations to govern the behavior of those committees which supervise the process. The persons entrusted with the execution of the program should be neutral, and should not allow their personal beliefs to be reflected in their attitudes towards the voters. During the referendum, there were almost 300 cases in which citizens felt that the committees were standing in the way of their exercising their rights. They went to court, got an order and to the supreme referendum committee thankfully executed the court orders. In three cases, the supervising sub-committee was changed.

The fifth lesson is about civil registry documents in Yemen. We should expedite issuing identity cards and complete the civil registry of our citizens. This will allow us to embark on grass-roots level activities without incurring the massive costs incurred in the referendum.

All in all, Yemen has done a superb job in the referendum, and we should all be proud of it. The referendum was one of the requirements of the unification agreement (in which the leadership promised to ask for ratification of the constitution by the people), and it delivered. By all yardsticks, the voting was clean, the procedures were correct, and the supervisors were impartial. We have reason to be proud of the whole process. Yet, we should welcome improvement to achieve a better democratic system.

Number of Voters by Governorates:

Governorate	Number
Lahj	167,653
Hadhramaut	153,444
Taiz	133,512
Ibb	115,479
Hodeidah	115,050
Aden	111,825
Abyan	98,506
Sanaa City	86,256
Shabwah	83,390
Sanaa Province	68,977
Hajjah	54,272
Dhamar	46,045
Al-Baidha	31,568
Al-Mahweet	28,911
Sa'adah	28,359
Al-Maharah	21,089
Marib	15,504
Al-Jawf	4,940

TOTAL 1,364,788

The Highest who said "No" to the Constitution

Governorate	Percent
Al-Mahweet	4.6%
Hadhramaut	3.1%
Marib	3.1%
Sanaa City	2.7%
Sanaa Province	2.6%
Dhamar	2.4%

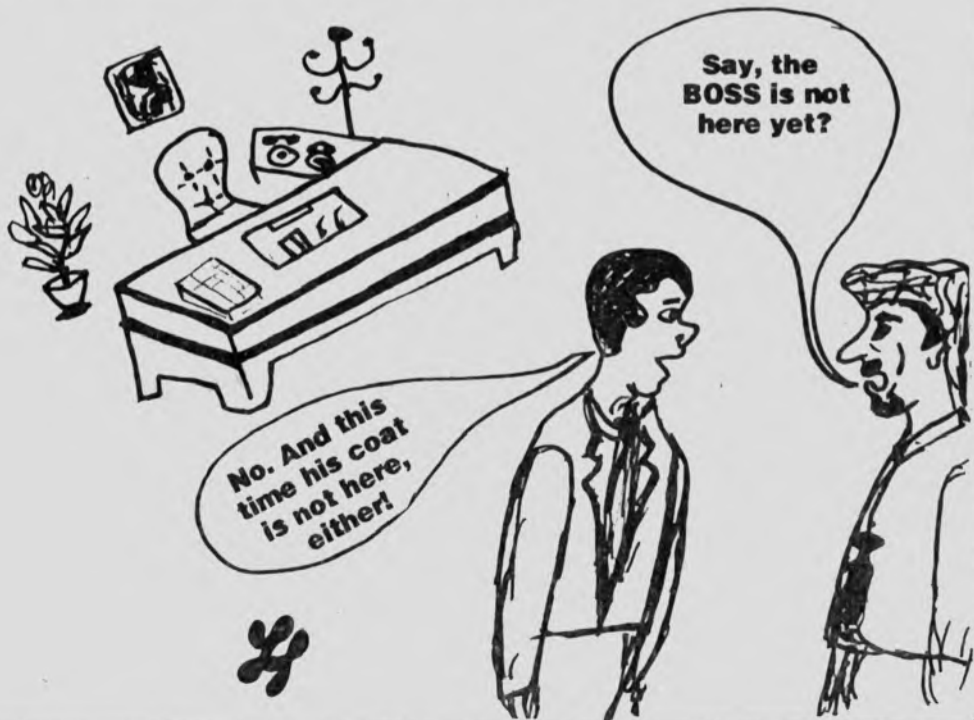
National Average 1.5%

Percent of Participation Among Registered Voters by Governorates:

Governorate	Percentage
Lahj	91.4%
Shabwah	89.1%
Abyan	87.2%
Aden	82.5%
Al-Maharah	80.2%
Hadhramaut	75.8%
Sanaa City	69.9%
Hodeidah	69.3%
Ibb	68.6%
Taiz	68.2%
Hajjah	61.8%
Al-Mahweet	60.9%
Sa'adah	60.9%
Al-Baidha	60.4%
Dhamar	59.5%
Marib	53.3%
Sanaa Province	52.6%
Al-Jawf	44.3%

National Average 72.2%

The role of senior officials as role models in absenteeism



ANSWERS TO THE LEISURE PAGE QUIZZES

MAGIC WORD

NIGHTINGALE

JUMBLES

COLIC PYLON DAMAGE APPEAR
What his bowling companion was — HIS "PIN" PAL

CROSSWORDS

