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YEMEN TIMES

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Fiasco in Journalists' Syndicate

It was a visible embodiment of the regime's drive to control everything. On Sunday, June 9th, the government packed the auditorium hall of the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research in Sana'a with about 850 people. They were supposedly journalists, and the goal was to use their votes to determine who will be elected to the syndicate's executive board.

There were a lot of political security personnel all over the place. They were there to intimidate the 100 or so independent and opposition journalists.

As the floor was opened for business, the government side fielded the chairmanship of the meeting, and the committees to supervise/run the elections.

The opposition journalists had one request. "We need to verify that the people sitting in the meeting are journalists, as called for by the charter of the syndicate," they demanded.

When the government side refused to allow that, the opposition journalists simply walked out. It will be noted that the Yemen Times and Al-Ayyam, and the stringers for some news agencies, stayed away from the meeting, altogether.

While pushing on with its plan in the 3-day meeting, the government (represented by the minister and deputy minister of information) held talks with the opposition journalists, offering to carve out for them around 15% of the slots.

Continues on page 5

Gas Deal Still in Limbo

Total Yemen on the one hand, and Yemen Hunt Oil Company and its partners Exxon and Yukong, on the other hand, and the Yemeni Government's Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, on the third hand, are planning to meet in Paris after tomorrow, Wednesday, June 19th.

The three sides - partners in the exploitation of the gas project in Yemen - have failed to reach a conclusive and final agreement. They had met for this same reason during 21-28 May, 1996 in London, but failed to achieve a breakthrough. The oil companies blame the

Yemeni government for the stalled talks because of new conditions it had placed on the contract.

There is also worry that the project will also face two other problems - one of funding and the other of marketing.

According to the project outline, the companies are expected to produce 5 million tons in LNG annually, for twenty years starting with the year 2001. The time factor is crucial, according to an oil source. "Unless Yemen can get on with the project immediately, it will encounter more and more difficulties."

France Uses its Good Offices, Again:

Yemeni-Eritrean Talks Resume

Yemeni-Eritrean talks will be resumed in Paris on July 1st, 1996, as the two sides get ready to make good on a time-table to conclude two additional agreements, following the basic framework agreement signed in Paris in April 1996. The talks will focus on the guidelines to establish the arbitration tribunal called for in the initial agreement. Among issues also to be discussed and settled are the scope of the work of the court, procedures for its work,

and the financing of the whole process.

According to sources, the Yemeni side continues to win international sympathy for its remarkable patience and far-sight in handling the case. Yemen has exhibited a lot of flexibility which has gained it the respect of the world community.

Meanwhile, France and the USA have taken steps to monitor military build-up and activities on both sides of the southern Red Sea.

Mukalla Riots Spread to Other Cities

The members of parliament from Hadhramaut are fuming with anger and rage. On Monday, June 10th, the House had taken several decisions to control the actions of the military and civilian populations of Mukalla and other cities. The next day, House Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, who was absent the previous day, came to chair the session and abrogated the decisions already taken. The parliamentarians, seven of them, now plan to hold a press conference and speak to the public.

Mukalla has been in turmoil for a few days now. Several women and many men from among the civilian population have been wounded at the hands of panicking soldiers.

The demonstrations and riots that had started in Mukalla have now spread to other cities and towns in Hadhramaut. Many observers worry that the malaise would spread to cities in other governorates. People in Aden, Taiz, Dhamar and Sana'a are already extremely agitated and restless.

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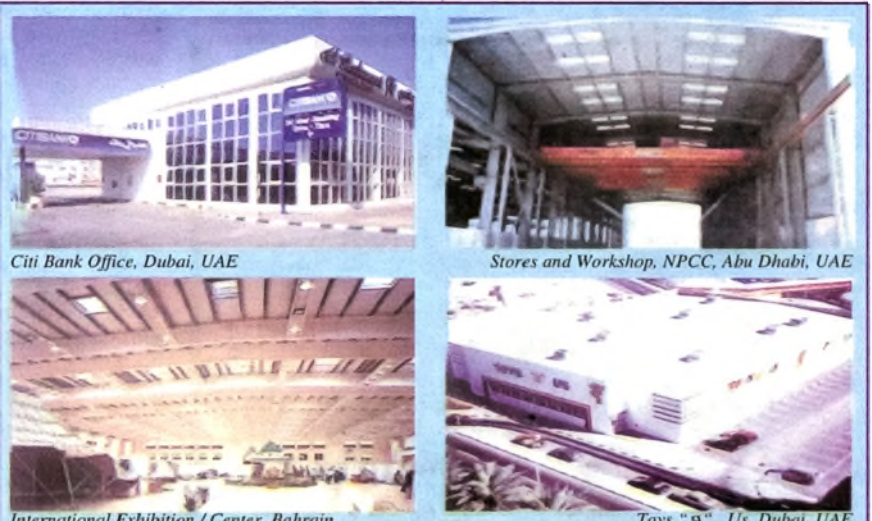
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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemen Degenerates to a Basket Case

I was talking to a foreign friend, and lamenting the fate of Yemen as conditions deteriorate rapidly. The focus of our conversation was the economic difficulties, although we did go through the political evolution, which my friend described as "a dream that never came true".

Any way, about the economy, my friend also said something spectacular. He stated that the 1970s and 1980s were just exceptional periods. The assertion is that Yemenis had been living beyond their means and above their standing. Gradually, they are coming down to the level commensurate with their abilities and fortunes.

Even the system that had existed in the mid-1970s, in which corruption and inefficiency were shunned, was something that belongs to advanced and developed societies. A visionary and pious leadership at the time - during the years of Qadhi Abdul-Rahman Al-Iryani and Lt-Colonel Ibrahim Al-Hamdi - offered a model which the people had to follow.

Let me recall two incidents:

Then-Prime Minister Abdullah Al-Kurshumi was irritated with President Qadhi Al-Iryani whose office presented invoices valued at YR 13,000 to cover food served to the guests of the President for one month. Since a good part of the bill was for chicken consumption, Al-Kurshumi asked whether the President was a fox. In Yemeni traditions, foxes snatch the chickens of the farmers.

President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi ordered a relief donation of YR 10 per person to all the patients of Al-Thawrah Hospital in Sanaa. He ordered one of his assistants to distribute the money. A short while later, the President sent another person to verify if that was done. The news came that only YR 5 per person was distributed, and the balance was pocketed by his assistant. He immediately sacked him and put him on open trial. "I don't want thieves around me," President Al-Hamdi said.

Those were the good years. Those were the years in which Yemen accumulated hard currency reserves. Government funds were channelled to projects serving the people. The leaders were not above the law, nor did they let their men and assistants rise above the law.

Today, Yemen has fallen to the pits, a level that will take a long time to take it out from. Even if things change, and efforts to repair the damage start immediately - notably in the mentality and attitude of officials and people - two decades of our lifetime and opportunities have been lost. The carelessness and neglect, the lawlessness and chaos, the lack of respect for knowledge and professionalism are all a major obstacle to real development. The attitude of a substantial portion of the people is one of opportunistic greed.

Indeed, Yemen is plagued today, not simply with the symptoms of underdevelopment, but with the diseases affecting the basket cases of this world. In spite of generous aid, a reasonable amount of oil exports, an industrious population, and a very low level of consumption for the majority of the population, the country is unable to make ends meet. The main culprit are the big shots who increasingly control everything in our society.

The Publisher
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Yemen Goes to the Paris Club

The Government of the Republic of Yemen has started this week preliminary talks within the Paris Club format to find ways to solve the arrears in its debt. The total outstanding amounts are in the tune of US\$ 5.5 billion, most of its owed to the Russian Federation.

Yemen Times was told that the talks are being handle, at the moment, at the level of experts, and that once they evolve far enough, the politicians and ministers will fly to Paris to put their final touches on the agreements.

The arrangements are expected to call for the re-scheduling of the present arrears, some of which will be written off. In return, the country's foreign currency earnings will be jointly managed by the government and its creditors so that Yemen will not to falter in payment of principal and interest on its debt as they become due based on the new schedule.

Yemen's total foreign debt, which stands at around US\$ 9 billion, is in soft loans. The re-scheduling at Paris will convert some of them into commercial loans.

Tunisian Delegation in Yemen

A 22-person Tunisian trade delegation has just concluded a one-week visit to Yemen in which it discussed prospects of economic joint ventures and increased commercial exchange. The group met with the business community as well as government officials.

The Tunisian ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Moncef Lowati, stated that the prospects look very good and that both sides are positively disposed to encourage stronger bilateral commercial and business ties.

High School Graduation Certificate Exams

Starting with last week, some 107,000 students are taking their high school leaving certificate exams in 1179 exam centers all over the republic. Ministry of Education sources say that the exams are going smoothly.

However, over 4,000 students did not find their names on the lists of the Ministry. The names were skipped from the long roster, inadvertently. As a result, the Ministry has promised to carry out make-up exams for these students starting from July 6th.

Minister of Interior Visits Saudi Arabia

Yemen Times has learned that the Minister of Interior, Colonel Hussain Arab, plans to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia next week. The purpose is to sign a joint Security Agreement, according to which the two countries will share information and files, and will extradite wanted persons between them.

Confiscation of 4 Tons of Spoiled Milk and Juice Drinks

The Environmental Protection of Sana'a was able to confiscate a sizable quantity of spoiled packaged beverages and nutritional goods. During the past two months the office has carried out extensive spot checks on various trading outlets. The various types of canned foods, beverages, candies were said to have stale dates or no dates at all or constituted material unfit for human consumption. The office will continue its campaign to assure of consumer safety.

A Scientific Seminar on Historical Antiquities

Under the patronage of the Scientific Relics Society, a scientific seminar on Yemeni historical remains was held during the past week. The seminar approached a number of subjects regarding the extent of excavations for historical relics in Yemen. It was held under the supervision of the Yemeni Society of Historical



Remains and Antiquities and the Faculty of Arts at the University of Sana'a. The activities of the Seminar were concluded on the 6th of June. In addition to lectures, the Seminar displayed exhibits in addition to awarding/honouring the graduates of the Historical Remains and Antiquities Section of the Faculty of Antiquities for the academic years 1994-1995/ 1995-1996.

The festival was attended by Dr. Yusif Mohammad Abdullah, Chairman of the General Authority of Antiquities and Brigadier Col. Mohammad Al-Saraji the Director of the Military Museum and a number of university professors and representatives of the cultural attaches in Yemen. The seminar focused on boosting the Antiquities Section at the University to carry on its scientific and historical role.



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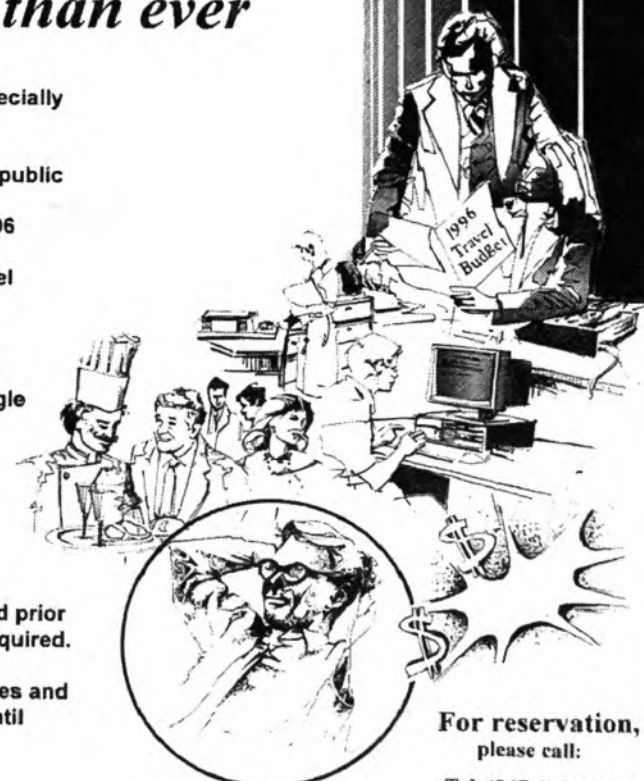
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Governor of Al-Maharah:

"There is a conscious policy to deprive the remote regions and those that are unable to do arm-twisting in Sanaa."

The Governorate of Al-Maharah is the country's more remote and least developed governorate. Its nomadic population of some 160,000 live either on herding/farming or on fishing. The capital Al-Ghaidhah is itself a large village.

Al-Maharah is also unique for many other reasons. It is the country's only governorate (outside of Socotra) where the population has an ethnic language that is different than the Arabic spoken in other parts. Their language, Mahari, is an offshoot of the ancient Sabaean language.

The governorate is also important in that it is the only one in the republic which borders two foreign countries - Oman in the east and Saudi Arabia in the north. As such, the Yemeni authorities' control over the region is not complete.

To better understand the conditions of the governorate, Yusuf Sherif of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Hassan Maqbool Al-Ahdal, the Governor, who was visiting Sanaa.

Mr. Al-Ahdal, 47, is from the Tihama. He had been heavily involved in agricultural cooperatives and rural development in various capacities.

Excerpts:

Q: What brings you to Sanaa?

A: I am here to secure release of funds from the state treasury for the projects incorporated in the government budget for 1996. I have been running after several key persons to achieve this.

Q: Have you succeeded?

A: I am afraid it has been a waste of time. I travel over 3000 kilometers (round trip Al-Ghaidhah to Sanaa) and not many people here care. It is demeaning as well as frustrating.

Q: What kind of projects are we talking about?

A: There are some health projects (clinics, equipment, supplies), educational projects (schools, supplies, etc.), a central market place for Al-Ghaidhah and similar other projects.

Q: I thought that such projects have become a prerogative of the governors?

A: That is not true. Even when

we want to build a six-class room school, we have to get authorization from Sanaa. And never comes, even after we come all the way at enormous cost and trouble.

There is another problem. All the projects I am running after this year had been incorporated in last year's budget. But the funds were never released. It is hard as it is to get contractors to execute projects in far-away Al-Maharah. We have this additional problem when funds are not released. I do not think that this is an accidental problem. It is a conscious policy to deprive the remote regions and those that are unable to do arm-twisting in Sanaa. In my opinion, this is a very short-sighted policy that will lead to trouble down the road.

Q: People say Al-Mahara is a poor governorate. Can you give us examples.

A: It is true that Al-Mahara people are poorer than the



national average. The low level of private consumption is proof.

It is further true that the governorate is least developed. You can see this from the infrastructure, services, etc.

Finally, Al-Maharah is isolated from the rest of the country. We used to have five weekly flights between the capital city, Sanaa, and Al-Ghaidhah. These are now reduced to two flights a week.

The highway connecting Al-Mahara to Hadhramaut to the west is not asphalted. President Ali Abdullah Saleh had ordered this highway to be given priority. You can see the economic and strategic importance of such a project. Unfortunately, there is no action, as yet.

release the funds.

Q: the Sultanate of Oman has shown interest in helping this adjacent governorate. What has been achieved so far?

A: Yes, the Sultanate of Oman has expressed interest in helping in several projects. There is the highway connecting Al-Ghaidhah to the Omani border, which will be financed by them. They also agreed to provide certain water-related equipment like pumps and pipes. Oman also agreed to finance the construction of a technical school. In addition, there are promises of food supplies.

However, all these offers are still under discussion and/or being arranged. They are in the pipeline, and we are waiting for delivery.

Q: There are media reports that Saudi Arabia has encroached on Yemeni territory in Al-Mahara and that it has expansionist designs. What do you say?

A: I don't know anything about what you are refer to. In any case, you can talk to Colonel Mohammed Ibn Ismail, Military Commander of the Eastern Region. He is better qualified to talk such things.

Q: There were recent problems in Hadhramaut. Have they spilled over to Al-Maharah?

A: Adjacent governorates may share similar problems. If you are referring to the demonstrations and riots, I am happy to say that Al-Maharah is peaceful.

Q: Is there any feeling of resentment among the local population against northern

officials, or as a lingering factor of the civil war?

A: No, I do not think there are any levels of built-in animosity among the people of Yemen. But let me say that people react to the way you treat them, irrespective of where you come from within the country. When you treat people with dignity and you respect their rights and you protect their interests, they will definitely react positively. And that is exactly what we are trying to do.

Q: What are the problems that are unique to Al-Mahara?

A: I think the gravity of the problems of the other governorates are more acute here. Let me mention smuggling as a major problem in this governorate. The vast territory, the not-so-sedentary nature of the people, and the absence of government presence - all these factors play a role in this.

I want to use the Yemen Times to make an appeal to the Japanese Government to consider building a tuberculosis center in Al-Maharah. A lot of people here suffer from this disease and there are no remedies.

I also would like to urge the Minister of Health to give higher priority to Al-Maharah. We need medical services badly.

Our officials should realize how important it is to serve the people of Al-Maharah, and thus win their hearts.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I would like to thank you. I would also like to use the Yemen Times to stress to the rulers and politicians that they should attend to the needs of all people, even those that can't pressure them.

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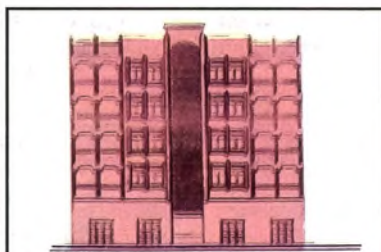
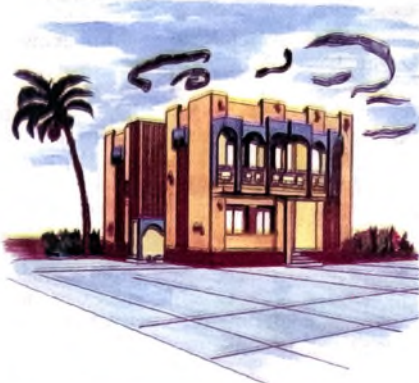
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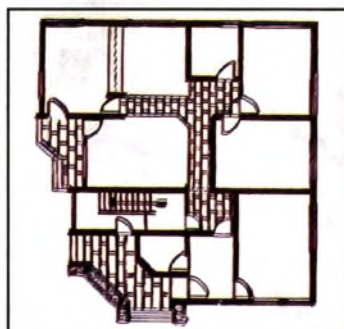
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At the Sanaa International School:

Research on Press Freedom in Yemen



Press freedom in Yemen deteriorated visibly since the end of the 1994 civil war in Yemen. That is the main conclusion of a research carried out by student Rami Mohammed Abdo Saeed at the Sanaa International School. The 27-page research piece was part of the graduation requirement of Rami.

For a few months, the young lad has been running around interviewing editors and journalists, reading reports of local and international organizations concerned with press freedom, and talking to government officials, academicians and ordinary people. "It was a real eye-opener for me," he says.

The study covered only the written press. Television and the radio stations are government controlled, in any case. So it is within the realm of the written media that there is some margin for freedom of expression.

Although he gives Yemen credit for whatever press freedom exists in this country when compared to other Arab countries, the researcher does lament the fall in press freedom over the last few years.

"Immediately following Yemen's re-unification, the country's press was growing and vibrant. Since the civil war, although some margin for freedom still exists, that margin is constantly shrinking," he notes.

The work is of a professional nature given the objectivity and balanced approach, and because




of its thorough research. No wonder the school staff has given it an "A" grade and expressed full satisfaction with it.

The research has been brought to the attention of interested local

and international parties for its use in their work and assessment of press freedom in Yemen.

By: Walid Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.



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Amnesty International and ICRC Missions in Yemen:

Fact-Finding & Data Collection Objectives



The Amnesty trio (Lamri, Agnes and Petra) with Qadhi Hamood Al-Hitar. The little boy is the Qadhi's son.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabry,
Sanaa Bureau Chief,
Yemen Times.

Sanaa played host this week to two delegates from international organizations concerned with human rights. The first is a 3-person delegation from Amnesty International, which is here on a fact-finding and data collection mission.

the Amnesty team is the drive to verify and document reports on violations against the rights and civil liberties of Yemeni women. "For that, they found ample evidence," as stated Dr. Agnes Callamard. She and her Dutch colleague, Petra, have been meeting a lot of Yemeni women. "We have met with career women, lawyers, politicians, journalists, and even students at Sanaa University. We have a detailed picture of specific cases. We are now working to see if there is a pattern, and how we can help," added Agnes.

The Amnesty group also met with a number of officials in government, visited the Sanaa Central Prison, and discussed various issues with public figures. "The purpose is to make sure we have met all sides and obtained a rounded picture of the reality of the situation," indicated Mr. Chirouf. The Amnesty group refrained emphatically from passing any judgement on the situation or announcing their findings to the press. They indicated that they will file their reports with their organization, and a copy will be

forwarded to the Yemeni government. "That is the standard Amnesty policy of doing work all over the world." This is the first time that a mission from Amnesty addresses the conditions of women in Yemen. In informal discussions with the Yemen Times, they did indicate that the lot of Yemeni women is not very different from some of the countries of the region. That is the code word for appalling and miserable. Unfortunately, religion is used wrongly as a pretext to suppress women and deny their rights.

At another level, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) sent to Yemen a delegation to help in several lectures regarding many concepts with which the organization works. Dr. Ameer Zemmali, Legal Adviser at ICRC, was at hand to describe international law and human rights.

"The concepts of civil liberties and the rights of combatants are not new to us. They are an integral part of our religion, Islam, and our culture. You can find many examples of strict rules regarding the rights of combatants, prisoners of war, the wounded etc.," he said. Dr. Zemmali, originally from Tunisia, should know. He is very well versed with Islamic jurisprudence and history. The ICRC has been actively helping the country, especially during the civil war. "Since the war, we have been working on the mental asylum section of the Central Prison of Sanaa,"

explained the ICRC country director, Mr. Philip Spoerri. Indeed, the ICRC has financed the construction of a separate ward for the mentally disturbed, and to create an environment that would help improve their conditions.

The ICRC office in Yemen is also working on data gathering to assess how and where they can help. While discussing conditions in the Mukalla prison, they showed interest. The Committee had provided similar help to the Hodeidah Central Prison. "We helped in providing a water system for the prison, including water storage tanks. But, if there is no electricity most of the time to lift the water, then the whole effort is rendered not so useful," indicated Philip. In the final analysis, the information gathered by Amnesty and ICRC indicates a disturbing pattern - a marked deterioration in the human rights situation.

Continued from Page 1:

Fiasco of Syndicate...

The urge of the government to control all the syndicates and voluntary associations is visible. It has done it with the medical doctors' syndicate, the farmers' union, the lawyers' guild, the students' federation, and last week, it did it with the journalists' syndicate. The authorities have used its powers to achieve the goals it wanted. It forced all its employees to collect their membership from their superiors in the ministry of information and the various official media agencies. It held many group sessions to tell them what is expected of them, and who to vote for.

This kind of direct government involvement in voluntary and grass-roots level organizations in unwarranted, illegal, and even immoral. And it does not sit well with the democratic drive. The existence of NGOs and syndicates is to provide non-governmental forums for a wider and more popular participation by the people and professionals in the management of the country. These organizations are also part of the checks and balances of a democratic system. In other words, if a journalist has a complaint against the authorities, he/she can go to the syndicate to find support. Now he/she will go to a surrogate of the

authorities to complain against the authorities. Somehow, that sounds illogical. In addition, many of the political parties are watching these developments with increasing unease. "If the ruling politicians are unwilling to let small syndicates and NGOs - working to advance the interests of members of a certain profession - freely choose their representatives, will they let the people freely choose their deputies in parliament, where the stake is much higher?" many have asked. In other words, what has been happening with the syndicates and NGOs is a prelude of what is to come in the parliamentary elections!

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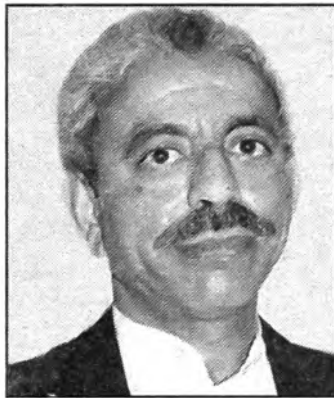
Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Dreams Need More Than Prayers to Become True

Six years ago, after 22 May 1990, the whole experience started beautifully. The euphoria was indescribable, not just in Yemen, but in every habitat where Yemenis dwell throughout the world. The words were just not there to explain how the Yemenis were grateful to their rulers, for at that moment, the Yemeni people had gone so far as to actually forgive the rulers for all their previous crimes against their people! How much of suckers we really are. They told us: "We give you unity! We give you democracy!" We really thought, all our troubles were over. What more could the Yemeni people ask for?! But the clock did not stop! Time, that carrier of change, laid the truth right out in the open: on the whole it seems like we got nothing. Six years of time told us a different story than the scenarios we have pictured in our minds during the misguided euphoria that erroneously landed in our hearts then. We even were allowed to taste some of the pleasures of some of these gifts which our rulers had ordained for us, the Yemeni people. We traveled all over the country without hindrance, at little cost (1/20th of the costs of today); we read many newspapers, including the papers of the government, all of which were going through refreshing journalistic advances - all of them informing the public. We liked it! Yes, we liked to read

every angle of the story and every viewpoint. The rulers also gave more: a truly functioning and debating Parliament, in which the public found enjoyment as well as awareness by tuning in on the sessions every day. We liked it! The Yemeni citizen was walking tall at last: we are well on the way to political freedom. Yes, the Yemeni people really saw it that way. All of them saw it that way without exception. The rich the poor, the farmer, the factory worker, the bureaucrat, the student - all of them: in every field, in every strata. We did not even ask the rulers to give more. After all that they have given us, we were too embarrassed to ask for more concessions from the rulers. We were experimenting with all the new freedoms that came with unity and democracy. Life, in fact began to have meaning. Fear became a thing of the past. We thought, for a moment, that what the rulers had kept for themselves could do us no more harm. Where the Yemeni people oblivious to the truth? What the rulers kept for themselves was still quite a lot. They still had the state. Yes they still controlled the elements of power and they were not keen on submitting any of it back to the people. Even our much more active and vocal Parliament then could not speed up the return of power and authority to the people, in due time, before the



tragic closing of the dream. Yes, the rulers kept the Armies, the Treasuries, the Media and all the functional tools of statecraft - and the people could not prevent the catastrophe. They could not stop the thunder of the guns! 2 years ago, these very days, the guns were doing all the talking and the dream was over! The tanks in Amran started the hammering and it became, "its either us or them." What happened? Was there not enough for everyone to share? The people were ready just to have the crumbs. "Just give us the peace and the freedom and we will find our way, even if we just have to start with crumbs." With peace and freedom, one can do so much! With peace and freedom, the people can really go places - all of them higher up. Peace and freedom - the basic elements of modern democratic societies. There was no way, the rulers could find to assure that their people had peace and freedom? The pie could not be split between themselves. So, how can we expect them to split anything with the people? What a tragedy! Something so beautiful turned into ashes and rising smoke. The storm was short and decisive. It was all over in less than 2 1/2 months. Yes, it was all over: the Crisis, the War for Power and the Dream! A sudden abrupt seizure of the wheel of progress, develop-

ment, creativity and innovation, the dream vanished high up to the sky with the smoke of burning homes, villages, cities and burning corpses. The dream is back with the All-Provider again. Thanks. God for letting the Yemeni people having just a taste of freedom and peace. We know now why they are so cherished, just from this bitter taste we had for four years. Yes, we still yearn for them, but the storm has subsided, without any hope that the dream can continue. Dreams do not succumb to gravitational pull. When they rise with the smoke, they do not fall with the burned ashes, nor do they flow with the toxic gases, which respectively fall into the ground or else ride with the atmospheric winds. The dreams just keep going up until Allah's mercy befalls us again and the dreams are commanded to descend again on the faithful. Only then, nobody can take the dreams away from the people! We can pray. Yes, we can pray and fast and do all kinds of worship. But the dreams are still up there and still waiting for the Godly command: "Let it be, and it is so!" praying is fine; fasting is piety. Worship is necessary. But something else is wanted from us before Allah can issue the command. Yes, God needs something else from us. God has yet to see the conviction in us. We say we believe, but our hearts seem to speak a different language. We worship and brush our teeth as the prophet Mohammed (peace and blessing of Allah be upon him!) did, but still the dreams are not with us. They are still way up there in the heavens. The message is clear: these dreams will come back down when the people start demanding their right to have such dreams! You can pray all you like but any dreams of progress and change and political freedom, must be understood by those holding the reigns of power and authority and those who strive for such freedom to become a permanent way of life for all the people of the country to enjoy. The problem of comprehending freedom is still not resolved by either the rulers or the population. To the former, freedom is a right which only they can give, as they like, when they like and to whom they like. To the latter, nobody has, really acquainted them - the people - exactly how much freedom they are entitled to and the reasons why they are so far away from enjoying all the basic rights and freedoms; which any modern democratic society enjoys. Two years and there is no hope of coming back to life. The press freedom has become a thing of the past. The rulers are saying: "if we do not like it, it should not get printed!" we do not understand where the line is drawn between the ruler's likes or dislikes - the law does not draw the line. The law says we have freedom of the press. Law in Yemen has become akin to fiction. Without a free press, there is no democracy. Contradictions are having the upper hand. There are differences between what is being said and what is being seen. If we have press freedom according to the law, why does the state press and other power centers hit hard at the non-government and opposition press? If an opposition or independent press cannot criticize the state and bring the facts about the functions of Government, to the citizens, then what should they be doing? The people have the right to know everything about the government and public affairs. Journalists in the state media are just as responsible about getting the facts to the people. They are not there to whitewash the rulers

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or the system they operate under. They are not there to point their pens at the opposition and independent press, sometimes in a language that exceeds any level of professional courtesy or respect. Mutual respect is very important in any given profession. Have we all forgotten that the press is the conscience of the nation? The press must always be on the side of the people. This is the pride that makes us journalists willing to sacrifice. The people expect it of us. If we fail to take on the issues which concern the people, and if the press is unable to inform the public, in a factual and objective manner, then the press will be giving up on its vital monitoring role of government and public officials and its obligations to its readers, watchers or listeners. There seems to be a lot of confusion every where! The deterioration of the economy, the increasing unrest in many parts of the country, the pathetic state of public services and all this corruption. How can so much evil befall a society all at once? There is no way anyone can be convinced that such are the workings of a mysterious conspiracy. These are situations that are affecting the overwhelming majority of the population. It is also the right of the rulers to know just how their subjects look at things, and the misery and the consequences of inefficient and irresponsible government. Clamping down on the press will not alleviate the suffering. Intimidating or scaring critics will not improve government functions. If the press has a duty to bring out the bad side of government, this press will also be delighted to

report any positive result of government functions. But it becomes difficult to praise something which is non-existent. A government must be reliant on truth and facts, and the public will only believe what is not hidden from the naked eye. The naked eye of the common citizen sees the results of corruption in every street corner! The lawlessness has become a common state that has hit even the heart of the capital city. Garbage and sewage are more abundant than the greenery of the streets and public parks - now turning into ugly commercial complexes. The beauty of Sana'a has been smeared by ugly posters, billboards and other advertising trash. Yet the government does not see. The government now tells us that they do not want to see or hear any of this kind of talk. Such talk is, in fact, regarded as treason. There is suffering everywhere. Dreams are lost, high up in heaven - waiting for more than prayers. There is no denying that there is indeed a conspiracy going on. But the conspiracy is far bigger than what can be carried out by a few dedicated pens or helpless political parties that are only trying to say that, indeed, there is definitely something wrong in the country, which needs looking into and quickly. Otherwise, the smoke of the storm to come will take away more than just the dreams of once optimistic citizens who have now lost all hope in the rulers! History is full of sequels! But the lust for power and greed is blinding, even to the best of historians.

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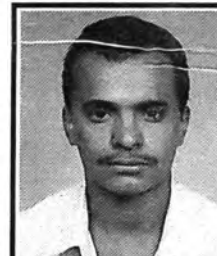
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Ahmed Jabir Afif:

"Islamic banking requires people with personal integrity and strength of character."

Mr. Ahmed Jabir Afif, Chairman of the Islamic Solidarity Bank, disclosed that the bank will start operations early next month. "The bank will be headquartered in Sanaa and it will be located at the new building of the building of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies at Zubeiri Street," he said. Operations are expected to start in a few weeks.

In response to a question regarding the operations and procedures, Mr. Afif stated that the main thrust of the bank will be investments. Our clients' deposits are not loans with the bank, they are funds placed with the bank for investment. The customers receive return on their investments and not interest on their deposits. "In other words, we do not work with interest, whether to or from our customers."

The resources of Islamic banks are similar to venture capital. The tools used by the bank are:

1. Portfolio Management:

Using its own capital, as well as the investible funds of its clients, the bank studies projects and directly invests in them. This can be done either by a department in the bank, or through a subsidiary. An example here is a factory or any other project.

2. Al-Musharaka:

In this case, the bank - in partnership with other investors - puts up part of the money in a project. As a standard part of the arrange-



ment is that the other investors usually end up buying out the bank. An example for this kind of partnership is a farmer who needs a new pump for the well or a new tractor.

3. Al-Mudharabah:

Al-Mudharabah is a partnership between the bank - as the sole source of money - and the actual persons undertaking the project who possess the skill or know-how. An example here is a

medical doctor who needs to expand his/her clinic.

4. Al-Murabaha:

Al-Murabaha is a mark-up system in which the bank buys a product or a service under orders from the client. The bank turns around and sells the product to the client at a pre-determined price. Asked why Yemen is suddenly flooded with three Islamic banks and how they will operate given

that the Islamic banking law has been returned by the President, Mr. Afif stated that there was no rule against setting up any number of banks. "Like in any trade, the market will determine which will succeed, and which will not."

As regards the law, he indicated that parliament had originally passed a law, but the president had some reservations. The banks agreed to those reservations, and that is it. "Even then, we expect parliament to pass the new amended law very soon," he added.

The only concern is not to get involved in any interest-bearing activities. Interest or usury is defined as an increase on the principal with time without taking on any risks. "If the owner of the capital accepts to take risk or loss, then return on the money is halal (legitimate)."

Another visible dimension to the operations of Islamic banks is the soft-loan structure. The banks will set aside an annually fixed amount to offer as loans without interest to deserving individuals and charity organizations. The idea is to help advance the cause of social welfare. Examples of this would be cases of individuals who face an emergency (say, a medical one), or a social responsibility.

The Islamic Solidarity Bank's authorized capital is YR 1.5 billion, with 50% already paid up and the balance subject to call,

based on a decision by the shareholders. The main share-holders in Yemen are the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, and they have local as well as international partners.

The board members of the bank are twelve persons representing the owners. Mr. Abdul-Jabbar Hayel Saeed has been named as the Managing Director. He oversees the bank's management which is composed of highly experienced persons from Jordan whose experience in this field is very successful.

The board members will, of course, work out the policies and general ground rules, and will exercise a supervisory role. The bank will have a technical and Islamic supervisory body made up of theologians and experts in Islamic law as well as modern economists.

The Central Bank of Yemen will also play a visible role in directing the affairs of Islamic banks. As such, the CBY is expected to set up a department to be responsible for this kind of banking, which is quite different from traditional banking.

Islamic banks cannot be regulated by adjusting interest rates, discount rates, etc., which are major tools used in traditional banking. The Required Reserve Ratio (RRR) will also take a different notion, as in Islamic banking, technically there are no deposits - simply investible funds. In addition, Islamic banks

will be heavily involved in direct investments, which will require additional forms of supervision. All those responsibilities will fall on the CBY, which is already overburdened with existing duties.

Islamic banking is a concept that mixes the concept of puritanism and virtuous behavior with down-to-earth business. How the two apparently contradictory notions will be brought together will depend on the personal integrity and strength of character of the persons involved with the bank. "We Yemenis have a tendency to say something and end up doing something else. High ideals like Islamic banking require people who are upright and able to see clearly through the mist and fog of our times. In our bank, I feel, we have these people," he indicated.

How do Islamic banks relate to other banks already operating in Yemen? How will the clearing house be managed in a dual system? How will Islamic banks handle transfers and letters of credit with the rest of the world? These and other questions persist in spite of the fact that ways around them have been found.


In addition, it will be possible for the traditional banks to start windows for Islamic banking. The amended law will incorporate that.

By: Al-Izzy As-Selwi,
Yemen Times.

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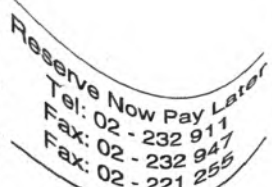
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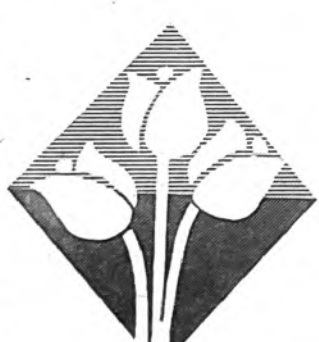
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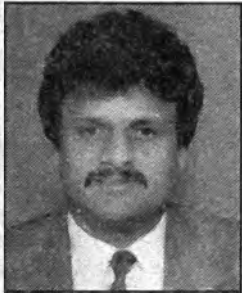


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Plant Immuno-Modulator From Catha Edulis In Treatment of Vasomotor Rhinitis



By: Dr. Farid Mohammed Saeed,
Ph.D. specialist ENT
in the Police General
Hospital,
Sana'a.

On the basis of *in vitro* experiments, immuno-modulating and antimicrobial properties of the preparation from the leaves of qat (*Catha edulis*) are shown. Clinical tests on 50 patients with vasomotor rhinitis have yielded results testifying to the efficiency of this preparation in treatment of the disease and prophylaxis of relapses. A study of the immunity status has shown a course of application of the qat preparation to regulate immunity in patients with vasomotor rhinitis.

The outcome of vasomotor rhinitis treatment, transition to the chronic status in particular, depends to a considerable extent on the condition of immunity system, and on the rate of immunity deficiency expression, as it has been found in recent years (Daynyak L. B., et al. 1988).

In this context, a search for effective immuno-modulators and studies of prospects of their application in case of rhinitis acquire urgency, the more so, as the range of immuno-modulators currently used in medicine is rather limited, and the used preparations produce side-effects (Yaremenko K. V.).

The objective of present research was to study pharmacotherapeutic properties and potential application in rhinology of a preparation from *Catha edulis*, a plant widely distributed in the Republic of Yemen, and some parts of the Horn of Africa. The plant is frequently used in the everyday life for increasing working capacity, sociability of people, etc. (Cennedy et al., 1987).

In order to reach the set objective, experimental research was undertaken to study immuno-modulating and antimicrobial properties of the preparation from *Catha edulis*, and consequently its efficiency was tested on patients with vasomotor rhinitis.

Materials and Methods

The study of immuno-modulating properties of the *Catha edulis* extract and determination of the most efficient concentration was carried out *in vitro* using different dilution of *Catha edulis* extract (the total of 27 dilutions) from 1:10 up to 1:500. As a criterion of efficiency, the influence of the preparation on rosette formation (see Kerman, 1976) was taken. 35 tests with the extract from dry *Catha edulis* have also been carried out.

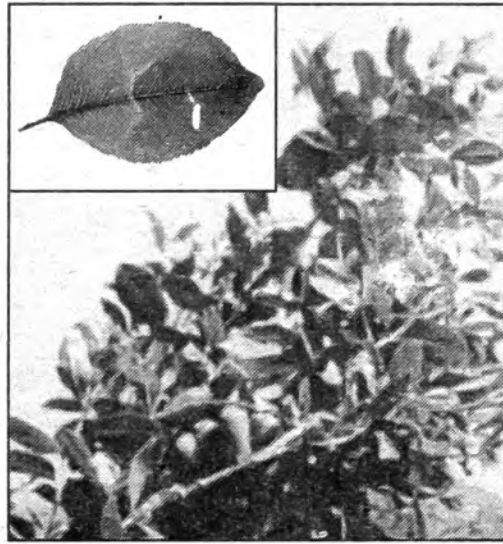
The antimicrobial activity of the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves was evaluated by its action on the cultures of *Staphylococcus aureus* (5 cultures), *Streptococcus hemolyticus* (2 cultures), *Escherichia* and *Bacillus pynocyanus* (1 culture each). All micro organisms were obtained from patients with diseases of upper respiratory tracts and showed the signs of increased pathogenic activity. The method by Popov E.L., 1992 was used in the research. The antimicrobial activity of *Catha edulis* extract in the dilutions of 1:10, 1:100, 1:300, 1:1000, and 1:3000 was studied.

All in all, 50 patients with vasomotor rhinitis underwent treatment (40 persons with neurovegetative and 10 persons with allergic forms of rhinitis), 31 males (62%) and 19 females (38%). The essence of treating was in lavage of rhino-pharynx and nasal cavity with the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves in the concentration that has been defined as the optimum one experimentally, i.e., 1:300.

Treatment lasted from 10 to 14 days. Efficiency of the treatment was determined by observing the direct clinical effect (complete removal of the disease symptoms), dynamics of functional test results prior to and after treatment.

Results

The series of experiments made it possible to determine the optimum concentration of the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves, which caused an increase in aE-rosette formation up to 42% in comparison with control. A comparison with thymaline, a well-known immuno-modulating preparation has shown that the extract from *Catha edulis* in the optimum concentration causes a clearly expressed stimulating effect (increase in aE-rosettes number) that is 1.3 times higher than that of thymaline. Weaker dilution of the *Catha edulis* extract than the optimum one had no significant influence on the aE-rosettes number. A cytolytic effect of *Catha edulis* extract in 1:5 and 1:10 dilutions has been



recorded.

After 4 hours of cultivation, the concentration of *Staphylococcus* in bactericide active dilution (1:10-1:1000) was reduced 4 times, on average. In a day, the extract from *Catha edulis* in all these dilutions was sterile. The dilution of 1:3000 did not cause complete bactericidal effect. *Streptococcus* turned out to be more sensitive to the action of *Catha edulis* extract. Suppressing action of the extract in 1:100 and 1:300 dilution on the *Streptococcus* culture was noted immediately upon adding the micro-organisms suspension. In 4 hours of cultivation, the extract in these dilutions, as well as in the 1:1000 one, was practically sterile. In all the check experiments when physiological salt solution of NaCl was used instead of *Catha edulis* extract (tests), a 4.7-time increase in the micro-organisms concentration (of *Staphylococcus* and *Streptococcus*) was recorded in 4 hours, and in a day, the growth of micro-organisms beyond all calculation was usually observed. The 1:10 dilution of *Catha edulis* extract did not produce any noticeable effect on the development of *Escherichia* and *Bacillus pynocyanus*.

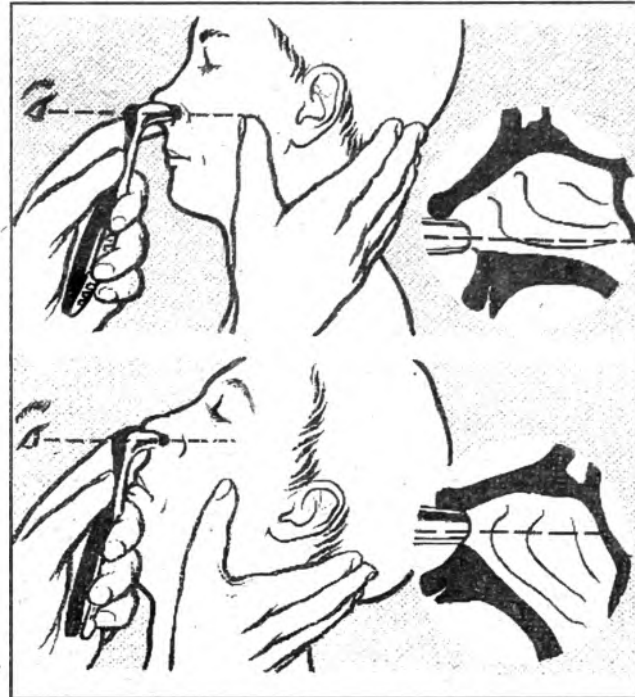
The results obtained *in vitro* testified to the immuno-regulating and anti-microbial activity of the preparation from *Catha edulis* and made grounds for clinical tests.

The conducted clinical tests show that good results (complete removal of symptoms) was achieved in 68% of all cases. A satisfactory result (subjective improvement of the nasal breathing, cessation of nasal discharge against the background of continuing light edema of the nasal mucous coat) was achieved in 24% of all cases. The treatment proved inefficient with only 4 patients (8%). Positive effect of the treatment continued for over 6 months in 75% of patients with the neurovegetative and 50% of patients with the allergic forms of vasomotor rhinitis.

While studying the dynamics of transport function of the nasal mucous coat ciliated epithelium, the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves has been found to produce a positive effect on it, as in 50% of all patients the transport function has normalized by the of treatment.

The extract from *Catha edulis* leaves exerts an influence on the disturbed histamine metabolism in patients with vasomotor rhinitis. Upon completing the treatment, a considerable decrease of intensity of cutaneous and vascular reactions to histamine has been recorded (erythema diameter at the histamine injection spot has reduced to 10.2 ± 2.3 mm on the average, if compared to 19.7 ± 2 mm prior the treatment ($p < 0.01$). A complete normalization of intensity of cutaneous and vascular reactions to histamine was observed in 24 patients (48%). A considerable improvement of histamine metabolism in tissues was revealed after the treatment with the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves.

A reduction of the duration index down to normal values ($35 \pm 5.4\%$) on the average, has been achieved, while before the treatment its value made $54.4 \pm 3\%$ ($p < 0.01$). Normalization of other indices of cutaneous and vascular reaction to histamine has also been noted. The study of eosinophiles in the nasal discharge has shown a reduction in their content as compared with that before the treatment ($p < 0.01$). Besides, positive changes have been noted in the dynamics of cellular immunity in the patients with vasomotor rhinitis after the treatment with the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves. In all patients with a reduced absolute and relative number of T-cells before the treatment, normal-



ization of their number has been noted upon completing the therapy. A reliable growth of the number of active T-lymphocytes (EA-rosettes) has been noted after the treatment. Normalization of this index has been achieved in all patients. Several patients have displayed a tendency towards the increase of T-h/T-s relation after the treatment. Other indices of cellular immunity (RLMI with FHA, RLMI WITH ConA, B-lymphocytes number, T-suppressors content) have not changed noticeably ($p > 0.05$).

Besides, an improvement of the phagocytic activity of neutrophils has been noted: a reliable growth of

the percentage of phagocytosis and phagocytic index has been found in all patients ($p < 0.01$). After the treatment, phagocytosis percentage and phagocytic index acquired normal values in 14% and 30% of patients, respectively. Bacterial sensitization has noticeably decreased after treating patients with the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves. The number of patients with sensitization to *Streptococcus* and *Staphylococcus* allergens has reduced more than 4 times as compared to that number before the treatment ($p < 0.01$). The clinical and laboratory investigations have shown *Catha edulis* extracts to manifest antimicrobial action not only *in vitro*, but also *in vivo*. Thus, a considerable reduction of general bacterial dissemination has been noted after the treatment, if compared to that index prior to the treatment: the number of patients with an increased bacterial dissemination has reduced 5 times after the therapy ($p < 0.01$). The number of patients with a reliably low bacterial dissemination has grown 3 times ($p < 0.01$). The number of patients with the absence of micro-flora growth has increased 2 times after the treatment ($p < 0.01$).

The above changes in the nasal auto-flora of patients with vasomotor rhinitis after the treatment with the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves testifies to the antimicrobial action of this preparation *in vivo*. Thus, the treatment of the examined patients with the extract from *Catha edulis* leaves in the optimum concentration produced good clinical effect and caused a significant improvement of the indices of general immunity. A better histamine metabolism in tissues was noted, as well as a decrease in microbial sensitization of the organism. The results obtained correlate well with the experimental data.



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THE 3 FUTURE OUTLOOKS

Dr. Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakkil is a leading Yemeni intellectual, who is a highly opinionated critic of the existing political system and a leading human rights activist. After once having been Minister of Provisions (Supply), Dr. Al-Mutawakkil went back to Academics to earn a Masters and a Ph.D. in political science. The following is a summary of the lecture as recorded by SAWASIAH, a publication issued by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Study, which the Political Science Professor, a Trustee of the Arab Organization for Human Rights and Vice Chairman of the

tution is seeking to reinstitute the rituals of the past. He clarified that this traditional regime has stalled efforts towards modernization by transforming its outlet to the river of imitation, and accordingly invested it as a facade to cover the infusion of tribal/religious traditions and the domination of the Military Establishment.

Dr. Al-Mutawakkil expressed his belief that the opposition parties have contributed to deepening the crisis, and they played a role in corrupting Yemeni society. He also pointed out that the role of such parties only limited to the achievement of political



Yemeni Organization for the Defense of Democratic Freedom, gave at the Center of CIHRS, at Cairo. The lecture was on the future of the Political Regime and of human rights in Yemen after the Civil War. The text of the article follows:

Dr. Mohammed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakkil... gave a lecture at the CIHRS Center in Cairo last April, where he discussed the future of Yemen, politically and in the area of human rights after the last Civil War in Yemen (1994).

Al-Mutawakkil clarified that Yemen came out of the war, coming out of a military war only to enter into a political war, which has yet to come to an end, and which threatens to bring about the return to a military confrontation, again.

Al-Mutawakkil indicated that Yemen did not go through a real democratic experience during the pre-civil war-post unification period (1990-1994), assuring that the balance of power in the government then was more a reflection of a military balance than of the dynamics of a civil society. He added that this delicate military balance between the North and South (of Yemen) had allowed for a considerable amount of freedoms of speech, expression and the press. He noted that with the end of this balance, and the domination of one of the parties in power, all these freedoms became subjected to extermination, to restrictions and or rejection.

The lecturer did, however, observe that there are three factors that prevent the total abandonment of the transformation to democracy, which are: the anger of the Yemeni civil society, the regime's inability to come with any national program which can attract popular following, in addition to international pressure.

The lecturer revealed that the crisis faced by the regime in Yemen is an organizational/structural crisis. One of the reasons for the Civil War in Yemen is the backward nature of the regime and its refusal to abide by the Document for Pledge and Accord, which has set up the conditions for national reconciliation on the basis of reorganizing the Armed Forces, in accordance with national foundations, rather than tribal considerations, and of changing the general administrative structure and its reconstitution based on capabilities.

Militarism and Tribalism

The lecturer pointed out that the Religious and Tribal Institutions ruled Yemen prior to the 1962 Revolution. The Religious Institution's role had vanished, to be replaced by the Military Establishment. He added that the power in the country had come in the form of these two institutions (i.e. come to be dominated by the 2). The Tribal is the institution of primary affiliation and family/clan association. The Military is the Institution of Violence and High Commands. Notwithstanding, these two institutions, the Puritanical Islamic Insti-

objectives. These parties, he said, did not work with any worthwhile dedication, towards updating and improvement of the socio-political framework in Yemen. In fact, the opposition parties were ready to abandon such worthy tasks, if that would assist in its drive for political power.

Al-Mutawakkil pointed out that Yemen is undergoing developments in its political system that raise concern and worry. In this respect, he indicated that the penetration of the Islah Religious Party (Yemeni Congregation for Reform) in the lower institutions (in the government) like the (Centralized) Local Administration, Education, Endowments, Information and the Military could be construed as preparations for a new and serious split between the two ruling parties (The People's General Congress and YCR).

The Future Anticipated Scenarios

On the future outlook, Dr. Al-Mutawakkil saw that there were 3 possible scenes:

The first: The continuation of economic deterioration and the deterioration of relations between the PCG and YCR, in view of the fears raised by the penetration of the latter in the organizational framework of the state. In this context, he indicated that unless the competition between the two parties is not brought under control, the power struggle may even evolve into a Civil War, and the division or desamiation of Yemen in the pattern of Somalia.

The Second: The Rulers become convinced of the imperativeness of arriving at a solution to the political crisis, through the restructuring of the government, organizationally and institutionally. Within the scope of this scenario, economic deterioration will continue, but the lecturer here asserts that the Yemeni people will bear the economic strains due to the maximum importance of the goal of restructuring the government.

The Third: To give an opportunity for the Islah Party to predominate in the affairs for a while, which will not be for long, because the type of rule envisaged to be patterned by the Islah - as Dr. Al-Mutawakkil sees it - will be on the basis of the psychological exploitation of the religious values and heritage and the assault on political pluralism. This situation would subject human rights to serious violations in the pattern of the Sudan, which will be, in any case, unacceptable to the Yemeni people.

Dr. Al-Mutawakkil emphasized that Yemeni unity may be possible by military action, but cannot be maintained except through economic development, respect for democracy and the implementation of human rights values on a widespread basis and the modernization of government structure.

In the end, the hope is that the rulers will be convinced that there is no solution to the political crisis, except through the restructuring of the government on the basis of political pluralism.

YEMEN & ITS VULNERABILITY TO NATURAL DISASTER

By: Dr. Abdulatif Al-Maneeff,
Civil Engineering Department,
Sana'a University

The seeming indifference of people to the environment tends to magnify the effects of natural disasters. This might explain the catastrophic effects that are disproportionate to the magnitude of the event.

In Yemen, with a land area of about 500,000 sq km and a population of 16 million, vulnerability to natural hazards is increased by the man-made environment, particularly its pattern of habitation. Exposed to a wide range of natural hazards, Yemen ranks among the top 25 disaster-prone countries. Floods are the most frequent and earthquakes are the most devastating. Both are potential reasons for landslides and rockfalls, though these usually occur as an effect of erosion and long term weathering of rocks.

Due to the strike-slip faults which cross the fault systems parallel and perpendicular to the Red Sea, Yemen experiences small and medium earthquakes in the mainland and large earthquakes offshore. Historical surveys indicate that an earthquake occurs every 15 years while recent data (1900-1993) reveal that small to medium earthquakes occur every four years.

These earthquakes destroyed hundreds of settlements, claimed thousands of lives, and incurred billions of dollars in economic loss. In 1982, an earthquake disaster pushed the Yemeni economy decades back and forced the cancellation of developmental plans.

Located in the southern part that has the highest rainfall in the Arabian Peninsula, water-related disasters frequently occur in Yemen. Heavy rainfall and flash floods claim lives and destroy towns, physical infrastructures and agricultural lands. Famine also results from catastrophic floods.

The direct effect of heavy and long-lasting rainfall on badly constructed houses with earthen roofs is widely observed in the highlands. In this area, the location of villages on top and in the slopes of hilly places spares them from floods but exposes them to

the dangers of landslides and avalanches through soil erosion. The terracing and embankment systems, which worked perfectly to protect soil from erosion, have degraded due to the abandonment of agricultural practices resulting from mass migration to the rich Gulf States during the last two decades.

The indirect effect consists of flash floods in plain regions and valleys where the habitation pattern almost linearly follows the waterways. This can be seen in the Tihamah region and eastern Yemen which are characterized by low rainfall and whose residents depend chiefly on seasonal flood waters. If the distribution of flood is compared with the distribution of population in plain regions, it can be gleaned that almost all the population and cultivated lands are vulnerable to floods.

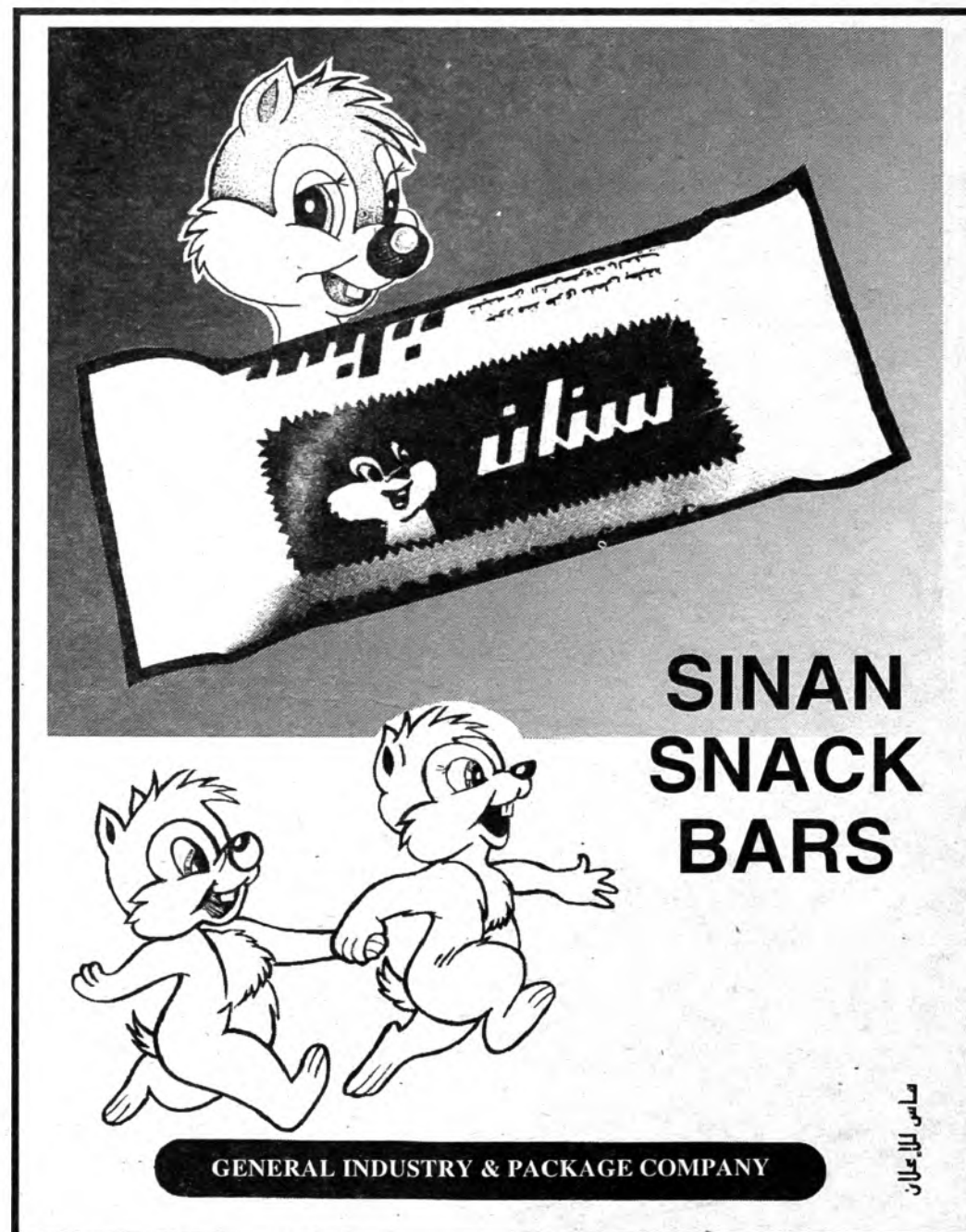
Since Yemen has not experienced any volcanic eruption in the recent past, the severity of the next one cannot be assessed, especially in densely populated centers. Definitely, agricultural fields and small settlements are exposed in several areas. Also, the rapid expansion of the capital city into the north where the Quaternary volcanic field stretch makes it vulnerable to ashes and lava flow.

Despite all these, Yemen has at present no institutional arrangements to deal with natural disasters. As with most developing nations, it has been preoccupied with its economic problems. Too often, economic problems obscure the threat from disasters. Experience has shown, however, that ignoring this threat imperils the people's lives and even the economic gains.

Yemen acknowledges its glaring need for a suitable disaster mitigation strategy that considers all those natural hazards. In view of the rapid social and economic development taking place, urgent action is required to protect people's lives and properties.

Physical planning should consider all the natural hazards and introduce measures to minimize the community's vulnerability to natural hazard.

With its limited resources, Yemen looks to the international community for support and guidance in establishing and enhancing an integrated program to deal with natural disaster impacts.



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حاسب للادارة

Our Cities: Do They Offer Decent Living at Any Size?

Everybody knows what a "megacity" looks like. Rio. Mexico City. Calcutta. The pictures are all too familiar: Row upon row of cardboard and corrugated metal shacks propped in the shadow of gleaming skyscrapers. Bony children playing half-naked in the mud beneath a haze of smog. Laundry fluttering overhead like faded flags. In the city center, a mere quarter mile away, business people close deals over four-course lunches and make tennis dates on their cellular phones. Well-heeled shoppers browsing in pricey boutiques sidestep beggars with outstretched hands. Limos with tinted windows view with rickshaws for position on teeming streets. This is the scene that urban planners and environmentalists, often speaking in apocalyptic overtones, have warned for decades would overtake us all.

Well, that future is coming to pass, at long last. And the surprising news is that it may not be so bad after all. So says a growing body of urban experts and officials. The world's megacities (places that are home to more than 10 million people) are expected to more than double in number in the next few years, from 12 today to 25 by the turn of the century. This will mark the first time in history that a clear majority of the earth's inhabitants will live in urban areas. By some expert reckonings, 55% of the globe already does. More important, the quality of life in such megalopolises is proving better than was once predicted. Life expectancy is generally longer in the big cities than in smaller ones or in the countryside. Urban dwellers are far more likely to have good sewage disposal and running water than are their rural compatriots. And cities tend to offer superior medical care, greater educational opportunities and more jobs.

That has led to a dramatic reversal in the way policy planners are addressing the problems of rapid urbanization. It used to be that they sought to limit mass migration by merely urging folks to stay on the farm. Authoritarian regimes even tried evicting millions from the cities or simply outlawed new arrivals from the countryside. But when some 40,000 experts from government, business, non-governmental organizations and academia convened last month in Istanbul for the second UN conference on the habitat - dubbed the Cities Summit - they took a decidedly new approach. Rather than focus their efforts on stemming the tide

of rural poor to the cities, they concentrated on making those cities better places to live.

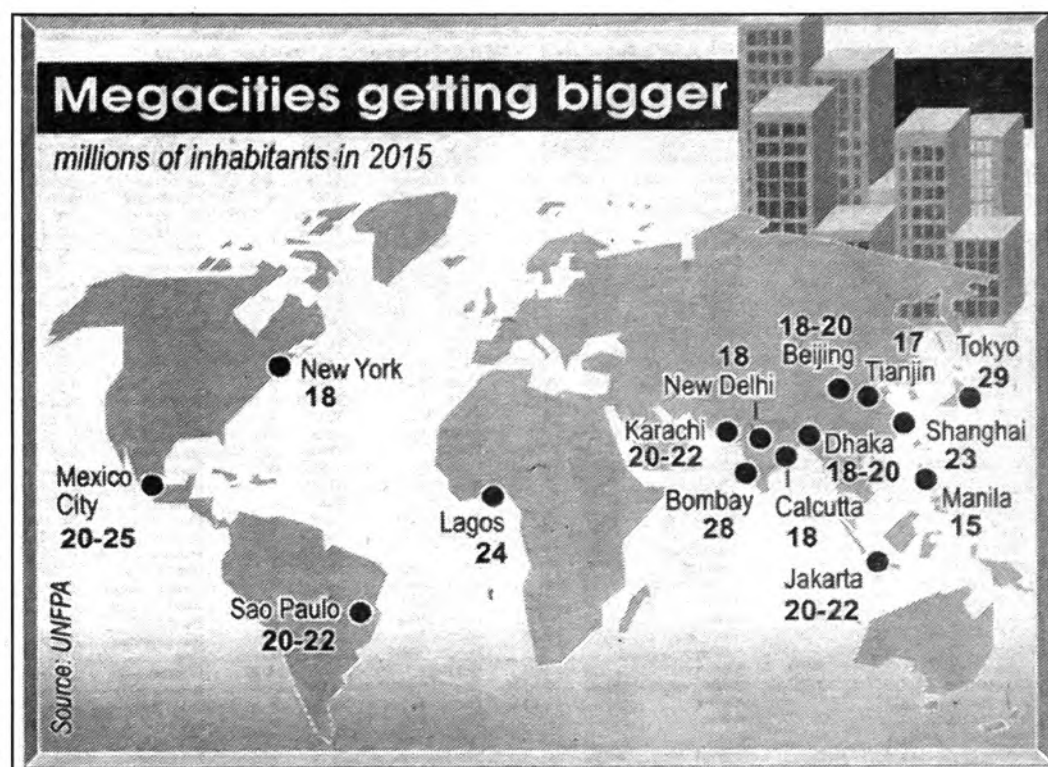
"This conference is . . . particularly about megacities," said Janice Perlman, president of the new York based Mega-Cities Project, an international network of urban experts. "They are our future. It is going to be an urban future, and we'd better deal with it." The new philosophy holds that big cities are a natural consequence of modern development, and that it is inevitable for people to want to live in them.

"People move to cities for rational reasons," says David Satterthwaite, principal author of the Oxford University study "An Urbanizing World," which was commissioned for the Cities Summit. "It is completely crazy to erect barriers to stop them from going there."

Still, the idea of 'big city bad, little village good' dies hard. Partly, the reluctance stems from a popular romantic attachment to the idea of agrarian life. But it is also a practical matter. Traditionally, international aid money has gone largely to funding rural projects. Only recently have institutions like the World Bank begun to shift their focus and target cities in the belief that they are just as vital to national economic performance. More and more business and international agencies are bringing city officials and experts together to discuss common problems.

Many big cities are international players in their own right and have trade and foreign-relations agendas that transcend national boundaries, as shown by the commercial independence of some large cities in authoritarian nations like China. At the UN conference, they may well find they have more in common with one another - even though they may come from different continents - than with rural regions of their own country. Solutions to soaring crime rates and massive traffic jams won't be found in any country's hinterland, but in other cities grappling with the same problems. New York, for instance, borrowed a voluntary air-pollution program from Sao Paulo.

For all that, there was little agreement on what needs to be done to improve urban life. Even naming the conference the Cities Summit was fraught with conflict. Some officials wanted it to emphasize housing and rural issues. Others, particularly Asian governments, objected to the new



focus of improving city life and wanted to continue discouraging rural out-migration. The United Nations was forced to navigate diplomatically between member governments that are deeply alarmed by the problems of their big cities and a growing body of experts who think they are 'not such a bad thing. But the UN report came down clearly on the side of urbanization. Cities, the report concludes, "may be able to best provide services to people, alleviate poverty, improve life expectancy and more wisely manage our planet's massive population growth."

Most people flee to the cities because no matter how grim life there may be, it is generally better than the rural one they are leaving behind. Their new homes may be squalid shanties without plumbing or heat. But at least in the cities they have opportunity. Perlman, a former Berkeley regional-planning professor, spent years living in the favelas - squatter slums - of Brazil's largest cities and studying their residents' lives. "I went back with many of them to their hometowns, and the conditions there were nearly always worse," she says. "The people who migrated to the cities are there to give their children a better life than they had. They are just like the generations of immigrants to America, dedicated to working hard, getting the kids through school, improving their lives."

At the same time, few of the doomsayers' nightmare scenarios have come true. Though the number of megacities is rising, the growth of those cities themselves - except in Africa - has slowed in the past few years, even as the world's population has doubled to 5.7 billion. Mexico City and Calcutta were each predicted to have 30 million to 40 million residents by the millennium. In fact, Calcutta will be home to only 13 million people as it enters the 21st century, and Mexico City to 18 million. That is still a huge number.

But it renders absurd the projection made by many Mexican urban planners a decade ago that Mexico City would be so overcrowded it would have to be abandoned. In Sao Paulo, more people are moving out than moving in; the city's growth has shrunk from a high point of 5% in the 1980s to closer to 1% today.

Indeed, megacities seem to have their own built-in limits. This is largely a natural process, little affected by government policy. Once a country becomes 70 to 75% urbanized - as much of Europe, Japan and parts of North America are - city growth stalls, and even slows. Tokyo, for instance, which with 31.8 million people is the world's biggest metropolitan area, seems to have lost its attractiveness to new immigrants. Its annual growth rate has now dropped to half a percentage point. "Megacities need mega-economies to support them," says Satterthwaite. But as big economies improve, so, too, do infrastructure, transportation, telecommunication - all the things that make it possible to live farther

from the old city centers. In Mexico, for example, many people have moved to smaller cities on the edges of metropolis or even satellite cities much farther away.

No one would dispute that conditions are daunting and difficult in the world's largest metropolises - not least of all Istanbul, which is itself on the verge of becoming a megacity. Poverty, crime, homelessness and drug abuse are endemic in areas that have undergone rapid urbanization. Air pollution is so bad in Mexico City that wealthy residents are beginning to filter the air coming into their homes. In Bangkok, rich commuters travel by helicopter to the airport to avoid the 12-hour traffic jams. Some teachers begin classes on the school bus so as not to waste the travel time. The murder rate around the world ranges from 2 to 12 per 100,000 people. But in Rio, it soared to 59 per 100,000 people in the early 1990s. And of Calcutta's 10 million residents, more than half live in substandard housing with no running water or sewage disposal.

A key focus of the Istanbul summit was to find innovative ways of dealing with those problems. "Human society does not have a choice," the conference's general secretary, Wally N'Dow of Gambia was quoted as saying. "Unless we have people with vision to lead us out of this, the 21st century will be a most unlivable place." The Istanbul Summit was a good beginning in the right direction.

Abdridged and edited by:
Anwar Al-Sayyadi, Yemen Times.

A Corundum Under Ashes!

An edifice grinned by eras, like the lying ancestors in the cemetery before, had turned to relics haunted by yore ghosts and old rocks only. It stands glorious among the heads of men, telling about an ancient civilization which once was a matter of worth, but now, a civilizational corundum under ashes, whose brightness needs an inking effort to sweep the dust aside.

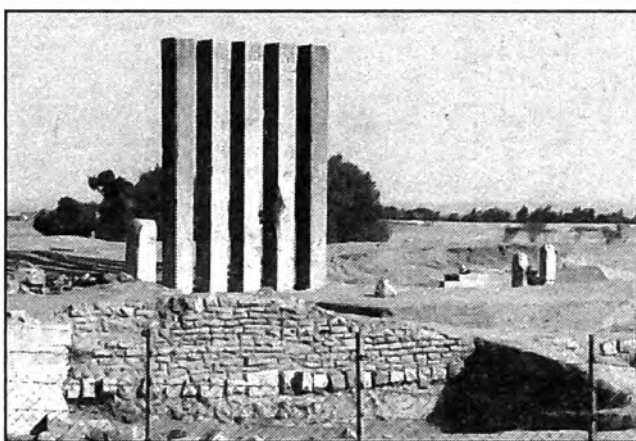
Here from, the human civilization sailed; from the land of Sirwah, the first capital of Queen Bilqis of Sheba kingdom, whose history extends back to 650 BC, and ruins are still standing. Queen Bilqis had enjoyed this natural esplanade, for its suitable location, regarding many aspects. The so-called castle is situated on a hillock in a suburb near Marib and it takes one hour by car from Marib along the unspilt dusty road which looks like a great serpent, crossing the brown-black mountains surrounding it. It holds the Western South of Marib on Sana'a destination. The key of the Sabaeen civilization was left rusted alone, and the castle was abandoned when the queen moved to Marib, the dam, Sun Temple and Crown in 115 BC. Therefrom, a new era witnessed the story of Suleiman which the Holy Quran draws upon.

Sirwah of Today!

The mounts make a black chin around the castle. There under, sporadic hamlets dwelling on Commerce. Later they professed agriculture, irrigating their limited lands with well water. As for its weather, it is moderate and free from mosquitoes which transfer Malaria - a wide spread malady in Yemen. The dwellers are Bedouin tribes, but lately, preferred settlement and rural living, which is more useful and productive, though reserving their habits and conventions bequeathed from their forefathers. Rocks and traces of primitivity over-spread the location curved by winds. The castle is ten meters high and fifteen meters wide, taking the shape of a cylinder with two front observatory points.

The Edifice Is Standing

The front of the castle is overtrodden and covered with dust. Nothing remained except for the sporadic rocks and fractions. All around the castle, many writings and engravings ornamented the upper



rocks. The entry gate, having a hole in the middle, composed of three wide wooden boards crossed by other wooden pieces, is two meters high and one meter and a quarter wide. The castle is seventy meters wide and one hundred meters backward, built of engraved rocks skillfully rowed, much to the surprise and awe of modern-day architects. They are well-knit and undisfigured by weather conditions since thousands of years. Most of the rocks have supergaraphical engravings, framing the castle.

When the gate is opened, a court occupies the middle of the castle. It is about 15 square meter. A wall of one hundred twenty centimeter approximately occupies the center of the court. On the left, many benches and pillars made of white rocks are fenced with the 5 columns. Three stairs stretch to the front rooms whose inlets are one meter from the ground. Behind them, small rooms and entries lead to fearful and ambiguous places.

On the two sides of the gate, stairs reach to observatory sites; small rooms have many holes used for aeration and detection. Next to the benches, many divisions and bare baths hold the left area engraved and ornamented. The overtrodden front leads to the left corner which also has observatories and small store rooms.

Here, writings carved on rocks speak of a great people and their achievement:

By: **Habeeb Al Ward**
Sana'a.

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Iraq Gearing up for Oil Exports

At a control station on one of the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipelines, the technicians could not contain their excitement - the pipeline had come to life again after standing idle for six long years.

"Oil is like a river, as soon as it starts to flow there is nothing that can hold it back," said a smiling Fahd Abdel Jabbar, the head of geology at the Iraqi-owned North Petroleum Company which is based at Kirkuk, 300 kilometers north of Baghdad.

Taher Maqhur, head of the Iraqi section of the pipeline, pointed at yellow and blue lines on a semi-circular control panel representing the two-way pipeline linking Kirkuk with the oil terminal at the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.

For the first time in six years, the luminous signals indicating pressure levels and flow of oil were lit up, proof the 985-kilometers pipeline, 345 kilometers of which runs through Iraq, was ready for action.

"On Thursday evening we started to pump the oil lying in the Turkish section of the system. We hope the crude will reach Ceyhan in two days and that henceforth, finally we will be in a position to export oil," said Maqhur.

Three experts from the Turkish oil transport company BOTAS are contributing to the smooth-running of the operation, which is controlled by computer.

Under the terms of the deal between Iraq and the United Nations agreed on May 20th, Baghdad is allowed to export limited quantities of oil for the

first time since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The oil exports - worth two billion dollars every six months - are to be closely supervised by the UN to buy much-needed food and medicines for an Iraqi population ravaged by six years of sanctions.

"For the past six years, all we have been able to do is routine maintenance to keep the pipeline in working order. It was as if somebody was dead, and now we are turning over a new page," said Maqhur, a grey-bearded chemist.

"I never believed it would be for so long. When the Turks shut off the flow in August 1990, I expected it to last six months," said Nazem Ahmed, an engineer responsible for maintenance on the pipeline.

Of the estimated daily Iraqi export quota of 700,000 barrels per day, Iraq hopes around 350,000 will pass through the pipeline. Iraq is also simultaneously preparing to pump the other half passing through the country's Gulf ports.

"We have laid all the groundwork and we are ready to re-start exports right now," said North Petroleum Director General Talal Ashur.

He said the infrastructure of the pipeline could cope with the level of oil exports allowed under the UN deal, but that Iraq would be unable to reach its 1979 record pumping levels of 1.7 million barrels per day as one pumping station had been destroyed by the US-led bombing.

Oman Eyes Yemeni Flour Market

Oman has started building a 7.5 million Omani riyals (\$19.5 million) flour mill which will primarily target new markets in neighboring Yemen.

It is Oman's second flour mill and is located in the Raysut Industrial Estate in Salalah, southern Oman, and has been cited by economic experts as evidence of growing relations between Oman and Yemen.

The two countries have increased the pace of economic cooperation

since the border demarcation agreement.

A spokesman for Salalah Mills Co. (SMC), said the project will be start-financed by the Government and the Oman Development Bank, but gave no figures.

SMC, a public shareholding company, was launched in November with a capital of 2.5 million riyals (\$6.5 million).

The mill, with a planned daily output of 300 tons, will produce a range of wheat flour products

including specialty flours and semolina.

A large proportion of the produce will be exported to the border provinces of Al-Maharah and Hadhramaut in Yemen. At a later stage, the output could be sold to East Africa, as well.

The mill, to be equipped with machinery from Switzerland, and will become fully operational in late 1997. Its output is expected to be doubled in five years.

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The World Health Organization (WHO) in Sana'a, is pleased to announce on behalf of the Health Sector Donor Coordination Subgroup, its willingness to recruit a qualified person to work as a full time Technical Secretariat (TS) for the Subgroup and its various Task Forces. The Subgroup is a joint working group composed of the Ministry of Public Health and international donors in the field of health.

The TS will be responsible for routine administrative functions in support of the Subgroup, including arranging meeting logistics, preparing and distributing minutes (in English), facilitating interagency communication, maintaining a documentation center, preparing reports on Subgroup activities and financial matters, and providing general assistance to the Task Forces with their projects.

The TS will work full time and should have the following minimum qualifications:

1. Fluency in Arabic and English, both written and spoken. Preferably native fluency in Arabic.
2. Strong computer skills in both English and Arabic, especially in word processing, preparation of spread sheets and charts, and data base management.
3. Excellent communication skills and the ability to positively represent the Subgroup, Ministry of Public Health, and international donor agencies.
4. University degree in a health or health related area preferred.

Those who are eligible and willing to be recruited are invited to apply by July 1, 1996 to the WHO Office at the following address:

WHO Representative
P. O. Box 543
Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

India Plans to Join Major League Toy Exporters

A sprawling toy city on Delhi, the capital's outskirts is on the cards to boost India's toy exports globally. The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, ESC, has entered into a joint venture with Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, to set up the toy city which will house 200 manufacturing units, according to Sunder T Cachani, ESC Vice Chairman.

The city, built on 100 acres will have an integrated complex to enable manufacturers to source raw materials, utilize common facilities of a computer aided design center, and quality certification unit based on different requirement of various global markets, Vachani said.

Besides, it would also have banks, transporters office, post office and container depots. The proximity of the complex to the international airport and inland container depots of the capital will enable exporters to meet the deadline of international markets, the ESC Vice Chairman.

Vachani said keeping in view the increasing use of electronic parts and software in toys the Government had designated the council as the Nodal agency to promote the export of toys from India.

Vachani, who is also the Chairman of Weston Electronics Limited, a leading manufacturer and exporter of toys, said India's toy industry was a relatively new entrant in the export market and its promotion would play a very important role to project India as sourcing base for different kinds of toys amongst the buyers and importers in the global market.

Keeping in mind the export potential of toys, the ESC has identified the United States,

Britain, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan and the Middle East as the thrust markets, he said.

Vachani, who recently led an Indian delegation of toy manufacturers and exporters to the Middle East, said they received encouraging response from buyers and many contracts to supply toys were under serious negotiation.

At present, the share of toy exports to the total export of India is less than one percent. But this is likely to increase to 8% before the turn of the century when India's presence would be felt in the over 60 billion dollars global market.

Vachani said Japan, which had emerged as a new market for Indian toys in 1992-93, continued to hold the lion's share of 22.9% in 1993-94, followed by Sweden 12.1%, the United States 11.9%, and Germany 10.2%. Other major destinations for India toys include the UAE, France, Hong Kong and Britain, in that order of importance.

The increasing world demand for toys, the ESC Chairman said, offered great opportunity to the manufacturers and exporters of toys in India. Global trade in toys has risen by 38.3% - from 36 billion dollars in 1990 to 50 billion dollars in 1992. In 1994 the trade was over 60 billion dollars and by the end of the century, it is likely to exceed 100 billion dollars.

As far as global export is concerned, Vachani said, Hong Kong was the single largest supplier of toys contributing 36%. Other major suppliers are China 14.7%, the United States 8.2%, Japan 8%, and Germany 4.7%. India does not feature among the big

league countries, not as yet, any way.

Though the top six supplying countries account for 70% of the global supply, their percentage increase in value terms had not remained impressive as compared to emerging developing exporting countries such as Indonesia, India, Malaysia, and the UAE.

Vachani said South Korea, which had emerged as a main competitor in recent years, witnessed a negative growth of 39%. China, another major competitor, is facing quota restrictions from European countries.

Suddenly, the acceptability of Indian toys in the international market has come to a level where if properly nurtured, it can become one of the largest export items from the country.

One of the many advantages, which goes in favor of Indian manufacturers and exporters is that some of the leading supplying countries like South Korea and Germany, because of high wage cost, are vacating the production of toys and are looking for an alternative of production base in other developing countries to take advantage of cheap labor.

Vachani said, "Though export of toys from India has gone up seven times from Rs 15.7 million in 1991-92 to Rs 108 million in 1993-94, the toy industry remained neglected till recent years. Even today the industry is faced with a number of problems including inadequate infrastructural support, high rates of sales tax, lack of research and development support and test certification and high rate of import duties on raw materials."

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Special, Special, Special

The Arab Bank Expands Its Services In Yemen



Mr. Khalid Shooman, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and General Manager of the Arab Bank Group arrived to Sana'a with a high level delegation from the banking group's management on Friday, the 7th of June 1996 on a business trip which will last for a few days. It is expected that Mr. Shooman will meet with leading figures in the financial community in the private, as well as in the public sector to discuss various ways the Arab Bank can participate in boosting the Yemeni economy in the wake of the economic, financial and administrative reforms, which the Republic of Yemen is presently implementing. In addition Mr. Shooman will discuss the projects which the Arab Bank can participate in financing, especially in the private sector as Yemen proceeds on the path towards privatization. Mr. Shooman was greeted by the Minister of Finance, Eng. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Junaid and dignitaries from the Central Bank of Yemen.

Mr. Shooman pointed out in his comment to the press upon arrival that his visit to Yemen comes in the wake of the Arab Bank's high interest in Yemen and the special attention the senior management of the Arab Bank gives to Yemen. The visit, Mr. Shooman states, provides an opportunity for the Arab Bank to evaluate the situation in the Republic of Yemen and study the prospects for further Arab Bank participation in the investment projects that will help to boost the Yemeni economy and provide opportunities for increasing the available jobs that will reduce the unemployment rate considerably. Mr. Shooman was asked, in a special interview with the Yemen Times, on the projects he envisages the Arab Bank to participate in financing in the Republic of Yemen, to which he responded: "The Arab Bank has expanded considerably in the Republic of Yemen. We have four branches: Sana'a, Aden, Taz and Hodeida. Soon the new branches in Ibb and Hadramaut and two additional branches in Sana'a-Taz Road and Al-Hasaba. In the following year, we anticipate opening four additional branches. The rest of the interview follows:

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to the Republic of Yemen?
A: I intend to meet with senior government officials in the financial sector, in addition to meeting prominent members in the business community to explore possible investment prospects we can participate in financing. In addition, I plan to visit the Governorates of Ibb, Taz, Aden, Hodeida and to make site visits to the projects which the Arab Bank is actively engaged in financing in these provinces.

Q: What particular fields are these projects in?
A: We are engaged in financing several types of projects of a high investment capital calibre, which include the petroleum sector. We are especially interested in those projects that help to realize Yemen's economic ambitions.

In a comment to the YT, Mr. Mahdi Allawi, the Regional Manager of Yemen and Sana'a Branch Chief Executive Officer pointed out that the visit of the Arab Bank Vice Chairman comes in light of the recent developments in the Republic of Yemen and to have an opportunity to obtain first hand knowledge on the Arab Bank's active role in the economic and financial activities in the Republic of Yemen with a view towards assuring the Arab Bank's heavy involvement to assist in the successful implementation of the reform program and the forthcoming First Five Year Plans for the Republic after unification.

Mr. Allawi also briefed the YT on some services and activities of the Arab Bank in Yemen and

internationally.

In Yemen:

- The expansion of the branch networks as explained above.
- To upgrade the staff through extensive training programs here and abroad.
- provision of specialized banking expertise as

company with 3300 shareholders from all over the Arab World. Established in Jerusalem in 1930, the bank started with a capital of 15,000 Palestinian Pounds (Equivalent of US\$60,000, then). Today the owner's equity in the bank is well over US\$1.2 Billion

After 1948, the bank became a Jordanian registered company and has now expanded worldwide to a branch network that exceeds 300 branches, located in 45 countries in the Arab World and in the international financial centers.

The Arab Bank is a highly reputed financial institution, in view of its sound financial position and competent and reliable banking services.

A Wide Range of Banking Services:

The Arab Bank provides to its customers excellent comprehensive banking services, in addition to trade and investment finance services, whether at the personal consumer type level, or for the corporate client, the Arab Bank with its world wide network of branches and correspondent is ready and able to meet the client's financial needs, notwithstanding the size involved or the complexity of the package or deal.

The Arab Bank stands out in the conservative policy applied to the management of its sources of funds and its investments. At the same time the bank maintains high liquid position at all times

On the financial ratio side, to give the YT reader a brief idea of the sound financial position of the

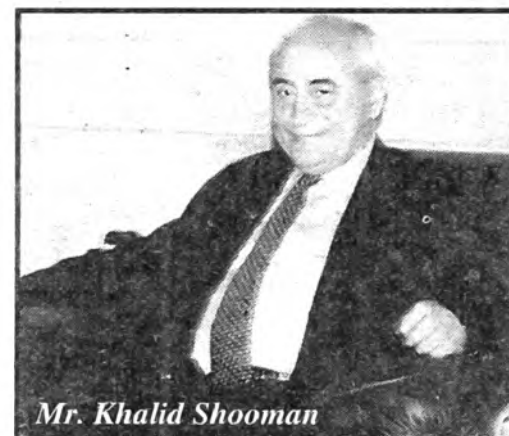
bank I am pleased to highlight some of the following indications of the financial position of the bank:

Equity/Assets = 8.5%

Equity/Liabilities = 21%

Total assets = US\$15 Billions

Most of the sources of funds for the bank's assets come from fixed or long term deposits, stated the Yemeni Regional Branch Manager of the Arab Bank, which he added reflects the confidence of the customers in the bank's steadfast financial position and the bank's reliability and security, which is the result of many years of experience in the financial markets of the Arab World and the rest of the world.



Mr. Khalid Shooman

Pioneers in Arab Banking

The Arab Bank strives continuously to upgrade its standards and to innovate in the field of banking to maintain its reputation and the high expectations of its customers of being able to provide the latest available banking services. If they are not available, then you can be sure that the Arab Bank will make them available.

needed for complex financial packages especially for capital intensive projects.

-introduction of **Automated Banking Services** which provide 24 hour banking services to all our customers throughout the Republic.

- **The Talking Bank** will enable the bank's customer to call the bank at anytime to know his/her balances with the bank for all the accounts maintained with the Arab Bank and other services which are produced by this service.

-Inter-branch Banking Services, whereby the customer can be availed of banking services throughout opportunities branch network throughout the Republic thanks to centralized computer facilities linked to all our branches in Yemen.

-**Visa Credit Card Service**, which will be available to exceptional customers of the bank who can enjoy the service of Visa CC's anywhere in the world.

-Immediate Transfers and Checks issued by National Arab Bank in Saudi Arabia and which can be processed and cashed within a 24 hour period.

The bank strives hard to assure itself a presence in the economic activity of the Republic which will provide professional, modern services to all its clients wherever they are and for what ever banking needs they may have almost on a 24 hour basis.

The Arab Bank: Makers of Success

Brief Background:

The Arab Bank is an Arab shareholding



هدية صحيفة اليمن تايمز

الشهيد ابراهيم محمد الحمدي



AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 13-6-96

(Yemeni Congregation For Reform)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Al-Mukalla Incident Fact Finding Committee Completes Its Tasks
- 2) The Scientific Society in the Information (Media) Section Responds to the Lies and Sana'a University Confirms the Ban on "Co-Ed" Trips (Mixed Sexes)
- 3) Urbakan: A Star In the Turkish Skies

Article Summary:

Yemen's Islamic Relics in Danger

In its backage regular interview corner, "The Circle of Light, the paper interviewed Doctor Noha Sadik, the Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies in Sana'a.

Dr. Sadik gave a brief background of the Center: The Center started in 1978 and is geared to assist university researchers, especially from the US conduct research on the political social and historical development of Yemen, since Yemen is regarded as an important ancient center for civilization and human cultural development. The Institute is an NGO, funded by US Universities and other philanthropic societies. The Institute is not attached to the US Embassy.

While the Institute has been helpful to many American and Western researchers, the Institute has also arranged scholarships for Yemeni students who carry out research on Yemen and who wish to advance their research capability. The Egyptian born Canadian Citizen, who heads the Institute or Center stated that the center strives to become a connecting link between Yemeni scholars and researchers with American and Western researchers.

The Institute normally conducts a contest for Yemenis wishing to obtain scholarships.

On the suspicions that sometimes are raised about such institutes Dr. Sadik (Ms) said that these centers are actually useful in promoting international cooperation and understanding. The fears arise due to the suspicions that the centers are fronts for intelligence gathering - leftover fears from imperialism.

Dr. Sadik also pointed out that Yemeni historical relics are threatened since many lie in inhabited areas and are subject to renovations which either are improper or damaging.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Twice Weekly) 12-6-96



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Parliament Cancels Its Previous Resolutions Regarding the Al-Mukalla Disturbances
- 2) The President Affirms the Necessity of Subjecting those Who Exceeded Acceptable norms To Accountability And That Peaceful Protest Marches Are Permissible and Must Be Protected.
- 3) The Confiscation of the Sana'a University Professors Housing Complex Plots of Land by the Air Force.
- 4) The Return of the Confiscated Lands of the Sultan of Lahij.

Article Summary:

1) Vice Minister of Interior Release Prisoners

During his inspection tour of the Ministry of Interior's branches and organs in Aden and when calling upon Al-Mansoura Prison, the Vice Minister, Rank Brig Col Muthhar Rashad Al-Misry issued instructions for the release of all prisoners who have completed their sentences.

On the other hand, Al-Misry also requested the prosecution to follow up and deal with all those pending cases where arrests are involved and the prisoners are awaiting the finalization of the judicial proceedings.

2) The Arrest of a Sheep Thief

The Criminal Investigation Dept. was able to apprehend a notorious sheep thief, employed with the Governorate of Lahij's Agriculture Department in Tiban District (Lahij). The 37 year old, father of 6, has been accused of stealing at least 62 heads of sheep from various provinces.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 13-6-1996

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Hadhramout: The Rulers in Confrontation With the People
- 2) Torture of a Citizen Until Death by Security

Forces, Whose Corpse Was Thrown In the Garbage Barrel

- 3) Amnesty International Investigates Violations of Women's Rights In Yemen
- 4) A Suicide, Because of Being Unable To See His Children Die of Hunger

Article Summary:

Wisdom . . . Not Bullets

In its opening editorial the paper criticizes the government for the improper approach towards dealing with the country's problems. The problems of the country: security, corruption and general chaos cannot be dealt with by issuing accusations against the YSP and other opposition parties, which seems to be the only approach the government knows. The reliance on force will not achieve national reconciliation and the end of the Civil War's after effects.

The incidents in Mukalla confirm the government's stubborn dependence on persecution, which only leads to increased tension and loss of public confidence.

The history of Yemen - as 2 separate states and after unity - has proven that violence only breeds further violence. But the rulers still insist on ignoring the lessons of the past where it can be seen that the problems confronting national unity are in need of more practical and pragmatic approaches which are still possible and within the capabilities of the government to pursue. The YSP believes, said the paper, that through subjecting the nation's problem to the logic of the mind rather than issuing accusations of treason or infidelity, there is still hope.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 12-6-96

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Parliament Summons the Minister of Interior and Justice and Prosecutor General (Attorney General) for Al Mukalla Incidents
- 2) In Amran: Over 250 Hit with Food Poisoning

- 3) Abyan Floods Damage 500 Thousand Feddans of Agricultural Land
- 4) International Humanitarian Law Seminar: Confirms the Necessity of Putting an End to the Spread of Violence and Armed Confrontations in The World.

Television Coverage

Referring to the Sana'a Branch Inaugural General Association Meeting of the Journalists Union, and the TV Channel One coverage of the highly politicized event, the paper comments on the over extended attention of the camera lens on the "owners" (the TV bureaucrats). This detailed focus on the top brass of Channel One Management and their peers has been noticed on many similar occasions in the past where people of the Media are assembled, to make the Channel One Team appear to be the "Stars" of the event.

SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 13-6-96

(Mouthpiece of the Military):

Main Headlines:

1) Council of Ministers:

- Approves Minutes and Pacts of Last Egypt-Yemen Joint Committees Sessions
- Approves Public Works Create Arab IDA (US \$25 Million)
- Approves Emergency Water Supply Credit From IDA (US \$ 10.2 million)
- Approves the Establishment of the Yemeni Center for Social Work Research

(Editor's note: The Title Stated that the "Council of Ministers Approves Credit Loans of US \$48.2 Millions. Somebody is not adding right)

2) Bajammal: "The Industrial Area of Aden Will Be Designed to Take In 500 Manufacturing Plants."

3) Final Talks With Gas Partners on 19 June

Article Summary:

It Is The YT, Again . . . and Again!

In its backage, the paper again attacks the Yemen Times and its Chief Editor, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (but this time mildly), especially on the recent investigative report on the Mukalla rape case (see Issue 24), where the Yemen Times recognizes that they may have been misled in the case, according to 26 September. (Editor: The YT, in the report presented the case from the viewpoints of the victims and the government. It will be up to the Court and the wise reader to pass judgements accordingly.)

Letters to the Editor

"Homeland among Tears and Hope"

How long you have been suffered and grieved; My Homeland. You have been having a flow blood and shedding tears for three decades.

Your insensitive sons destroyed you, lacerated your meat, pulverized your bones, deformed you before they built you up, pulled your fruitful trees out and planted

malign shrubs instead of. In spite of their vile actions they did not content and started to accuse the honest and patriotic sons with treason.

It is unfair to persecute you; to torture you is an imperious inhuman gesture; to lose your properties and break your laws and disciplines for which you paid so much is a pardonable treason; to insult your patriots is almost a horrible crime. But what is happening to you what shall we call it? My dear homeland.

your insensitive sons are contenting together for the sake of conserving and adhering their positions and finally get into disgusting and unbearable solutions. The poisonous doses are inflicted on the the poor and simple sons of you. "My Homeland"

No doubt Homeland, you are not only burning with the fire of anger against those sons, but certainly also those who are their propaganda agents who have lost the capacity for suffering and whose souls involve absolutely no emotion, no feeling, no excitement and therefore can not make suffer. And finally you're burning with the fire of lamentation, grief, suffering, dejection and despair towards the poorest one.

My Homeland

Your groaning has filled throughout the land and your tears filled the seas over, but prospect hope is the ground leveler.

My Homeland!

Is there a pleasant life beyond this?

Is there shadow of hope beyond despair?

Long life, long life, best for My Homeland.

By: Abdu Abdullah Ahmed Al Mahagri.
Taiz.

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your article entitled "Four-Week Intensive Training of Midwives" (Yemen Times, June 3-9, 1996) reporting on the opening of a workshop sponsored by USAID and Jon Snow, Inc. Your interest in our efforts to help the Ministry of Public Health improve the delivery of health services to the women and children of Yemen is greatly appreciated. I am sorry that your report did not actually attend the opening of the workshop, and I therefore want to provide some small clarification of two items in your story.

First, your report that His Excellency the Minister of Health Dr. Najib Ghanem "kicked off" the workshop. Dr. Ghanem was not able to personally attend the workshop opening, but we were very fortunate to have Undersecretary of Health Dr. Ahmed Makki, Undersecretary of Health Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Gunaid, Director General of Health (Hadh-

ramaut Governorate) Dr. Ghaleb Bil Qasir, and other dignitaries. Second, it is unfortunate that the quote you attribute to one of the workshop participants might lead the naive reader to think that the midwives and other health professionals attending the workshop are primarily interested in the "financial incentives" associated with their participation. On the contrary, we find that these participants are motivated to work long days and evenings by their desire to be better trainers and thereby improve health services for women and children.

In any case, the small hotel and meal allowance that they are given hardly constitute a "financial incentive". I hope that in future articles about the problems and progress of the health care system in Yemen, that the Yemen Times will take the time to talk to some of these dedicated professionals and learn what really keeps them coming back to work in such difficult circumstances every day.

Again, thank you for your demonstration of support for the improvement of maternal and child health.

Thomas W. Hardy
Chief of Party Options for Family Care.
John Snow, Inc.

Dear Editor,

I would like to contribute to what

is being said and written regarding QAT.

Much has been said of the mischief of this devil plant, but less of its remedy! In this short attribute I shall put some suggestions to start with hence the 100 kms. could be ended by taking the first step, as the Chinese proverb says.

- 1- The Government should issue a law prohibiting Qat in official and semi-official offices with penalty on those who disobey.
- 2- The Government should issue decisions prohibiting youngsters, under 21 years of age from chewing Qat and smoking. N.B. Most advanced countries now started to force such laws specially on youngsters in order to save them from deterioration and diseases. Not to mention our Islamic teachings in this regard.
- 3- To restrict spaces used to raise this plant substituting them for beneficent products. Finally when this stage is succeeded, the Government could then shift to the second stage of totally prohibiting and abolishing this phenomenon from this country.

Alternatively, the government should introduce or create more athletic clubs, Social Clubs, public gardens, children's parks etc. to encourage the youth and the others to spent their spare times with their families in useful things on hobbies.

Deya Al-Sabal
Sana'a.

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- التقليل من أعطال محرك سيارتك؟
- المحافظة على البيئة؟

أنت تبحث إذن بالتاكيد عن الجهاز العبقري الجديد **فيول ماكس**

فقط الإحدث التطورات العلمية بالولايات المتحدة الأمريكية تم التوصل إلى أن إحراق أقل كمية من الوقود المتأين يولد أكبر كمية من الطاقة وهو ما يقوم به جهاز فيول ماكس والذي يعمل بالطاقة الكهرومغناطيسية فيعمل على تأين الوقود قبل دخوله إلى الكاربوريتور إلى البخاخ ويحقق لك ما يدفك بالفعل

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June 17th, 1996

UK Classical Pianist Plays in Yemen

British Musician Anthony Peebles, a fine British Classical Piano player, came on a cultural tour to Yemen, which took him to Aden and then to Sana'a. The Yemen Times Aden Bureau filed the interview with the famous UK musician.

Q: Can you give us a brief account of your biography?

A: I started to learn music at the age of three in the UK. I had some problems but I was able to overcome them quickly. I have dedicated my whole life to classical music, and I was fixed on mastering the art to the top limit I can pursue. I have been honored by the receipt of many international awards, in a relatively short time. I have visited 111 countries in the world, Mozambique being the last one, before Yemen.

Q: What is your program in the Republic of Yemen?

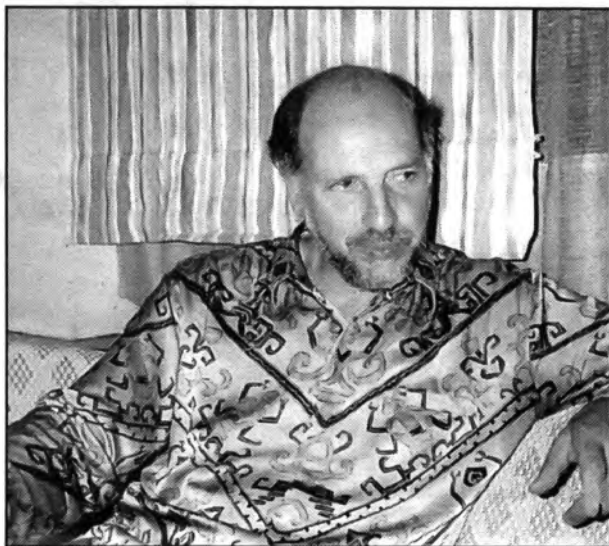
A: I had visited Sana'a before, but this is the first time I have visited Aden. I have heard of Aden a long time ago, and have always desired an opportunity to visit it. There are some similarities between the UK and Aden. I was told. But now that I am here, I could not find the similarities, as Aden is relatively a new city. I have given two concerts, one in Movenpick Aden Hotel and the other at the Sana'a Sheraton. The people who are organizing these concerts are the Yemeni-British Cultural Council and the British Consulate in Aden, as well as the Aden Movenpick and Sheraton Hotels.

Q: What are your plans after Yemen?

A: I will go on a concert tour in Africa and the Middle East which will last for two months.

Q: What made you opt for classical music?

A: The environment I grew up in contained lovers of classical music as well as lovers of Santana or Madonna. However classical music is the finest music one can hear or play because it becomes deeply implanted inside the body as one plays or hears it. As for Pop music, it is merely just for listening pleasure. Classical music is music that lives with you.



Q: What are your views on Arabic music?

A: Arabic Music is beautiful and has a special flavor all its own. I have heard it, but I cannot relate to it, because I cannot understand it, since I came from a totally different culture. Some of the Arabic music I have heard include Um Kolsoum and Fairuz, which have a special attraction to them, and both produce fine artistic music. Arabic music has a beautiful spirit to it.

Q: In the 111 countries you have visited, how do you find the reaction to classical music?

A: Of course the matter pertains to relativity, as each country has its own artistic character. However classical music seems to have a universal appeal, with Europe, of course, having the more receptive audiences.

Q: What are your impressions of Yemen and Aden?

A: Yemen is a country with a deep rooted cultural heritage. Aden is a beautiful city and has undergone many changes since independence. There is a cosmopolitan culture mix that is apparent. I pray for Yemen's continued success and prosperity.

Yemen Participates in the 8th Youth World Travel Program

The government of Japan invited youth from 13 countries from Asia, Europe and Africa to participate in a global journey, which started on January 19th 1996. A total of 300 young persons from Bangladesh, Belgium, Egypt, Japan, Kenya, Norway, Poland, Qatar, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen participated.

The journey was launched from Harami Pier (Tokyo port) around the world via South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, and Tanzania. Japan organized this global voyage to foster mutual understanding among the youth all over the world. Knowing each other closely, acquiring new knowledge and skills, appreciating different cultures and different traditions, better understanding different religions, and building friendships worldwide are among the main objectives.

Every year Japan selects countries to participate in such program.

The Nippon Maru is the name of the ship which sailed with the youths. Each group made presentations from its native culture and traditions. On February 5th, 1996, we presented Yemen's folklore, traditions, dances and songs. We represented Yemen proudly.

During the voyage, the holy month of Ramadhan came. We fasted while we were sailing across the Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific ocean.

One of the high points of the trip was a meeting was arranged with the Crown Prince of Japan and the prime minister of Japan. The Crown prince was an impressive young man. He struck me as a very cultured person who reads a lot. He knew a lot about Islam and various aspects of our culture.

I taught the Holy Quran on the ship. I explained the essence of Islam to many participants from various countries. Many of them responded and relished the lessons of Islam. I felt many better understood our religion and changed their wrong impressions. We too learned quite a few things about other cultures and religions. It was indeed a very useful and pleasant voyage. Thanks to Japan's government.

By: Abdulla Al-Kibsi
National Leader in the Program, Yemen.

OPEN REPORT



"There are many obstructions which impede the development of sport in Yemen."

Mr. Mohammed Abdo Alwaly, adviser of Ministry of Youth and Sports is the first Yemeni to obtain a diploma in the field of sports and youth, from Egypt in 1962. He has many years of experiences about the position of

sports and youth.

On the position of sports in Yemen,

Mr. Mohammed Abdo-Alwaly explains: "There are four essential components which are necessary to support the development of sports and youth in Yemen. They are: planning, financing, - good trainers and other personnel as well as adequate facilities. These components are inter-connected.

Planning which entails long and short term training programs, administrative considerations, statistics .. etc. Planning must be connected to the Ministry of Youth and Sports by the other youth sectors like the Ministry of Education and Sana'a University, military sport associations, in order to attend to all the youth in our country. We definitely need good planning techniques in the area of sports and youth development.

On the Finance component, the need is there for sport facilities, training, organization of sports events to qualify trainers and referees, administrations ... etc. But we get little financing from the government, which is not enough to cover all the increasing activities in the field of sport and youth. The government has tried to solve the financial shortage when it made the Civil Finance Fund to support sport activity for youth and the sports institute to get the well qualified. It is a good first step from the government and we hope more steps like this.

The third component is well-qualified personnel, which means the administrators, coaches, referees, sport experts. We have a few well-qualified personnel and many of them do not have enough experience, so they cannot give more support and development to the Yemen Sport.

The availability of adequate facilities for training and execution of sports events on a nation-wide basis also is an essential component which still requires a lot of attention.

Thus it can be seen that much is needed to make sure that these four components are available to develop the youth and sports sector.

Jamal Al-Awadi, Sports Editor
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