

# YEMEN

Pages 5.



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of July, when in 1994, the plagued difficulties because pointing to the YSP and unionist forces finally of the burden of the civil captured Aden, President war. "Those who are the country. Ali Abdullah Saleh stressed responsible for the war will

President Saleh Sends a Double-edged Message:

"We are going ahead with the trials.

But channels remain open."

On the occasion of the 7th that the country was have to pay," he said other leadership who fled

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World Report on the WFP in Yemen: Linking Democratization Process. Relief & Development. Page 7.

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The Big Guys Agree on the Results, and Then Make Elections Yield Them:

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Director-General of Aden

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# e Deal

**Amnesty Talks about Concerns** 

and Opportunities in Yemen

The People's General Congress (PGC) with a decided control over the political system - is calling the shots. It is now negotiating a deal with the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) with the aim of coordinating efforts in the 1997 parliamentary elections.

The PGC and Islah aproach the elections of 1997 as a legitimizing factor of the results of the civil war, and a mechanism for the victorious side to consolidate its grip over power.

In the current house, the PGC and Islah control about 200 of the 301 seats or about 67%. The two parties aim to control 250 votes in the next house or some 83%.

Towards that end, a deal between them is gradually taking form on the following grounds:

a- The PGC will collect 150 seats under its name, and another 20 under the names of small allied parties. The PGC will also receive Islah support for the re-election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in the 1998 presidential elections.

b- Islah will collect 85 seats, plus retain chairmanship of the House. Islah will also retain partnership in government.

c- The two partners will thus set aside

In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times, Mr. Derek

Evans, the Assistant Secretay-

General of Amnesty Inter-

national, said that the organization raised many cases with the Yemeni authorities. "We are

here not only to express concern over certain patterns of human rights violations that are developing, but also to indicate that the country has a great opportunity to move ahead and lead the way in the Middle

Evans, alongwith three other colleagues from Amnesty,

stressed the organization's drive for independent and

impartial assessment of human

rights conditions all over the

Full text on page 2

East," he indicated.

world.

some 45 seats under the category of others; i.e., the Yemeni Socialist Party, Nasserites, the other small parties, and independents.

d- The two partner parties will work to downsize the YSP to a total of 20 seats. This is especially its presence in the Southern/Eastern governorates. However, this is proving to more difficult than anticipated. Although the people in the Southern/Eastern governorates had a grudge against the YSP due its violent and repressive rule between 1967 and 1994, the horrors the people have seen at the hands of the Northern rulers over the last two years have been worse. Therefore, anti-YSP feelings are now overshadowed by anti-Northern sentiments, as a recent Islah survey has shown.

e- The independents will be downsized to about 10. Independents should gain due to widespread public disenchantment with political parties of all colors. The PGC and Islah will see to it that doesn't happen.

Meanwhile, voter registeration is in fullswing all over the republic. So far, some one million persons have already registered in various governorates.

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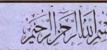


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## **Laying Down the Foundation for Elections**

Last week, registration was underway of voters for the coming parliamentary elections. Citizens were encouraged to visit one of hundreds of registration centers all over the country in order to fill up the proper form, and obtain a permanent voting card which will be an identification requirement during the voting

The response of the public has been good, although more encouragement will be required from the elders of community, political parties, and public figures. Citizens need to be shown that registration is a duty as well as a right. The enticement will be even more important regarding female voters and those in

According to the population numbers, there are some 15 million Yemenis inside the country, with another 1.5 million temporary immigrants working abroad. Of the 15 million, 40% are eligible voters (18 years and older). That yields about six million potential voters. In other words, the number of people who register must be measured against this number.

As a world average, the number of people who register for elections is roughly two thirds of the eligible voters. If we take that as an indicator for Yemen, it means that the total number of registrants for the 1997 parliamentary elections should be close to 4 million. These numbers fit well with the targets of the Supreme Elections Committee, which, by the way, is working overtime to do a good job.

The first phase of the registration process will be completed next week. For those who miss out, the process will be repeated in August. In other words, for individuals travelling abroad, or sick, or unable for whatever reason to complete their registration, there will be another chance next month. This is fair and logical in order to give all citizens a chance.

The next step will be to conclude the geographic boundaries of the constituencies. Some changes have taken place, partly to merge former border regions between the two former Yemens, and partly in response to social, tribal and terrain considerations. Again here, objective logic has guided the work of the Supreme Elections Committee.

The Supreme Elections Committee must, however, take certain steps to stop manipulation by the rulers. For example, the use of the official media, government money, and troop movement within the country should be regulated in order to deny any one party or group special advantages. In some governorates, for example Al-Maharah, the total number of troops stationed there, and therefore they have the right to vote there, is just about equal to the total number of local voters - about 8,000 in each case. This will affect the outcome visibly.

Finally, the Supreme Elections Committee should nominate people to take charge of the elections committee and subcommittees on the assurance that they can





An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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#### **Nasserite Party Urges** Yemenis to Register for Voting

The Central Committee of the Nassserite Unionist Party, held its fifth round of talks during 4-6/7/1996 under the chairmanship of the party's secretary-general, Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlafi.

At the end of its deliberations, the party called on all Yemenis, especially its members, to register and obtain voting cards. The party also called on the two ruling parties to create the atmosphere that will allow a fair competition for all candidates in the elections process.

Finally, the Nasserites called on the state to pursue all means in order to regain the Yemeni island

#### **New Japanese Grant** Aid for Debt Relief

The Government of Japan and Yemen signed notes according to which the Government of Japan provides the Government of Yemen with a grant aid of 970.1 million yens.

Since 1979, the Government of Japan has provided Yemen with 7.5 billion yens in grant aids for debt relief.

#### Continued Flood Relief

The Republic of Yemen has ben receiving a steady flow of flood aid - in kind and in cash. Recently, the State of Qatar, UAE, Iran, Jordan, and Oman have been among the leading countries to fly in supplies of food, blankets and medicine.

Meanwhile, a system of distribution has been put in place in the regions affected by the floods. The government has been trying hard to minimize leakage of the goods.

#### Contractors' Sit-in at Libyan Embassy

Six of the country's largest contractors occupied the Libyan Embassy for days in a row last week. The sit-in was triggered by the Libyan authorities refusal to pay the last installment on construction contracts of the Unity Housing Complex in Sanaa.

The contractors claim their dues, which are mounting because of interest, are estimated at \$20

Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Asbahi, one of the six, told the Yemen Times that they are victims of Libyan change of mind (and of heart) regarding the project. The project was intended as Libya's contribu-tion to smoothen Yemeni unity. Since the Yemenis fought it out, the smoothening was irrelevant. To add insult to injury, the victorious party in the Yemeni fight decided to change the beneficiaries from the Libyan housing project.

their dues are settled, they will shift the confrontation with the Libyan authorities to additional and more serious levels

#### Cont'd from p. 1: President Saleh...

In reference to relations with Saudi Arabia, the president indi-cated that although the talks continue, very little progress has been achieved. He repeated an earlier demand that top-level meetings decide on the issues, and then committee can work out the details.

The Yemeni president also reaffirmed that parliamentary elections will take place on time, and that there will not be delayed. "But that is up to the Supreme Elections Committee," he said. Meanwhile, he urged citizens to complete their registration.

#### Continued from page 1:

# AMNESTY ...



#### Text of Interview: Q: What is your impression inyour first visit to Yemen?

A: My overall impression is that a lot of changes have taken place in Yemen due to major upheavals in society. We are here because of concerns of human

violations, and because we see an

#### Q: What specifically are your main concerns?

A: Amnesty is here to deal with a number of specific cases, and to see how the authorities are responding to them.

There are three broad categories of concern:

#### a: Arbitrary Detention:

There is a practice of arbitrary detention that exists in Yemen. We want the authorities to take action against those who violate the rights of others and who do so with impunity, at the moment. b: Torture:

Given the information we have, torture seems to be an integral part of police interrogation process. The government needs an assertive program of education within the police force. It tunity for further progress.

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also needs to set up some kind of very active monitoring.

Also prison conditions in general, and female prisons in particular, are of concern to us. c: Execution:

Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty. We know that Yemen is guided by a dif-ferent set of values and rules in this regard. We expressed our concern, especially since proper procedures and due process may not be followed in full.

#### Q: Why is the Assistant Secretary-General of Amnesty in

A: I am here to engage in dialogue with the government. am not here because Yemen is a worst case violator of human rights in the world. To say that would be a distortion. We are serious to bring to the attention of the government our concerns in the many individual cases.

But we are here to appeal to the government for changes, to build on the government's proclaimed commitment for human rights. We want the government to take steps and to engage this opporFinally we are here in solidarity with the persons and groups who promote human rights.

#### Q: Let us talk about cases. Can you give us examples?

A: First there is unlawful arrest and/or detention. We know of many people in Abyan, Aden, Taiz, etc. who were arrested for no legal reason. The Political Security Office uses such practice to intimidate people to toe the line. We are not against the arrest itself. We ask the authorities to respect the law.

Another thing is that people are being beaten by unidentified agents. The number of people who apparently suffered these experiences is large, and this is of concern to us. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf is an example of this.

#### Q: What about Mansour Rajih? A: We visited Mansour Rajih and spoke about his case to the governor of Taiz and the Speaker Parliament. The Speaker produced a leader which he said was Mr. Rajih's confession to the crime. Given the many irregularities, we feel the proper approach





# Mohammed Saleh Turaiq:

# "We inherited a big mess in Aden. But we are gradually cleaning the place."

The situation in Aden has been likened to a boiling pot. One day, the top will blow off. Thus, Aden could be the country's next time bomb. But others see Aden from a totally different angle. They see it as the goose that will lay the country's golden eggs. They talk of the free port and the possibilities at the free zone.

The difference between the two scenarios is largely going to depend on the security situation. That is the job of Colonel Mohammed Saleh Turaiq, Director-General of Security in Aden. Turaiq, a native of Sanaa Governorate, is a career officer. He has been able to develop contacts and blend in with the Adeni society very well. While he commands awe, he is also aware of the sensitivities of the local population.

He spend a full hour talking to Ismail Al-Ghabry of Yemen Times last week.

#### Excerpts.

share of security troubles. Could you give us an overview of the situation?

A: I would like to thank Yemen Times for its field visits and leg-

Regarding security in Aden, you will note that we inherited a very difficult situation. From the days of the colonial past, to the dark ages of the communist rule of the South, to the secessionists, we were left with a lot of chaos. But more importantly, we were left with a situation where there is a lot of bad feelings. Everybody seems to have a deep grudge about everybody else.

We have been trying patiently to resolve these problems. I believe we have come a long way. Of course, we know many people are blaming us for the problems. But it is no secret that these problems are not our own doing, we just inherited them.

Even then, we are going to continue to find solutions.

Q: Aden has had more than its Q: People, especially from the North, are coming down here to lay claim to everything in Aden, notably real estate. How are handling this?

A: Ownership of land in Aden is a big puzzle. You see, any one piece of property has changed hands many times. Before independence, there could have an owner or even no owner. Then the state confiscated and nationalized everything. Then it was redistributed. During 1969, a lot of property changed hands. Then in 1986, the same property and more, changed owners. The same thing happened after 1994.

All the time, the newly victorious party lays new claim to property. Technically, this is not our problem. There are other authorities, that should address this matter. We only get involved when and if parties use force or

violence to push their views. Let me say that 80% of our time



Q: Honestly speaking, there are many powerful individuals who literally do what they want. Do you have the ability to stand up to them, or are forced to look the other way?

A: I agree there are many viola-tions and irregularities. We are aware of powerful and influential individuals and groups who call

Within our resources, we try to do what we can. Often this is not enough. Therefore, addressing such situations requires a political will and coordination.

tors coming here is a joke under these circumstances?

A: The environment for a free zone is gradually being created. It is a gradual process. There is no magic wand

We are trying hard to do our bit, and others should do theirs, including you in the media.

Q: You personally are accused of bullying human rights activists such as Badr Ba-Sunaid. What do you say to that?

A: What happened with Badr Ba-Sunaid was taken out of context. Sometimes, certain individuals they render. In the final analysis. there will always some friction here and there. We expect people to have an open mind and appre-

ciate what we are trying to do. In all sincerity and honesty, our mission is an impossible one. It is possible for people to curse us, and they do. But I challenge them to come and see what we do. Given the background and the built-in animosity, you are damned whatever you do, and even if you don't.

Q: What are your main problems?

confusion understandings at all levels. In Aden, a city which was the model of law and order, we had a situation of extreme lawlessness. We have overcome those circumstances, and now, we are back to an acceptable level of discipline and system.

#### Q: How easily did you adapt to life in Aden?

A: I am a soldier, and it is part of my training to adapt to all kinds of different circumstances. In Aden, the people are extremely friendly, and it is easy to develop close relations.

Besides, I am not totally alien. After all, Aden is a Yemeni city and I am a Yemeni. So I have adjusted well.

#### Q: Any special message you want to given.

A: Yes, I have three messages to

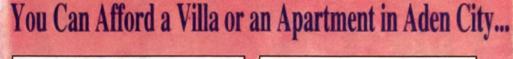
a. Those who love Yemen, and specially Aden, will join our hands to make this place safe, calm, peaceful and stable. It is only under such circumstances that it can flourish and grow. Progress and prosperity can only be achieved if we have peace and

b. I would like to use the occasion of the 7th of July - the day when our unity was ransomed with our blood - to ransomed with our blood congratulate our people and lead-

c. Finally, I would like to thank the Yemen Times for this opportunity. Although I have my differences with the paper, I respect

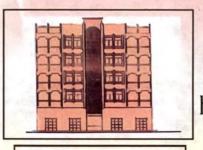




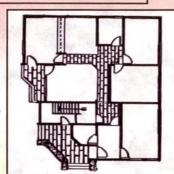








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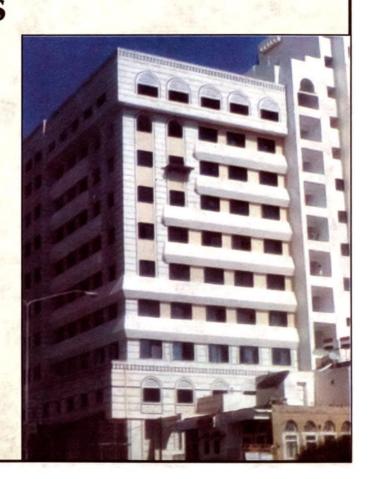
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# An Assessment of the Transformation of the World:

# FREEDOM'S FITFUL TIDE

Background:

The democratic revolution that has swept the world since 1989 seems to suggest that a dramatically greater number of people in the world are today experiencing the fruits of freedom. But a 1995 report by Freedom House, a new York-based human rights organization, says that only 76 out of 191 countries are free.

The study was based on a comparison of each country's political rights and civil liberties. And while this number of better-off countries represents an increase over that of the previous year, the overwhelming majority of people in the world are still not free.

According to the Freedom House study, only 20% of the world's population live in one of the 76 free nations. In other words, 80% of people worldwide enjoy middling little or freedom.

Why is freedom absent, or, at best, slippery, in more than 100 countries? Before we can advance the cause of freedom, we need to understand the factors that have undermined liberty in these political systems. There are several factors, including social and political strife, that are hurdles to freedom in struggling countries:-

- Many nations, such as Russia and the Eurasian states, are having rough transitions from communism and other dictatorships to true democracy.

 Crime, corruption, and drug-dealer penetration of politics- notably in Latin America- corrode many of the benefits of freedom.

- Military involvement in politics (e.g., Guatemala) and outright military government (e.g., Nigeria) always collide with freedom.

 In many developing countries, notably in Africa and Asia, dictators and pseudo-democrats use widespread vote fraud and lesser irregularities to thwart the popular will.

 Generally, widespread poverty makes freedom difficult but not impossible. Several small island countries in the Caribbean and the Pacific are comparatively poor but manage to remain free.

- The political ramifications of fundamentalists are a serious obstacle to freedom throughout north Africa and the Middle East.

#### 1993: Year of the Big Decline:

In the years since 1989, there have been many heartening gains for freedom in the world. However, there have also been some dramatic downturns.

During 1993, Freedom House measured a sharp increase in not-free countries. Their number increased from 38 to 55, as ethic and religious conflicts intensified and as many nations slipped off the road to democratization. Of the 27 countries that changed categories, moving among free, partly free, and not free, only three moved in a positive direction.

The lesson of 1993 was that severe, negative change can occur even in the midst of a global democratic revolution. Many governments showed that they were simply going through the motions of democratization for the sake of foreign aid.

A case in point was Kenya. That country's president, Daniel arap Moi, allowed party free multiparty elections to take place in December 1993. However, it was clear in 1993 that he had no intention of letting the new opposition parties function completely freely. Accordingly, Freedom House had to move the country's rating from partly free to not free.

Viewing the declines in 1993, Freedom House analysts wondered whether the post-1993 democratic revolutions was over. Fortunately, that was not the case. Democracy continued to make gains in 1994, but, overall, gains and declines were about equal last year (1995). Twenty-two countries had

measurable improvements in freedom, while 23 Gambia for thirty years. Islam can even be compatsuffered losses. Gambia for thirty years. Islam can even be compatible within feminine leadership. Two Islamic coun-

#### Losses in 1994:

The same factors that prevent or endanger freedom in general were also chiefly responsible for the particular losses of freedom in the 23 countries in 1994. Several countries had ethnic and religious problems that undermined freedom.

The Albanian government placed restrictions on the Greek minority in that country. In Kazakhstan, a combination of increased presidential domination and Russian-Kazakh ethnic tensions make that country not free. In both Mali and Niger, Tuareg rebellions flared up, damaging the development of these fragile, new formal democracies.

As the world watched on television and did little to stop it, Rwanda carried out ethnic carnage on a shocking scale. Turkey had increasingly restricted civil liberties as the Kurdish government war continued. Algeria became one of the worst rated countries in the world in 1994 as the violent struggle between the government and Islamists intensified. Regionalist tensions burst into civil war in Yemen in 1994. Yemen had held the promise of giving the Arab World its first truly democratic and pluralist political system. But that possibility quickly gave way to frustration and harsh realities of dictators fighting for power. The governments of the previously separate North and South fought for control. Ultimately, the tribalist military elements of the North defeated the leftist South. Since then, it has been a downhill ride for democracy in Yemen.

Crime, corruption, and drug dealer penetration of politics drove freedom down in the Western Hemisphere in 1994. Trinidad and Tobago suffered from increased criminal violence and corruption. In Colombia, drug lords continued to hold sway.

The military had measurable negative impact on freedom in 1994, especially in the Gambia, where soldiers overthrew one of the oldest democracies in Africa. Freedom sipped a notch in Paraguay as military influence over the government grew. In Lesotho, military and royalist elements overthrew a new democratic government temporarily, but international pressure, especially from South Africa restored the week democracy.

In Nigeria, the military government eviscerated those few liberties that were left in 1994.

The Kenyan, Mauritanian, and Tanzanian governments cracked down on opposition groups to varying degrees last year. All three have taken steps toward democratization but the country's political system are still fundamentally authoritarian.

#### The Worst-rated Countries:

Twenty-one countries are at the very bottom of Freedom House's not free list. In these worst rated list not free states, rights and freedom are absent or virtually nonexistent due to the extremely oppressive nature of the regime or extreme oppression in the combination with civil war.

Countries join this group when extreme violence and warlordism dominate the people in the absence of an authoritative government. Nine are communist countries (China, Cuba, North Korea, Vietnam) or formerly communist states (Afghanistan, Angola, Tajikistan, Turkmanstan, Uzbekistan).

Twelve of the 21 worst rated Muslim majorities (Afghanistan, Ageria, Iraq, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmanstan, Uzbekistan).

Islam per se is not an obstacle to freedom, but militant policies are the problem. It is possible for Islam and democracy to coexist, as they did in the Gambia for thirty years. Islam can even be compatible within feminine leadership. Two Islamic countries, Pakistan and Bangladesh, have women heads of governments.

In addition to fundamentalism, the other problem is that Islam predominates in many countries with low levels of developments. There is no doubt that underdevelopment and fundamentalist Islam make a powerfully negative mix.

When economies are unable to provide jobs and good living conditions for the Muslims, the Islamist political slogan, "Islam is the answer" can be very seductive.

In addition to the 21 worst rated countries, there are six worst rated territories. They are East Timor, Irian Jaya/ West Papua (both occupied by Indonesia), the Indian-held portion of Kashmir, Kosovo, Nagorno-Karabakh and Tibet.

These six territories share some characteristics with the worst rated countries.

#### The Giants: India and China:

The biggest population living in the world is the Chinese. As long as China remains not free, more than 20% of the world's population is not free. The legacy of communism and centuries of precommunist authoritarianism is a culture with notion of democracy. While it is true that pro-democracy currents among university intellectuals, China as a whole remains authoritarian in orientation.

Even the most optimistic scenarios about China's immediate future don't project its becoming freer than Singapore which would be an improvement but not to the level of liberal democracy. One could reasonably expect that a Singaporean China would reject liberalization on the grounds that economic development requires order instead of democracy. Freedom House decided to classify India from free

Freedom House decided to classify India from free to partly free. Several characteristics moved India into this category: religious, regionalist, and ethnic violence, emergency rule over several areas, substantial corruption and electoral irregularities.

Since Freedom House reclassified India, numerous Indians have complained to the organization about the partly free designation. Inevitably, they say that their country is the world's largest democracy and

is, therefore, free. Unfortunately, India is one of three dozen countries in the world whose formal democracy status is not enough to make it free.

In the absence of the rule of law and a decent range of civil liberties, formal democracy counts for only so much. Nonetheless, there is a strong relationship between freedom and democratic forms. Two-thirds of formal democracies, the countries with reasonably competitive elections, are free.

One can not say that about any other political system. For example, one could not state that two-thirds of countries with military juntas, traditional monarchies or one-party systems are free. There is clearly a connection between the credit India receives and its formal democratic status. India and the other partly democracies are called semi-democracies by some scholars, have multi-party systems and competing centers of private powers.

Combined, India and China account for 40% of the world's population. There will not be dramatic changes in percentage of the world's population living in freedom unless these two giants change course.

Many dictatorial governments take the attitude that human rights conventions apply to them only when it is convenient. They claim a cultural exemption for themselves from the universal Declaration of Human Rights and the existing international human rights covenants. Human rights activists are keenly aware that international covenants give them a legal weapon and a public tool that they can use against governmental oppression.

Many states have tried to play the game. They have set up puppet human rights groups and other NGOs known as GONGOs (Government Organized Non-Governmental Organizations). These groups are meant to confuse the world about the position of human rights activities.

While there are certainly cultural differences among nations, culture must never be an excuse for denying rights to anyone. The values of freedom, human rights, press freedom, accountability of public office holders, political pluralism, etc., are universal values which are not culture-specific. It is evident that it is the West that champions them. But that is only because the West is today the torch bearer of human civilization. Such an enlightening role had been played by other peoples like Indians, Chinese, Greeks, Phoeniciains, Egyptians, Arabs, etc., in previous civilizations.

Socio-cultural and religious considerations as well as the accusation of interference in internal affairs are often brought up by dictators as an excuse to deny people their rights. This ploy should be strongly rejected. If accepted, it would be an enormous obstacle to freedom, indeed.

Abridged and adopted by: Al-Izzy As-Selwi

# شركة سام للملاحة

تتقدم بأعطر التهاني والتبريكات لرمز وحدة الأمة ورائد نهضتها الفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية بذكرى السابع من يوليو وذكرى السابع عشر من يوليو وكل عام والجميع بخير



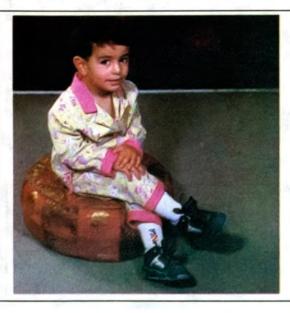


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on the occasions of 7th and 17th of July.

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عيد ميلاد سعيد

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# Common Sense

#### By: Hassan Al-Haifi

# The Arab Summit: Nothing Much, As Usual

The Middle East region possesses after the departure of colonial considerable potential in many respects: economical, cultural, advances needed to increase social, political, etc. However, there is no doubt that the present arrangements work against the realization of most of this poten-

Yet, this observer is inclined to agree with the presumption that, of all the countries in the region, Israel is the one state that seems to have a clearer perception of this potential. In fact, it strives to exploit this perception to realize its aspiration. Moreover, Israel seems to have well-drawn up short and long-term plans to achieve its goals.

The political circumstances in the region clearly reflect a large disparity in cultural and political maturity between Israel and her Arab neighbors. This is not to say that the Arab World is void of any cultural and political structures. However, it is safe to surmise that in dealing with a modern 'enemy' - now turned into an uneasy neighbor - the Arab World, must overcome the weaknesses that arise from this disparity. It is important to understand many factors that affect regional events before coming up with conclusions on any particular event.

While the general public in the Arab World could certainly benefit from greater political awareness, it is just as certain that Arab leaders who took charge

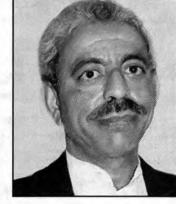
advances needed to increase popular political awareness.

Despite the fact that many of the theses leaders took over power in their respective countries with progressive platforms, the only significant progress that is really visible is the rulers' amassed wealth.

A look at the regional political scene reveals that in view of retarded political awareness among the Arab populations - a result of historical and cultural developments - the Arab popula-tions suffered from the rule of mostly autocratic regimes. Most of the Arab regimes, whether traditional or totalitarian/military in nature, managed to set up the appropriate machinery that work against allowing the populations to exercise any real leverage in the political decisions.

This machinery was geared to render any political opposition useless, either ruthlessly or through the closing of any political channels that might be utilized by such opposition, even if such channels are legal. Thus most of the existing regimes in the Arab World cannot be said to reflect any degree of popular will, whatsoever.

The Cold War period contributed significantly to the rise of military/totalitarian regimes in many countries in the Arab World. As for the traditional



regimes, most can easily be traced to colonial power maneuvering especially in the second half of the 19th century and first half of the 20th century.

The bipolar power arrangement after the Second World War brought on intense competition by the United States and the former Soviet Union to replace the vacuum left by a weakened United Kingdom and France, which were hammered by the Second World War.

The two superpowers of the Cold War competed in pouring in arms, money, and international diplomatic support to the ambi-tious local power seekers in many parts of the jig-saw puzzle that materialized after the former imperialist powers left the region. Some of these power seekers were offshoots of liberation movements. Some carried revolutionary banners against traditional regimes that had existed in the country. Some were simply opportunistic power-hungry opportunistic power-hungry elements which engineered coup d'etats.

With arms, money and support from the either of the superpowers, ruthless tyrants set up totalitarian systems that blocked any pluralistic tendencies that could have arisen. The rulers worked diligently to keep their people struggling for sustenance and praying for internal stability.

atrocities that regimes inflicted on their people are impossible to underestimate. The end-result is poor popular political activity and economic weakness in the Arab World as a whole. The general conditions of most of the people in the Arab World testify to the failures of these autocratic regimes to direct their people towards the minimum modern standards of political civility, economic growth and social welfare.

A quick analysis of the existing regimes in the region will easily reveal that most of the regimes are actually pawns, since their coming to power was substantially due to foreign assistance, in one way or another.

Traditional regimes in the area can easily be traced back to the efforts of intelligence officers of the United Kingdom or France, especially during the 100 years preceding World War II. This was greatly facilitated as Egypt became a center of active intelligence work by the big powers during the same period in question, first as a French base and later as a base for the UK.

The two former colonial forces had worked diligently and sometimes jointly to dislodge the Turks out of the area. The British had wooed some of the bedouin chiefs or nationalist leaders, who aspired, each in their own way, to revive the former glory of the Arab nation. The British had cleverly spread their influence to work even with opposing factions in the same territory, as was the case in what is now known as Saudi Arabia. The British propped up many of the traditional regimes that still rule to this day.
On the other hand, after World

War I, the United Sates began to view the region with greater interest. So did the Zionist followers of Theodore Herzl (died in 1904), who had diligently worked to exploit the then unsettled political status of the region, during the period from 1918-1945. The Nazi dream of Aryan world dom-ination helped the new sponsors of theological nationalism that came out of the ghettos of Eastern Europe. Sparked by Herzl, with plenty of funds and superb international organization, it was rel-atively easy for the Zionists to uproot the Palestinians, and call the latter's erstwhile homeland for millennia, the "homeland of the Jews", and later the State of Israel.

It seemed like history had been erroneously dictated and a tragic adjustment was in order. Thus equipped with Western cultural progress, Jewish settlers flocked to Palestine under the protection and prodding inspired by the British Balfour Declaration issued in 1917. It was a clear mis-match. How can one expect the indigenous Arab population of Palestine and the surrounding territories stand up to the culturally Jewish settlers, even with their numerical superiority?

Arab frustration sparked violence against the colonial forces. The road to "independence" became paved after World War II. Thus, as the British and French had leave, the two new superpowers rushed in to fill the vacuum. Actually, the US had already staked out some influence prior to World War II, in Saudi Arabia.

With the Suez War of 1956, America decided to take over the initiative in managing the area, once and for all. General Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower had made it clear that nobody was to make any more moves in the area, without Washington's approval. The Europeans quickly succumbed, and Israel had no trouble adjusting to the new global situation and appropriately re-aligned its stakes with the United States.

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The Arab states, some of which only received independence from colonial rule in the 1970's were still helpless against the new invaders of the Holy Land, thanks to unlimited support from the West. The Western politicians found it easier to deal with Israel, a regime that was comparable in political structure and ideological tendencies to their own.
After "independence", the Arabs

had not yet determined how to rule themselves, let alone how to interact with changing global conditions. Moreover, though the intricacies may vary from country to country in the Arab World, the regimes in the Arab World could not have risen to power and retained it without substantial direct or indirect external support. That was their lifeline, as it continues to be today, with the big powers at play in the global scene.

It was the Cold War that became the fountain of life for totalitarian military/traditional dictatorships. The Arab World eventually became a jumble of regimes either with traditional roots or supposedly progressive platforms - but all lacking any popular base. Most of the regimes were tied-in in alliances with either the US or the former USSR.

Then came the earthquake of the last decade. With the demise of the former USSR, one set of Arab countries lost its benefactor. Hence, the need for rearrangement. Actually, there is a feeling of helplessness and frustration that permeates the Arab political structures. Israel is simply a reminder of the inability of the Arab leaders to rise up beyond their petty desires to subjugate their peoples to all kinds of misery.

That is the general background against which all those leaders met in Cairo last month. It is this observer's belief that many of those leaders are still obsessed with how to retain their grasp over power, rather than how to serve their people. That is why they keep on searching for regional and international alliances that will protect their power and wealth.

It is in this light that the Cairo meeting should be seen as a product of international rearrangements. The rulers' main obsession was to head off any popular Arab reaction to the rise of the Netanyahu regime in Israel. The Arab populations - still suspicious of the "rush to peace" as many vocal Arab critics have called the desire of many of the Arab regimes to negotiate peace deals with Israel - found their leaders complaining that they were unable to strike even such a peace' deal with the new boss in Tel Aviv.

What the Arab Summit in Cairo has done is re-affirm the pledge of Arab leaders to adhere to the dictates of outside forces rather than to listen to the calls of the Arab people for a real united Arab stand against an inflexible and militant attitude by the Israelis, which has now taken a more visible form.

One would have hoped that the Arab leadership would wake up and start calling for more concrete steps to introduce democracy and political freedom for their people, rather than to worry about how to placate changing regional and international developments in order to save their rule. The Arab populations cannot see any real progress through these quickly staged meetings which involve lots of hugging and kissing of Arab rulers who in reality hate

each other. The Arab World is in need of political change. The new system must give the Arab populations a say in the directions their countries, individually, as well as collectively will follow. Frankly speaking, the present

Arab leaders have proven themselves to be very detached from their peoples. There is need for radical political changes where more popular involvement is encouraged. Otherwise, pawns will be pawns, and Israel will continue to get her way, even if the LIS more political values and involvements. the US may not like Netanyahu too much. After all, he is ruled by the will of his people, which is why his decisions are respected. One cannot say that about any of the Arab rulers who met in Cairo!

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# WFP: Linking Relief with Development: Team of Dedicated Professionals Make WFP Yemen a Success

Standing Up to Abuse:

Working in the Republic of Yemen has never been an easy task. Widespread corruption, carelessness, neglect, lack of accountability, inefficiency, chaos, are all factors to contend with. As one UN official put it, "It is all a nightmare."

Even donors find it hard to simply give away their assistance. Unless that is, there is a built-in something for some influential person.

Many companies, embassies, UN organizations and donor offices have learned to live with that. They have adjusted. Most of them simply look forward to the day they finish their mission and get out of Yemen. Meanwhile, they appease the system (or lack of it) and the influential people.

Aah, but there are a few exceptions. One such exception is Dali Belgasmi and his team at the World Food Program (WFP). With an annual contribution in the tens of millions, they could not afford to sit back and watch the WFP assistance being squandered by reckless officials.

As one can expect, a fight was sooninevitable. The long and arduous war has yet to be won, but the WFP team has achievement important battles, leading to improvements in the system. The price for such improvements had been to discontinue the aid package for a full year, force government officials to undergo a re-training, and to overhaul the whole system of food distribution.

At this juncture in time, the WFP is ready to leap forward again. The organization has just completed its new coutrry strategy. Yemen Times is happy to share some of it with its readers.

#### A Brief History:

Since its beginning in 1967 to the present, WFP's assistance to Yemen (valued at USD 313.3 million) has provided support to a number of sectors, including health, education, and agriculture, in addition to public works and assistance to refugees and emergency/ rehabilitation operations, through 38 development projects, (USD 275.4 million), 21 quick and emergency operations (USD 34.5 million) and 4 refugee emergency projects (3.4 million). Although generally evaluated by WFP missions at satisfactory, WFP projects met with serious difficulties during the few years of the present decade.

A basic limitation of WFP's past assistance to Yemen relates to the obscurity of its developmental impact. This is largely due to the very broad scope of WFP, the resources had been spread thinly across the Yemeni governorates, rather than being concentrated in selected governorates.

Over the past two years, decisive action has been taken by the WFP to rectify problems of food, management and monitoring, including the suspension for one full year of all the development projects except one: school feeding, retained to test the implementation of a new system of accountability and commodity management.

Past irregularities and inadequate targeting of beneficiaries were the focus of a WFP sponsored two-day workshop held in January 1995 and attended by representatives of concerned ministries. Following due consideration of alternative organizational, managerial and logistics aspects of WFP operations in Yemen, agreement was reached between WFP and government officials on specific elements of effective management of food assistance. Significant in this regard is the government's approval of direct, private sector-assisted deliveries, and regular monitoring in partnership with WFP. Related provisions have been incorporated in the amended plans of operations project 4695 (Support to Primary Education) and 2453/111 (Assistance to MCH Centers).

The educational project (P/4695) was restructured and the beneficiaries better targeted, reducing the number of schools to be assisted to 405 of the ones located in the project areas, where 100% of the female students would receive food assistance. The plan of operations was amended accordingly and the project extended in time until 30 June 1998.

On 13th May, 1996, WFP and the Ministry of Health also signed an amendment for project 2453/ 111 "Assistance to MCH Centers" which will function as a pilot-project for a duration of 16 months until 31st October, 1997. Giving the alarming rate of aenemia among adult women visiting the health centers, a micronutrient component will be added to this project and wheat flour will be fortified.

During the year 1995 and the beginning of 1996, the project 4695 was used to test the effectiveness of the newly developed food management, delivery monitoring and accountability system. WFP officers, together with government officials, multiplied field trips and visited areas of the country which had not been monitored although food sent regularly. The officers conducted Beneficiary Contact Monitoring and were satisfied that food aid adequately reached the intended beneficiaries. All shipments were cleared/transported to EDPs by WFP through private contractors which resulted in considerable savings: ITSH has now been reduced from USD 124/MT to USD 77.82/MT. Most important, losses are now virtually nil. While in year 1993-94 posted losses were 39%, during 1994-95 they represented only 0.17% of total commodities. The govenment has recognized the usefulness of these arrangements and is giving full collaboration.

WFP-Government Relations:
In developing its Country Strategy Note, the Government of RoY is prepared to cooperate with the UN. The Ministry of Planning is now preparing a 5 year development plan which will include employment creation and poverty alleviation, environmental plants of the description water. ronmental issues including desertification, water, and decentralization.

Given its commitments to alleviation of hunger and poverty, WFP's input is expected to be significant. During the WFP CSO preparatory missions (January and March 1996), discussion with a number of government officials indicated, not only great appreciation of WFP support but also explicit commitment to proper implementation of WFP projects, consistent with the principles of social and gender equity. Noteworthy with regard to the latter is the Ministry of Agriculture's commitment to the mainstreaming of gender issue.

In general, the eagerness and expression of commitment on the part of Yemeni officials, along with recognition and rectification of past irregularities, bodes well for future cooperation with WFP.

WFP Commitment to Gender Issues: Discussions with members of the WFP Yemen country office indicates awareness of, and commitment to, the promotion of gender equity within the framework of WFP projects. In this endeavour WFP staff face a great challenge. Yemen is one of the more conservative countries of the region. As such it is characterized by pronounced gender inequity.

Taking account of cultural and political factors is particularly important at this time. Religious conservatism is leaving its mark on the manner and extent of women's participation in public life. This has implication for WFP's priority sectors of health and education. It is estimated that presently, 76% of WFP beneficiaries are women (female students and pregnant and lactating mothers).

#### Target Groups:

Effective utilization of WFP resources for the purpose of poverty alleviation/development would be better served through multi-phase projects. This would involve the targeting of groups of governorates for support during specified periods of the lifetime of WFP support.

It is proposed that WFP assistance be restricted to the rural areas, where 83% of the extremely poor, food insecure population resides and to the poorest slum areas. WFP assistance is targetted to those areas where population concentration of the poor is 120,000 or more. There are other less populated but remote provinces where groups of equally vulnerable, food insecure tribal people reside and could, potentially, be assisted by WFP.

Given the importance of better focusing and geo-

graphical targetting, it is intended to assist about 17% of the poorest, more vulnerable, food insecure population, with an average of 156.800 beneficiaries per year, for an estimated total 784,000 persons in the five year period. WFP will continue its assistance to the hungry poor in the more remote, isolated areas where there is no other donor support and will progressively withdraw from the more remote assisted privinces of Sanaa and Ibb.

Likewise, this CSO plans to give assistance to Aden, which has suffered most from the latest military operations and from the subsequent removal of diplomatic and economic representation and is facing the highest unemployment rates. Port being investors who currently prefer to go to Mukalla, the more dynamic area in the country. Aden will receive support for limited, specific health and educational programs. It is also envisaged to start agricultural WFP activities in areas bordering the poor governorates of Lahej and Abyan (where the Somali refugee camp is located.).

For the impoverished rural communities of these governorates and for the poorest groups in other few governorates, WFP assistance will be tailored to accommodate the variation in agricultural potential, female education, and health development.

#### Modalities of WFP Assistance:

WFP food rations are to serve as incentive to encourage expectant and nursing mothers to partake of the services of health centers. Support would cover pre-natal care and extend to post partum care for mother and child. WFP-assisted health centers are to provide health education on the premises.

WFP food for work will act as an incentive to small farmers, men and women, to carry out the activities that will be recommended on their own land. Traditionally, terrace agriculture, which requires a great



amount of labor, uses family and hired labor. Presently, due to the shortage of funds caused by unemployment and reduction of remittances from abroad, rural poulations no longer have adequate means to invest. Food aid would be a way to carry on these activities and will also act as a nutritional supplement to the peasants and their families. Farmers are expected to contribute by providing local materials and towards the maintenance of the infrastructures to ensure long term sustabinability. Greater attention is to be paid to the nutritional value of the commodities supplied. Given the problem of micro-nutrient deficiencies, efforts are to be made to fortify items in the food basket, par-ticularly with iron and vitamin A. UNICEF has been effectively promoting salt iodization, which nevertheless remains expensive, relative to the

It is estimated that around \$14.5 million dollars will be required in 1997 and that this assistance will gradually increase to reach \$22 million in the year 2001 for a total WFP contribution of \$95 million dollars in the five years period.

#### Key Issues and Risks:

untreated form.

Political instability related to unemployment and

inflation remains a risk. With official statistics marking unemployment at 25% and no foreseen increase in social sector budgets, and in view of the difficulties that the Yemen's poor are expected to face, it is important that the delivery of WFP food rations remain regular.

WFP must develop a cost effective strategy for using food aid, both as an incentive for participating in social actions in education and health and as effective income transfer to families participating in works activities (both social and agricultural developement). Care must be taken to select commodities which are both acceptable to beneficiaries and which can be procured and transported in a cost effective manner, also ensuring proper accountability and minimizing loss. This is one of the biggest challenges for project food aid and requires careful planning for affordable, simple and sustainabe intervention.

With the expected economic difficulties confronting the rural poor, it is essential that support to female education remain, but not to the exclusion of boys the primary school phase. Without supporting education for all (female and male), there is a risk that there will be a fall in female enrolment after the termination of WFP assistance.

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#### INSTRUMENT TECHNICIANS

Responsible for selecting, installing, and performing maintenance on all process instrumentation equipment and devices used in plant and production operations. Workscope includes calibration and installation of electronic and pneumatic instruments and devices. Candidates must have high school diploma, apprentice courses, or technical schooling with minimum ten years instrumentation experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

#### **MECHANICS**

Responsible for installing, maintaining, repairing, or rebuilding facility mechanical equipment and machinery. Workscope includes performing reverse alignment on equipment, as well as testing, maintaining, and repairing various types of pumps and valves. Technical schooling with a minimum ten years mechanical experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

#### PLANT OPERATORS

Responsible for operating absorption system, extraction system, and lean oil recovery equipment, separators, scrubbers, compressors, safety devices, and heat exchanges. Compile and analyze data, perform calculations and maintain files necessary for proper operations. Candidates must have a high school diploma with a minimum of ten years operating experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

#### PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Responsible for operating pressure sensors, production separators, crude heaters, power generators, production manifolds, control panels, and other associated production equipment. Compile and analyze data, perform calculation and maintain files necessary for proper operations. Candidate must have a high school diploma with a minimum five years experience in oil and gas or petrochemical facilities.

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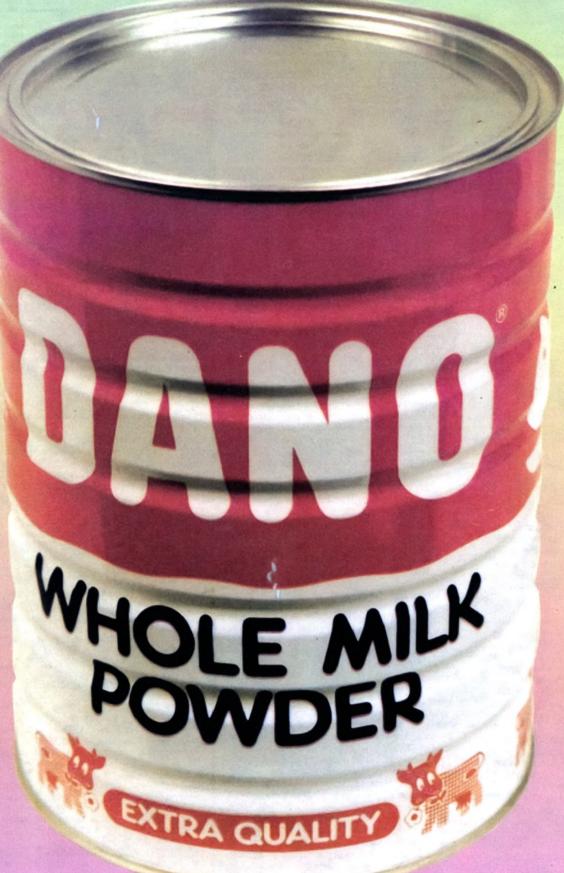
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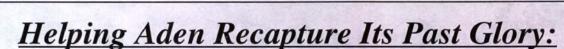


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The company also offers a complete shipping package at Yemeni harbors along the Red Sea.

Mr. Gamal Siddiq, General Manager, said, "Our company is based in Aden and concentrates on all aspects of shipping services. We are now slowly branching out in response to market conditions. We are based in Aden, because we feel

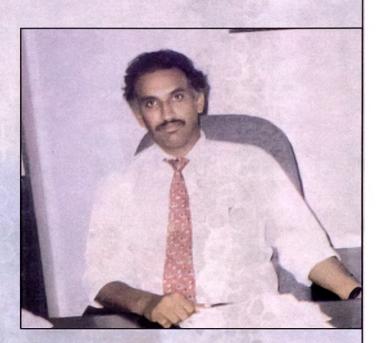


# SAM SHIPPING & PROJECTS (ADEN) CO.



that Aden is one of the major ports in the region." Sam Shipping Company was established in 1991 in Hodeidah, where it continues to maintain an important office with 250 employees. In 1995, the company headquarter was moved to Aden, where it now employs more than 200 persons. "That was a far-sighted decision," Siddiq says. The idea is to help Aden regain its former grandeur and role. "We know what Aden was, and therefore, we know what it can be. Our mission is to make the city attain such a status as soon as possible."

That is why Sam Shipping Company is committed to Aden. "We are getting involved in all related businesses. At the moment, we are considering investing in the bunkering and hotel business.



In fact, as ownership moved from the public to the private sector, opportunities grew and efficiency improved. This makes Aden a preferred shipping and trans-shipping point. "With the transformation, we are creating a new environment which offers new challenges."

But to succeed in this challenge, there must be modern facilities and equipment. The General Manager of the company also pointed to another important requirement - skilled manpower. "The kind of business we are talking about requires experience, technical ability, and competence to operate and handle modern machines and all kinds of situations."

The company is also doing its share in this regard. "When we employ promising young men and women who require certain additional skills, we send them to the marine center to learn English and technical skills. Some of our excellent trainees are going to Dubai to gain more experience and knowledge."

"Within the coming three years, Aden is going to be fully transformed into a free zone. It is going to have a lot of business with international companies. Therefore, we have to prepare ourselves. Training of manpower on the latest technology is an important aspect of this preparation," Mr. Siddiq said.

Speaking about the problems facing the company, he said they were many. "The first thing is the general attitude that has been taken against our company. But time will change that. The other problem is that the authorities here should expedite change. The old procedures and systems are no longer valid. We are now inviting international investors to come and invest here. We want the authorities to get rid of the lengthy routine and paperwork. We also have problems in relations with the Ministry of Transport on a number of issues related to the line of our work."

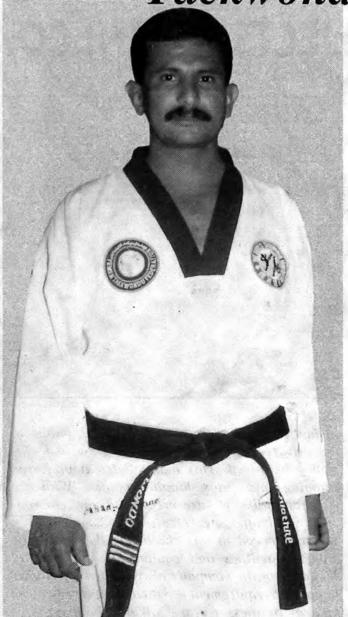
Sam Shipping & Projects (Aden) Co. has been participating in various business meetings and conferences in the region and worldwide to explain the prospects and potential of Aden.





Captain Mutahhar Al-Ozari

# "Taekwondo developed roots in Yemen."



Increasingly, youngsters of Yemen are looking to sports for selfaccomplishment and fulfillment. As a result, sports clubs have sprang in many parts of the countries. Traditional sports like football continue to flourish. But the new flow has been towards physical sports. One is taekwondo, a cousin game of karate, but with more leg maneuvering.

In Yemen, the game is about a decade old, although it has really flourished only the last few years. There are three main centers of growth - Sanaa, Taiz and Aden, in that order of magnitude.

The Republic of Yemen boasts today 3 internationally accredited 4-dan black-belt coaches of this game. Mutahhar Nasr Al-Ozari, 40, is one of them. He coaches at Al-Wahdah Club in Sanaa, as well as in the Diplomatic Sports Club.

M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times interviewed Captain Al-Ozari and filed the following report.

## in this game?

A: I was an immigrant in Saudi Arabia when I first got interested in sports in general. In 1979, impressed by the physical ability of athletes, I enrolled in one of the Saudi clubs in Jeddah to learn taekwondo. In a short while I was able to excel.

Soon, I moved to Al-Ittihad Club where Captain Tareq Ja'afar Al-Zewawi coached me. I owe a great deal to him. By 1984, I got my first black belt. I continued to make progress. I was officially hired by the Saudi Arabian government as a coach for their

With the Iraqi invasion of Yemenis who were shipped out. In 1991, I joined Al-Wahdah Club to coach Yemenis.

#### Q: What exactly is taekwondo?

A: Taekwondo is a sport developed in South Korea. It has to do with controlling one's body and allowing for a maximum ability to defend oneself.

#### Q: How did you get interested Q: How does taekwondo help?

A: Taekwondo is important in many ways. It helps improve self-discipline and body control, it increases self-esteem and confidence, it allows individuals to themselves against personal assault, it empowers the individual, and of course, it helps in having good body form and

#### Q: Can you tell us about this sport?

A: Actually, taekwondo has many levels and styles.

First, there is the bomza, which is self-defence against a group. In this game, a person is encircled by a group, and he/she fights them off.

Second, there is the duel. Here the person repels an attack by an armed person. The attacker may have a knife, stick, etc.

Third, there is the assault style. Here, the person does the attacking in various flings of the leg and arm.

Finally, there is the breaking of a stack of bricks or other solid sub-

#### Q: Earlier this year, you were able to break a layer of ten bricks (as the picture shows). In other instance, you did the same while the bricks were on fire. How does a person get to do this?

A: The basic concept of taekwondo and other sports is that the abilities of human beings are infinite. If we put our minds to anything, we can do it. That is why this sport takes a lot of concentration. In other words, you draw deep into the powers within you, and bring them out in a focussed way.

It has nothing to do with the physical strength or size.

#### Q: How many trainees do you

A: I have two sets of trainees the youngsters (ranging in age between 6 and 16 years) and the adults (16 to 30). I have a total of about 300 youngsters and a total of 150 adults.

#### Q: Do you have any female athletes?

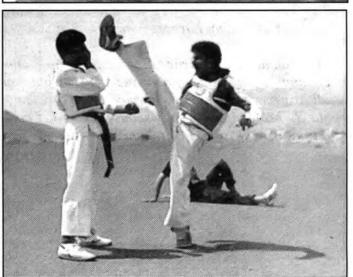
A: I am afraid the answer is negative. Socio-cultural values deny girls and women to enjoy even non-physical sports or even games such as chess and others, let alone taekwondo or karate. We try to encourage the younger girls to enroll, but this is a losing battle. One of the first things you need to encourage female athletes is a female coach and separate training quarters.

#### Q: How far has taekwondo advanced in Yemen?

A: We have some outstanding athletes, but the numbers are small. I think that this sport has developed roots in Yemen, and it is growing. But it will be quite a few years before we can take any visible role in world competitions.

#### Al-Ozari in different taekwondo postures and styles







## Q: What kind of support are Q: But there are annual tae-

A: Unfortunately, there is hardly any kind of support. The athletes struggle on their own. Therefore, their progress is slow and seasonal. Similarly, the clubs get little support, and thus they are poorly equipped.

Both the government and the public do not see the importance of sports in our lives and evolution. This is sad. I would like to use this opportunity to call on the Yemeni government and society at large to show more interest in sports.

At the same time, many of the international companies, espe-cially the three large oil companies - Yemen Hunt Oil Company, Canadian Occidental. and Total Yemen can offer their patronage of certain sports and athletes. If this happens, we can achieve much progress in a very short time.

A: Sort of. You know that the game is played at eight weight levels at the junior (youngsters) and senior (adult) age groups. The weight groups at the junior category are < 20, 22, 24, 26, 29, 32, 36, and 40 kilograms. At the senior level, the weight groups are 50, 54, 58, 64, 70, 76, 83, and > 83 kilograms. Therefore, each club or team would field eight athletes at each of the junior and senior groups.

#### O: Any final comments?

A: Taekwondo is a wonderful sport and it teaches individuals how to be better human beings. It is something worth learning, and I am happy that clubs in many parts of the country are adopting it, even in the countryside. The athlete only requires a suit or costume, which is inexpensive. I urge all to learn the game.





## **UAE Wages War Against Drug Traffickers**

The Drug Squad Section of the UAE Police Department in Abu Dhabi was able to boast considerable progress against drug traffickers. In a press release week, Major Matar Al-Mohairi, Head of the Section, indicated that the United Arab Emirates was being used as a transit point for traffickers. "Our procedures proved 80% success, and helped in increasing seizures," he said.

The UAE Police authorities also pointed out that they were also combatting drug addicts within the country. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the police have mounted a campaign in schools "to enlighten students on the dangers of drugs to them and to society."

As a result, there has been a 26% percent fall in estimated drug addicts. Colonel Taleb Hussain Taleb, Director of Security Affairs, disclosed that the age-groups of the addicts usually range between 20-35 years.

Last month, the UAE police authorities displayed large consignments of seized drugs while being smuggled through Emirate airports. The two-pronged plan involves strengthening the drug control and combat efforts, while simultaneously pushing public awareness programs. Participating in the plan are the Ministries of Interior, Health, and Education, in addition to university and other researchers.

# India Allows Higher Foreign Stake

India has decided to grant automatic approval for up to 51% equity by foreign interests in infrastructure and other priority investment areas. According to a new set of guidelines, Deve Gowda's government has made good on its promise to continue the economic liberalization policies of his predecessor, Narasimha Rao.

The Indian government is also preparing many of the public sector companies to absorb international investors. This means opening up sectors which have so far been the exclusive domain of the government. Industry Minister Murasoli Maran indicated that 246 public sector units, which are presently in the red, will be auctioned.

The left-of center government presently in control in New Delhi is seeking a gross domestic growth rate of some 7%, while industry is targeting a 12% growth. That requires an infusion of foreign capital and technology.

Minister Maran said that the Gowda government is looking towards a \$10 billion annual foreign investment, which is a dramatic increase over the present inflow levels. He said that in the beginning, the government will signal certain priority areas for foreign investors. Later on, the doors will be flung wide open.

Already Japanese, German and US companies have sent delegates to talk about joint investments.



The various warlords of Somalia continue their violence and they seek to expand the territory under their control and to eliminate others. Last week, the battles between the men of Mohammed Farah Aideed and his rival Osman Ali Atto resulted in the death of more than 124 persons and the crippling of hundreds more.

Aideed, possibly the strongest of the warlords, has been launching forays into the regions controlled by his rivals in order to expand his domain.

Aideed's militiamen launched last week an attack on a major junction in the Medina district of Mogadishu city, under the control of Ali Mahdi Mohammed, another rival, resulting in many civilian casualties. This week, Atto and Mahdi joined forces to fight off Aideed's attacks, and the stage is set for more violence.

Meanwhile, the world community, fed up and frustrated with the local power brokers, is gradually distancing itself from the Somali quagmire.



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July 8th, 1996

special, special, special

# TADHAMON ISLAMIC BANK: A New Investment Outlet for Your Savings

The Tadhamon Islamic Bank is getting ready to officially inaugurate its Sanaa office over the next few days. The bank, capitalized at US\$ 15,000,000, is going to function as an investor, and the deposits placed with it will be - in addition to the bank's own capital - treated as venture capital.

On this occasion, Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Tawfiq Dabaseh, Director General of the bank, Mr.

Dabaseh, a Jordanian, is an old hand in banking. He has been involved with the Islamic banking concept and application from the

#### Excerpts.

beginning.

Q: Would you give us an idea about your Bank?

A: The Tadhamon Islamic Bank (Islamic Solidarity Bank) has a capital of 15 million USD. The share-holders in this project are of Yemeni reputed financial houses and entrepreneurs. addition, there Qatar Islamic Bank which regarded as one of the leaders in this field. In fact, the bank will draw from the experience of the management and shareholders in this sphere.

Q: Are the bank's goals different from those of traditional banks?

A: You know the people of Yemen are traditionally pious and a great number of them refrain from dealing with traditional banks so as to avoid dealing with interest. The experts estimate the amount of money which is thus kept out of the banking system, and thus not participating in economic activities, at 120 billion Riyals.

What we aim to do is pull these sums back into the economic process. Our plan is to adopt mechanism that will lead to the expansion of production by investing directly or buying shares in new projects. This means any resources deposited with us will immediately be diverted to increasing the production of the nation.

Q: That involves a lot of technical project appraisal and follow-up. Do you have the staff to undertake all these tasks?

A: We are pursuing a plan of training and educating the local bank staff. Most of the technical personnel are from Jordan. This will be the case in the early stages of the bank operations.

Q: You have referred to the Jordanian experience in Islamic banking. Can you give us more details?

A: Yes. You know the establishment of Islamic banking in Jordan dates back to 1978. Since then, that country has been able to evolve many formulas and solutions to issues and questions as they arise. Today, Islamic banks in Jordan are competing effectively and successfully with traditional banks.

Q: Can you say the Islamic banking experiment worldwide has been suc-

A: Let us take some examples. The Kuwaiti Finance House was established in 1978, and you can see it is successful, not only in Kuwait, but in the whole world. Another

example is the Islamic Bank in Jordan which competes with such solid banks like the Arab Bank. Country after another - Egypt, Qatar, the UAE, Malaysia, Black Africa, and in many other places, there are examples of successful Islamic banks.

places, there are examples of successful Islamic banks.

The basic thrust of Islamic banks is to avoid getting involved indeals that are contrary to proper implementation of Islamic Law (Sharia). The main point of difference is interest, which is making money without undertaking any risk.

Q: How do you make sure you are in line with the Sharia?

A: Each Islamic bank has two sets of experts - one in Islamic theology, and the other in business and eco-

Here in the Tadhdamon Islamic Bank, for example, we have an Islamic theology committee which monitors our operations. It includes such outstanding clergy as Dr. abdul Sattar Abu Ghoda who is now a member in Dallat Al-Baraka Group. Among the Yemenis, there are Nasser Al-Shaibani, Mohammed Al-Shami, Omar Ahmed Saif, and others.

Q: Are you going to operate all over the republic?

A: Initially, we will start with the Sanaa head office and branch. The Taiz branch is already under establishment. After that, we will shift focus to Aden.

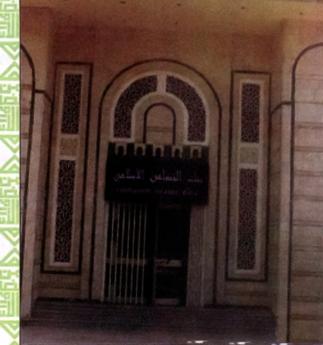
will shift focus to Aden.

The plan of branch inauguration proceeds according to a system taking into account market demand and response. In the long run, I am sure we will be covering the whole country.

Q: Does the local market warrant three Islamic banks in addition to the many commercial and development banks already operational?

A: Such a question is being asked frequently. I think the final judge of that should be the market, not any government official or even investor. In my opinion, there is need for Islamic banking in Yemen, and you will see that they will succeed.

But even among these Islamic banks, the ones with professional expertise and which are true to the values and ideals of Islam,



will do better as the people will quickly be able to tell.

Q: What kind of operations do you envisage?

A: Islamic banking operations are common knowledge, by now. The Yemen Times has already published an article of the tools and mechanisms of Islamic banking in a long interview with Mr. Ahmed Jabir Afif, Chairman of the Tadhdamon Islamic Bank.

We are basically an investor. We use our own capital and the resources (deposits) of our customers to finance projects. Project portfolios are either managed directly by the bank or by an independent project management.

If a customer asks the bank to invest on his/her behalf in a certain project, he/she gets the returns accrued on that project at the end of the year. If the customer authorizes the bank to invest his/her resources in a basket of projects, he/she basically gets at the end of the year the average return on the bank investments.

Q: Is there a place for female customers in your bank?

A: Of course. In fact, we think that female customers will be an important contributor to the bank resources and operations. We also expect to finance projects managed by female entrepreneurs.

Let me indicate here that the bank will have a separate department and section dealing with female customers.

Q: What kind of difficulties or obstacles do you antic-

A: No work can be done without some obstacles on the way.
But with cooperation we will overcome any difficulties that

Striking a comfortable working arrangement with the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) is probably one of the first and key conditions for our success. After all, we work under the guidance and supervision of the CBY. Of course such standard traditional banking tools as interest rates, credit ceilings, discounting rates, reserve requirement ratios, etc., are not going to be important in dealing with Islamic banks. The CBY will need new tools, and we are heartily going to cooperate with it.

Another factor is the issuance of the Islamic Bank law which we expect at any time. Proper understanding and implementation of this law is going to be crucial for us. Towards that end, our bank will undertake many lectures and discussions to raise public awareness on the topic.

cussions to raise public awareness on the topic.

In any case, I feel that we are able to overcome any difficulties that may arise, and that we will succeed in our efforts

Q: Any final comments?

A: I would like to stress here that it is important to give this idea and vision a chance. There have already been several attempts to distort the image and reality of Islamic banks. We are asking people to bear with us and give us a chance.

We expect Islamic banks to play an important developmental role in society. The experience in other countries points to such achievements.

Finally, I call on the media to help us promote correct concepts and ideas in this field. We are partners in this effort, and together, we shall succeed.



# Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen



# كنيديان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم يمن

Mr. Larry Murphy
President and General Manager
Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen

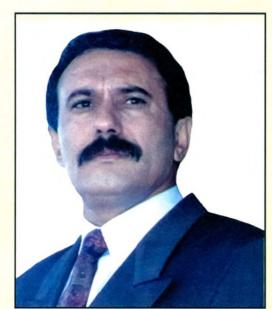
presents his feklicitations

to the President of Yemen, General Ali Abdullah Saleh,

the Government and people,

on the anniversary of the 7th of July Victory Day of Yemeni Unity

and on the anniversary of the 17th of July: Election Day of President Ali Abdullah Saleh



السيد لاري مرفي - رئيس ومدير عام شركة كنيديان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم

يتقدم بالتهاني والتبريكات

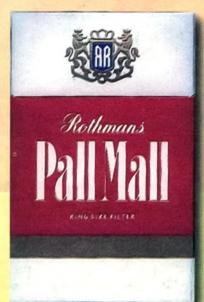
لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية الفريق علي عبدالله صالح والحكومة والشعب اليمني

بمناسبة ذكرى ٧ يوليو - يوم إنتصار الوحدة اليمنية

وكذلك ذكرى ١٧ يوليو يوم إنتخاب الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

وكل عام والجميع بخير

# مثلة برئيس مجلس الادارة وجميح الموظفين والعمال تتقدم



بأعطر التهاني وأجهل التبريكات بمناسبة ذكرى إنتصار الوحدة في السابع من يوليو وذكرى إنتخاب الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح في ١٧ يوليو وكل عام واليمن بخير ورخاء وتقدم







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send felicitations on the occasions of 7th and 17th of July



#### AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 19-6-96 (Official)

Main Headlines:

1) The Yemeni-British Girl Was Deported Back to the UK by Request of British Government and the Approval of Her Father

2) Continuation of the Trial of 'Labor' News-

3) State of the Art Lighting System for Aden Airport

#### **Article Summary:**

**Outside the National List** 

A big national party submitted a list of its candidates to the Supreme Elections Committee. The party was surprised later to find out that 80% of the names on the list had been scratched. What is the criteria for such removals, asked the paper.

#### AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly), 4-7-96 (Yemeni Congregation For Reform-Islah) Main Headlines:

- 1) Al-Islah Party denounces the Al-Khobar Incident
- 2) Al-Madina (Saudi newsaper): The Eritrean **Regime Carries Out Zionist Plans**
- 3) Al-Islah Urges citizens to Register for the Elections

#### **Article Summary:**

1) In Response to the Central Bank

The article dealt with a recently published advertisement by the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) regarding the Islamic banks. The ads indicated that 'the Central Bank had not issued any licenses to any of the banks which have been recently making announcing their operations. The paper noted that the discrepancies were due to the internal shortcomings of the CBY procedures. The paper's editor indicated that actually 2 of the banks already had CBY licenses, while the third one was still waiting for the Islamic Banking Law to be issued, which is expected to come out this week).

#### 2) Lawyer Sues the Higher Elections Committee

Mohammed Naji Allow, a prominent lawyer filed a lawsuit against the Supreme Elections Committee for what he considers to be infractions of the Elections Law by the said committee. The violations were said to be in the phase of preparation of the Implementation Guide, Time Schedules and the Drafting of the Candidates' List. The lawyer identified six specific violations.

# Yemeni Press in a Week

#### by: Hassan Al-Haifi

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly), 2-7-96 (Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

1) Deployment of Troops In Capital Streets **Brings Rise to Terror Among Citizens** 

2) The Supreme Court Looks Into Case of Judge assaulting a Citizen

3) Parliamentary Committee to Amend Elections Law Agrees to Accept Use of Symbols in 'Balloting (By Illiterates)

#### **Article Summary:**

1) The Riyal Floats

After talks with the IMF officials recently held in Sana'a, the Yemen government has decided to float the Yemeni Riyal and abandon the use of official control rate of US \$1= YR 100. The rate used by the Customs Dept. will be set on a monthly basis at the last day of the preceding month. The rate will be the average market rate for the preceding month. The paper noted that it could not be determined what the yardsticks for determining the market rate will be, accordingly.

#### 2) American Pressure on Yemen

In the first of a series of articles, Ahmed Al-Soufy, an activist for democracy and civil society organizations, gives a history of the deterioration of relations between the regime in Sanaa and the US. He says both sides have made grave miscalculations about the other. The US now realizes that support for Sana'a during the Civil war has not yielded the returns it had expected - whether at the political or economic levels. The Gas Deal with Total of France convinced the US that Yemen needs to be pressured to bring it into line or to see light.

One needs to see the visits by US officials to opposition leaders as a siognal. The American position on Yemen's problems with Eritrea is also a clear indication of the dissatisfaction of Washington with Sanaa.

Washington has been urging Sanaa to implement a full amnesty for the secessionists, restore full democratization, and respect for human rights. The

writer also points out that the US is now inclined to look with favor towards the reinstatement of a balance of power in the ruling structure of the Yemen to redirect the present tribal structure of the regime to a more stable and predictable course.

#### AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 30-6-96 (Federation of Popular Forces) Main Headlines:

1) Head of the High School Examinations Committee Admits to Errors in the Processing of **High School Graduation Exams this Year** 

2) In Aden: An attack on the House of Sheikh Shaia'a (General Manager of the Endowments) and the Terrorizing of His Children

3) United Nations Coordinator Calls for Reassessment of Flood Damages.

#### **Article Summary:** 8 Killed in Ibb Province

In Al-Qafr District, Governorate of Ibb, 8 persons were killed and many more wounded in shoot-outs between Bait Murghim and Bait Jammal. The father of a Bait Murghim person took revenge for the killing of his son by setting up an ambush which killed 7 residents of Bait Jammal people.

The two villages have been going through a long drawn out blood feud.

#### AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 3-7-96 (Independent)

Main Headlines:

1) 6 Contractors Conduct a Sit-In at the Libyan Embassy Claiming US \$ 20 million Due to them on Housing Project Financed by the Libyans.

2) Doctors' Union Calls for Dismissal Seventies' Hospital Director for AIDS Victim Due to Infection by Transfusion of Infected Blood

#### Article Summary:

**US Report on Hunaish Crisis** 

The US Center for Strategic Studies published a report on the Yemeni-Eritrean Crisis over the Red Sea Islands of Hunaish Archipelago.

Highlights of the report are as follows:

- The Hunaish Crisis could turn into all out regional war if French mediation does not lead to solutions;
- Ethiopia is expected to support Eritrea if a war breaks out, since the latter represents its outlet to the Red Sea and has a mutual defense pact with it;
- Yemen is superior to Eritrea in terms of military capabilities, especially in air power;
- The US military officials regard Eritrea as a strategically important country. US warships continuously call on Eritrean ports.
- The US regards Eritrea as an important partner in the fight against terrorism;
- Yemen could either try to retake island or encourage violent subversive action against Assyassi Afwerke by his Eritrean opponents;
- Political stability of Afwerke regime is assured unless the Hunaish Crisis backfires and gets out of

#### AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 4-7-1996

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

1) Third Phase of Privatization Due in May '97

2) Parliamentary Committee Reaches Solution on Compensation Problem of Former Caltex Area Residents

3) Khowlan Tribe Denounces the Siege of Al-Ghadir (Paramount Sheikh of the tribe) and the Attempted Assassination of Al-Quiary (Another Sheikh of the Tribe)

#### Article Summary:

The People and the Elections

In order for democracy to set in and develop roots, the paper says that the Yemeni Socialist Party has urged all its members, allies, friends and all Yemeni citizens to rush to the polling stations to register and obtain their permanent voting cards. The paper says that this is despite the fact that the coalition ruling parties (the People's General Congress and Islah) control the Election Supervisory Committees.

Even though the rulers have yet to offer any guarantees that the elections will be clean and honest, it remains important for the citizens to confirm their support for the democratic and peaceful transfer of power through the ballot box.

The opposition parties have requested the rulers for appropriate guarantees to ensure that the elections will be honest. They are still waiting for response from the authorities.

Most YSP member are expected to respond by registering, accordingly.





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## Lufthansa Moves to New Premises

Lufthansa, German Airline, is ahppy to notify its customers that its premises have now moved to Zubeiri Street, facing Al-Jumhurriyah Hospital, Sanaa.

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# Lufthansa

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أرقام التلفونات الجديدة هي: (٢١٣٤٠٠) ؛ (٢١٩٤٨٣) ؛ (٢١٩٢٥٢) ورقم الفاكس الجديد هو: (١٩٤-٢٠٧) أهلاً وسهلاً بكم في زيارة لمكاتبنا الجديدة لوفثانزا - إننا ننمو معكم

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## وظائف شاغرة

تعلن السفارة البريطانية عن وجود الوظائف الشاغرة التالية: (۱) ضابط تجاري (٢) مستشار اعلامي (٢) مترجم بصفة مؤقتة (٤) سكرتير أو سكرتيرة بصفة مؤقتة يشترط في المتقدمين كفاءة ممتازة باللغتين العربية والانجليزية كتابة ونطقًا، ودراية كافية بالكمبيوتر، والقدرة على العمل تحت ضغط العمل. تقدم الطلبات باللغة الانجليزية حتى موعد أقصاه ١٤ يوليو ١٩٩٦

إلى عنوان السفارة التالي: سكرتيرة / الضابط الاداري السفارة البريطانية صندوق برید ۱۲۸۷ - صنعاء

> أرقام التلفونات الجديدة للسفارة هي: ٢٦٢.٥٩ فاكس رقم ٢٦٤.٨١/٨٢/٨٤

الجمهورية اليمنية



A Successful Day of Family Picnic & Music

# YAFA Bazar Raises Half a Million Riyals

The Yemen American Friendship[ Association (YAFA) organized a full-day bazar on Friday, July 5th. Mr. Ali Saleh Abdullah, Member of the YAFA Board and in Charge of Social Affairs, said the occasion marked the 4th of July and the 7th of July - national occasions in the USA and Yemen.

The person most credited with the work is Hana Al-Yusufi. "We are gratified with the public response as well as with the money raised." she said. Among the senior dignitaries who came were Adel Sobhy, Ambassador of Egypt, Allen Kepchar, Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy, Mohammed Al-Fudhala, Charge d'Affairs at the Embassy of Qatar, and John Kincannon, Cultural and Information Attache and Head of USIS.

But the largest number of visitors were Yemeni individuals and families. "It was fun. I especially enjoyed the live music," said Aneesa Ghanem, a journalist who came with her son and daughter. Farooq Al-Herwi, Financial Officer of YAFA said that he would like to pay tribute to the companies and individuals who offered prizes in the raffle. These include American Airlines, KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines), Royal Jordanian (ALIA), Ethiopian Airlines, Sheraton Sanaa Hotel, Taj Sheba Hotel, Hadda Hotel, Middle East Shipping, Yemen Times, the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, Shammakh Group, Sunaidar Group, Adhban Group, Sanabani Group, and others.

The bazar raised some half a million riyals, most of which will go to the orphans of Sanaa.

"Given the success of this effort, we hope to organize an annual bazar," stated Mr. Mohammed Nasser Al-Sanabani, Vice Chairman of YAFA.

One immediate result of the bazar has been the high level of interest in the YAFA membership. The present membership of 1100 is expected to double within the coming two years.



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Adel Al-Hammady Holds Out Promise of Medals for Yemen

# A World-Level Yemeni Body Builder

By: Jamal Al-Awadhi, Sports Editor, Yemen Times

Adel Al-Hammady, 20, has been working hard on body-building. Today, he attained near-perfect shape and muscles. He is one a few body-building ahtletes who is considered as most promising to gain medals for the country.

"I hope that I can participate in regional and international competitions. I am sure that I can win various medals," he said.

So far, the decision makers in the Ministry of Youth and Sports have not nominated him for competitions outside Yemen. But Ministry sources say that they will now give him priority.



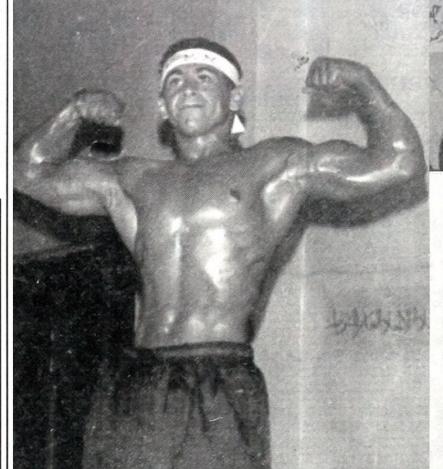
It takes a lot of huffing and puffing to build such a body. "What you see as sweating it hard is really a lot of enjoyment for me," he counters.

But body building is also an expensive process. The tools and equipment are not readily available even in gymnasiums. Besides, serious athletes need to have their tools close by, preferably with them at home.

"There is also the expenses of complete and balanced meals. Bodybuilders need to eat nutritious food," Adel explained.

Young people get attracted to this sport early in their lives. But only a very committed few persist tire-lessly.

Speaking about local and national competitions, the athlete indicated there are no regular competitions. "But I am sure progress is on the way, since there are today many serious body-builders in Yemen."



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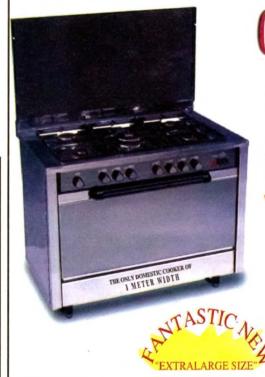
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