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Law On Islamic Banking Issued

On the occasion of the Anniversary of the Birth of the Prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah Be Upon Him), the President of the Republic, General Ali Abdulla Saleh signed the long pending Law On Islamic Banking. Law No. 21/96 dated 29/7/96, is the climax of a 17 year effort by the sponsors of the Islamic Banks in Yemen to get specific legislation for this kind of novel banking that will avoid the use of interest in lending for trade or investment through various methods of venture and participatory capital. and the Islamic banks that have already become incorporated and thus pave the

way for Islamic Banking to operate under full legitimacy and with the appropriate legislation that will regulate the banks' operations and protect the investors and depositors accordingly. The signing of this law will serve to resolve the differences that recently arose between the Central Bank and the recently incorporated Islamic banks in Yemen. It is widely believed by economists who have assessed the economic situation in the Republic of Yemen that Islamic Banking will contribute significantly to the revitalization of the Yemeni economy. Most of the money in circulation in

the Republic of Yemen (70%) still remains outside the banking system, because most Yemenis regard the regular commercial banks as usurious and thus non conforming to Islamic Sharia'a Law, which rejects interest income from investments that do not portray any risk taking on the part of the investor. At this stage there are at least three banks that are under establishment to which the new law will become applicable on. It is worth noting that Islamic Banking has prompted the interest of International banks including Citicorp which has set up an Islamic Bank in Bahrain.

TeleYemen Plans Launch of Internet for August 17th

TeleYemen disclosed to Yemen Times that Yemen's link-up with the world will be achieved on August 17th. The source was talking about the y. net becoming operational. "So far the delay has been caused, first by delivery and installation of the equipment, which has now been done," said Christopher Leather, Divisional Manager-Commercial, Operation & Marketing. But the recording of Yemen's code name and number, communicated to Virginia, then California, has taken longer than originally anticipated.

The target date for the new launch date - following two delays - is now 17th of the current August. The company is finalizing details - not just of a regular hook-up subscription, but also the making available of memory for a server. According to Mr. Leather, the company has already put together a list of potential customers. "We have already taken note of Yemen Times' interest in the service. Some 200 other customers are also envisaged. Hopefully the number will rise, especially if the Aden Free Zone becomes operational."

Insurance Companies Benefit from a Bad Law !

Does Islam Say a Woman's Life Is Worth Half a Man's?

Many members of parliament were quick to distance themselves from the shortcomings of law no. 12 of 1994. "This law, like many others, was passed by presidential decree. It never hit the parliament floor," they said. Indeed Law No. 12 of 1994 was passed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, but has since been referred to parliament, which had not had time, so far, to discuss it. This law, under the title "Crimes and Punishments" regulates and specifies the various kinds of crimes and injuries and determines the penalties and compensations for them. The eleven items of Article

(42) of the law specify the compensations to various injuries which could be incurred, which are classified according to their gravity. Item No. (11) states: "... The blood money for a woman's life is half that of a man's life. Compensation for her injuries are the same as those for a man, within the maximum ceiling (limit) of a third of the blood money for a man's life. Beyond the third, all compensations for a woman's injuries are calculated at half those of a man."

The assumption is that this is based on Islamic principles. The Yemen Times spoke to many clergymen who denied that it is an Islamic point of view. In fact, many asserted that it is a Yemeni tribal tradition or 'urf. Clergymen and religious scholars are invited to verify whether there is any specific clause in Islam that states that a woman's life is worth only half that of a man. Yemen Times will interact with insurance companies on the basis of their willingness to end this discrimination. It is clear that insurance companies have a built-in interest in continuing the discrimination.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The President's Men: Reforms Start with Them

One of the most dangerous elements in any regime is the role of the men around the ruler, in our case the president of the republic. In all political systems, this group of men (and sometimes women) play a disproportionate role in decision-making and guiding the affairs of the state. This influence makes even more pronounced when the country in question is backward and has no working institutions. This is the case of Yemen.

I personally know many of the men around President Ali Abdullah Saleh today. They are, unfortunately, mostly weak and very cheap individuals whose main goal in life is to amass money, and more money. Towards that objective, they would stoop as low as needed. They harbor personal grudges and use their closeness to the president to set him up against individuals they do not like. Some of these individuals have become their enemies simply because they had written about corruption.

I want to take examples from the media side. The two persons from the media closest to President Ali Abdullah Saleh are Colonel Ali Al-Shater and Mr. Abdo Boragi. These two individuals were among the very poor members of our society, only a few years ago. Today, they are very rich. How come in so few years, they are able to amass so much money, real estate, business operations, shares in companies, and fat bank accounts abroad? This is a question President Saleh needs to find an answer for, if he already doesn't know.

If we are talking about fighting corruption, then President should start with the men around him, and about whom he knows a lot. I have given him specific examples, and I have put forth a specific demand. If this regime is serious about reforms and about fighting nepotism and corruption, we would like to start with the glaring cases.

There is no personal problem between me and either gentleman. It is just that they are in the media, and I thought we could start with our own sector. There are, of course, other corrupt people around the president, but the beginning can be with the ones responsible for the media.

Fighting corruption and implementing reforms is not something in the air. It is something tangible and requires substantive action. Thus a visible and clear action is required to serve as a model.

Mr. President:

If you cannot put your own office in order, it is hard to imagine that much can be done elsewhere. I suggest investigations are warranted on the finances of your two media aides as a signal of the new times. After all, charity starts at home!

The Publisher

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Iranian Oil Treated at Aden

Iran is finalizing arrangements to ship 150,000 barrels per day to the Aden Refinery for refining. Based on the agreement reached last month during the visit to Sana'a by Iranian deputy oil minister, Iranian oil will be refined at Aden starting from September 1996.

At another level, Yemeni oil personnel will be going for training in Iran. The first batch of trainees will leave later this year.

Yemeni Student in India

A group of 131 Yemeni students have arrived in India to start their University Education. Most Yemenis opt for the hard sciences such as engineering, medicine, etc. Some, however, also go into arts, languages, business, etc.

Indian authorities say, there are some 1500 Yemenis in Indian University divided evenly between under graduate and post graduate studies.

Yemeni-Saudi Security Agreement Finalized

The Minister of Interior, Dr. Hussein Mohammed Arab has just returned from Saudi Arabia after completing the signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement with his counterpart in Saudi Arabia, Prince Naif Ibn Abdulaziz Al Saud. The agreement contains two components: the first is involved with the various bilateral arrangements on matters of security like the extradition of wanted criminals (and political dissidents) and other relevant security matters, whereas the second one dealt with the combatting of narcotics smuggling. It is worth noting that the press on both sides of the Yemeni Saudi border hailed the agreement as an important preparatory step for the visit of Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz due later towards the end of the month.

Yemeni Medical Sector Gets A Boost From Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany announced that on August 5, 1996 an aircraft of the German Air Force will arrive at Sana'a Airport carrying 20 tons of medicine and medical equipment, including anaesthetic apparatus, sterilizers, x-ray eqpt, etc. This shipment is the first of German Medical assistance to the Republic of Yemen agreed upon for the total amount of US \$1.4 Million to be provided from 1996 to 1998. In addition to provision of equipment, the assistance includes renovations and repairs in the Marib and Bait Al-Magdes (Sana'a) Military hospitals. With the arriving medical equipment will be a Defense Committee delegation from the Parliament of Bavaria, headed by Dr. Peter Paul Gantzer, who will meet with officials in the Ministry of Defense, Min. of Interior and Parliament during their three day stay in Yemen.

Yemeni Center for Strategic and Cultural Studies is Inaugurated

The Yemeni Center For Strategic and Cultural Studies was inaugurated on 29/7/96 to determine the important trends which Yemen will take from a strategic and a cultural point of view. The Center headed by Dr. Nasr Taha Mustafa will assess Yemen's needs in cultural development determining the weak points that need strengthening and the proper methods of enhancing Yemen's rich cultural heritage. The inauguration ceremony was attended by many officials in the government and many political and partisan dignitaries. The Center is the second of 2 Islah Party think tanks, with the Center for Strategic Studies.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN PUBLIC ELECTRICITY CORPORATION AL-MUKALLA SIMPLE CYCLE UNITS INVITATION TO TENDER NO. 32/96

The Public Electricity Corporation (PEC) of the Republic of Yemen invites eligible tenderers to submit sealed tenders to supply erection, testing and commissioning of a turnkey project consisting of two (2) simple cycle gas turbine generating units, industrial type 10 MW each, for Khalf and Al-Munawara Power Stations in Al-Mukalla City, and in accordance with Tender Documents.

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All tenders must be accompanied by a tender security in the acceptable form, equal to two percent (2%) of the tender price, and of the same currency of the bid, and must be issued by a local bank, delivered to PEC on, or before the 10th of August, 1996, at 12:00 (noon) - Sanaa, Republic of Yemen local time.

Tenders will be opened on the same day thereafter in the presence of tenderers' representatives.

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Johannes Peter Pronk

WE CAN ONLY ASSIST YOU IF YOU HELP YOURSELF FIRST

The Dutch government is very serious and active in its development assistance to Yemen. Mr. Johannes Peter Pronk, Minister of Development Cooperation of the Netherlands was in Yemen last week to see how further mutual cooperation between Yemen and the Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands maybe expanded and enhanced. Ismaiel Al-Ghabiry and Frank Ludwig filed the following interview with Mr. Pronk:

Q: What is the main purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: The visit of President Saleh to the Netherlands one year ago marked a new era in the relationship between our two countries, because for the first time the leaders of both states met at this highest level. That meant indeed there was mutual confidence. Now I am here to underline this confidence. I've come to Yemen in 1979, at that time I also was in the Netherlands in the Ministry of Development Cooperation. We have chosen Yemen already in the 1970's, because at that time it seemed to be the poorest Arabic country. Now it is not longer the poorest, but still it is very poor. When we made a development cooperation relationship, we promised to have such a relationship ongoing for a very long period, say decades. We do not think in terms of single projects only. We have always given assistance also during the difficult periods of the civil war and during the Gulf crisis. I was invited many times by my Yemeni counterparts subsequently by the Ministers of Finance and Trade. So I made it possible this week to come to renew the contacts.

Q: Would you kindly shed light in the projects that your government implemented in Yemen?

A: In the field of development cooperation our main activity has been water resource management and drinking-water in urban and rural areas. We do that for two reasons:
First: Water is a special area in which we always give priority assistance for developing countries. We have some specialization in this subject.
Second: Yemen has a major water problem and we are very concerned about this. We think that your management of water resources still leaves a lot to be desired. Your ground water lately is going down and down. The future generations may be the victims of this rapid depletion and spoiling of water, for instance, in agriculture. So we think that we need to give you assistance in the field of drinking-water by developing better management of water resources.
The second area of cooperation is primary health care. We think primary healthcare is one of the major inputs for any program to decrease poverty. Poverty remains a major problem in Yemen. I was struck by the degree of poverty. When I was here in 1976, of course, Yemen was smaller, there were less poor people. You had economic growth, but at the time you may also say, that many people did not benefit. To a certain extent, it is due to the fact that so many people returned from other countries. You need assistance to translate economic growth into poverty reductions. Thirdly we are very much interested in all activities, which strengthen the position of women in Yemeni economic development and society.

Q: What do you mean by "strengthen the position of women"?

A: We want to give assistance to NGOs, which are headed by women. Also we consider the

Research Center for Women Studies at the Sanaa University a very important institute. Also there are a number of programs in the fields of drinking water, sanitation and public health within the other areas we give special assistance to the training of Yemeni women, to have them employed. Fourth: we want to give assistance to education of girls. In particular in rural areas, for instance in Shabwa, where there are sometimes less than ten percent of the girls going to school. We are willing to give assistance to the transfer of female teachers from the cities to the countryside, to make sure, that enough girls can be educated. Because we heard that some parents do not like to send their daughters into mixed classes, we are supporting separate education in order to educate enough number of girls. This are all examples of assistance by the Netherlands in particular benefiting women.

Q: How do you evaluate the process of democracy in Yemen?

A: We are very positive about that both in absolute terms and also as compared to other countries in the region. For the region, Yemen may be seen at the moment as an example. There are not so many countries in the Middle East of Arab origin with such a strong democratic character. You may compare it a little bit with Jordan and with Egypt - but not to other countries. The parliament is very strong here. I had a discussion with the Speaker of Parliament Sheikh Abdulla Hussein al-Ahmar, I asked him a number of questions. The Parliament is powerful. But that is not the most important thing. It's important, but more important is - and that is also democracy - that you have no political prisoners, you have freedom of speech and freedom of the press. That is a guarantee. And also you have a fair degree of maintenance of human rights. All these together are criterias for democratization. And in fact you have been able to do so in a short period, because you did hardly have a nation 25 years ago. And you also did have to go through the whole process of reunification. After the Civil War you declared an amnesty and reconciliation, which in my view is remarkable. I hope it will be sustain, but the more I discussed with Yemeni counterparts the more I get confidence in this. Also because I have the real impression that for instance the Islah, the religious Islamic party - with, I may call it, a fundamentalist wing - is a party which participates in a democratic system. And the fact that you have here a situation in which a secular party, well, two secular parties and a religious party can work together. Of course they don't agree on all issues, but they can work towards a consensus, they can extend compromises, all well for the future.

Q: You did not mention the PGC, how can you estimate this?

A: In the west most people think that for instance a socialist party or a center party - and you may



call the congress party perhaps a center party and the socialist party a party along with political left of the spectrum - are more democratic than a religious party such as the Islah. The most people in the west think that an Islamic party can't be democratic by nature. I don't think they are always wrong when say so, because in many other countries religious parties are not so democratically oriented. They want to think for the people rather than they want to give people a possibility to think how to act. But here in Yemen I've the impression - for a number of discussions with Islah and also with the Deputy Prime minister - when he came to the Netherlands together with the President - that the Islah could be a different Islamic party as compared to Islamic parties in other countries. That is the reason why I mentioned it.

Q: What is the size or value of the projects that you have implemented in Yemen?
A: Annually, on average, we have provided Yemen with about 35

million dollars of assistance which is all in grant not in loan. That amount of money will be higher in 1996 and even higher in 1997. It depends on the situation of the relevant years. I cannot mention the exact figures yet.

Q: Is there any planning for further development cooperation in the next years?

A: I didn't sign cooperation agreements myself here. We have an ongoing discussion for specific programs and projects. We are also assisting Yemen in the international setting. For that reason we have given in the Hague - which is our government city in the Netherlands - a conference with many donor countries to support Yemen. We also participate in a special conference which is going to be organized - I hope by the World Bank - on assistance to Yemen to help Yemen to overcome the consequences of the floods.

Q: You mentioned the Hague-Conference. What was the result of it?

A: The Hague-Conference was

important in order to give support to a new reform program in economic terms in Yemen. It was also important to assist Yemen in clearing the areas of the debts to the international organisations. The conference was a success that means that all countries expressed their confidence in the quality of the economic policy in Yemen. It also brought Yemen, which had been a little bit isolated from international political contacts back into the international political arena. In October there will be important negotiation between Yemen and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) on a new important credit. After that there will be an international meeting to give the financial assistance to Yemen financing both: economic growth and, through a social fund, poverty reduction. You may say that the conference in Hague opened the door to this.

Q: What is your contribution in repairing the historical places which were currently affected by the floods?

A: First: The consequences of the flood are bigger than many people think. The help has to be done by a couple of countries. The removal of the top soil can hardly be rehabilitated in a short period. Assistance in this regard is required for quite some time. But a number of achievements can be realized to help in the short run. For instance, reconstruction of dams, which is necessary in order to keep the currents flowing in save areas. And a conference has to be organized as I said by the World Bank. It could be an important source of assistance. Already we've suggested two things in advance and we want to finance them. First: a program of satellite photographs of the whole areas before and after the floods, so that they could provide knowledge of comparative assessment about the specific situation as a basis for policy decisions. Second: we are also willing to

help you, in particular by commencement of a major program in the area around Shibam Hadhramaut). Because if a new floods would also effect Shibam then nothing could be repaired any more. Special efforts are warranted to save the city of Shibam.

Q: Some fieldworkers of helping organisations say that officials of the Yemen side sometimes don't fulfill the promises that were made in the negotiations for developing the country. What do you think about that?

A: We don't have a major problem with this. Sometimes the Yemeni side isn't able to make available the specific amount of money which has been promised as a kind of counterpart fund in local currency. Sometimes there is no adequate staff available on the Yemeni side. This is not on purpose. It is always due to the fact that the money isn't there or the people aren't there.

Though we always want Yemeni financial and personal involvement, we are flexible if it can't be obtained. If there is a lack of will in some developing countries, and they say 'let the western donors countries do the job', then we can't do it. But even is not due to a lack of will but only to a lack of capacity then we are very flexible. But the Yemeni of course should understand perhaps that it isn't recognized in all quarters of the Yemeni society that the basis of the Development Cooperation is, doing things yourself in Yemen, then being supported from outside. In some quarters of the Yemeni society it is easy to ask for assistance rather than start by themselves. We said to them; 'we can only assist you if you do the work yourself first'.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I hope that after the reunification, after civil war, after the amnesty and your reconciliation, really a new era is starting for Yemen.

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Three-Part Article

Role of Islam & Theologians in Yemen's Public Life

Islam's Role In Society Should Be Understood By All, Theologians And Laymen

Islam is for the good of all Mankind

introduction:

For the past two issues we have presented a sampling of opinions on the role of religion in the political life of the country. We have mainly talked with people who are a part of the religious establishment, i.e. whose full time occupational activities center on religious guidance and supervision, in one form or another. This week the YT goes outside this establishment to discuss the same topic with learned individuals in the secular fields of law, health and the arts. Below is the result of this opinion survey.



Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Qadasy is a well known doctor of medicine and a father of a big family (9 children).

Islam, as a mission and a doctrine, is for the welfare of the whole of humanity and God has sent His messenger and prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah be Upon him) not only to the Arabs but to all mankind: "We Only sent you as Mercy to all the universe!"; God has spoken the Truth. Islam was and will remain a grace to humanity. The Parliament in our country should impose/insist on allocating a definite limited time in our T. V. for broadcasting certain religious programs that have to do with the life of the people and this should be done /proceeded within the framework of discussion, interview with some of the Ulemas religious scholars who are competent, skilled and who are highly qualified in all the issues

that the approach taken from the real essence/soul of Islam as related and oriented to the conditions/circumstances of our century.

It is important that the interviews should be proceeded with those of high horizons and not with those who impose themselves as Ulemas for hence these sort of Ulemas will give their "Fatwas" or opinions in the wrong way. Of course, this will cause a contradiction and it is an abuse to the religion itself. Thus, we reject such (Fatwas) from such Ulemas in some of the mosques. Some of the Ulemas try to control some of the schools in order to propagate partisan attitudes and this is something wrong. Islam means purity and brotherhood.

The Ulema should expand their activities to all the available media and their role should not focus on preaching and giving sermons. They should approach religion from a new angle and they mention any of the shortcomings that face us in life. I also suggest that there should be particular lectures for the preachers of the mosques, in order to make them aware of a lot of things/points that they lack and they should keep away from partisan/factionalism and their role must focus on directing or guiding towards the good offices in life and disclosure of the corrupt. The silence of the Ulema about the corruption and crimes is something that can not be endured for they must reveal the on-going shortcomings, corruption and deteriorations.

Islam Depends on Tolerance, Forgiveness And Justice



Ali Abdul Kader Al-Hibshi is a well-known lawyer and consultant in his field. In addition he is the Chairman of the Lawyers Syndicate-Sana'a Branch. Yemen Times seized this opportunity to have this interview with him: Excerpts from the interview.

understanding. There should be a respect to freedom of research and study as well as innovative creativity. There should be guarantees for the acceptance of various points of views, without . What we aim is to reach the goal of making slam more than just a religion of worship, but as a practical way of life.

Q:- What do you suggest to do/proceed in the critical situations that we live these days? In other words, what is the role to take and pursue by the Ulema?

A:- Initially, we should know what do we mean by the Ulema and what is the definition for them. There is no limited measure for such a definition and discrimination. The Ulema are those who guide/direct and preach for the betterment of society. The roles of the Ulema are basic and essential, especially in guidance. They should be away from any daily or political interest or partisan activity. Their role in life is basic and they should give advice, guidance to the rulers whenever it is necessary and enlighten them of what is going on in the political, social and economic life. They should point out the weak points and deteriorations in whatever aspects of life faced by society. Such a point can not be done or achieved when the Ulema are part of the political parties. we want them to reform the shortcomings and excesses of the general life and not to be part of it and without favoritism.

Q:- How do you evaluate the role of Islam and the Ulema in the general life of the people?

A:- Islam is a religion, doctrine and set of laws which regulate/organize the general life. As for Islam is something clear, well known and a way of life which requires no explanation. To comprehend the shari'a, the religious legislations" the point is to approach it from a realistic angle. This needs efforts in all aspects of life and daily on-going practices. Any law must spring from the Sharia and depend on it. Islam depends on tolerance, forgiveness and justice. It is a rule to approach religion from the changeability process of our epoch and thus any rules/regulations or laws require study and

The Role of Islam In Society Is Indispensible

Abdulkareem Al-Magaleh is one of the well-known television and radio announcers in Yemen, in addition to being a successful and innovative man in the advertising and media channels. Yemen Times asked for his views on religion and society in the following interview:

Q:-What is your assessment to the role of Islam and the Ulema in the general life?

A: Islam although a way of life, is only superficially observed by many people nowadays. Islam should be viewed more than just a ritualistic set of worshipping rites like prayers, fasting, etc. It is behavior, interaction with others and a system which encourages work ethics and development. The way Islam is practiced in today's public life gives me the impression that people think it is a tradition that they have to observe like many other traditions and don't bother to evaluate what they have in their hands. Here is a system, which at one time sowed the seeds for modern civilizations and the development of modern science and technology, now being interpreted as one which preaches backwardness and laziness. The role of Islam in public life is indispensable . It is a way of life as I mentioned earlier. It calls for many good things, like family cohesion , love between neighbors, social integration, and community collective action. Moreover, Islam brings spiritual security which can be used to build a strong and cohesive society, thus avoiding modern civilization's social ills such as drugs, crimes and decadence. But, if you ask me what is happening today, I'll tell you that we are slowly moving away from this and the role of Islam in public life is only superficially observed like a camouflage. The theologians of Islam on the other hand seem to have lost their grip on society. It doesn't play an effective role and the religious scholars are in many respects not qualified. Their role in society is only a marginal one, and I can't expect them to be leaders of society or a movement that would create an age of enlightenment or reforms. Politically speaking, the religious leaders should stand up for all the good things and should fight wrongdoing by anyone, even by public service officials. They are expected to try to break out of the vicious circle drawn by extremists who think that Islam means a set of strict edicts which can't be questioned or adopted to modern life.

Q:-What do you suggest that the religious leaders should do to proceed in such critical situations?

A: There is no doubt that the country is undergoing



difficult times created by many political mishaps and coupled with mismanagement and corruption. What can the religious leaders do in such circumstances. Religious scholars should work to better the lives of the people. They should interpret the noble objectives of Islam by trying to ease the suffering of poor families through philanthropy and vol-

unteer work and proper guidance. They should also stand up to social ills by educating the people to stand up to wrongdoing. One important thing, they should preach that siphoning of public funds is not an act of courage and achievement as many people think, but is actually grand larceny of public resources and of the well being of the future generations. It is only through such activities that they can help alleviate the current conditions. I don't support or condone that the religious leaders should create a political movement, because this can be abused by extremists and would lead the country to even more problems.

Q:- Any last comment?

A: As I said earlier, religious scholars are very important social figures because they can be spiritual guides and can play an important role in the education of the population as to how to better organize their lives by observing the teachings of Islam in a way which brings out the hidden strengths of society, encourages work and creativity and promotes social justice. I am not against a religious scholar taking over a political office or an elected post so long as he is fit to be there and qualified to do so. How a role should be carved out for religious scholars in the political life of the country should be done through the political process and it is up to the electorate to decide accordingly. I am a believer of consensus and majority rule and I don't think that any one group should have preference to be in any position which is against the people's will. The overriding principle here is who can lead the country to development and out of the economic ills away from political maneuvering and deal making?

"It Is Not The Eyes That Are Blinded, But It Is The Hearts Which Are In The Chests." The Holy Qur'an

The poet, the writer, the philosopher and the political/social analyst, Abdulla Albaradduni stands on top whenever we talk about distinguished personalities in the nation. Albaradduni is well-known all over the Arab world. We seized this opportunity to have a chat with him and here are excerpts from his speech.

As for the Ulema the nomination is exclusive for scientists in various branches of current knowledge such as Physics, Chemistry, Nuclear Energy, in all its forms, destructive and constructive, Mathematics and other branches that serve humanity. In Yemen and elsewhere in many parts of the Islamic World, Ulema or religious scholars means those who have deep knowledge/understanding in the Islamic law" Al-Sharia" and who are capable of preaching sermons in ethics, morals, and all those values that have to do with the Islamic doctrine in general. The role of the Ulema is to preach, direct, guide the society toward the pursuit of a good life and towards the establishment of a pure society free from vice, corruption and, of course, injustice. We know that corruption springs when there is tolerance of the abuse of authority. I have no suggestion to give for the Ulema for they know their duty. No one has a right to impose a suggestion on the Ulema or even give them an advice or guidance. We regard them in high esteem and they are aware of their duty. Even in the elections, we have no right to impose a suggestion, for giving any opinion is a right of each citizen. The Ulema guide the people toward the good road in life. The Ulema are those who know/understand soundly the Islamic law and it is within the right of the preachers to use the



mosques as holy places for advice/guidance and not as places for partisan propaganda. It is within their right to preach/guide when they finish up their prayers whenever it is necessary. They should advise people how to be careful in using the tools/instruments

under their control. Their advice should go to every direction and aspect of life. As for the state and the rulers they have the right to give them advice and point out the weak points in them. For sure the Ulema should not flatter the rulers or justify their shortfalls and excesses. However, most of the time they have been unable to direct the rulers toward the straight path in life. During Napolion's invasion of Egypt, the Ulema of Egypt then were inactive in standing up against the invasion. You see, when their salaries are postponed, they are ready to arouse demonstrations within hours. The religious scholars are aware of things in society and life so they should point to the areas where things are deteriorating or being corrupted. More important, the Ulemas should be the conscience of the nation.

Ahmad Hizam

"Our Aim Is Enhancing Fishing Facilities in Yemen"

The resources of Yemen are plenty both in land and in the sea. For Yemen to recover economically, it must look everywhere for tapping its resources wherever they may be. The coastline of Yemen is well over two thousand kilometers bordering on waters that are rich in marine life, which can provide Yemen with self sufficiency in protein laden marine life with a large surplus for exports. Yemen Times discussed the possibilities of exploiting this important resource for Yemen by old hands in the trade - interview with Ahmad Hizam-The general director of the Coastal Fishing Corporation in Aden.



Q:- Would you explain to us the tasks being taken by you these days?

A:- Our main concern is on a kind of marine animal called here "Al-Shurukh" which is well-known by the Yemenis, especially in Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara Governorates. This sea animal (Rock lobster) is regarded as one of the most prized in the world and its market is open in Europe, and with fair prices. Our concern is to safeguard/protect this kind of sea animal from extinction as it is a potentially important resource in Yemen. We have regulations and by-laws which specify the ways/methods of fishing and when to do fishing with the available means used in fishing. The duration of fishing starts from October up to April,

while in May up to September there is a period of fertility, growth and productivity. Therefore, during this period fishing is prohibited. We have some other tasks including offering services to the fishermen and we have a small factory in Aden for making boats of different sizes with suitable prices. Besides, we offer our services in selling the tools used in fishing to the cooperatives all over the country.

Q:- As for the Fibreglass boats, have you any plans for the improvement of their quality to be equivalent to those of the imported?

A:- We don't deny that there are complaints from fishermen, particularly at the beginning of 1990, when the quality of our boats

deteriorated, due to a number of reasons including the availability of good materials that are used in this industry. But in 1996 we started our plans towards improving the manufacturing of boats by importing new and improved materials.

Q:- Can you legally control those fishermen who violate the rules, regulations and by-laws and how do you proceed to do that?

A:- Yes, we have our own by-laws which prevent fishing by using fishing nets as such a method will cause harm to the sea animals in general and to the lobsters in particular. We want the fishermen to use certain cages for fishing and during certain seasons. There is also a ban on fishing in some areas. Through

using the cages, we can differentiate between the females and the males and when we see females we return them to the sea again. But, you see our coasts can not be fully covered as being thousands of kilometers in area.

Q:- Can we know something about the production capacity of your corporation, in the fisheries sector?

A:- Our production from October up to May was 127 tons of rock lobsters and such an amount is something good compared to the past and its marketing is done inside of Yemen through an Auction.

Q:- Is there cooperation between your corporation and foreign companies or foreign expertise in the sphere of fishing and scientific research?

A:- In fact, the manpower is Yemeni, but there is nothing wrong in depending on some foreign expertise and research. Really, we need such cooperation to understand more about this important sea animal which we must learn how to exploit in a modern scientific manner.

Q:- What are the obstacles that face you in your work?

A:- Corruption is one of the obstacles that impede our work and there are those who get illegal profits from fishing and they need to be punished.

Q:- Any last comment?

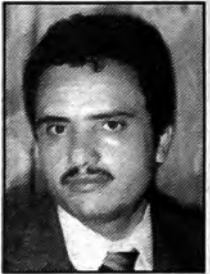
A:- We thank Yemen Times for its interest in our work and that is a good sign.

Aden The Jewel Of The Arabian Sea Breathing Life Again

Aden, as an economic capital and duty free zone has its influence in activating the national economy in Yemen. Taking Aden as a free zone is something of great importance for its strategic location in the region. Many obstacles impeded hastening the implementation of transforming Aden into a free zone but the government has started a number of procedures and studies for this purpose. It is fact that Aden possesses all the features and potentials to become one of the model cities in Yemen and a source of attracting hard currency to the country.

When we talk about Aden, we should know it has all the potentials and characteristics which gives her the priority of great importance in the region. In my point of view, it is possible to activate/operate the port with a high capacity so as to bring life to it. I can say that the slow progress of Aden helped transform the economic activities to the other Yemeni ports. It is within our hands to restore the good reputation of Aden and such a reputation reflects the good reputation of the country. The tide and web of the waters prevent the shores from contamination and the point is that it is surrounded by high mountains and this prevents being under the rush of the seasonal winds. What Aden requires is modernization in every part of the city so as to

attract investment and business to the country. A starting point is the encourage ment of entrepreneurs and Sam Shipping Company



is one of the pioneers in the sphere of services, shipping and training. It also was successful in employment of local manpower. Aden is the city of beauty on the Arabian Sea shores. I have visited a lot of ports in the world but for me, Aden is the best for its inner shores, all surrounding it across its mountains. What Aden needs is an effort to re-build, construct and organize it once again. Aden needs to feel at ease, serenity, stabilization, security, modernization after all those years of sufferings/pains under the totalitarian ruling regimes of the so-called revolutionists. Aden, since its independence, until now has only been given promises to change and develop, but promises are only promises. It deserves all our concern to turn it into a tourism area. Aden can change if it parts from those traditional hands who dealing with it. It should leave the past aside with all its agonies and sufferings.

By:- Ismail Al-Ghabri

Correction

In last week's article on the World Bank's Public Works Project the name of the WB official visiting Yemen on the project. The name should be Mr. Alastair McKechnie, Division Chief Private Sector Development and Infrastructure, World Bank. Regrets for Error.



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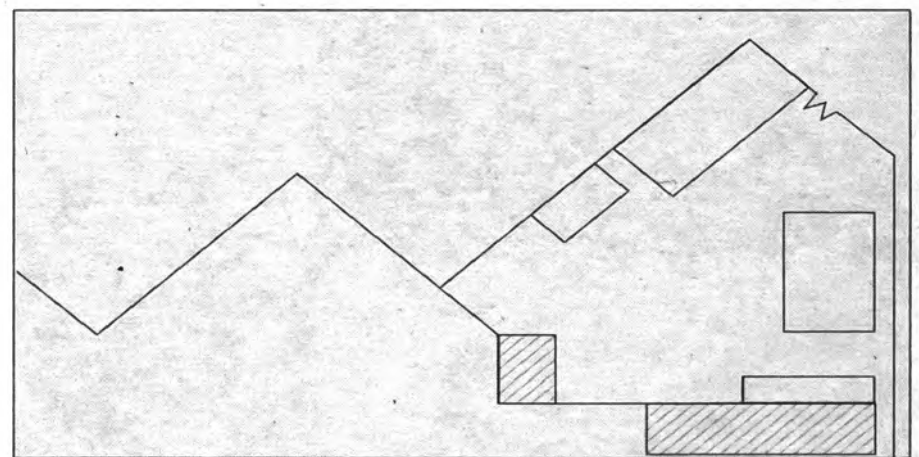
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6	Plain area of 13378 m ²
Total area	
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The area is provided with all services and is situated at block 69, the industrial zone in Al Mansoura Aden. All interested personnels (Investors, Local & Foreigner Constructors) are invited to participate in this tender, day/date will be announced later.

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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Should we Vote Just to Let Them Carry On

"The car with the loudspeaker was shouting, as it entered the village." Busses will pick you up tomorrow. The XYZ Party wants you to take advantage of your right to vote. Be here tomorrow at the village square. Bring your children along!"

"Are not these people going to leave us out of politics?" said an elderly man, heading for the mosque.

A young man sitting on a step on a store in front of the mosque's main entrance shouted to the man, whom he knew was hard at hearing: "What is the matter, Haj Saleh? This is what they call, on television, democracy!"

Haj Saleh turned to the young man: "You mean, mediocrity! We have seen more trouble since this word surfaced in our media, than from all the natural floods and catastrophes that have hit this poor country. It is not enough that we already have left these people to rule us by the nozzle of our guns, now they want us to confirm them by our votes."

"You do not have to vote for the ruling parties, if you do not want to," said Haj Sa'ad, a butcher who was also heading towards the Mosque.

"Haj Saleh said: "I did not vote for them the last time we had this 'injection', yet the ruling parties still won."

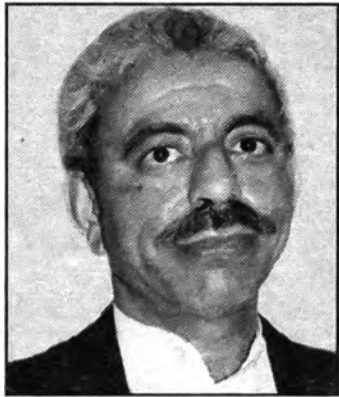
Haj Sa'ad explained: "You saw how many troops voted in our voting precinct. I could bet you a

million Riyals that none of them were actually residents of the area. In fact, when I asked some of them, how is it that they are voting for people who should be representing us, the real bona-fide residents of this area, they replied that they are only obeying orders, as any good soldier should. Not only that; one of them shocked me by telling me that he and some of his colleagues had just come from voting in another Precinct!"

The teacher of the mosque school, a member of the ABC Islamic Party joined the conversation: "Haj Sa'ad! You should stick to cutting meat rather than to try to distort the democratic procedures followed by the ruling coalition. The ABC Party did not move any troops, even as a partner in the ruling coalition. The XYZ may have done that because the secessionists of the Nationalist Party were doing it, then, in the last Elections.

Haj Sa'ad was not pleased by the vocational slur of the teacher: "Well, if the Conference and the NSP used troops, the ABC used illiterates, women and juveniles the same way. The rulers are just making a mockery of the public's free will.

The young man at the store came to join the threesome by the Mosque gate: "The only way to beat these rulers is if we can align all the people vote for one candidate who does not belong to



any of the ruling parties. Wouldn't you agree, Professor Ishaq?"

The teacher saw a chance for some party work: "Your best bet would be the ABC candidate, no matter who it is. The ABC will take away all the evil that has eaten up our society. It is obvious that all the dancing and women that appear on television are sources of God's dislike of us!"

Haj Sa'ad could not believe hearing this: "Part of the problem with you people in the ABC is your conception of evil is concentrated on absurd or minor items. Yet, you see no evil in being partners in a government plagued with so much corruption! We did not see any moves or even statements against corruption in government, although prior to sharing the government, your mosque preachers promised to wipe out corruption, and put the nation on the gateway to paradise in this life and in the hereafter. Yet, we seem more closer to hell in both lives!"

The old man, who is hard at hearing still saw no logic in everything going on in the country: "Everybody wants power. They go after it by imposing themselves as community leaders and then work for the state to keep their respective communities out of touch with the state and the latter out of touch with the people! Look, I am not a

politician, nor did I go through schooling. I am lucky enough only to be able to read the Koran, but still I, like any other man, who has accumulated much knowledge on the ways of men, find no difficulty in distinguishing right from wrong. Our whole approach to life seems to veer towards the wrong. What is even more distressing is that people show not even the minimal care when pursuing any task. The apathy that has overtaken the Yemeni people on such a grand scale will lead us to chaos. There is no discipline. There is carelessness. The people of Yemen certainly deserve a lot more kindness from their rulers". Al-Haj Sa'ad said: "There is no strength; Except with God! The only time the people come up in the minds of our politicians - ruling and aspiring to rule - is the last ten months before the Elections. But even the Elections, which are the people's rightful claim to power-even this expression of the will of the people - is being subjected to manipulation. Manipulation of the will of the people is a very serious infraction in any God - fearing society.

"It is amazing to find that among our most religious people, butchers are really the most serious believers and worshipers of Allah. Half of their speech is devoted to religious thought. It elevates their confidence amidst a society that is unfair to this breed. How are you going to vote Haj Sa'ad?" asked the young man.

"I would hope that there would be a candidate who can show that he is unhappy about the way we are, for our sake and not for the sake of getting elected! I would hope that all the people in Yemen can agree: it is time that the people who will represent them in the government must be people who understand and feel in tune with the hardships confronting their people to such a large extent. There must be people in our society with enough courage to say no, when they see something wrong. Otherwise the people will continue to be the losers in the whole arrangement. There must be people who know that things could be a lot better if everybody plays their roles in society with a greater sense of responsibility. Can't we put people like that in government?"

Just then a shining Land Cruiser Station Wagon stopped and all the doors flung open. Close to a dozen men were pouring out of their car, in paramilitary gear, spreading out to a disorderly formation. "Ahlan wa Sahlan to our Sheikh," said Professor Ishaq coming forward to greet the Sheikh.

At the same time, the Muezzin's voice shouted the Prayer Call; "Allahu Akbar (God is more Supreme!"

All the men by the gate of the mosque, shouted almost as one voice: "Allahu Akbar", which the Sheikh knew was really meant to echo the disapproval of the arrogance and show of power they have just seen shown by the Sheikh and his bullies, as well as the exaggerated respect accorded him by the Professor. The other men at the gate that the power in the village seems to rest with these two men.

The Sheikh asserted his authority: "Professor Ishaq! You should persuade the people to gather here tomorrow for the busses that will take them to register, if they did not before. Tell them that they could be getting some Qat money tomorrow."

The Professor was not going to hide his political persuasion: "The ABC people have already

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taken to register a week ago. Your people already tried to stop the free grain we distributed to the poor people! This village will vote Islamic!"

The Sheikh walked over to the other men: "Hello Haj Saleh. Hello Haj Sa'ad. You gentlemen are highly regarded in the village. You can convince people to come tomorrow. I am sure you will be helpful in convincing people to come to register. Haj Sa'ad; Slaughter a calf and a couple of lambs. The village will have lunch on the Sheikh tomorrow, when we come back from registration. In the afternoon, we will meet and talk about the kind of people we want to represent us in Parliament. It will be up to you, the people of the area, tomorrow to let me know if I should decide to run." He took a thousand Riyals and handed them over to the young man: "You get all your friends from school gathered her, tomorrow. I know you would like to become important in the future. You can take charge of all the Sports and recreational events and clubs in all the area. In fact, I have already talked to the governor to list you as a prominent student leader in this and the other villages in the area."

"Sorry, Sheikh, but my father has ordered me to stay out of politics. I can not disobey my father's wishes," said the young man.

"Your brother was with the NSP Secessionists during the war. The unity forces imprisoned him in Lahj when they got there. He tried to resist and we finally apprehended him. He tried to escape and he was shot! I know that your father is worried that your involvement with us will lead to the same result for you. But, you have to tell him that by working for us, you become a part of legitimacy. Here this can be used to buy

him a nice scarf!" He handed him another thousand Riyals. "Sorry Sheikh!" said the young man returning the hand with the money towards the Sheikh; "you have it all wrong! My brother happened to be

in Aden when the war broke out. He could not get out of it until towards the end when the legitimate forces reached Lahj. The troops who went in took him to be fighting with the Secessionists because he was a member of one of the opposition parties. He tried to convince them of the truth. they told him that he has to be detained for questioning.

He resisted because he was a victim of bad circumstance. He escaped because he was being deprived of his freedom, without any justification. Moreover, his party did not fight with the secessionists"

Professor Ishaq was quick to jump into the conversation; "All the opposition parties were allies of the YSP"

The young man did not want to complicate the situation, "Look my brother is already dead and his case is now left for God to judge on, there is no sense in having him tried after he has died! As for me, my father insists that I complete school first, and help him in the farm, second, since he is getting older. You know we have to refit our farm after the floods have done so much damage to it," said the young man, who felt his brother was killed unfairly, and was giving an argument which he hoped the Sheikh will understand.

The Sheikh was not so easily taken; "Look! Someone else should not take a good chance away for you to have an important community position. We can help you rebuild your farm! Besides your colleagues listen to you and we want people like that. You have got to help us so that this area is not taken over by the ABC!"

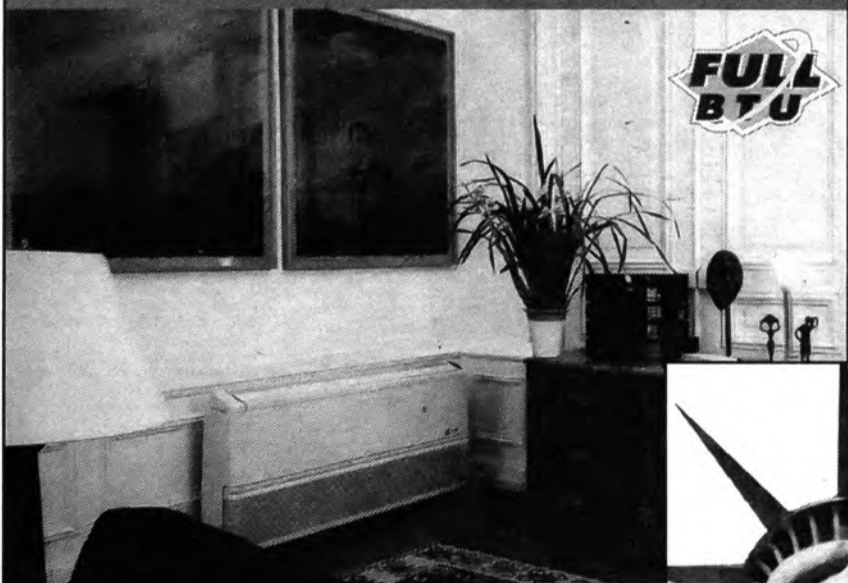
The story continues next issue.

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التهاني الحارة

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لطف أحمد الصرابي
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولودة البكر والتي سميت
أصالة

وعقبال المانة عام أصالة في ظل رعاية والديها.
المهذون
ادارة نادي شعب صنعاء
الحاج أحمد حسن الصرابي، عبدالله حسن الصرابي،
محمد أحمد الصرابي، احمد علي الباهي.
وجميع الأهل والاصدقاء

A Global Financial Strategy



From the financial points of view, it is self-evident that a sound fiscal management is at the root of the financial administration. In a welfare state, its functions not merely as an instrument of administrative control but also as the regulator of the flow of funds to vital centers of economic and social activity and also as

means of coordinating the activities of operating agencies and determining priorities in public activities. A sound system of financial administration is necessary not only to keep the state at an even keel but also to determine the pace, direction and pattern of social and economic development of a country.

Fiscal management is a dynamic process involving a continuous chain of operations which may be indicated as:

1. Estimates of revenue and expenditure need, technically called "Preparation of the budget";
2. Securing legislative sanction for these estimates, technically called "Legislation of the budget";
3. Execution of the revenue and expenditure operation called "Execution of the budget";
4. Legislative accountability of these operations, called "Audit". Fiscal management includes, as its principle sub-divisions, budget-making followed by the formal act of appropriation, executive supervision of expenditure (Budget execution), the control of the accounting and reporting system, treasury management and revenue collection and audit.

That the 20th century witnessed the growth of the problem of public finance on a gigantic scale is well-known. The world economic and financial analysts say, the problem arose in as much as the growth of the functions of a state in all directions, the establishment of parliamentary control over

public finance, the necessity of check in financial administration to prevent fraud and waste, and to secure the highest possible results from public expenditures, and the growth in credit operations which resulted in the creation of central banks as the bankers of the government.

To solve this problem, there arose a new system in England, called Budgetism or the budget system, which was wholly unknown until 1803. The term "budget" is derived from a French word, bougette, meaning a leather bag or wallet. This word came in England by the year 1733. Budget today has become one of the principal tools of financial administration. Economists say, it is a proposed work program, with estimates of the funds necessary to execute it. The financial management of any country, from the custody point of view, depends on its history, its area, and the banking facilities.

The Banking System:

Before the development of the banking system, every government used to keep its own treasuries at different places and there used to be elaborate systems of its custody and accounts. Banking facilities exist now in almost every country developing or developed. Furthermore, through the use of banking system it is no longer necessary to carry on all the financial transactions through cash money as most of the work may now be done through cheques, drafts handies, and bank bills. Thus, today it is quite possible to keep a centralized system, a Central or Reserve bank carrying all the money transactions through its various branches in different parts of the world. A proper system of control over public finance is not necessary only to ensure fidelity on the part of public officials but also, and more so, to accomplish program targets at minimum costs and in shortest possible time. Therefore, a control system is an integral part of financial management. As the new financial markets developed and the traditional ties weakened, many manufacturing firms in both the developed and developing countries began to prefer direct finance "issues of securities, especially equities and equity-related instruments" to in-direct finance "borrowing from banks". The process of financial innovation and deregulation, which everywhere seems to run faster than the authorities would wish, cracks the

functional boundaries between different sorts of institutions. Banks are allowed to do business traditionally assigned to securities houses, and vice versa; new instruments are permitted; interest rates are freed; and, most important, financial markets of one sort or another begin to displace the close relationships between borrowers and lenders that seem to depend on highly segmented industry. Actually, the industrial economies still account for 78% of world exports and their currencies dominate international financial markets. So the economic policies of the old industrial giants do have a disproportionately large influence on the world economy as a whole.

A World of Business Discipline:

Lack of business discipline has been, and still is, one of the basic problems facing the world. Commodity exchanges operate as standard practice in business and in the handling and pricing of goods. Some businessmen say, pricing an equity issue is always tricky. The trade-off between risk and return is familiar to all investors: a risky asset ought to pay more over the long term to make up for the greater possibility of a short-term loss.

The commodity exchange must be revived in the Third World countries. Since these countries' economies have reached a level which required this kind of mechanism. With strict exchange regulations, an excellent testing ground is offered for economic organizations to create the ethical practices that are essential for an efficient market economy. Since openness is vital for the operation of the exchange, it is incumbent upon the businessmen to make all information about the deals public.

The hope that one can make a fortune in the commodity's exchange without any effort quickly vanished. It becomes clear that the exchange is acting as a price barometer and has an effect on other deals as well. The farmers who are keeping a tab on the price trends in the commodity exchange can easily calculate how much of a risk they should take. and this is where covering purchases, an art of its own within the exchange, may play a role. As soon as the covering purchases reach that proportion, then the exchange can claim to be functioning as a genuine exchange.

A country's real effective exchange rate is calculated by adjusting the nominal, trade-weighted exchange rate for differences in inflation at home and abroad. When a currency rises in value, theory says the country's trade surplus should fall. One can only hope that fair business practices will be clearly and universally accepted. Foreign investors who would like to do business in developing countries need to know how big these potential markets are. It is the fact that the UN's international comparison program is the most effective efforts to revalue developing countries' output at international prices. Businessmen had better use purchasing power parities, which take account of international differences in prices. Perhaps, it gives a more accurate measure of the relative size of economies than market exchange rates, this still leaves a problem:

the original local currency figures may themselves be unreliable. For example, poor-country governments may have an incentive to report GDP as low as possible to qualify for soft loans from international financial institutions, or to get favorable trade treatment. With economic stabilization, the need for consumer and capital goods is expected to rise. Nowadays, North American Free Trade Agreement is seen to create the World's largest single trading bloc, linking 365 million consumers in a U. S. \$65 trillion market. It means that there should be a lowering or abolition of tariffs among the three countries making goods manufactured in Canada, Mexico, and the United States of America cheaper to the end user. Some technologically-advanced countries are afraid of the NAFTA in view of a further erosion of the competitiveness of their goods on the U. S. A. markets. They believe their major export industries will be affected by the new trade pact! The industries include semi-conductors, electronics, computers, automobiles, and textiles.

Factors shaping the new trade relationship:

- i) Trade & Tariff agreements,
- ii) Improving foreign exchange conditions as Western countries begin to channel financial aid to the countries that are in need of it.

Let's use Nigeria as an example. As its traditionally strong export markets begin to weaken, the country's policy of export diversification appears to be paying off especially when coupled with improved price and quality competitiveness. As far as the economists know, to the extent that the prices of traded goods were equal everywhere, then wages in each country would depend on the productivity.

As far as the economists know, to the extent that the prices of traded goods were equal everywhere, then wages in each country would depend on the productivity of its traded goods industries. Countries with low productivity would have low wages. It had become clear that expanded production imposed great burdens on a country, and genuine changes would be required. The first semblance of a free market is made possible by the liberalization of prices. The commodity exchange must also be revived from the comatose state.

The study of questions regarding the sale of products for hard currency plays an important role in feasibility study. As it is known, the banks insist that agreements on marketing products should meet the following requirements:

- a) The form of an obligation must be paid if delivered.
- b) If the agreement on the sale of similar goods with published market prices has to be reached, the formula that determines the sum of prices for goods delivered must dovetail world prices with prices quoted under this agreement.
- c) The validity period of the agreement on sales must not be less than the repayment period of currency credits.
- d) The agreement must provide for the payment of all losses caused by non-fulfillment of the obligations undertaken by the buyer as well as the right of creditor in this case to replace the buyer.

Democracy has to play all sorts of mechanical and human means to safeguard public money from this susceptibility of its officials. Accountability is the principle of democratic administration. Accountability can not be affected merely by the traditional devices of bounding book-keeping, accounting and reporting. It goes farther than custody and stewardship and enlists the dynamic policy-determining qualities of management. Its effectiveness, therefore, is not only a matter of developing a few internal and external controls but of devising an integrated administrative machinery which in collaboration with the general planning machinery may prepare a workplan and so manage the flow of the finance as to accomplish the targets of the plan with the minimum expense of money and energy within the specified time limits.

In conclusion, whatever the global financial strategy to be followed, one thing is certain: Action is needed fast before time runs out for accountability and audit. Unless this action is taken, financial scandals will not be, chauvinistically, overcome to make a new era of accountability.

By: Mohammed Ali Shidle

Apology to Yemen Times readers

Due to circumstances, we couldn't continue with the last part of "ADEN PORT".
Look for it in the next issue.



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MILLIONS PERINATAL DEATHS OCCUR ANNUALLY WORLDWIDE

More than 7.6 million babies fail to make it through the late stages of pregnancy, birth and the first week of life - almost 4.3 million die before or during birth and another 3.4 million newborns die within the first week of life, according to a newly-published World Health Organization (WHO) document "Perinatal Mortality". Although the number of babies who die during the first year of life - infant mortality - has decreased substantially during the decade, the number of babies who are born dead or die within the first week of life - perinatal mortality - has remained virtually unchanged. Virtually all perinatal deaths (98%) take place in developing

countries, where out of every 1000 babies born, 57 are either born dead or die within the first week of life. This is five times the rate in developed countries where the perinatal mortality rate is estimated to be only 11 per 1000 births. The highest rates are found in Western, Central and Eastern Africa (about 80 per 1000 births), with south-central Asia close behind (66 per 1000 births). The rate for the Republic of Yemen is a whopping 140 per 1000 births, among the highest in the world. High levels of perinatal mortality are found in the same places where maternal deaths are high and where many births are not attended by skilled personnel. Currently, four out of every ten

babies who die during their first year of life die during the first week. Greater efforts are needed to implement the simple and cost-effective interventions that bring about a substantial decrease in perinatal mortality. Perinatal deaths are inextricably linked to women's status and nutrition and result largely from the inadequate care of pregnant women and newborns. Thus, perinatal deaths can be reduced only when pregnant women receive better care, especially skilled attention during delivery and when the needs of the newborn are better met - hygienic conditions for delivery, warmth, immediate breastfeeding, resuscitation when necessary and treatment of infections.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN HEALTH

Climate change is likely to disturb various natural and ecological systems thus triggering off a host of mostly adverse effects on human health. This is the main conclusion of **CLIMATE CHANGE AND HUMAN HEALTH** - a joint publication of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) released in Geneva last month.

Most of our current environmental health problems are of localized nature. However, many of the anticipated health effects of climate change would affect large populations in many regions. The most direct health effects would be those caused by heat-waves, storms, and floods; the least direct would be those due to socio-economic disruption caused by environmental deterioration. Many of the indirect public health effects would occur slowly, via climatic impacts upon agriculture, ocean fisheries, and infectious disease transmission.

Climatic factors also effect the emergence and resurgence of infectious diseases. Infectious diseases include vector-borne diseases, many of which are a major source of illness and death in developing countries.

An estimated one in 20 people in the world are currently infected with malaria, with approximately 350 million new cases occurring annually. About 100 million people are at risk of contracting American trypanosomiasis (Chagas disease). Its geographical distribution ranges from the southern United States to southern Argentina and Chile. Onchocerciasis, or river blindness, is currently affecting 17.5 million people in Latin America and West Africa.

The distribution and abundance of vectors and intermediate hosts of these diseases are determined by various physical factors (temperature, rainfall, humidity, surface water availability, and wind) and biotic factors (vegetation, host species, predators, competitors, parasites and human interventions). An increase in ambient temperature is anticipated to cause net increases in the geographic distribution of vector organisms such as malaria mosquitoes, although some localized diseases may also occur.

At the same time, temperature-related changes in the life-cycle dynamics of vectors and pathogens would increase the potential

rate of transmission of vector-borne diseases in many parts of the world. Incidence of trematode infections, including schistosomiasis, may also rise due to climate-related changes in transmission dynamics and effects on the abundance of snail intermediate hosts.

It is estimated that the proportion of the world population exposed to the potential transmission of malaria could increase in a hundred years time from the current 45% to around 60%. Much of this increase would affect populations currently at the margins of malaria endemic areas in tropical, subtropical, and some less well-protected temperate zones. Increases in incidence of other infectious diseases such as cholera, and other water-related and food-related infections, could also occur, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions, following climatic impacts on water distribution, temperature and the proliferation of micro-organisms. Climate change would lead to increased incidence of familiar, existing public health problems. An increase in the frequency or severity of heatwaves would translate into greater heat-related mortality and illness. Studies in North America, North Africa and China indicate that in very large cities, this would represent several thousand additional deaths annually. This trend is not expected to be counterbalanced by a possible slight decrease in cold-related mortality. Climate change is also likely to bring about major regional shifts in rainfall patterns and, with them, increased frequency or severity of droughts, floods, and bushfires.

Drinking water supplies may also be affected. Injuries, deaths, and psychological and social disturbances attributable to these causes are likely to increase in affected regions.

The production of some types of air pollutants and, accordingly, incidence of their associated health impacts, such as cardio-respiratory disorders, would probably be exacerbated by climate change. A warmer and wetter climate in some regions could also result in higher airborne concentrations of various pollens and spores with a possible impact on allergic disorders, such as hay fever and asthma.

Climate change, via effects on soil, photosynthesis, pests and diseases, would affect agri-

cultural productivity. Almost certainly, important regional differences would occur, with negative effects seen principally in lower-latitude lower-income countries. In those regions, malnutrition, hunger and other health problems could increase, particularly in children.

Sustained depletion of stratospheric ozone (technically speaking, not a component of climate change, but closely related to it), would cause an increase in the incidence of skin cancer. It may also increase the incidence of ocular lesions (for example certain cataracts), as well as suppression of the immune system. Increased ultraviolet radiation would also impair, to some extent, the photosynthetic productivity of land plants and marine phytoplankton - both of which are basic sources of human food.

Other indirect effects on health would result from the social-demographic disruptions caused by rising sea-level and from those caused by climate-related regional shortages in fresh water, food and other natural resources. "The inherent 'newness' of this topic - climate change as a hazard to human health - means that there is an urgent need for an expanded international effort. Health sciences must develop new and better methods for clarifying the relationship between public health and natural and human-induced climate change. Attaining a greater awareness of potential health impacts will require activities to educate the public health community and to encourage media coverage of this subject," the report states.

"We have gone beyond the point where the casual use of the atmosphere as a highly mobile dump for man's waste is possible," comments professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization. "Any change in climate would have far-reaching environmental, biological, socio-economic and public health consequences."

"Climate change poses direct risks for both human health and ecosystems", says UNEP Executive Director Mrs. Elizabeth Dowdeswell. "Much of the damage to ecosystems could have additional consequences for human well-being, such as reduced water supplies in certain regions and increased storm damage."

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DEMOCRACY, LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICY, AND INDUSTRIALIZATION ARE ESSENTIAL FOR YEMEN'S FUTURE

Seventy businessmen, politicians, media and social independent figures, and other interested persons participated in the seminar sponsored by the Yemeni Institute for the Development of Democracy. On top of the attendants was the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Abdul Wahab Al-Anisi and Dr. Hassan Maki the Advisor to the President. The Seminar held on the 28th and 29th of July, in Sana'a dealt with the development of a national strategy for the development of a free industrial economy. The conference was held with an air of frankness and openness. Many participants expressed their deep sense of worry toward the impediments that stand in the way of the economic situation, particularly those from the private sector. The paper work included research papers, solutions and recommendations to be taken into consideration. The researches focused on the judicial impediments that impede the movability of the whole economic activity. A reconsideration of the laws in this view will give a new spirit and move to the whole economic activity. It has become necessary for the state to enter the mixed sector and this trend should go in accordance with the framework of an inclusive development. The other point is creating a general environment of political stabilization in the country to attract the local/foreign investment. On the other hand, the private sector should be free from the state's intrusion and there must be a readiness to accept the free competition of the market. The seminar also aimed to focus on the democratic trends/practices and the role these could have on bringing stimulation to economic activity in the country.

An introduction to the structural relations between the guarantees of a democratic transformations and the economic evolution.

By Ahmad Al-Soufi



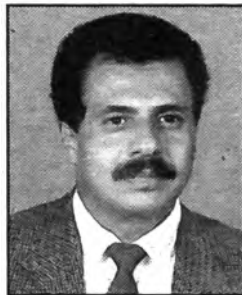
The seminar is an embodiment, for uprooting/originating the democratic practices in Yemen as values, principles and morals. The deteriorations of the economic situation has imposed on us the need for such a seminar. The de facto is that the adoption of the reform package is to stabilize the

pillars of a liberal economic policy which has become a political choice ending the totalitarian approaches to government. Democracy has paved the way toward a better life for the nation and it also provided freedom in all its aspects. But democracy has faced a number of setbacks and violations and this might impede the process of democratization. Our seminar aims at reaching the best ways and means to achieve the transformation by the best methods and with least sacrifice. Democ-

cracy is the source which helps in increasing production and provides the positive initiative needed to face the challenges. The economic factors, hunger, crises might push the societies toward choices which are in contradiction with the values of freedom and tolerance. On the other hand, corruption pushes classes of society to stand against democracy. In this case, the economic issue might appear to be a challenge to democracy. The solution of democratization in Yemen is connected with the solution of the economic deterioration and the fair distribution of the resources of the nation. We are in a race with our epoch which has gone high-tech in everything. Industrialization is one of the important factors to build-up the economic structure and such an economic transformation requires many steps and efforts and structural transformations in every sector. In brief, we are in need of a change, a reform, a new approach to all of our problems and challenges

The middle class and the industrial development in Yemen.

By Dr. Mohammad Al-Meitami



It is a fact that Yemen entered the realm of industrialization late, and that the country is still unable to shoulder the economic evolution without getting help to stand on its foot. There are factors which helped in impeding industrialization such as the old ruling regimes, imperialism, political deteriorations, and totalitarianism and other social/tribal factors. In the past, there was no protection for industry and no steps being taken to protect the local products from this invasion of imports. With the September/October revolution industry liberated itself from the restrictions laid upon it and thus paved the way for the middle class to breathe. The seventies witnessed a point of stabilization and this period helped in raising the number of the factories established. The commercial middle class pushed its way and developed throughout the market to reach later to be an industrial class. There is a change in all sectors in Yemen and this comes as a response to the dynamic transformations in the economic structure. With the growth of the economy, the middle class faces some impediments such as institutional obstacles: obstacles that have to do with monetary, financial and economic situations and some foreign challenges. Based on this, we call all the national private investors to contribute towards industrialization and concentrate on the investment projects to establish a national economy instead of commerce, brokerage, and property speculations which do not go in harmony with the necessities of the economic evolution that we hope to achieve.

The trends of building up an environmental atmosphere in Yemen.

By:- Dr. Mutahar Al-Siedi

Under the New World Order and the policy of international competition, the policy of open markets and the reforms followed by a great number of states. Many of these countries have paved the way



towards more liberal pursuit of policies. The conditions which encourage the flourishing and constructive environment are:- the provision of an institutional structure, provision of an ideology/philosophy, provision of mechanisms/channels to interact with the other factors. There should be a suitability of laws which specify the rights of the investors and which are embodied with the appropriate guarantees. Otherwise, how can they work/do business? There should be a judicial system to resolve any disputes and to deal with violations. All the strategies and trends should provide this environment to help the evolution process.

The industrial development and the tax reform

By:- Amin Noaiser



It is a fact that Yemen confronts a difficult situation in the correction of the excesses/deteriorations of its national economy, through its adoption of a program of reform on all levels. In case, of a pursuit of this reform package based on sound and studied programs the country will surely

achieve economic and social balances and a rise in the standard of living. The function of the law is to organize the relationship between the parts of society. Taxation is one of the most important of these laws, and it has impact on the whole investment process. The taxation law on production and consumption has its negative aspects on the investment projects. The general features of this law will make the investors, whether local or foreign, not to invest and even to evade paying such taxes. It is unbelievable that the investors invest in a country whose legislators try to raise the portion of taxation on the cost of production. The customs imposed policy can cover the deficit in the balance so there should be a study for taxation. Initially, raising the taxes appears to be a remedy for the deficit as if it is to solve the problem. The defect of this policy is that it is a current short-sighted policy. Raising of taxes on production/consumption will harm greatly the consumers as well as the producers. We should adopt a new investment policy for tax reform by which we reduce taxes and the customs and not the contrary. The tax reform is a step which should be taken to consolidate the reform package and attract investment to our country. At the same time, we should start from where the others ended and not to be a field for experiments for other to try.

The strategies of industrialization in Yemen.

By:- Dr. Issam Al-zaim

Dr. Issam Al-Za'im, one of the chief economic consultants of UNDP shed light on the complex relations between economic growth and the democratic practices within the framework of transformation to market oriented policy in developing countries. In the seminar held by the Y. I. D. D. Dr Alzaim



talked about the private sector and its role in the whole process focusing on the relations between democracy and development of the market. The pursuit of democracy and pluralism accompanied the transformation toward free market policies. The initiative of the government on October, 1994 was toward transformation from the policy of the public sector to the private sector and thus came the resolution of the pursuit and implementation of the reform program. The concept behind the reform package was to reach a fixed balance: reducing the general expenditure, stabilization of rate of exchange, tackling the shortcomings in the trade balance and the balance of payment, imposing an increase on taxation, liberalization of the import policy and rescheduling the foreign debt. The reform package aims for privatization, reduction of consumption and attraction of expatriate capital into the country. The unification of Yemen in 1990 was regarded as a historical trend toward democracy/pluralism and then the elections which followed gave the whole system a boost. The whole process was a trend toward a greater balancing of all levels. There is a point regarding the policy of the free market and this has to do with the point of monitoring/supervision on the market. All the reform points should serve to achieve the transformation in the end.

RECOMMENDATIONS:-

The seminar has discussed the impediments that stand on the way of implementation of the reform package and transformation to the policy of the free market. The failures that face the reform package is due to short-sighted policies which do not meet with the evolution, but only depends on political/media incentives. The adoption of a strategically studied program and will encourage the investment in industry instead of importation and restricted taxation. The recommendations are as follows:-

- The necessity of dependance on a national vision to stabilize a base for the formation of a structural economy on the base of balanced production.
- Focusing on the local products instead of the foreign.
- It is necessary to arrive to an equitable distribution of the resources.
- A re-consideration in the Law 16 on Foreign Trade 1996, to provide for more protection to the national industry.
- Modernization of the structure of economy to harmonize with the process of reform.
- Re-consideration of Law 14/1996 Taxes on production/consumption and try to reduce its impact on the local industry.
- Preparation to face the outcomes of applying the Arab Market Accord which is going to be valid from next year.
- The seminar focus on democracy as it is a basis for any meaningful economic transformation.
- The seminar recommends the arriving to the appropriate mechanisms in order achieve the goals of reform in the country.



Mohammed Mutahar:

"The tourism survey will provide us with hard numbers"

The Tourism Industry is a promising factor in the future economics of the Republic of Yemen. It is, by international standards, relatively untapped and lacking in the necessary infrastructure and desired institutional and professional framework. That is because the tourism industry has mainly been the occupation of the private sector. In *Tourism Magazine*, issues no. 3 and 4 (Bilingual: English-Arabic), recently published, there are articles that give details on the various government efforts to launch the programs which are needed to accelerate tourism growth.

Yemen Times visited the General Tourism Authority (GTA) which is increasing active in implementing the government's desire to make tourism a thriving national industry. The starting point was the Master Tourism Plan and its offshoot, the Tourism Survey (Stage 1 now completed).

Yemen Times spoke to the Vice Chairman, Mohammed Mohammed Mutahar. He discussed at length the seriousness with which the government views the prospects of tourism in Yemen. Hassan Al-Haifi and Ludwig Thomas filed the following interview.

Q: Let us start with the GTA's most current effort - the survey. Can you brief us on it?

A: It is time for tourism in Yemen to depend on the language of numbers, in keeping with the age of statistics. The survey we are carrying out is fully financed by the Yemeni government.

We benefit from the Tourism Master Plan drawn up by the GTA in cooperation with the European Commission which provided technical assistance in the form of experts and consulting back-up.

The survey is divided into 3 stages, the first was completed 10 days ago, after 45 days of field work, all over the country. The second stage started on July 18, 1996, and will proceed for about a month. The Third Stage will be completed by November of this year. Upon its completion, the survey would make the government aware of the various elements at work in tourism and their magnitude.

Q: Are you using any foreigners in carrying out the survey, or is it a purely Yemeni enterprise?

A: The GTA is carrying out the survey in coordination with the Central Organization for Statistics which is assessing or reviewing the results with us. The survey's term of reference is derived from the Master Plan for Tourism in Yemen, drawn up by international specialized consulting companies.

Q: How many Yemeni firms presently work as tourism agencies or other efforts related to Tourism?

A: There are approximately 160 Yemeni travel and tourism agencies. This number is quite high when viewed in the context of the number of tourists that visit Yemen. In this regard, we are working on appropriate legislations and rulings to regulate this aspect of tourism. This would allow for flexibility in expanding tourism activity in a more professional manner by limiting to those who would invest in travel and tourism. We are looking for those firms which display seriousness and professionalism towards the growth and development of the sector.

We want to have the proper legislation which will induce the development of the investment side of the sector objectively and pragmatically. Besides tour operators and travel agents, we have investments in the industry that are directed towards accommodation, catering, and other direct tourist services. We have indirect but essential investments also in terms of infrastructure. We are not interested in regulations that impede expansion, but that organize the activities to the maximum mutual benefit of the investors and the tourists and the economic benefit to nation.

Q: What special area would you like to see investment directed to?

A: We are hopeful that prospective investors will take advantage of the Investment Law and direct their investments in human resource development especially in training. The GTA considers any investment in this aspect to be profitable and important, because the future of Yemen is in such sectors as tourism, fisheries and agriculture. The private sector must start channeling their investments in these sectors because success is guaranteed.

Q: Can you brief us on the number of tourists visiting Yemen and their countries of origin?



A: Some 60,000 tourists came to Yemen from all over the world in 1995. Our market is predominantly European (66%), followed by Middle Eastern (18%), and Asian (7%). German tourists top the list at around 10,000 visitors, followed closely by France and then Italy. From the Middle East, Saudi Arabians are highest number (2,415). We are still below the 1992 record, during which the number reached 72,000. The lowest - at 40,000 - was in 1994, due to the Civil War.

Q: What promotional endeavors does Yemen undertake overseas?

A: We (GTA) participate in tourism exhibitions especially in Western Europe, like this year's participation in Milan, Berlin, and Paris. The private sector also engages in individual efforts here and there.

Q: What tourist destinations in Yemen do you see as attractive to foreign tourists?

A: Yemen offers a variety of interests that could appeal to all kinds of tourists. Geography and landscape, history and archeologic sites, culture and architecture, religion and folklore, beaches and scuba diving, etc. The choices in Yemen are many. Above all, of course, there is the friendliness and hospitality of the Yemeni people.

Many Yemeni cities are regarded by UNESCO as international heritage cities that must be preserved. This is due to their unique character and historic embodiment as they represent important cultural steps in human development and civilization, and man's interaction with the environment and habitat. The new areas that will be a new focus of attention for us is the coastline and marine areas, along with the hundreds of islands scattered in the territorial waters of the nation. The islands of Socotra and Kamaran Islands come to mind. Fishing, diving and boating are expected to attract many tourists, especially for those wishing to escape the cold northern winters.

Q: What about the environment? Is there a danger that a tourist invasion of the country could affect the landscape and ecological stability?

A: We are working in coordination with the relevant government authorities, specifically the Environment Protection Agency, in this regard. The idea is to establish the parameters and standards of investment in tourist activity which would give sufficient care to environmental considerations.

Q: You are teaching tour operators to instruct tourists how to behave in cultural and religious sites. What about teaching something regarding cleanliness and good service?

A: I must stress here that the Europeans and other nationalities that visit Yemen will find a great welcome wherever they visit in Yemen as our people are famous for their hospitality. Tourists are therefore regarded as guests. As for some of the shortfalls that may exist, we have initiated efforts of coordinating with the relevant authorities to shore up their efforts in removing any negative images that could arise due to these shortfalls. On the other hand tour operators are instructed to make

the plan will lead to doubling the number of active employment created in tourist related services and activities (Present employment in the tourism related services amount to 5,654 people of whom approximately 50% are in Sana'a alone and of whom 40% are in hotels).

Q: What about advice to tourists wishing to come to Yemen?

A: We advise tourists to enjoy themselves by enjoying its scenic beauty its architectural, historical fantasy and to rest assured that they will find a big welcome everywhere they go.

Q: How about foreign investment?

A: Foreign investment will be expected to take a considerable share in the investment proposed in the Five Yemen Plan (1996-2000). This investment is highly encouraged in view of the know-how and professional expertise which accompanies the investment.

We expect that we will be assisted by the European Economic Community to fund consulting work in making the studies and plans as well as to have the appropriate legislative and regulatory framework in addition to the organizational aspects.

Q: Any seminars, conferences, etc.?

A: In mid-September we will have the first international conference on tourism which will focus on the role that tourism can play in the development of tourism, especially over the first quarter of the 21st Century. Supported by EC, another one will cover the relationship between culture and tourism.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I cannot over-emphasize the role of tourism in the future development of the nation. It is also an important source of hard currency. The media can play a major role in this endeavor, especially the Yemen Times.

sure that tourists are advised of any dress or cultural customs that should be borne in mind to avoid any embarrassment to the tourists or the Yemeni public.

Q: What about the Five Year Plan?

A: The Five Year Plan will give the Private Sector the greatest opportunities to invest in the development of the sector. The plan calls for investments that would eventually lead for tourist numbers to reach 500,000 by the end of the plan. The plan will expect that investment in the sector according to



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حاصي للإعلان



ISRAEL: OFFICIALLY SANCTIONED BRUTALITY

The security agent's two prisoners had already been beaten when he took what he now calls a simple step. He picked up a rock and battered their skulls until they were dead. He was just following orders, he says. He has no regrets. He has no remorse that he lied about the incident a dozen years ago to shift the blame. He doesn't think it was a problem that the army commander on the scene was disgraced, though ultimately exonerated.

But now, on the verge of retirement after a career as one of Israel's senior warriors against terrorism, Ehud Yatom is the subject of a wave of criticism and recriminations for his revelations about his life in the Shin Beth, Israel's legendary security service.

The chilling, relaxed attitudes toward a key and scandalous incident involving the agency have set off alarms among civil rights activists in Israel, renewing calls for legislation to set standards for the conduct of the Shin Beth.

The admissions center on 'Bus 300 Incident' of April 1984. In an interview with the Yediot Aharonat newspaper, Yatom admitted last week for the first time that he was the Shin Beth official who killed the two Palestinian bus hijackers after they had been taken into custody.

Most shocking to Israeli public opinion was how he did it. The prisoners had already been beaten after their capture, he recounted. They were injured, bleeding and could not stand. Yatom described them as "two sacks of potatoes."

"We put them in our can and then I received instructions from (Shin Beth chief) Avraham Shalom to kill them, so I killed them," said Yatom, who then was the 36-year old head of the agency's operations branch and the top Shin Beth agent on the scene.

Taking a big stone "I crushed their skulls," he recalled.

"Believe me, there was no need for too much of an effort. They were already finished."

Israelis have been used to hearing about Palestinians behaving with cold-blooded brutality. But this is not the kind of behavior Israelis expect from one of their own.

"People are surprised, even astonished, that he made these revelations," said Yossi Melman, an Israeli journalist who has written extensively about the Bus 300 case. Dedi Zucker, a member of Parliament from the liberal Meretz Party, said of Yatom's description of the killings: "It looks so savage. The man in the street would say that's too much".

The current leadership of Shin Beth reportedly is studying whether Yatom violated secrecy rules with his disclosures. "What Yatom did is a betrayal of

the organization as a whole," said a former senior agency official quoted by Yediot Aharonat.

At 48, Yatom has spent half his life in Shin Beth, rising steadily. He has commanded the agency's operations, administrative and protection branches. But he requested leave 15 months ago after having been passed over for the agency's top job. Melman said he believes that Yatom's role in the bus hijacking probably made that advancement impossible.

His retirement has taken effect this week. But he remains extremely well-connected in the country's security apparatus. His older brother, Danny, in March was named director of the Mossad, Israel's external intelligence agency.

In the interview, Edhud Yatom sounded bitter that his own career has suffered because of the hijacking. He said was "paying dearly," although he remains "Proud of what I did."

If nothing else, the scandal over the attack on Bus No. 300 - the killings themselves and the cover-up and finger-pointing that followed-has contributed in recent years to a greater skepticism about the conduct of Shin Beth and other security agencies in Israel, lawmakers and analysts say.

Founded in 1948, Shin Beth reports to the prime minister and is not regulated by a specific law. While the vast majority of Israelis appreciate and support the agency in its support continuing war against terrorism, the courts, lawmakers and the media have become more jaundiced in accepting official explanations of some of its acts, said lawmaker Zucker.

He said Yatom's disclosures would harm Shin Beth's image and morale at a time when the agency is recovering from its shame in failing to protect Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin from a right-wing assassin last year.

The latest disclosures underline the need for legislation to subject Shin Beth to standards of conduct and parliamentary review, the Association for Civil Rights in Israel argue, saying, "Killing prisoners, even terrorists, is a grave crime and those responsible should have been punished. Instead, after being pardoned... Yatom was promoted."

Melman doubts the present government will dare to act against Yatom for speaking out, saying, "The recent decision is to write it off from the national agenda." Administrative action only would focus unwanted public attention on the agency.

That Yatom offers a defense of himself claiming he was merely following orders, Melman said, was reminiscent of alibis once made by Nazis. "For Israelis and Jews to hear that kind of explanation," he said, "is terrifying."

Death of One of the War Lords In Somalia

The supporters of Mohammed Farah Iddid announced the death of the Somali leader, Mohammed Farah Iddid, the leader of some 11 Somali organizations vying for control of this war torn country for the past 3 years, in competition with another Somali Alliance headed by Ali Mahdi Mohammed.

The 62 years old Somali leader had been a strongman in the former regime of Mohammed Ziad Barre, as the head of Intelligence, coming back from a mixed East-West training in intelligence/military work in the USSR and the USA. Iddid was arrested by Barre for an alleged attempted coup and released after six months only to join opposition forces in the country, that eventually managed to make it harder for Barre to continue until he the regime collapsed in 1991. Chaos predominated in Somalia for the past five years as rival factions, with strong tribal associations continued in a fierce blood bath to which Iddid and Mohammed were the leading aspirants for total control of the country. Iddid died as a result of wounds inflicted on him during fierce street fighting between Mohammed's and Iddid's forces in Mogadishou, in which Iddid personally lead the forces supporting him.

The fighting in Somalia had brought in United Nations Forces, including American troops in the earlier part of the fighting. The efforts of the latter forces were unsuccessful in halting the bloodshed and American troops were presumably targeted by Iddid. When American casualties were mounting, especially after a large explosion that killed approximately 20 US troops, the UN forces eventually left Somalia. The country continued through alternative periods of cease-fires and bloodshed until apparently the last Mogadishou battle, in which it seemed that Mohammed had gotten the upper hand. Iddid's supporters have vowed to continue the fight. The question still remains what will the people of Somalia get from all this senseless bloodshed by hungry warlords.

China Poses Challenge To Indian Goods In The Gulf

Emerging as the top exporter to the UAE, China poses stiff challenge to Indian goods in several sectors in the Gulf, where India had been the key supplier, official figures show.

In sectors like textile, garment, machinery and electrical equipment, base metals, plastic and rubber articles, Chinese exports have grown at a much faster pace, necessitating a reappraisal of strategy for India exports, the figures indicate.

The two-way trade between China and UAE grew by an average of 25 per cent in a five year period from Dh 3.1 billion in 1991 to Dh 6.2 billion in 1995.

The Chinese consulate has, however, pegged the two way trade at a lower Dh 4.5 billion for 1995, maintaining that part of the goods sourced from China are re-exported from Hong Kong and Singapore and not directly from China.

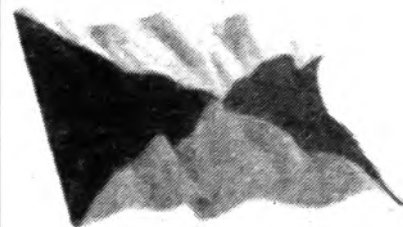
The Chinese exports have received a shot in the arm from the two agreements for avoidance of double taxation and protection of investment, approved in September, 1993 by the two governments.

Sixty per cent of Chinese exports to UAE are re-exported to three main markets of Iran, north and east Africa. One third of Chinese exports are textiles, readymade garments, while another third is electrical equipment and machinery, according to Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry figures. Chinese exports to Dubai, a major re-export center, grew by 32 per cent in two years to touch Dh 5.7 billion (Rs 57 billion) in 1995, while Indian exports to Dubai during the same period went up at a slower pace by 17 per cent to reach Dh 4.1 billion.

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FACING THE CHALLENGE: ECONOMIC GROWTH & HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Governments in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have repeatedly announced that they seek for their citizens a prosperous future with rising living standards, reduced literacy, longer and healthier lives, and productive and rewarding employment. These goals can be achieved by developing MENA's abundant human resources through health and education; by adequate investments in productive assets (infrastructure, factories, and machinery); and by careful management of the environment to protect human health and natural resources.

Many countries in the region, however, appear to be trapped in a cycle of high fertility, unemployment, and poverty. Weak economic growth denies them the resources to invest for their future prosperity. Without investment today, conditions will deteriorate and there will be fewer resources available for the future. High population growth rates exacerbate these problems by increasing each year the investment that is necessary to break out of this cycle. Until that occurs, children are doomed to face lower standards of living than their parents.

The need for action to accommodate population and development is immediate, particularly since the results will only be evident in the long run. If, as projected, fertility declines from 5 children per woman to 2.5 by 2020, the population of MENA will increase from 262 million in 1992 to about 487 million by 2020. If fertility declines twice as fast, the population will still reach 432 million by 2020. But if it declines only half as fast, there will be 516 million people. Government policies can influence where in the range of 432 million to 516 million the region's population will fall.

Those countries that improved living standards in the face of rapid population increase adopted growth-oriented economic policies that increased per capita income, thus improving human welfare and contributing to downward pressures on fertility. The focus of economic policy in MENA must be on measures that will increase investment to 25 to 30% of GDP and significantly raise its productivity. This will mean ensuring stable, competitive exchange rates and low, uniform tariffs to take advantage of the economies of scale that come from international trade. It also necessitates macroeconomics stability with low rates of inflation and a climate of fiscal prudence. Finally, resources must be used efficiently by permitting market forces to play a dominant role in determining prices, interest rates, and wages.

Productive employment is essential for economic and human well-being. While policies that attract investment bring jobs in their wake, flexible labor markets are a second crucial ingredient. Regulations that intervene in how wages are set, restrict hiring or termination of employment, constrain labor mobility, or otherwise restrict employers' ability to respond to market trends deter private investment and employment opportunities. In the end, it is workers who are hurt when investors take their capital elsewhere.

A reduction in government regulations needs to go hand in hand with an overall reduction in public employment.

Worldwide experience has shown that, for a wide range of activities, private investors make more efficient use of resources than governments. MENA governments must privatize activities that could be more efficiently managed by the private sector and provide an enabling environment for the private sector to produce and deliver goods and services. At the same time, however, governments' capacity to provide the services required in a modern, expanding economy must be strengthened.

These policies not only increase a country's economic growth prospects, but also begin to reduce population growth. They increase the affluence of individuals and families, and help build healthier, better-educated families who are more likely to have fewer children - thus slowing population growth and placing less stress on natural resources.

Two kinds of human resource strategies can have more direct impact on population growth and its consequences:

- (1) a focus on women, particularly in education and health care, and
- (2) population programs.

These strategies improve the lives of individuals and families, paving the way for healthier and more productive lives for this generation and the next. By enhancing productivity, they contribute to economic growth.

PROMOTING EDUCATION

A well-educated population is essential to sustained economic development. Researchers have estimated that an increase of one year in average education per person in the Middle East and North Africa could increase GNP by 1.5%. While education of boys and girls has equal effects on their productivity in the labor force, educating girls can have additional societal benefits.

Iran, Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, and the United Arab Emirates have almost universal primary enrollment for boys and girls. But in many other countries, girls are less likely to be enrolled in school and are more likely to drop out before completing their primary education. In Morocco, 78% of boys, but 54% of girls, are enrolled in primary school, and in Yemen, boys are about twice as likely as girls to be enrolled. At the secondary level, the disparity is wider, although it is being reduced rapidly.

Women with a primary education marry two to three years later than those with no education. As a result, they begin to have children later in life and have smaller families. The 1988 Child Health Survey in Oman found that among women in their early forties, those who married before age 17 had, on average, almost twice as many children as those who married in their twenties (7.8 versus 4.1 children).

Fertility falls with increasing education, and educated women, particularly in urban areas, are leading the transition to lower fertility. Studies in a number of countries have found that an extra year of female schooling reduces fertility by 5 to 10%. Education is also correlated with the use of family planning. Women with a primary school education are one and one-half to two times more likely to practise birth control than those with no education, and they are less likely to have unwanted births.

The children of educated women are generally healthier and less likely to die young. Maternal mortality is lower because educated women have greater knowledge about health care practices and have fewer pregnancies.

Increasing female education is one of the best social and economic investments available. The first priority for governments must be to

ensure that all girls are enrolled in primary education. Where that has been achieved, the second priority needs to be to bring their enrollment in secondary education into line with that of boys. The third priority is to move to universal secondary school enrollment.

In the years ahead, governments have an opportunity to expand and improve education without substantially increasing real education expenditures relative to population. This is because, with birth rates declining, the school-age population is growing more slowly than the overall population. Even so, substantial expansion of education will be needed. This can be done for an estimated annual government expenditure between \$125 and \$250 per elementary school student and \$400 to \$600 per secondary school student (in 1992 dollars), based on data from seven countries in the region.

There is certainly room for increased efficiency in education and, in some countries, for a larger private-sector role. If expenditures per student are allowed to fall significantly, however, the quality of education could suffer. If more children are crowded into classrooms, if less qualified teachers are hired, if there are double or triple shifts, and if children go without books and infrastructure deteriorates, then the workforce of the future will be less well-equipped to face its international competition.

BASIC HEALTH CARE AND FAMILY PLANNING

Societies seek to provide the best for their children. Childhood diseases, mortality, and morbidity are not only personal tragedies for families and societies; they also lead to higher fertility. Societies have the means to improve the health of their children and to reduce this source of pressure for high fertility.

Basic Health Care

Though significantly healthier than in the past, the children of the region still have major health problems. The risk that a child will die before his or her fifth birthday is high: 71 per 1,000 die compared with an average of 43 per 1,000 for all middle-income countries. More than one in five children under age five are malnourished, and vaccination coverage is low in Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Yemen. Maternal mortality rates are about one and one-half times higher in MENA than in middle-income countries and 20 times higher than in high-income countries.

Relatively inexpensive care can lower infant and maternal mortality. In Iran, the primary health care program reduced both by emphasizing preventive care for high-risk groups, expanding and staffing health facilities, and including female staff in rural areas.

The *World Development Report, 1993* estimated that a government expenditure of just over \$20 per person (in 1990 dollars) in middle-income countries could provide a package of public health and essential clinical services that significantly reduces the burden of disease. This package emphasizes preventive care such as immunization, pregnancy-related care, and family planning, while also covering a

number of cost-effective treatments for childhood diseases, tuberculosis, infections, and minor trauma. A more generous package, priced at about \$60 per capita, includes other health services, including treatment of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and other chronic conditions as well as major trauma, all of which are not highly cost effective.

With the population needing health services projected to nearly double in the next generation, governments are faced with some critical decisions. Central government health expenditures in MENA ranged from \$9 to \$177 per capita in 1992 in the few countries where data are available. Countries with expenditures at the lower end of the spectrum need to increase expenditures simply to provide their citizens with access to basic services. Those in the middle need to consider carefully the level of care they are able to offer, taking account of the cost effectiveness of various interventions, as well as strategies for increasing the role of the private sector in providing services. At all levels of spending, including the highest, the efficiency of public spending on health services needs to be evaluated.

Family Planning

The risks of childbearing can be reduced by better timing of pregnancies. Childbearing is safest for women between 18 and 35 years old, who have had fewer than five births, who have not have a birth in the last two years, and who are in good health. Further, infants nor less than two years after a previous birth are more than twice as likely to die than those spaced 2 to 3 years apart. In MENA, this is of great significance because many births are closely spaced - 50% of births in Jordan, 42% in Yemen, and 31% in Egypt.

In Sfax, Tunisia, a hospital-based program aims to help women space births and to increase maternal and infant health. It

encourages women to return on the 40th day after childbirth for post-natal care and family planning by combining services for the mother with a well-baby check-up and vaccination.

In addition to being an important health measure, family planning has an immediate impact on fertility. In Oman and Yemen where contraceptive prevalence is only 10%, fertility is high; it is significantly lower in Bahrain, Lebanon, and Tunisia where prevalence is 50% or more. Contraceptive prevalence has increased over the last 30 years from 7% of married couples to about 35% in 1990. Usage in rural areas, however, lags behind that in urban areas. In Morocco, for example, only 32% married women in rural areas use contraception compared to 55% in urban areas. In Egypt, the figures are 38 and 57%, respectively.

The private sector can play an important role in providing family planning services. In Morocco, for example, a social marketing project has dramatically increased contraceptive sales through pharmacies by promoting family planning as a male responsibility and, for women, advertising oral contraceptives as a means of achieving health and tranquillity. These sales have taken pressure off the Ministry of Health's free family planning program. While the project was initially supported by USAID, it quickly became self-sufficient. In Jordan, the private sector plays an important role in a different way; a small number of non-governmental organizations serve a large share (30%) of family planning users. These clinics make their services attractive to women by employing female practitioners and offering a broad range of family planning methods at reasonable fees. While contraceptive use is increasing, there is still a significant need to be met. Recent surveys in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia found that one in five married women either want no more children or want to delay their next births, yet are not using contraceptives. These women need to receive information and support to encourage them to use family planning services.

The demand for services is expected to increase significantly, both because of population growth and because advances in social indicators will result in higher demand for smaller families. Although, in general, support for family planning is strong in the region, programs must be grounded on the notion of voluntarism. Decisions about family size reflect people's most fundamental values, and governments must respect such values.

Family planning services cost only about \$2.20 per capita in middle-income countries, an amount included in the basic health care package discussed above. Wider use of family planning services will improve maternal and child health and reduce unwanted fertility at a relatively low cost. These services are an additional element in efforts to improve living standards and to help break the cycle of high fertility, poverty, and unemployment.

Source: "A Population Perspective on Development: The Middle East and North Africa," The World Bank; pp. 14-19.

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Enhancing Public Awareness on Sustainability and Sustainable Development Concept



In the context of promoting the awareness of the people on the meaning and impact of sustainable development concept, in my point of view, certain important questions should be clear to all categories of the people. These questions are as following:-
- What is sustainability and sustainable development?
- Why we need to adopt sustainable development

concept?
- What does imply in adopting sustainable development, and how to implement it and by whom?
- What is to be sustained? And what kind of change we need?

This concept appeared when most of the economic development concepts lead to more human sufferings and when environmental catastrophes (pollution of water resources, air, acidic rain, green-house effects, ozone hole!!) became evident due to unbalance development based on gaining only more power, more money whatsoever the costs are!!! Consequently disasters appeared which are mostly man-made disasters. The slow-moving disasters is caused when 80% of the world's resources are used by 20% of the world's population, specifically those living in the developed world.

The above-mentioned issues and disaster have posed the question of what is the alternative or option for the traditional concept of development? At last, it has been agreed that the main objective of development should be "Realization of human development and its potentiality". Accordingly the out-come of Stockholm and Rio de Jenero Conferences of 1972 and 1992 respectively emphasized the adoption of sustainable Development Concept!

However the question raised was and still is the definition and meaning of sustainability?

The concept is not so easy to define, in fact till present time is not so clear to many people and agencies at national and international level. Many international assistance gives agencies, especially field managers and experts have not deeply or holistically understand and comprehend the concept or they have defined or interpreted according to their narrowed views and level of understanding or interest and even those who are aware of it are hesitating to realize it. In fact many field examples exists especially the "trial an error" method of selecting the sustainable development

Advisors at a national and international level. Till present time many industrialized and rich nations are hesitating to mobilize the resources and finance or pay the "increment cost", needed for promoting sustainable development and sustainability.

There are some definition of Sustainable Development. According to the report of "Our Common future (Brand land commission, 1987) "Sustainable Development (S.D): is the development which meets the need of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Furthermore, S.D. is a process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments the orientation of technological development and institutional change are all in harmony and enhance both current and future potential to meet human needs and aspiration. There are many other definitions given by certain agencies such as: UN/DIESA, and by D. Pearce in 1988, and also FAO experts.

From these definitions it is clear that the concept is complex and not well defined!! For example "what are the basic human needs and aspiration? Is it high income? Is it material satisfaction only?

- How to assess the needs of future generations?
- How to account for natural resources as asset or capital? The difficulties to measure and quantify environmental values are even greater with factors such as water quality!! Such difficulties are shared with other Social dimensions of a development including cultural aspects as well.

Up to present time, many people including experts, decision - makers equate sustainability with the perpetuation of a project!! Or with the continuation of an organizations success!!! Others equate S. D. with the protection of natural resources from environmental aspect only!! For example economists stressed only economic aspects of growth!! while biologists argue that is the biosphere that needs to be sustained! while sociologists stress on environment that are culturally determined others argue and say that what is proposed is to sustain the present international division of wealth an power an inequity. Most agrees that sustainability includes also ethics and moral considerations.

Accordingly, one could ask and say: How to make a long-term strategies and policies and choices in favor of a concept that is not clearly defined and implemented by all? However all agrees that it is necessary to reduce inequity, poverty, and environmental degradation and pollution. But how?

This means that we have to be more human and give importance to ethic aspect of any development an focus more on the real needs of human beings. Before

adopting sustainability, it is important to study the implications, since if S.D. is not adopted holistically at national and international levels, especially agreeing on issues such as: "Incremental cost" "debt relief", and the "widening gap between poor and rich nations" "Trade liberalization and competition, the on-going development will override and suffering will increase. Thus in order to be aware about impacts of sustainability the concerned parties should be actively and positively involved in following-up and understand what are the benefit and impact of implementing sustainable development (S.D.) and what are the prerequisites of adopting it?

For example, the plan of actions of "Agenda 21" as an outcome of UNCED (Rio declaration, 1992) emphasizes on sources and mechanisms to mobilize financing programs of the "Agenda 21" this should include additional resources in grants and concessional terms from the international community (in next article, briefly will be described components of "Agenda 21").

In conclusion, in order to increase our awareness in S. D. concept following aspects should be considered:

1- At national level, sustainability policies should be developed and addressed and discussed by all concerned agencies.

2- Many economist viewed sustainability as macro-level criterion but the problems facing are: measurement and valuation of natural capital mainly human capital. What are the effective measurements and evaluations?

3- At project level, a lot of micro-level information and interferences are required.

4- A comprehensive and integrated multi-disciplinary approach is necessary for adopting sustainability. In fact the following aspect of sustainability should be considered holistically.

- physical aspect
- socio-cultural aspect
- institutional aspect
- financial aspect and
- compatibility of economic and environmental strategies for all sectors.

Thus, the issue is not only to avoid or mitigate the destruction use of natural resources, but it is to promote a socio-cultural, economic development in a healthy and sustainable manner, where Human being is the center and core of any development, where all people has the right of access to resources and job opportunities, redistribution, equity of assets and investment in human capital through providing them: health, education, skill development and technology transfer mechanism and above all eliminating all forms

of discrimination and eradicating poverty and exchange of trade which caused and still causing "Migration" as a survival strategy for the poor.

Presently, many "Human development reports have been issued. However most of those carrying responsibility of implementing them have not conceived the concept or are not well-qualified to bear it; this means that it will take long-time till the Rio good-will and commitments are holistically implemented and conceived.

In sustainable development, transparency of information in the broad sense is essential. These information should include data, appropriately packaged experience and knowledge and improving information availability and above all reliability. Transparency means also that the promoters and supporters of sustainable development should be exemplary for the eradication of the narrow minded vision of prioritizing self-interest over common interest and global benefit. Transparency means also enhancing local expertise and capacities whatsoever will be the political pressures and gains.

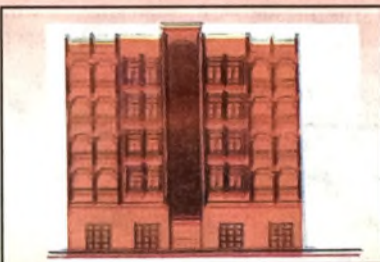
UNDP, with its extensive field presence in developing capacities at local levels provided that the field expertise are well-qualified and have broad vision and embedded with ethics and principles such as "the right person in the right place" and promoting the principle of ensuring access to opportunities and resources.

As I mentioned before, in my next article a brief description will be given on the UNCED outcome (United Nations Conference on Environment and development, Rio de Jenero, 1992) which for the first time emphasize the importance to adopt a new environmental/development ethic and global plan of action (Agenda 21) in order to address the challenge of sustainable development.

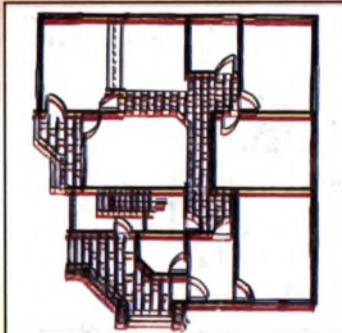
The agenda covers over 100 program areas, such as climate marine pollution, Desertification resources sustainable Agriculture, for integrating environment and development. However in order to implement the above-mentioned programs, development countries are seeking clear commitment from industrialized countries especially, concerning access to environmentally sound technologies on concessional and preferential terms, and meaningful change in the consumption and production patterns of industrial countries to support sustainable development in addition mobilizing financing resources necessary for adopting the concept of sustainable development.

Abdulkadir M. Al-Ariqi
Environment/Development Consultant

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AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 1-8-1996
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Al-Zindany (Islah Leader) Calls For Cancellation of Pluralism and For War on the Socialist Party.
- 2) A Secret Document Reveals the Scandal of the Ruling Party: The Peoples General Congress Confiscates The Property of the Government
- 3) The People of Hadramaut Resent the Killing of Bakhubeira
- 4) Opposition Council Applauds Court Decision Against the Higher Elections Committee.

Article Summary:

1) Explosion In Al-Dhalia'a

A bomb exploded in the Criminal Investigation Department Building In Al-Dhalia'a resulting in 2 deaths and 5 injured. The 2 deaths were civilians following up on matters pertaining to them, whereas the injured were a First Lieutenant and 2 other staff members of the CID and 2 other civilians. The bombing remains a mystery up to the paper's printing.

2) The Teeth of Emotional Crisis Rise Again

Referring to the interview of Abdul Majid Al-Zindani, the Chairman of the Consultative Council of the Yemeni Congregation For Reform (Islah), in the "Public Opinion" newspaper, where the latter continued his attacks on the YSP, the paper, in its opening editorial considered such attacks a return of misguided religions sentiment to squash political pluralism and democracy. Al-Zindani had called on the YSP to issue a declaration stating that "we have repented for all that has occurred. We have rejected all our dogma of the past, which is not our dogma anymore". The Islah "Sheikh" says that this will save party members from acts of revenge which can be launched in any location, anytime.

The paper considers this as part of a continuing policy of the second partner in the ruling coalition to wipe out the YSP.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 29-7-96
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Shaqra (Abyan) Drinks From the Sea
- 2) Yemeni - Eritrean Talks Continue
- 3) The Opposition Demands the Arrest of the Terrorists Who Caused the Explosion in Al-Sarh (Killing Four Children).
- 4) Bajammal, the Tourist and the Traffic Cop.



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

Article Summary:

Yemeni - Saudi Security Pact.

The paper printed the BBC news analysis of the recent signing of the Yemeni Saudi Security pact - a five year pact that allows for extradition of criminals and exchange of information. The Minister of Interior, Dr. Hussein M. Arab revealed that the agreement contains two main sections: Extradition of criminals and combating narcotics, in addition to all the areas of cooperation between the 2 countries on matters of security. Dr. Arab also said that the pact will facilitate the negotiations between the 2 countries on the drawing of the border. On the Saudi explosions, the Yemeni Interior Minister said that it has been confirmed that the materials for the Riyadh bombing did come from Yemen whereas nothing has materialized to confirm any connection between Yemen and the Al-Khobar explosion.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 1-8-96
(Yemeni Congregation For Reform-Islah)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Dep. Prime Minister Al-Anisy: "Yemeni - Saudi Pact Is a Guarantee for the Stability of the Region"
- 2) The Yemeni Center for Cultural and Strategic Studies Is Inaugurated and Starts With A Seminar on Administrative Reforms In Yemen
- 3) Aden: Continuation of Preparation Work for the Duty Free Port.

Article Summary:

1) Democracy On Demand

In the regular column, "The Thursday Diary", by Al-Haj Ahmed, points indirectly to the YSP as a former Marxist party that all of a sudden wore the cloak of democracy to save itself from collapse, which did not fool anyone, as the writer contends.

2) The Huneish Dinner!

In the same column, the same writer, sheds light on the claim by the Eritrean President, Assyassi Afwerke that the Yemeni Foreign Minister, Dr.

Abdulkarim Al-Iriani was responsible for the complications in Yemeni Eritrean relations. The writer states that because Dr. Iryani did not attend a dinner sponsored by the Eritrean Foreign Ministry in his honor, because Assyassi refused to meet the "honored guest", was sufficient cause for Eritrea to occupy Greater Huneish! The author said that the Eritreans could have easily delayed the Foreign Minister by any means to make sure he attends the dinner - like arresting the pilot of the Yemeni plane, or any fabricated offense. The matter did not require such a drastic action like the occupation of the Yemeni island of Greater Huneish.

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 1-8-96

(Mouthpiece of the Military):

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Council of Ministers:
 - Approves the Security Cooperation Agreement and The Agreement for Combating Narcotics Trade Between Yemen and Saudi Arabia
 - Approves The Highway Maintenance Budget
 - Approves The Rehabilitation of Electricity Generation in Ataq, Shabwa
 - Approves Fishing Agreement With Omani Firm
- Listens to Report on Eritrean - Yemeni Talks in Paris
- 2) Customs Chairman Al-Haboob: Reductions in Customs Tariff by 1-5%. Other Developments at Customs:
 - Y.R 12 Billion Is Revenue From Customs
 - 12,000 Cars Enter Yemen Through Visiting Cars Agreements With Neighbors
 - 2200 Freight Merchandise Trucks From Saudi Arabia
- 3) Ministry of Defense Appointments:-
 - Rank Brigadier Col. Abdulwahab Ismael Al-O'ully - Commander of the Navy
 - Rank Brigadier Colonel Saleh Ali Muhally - Deputy Commander of The Navy For Marine Affairs
 - Rank Brigadier Col. Ahmed Ahmed Al-Imad -

Commander of the Ataq Axis
- Rank Brigadier Col. Ahmed Abdulla Al-Ulufy -
Commander Of The 39th Armored Brigade.

Article Summary:

Islam Is the Solution: Any Successes Yet?

Referring to the slogan Islamists use to propagate the political role of Islam, Dr. Al-Saqqaq highlights the performance of Islam as a political movement.-The Islamists, points out Al-Saqqaq, have succeeded in the revival of Islam in shaping society's picture and in becoming an axis for political activity. But have the Islamists, after reaching positions of power, been able to turn all the fine ideals of Islam into a reality - a fact of life.

Dr. Al-Saqqaq answer by concluding that: All indications are that they (the Islamists) have yet to transfer from the propagation and promotional stage (i.e. missionary stage) to the stage of programs, statecraft and institutions.

On the Islamists in Yemen, Dr. Al-Saqqaq reveals that the Islamists in the regime have so far confined their role - as a strategy for the last decade - to stay as rulers behind power holders at the top of the power or ruling structure, who have given them this limited ruling authority.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 28-7-96
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Minister of International Cooperation (Netherlands): We Will Call for an International Conference on the Results of Flood Disaster In Yemen
- 2) After Finding a Drowned Corpse . . . Two Follow (Swimming in Dangerous Rocky Areas)
- 3) Ministry of Interior: Release of Suspected Foreigner Was Unintentional Mistake

Article Summary:

Collapsed Castle Kills 5 and Injures 4

The heavy rain and floods that hit Yemen over a month ago are still taking their tolls. The paper reported that an old 7 story house in Al-Jashm Village, 2 km East of Shabwa, collapsed as a result of damages sustained in the extraordinary heavy rains which recently hit Yemen. The grandmother, (60) years, and 5 children (4 girls, one boy, ages 6 months - 6 years, died immediately with the collapse. The injured children have all been treated by normal first aid, whereas one has been transferred to Aden for repair of broken leg. The Governor of Shabwa visited the site and gave condolences to relatives while visiting them twice on the same day.

Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

Coffee in Yemen

I would like to talk about a great tree in Yemen. It is coffee.

We know that coffee production has been stagnant in recent years. It has fallen much from the record production levels of times past. In fact, in absolute terms, coffee growing has dwindled. We don't know why?

Many people in the world love Yemeni coffee. Most people recognize Yemeni coffee from its powerful aroma and strong taste. But they can't find enough of it, even at exorbitant prices.

The farmers of Yemen no longer care about the coffee plant. Their interest has shifted to qat - that evil shrub. This is because qat generates a lot more money. Unfortunately, this has resulted in a loss of foreign exchange earnings.

Yemen still exports coffee to many countries. But it is not as much as before. There are only a few regions which grow this tree today. Most regions are growing qat. In fact, qat growing increases almost day by day.

I have a suggestion as to how to increase coffee growing. Can the government or any other party offer coffee seedlings/saplings to be grown in our gardens and backyards.

I hope that this idea will catch on and will make Yemen famous again for coffee growing, as it was in the past.

By: *Faris Mohamed Madhmoon*
Student at MALI, Sanaa.

"We achieved a lot, and NOTHING!"

A quick look at inter-Arab relations will show how cheap we have become. Look at the statement issued following the recent Arab Summit in Cairo, specifically the paragraph related to Iraq. Arabs still lack vision and the virtue of forgiving.

Discriminating against Iraq after 6 years of the mistake... What a blunder. The main purpose of the summit was to regroup Arabs and shore up Arab solidarity. That doesn't happen by appeasing a few hard-heads in Kuwait, or wherever they are. This is a dangerous policy which threatens the Arabic future.

How could I believe what I see. Some Arab leaders want peace with Israel, and they are not willing to even take-in Iraq. They accepting the destruction of Iraq's weapons, at the same time that the Americans arm Israel to the teeth with sophisticated weapons! Even nuclear weapons! So what's the moral justification of the UN against Iraq?

Taking rigid positions vis-a-vis Iraq and placing big demands on it, while showing lots of flexibility and bending in front of Israeli demands has become the policy of so many Arab leaders. They are working hard to entice Israel to accept them. They think they are smart, but actually they are fools, and more importantly, cheap.

The problem is that Israel does what it wants, and gets what it wants. It colonizes Palestinian land, occupies part of Lebanon, bombs any part of the Arab World - from Tunis to Baghdad, and threatens everybody.

And now, we have a fanatic new prime minister in Israel. If you don't know, it is our problem. So what does it all mean. It means the West, and especially the USA, will never respect us and listen to us unless we are strong. We cannot be strong by destroying Iraq's capabilities. We cannot get a decent peace unless we can stand up to the Israeli challenge, and not cow under.

By: *Please with-hold my name!*
Note: With-holding the name is a good way to start!

A NEW SYSTEM OF BRIBERY AT MOE

This year, the Ministry of Education, (MOE) decided to sack 25% of Arab and foreign teacher. The question is how will this reduction take place? Will it be based on school principals' reports, inspectors' reports, or other evaluation methods. What are the yardsticks that the Ministry of Education has used to fire some teachers and keep others?

Some teachers who were visited/inspected by the supervisors nominated by the ministry and who got excellent grades, found their contracts cancelled. Others who had never been evaluated found their contracts renewed.

How did this happen? I know part of the reason. Some of the teachers are smart. They chew out with officials of the ministry on a regular basis. They have become their buddies.

The ministry is criticized for many weaknesses. But I think this hypocrisy leading to keeping not-the-best teachers is a crime against the students and pupils of Yemen. As education is the base for the progress of the country, it must be handled and directed by the best.

This Yemenization of education must be based on some rational, educational and scientific measures. The country is in need of professional and experienced teachers and instructors. We will not retain these if the yardstick for contract renewal is bribery.

By: *Mohammad Shatubi.*

THE ANCIENT ARAB SCRIPTS SWAYING BETWEEN OBSCURITY AND CLARITY



At last, they have reached a method of solving/discovering the means by which the Yemeni old manuscripts could be read/deciphered. These are some points:-

- The ancient Yemeni manuscripts and graphics have to do with the language of the ancient Arab poetry and the language of the Holy Quran.
- In some of these manuscripts there are rules for grammar, reciting, lyrical ballads and all of these made it difficult

for the archaeologists to solve some of the mysteries behind them.

- These scripts reveal for us that the Arab civilization reached up to the boundaries of Europe.

- The scripts refer to the city mentioned in the Holy Quran being buried under the gourd with all its treasures.

- The scripts reveal that they belong to Kass Bin Saaida Al-Ayadi's oration during the Ancient Arab poetical period, prior to Islam.

- Scripts explaining the complaints of the Ancient Arab poet "Antara Al-Abssi."

- Scripts talk about the prophets Jesus Christ, Maryiam, Harun, Luqman.

- The details as it is mentioned will be published in 26 September newspaper.

By: *Hail Al-Ghabri*

ألف مبروك يا أمة الحتي

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المهنون: حسن محمد الحيفي، أسماء حسن الحيفي وجميع آل الحيفي

ألف مبروك

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بمناسبة المولود الجديد والذي اسمي
هاشم
جعل الله فرقة عين لوالديه.
المهنون: د/ عبدالعزیز السقاف،
نبيل عبدالوارث السقاف، خالد عبدالوارث السقاف،
هشام عبدالوارث، مشير ياسين السقاف،
زايد طاهر السقاف، خلدون طاهر السقاف،
محمد طاهر السقاف.

تهنئة

اطيب التهاني القلبية نرفها للاخ
عبدالرحمن علي حميد نصر
بمناسبة الخطوبة وعقبال القران
مع تمنياتنا له بحياة زوجية سعيدة.
المهنون،
عبدالناصر قادري السقاف،
عبدالرحمن السقاف،
وجميع آل السقاف

August 5th, 1996

What Yemeni Sports Need to Develop?

Many people in Yemen have been seeing the interesting competitions in the Olympic Games in Atlanta by TV, this great event in the USA has become the largest sports assembly in the history of the games. The emblems of this great sports event are peace, love, health...etc. the athletes have been competing honorably to win gold or silver or bronze medals. Each athlete tries to do the best he can to get the best medals for him and for his country. It is a possible ambition. But this ambition must remain an impossible dream for the athletes in our country. There is no right planning for developing sports in the Republic of Yemen. The Yemeni sport delegation who flew to Atlanta to attend the Olympic games, consisted of 17 persons: "4" Athletes and "13" "administrative officials". Is this the participation of the Yemeni Sport? The officials more than Athletes!

I asked one of the officials in the Ministry of Youth and Sports about the hard position of sport in Yemen. "the finance and sports equipment and apparatus are not enough" he said. So always the money is a big problem. Yes the money is a problem but not the only problem. The big sport did not talk about the random planning or relations between the Ministry and the athletes etc. So the finance allocated for the Ministry of Youth and Sports is only enough to travel. to make many special committees, meetings etc. but it isn't enough to help the development of sports in Yemen. In fact, we have many capable and ambitious youth everywhere in Yemen, but these youth are in need of support to allow them to enter in many sport competitions. So the finance will be enough if the sports officials try to do the right planning to provide the good environment: sport training camp, training halls, sport materials, support for the best Yemeni Athletes etc. I think if they provide all of that we will find, in the year 2000 Olympic Games, the athletes will be more than the officials. My special viewpoint says 'the only thing we need to help sports in Yemen is real sport officials and ministry which has a sense of responsibility and understands the real position of Yemeni sports

Jamal Al-Awady
Sport Editor, YT.

Three Yemeni Athletes: Around Arab countries by bicycles

"Arab solidarity" is the trip title of three Yemeni athletes who will rove the Arab countries by bicycles on the next month. The Yemeni athletes are: Abdo Al-Kafee Shriam - Ahmed Awad Ali - Alkader Al-Hosene. Yemen Times asked them why "Arab solidarity is the title of their trip?

Abdo Al-Kafee Sharian said "The sport have to support the politics to get a real Arab solidarity, it is our conviction, the Arab youth have to do some thing to make strong connection between them and this trip is an evidence to our conviction. Yemen Times regards these Yemeni youth and their instance, a good omen /luck for them.

Yemeni athlete lives in USA Participates in Athletics competitions in Atlanta

Saeed Baswedan, is the name of a Yemen athlete who is living in the USA, he participates in athletics competitions with the Yemeni team in Atlanta city. Baswedan has got a good position in the 800 meters competitions by achieving (1,49,66). It is a record time for Yemeni athletics and also it is the best effort Baswedan and the Yemeni team in the Atlanta Olympic games. The athletics experts expect a good future for the

Yemeni (18 years old) a good future in the world of athletics competitions. He has got a chance to confirm that, because he will participate in Athletics championship of the world to be held in Australia. On the other hand, Mr. Ismaeel Abdo al-Moguhni, Chairman of the Yemeni Wrestling Federation has attended the International Athletics Federation meeting in Atlanta, in that meeting, and has got a good promise to support wrestling game in Yemen.

Two Yemeni Football Coaches are To Qualify in Brazil

The International Football Federation "FIFA" organized international training course for football coaches in Brazil, that training course is financed by prince Faisal Ben Abdul-Aziz Academy. Nasser Al-Mass and Amin A-Soneini were two Yemeni football coaches, they were invited to attend the international course to study the new techniques and for sport training since in the field of football during

one month they will get new experience in football training. Specially with the two Brazilian expert's, Mr. Marioza Galo and Mr. Carlos Alberto. The examinations in that course will be in theory an practical and field study. To be well qualified in sport is very important component to develop the sport in Yemen. The course is considered a good step or a high jump to qualify.

Special School to Qualify the Yemeni goalkeepers.

Adel Ismael, was a very famous goalkeeper in Yemen, he played for the Shamsan Club in Aden Governorate. This man has an insistent desire to qualify the Yemeni goalkeepers by special sports training and techniques. He began with his club, but he wishes to establish a special school to train all the Yemeni goalkeepers. Some Yemeni Clubs

started to send their goalkeepers to train with him because he has more experience than any one in this field in Yemen. It is a good idea to support Yemeni football by local experts, but this sport project needs support and interest by ministry of youth and sport.

(كل نفس ذائقة الموت)

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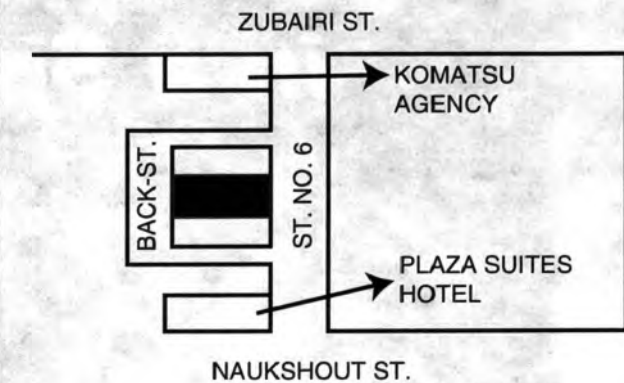
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بمناسبة خطوبته، وعقبال الزواج إن شاء الله.
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