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New Executive Board for Judicial Forum

Judges Push for Real Reform

The three-day gathering of some 1500 judges and attorneys from all over the republic - dubbed the Second General Conference of the Judicial Forum - came to a successful conclusion on Thursday, August 22nd. The conference had a fitting climax. It adopted a strong resolution agreeing on amendments to the law governing the justice system and the profession of judges, lawyers and attorneys, and called on the executive branch of authority to stay out of the affairs of the judiciary.

The conference also concluded with electing a new executive board for the Judicial Forum. Finally, it proposed a new system of remuneration which would relieve the judges of pressures from the government.

Full report on page 5

With the Participation of 200 Business Delegates Aden Chamber of Commerce Celebrates the City's New Birth

By: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times, Aden.

Chamber of Commerce. Over 200 foreign, Arab and local delegates representing all kinds of businesses are in Aden for the occasion. Yemen Times spoke to leading businessmen such as Osama Ba-Wazeer, General Manager of Yeminvest, Saleh Ba-Thawab, Chairman of the National Cigarettes and Matches

Industry and Head of the Industrial Department of the Aden Chamber of Commerce, Mohammed Ba-Mashmoos, Chairman of the Aden Chamber of Commerce, Ahmed Handhal, Deputy Chairman of the Aden Free Zone, and many other prominent personalities.

More on page 7

Today, Monday, August 26th, is a big day for Aden, and Yemen. The foundation stone for the Free Zone operations by Yeminvest is laid down as a high-point for the celebrations on the occasion of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Aden

UNSC Asks Eritrea to Vacate Lesser Hunaish

Yemen's Patience Pays Off



On Thursday, August 22nd, the UN Security Council told the 50 odd Eritrean soldiers to vacate the island of Lesser Hunaish. The decision comes as a crowning moment for Yemen's patient and far-sighted policy in its differences with Eritrea over ownership of the Hunaish Archipelago.

The French, who mediated the May 1996 agreement on arbitration, asked Eritrea to live up to its commitment in the agreement by adhering to the status quo until the court's decision. Contrary to the agreement, Eritrea occupied Lesser Hunaish on August 10th. The USA and Britain have also told Eritrea not to provoke violence in the region - meaning to bud out.

The Court of Arbitration will decide on the legal status of the archipelago, including Zuqar, which is under Yemeni control, and Greater Hunaish, under Eritrean control. The UN decision and the inevitable departure of the Eritreans from Lesser Hunaish is a victory for President Ali Abdullah Saleh's patience in handling the provocation.

Welcome, Prince Sultan!

HRH Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation - Head of the Saudi side in the Yemeni-Saudi Supreme Joint Committee, arrives in Sanaa on Wednesday, August 28th. The visit - put off a number of times, is seen as an indicator of better times in the relations between the two neighbors. The main item on the agenda is the border between the two countries, especially the part from Jabal Thar in the highlands separating Saadah in Yemen and Jaizan in Saudi Arabia, and running east into Rub Al-Khali.

More on page 2



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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemen & Saudi Arabia: A Chance for a Fresh Start

The visit to Yemen this week by HRH Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, strongman of the Kingdom and the person responsible for the Yemeni file, offers a very good chance to bolster relations between the two countries. It is an opportunity for a fresh start, if politicians in the two countries can put their acts together and command the required will.

Yemeni-Saudi relations have seen many ups and downs in the recent past. I want to discuss this relationship from three angles, as follows:

A: A Strange Relationship:

The bilateral relationship between the two neighbors can best be described as a love-hate relationship. This, by the way, is quite normal between neighbors, unless one side completely succumbs to the other. The visit of Prince Sultan can help by increasing the love dose and reducing the hate component. To do this, the two sides have to rise up beyond their petty squabbles. They also have to treat each other as equals.

B: The Past Record:

In the recent past, the two countries have been more often at loggerheads than in harmony. Part of the reason for this has been persistent Saudi efforts to control, or at least influence, Yemen. Saudi politicians, in their inexplicable phobia about Yemen, have decided to keep it under constant check.

On the Yemeni side, our own regional alliances have exacerbated Saudi fears. The association with Nasser's Egypt in the 1960s, the Arab Cooperation Council of the late 1980s, and the blunder of siding with the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, are all examples of Yemeni decisions which touched off the wrong nerve in Riyadh.

No doubt, the past record also holds many good times. Saudi assistance to Yemen during the 1970s and 1980s to the development of the country, and the contribution of Yemeni labor to the construction of Saudi Arabia are examples of happier days. But the overall record is more often sad than happy.

C: The Future:

Irrespective of the past, the two countries can play together well and work for a better future. To achieve that, however, both sides have to see clearly that they need each other and that they are equal.

Saudi Arabia, plagued today by internal strife and a home-grown terrorist movement, needs Yemen to put its act together. There is another reality that has to sink-in in Saudi Arabia. Saudi official cooperation and dealings have to be channelled through the Yemeni government, not individuals or tribal power centers. The policy of hedging against the government through relations with tribal sheikhs is dangerous. Yemen can do the same with dissident power groups in Saudi Arabia, which do not need money, but services which Yemen can offer.

Basically, Yemen and Saudi Arabia need each other, and they should play a clean game. Saudi Arabia has taken the first step by sending Prince Sultan to Yemen. Still, the ball is with it. Saudi Arabia needs to take additional measures to come to terms with a united Yemen.

In addition, a more stable regime in Sanaa can help Saudi Arabia by controlling more effectively the troubles coming to it through its southern neighbor.

Will the Saudis see it this way?

The Publisher


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PSO, Wrong Again

The Political Security Office (PSO) is again breaking the law. This time, it is breaking both local and international law.

The PSO is masterminding a plan to keep Mr. Mansoor Al-Awadhi, Kuwaiti Charge d'affaires in Sanaa, holed in at his home/office. The PSO is making it difficult for him to visit Yemeni friends, and threatens Yemenis who visit him.

This behavior is both illegal and immoral. If Mr. Al-Awadhi has become a persona non-grata, it is the prerogative of the Yemeni government to summon him and quietly tell him to leave, within a sufficient period of time. The law gives host governments this right without the need to offer any explanations. The law does not, however, give the PSO the right to bully a diplomat.

What PSO is doing is sickening. However, what is more sickening, is the attitude of the Foreign Ministry and the diplomatic community in Sanaa.

UAE Ambassador Hands Over Artifacts

The Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates in Yemen, Mr. Saif Al-Mansoori, handed over to Professor Yusuf Mohammed Abdullah, Chairman of the Authority of Antiquities, Manuscripts and Museums, three stone tables that date back to the Sabaeen period. The handing over took place on August 21st.

"These archaeological artifacts represent an important part of the documentation of our ancient history," said Prof. Abdullah. He expressed his deep gratitude to the ambassador and said that the pieces will be added to the Sabaeen collection at the National Museum in Sanaa, where they will be displayed shortly.

Travel and Tourism Agencies Form NGO

The Preparatory Committee of the Yemeni Society for Travel and Tourism Agencies called on all members to show up for the constitutional meeting to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 29th at Hadda Hotel in Sanaa. The committee has been holding meetings over the last few months during which it has drafted the charter and by-laws of the society.

During the upcoming meeting, the members will discuss the drafts and approve whatever amended version they agree upon. The members will also elect the executive board of their Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

The travel and tourism industry is one of the booming sectors of the Yemeni economy. Yet, it has been plagued with numerous problems ranging from bureaucratic hurdles in getting visas and travel permits within the country, up to kidnappings and hostage taking by unruly tribesmen. The society will try to smoothen such things out.

Egyptian Businessmen in Yemen

A delegation of Egyptian businessmen are expected to arrive in Yemen next month. The purpose of the visit is to promote joint investments and trade between the two countries.

The trip is seen as a spin-off to the successful visit of Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani to Egypt a few months ago.

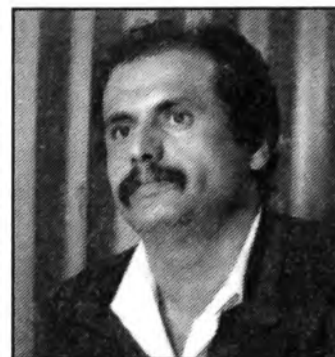
Japanese Delegation in Yemen

A Japanese Foreign Ministry delegation is scheduled to visit Sanaa this week. The purpose is to assess Japanese aid to Yemen.

Al-Merwani Assaulted Again!

Lawyer Abdul-Ilah Al-Merwani was assaulted again in Ibb last week. Some 30 thugs, the same persons who had assaulted him last Ramadhan (February) in Ibb, again battered him. The lawyer had gone to Ibb to represent a client in a murder and assault case. The assailants were trying to block the participation of the lawyer in the case pending against them with the East Ibb Primary Court.

The Lawyers' Syndicate sent an appeal to President Ali Abdulla



Saleh indicating that this attack and the preceding one on a fellow member is a clear attempt of interference in judicial proceedings. The syndicate urged the President to take action against the persons who participated in the assault against the lawyer.

Abdul-Ilah often comes to the defence of individuals whose rights are abused by the authorities or power centers. He is well known as a defender of human rights in the country.

Cont'd. from p. 1:

Prince Sultan...

The delegation accompanying Prince Sultan is impressive. It includes several ministers, notably, Prince Nayif Bin Abdulaziz, Interior Minister, and Prince Saud Bin Faisal Bin Abdulaziz, Foreign Minister, as well as a large business group.

The itinerary of the trip includes visits to Sanaa and Aden, where the Saudi businessmen intend to study investment possibilities.

Observers believe that the Saudis are ready to make a deal on the border issue. "They can at least

resolve this issue in order to pay full attention to other issues," one ambassador said. The Yemeni side is equally eager to resolve any differences and to build good relations. Prince Sultan is said to be carrying a concrete proposal.

At another level, the Yemeni authorities have invested heavily in a complete overhaul of the inside of the Republican Palace. At a cost running into several tens of millions, new furniture and fixture has been put in place.

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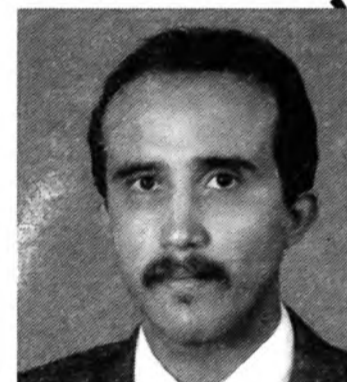
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Governor Abdul-Wali Al-Shameeri

"The central authorities have not given Marib its share of development projects."

Dr. Abdul-Wali Al-Shameeri, Ph.D. in Arabic Literature, is a well-published author. He has many poetry books. But Abdul-Wali has also written many military books like "The Strategy of Operation 'Desert Storm'," and "The One-Thousand Hour War". A colonel in the army, he has personally seen a few wars. Dr. Al-Shameeri is today busy writing the Encyclopaedia of Who Is Who in Yemeni history. This will give a detailed description of the prominent names in Yemen over the last 3000 years. He is, at the moment the Governor of Marib. Marib is a name that immediately bring to life vivid pictures from the past. It also reflect oil, as well as the numerous sad events ranging from kidnapping to floods to the present plagues. Yemen Times seized the opportunity of the visit of the Governor to Sanaa to interview him. Excerpts.

Q: Marib - the very name reflects many things. What does it reflect to you?

A: Marib is a place where the old socio-tribal structure still persists. When I think of Marib, I immediately remember the sturdy and strong tribesmen who are still true to the old ways. The area witnesses often tribal conflicts because people there solve their problems themselves and using force and violence. It is a heritage that came down from the days of Queen Belquis. Modern civil law has yet to find a place in Marib. The tribesmen prefer the tribal ways. That is why you find the kidnapping, killing, intimidation, etc. But Marib is also many things. It is definitely different things to different people.

Q: Marib has been producing oil for over ten years. What has this oil brought to Marib?

A: I don't know what you are leading to from the question. But, I would say nothing more than it brought to other regions. Let me start by explaining that the oil does not belong to Marib. It belongs to the whole country. In fact, I think Marib has got less from the oil than most other parts of Yemen.

Q: But if the state did not make allocations for Marib, we know Yemen Hunt Oil Company pays an annual \$100,000 for local development. Where is the money?

A: I would not say that the state is not making allocations for Marib. But what is available is simply not enough. Regarding US\$ 100,000 annual contribution to social development which Yemen Hunt Oil Company has been providing over the last ten years or so, I regret to inform you that we have not seen this money. The Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources does not pass it on to us in the governorate. We have been recently negotiating with the Ministry to get at least some of that money. The President had also ordered them to pay up. Up to-date, there is no visible response.

Q: Marib was one of the governorates hard hit by the floods. There was some international assistance. How much of it has come your way?

A: I will start by expressing thanks and appreciation to the international community for its response. But, you will note that whatever was received was not

enough to meet the needs of all the flood victims. The casualties were simply high. We have received some food, medical supplies and tents. I don't want to use the occasion to complain, but what came our way was a small fraction of what was received. What we received was less than 20% of what we thought was coming our way.

Q: I understand that several epidemics have hit Marib, in the aftermath of the floods. What is the situation now?

A: The floods left behind swamps which were fertile ground for breeding of mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects. The diseases spread quickly, and the lack of medical supplies and personnel complicated conditions. Malaria was one of the first diseases. There are more than 18,000 cases of documented malaria victims. Weekly, more than 200 die of malaria in the governorate. Then there is typhoid, which, again, is raking havoc in the governorate. Various diarrhea and other diseases are also prevalent. Severe headaches, influenza and other unknown diseases have also been reported. The situation is very grave.

Q: Hasn't the Ministry of Health reacted?

A: The Ministry of Health does not have the resources to cope with such situations. They initially thought they will give us 100,000 tablets to fight malaria. We have received less than 30,000. We did receive an effective medical assistance from Germany. The Germans have been good to Marib.

Q: Let us talk about overall development. How do you assess the infrastructure and services?

A: Do you know that for over a year, Marib has no electricity? We use candles or battery light. Do you know that Marib city has no central water project? Do you know that Marib city does not have a hospital? Do you know that Marib city does not adequate roads? I can go on to describe the situation. Marib was forgotten by the Central Government in allocating development investments?

Q: Didn't the Marib Dam help the area through agricultural development?

A: Thanks to His Excellency Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan, the



Marib Dam was rebuilt. Unfortunately, however, the distribution channels were not completed. The project was interrupted by the Gulf War. Even then, the Marib Dam played a major role in revitalizing agriculture especially fruits such as citrus, water-melon, etc.

Q: The new five-year plan was recently adopted by the government. What are the main projects envisaged for Marib?

A: We are hoping to execute many projects. Two main projects come to my mind. First, there is need for a general hospital in the city. This is absolutely crucial. Second, there is the electricity. I have been hoping to extend lighting from the Safer camp. The electricity generated there is more than enough to meet the needs of the camp, and a good part of the city.

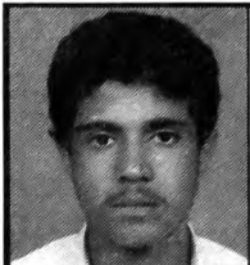
Q: Marib is an ancient place. But the heritage is not well protected or preserved. Can you tell us more?

A: Our relics are part of our culture and civilization. In my experience, I can tell you there is much smuggling of antiquities. There is also stupid destruction. We have tried to gather the pieces and use the old storage facility of the company that had build the dam as a museum. Imagine, Marib has no museum. On a positive note, a German archaeological team has excavated and unearthed the old palace at Marib. Now visitors can see a beautiful sight.

Q: Any last comment?
A: I think most people think our problem is resources. That is only partly true. Our real problem is correct priorities and good management of the resources. That is what we need for development.

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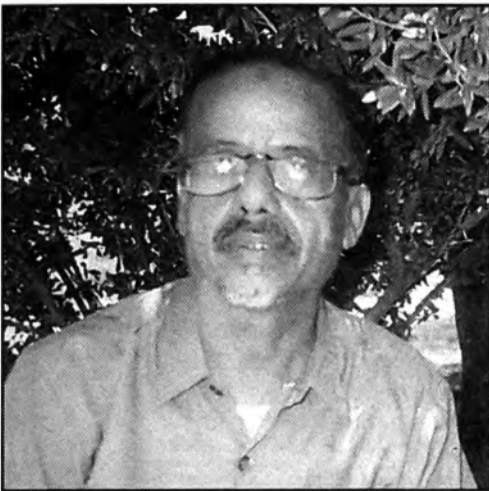
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Continued from page 1:

Judges and Prosecutors Speak to Yemen Times...



Ahmad Al-Saqqaf,
Head of the Court of Appeals, Hadhramaut,
Mukalla, Hadhramaut.

In the past, the totalitarian system in the southern regions of Yemen openly dictated orders to the judges. But, since unification, things began to change and take a different course. Although things today are not ideal, they are an improvement on the past we had lived through.

The problem which faces us today is the lack of qualified judges. In terms of numbers, there are many, but those who qualify as good judges are people with strong character and personal integrity. There is also the issue of relations between the courts, prosecutors and the organs of the Ministry of Interior. To achieve independence of the judiciary, we need judges who are honest and live within their means.

We in Hadhramaut have no problems concerning the prosecution office. I feel there is coordination.



Salem Omar Mohammad Ba-Hurmuz,
Head of the Court of Appeals,
Abyan.

Regarding the judiciary in the northern parts of the country, there was no judiciary in the modern sense of the word. The whole thing was that there were 'systems' or groups to tackle the legal problems of the people. The main mechanism to resolve difference was the tribal traditions and norms. The laws were not really applied.

But things are changing. As a compromise between the traditions and the modern laws, the country reverted to laws taken from the Islamic Sharia. We are continuing this evolutionary process.

In response to your question about the differences in the duties of judges and attorneys, there really are no differences. Each handles a different phase of the due process of law, and they complement each other. The judiciary is a general word which includes both the attorneys and judges.



Angham Faisal Kaid Ali,
Judge, Sheikh Othman primary Court,
Aden.

The conference in itself is a good sign and it embodies the spirit of cooperation and coordination. The conference aims at independence of the judiciary from any influences.

Your question about how I feel about the president being the head of the Supreme Judicial Council, the post is honorary and this is something legal. In fact, this helps facilitate a lot of things.

To achieve independence of the judiciary, judges must be appointed by the Supreme Judicial Council, not by the state. I want to add that judges in the southern governorates were appointed by the Local People's Councils.

In terms of interference in judicial affairs, there are so many parties interfering in the work of judges.

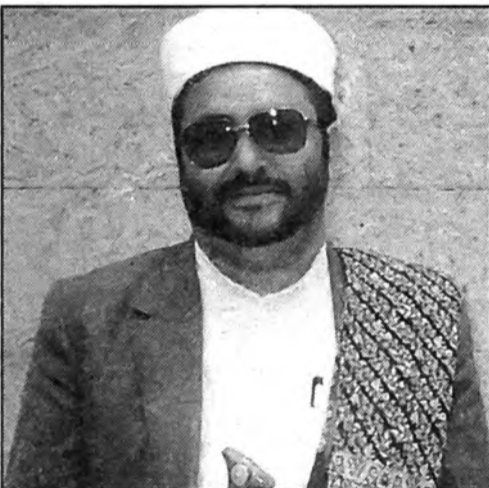


Mohsen Yahia Al-Ghashm,
Head of the Dhamar Primary Court,
Dhamar.

The conference's main achievement is really to bring together all these judges and attorneys and consolidate their relations and friendships. Beyond that I don't expect much substantive results.

Regarding the independence of the judiciary, we must see this as a long term process. The whole environment in which we work is authoritarian. In other words, one cannot really achieve full independence. Therefore, what we are talking about is relative.

In terms of reforms, the judiciary needs to upgrade its pay scale visibly. Unless society pays well to those who are responsible for dispensing justice, we cannot expect them to do a good job, at least not honestly.

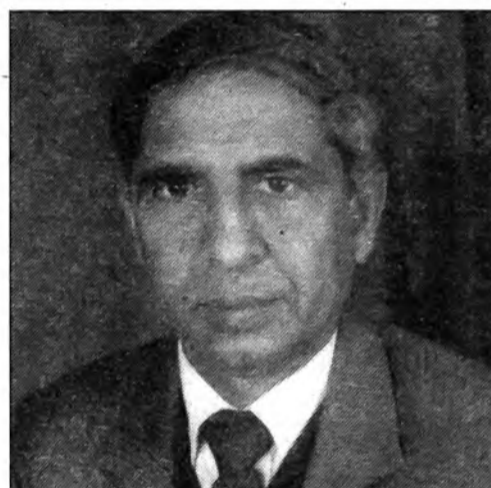


Ahmad Abdulla Akabat,
Head of the Court of Appeals,
Ibb.

We are here to strengthen the independence of the courts. This requires more protection for the judges and meeting their financial needs.

The conference is a demonstration of the direction of our country towards democratization. It also is a boost to the judiciary. In the past, the judiciary followed instructions from the executive authority and the laws were, in a sense, confused and the vision was not clear. But, when we now are better able to achieve independence of the judiciary. The judiciary must keep their prestige and respect.

In response to your question about the proceedings of the conference, the discussions were frank, honest and responsible. What we aim at is to uproot corruption and favoritism - both of which are a worldwide phenomenon. To fight them, we must grant the judges and prosecutors their rights.

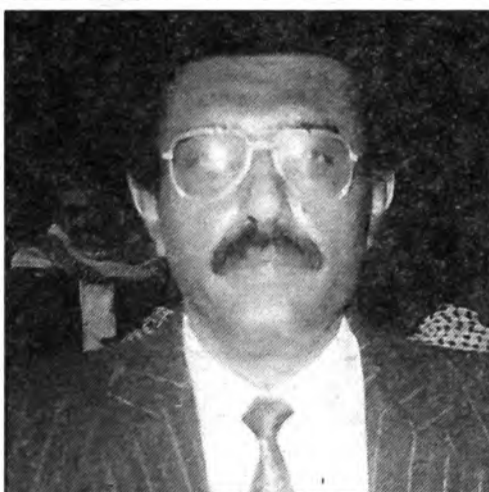


Ja'afar Saeed Ba-Haisami,
Head of the Interrogations Department,
Attorney-General's Office, Sanaa.

The Judicial Forum is like an association or guild which seeks to promote the welfare of its members. Towards that end, little has been done. I expect this conference, however, to do a lot more.

The conference will also elect the 30-person council governing the Forum, and the 9-member executive board.

The judiciary also needs many reforms so as to ensure the minimum of independence of the judges and attorneys, and to guarantee full implementation of the court sentences.



Ali Abdul Rahman Al-Soufi,
Head of the Prosecution Office,
Aden.

This conference comes as a follow-up to the first conference held in 1991. I am one of the organizers of the conference.

In the past there was a deliberate attempt to marginalize the role of attorneys and prosecutors. But over the past years, we worked hard to come out with a resolution to keep the independence of the judiciary by encouraging research and legislation and the Sharia. One reason we have come this far was by keeping the judiciary far from the political competition and power-play. Actually, the law requires that judges, attorneys and their assistants should not belong to any political party.

What we aim in this conference is to come closer to the vision incorporated in the constitution. Now we see that judges are appointed by the executive authority. This means the person being appointed in this way will abide by the wishes of the one who appointed him/her. We want from this conference to come out with recommendations which will remove this obstacle to judicial independence.

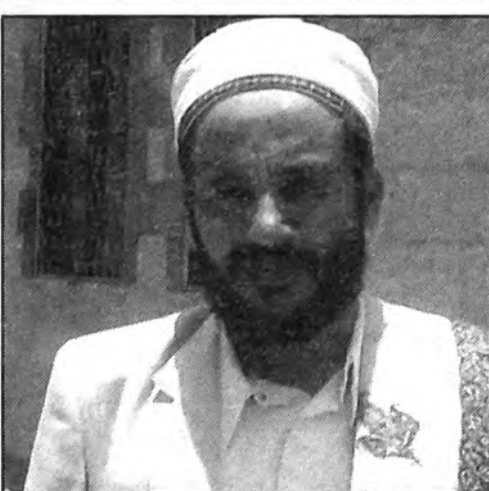


Raja Abdul-Kareem Saleh Obaid,
Prosecutor, Aden.

Basically, such big gatherings do not really achieve specific goals. They serve the purpose of providing impetus in pushing things in this or that general direction. The purpose, now, is to highlight the need for reforms in the judicial system, and more specifically, the independence of the judges and attorneys.

Yemen was the first Arab country to appoint female judges. We occupied the judicial bench before our sisters in other countries. That was in what was South Yemen. Our northern colleagues frown at this. Some of them do not even want us to participate in this conference. But there is a general tolerance of the status, but we can't expect much progress beyond this point, in the foreseeable future.

Let me insist that President Ali Abdullah Saleh has promised the female judges/attorneys his support.

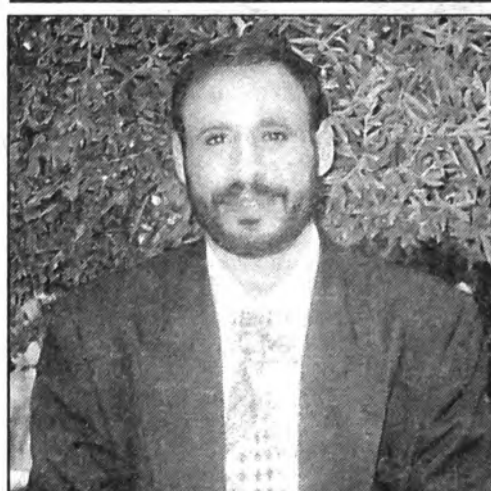


Hazza'a Abdullah Aklan Al-Yousufi,
Head of the Court of Appeal,
Taiz.

The independence of judges is not a theoretical or philosophical issue. It is a matter of culture, education and social vision and approach of a person about oneself. It is a matter of character. Of course, clear law stipulations also help. But weakness in character, for whatever reason, is the problem.

The other point is that judges must not tolerate any interference that affects the course of dispensation of justice. Interference is a crime according to the laws, and it diminishes the role of the judge.

Corrupt judges should be penalized in public so that the reputation of the good judges is protected.



Saleh Nasser Taher,
Head of the Court of Appeals,
Lahej.

There a lot of difficulties which face the judicial authority in performing its role and duties. One main complaint is the interference in its work from the executive authority. There are also obstacles in implementing court sentences. Often the director-general of security and even police stations refuse to implement court decisions. The citizen feels the concludes there is no value to the court sentences.

In this conference a lot of points have been raised regarding the excesses and shortcomings of the security forces. For example, when a police officer or security refuses to implement the sentence issued by the court, what can a judge do? Let's suppose that there is something wrong or a defect in sentence, there are other judicial options to correct or re-evaluate the decision. I hope some firm and clear decisions are taken in this matter.

Regarding the independence of the judiciary, I think that such independence will always be compromised so long as the judges are appointed and remunerated directly by the executive authority.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Islam On the Move!

If the direction of events on the world scene are any sign of international trends, then it would not be far-fetched to surmise that a new global polar division is taking shape. The Muslim World is witnessing a strong sense of universal association, ironically, as a result of Western insistence - particularly the United States - of looking at Islam as a threat. A threat to what?

The West has yet to exactly pinpoint. But, it is difficult to escape the contention that Western - and again, particularly, American - policy-makers could have used a little more wisdom and wider spans of analysis, while formulating the course of the world. This becomes even more important since the West is the military, economic and political master of the world.

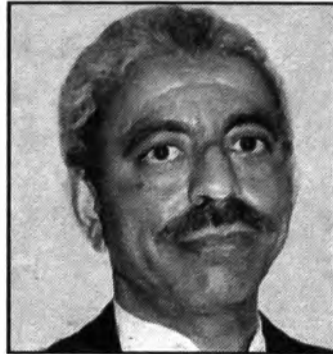
Having arrived to this global supremacy of power, it is understandable that many interests in the West, would want to strive for maintenance of this unique position - a position even more favorable than that achieved by imperialism in many respects. Thus any threat - existing or potential and sometimes, even imagined to this global eminence - must be eliminated.

During the Cold War (1945-1990), the Israelis banked on the US - Soviet bout for world supremacy to channel strong Western support for the newly established "Western" Zionist entity. Without such support, Israel would not have been born as a sovereign

entity, nor maintained regional power supremacy to the point of overpowering the combined might of the Arab World continuously, from 1948 to the present. A number of factors are involved to persuade the observer of such reasoning, but it is not the object of this discussion to explore the merits of such an outlook.

With the Cold War now over, the *raison d'être* of such unlimited support for the Jewish State by the West could become subject to second thoughts in the West - and limitations may be imposed on the police role that Israel played in the area, on behalf of the West, while the Israelis pursued their own growth and expansion plans. Thus Israel's existence and ambitions are dependent on the continued appreciation of this police role that Israel must continue to play in the area for the West.

The Israelis understand well, that no Muslim would even consider recognizing the propriety of Israel's existence, no matter what the pretext. The people who toiled on the land, before the Zionist followers of Theodore Herzl uprooted them, were mostly Muslim, and the area is of holy significance to Islam; a fact which cannot be so easily forsaken - least of all by the Muslims. Thus, for Israel, Islam represents a potential threat. In fact, Israel will, by virtue of its existence and the obvious animosity it never hides in showing towards Islam, help to revitalize Islam as an active international



force. Indeed, we live in a world of paradoxes!

Until the 1970s, as a potential international active movement, Islam was not visible to the West, and for all intents and purposes, might have been regarded as a has been with the termination of the Ottoman "Caliphate".

The global panorama had focused on conflicts related to matters of the mundane. Religion, in both the West and the East, was given a mainly ceremonial place in the fabric of societies as secular approaches and attitudes prevailed almost throughout the world.

In the 1960s and 1970s, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, a devout Muslim, had been a strong promoter of Islamic issues, especially after becoming convinced, from his experience of many decades as the Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, that the West's interests can sometimes conflict with the interests of the Arabs, in particular, and the Muslims in general. His sudden and brutal death, as many Islamists would argue, was the fate accorded to him by the West for his enthusiasm in encouraging Islamic propagation and strong open support for Muslim causes. But as the late Saudi Monarch's efforts were individually inspired and his passing away was easily arranged (by the West) to do away with such excessive emphasis on religion as an active force to be reckoned with, the

continuation of such religious zeal was halted, to a certain extent.

In 1979, the Ayatullahs of Iran were able to engineer a surprising peaceful coup against one of the most oppressive regimes in history. Even though possessing one of the world's most sophisticated and complex state security apparatus, and a strong financial and military arsenal, the Shah of Iran could not outmatch the large grass-roots mass popular support which Ayatollah Khomeini mobilized successfully to overthrow the Peacock Throne of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, setup and maintained through American support!

Islam took on "sovereign" dimensions for the first time since the elimination of the Ottoman "Caliphate". Moreover, Islam as a political order, became institutionalized with a relatively modern political framework that incorporated a peaceful transfer of authority with fairly effective checks and balances, that prevent any particular autocracy, which could not be supported by strong popular grass roots support from ever arising in the regime.

Of course, the shock of the Khomeini Revolution, as viewed by American interests that were having a holiday during the Shah's eagerness to pursue his imperial fantasy, with ruthless disregard for his people's welfare, was unacceptable, to say the least.

The Khomeini revolt just did not fit in with any of the models that State Department and Intelligence planners had envisioned for any "Third World" country, especially one in such rich oil rich grounds. Iran and Turkey had been, at the time, the only two Muslim countries of significance which had also developed cozy relations with Israel, which in a sense had literally created a comfortable buffer between the Arab World and the rest of the Islamic World.

This provided a cushion against the possible realignment of the Muslim World to counteract the Zionist expansionist dreams, which are menacing to a lot of Muslims. The Israelis, quickly found in the Khomeini Revolution a serious obstacle to a chauvinistic dreams based on misguided religious sentiment that thrives on injustice.

The threat, as seen by Israel is not so much from Iran itself, but arises from the fear that Islamic religious sentiment could be allowed to breed in the area around Israel, becoming an effective force that will do away with all the facade of superiority that men like Netanyahu cloak themselves with.

Islam is a threat to Israel, not because Islam is a hostile force that is out to destroy humanity, but because Islam does not tolerate the kind of chauvinism

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that accepts the expulsion of an entire indigenous population from a homeland they have had for centuries. In Islam, the matter of rights of people, as individuals or as nations, cannot be over emphasized. It is this which made Islam revolutionary, when the Prophet Mohammed (Peace of Allah be upon him) first called for the end of the stranglehold which a few merchants held on the general population of Mecca. The rights of a Muslim cannot be compromised for any reasons, and when the entire Muslim population of the world is guided by such thinking, then misguided narrow interests can never hope to impose their own selfish dictates at the expense of any individual Muslim's rights, no matter how small or trivial these rights might be! This is the Islam, that has become strange, even to the majority of the Muslims of the world and not just to its enemies!

But the West cannot be blamed for not truly understanding Islam, for religion in the West could not be associated with human rights or justice or fair distribution of world resources! Religion has become a mechanical and a ceremonial attribute in societies. Therefore, Islam is now being pictured as dangerous to the West, not because terrorism is associated with Islam, but because Islam can get the Muslims to be more assertive of their rights, which Western interests have infringed upon, whether through Israel or through the oil cartels that monopolize the

exploitation of the valuable oil resources of many a Muslim country, at least as many present-day Islamists see the on-going relationship between the West and Islam.

The many setbacks faced by Muslims over the last 500 years - except for the Ottoman steady fastness - as well as increased Islamic resentment from the excesses of the Turkish empire - as the Imperial Court of the Sultans of Istanbul became spoiled and indulgent over the centuries - are indubitably tied to the West's aggressive and somewhat chauvinistic desire for control of the world. While, it cannot be ignored that this Western attitude was not solely directed against Muslims, and in fact resulted even in inter Western struggles for power of devastating proportions, the present strong anti-Islamic trend in Western policy triggers a suspicion that the West will not allow Muslims of the World to live in peace and stability.

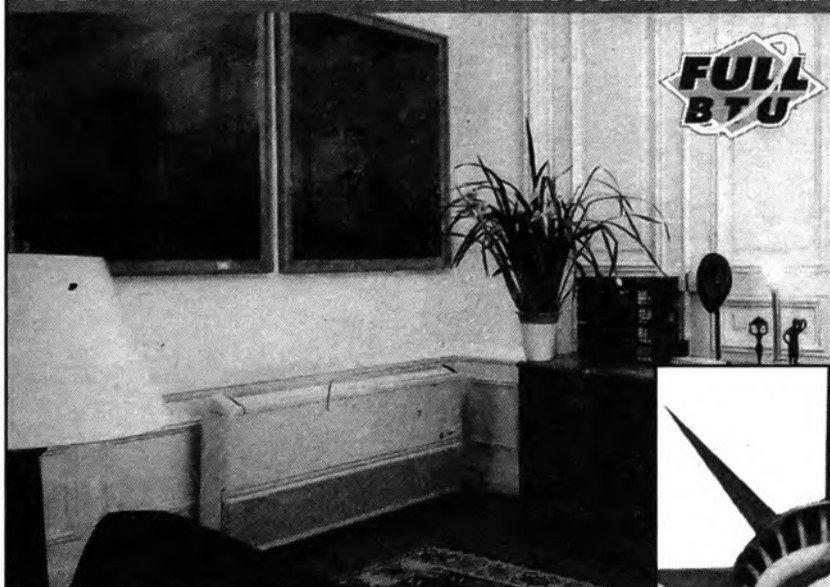
As such, Muslims can never hope to achieve sustained development to catch up with the West, as the West will consider that a challenge to its cut of the world's resources and economic domination. Whatever the case may be, the role of Islam is going to witness a dramatic rise. The Islamic Movement of the world begins to learn from its experience and applies a wider span of tolerance to underline the human touch, which Islam recognized well before any other spiritual or ideological movement.

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The Netherlands at the Top of Aid Donors to Yemen

The Royal Kingdom of the Netherlands is one of the key aid partners of Yemen. With a steady annual flow of about \$30 million of aid to Yemen, it ranks way high in the list of donors. Moreover, the Netherlands has been serving as a pooling forum for international aid to Yemen.

Last week, the Dutch Ambassador, Anthonie Pijpers, left Sanaa at the end of his service.

Al-Izzy As-Selwi of Yemen Times filed the following interview. Excerpts.



Mr. Pieter Pronk, the Minister of Development Cooperation, in July 1996. I am very happy that such a successful visit took place only a few weeks before the end of my term in Yemen. I would also like to take this opportunity to complement the Yemeni authorities on the way they organized the program of the visit, and the way they presented their country.

Q: You came to Yemen in October 1994. It is less than two years and you are leaving. Is this a disruption or is it a normal conclusion of your term.

A: There is not disruption. The standard term of service is about two years, and I have been here almost two years.

Q: What are the main highlights during your period of service in Yemen?

A: Let me start by saying that although my term has been relatively short, it has been intensive. I would like to name four major events.

1. First was the state visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to the Netherlands in 1995. He met with Queen Beatrix and other senior Dutch officials.
2. As one of the leading donors, we have been actively consulted on the reform package. I have witnessed the conclusion of agreement between Yemen and the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on this matter.
3. My country hosted the informal donors' conference in January 1996. This was an important step to put Yemen back on the map of the international donor community.
4. Finally, there was the official visit to Yemen by

Q: The Netherlands is an important aid partner for Yemen. Could you highlight the direction of your aid and some of the projects?

A: The annual disbursement of Dutch aid to Yemen is at the moment around US \$ 30 million. In addition to the regular program, there are more funds from 'spearhead programs' such as Women and Development, Environment, Research and

Technology, and other programs. Over above all that bilateral assistance, there is also, of course, the multifateral aid programs such as the one being channelled through the European Union.

Until this year, all Dutch aid to Yemen was in the form of project aid, with a high technical component. No program aid existed. But, given the agreement reached between the Government of Yemen and the IMF/World Bank on an economic reform and re-structuring program, a number of program assistance proposals are under serious consideration.

Dutch aid is geographically concentrated. The regions of focus are Rada, Dhamar, Sanaa, and Hodeidah. Recently, Shabwah and Hadhramaut have been added.

The sectors of focus are health, water and sanitation, agriculture, education and culture. Three innovative approaches have been introduced in the Dutch aid package.

The first is the Development-Related Export Program. This is intended to support investment projects by providing up to 60% of the investment costs on a grant basis. The balance of 40% is to be provided from the government or the investor. So far, two contracts were financed for the supply of tug-boats for the Hodeidah harbor and compactors-trucks for garbage collection in Sanaa and Taiz. Requests for additional trucks, a power plant in Mukalla, and a high voltage line are now under consideration.

The Second is an institutional development program aimed at those institutions which will help reign in corruption. An example is the Central Organization for Control and Auditing. This program is implemented in collaboration with the Netherlands General Auditor through the UNDP.

The third approach has to do with support for small scale grass-roots level projects. This is done by providing credit facilities through the Small Enterprises Development Unit of the Industrial Bank of Yemen.

I would also like to mention here that the Netherlands Government has decided to provide US\$ 28

million over two years for debt-relief purposes.

Q: What is your view on the economic reform program?

A: I think that this is an important process. I urge the authorities to carry on with it. If there is any piece of advice I want to give, it is to try to get a more equal distribution of the fruits of economic development so that all the population of Yemen can benefit from it.

Q: Many Western Governments dwell on the importance of the democratization process in Yemen. What is your assessment of this process?

A: The most important thing is that there is a democratization process going on. I have a feeling that the rulers are serious about it.

What I would like to see is that more parties will field more female candidates in the next election.

Generally speaking, the situation in Yemen might not be exactly up to Western standards, but it is in the overall sense, better than many other places in the region.

I believe that the human rights situation and press freedom, while not ideal by Western standard, is also encouraging and improving

Q: What is your impression of Yemen as you leave? And what are the things you will remember most?

A: To me, Yemen is like a virus. The moment it gets in your blood, you will never get rid of it. Once a friend of Yemen, you are always a friend of Yemen.

The most important thing I will remember of Yemen is the pride of the people - both individually and collectively. There is a certain visible pride and independence.

I hope to be able to come back in the future to see a prosperous and well-developed Yemen with a happy population.

Continued from page 1

Aden Celebrates . . .



Mr. Usama Ba-Wazeer, upbeat on the occasion, told the Yemen Times, "The investment possibilities in Aden are immense. All that is required of businessmen is to define the field of their chosen activity."

The 26th of August, 1996 is a big day. It witnesses the celebrations of the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Aden Commercial Chamber. On the same day, the Yemen Company for Investment and Development will lay the foundation stone for the project.

"After 5 years of efforts, contacts and discussions, consultations and studies, we are finally ready to get on with the real work," Usama Ba-Wazeer said. "Right from the start, the company established branch offices in Dubai, London, and the United States as part of its effort to market the investment possibilities of the Aden Free Zone," he added.

Among the early investments are communication lines, transportation systems, storage facilities, dredging and deepening of the harbor, etc. for the harbor and industrial zones. The studies and plans for these activities have already been carried out.

The second stage will be witness construction of the buildings, power system, services, and infrastructure. Everything is on schedule.

In a question about operating of Al-Ma'alla port in January 1997, Usama confirmed that the port forms an important and integral part of the project. In this case,



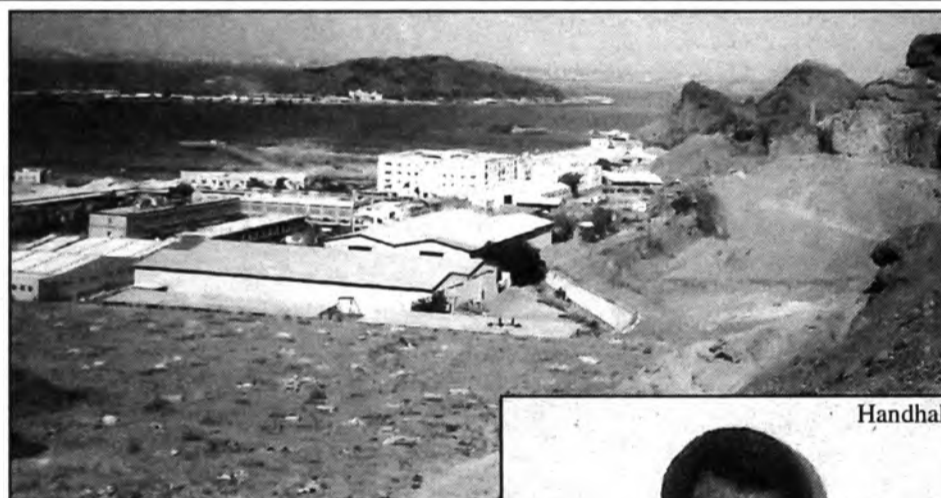
the project will bring life to the port of Aden when it starts operating the Free Zone in April, 1999.

Another key businessman in Aden, Saleh Ba-Thawab, Chairman of the National Cigarettes and Matches Industry and Head of the Industrial Department of the Aden Chamber of Commerce, said that representatives of businesses in the Far East, Southeast Asia, Europe and the USA, as well as the Arab region will participate in the events.

"The future of Yemen depends on our economic performance, and Aden holds the promise of such performance more than any other city or place in the republic," he said.

Ba-Thawab also indicated that his company had put all its capabilities at the disposal of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden in meeting the requirements of this major events. He finally said that his company will be among the first ones to embark on major new investments in the Free Zone.

A third person to whom the Yemen Times spoke was Mr. Ahmed Handhal, Deputy Chairman of the Aden Free Zone. Describing the sequence of events, he said, "The President of the Republic, General Ali Abdullah Saleh has graciously agree to participate in the celebrations which will start in the Hall of Palestine on the 26th of August. Then, the President will lay down the foundation stone of the Yeminvest project at the

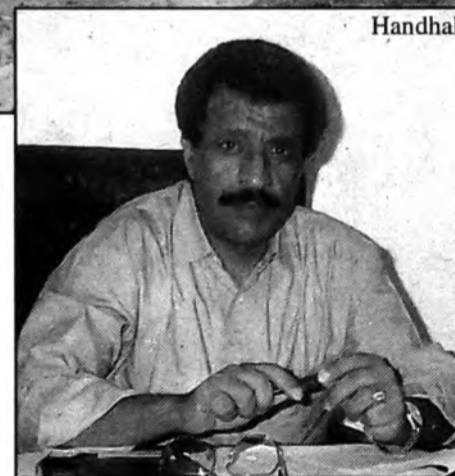


Handhal

harbor. After that, the participants will move on to Sheikh Othman where the exhibitions of the products and services will be on display. Finally, the participants will attend several seminars and business meetings where deals will be concluded and business relations strengthened."

"The Chamber has prepared well for all these events, and we are gratified with the warm and enthusiastic responses we got from all circles," he added.

"These efforts have the full backing of the political leadership and the business community of Yemen," he concluded.



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Traditional Oriental Medicine Offers Hope to HIV Patients

While advances in expensive allopathy drugs stole the limelight at the eleventh international conference on HIV/AIDS held last month in Vancouver, Canada, equally significant results of a scientifically monitored trial in traditional medicine, conducted on 15 patients in Mumbai (Bombay), offered a lifeline of hope to HIV patients.

Both the Western researched allopathy drugs, or the Indian trial in traditional medicines, do not offer a cure of HIV - AIDS, as yet. They do, however, promise an improved immune-system response, that enable patients to fight infections, and thereby live longer, while enjoying a better quality of life.

The Mumbai trial, focusing on a concoction containing 16 different herbal medicines, has been on-going since August 1995. These drugs, individually, are already in the market, sold by a drug company specializing in ayurvedic products.

The trial is conducted by Dr. Prakash Bora, at the Sarvodaya Hospital, Ghatkopar. The technical design of the trial has been prepared and monitored by the AIDS Research on Control Center (ARCON) in Mumbai. While releasing preliminary data on the results of the Mumbai trial, the organizers are categorical in asserting that this is merely a 'pilot study' looking at an 'experimental drug'. Publicity given to the trial should not encourage HIV patients to clamor for access to the drugs, since it is not yet available for public distribution. They also warn patients not to fall prey to quacks who claim cures with traditional medicine that are not subject to

scientifically monitored trial by a reputed research agency.

Meanwhile, there were other positive results emerging from a trial in Sidha medicine in Madras. Additional experimentation in oriental herbal treatment of HIV has been going on in China, as well. The lid is more tightly kept on the Chinese experiment, which are thought to be advanced.

At the start of the Mumbai trial, the 15 patients were in a "clinically diseased stage," registering a CD4 count between 200-500 cells per cubic millimeter. In a normal, uninfected person in Mumbai, the CD4 and CD8 measurement ranges between 800-1400 cells per cubic millimeter. Given medication for 45 days, the patients were subjected to CD4, CD8, Beta 2 Micro-globulin tests at each review point, conducted on days 0-15-45-60-90 of the trial.

At each stage, plasma of the patient was also taken and stored. These are being analyzed, and the results will be available soon. The plasma will be subjected to the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test, which will determine the crucial question of whether there is a reduction in the viral load. The results so far, show that in 45 days of receiving medication, all the 15 patients have recorded a 10% increase in CD4 count. The level of CD8 has also increased by 15%. Meanwhile, the Beta 2 Micro-globulin load in the body shows an average fall from 4.3 to 3.0 units per milliliter, which suggests reduced breakdown of white blood cells by HIV.

As a result of these efforts, the world is working in parallel lines - modern drugs and traditional oriental medicine to fight HIV.

EMERGING FOOD-BORNE DISEASES

Some foodborne diseases are well recognized, but are considered emerging because they have recently become more common. For example, outbreaks of salmonellosis have been reported for decades, but within the past 20 years, the disease has increased in incidence on many continents. In the Western hemisphere and in Europe, *Salmonella* serotype Enteritidis (SE) has become the predominant strain. Investigations of SE outbreaks indicate that its emergence is largely related to consumption of poultry or eggs.

However, in 1994, there was a nationwide outbreak of salmonellosis in the United States as a result of contamination of pasteurized ice-cream during transport in lorries that had previously carried non-pasteurized liquid eggs containing *Salmonella enteritidis*. It is estimated that 224,000 persons were affected by the outbreak.

While cholera has devastated much of Asia and Africa for years, its introduction for the first time in almost a century into the Western hemisphere in 1991 makes it another example of an infectious disease that is both well-recognized and emerging. While cholera is often waterborne, many foods also transmit infection. In Latin America, ice and raw or under processed seafood are important epidemiological pathways for cholera transmission.

Other foodborne pathogens are considered emerging because they are new micro-organisms or because the role of food in their transmission has been recognized only recently. Infection with *Escherichia coli* serotype was first described in 1982. Subsequently, it has emerged rapidly as a major cause of bloody diarrhea and acute renal failure. The infection is sometimes fatal, particularly in children. Outbreaks of infection, generally associated with beef, have been reported in Australia, Canada, Japan, United States, in various European countries, and in southern Africa.

In 1993, a major outbreak of verotoxin E. coli affected some 500 people in the north-western United States. Many children developed haemolytic uraemic syndrome (a form of kidney damage) and four died as a result. Another large outbreak of this pathogen occurred in southern African countries affecting thousands of people. Drinking water and cooked maize were the vehicles for transmission.

Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) is considered emerging because the role of food in its transmission has only recently been recognized. In pregnant women, infections with Lm can cause abortion and stillbirth, and in infants and persons with a weakened immune system it may lead to septicemia (blood poisoning) and meningitis. The disease is most often associated with consumption of foods such as soft cheese and processed meat products that are kept refrigerated for a long time because Lm can grow at low temperatures. Outbreaks of listeriosis have been reported from many countries, including Australia, Switzerland and the United States. Two consecutive outbreaks of *Listeria monocytogenes* in France in 1992 and 1993 were caused by contaminated pork tongue and potted pork.

Foodborne trematodes are also emerging as a serious public health problem, especially in south-east Asia, in part due to a combination of increased aquaculture production, often under unsanitary conditions, and of under-processing of aquaculture products during their preparation. Foodborne trematodes can cause acute liver disease, and may lead to liver cancer.

New foodborne disease threats occur for a number of reasons. These include international travel and trade, microbial adaptation and new food production and processing systems, as well as changes in human demographics and behavior.

- The globalization of the food supply/trade: A large outbreak of *Shigella sonnei* infections occurred in Great Britain, Norway, and Sweden in 1994 due to contaminated lettuce imported from southern Europe.

- The inadvertent introduction of pathogens into new geographic areas: *Vibrio cholera* was introduced into waters off the coast of southern United States when a cargo ship discharged contaminated ballast water in 1991. It is likely that a similar mechanism led to the introduction of cholera for the first time this century into Latin America in 1991.

- Travelers, refugees, and immigrants exposed to unfamiliar foodborne hazards while abroad: International travelers may become infected by foodborne pathogens that are uncommon in their countries. It is estimated that about 90% of all cases of salmonellosis in Sweden are imported.

- Changes in microorganisms: Changes in microbial populations can lead to the evolution of new pathogens, development of new virulent strains in old pathogens, development of antibiotic resistance that might make a disease more difficult to treat, or to changes in the ability to survive in adverse environmental conditions.

- Change in the human population: The population of highly susceptible persons is expanding world-wide because of ageing, malnutrition, HIV infections and other underlying medical conditions. Age is an important factor in susceptibility to foodborne infections because those at the extremes of age have either not developed or have partially lost protection from infection. Particularly for the elderly, foodborne infections are likely to invade their blood stream and lead to severe illness with high mortality rates. People with a weakened immune system also become infected with foodborne pathogens at lower doses which may not produce an adverse reaction in healthier persons. Seriously ill persons, suffering, for example, from cancer or AIDS, are more likely to succumb to infections with *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Listeria*, *Toxoplasma*, *Cryptosporidium*, and other foodborne pathogens. In developing countries, reduced immunity due to poor nutritional status render people, particularly infants and children, more susceptible to foodborne infections.

- Changes in lifestyle: Greater numbers of people go out and eat meals prepared in restaurants, canteens, fast food outlets, and by street food vendors. In many countries, the boom in food service establishments is not matched by effective food safety education and control. Unhygienic preparation of food provides ample opportunities for contamination, growth, or survival of foodborne pathogens.

All food-borne diseases pose a considerable threat to human health and the economy of individuals, families and nations. Their control requires a concerted effort on the part of the three principal partners, namely governments, the food industry and consumers.

The World Health Organization, in its effort to control this problem, recently issued the 10 Golden Rules for Safe Food Preparation and a guide on Safe Food for Travelers. They make good reading.

Red-light refraction treat Amblyopia

Dr. Li Jun,
Ophthalmologist of CMT,
Aden General Hospital.

Amblyopia (Lazy eye) refers to decreased visual ability in one eye in the absence of any recognized eye disease responsible for the visual impairment. The patient's vision is low (0.3), and it can not be corrected with glasses. There is no chance of value pleoptics as

a practiced therapeutic medication. There also do not exist medical possibilities to treat the disease in Yemen.

I have been experimenting on ways and means to help 'lazy eye' patients in Yemen. I have used the telescope with light diode tube - a system I had used in China. Coupled with musical notes, the machine produces red-light refractions. I have used this machine to treat 8 cases of amblyopia with significantly better result at the Aden General Hospital.

An example is the case of Malaka Mohammed Ahmed, a six-year old girl. She had visually lost the sight of one eye since infancy. She was diagnosed to have amblyopia. When the machine works, it plays music with alternating red-light refraction for the patient's two eyes visual field (photon). The patient uses this machine for about 30 minutes every day by coming regularly to my clinic/office. She and other 7 patients improved their vision from as low as 0.1 or 0.2, up to 0.5 within 6 months.

Another case is that of a 3-year old boy who also had amblyopia with a nystagmus that invol-



untarily rhythmically repeated oscillations of both eyes. The boy has been treated for 6 months now. During this time, he lost the nystagmus symptom, and his

vision has improved.

Red-light refraction treatment of amblyopia involves a wide variety of techniques that have been utilized. I first designed to

disrupt eccentric fixation and establish fovea fixation. This is based on stimulating the dormant fovea while discouraging the eccentric fixation point by dazzling and blocking the relevant retinal areas. The entire parafoveal area out to 30 degrees is dazzled after the light is removed as a positive after-image is created shortly thereafter. A negative after-image becomes apparent to the retinal macular of the patient. The patient is taught that the after-image is in the straight-ahead position, and in

this way fovea vision can be gradually re-oriented to the straight-ahead position. Thus, improved visual acuity can occur. Some patients respond fairly quickly, but others require months or even years of treatment. The red-light refraction and reflection treatment machine can also treat near-myopia. With tired eyes, red-light refraction makes the eye ciliary muscle relax. Contraction of the ciliary muscle results in thickening and increased curvature of the lens, it can cure the near-myopia. A few such cases have used the red-refraction machine treatment successfully.



LINDA

a favorite snack



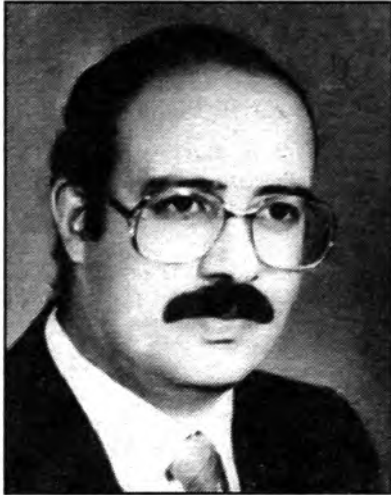
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THE ARAB ORGANIZATION FOR DEFENDING AL-QUDSE ESTABLISHES ITSELF IN YEMEN

The story of Al-Qudse (Jerusalem) is probably one of the most emotionally loaded issues in modern history. The city - sacred to Christians, Jews and Muslims alike - has evoked a number of cries and outbursts. Violence for control of the city has resulted in much bloodshed and human suffering.

On the Arab side like in the other sides, there are a number of organizations and activities that work to preserve the Arab identity of the city - at least that of Eastern Al-Qudse. One such organization is the Arab Organization for Defending Al-Qudse (AODQ). Mr. Sultan Abdul Rahman, Secretary general of the AODQ, is a Yemeni with a well-published person. He has authored six books and presented research papers to 21 seminars and workshops. He holds the military rank of



colonel, though he is no longer actively involved in the military. He has acquired a number of diplomas and citations in the spheres of literature, military science, and strategic studies.

Sultan, 46, is from Mount Sabir, which overlooks the city of Taiz.

M. Bin Sallam of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Sultan. Excerpts.

Q: What is the motive behind establishing the Arab Organization for Defending Al-Qudse?

A: The establishment of the organization is based on three essential factors. First, Al-Aqsa Mosque which is a holy place to Muslims has an integral part in the Muslim doctrine. We as Muslims cannot relinquish it to the Zionists.

Second, Al-Qudse - an Arab city - is at this moment of history under Israeli occupation and the city is being exposed to destruction to obliterate its Muslim identity. This effort persists through the collaboration of the Israeli government and the worldwide Zionist movement which has 1470 international organizations and 8250 regional branches working to Judaize Al-Qudse.

This concerted effort provides funds, directs settlement of Jews in the city, guides and motivates all the actions aimed at abolishing the Arab/Islam identity of the old city.

We cannot accept occupation of an Arab city by the new colonizers whatever the pretext. Third, the organization aims to see to it that UN resolutions and other decisions are implemented. We will mobilize all the potentials/efforts toward serving the goal of restoring the city and protecting it from any demographic and political manipulations aimed at change its identity.

Q: What are the goals of the organization?

A: The goals are as mentioned in articles 3, 4, 5 of the charter of the organization, the main goals are as follows:-

- 1- To motivate all Arabs and Muslims to defend and protect Al-Qudse.
- 2- To follow a strategy that highlights this issue within its historic framework as part of the heritage of the nation.
- 3- To all on decision and policy makers in the Arab world to adopt measures in support of this issue.

Q: How do members join your organization and what they do from there on?

A: The rules and regulations of the organization call for a selection of 100 outstanding personalities of each of the 60 Arab and Islamic states.

Thus, the total number of members is around 6000 who form what we call the General Islamic Council for defending Al-Qudse.

These individuals are then the backbone for mobilizing the public at large to interact in a positive way to retrieve Al-Qudse which is being desecrated today by the Zionists. We will continue to work towards that end.

Q: Does the organization coordinate efforts with Palestinian Authority and the rest of Palestinian personalities and organizations?

A: Our organization an umbrella, which aims to defend and protect Al-Qudse from any distortions or changes of its historical features. In this regard, we do cooperate with the Palestinian Authority and



any other body that shares our goals and objectives.

It is clear that the issue of Al-Qudse concerns all Muslims wherever they are. The Israeli policy is to introduce so many changes on the ground that at the end, Al-Qudse will have been totally Judaized. Both Muslims and Christians stand to lose from this policy.

The organization with all its leading persons, works to defend Al-Qudse. We are even working

favorably with the peace process. We are not against the peace process, but we have some reservations in this matter.

Q: What is your position?

A: It is worth mentioning that (Yemeni) President Ali Abdulla Saleh's position fully reflects ours. He is firm in refusing to compromise with Israel until it has given back Arab rights and reached peace with everybody. That is our position, exactly.

Q: Can you brief us on the offices of the organization?

A: The organization decided to establish four branches - one in each of Abu Dhabi, Amman, Cairo, and Sanaa. Additional offices will be established during 1996/1997. We also plan to expand our efforts to non-Arab Muslim countries.

It is to be pointed that we work openly and with the blessing and support of the host government wherever our offices exist.

الف مبروك

أطيب التهاني وأعطر التبريكات

للعريس نبيل وعروسته ياسمين

متمنين لهما حياة زوجية سعيدة، وبالزفاف والبنين.

المهنون:

أم وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف

تهانينا الحارة

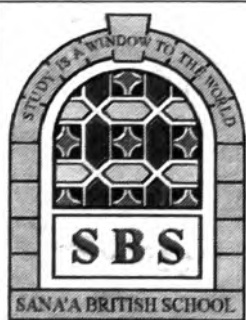
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No more accidents, burns, fires with the use of OARA safety valves

Some of the benefits:

1. You can read from the valve's meter how much gas is still in the cylinder.
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3. The valve disconnects the flow of gas in the following cases:
 - a- When the pipe is destroyed thus suddenly releasing gas out.
 - b- When the pipe is suddenly disconnected from the meter.
 - c- When the temperature around the meter rises to more than 120 degrees, or in cases of fire.
4. The way to install the safety valve is described in the apparatus.

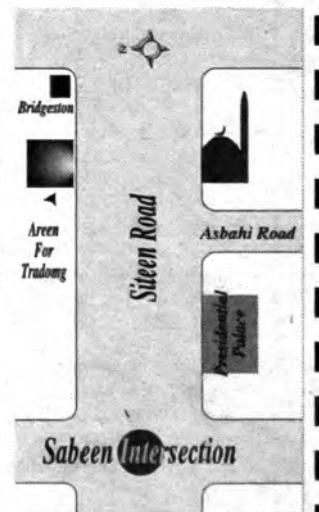
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It Is 'Back to School'

By: **Bashar Ghazi Askar,**
Yemen Times.

The new school year is here and folks - tired of their little ones and their troubles at home - are waiting for schools to re-open with eagerness. But how ready are the schools to take in the kids.

Education is the process through which nations make progress. It equips individuals with skills, competence, and capabilities to increase their level of performance. Thus, education is an investment.

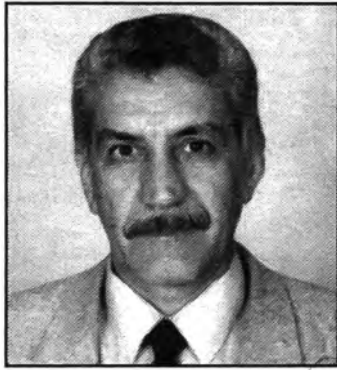
But education also carries a holy message for it has to do with the soul of the people. Education is character building, and in that sense, it is probably the single most important factor in the future of any society. It helps in promoting good qualities and integrity of individuals.

This whole process, therefore, requires adequate planning for the future. But exactly does that involve?

One of the main factors in good education is the selection of teachers/tutors, educationists, supervisors, administrators, and others who are part of the educational process. The selection of all these individuals should be based on certain qualifications, expertise, experience in the field, character, and physical appearance, and many other personal qualities and capabilities.

What we aim for is to provide our children with a harmonious combination of skills, information and knowledge on the one hand, and morals, values and principles which will build their character, on the other hand.

Preparing our schools and planning for our education also involves a vision. A clear and



future-oriented vision allows society to develop curricula and educational systems that are balanced. Balanced is an all-encompassing word. Here, we are talking about producing individuals who are in harmony with the establishment; individuals who relate positively within their immediate environment, as well as in relations with the outside world; individuals who understand responsibility and can interact with change; individuals who will manage the country in the next century.

Modernization means change in the right direction. This can only be achieved if the education our children receive is adequate to prepare them for their future role. Is the education offered by Yemeni schools - public and private - adequate?

A third factor in a good education is the methodology and educational aids used in schools. This is lacking in a visible way in Yemen. In addition, extra-curricular activities are almost unheard of. Our children need to absorb every new development in technology and understand the new leads in innovation.

The Ministry of Education must think of new methods, means and

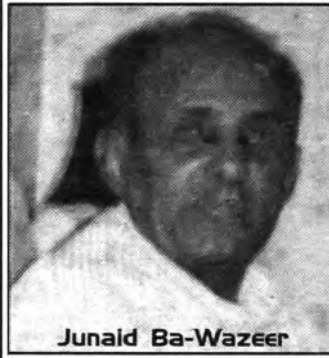
approaches to overcome the difficulties and problems that impede its work. The Ministry must think seriously of such issues as over-crowded classrooms, unqualified teachers, and incapable administration. It also has to think about making books and aids available, maintenance of school furniture and buildings, and improvements in the curricula.

How can a teacher reach out to the children when he has more than 100 of them in his classroom. It is a catastrophe when one thinks of it.

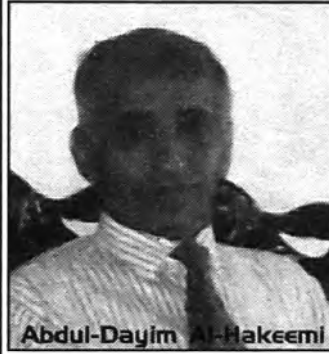
So, the 1996/1997 school-year is here. The first major step taken by the Ministry of Education has been to replace many Arab teachers with Yemenis. This is called the Yemenization process in education. Theoretically, there is nothing wrong with such a process, which is also pursued in the other countries. But, the resolution should have been taken in many steps and in a gradual manner. I know that financial pressures and scarcities in foreign exchange have made this step necessary. But I wonder if this decision is not going to make education more expensive in the long run, in that the cheaper investments in the future of our children will lead to less impressive results. To add to the complications, the Ministry of Education could not find enough Yemeni teachers, and is now forced to re-recruit some of the foreign teachers.

The education of our children is the most precious input in the future of the nation. It cannot be taken lightly and without adequate planning. It deserves to be a top priority and all the resources it needs must be made available.

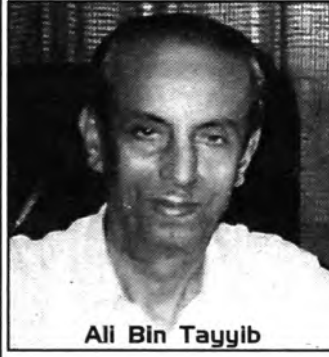
A Book on Yemeni Immigrant Business Giants in East Africa



Junaid Ba-Wazeer



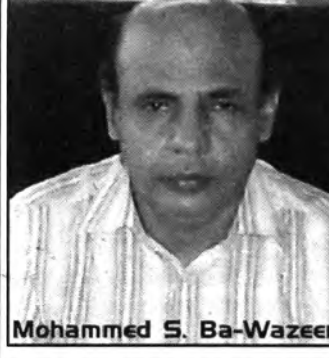
Abdul-Dayim Al-Hakeemi



Ali Bin Tayyib



Faisal Abu Bari



Mohammed S. Ba-Wazeer

Immigration is part and parcel of Yemen life. Since time immemorial, Yemenis have been roaming the earth from one corner to another. They have covered vast regions extending from Andalusia to Java, from Kampala to Tashkend. Wherever they have gone, they settled down and merged with the local populations.

One of the regions where they left a visible mark is East Africa - extending from Sudan through Eritria, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, all the way into Zambia.

Over the last two hundred years, Yemenis from the lower coastland - extending from Hadramaut to the Tihama - have crossed the Arabian Sea and Gulf of Aden into Africa. With time - and lots of hard work, many prospered and build business empires.

Al-Izzy As-Selwi, a well-known journalist working for Yemen Times has now completed the task of documenting the life story of ten of these immigrants. Each one of them is like a fairy tale, a dream come true, a story of the rise from rags to riches. Every one of the ten has today, assets in the tens of millions of US dollars, and some of them are billionaires.

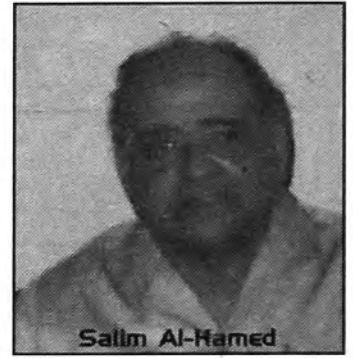
As-Selwi has paid several visits to those regions in search of information. By the end of his fifth visit earlier this year, he had compiled lots of documents, pictures and data.

Yemen Times plans to print the book before the end of the year. The aim is not only to document the success story of ten men, but it is also an attempt to throw cold water on the discriminatory and racist policies of the State of Yemen.

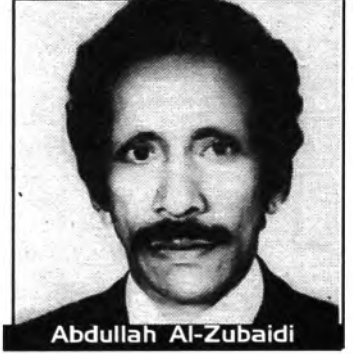
It is a well-known fact that the Yemeni state systematically discriminates against Yemenis who were born in East Africa, especially if either parent (mother) is African. They call them 'muwal-ladeen' and deprive them of their rights.

Now that some of these immigrants have all this money, the authorities will definitely try to change their attitude. However hypocritical that is, it is an achievement if the authorities are enticed to change their racist and discriminatory policies.

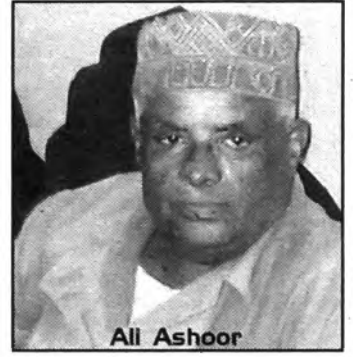
The book is impressionistic rather than documentary. It reflects the observations of the author and his findings over five trips to the countries of East Africa. The book is, of course, in Arabic.



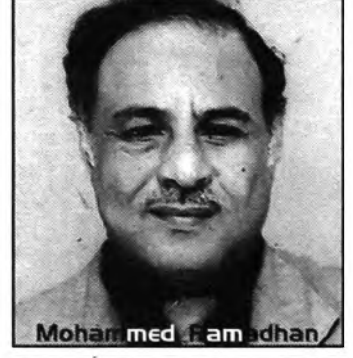
Sallm Al-Hamed



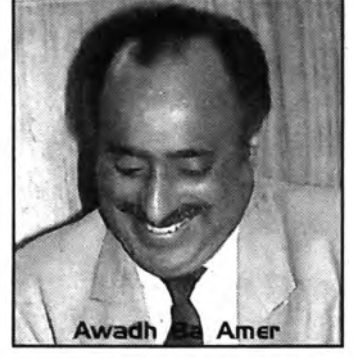
Abdullah Al-Zubaidi



Ali Ashoor



Mohammed Famedhan



Awadh Ba Amer

TENDERS INVITED

The Public Building Corporation, headquartered at Al-Mansoura, Aden, announces its desire to sell a production yard on an area of 18,534 square meters. The constructed area is 4,595 square meters, which is composed of the following:

- 1) Steel hangar with an area of 22.6 meters x 59 meters with a height of 8 meters, equipped with a horizontal forklift of a capacity of 10 tons;
- 2) Steel hangar with an area of 20.3 m x 45.6 m with a height of 6 meters;
- 3) Steel hangar with an area of 30 m x 60 m with a height of 6 meters;
- 4) Building constructed with cement blocks with an area of 12 x 35.5 m with a height of 5 meters;
- 5) Administrative building of the production yard whose area is 7.5 x 9 m with a height of 3.3 m;
- 6) Reception/information room with an area of 4 x 8.8 m;
- 7) Unbuilt area of land (Open surface area) of 13,940 sq. m.
- 8) Compound perimeter wall built with stones and cement blocks around the entire production yard, with a length of 530 meters, and an entry gate.

All hangars are imported type, with corrugated aluminum affixed on steel skeletons of the ceilings and sides and with well served concrete ground foundations. The yard is fully connected with all utilities: water, electricity, sewerage and telephone.

Interested investors may come to view the site at Bloc 69 of the Industrial Zone, in Al-Mansoura, Aden or to call the General Corporation at the following numbers 342 966, 342 737 and 342 296.

All pertaining documents to the yard are available at the Yard Administration and will be submitted to anyone interested in return for payment of a non-refundable fee of YR 5000.

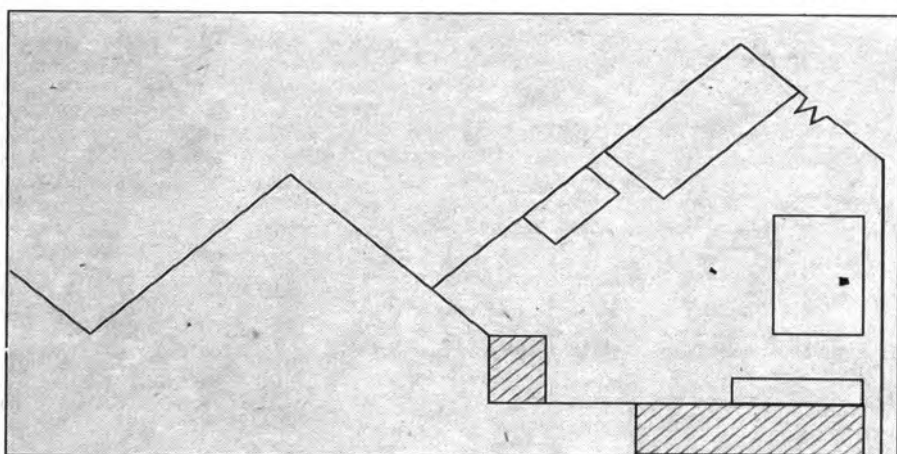
Bidders are to present a Bid Guarantee of YR 5 million, which is refundable to the non-winning bidders, 60 days after the bidding date, which is the period of the bond.

The Bond will be cashed in the event that the winning bidders withdraws his offer or refuses to pay the balance of the bid price, within 30 days after he has been advised, in writing, of winning the bid.

The last date for receiving bids is Monday 9/9/1996 at 10:00 am.

All bids to be presented in sealed envelopes with red wax addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Opening of bid envelopes will be 12:00 noon in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.



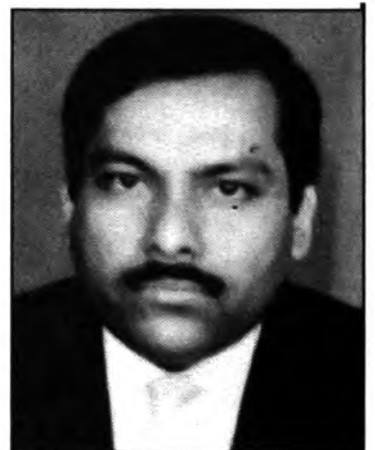
Taj Sheba Hotel Has a New Front Desk Manager

Mr. Sunit Kumar Shukla has taken over as Front Office Manager at the Taj Sheba Hotel. He comes from the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai (Bombay), which is one of the finest hotels in the world. He had earlier served in various senior management positions at some of the top rung hotels in India and other countries.

Sunit, as he likes to be called, did his post-graduate diploma in Hotel Management during 1984-86 at the Oberoi School of Hotel Management, and has been since in the industry.

Mr. Vijay Albuquerque, General Manager of the Taj Sheba Hotel, said that Mr. Shukla will be an additional factor in strengthening the already excellent services his hotel offers to its customers and friends.

Yemen Times uses the occasion to bid a warm welcome to Sunit.





Egyptian President Mubarak Blows the Whistle on Netanyahu

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressed his visible irritation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's anti-peace games. In a speech at Alexandria University, the Egyptian leader said that the world has waited for two months to allow the reality of the situation to sink-in with Netanyahu. "We don't have much more time," he said.

Mubarak expressed frustration with the continued hardline politics of the Israeli Prime Minister. He also threatened to cancel the Middle East Economic Coordination Conference scheduled for November 1996 in Cairo. "If the present anti-peace hardline policies (of Netanyahu) continue, not many countries will participate in the conference," he stated. The Egyptian leader also indicated that he supports the Syrian drive for a simultaneous peace effort between Israel and Lebanon, and Israel and Syria. He said that while Syria and Lebanon are ready for peace, Israel is dragging its feet while Prime Minister Netanyahu throws a monkey's wrench in the peace process.

Meanwhile, Israeli prime Minister is playing bully with Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority, the Lebanese people, and Syria. He has refused, granted, then refused to authorize the helicopter of Arafat to fly over Israeli territory in travelling from Gaza to the West Bank. He has threatened to flatten many parts of Lebanon. And he has barked harsh words against Syria menacingly with the possibility of a surgical attack.

Even many Israelis have openly wondered as to where Netanyahu is leading them. A confrontational approach will only lead to more hard feelings and instability in the region.

The American administration is pre-occupied with the coming elections. Even if Mr. Clinton were to find time, he is not overly anxious to antagonize the Jewish lobby by standing up to Netanyahu. Thus, the Arab governments can only look towards themselves for a solution.

This is what Mr. Mubarak has decided to do. He has openly spoken in favor of peace and against the extremist positions of Netanyahu.

Kuwait Warms up for Elections! But Who Is Entitled to Vote?

The State of Kuwait is preparing for the October parliamentary elections. Already, the list of candidates is getting longer by the day for the 80 seats in Majlis Al-Ummah.

Unfortunately, there are two major reservations against the elections.

First, Kuwaiti women are neither allowed to run as candidates, nor allowed to vote. The females of Kuwait have yet to be franchised. This means that half the population is kept out of the electoral

process. It is unfortunate that the 20th century will come to end before the Kuwaiti woman gets her right to vote.

Second, the Kuwaitis who do not have documents - the so-called bedoons - are still not allowed to vote. In a major effort to overcome this problem, the government recently embarked on a drive in search of a solution. Yet, when the dust settled, less than 2% of the 'bedoons' were taken-in while the majority are still left without solution.

The problem is that a small group of individuals in Kuwait insist to continue to monopolize the riches and privileges of the country to themselves. They thus resist expanding the base of citizenship because this will dilute their grip over things.

A modern state in Kuwait cannot be built without major reforms in the system. It is meaningless that less than 100,000 persons can legally participate in elections in a country of more than 1.5 million 'citizens'.

UAE Upholds Patent Rights

The impending criminal prosecution of a computer firm selling pirated software has caused a stir in the computer market in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Experts believe the case could lead to control of the pirated software market in the country. In 1994, the total losses to pirates in the Arab World were estimated at approximately US\$ 245 million by Business Software Alliance (BSA), which represents international firms. The loss within the UAE market was put at \$ 39 million. Other countries suffering the same fate are Kuwait where the loss for 1994 was \$14 million, Oman (\$9.5 million), Bahrain (\$6.9 million), and Jordan (\$3 million).

Since the implementation of the intellectual property laws in the UAE, computer software piracy has declined dramatically. The case presently in the courts, has already sent strong signals to infringers. "I feel the firm implementation of the

law has a positive impact on the genuine computer market as many consumers now hesitate to buy products from infringers, fearing the tough penalties," said Mr. Ali Ja'afery, Manager of Micro Computer Center. A spokesman for BSA viewed the forwarding of the latest case to court as a "signal of future action" against illegitimate computer resellers who had deliberately ignored previous warnings. "The majority of big companies and organizations now opt for originals as they have come to reduce the malice of using pirated products," said Harish Bakhru, dealer Channel Manager with Alpha Data. Suny Meghany, Business Development Manager with Quality Computers, indicated that they had been losing 10% of their monthly sales due to piracy.

As a result, many observers expect the UAE will not remain on the US Trade Representative's watchlist.

CHECHNEYA: Will the Deal Hold? SOMALIA: Back to Square One?

The agreement concluded between the Russians and the Chechneyans last week came as a relief to many citizens in Chechnya and Russia. Above all, it was a savior to the residents of Grozny, the beleaguered and war-torn capital.

Many observers believe that General Lebed, Chairman of the National Security Council of the Russian Federation, can reach a reasonable deal with the Chechneyan freedom fighters, which would give them a lot of autonomy, but would fall short of outright independence. Such a deal, however, faces opposition from many of the Russian generals and red-necks, as well as from the extreme Chechneyan rebels. But the deal has the support of most of the Russian population, especially the mothers whose kids are slaughtered in large number in the war. Over the last month alone, more than 450 Russian soldiers were killed.

Meanwhile, life is gradually returning to normal in Grozny. The deal continues to hold as both the Russian army and the Chechneyan freedom fighters are vacating it. The deal stipulates that the capital becomes no-man's land.

The Russian soldiers stranded in various parts of the break-away nation were also rescued by the deal as ammunition and supplies were provided.

The death of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed brought some hope to Somalia. Many people thought now the remaining warlords will see light and will reach a solution with the followers of Aideed. Unfortunately, those sentiments and hopes were expressed a little bit too soon.

The followers of Mohammed Farah Aideed named his son, Hussain, as the new leader. Hussain immediately announced that he will follow his father's aggressive plans. One month ago, that kind of talk was taken lightly.

But last week, when the young Aideed started his adventures, Somalia looked a lot like before. "Not much has changed," said one observer. The fighting has now resumed in earnest.

Ali Mahdi Mohammed, the main rival of Aideed, who, upon the death of the old man extended an olive branch, is now busy working out plans to repel the new offensive. The residents of Mogadishu, by now very well used to the roaring noise of tank and artillery shots, have taken solace in the fact that they had a few weeks' respite.

Hussain Aideed, an American citizen and a soldier in the US Marine, has apparently taken the Marine motto too seriously - "Always faithful". He is faithful to his father's dreams.

POSITION AVAILABLE

A Health Sector Program, supported by the Netherlands Government is setting up offices in the Ministry of Public Health, Sana'a and a small Sub-Office in the Haddah area, Sana'a.

The following positions are available.

1. Bi-lingual Secretary (Arabic/English)

Requirements:-

- * Good qualification both in Arabic and English.
- * Ability to translate to & from both languages.
- * Good qualifications in typing and the use of PC's.
- * Training and experience in software programmes (Microsoft Word and Excel).

Also responsible for:-

- * Maintenance of files.
- * Cleanliness in and around the the offices.

2. Driver/Messenger

Requirements:-

- * Valid Driver's License and at least 4 years of driving experience.
- * Must be able to understand and speak English.
- * Good knowledge of the country and Sana'a.

also responsible for:-

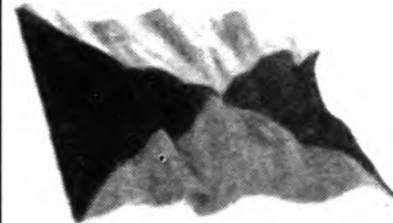
- * Maintenance and good order of the office vehicle.
- * Simple office duties like photocopying and shopping for office needs.

Both persons must be willing to work during Government Office hours at the Ministry and in the afternoon or sometimes evening at the Haddah Sub-Office.

Please send your CV, mentioning a contact telephone number to:

**YEMDAP,
P. O. Box No. 16033,
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen**

Last date to receive applications 31st August 1996



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MUKALLA:

P. O. Box: 50261 - Fax: (05)303503 - Tlx to Aden branch.

Next Week, You Can Access the Cyberspace Highway from Yemen !

So the internet has come to Yemen. Its code name here is the Yemen net or y.net. TeleYemen is now inviting subscribers who would like to be linked up with the massive cyberspace highway. On this occasion, Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Christopher Leather, Divisional Manager - Commercial, Operation and marketing at TeleYemen. Excerpts.

Q: Let us start with basics. What exactly is the internet?

A: One of the most frequently asked questions is "What is the Internet?" The short answer is that it is literally millions of different things, in every continent and nearly every country in the world.

How can this be? Imagine for a moment that your only source of information is your newspaper, and half a dozen books in your house. You would know a little of what was going on in the world, but your information would be only a small part of what is available. Now imagine that you have access to a personal computer. The computer will help you to store the information which you already have, and by means of floppy disks and CDs allows you to look at books, articles and much more information that you had before. You can easily build up a library, if you can afford to buy the disks and the CDs. Now imagine that you have access to the information stored in millions of computers.

Almost every subject which has ever been researched and written about will appear somewhere in these millions of computers. All you have to do is to find it. This sounds like a terribly difficult task, but over the last twenty years or so, a lot of work has been done to make it easy for computers, including yours, to talk to all these others. The links which make this possible are called networks. By connecting millions of computers around the world by means of tens of thousands of networks, and then by connecting these tens of thousands of networks together, we end up with the Internet, which you might think of as an abbreviation for Interconnected Networks.

Because there is no central "owner" of the Internet, it is not always easy to give accurate details about its real size. So we can only really say that there are tens of thousands of networks, millions of computers providing information and facilities, and tens of millions of people who connect to the Internet to find and exchange information. Obviously, from your home or office, it would be very expensive to maintain a link to every part of the Internet. So, in each location, there are Internet Service Providers, who maintain computer systems which are connected permanently into the Internet, and which by linking with other networks, provide the access that the home user will need. In Yemen, the Internet Service provider is TeleYemen, and the service which gives access to the Internet has been called "y.net"

Q: What kind of uses can people who have access to the Internet enjoy?

A: The most popular things at present are the World Wide Web, and E-Mail.

The World Wide Web, or WWW, provides a series of links between pages of information. Suppose for example that you have looked at a page of weather reports. On the page there will be highlighted words which are linked electronically to other pages of information. Say you have chosen the words "weather satellite"; the link will take you off to a page about how weather satellites work. On this page, there might be a reference as to how satellites are launched, using "rockets". This link would be to a page of information provided by the rocket manufacturer. All these links intersect, like a spider's web, and as the information may come from computer systems anywhere in the world, the name World Wide Web was coined. Moving from one page of information to another along these links is known as Surfing the Web!

E-Mail, or electronic mail, is rapidly becoming one of the Internet's most popular features, and is a means of sending messages to any of the millions of Internet customers who have an electronic mail address. Each Internet Service Provider maintains a dedicated piece of equipment called a Server, which lists their customers, together with their E-Mail addresses.

A message will pass over the Internet from one network to another until it arrives at its final address. Once there, the message is held in the Server until it is collected by the recipient. The attraction for the customer is that messages pass very quickly from one end to another, and the cost is very low!

Q: When is the y.net going to be operational?

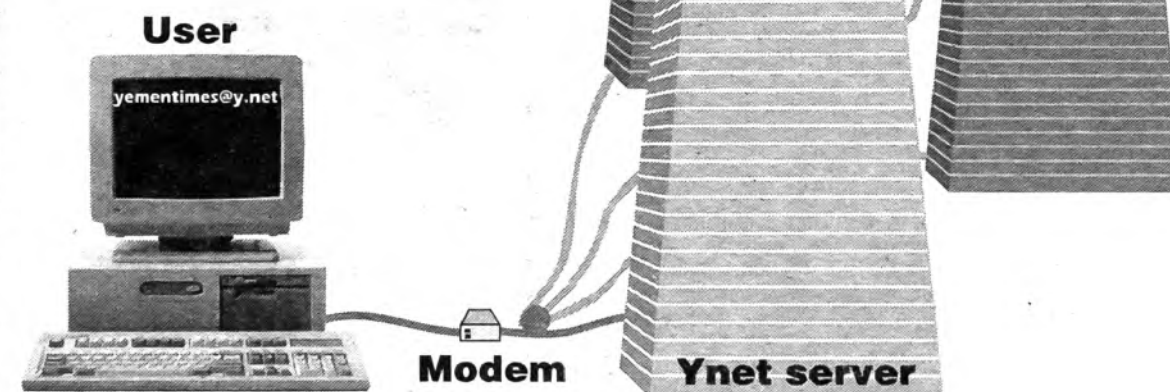
A: The y.net service from TeleYemen is in its final stages of testing and will be launched very shortly.



The most recent internal target date we set was the 17th August, which we missed because of delays in assigning the system addresses. Computers work on numbers, and although Internet addresses may look as though they are composed of names, the first thing to occur is that within the Internet network computers they are translated into numbers. Each Internet "node" is assigned certain numbers for its address, and it is these we have been waiting for.

Q: What do people interested in linking with the y.net have to do?

A: To sign up for y.net is very simple. TeleYemen has produced general information and tariff leaflets which give basic details about the y.net service.



These are available from any TeleYemen office, or we can send the information by fax or mail. Customers can fax us at (01) 271436, or call us at (01) 276152 extension 2222, and we will send them a copy. There is a simple order form to be completed, and an account established. The customer can choose his/her own user name, provided it doesn't duplicate one already in use and provided it isn't offensive in any way. Once the formalities have been completed, TeleYemen will provide a software package of dialer, web browser, and E-Mail which will give the new user access to y.net and the rest of the world.

Q: What expenses are involved?

A: The tariffs for y.net are very modest. There is a once off charge for signing up to the y.net. This includes registration, and the software package. This is YR 5750. Thereafter, there is a monthly subscription of YR 3500, and a charge of YR 12 per minute connected. There is a free access number which is valid from all parts of the country.

Q: What kind of hardware and software do customers need to access the y.net?

A: To make use of y.net, one will need a personal computer. This can be an IBM PC or a Mackintosh, or their equivalents. Business users can connect mainframe systems if they can run Internet access software. For IBM and equivalents, the minimum recommended configuration is a 386 processor with 4MB of RAM and 3.5 inch floppy disk drive. About 3 to 4Mb of hard disk space will also be

required. Later systems with a higher specification will work faster, particularly when receiving graphics and other images. A modem is also required, which is the piece of equipment which connects your PC to the telephone line. The y.net system can work at speeds of up to 28.8 Kbps, though the actual speed you see will depend on the quality of the connection when you dial in.

Q: Is TeleYemen going to offer any kind of crash course on the use of the y.net?

A: The main feature of the Internet is that it provides easy access to a world of information, and each user will probably find his/her own way into the Internet. We will inform our customers on how to load the software we provide, and how to access y.net. And then your own individual adventure starts. TeleYemen will

have a telephone Help Desk for y.net queries, to assist if our customers are having difficulties with accessing the y.net, but we cannot tell you what to look for once you are on the "net". It is rather like driving a car. The driving school can teach you how to drive, but cannot tell you where to drive to!

Q: Are there any special tailor-made services available to interested customers?

A: At first, we expect that the majority of customers of y.net will want to use the access to obtain information from elsewhere, whether it is a doctor researching the latest treatments for a disease, or a student looking for information about his project. We recognize that there are likely to be a number of customers who will want to provide information, which can be accessed by others, and Y.net will be able to support them by means of special storage facilities on one of the Servers.

The y.net system has been designed to give plenty of capacity to meet expected demand, and to provide a straightforward pathway for expansion when this is needed. Although access is available throughout the country by dialing a universal access number, the node itself is located in Sana'a. As demand expands, we will provide additional equipment and software to meet our customers' needs and requirements.

Q: Does TeleYemen have the full backing of the authorities? I mean there could be complications as we have seen with the mobile phone service? Are there screening tools within the system?

A: TeleYemen is the provider of international Telecommunications services for Yemen. We operate under license from the Government. All of the services we provide are authorized by the Ministry of Communications as regulator for telecommunications within Yemen. The y.net is no exception to this. In general, access to information worldwide will be open. However, it is recognized that there are sources of information which are unacceptable in the context of Yemeni society and values, and access to these will be barred.

Q: Any additional comments?

A: Y.net is the first of a new generation of services from TeleYemen. In coming months we will be announcing several new services which will make it easier than ever before to make or receive international phone calls. Telecommunications is at an exciting time of change, and TeleYemen intends to bring the best to Yemen.

We Pray That You May Not Grieve for Long!

David Slaughter, son of Barbara and George Slaughter, died earlier this month of a heart attack at the young age of 29 years.

On this occasion, we join Barbara and George - both good friends of Yemen - in their moments of grief, and offer our deepest condolences.

We also express our sorrows to the management and staff of Yemen Hunt Oil Company.

May God have mercy on David's soul, and may he rest in peace, Amen.

from:

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and all the staff of Yemen Times



Emirates

Getting Ready for Take-off in Yemen

Apollo Confirmed as GSA in Yemen

Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Emirates Airlines appointed Apollo as General Sales Agents, Yemen.

The agency is registered at the Yemeni Civil Aviation Authority under number 101 dated 18/8/1996. It is also registered by the Ministry of Trade & Supply under agency register number 2731 on the 17/8/1996.

Emirates being an award winning airline with excellent standards of services, naturally attracted a good number of applicants hoping to represent it in our country.

We hereby, would like to extend our gratitude to Emirates for the trust it bestowed on us. We take this opportunity as well to thank all applicants for their ethical competition.

We assure all operators in the airline industry our willingness to extend our cooperation to achieve common business interests and an overall improvement of airline services in our country. Furthermore, travelers could certainly expect an award winning standards of services.

General Manager
Tofik Al-Nihmy

Chairman
Hamid A. Al-Ahmar

APOLLO TRAVEL

ابولو للسفر

إعلان

أبولو تعلن للجمهور الكريم بأنها حصلت على توكيل طيران الإمارات في اليمن

والذي سجل لدى الهيئة العامة للطيران المدني برقم (١٠١) وتاريخ ١٩٩٦/٨/١٨، وبموجب سجل التوكيل الصادر عن وزارة التموين والتجارة رقم (٢٧٣١) بتاريخ ١٩٩٦/٨/١٧.

ونتيجة لما تتمتع به طيران الإمارات من سمعة طيبة، وكذلك المستوى الرفيع الذي تقدمها، والذين مكّانها من حصد جوائز عالمية في مجال النقل الجوي، فقد تنافست العديد من الشركات المحلية على هذا التوكيل، والذي بحمد الله كان من نصيب شركتنا، ولا يسعنا إلا أن نتقدم بالشكر والتقدير لطيران الإمارات على هذه الثقة، وكذا لجميع الشركات التي تقدمت معنا وذلك على المستوى الرفيع من روح المنافسة الشريفة، والشركة بهذا تؤكد رغبتها في التعاون مع الجميع لما فيه المصلحة المشتركة، كما تؤكد للجمهور حرصها على تقديم أرقى الخدمات في مجال السفر.

والله ولي التوفيق ...

رئيس مجلس الإدارة
حميد عبدالله الأحمر

المدير العام
توفيق سيف النهمي



AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly)

A: 18-8-96; B: 21-08-96

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) A: Deputy Prime Minister Al-Anisy: "I would not exclude the possibility that other parties are behind the latest Eritrean moves."
- 2) A: Japanese Expert Carries out Maintenance Work on Wadi Hadhramaut Generator
- 3) B: The President, "Democracy is better than silencing mouths and restricting liberties."

Article Summary:

B: The Roughed Up Press

In its editorial by the Editor-In-Chief, the paper expresses concern due to the increased pressure on the non-partisan and independent press and the hardships faced by papers like Al-Ayyam. Among the difficulties have been continuous and insulting phone calls, the last of which was made earlier in the week by a big government official whom the writer states as being a distinctly familiar voice. The caller had made insults and accusations against the paper and the Editor and threatened that the latter was becoming a candidate for a beating! The Editor notes that such intimidation will not bar the paper from continuing its duty of presenting the truth to the readers and to do so in accordance with the Constitution and the declared policy of the government of welcoming opposition from the inside. The Editor makes note of the fact that the State will be held responsible for any harm that may come to him or any of his family, accordingly.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 22-8-96

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah)

Main Headlines:

- 1) A Second and A Third Judicial Suit Against The Higher Elections Committee
- 2) The President Calls for Support and the Joining of Ranks During Meeting of the Joint Defense Council
- 3) By What Accomplishments Are You Going To Face The Elections

Article Summary:

Yemeni - Saudi Relations

Referring to the recent "personal" visit of Sheikh Abdulla Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar (Speaker of Parliament and Paramount Sheikh of Hashid Tribal Confederation) to Saudi Arabia, just after the signing of the Bilateral Security Pact between ROY and Saudi Arabia and right before the arrival of Prince

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

Sultan Abdulaziz, Nasr Taha Mustafa discusses the current status of Yemeni - Saudi relations. The author, a regular contributor to the paper and Chairman of the Yemeni Center for Strategic and Cultural Studies, believes it is time for both countries to reassess the relationship, as unfavorable relations between them will make them fall into the traps set up by the mutual enemies of both countries, as illustrated by the recent Eritrean adventures in the Red sea and some of the internal problems faced by Saudi Arabia.

The author believes that both countries must overcome the reliance on tactical stages while pursuing this relationship and should start working along strategic long run lines that serve the mutual interests of both countries.

On the other hand, it is clear by now that President Ali Abdulla Saleh has proven over the past 18 years that he is much stronger than many people have underestimated after having overcome many hurdles. The author also notes the crucial role that Sheikh Al-Ahmar plays in this relationship, as a vital smoother of any trouble spots that could arise.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 21-8-96

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President: "Our Armed Forces Personnel Showed Enthusiasm In Being Ready to Face Up to the Eritrean Intimidations"
- 2) Prison Sentences Passed On Arab (Algerian) and Yemeni Forgers of Passports and Official Documents.
- 3) AL-WAHDAH Organizes Conference Under Slogan: "The Mosque Is A House Of Worship And Should Be Used for Learning and Guidance"

Article Summary:

Interview With Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf

The interview was conducted with one of the most liberal Islahi members and intellectuals, who is also Chairman of the Yemeni Center for Future Studies. In view of his interesting viewpoints in the inter-

view highlights are hereby presented:

- Democracy in Yemen is still fragile, and some think it has even brought problems to the country;
- We (The Islah) are not ambitious to possess full authority in the country;
- Partisan leadership, in all the Yemeni political parties, lacks the appropriate democratic culture...as can be seen by the lack of practice of democracy in the respective political parties of the leadership;
- the Islamist leadership raises doubts about democracy and gives itself the legitimacy of holy persecution;
- the slogan, "Islam Is the Solution", does not mean the cancellation of other experiences including that of non-Moslems;
- The Center For Future studies An Independent Center and is not attached to the Islah Party;
- Our problem is that we do not carry out structural movement towards the realization of democracy, but are content with decorative signs;
- The woman is at first a human being and masculine values should not dominate while facing up to the restrictions on a woman's true femininity.

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

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) A Call for a Parliament with a 30% Women's Membership
- 2) Continuation of Opposition/Islah Dialogue: Approval of an Executive Program to Guarantee Clean Elections
- 3) An "Elections" Scandal at the Al-A'anaad Military Base

Article Summary:

Tidbits of Memory

Sheikh Abdurrahman Ahmed Nu'uman, the outspoken opposition (Free Constitutionalist Party) and Member of Parliament denounces the derogatory way the official newspaper, AL-THOURA, reported the Imam Mohammed "Al-Badr's" death last week. Nu'uman, who is the son of the famous

"Free Yemeni" hero, Mr. Ahmed Nu'uman, and old veteran freedom fighter himself points out that the last Imam of the Hamidaldin family, in fact was a revolutionary:

- He welcomed the 1948 coup against his grandfather, the late Imam Yahya;
 - He agreed with the "Free Yemenis" and the late President Gamal Abdul Nasser, of Egypt, in Cairo, in 1955 to reorganize the opposition to his father, the late Imam Ahmed, after the latter had foiled the 1955 attempted coup;
 - He had pleaded with the late King Saud of Saudi Arabia to try to convince his father, Imam Ahmed to change his ways and open up the country;
- The writer notes that the AL-THOURA was not a fitting tribute to the man and not in keeping with the Prophet Mohammed's saying: Reflect only on the good deeds of your dead ones!

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 28-8-96

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Opposition Calls For the Dismissal of Responsible Military Officers (For Huneish's Occupation by Eritrea).
- 2) A Yemeni Passport With One of the Accused for the Attempted Mubarak Killing.
- 3) Military and Tribal Personalities Attempt to Interfere in Death Sentences Passed on 3 Republican Guards Personnel

Article Summary:

Where Are The Free Yemenis?

Mohammed Saleh Al-Dhahiry points out that many were upset by the way Al-Thoura Newspaper reported the Imam's Death not for the love of the Imam so much but because of the people's disappointments with just about anything the Rulers do nowadays. The death of the Imam brought to light many aspects of the Yemeni situation which deserve to be reflected upon:

- The present rulers who claim to carry on with the revolution are, in fact, afflicting the Yemeni people with the same kind - if not worse - of oppression;
- The many old guard revolutionaries have either elected to join with the rulers and their vices or take on a back seat and watch without saying anything to the shortfalls of the regime, while neglecting to speak out against the difficult conditions faced by most Yemenis;
- While the regime claims to adopt revolutionary principles, the reality as the existing Free Yemenis know is quite far from such claims.

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

THE COALITION: Where It Goes, the Country Goes!

Political pluralism is a virtue of civilized societies. That doesn't mean it is a uniform process. You cannot take the cover off a bottle and put it on another, unless the other bottle is identical.

So in our Yemeni society and its tribal construction, every group organizes itself along kinship lines or other affiliations to build brute force. If that format is no longer suitable, well, let us make a political party. This way, on one hand, the tribe will bring along its large number of members, and on the other hand, it will take on a new form, which is propagated by the West. Bingo - civil society is thus born.

Examples, oh yes, you want examples. The People's General Congress (PGC) appeared after the unification, as if it representing the army and bureaucracy. It is supposed to be a civilian political party. So, it underwent some transformation. Abdullah Al-Ahmar is the boss of a big tribe with a big force. His transformation has led to the Islah Party.

Such transformations are neither meaningful nor real. They are adjustments to new situations dictated by a new environment, rather than the beginnings of a civil society. The people who run the show are still the old bosses. Even their tools and techniques are old stuff.

Today, the country is being managed by a coalition of the two strongest parties - the PGC and Islah. What I still think save us is the coalition between the two strongest parties, the PGC and Islah. If something happens to this coalition, then the country will feel the consequences. This reminds us of the previous coalition between the PGC and the Yemeni Socialist Party!

The recent developments are a dangerous indicator of the things to come. I am really afraid of what will happen. The country cannot take another jolt in a showdown between the PGC and Islah.

Majd Abdulhameed Mansour, Hajjah.

Al-Haifi's Long Articles

I express appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Hassan Al-Haifi in his weekly column in Yemen Times. Despite the extreme length of the articles - which often repel me and make me spontaneously move on to the next page, he always writes about valuable and important subjects which really deserve our respect.

I suggest decreasing the length of his articles, however. Long articles are no longer required and do not add anything to the story.

As a columnist, he knows more that others that local readers are very limited. Even those described as elites, are overwhelmed by their personal affairs and the miserable and complex life caused by mismanagement of the current regime.

We are in a rush-rush world, and time is important. These determine how we produce information and how we present it. Generally, it is not a matter of how much space the columnist can fill, but how much he/she can tell in a small space.

Again, my respects to his ingenious endeavors, and I hope he will take this point amicably.

Abdelrahman Hassan Al-Harazi, M.D

Cry My Beloved Somalia!

The most unfortunate part of the story of Somalia is that it has failed to produce honest leaders. Our politicians are busy promoting their selfish interests at the cost of indescribable suffering of the people. Yet they still engage in a relentless power struggle. In fact, we have not learned anything about power sharing and democratic ways. There can't be any peace, if we do not admit our mistake or evaluate history objectively?

Are we destined to play this barbaric game until we all perish? May Allah help us resolve our problems and start reconstruction.

If what is happening to my country is a punishment from God, I pray Him to test us no more and to help us reorganize our life in peaceful way.

Mahad Mohammed, Sana'a

The Green Cancer

It is the cancer that made our land so sick and barren. It is that enemy that destroyed the health of the Yemeni people and the economy of the country. It is the parasite that eats away the income of the families. It leads to most serious disasters social strife and divorce cases. IT IS QAT.

I would like to refer to that cancer which is known to every one, but briefly. Ibb Governorate is one of the victims of that cancer, specially the two most fertile areas which are called "Al-Sahoul" and "Wadi Maitam or Al-Ghail".

These regions were the breadbasket, the grain refuge of the nation during times of famine and hunger. They were also the store of the governorate, as our ancestors said. That is because of the great amount of grains produced there.

There are many proverbs and folk songs about them. Likewise, the area was a place of enjoyment because of the permanent verdancy in all seasons. But, something horrible happened over the last two decades. The qat tree replaced all others, and now the area is full of qat.

Recently, when I saw this cancer spreading over this beautiful land in a frightening way, I thought to write these lines. Our sleeping government is possibly the direct result of being addicted to this drug, which affected the mood of our leaders. That may be the reason for this long negligence.

The government must have the courage to stop this harmful tree, and to pull it out from the fertile land. I don't see this happening, however. The economical crisis should be solved starting with roots - to root out this tree.

Thus, I don't ask the Government to impose further taxes which is a source of corruption. But the government must take a decisive decision to arrest the spread of this tree. Moreover, the government should educate the people that "to labor in their land is better than begging other countries to feed them". Otherwise, we can continue to chew qat, depend on other nations for food, and wait for the day we starve.

By: Ahmed Abdo Ali Al-Nakeab, Ibb

My Worries

Tame worries
Live with me in my room.

One day my father offered a worry
A wild one
I tamed it
It grew up
And begot me many more worries
Oh my God
The new-born worries
Devour the mother one

When I go out
My worries go with me
I walk
And they follow me
And on the way
I meet new ones
When I am back home
I have already gained new worries
Wild ones
That quickly become tamed

My worries bite me
But they do not kill me
Oh passers-by
Don't be afraid of me
Don't fear my worries
Because they love me
And never abandon me.

When we are alone in our house
I pass the night feeding them
At dawn,
They wake me
So that we go out
Together
As we usually do.

Arrayah Abdulgadir,
Azal Institute,
Sanaa.

August 26th, 1996



The Prime Minister honors Ahmed Aziz, youngest athlete



Part of the traditional Yemeni singing folklore night

The Algerian Lady Got the Women's Championship and the Egyptian Carried Away the Men's Championship

By Jamal Al-Awadhi,
Sports Editor, Yemen Times

The Chess Championship for Women came to a climax on Tuesday the 20th. Asmaa Al-Houly of Algeria carried the gold medal. Danielle Bedrossian of Lebanon was in second place, while Waseela Sheikh of Syria occupied third place.

On Wednesday, the 21st, the Men's Championship came to a climax. Essam Ali of Egypt was the champion. Emad Sidqi of Syria came second place, while Mohammed Al-Madhiky of Qatar was in third place.

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani was on hand to present the awards and to congratulate the winners.

Yemeni players did not fare well in the competition. The best a Yemeni athlete did was sixth place, and that is Hameedh Al-Qadhi. Most Yemeni players complained that they did not receive the training and practice their Arab colleagues received.

Directories' Group, a local company organized a special night festival in which traditional Yemeni songs, dances and other folklore were performed. The Arab chess players enjoyed the evening.

Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports, praised highly the way the championship was organized and managed. He showered praise on the Yemeni Chess Federation which was able to arrange all aspects of the competition so well.

Mr. Ali Al-Dabbani, Chairman of the Arab Chess Federation, from the United Arab Emirates, joined in the final sessions of the games. He also participated in the general assembly meetings and discussions of the Arab Chess Federation.

In a thank you to Yemen, he expressed gratitude for the hospitality, and presented token gifts to the Prime Minister, Minister of Sports, and the Cahirman of the Yemeni Chess Federation.



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Essam surrounded by friends and Egyptian Embassy staff

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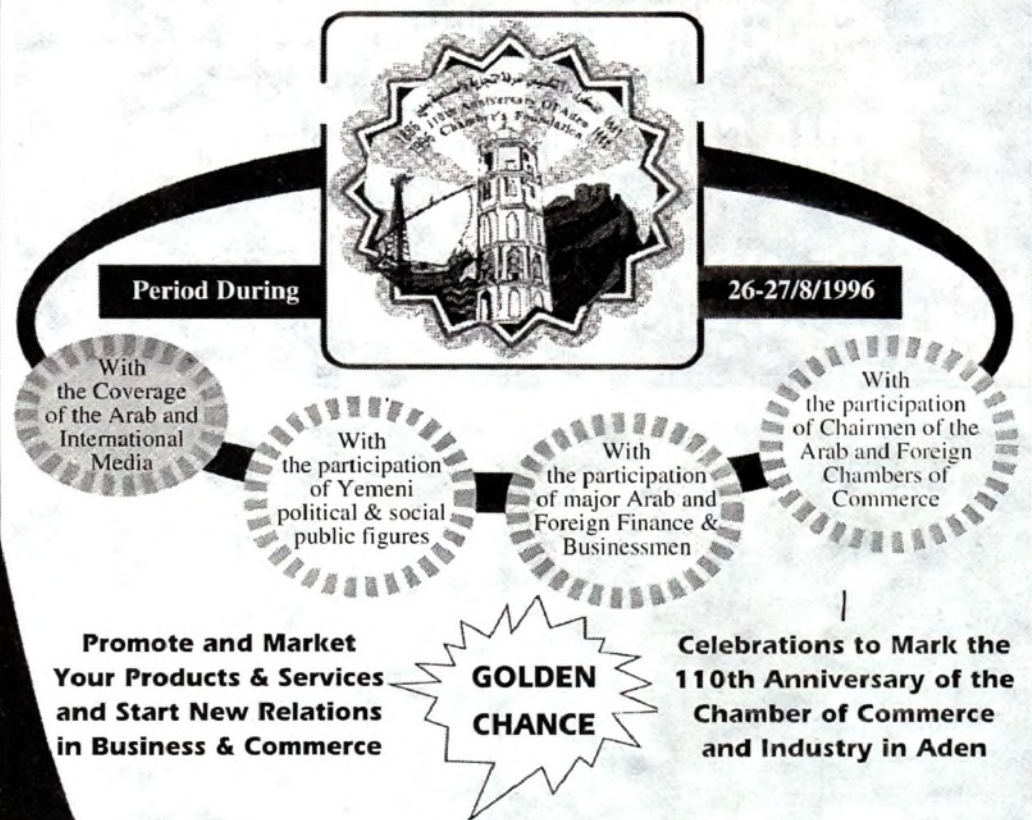
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8 MILLION Eligible Voters in the 1997 Elections

The number of eligible voters for the April 1997 parliamentary elections is approaching eight million. This total is arrived at as follows:

Registered in 1996: 1.4 m.
 Registered in 1993: 6.3 m.
 Of the 6,272,828 registered eligible voters in the 1993, some 5% are expected to have since died or left the country. This brings down the number to just less than six million.

In the meanwhile, the number of people to register over this week - last chance for registration for the 1997 elections - is expected to raise the total up to almost two million. Thus, the total number of eligible voters for the April 1997 elections stands at around 8 million.

Various political parties and individuals who are planning to stand for elections are already urging voters to register. Many are paying for the transport and per diem of sympathizers to ensure their registration.

On the 31st of August, the registration process will come to an end. Therefore, any adult Yemeni male or female not registered so far, has just the coming few days to do so. Every individual has 3 options as to where to register: at the residence address, home village, or work place. Candidates have the same options in terms of where to stand for elections. The 1997 elections are expected to be noisy!

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