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YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • September 2nd thru 8th, 1996

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YEMENIA: Mismanagement Bleeds Company

Last week, in one blow, Yemen's national airline, Yemenia, lost some \$162,000 in fines, extra royalties, and new expenses. How did it happen?

It was Sunday, August 25. The 727-200 Boeing plane was ready for its scheduled trip from Sanaa to London via Aden. Aden had informed the Sanaa central reservation system that it had 80 transit passengers who came from Kenya on their way to London. In addition, Aden had about ten local travellers.

The 727-200 carries a maximum load of 145 passengers. That meant that the number of Sanaa passengers to London could not exceed 55 persons. But 90 passengers were loaded on the plane, creating a major problem in Aden.

After an 11-hour delay, the 'excess' transit passengers were forced to stay in Aden at a hotel, on Yemenia's account. To add insult to injury, out that of the Sanaa passengers, 31 were free riders. As a rule, passengers with free tickets must not board if a paying customer is waiting, let alone transit passengers who paid in hard currency.

But the free-riders could not be held back. The problem is lack of a firm hand at the top of Yemenia's management.

As a result, Yemenia was forced to arrange an extra trip on Sunday night, with its 737-200 Boeing to London at phenomenal costs. It paid the British authorities a 15% royalty, landing fees, parking fees. It also paid the crew's per diem. In addition, there is the opportunity cost of the 737 which was held up for three days on this trip. The plane came back from London on Tuesday. It came back empty.

The reservation system of Yemenia is unreliable, to say the least. Just bear in mind that a confirmed and re-confirmed reservation with Yemenia does not mean you will fly.

On Thursday, August 29th, a Yemenia flight to Abu Dhabi was stranded at Rayyan Airport in Mukalla. The reason - the number of total passengers was 180 - far in excess of the plane's capacity. And all had confirmed reservations. Those who could not board were blocking the runway. Hours of negotiations ensued as the plane lay on the tarmac.

Yemenia faced a similar predicament on Sunday, September 1st. Transit passengers from Kenya were routed via Frankfurt, courtesy of Yemenia.

Wow. What a way to run an airline?

Prince Sultan: "No Dice!"

Saudi Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation, Inspector-General and Head of the Saudi side in the Yemeni-Saudi Supreme Joint Committee, and the accompanying delegation, left Yemen at the end a 3-day official visit.

Given the immense hope attached to this visit, one must say that the results have been disappointing. Even as both sides tried to put on the best face, the trip has achieved little beyond the traditional Arab courtesies.

What was expected?

1. It was expected that a political understanding will clearly pave the way for an agreement on the border. It didn't happen!

2. It was expected that Saudi Arabia will make a substantive move in helping the Yemeni economy. It didn't happen!

3. President Saleh tried hard to reach out to the Prince. He invited him to three tete-a-tete meetings. It was expected that the Yemeni and Saudi Arabian leaders will break the psychological barriers and cross over to achieve warmer personal relations. It didn't happen!

Prince Sultan brushed aside many overtures and repeated more than a dozen times that there was need for the committees and sub-committees to resume meetings and discuss the agendas in details and in a thorough nature. He resisted a top-level decision in one stroke.

What was achieved?

1. The ice and psychological barriers between the two sides were partially broken. This is an important step forward.

2. An economic agreement was signed with the purposes of enticing Saudi investments in Yemen, notably in the Aden Free Zone. This is a seed which could grow in the future.

Two Weird Episodes:

Yemen's divided approach and in-fighting was quite visible. Even now, it is not clear who was the Prince's counterpart in the talks was.

1. Prince Sultan referred, on three different occasions, to Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, the Speaker of Parliament and Head of the Yemeni side in the Supreme Joint Committee, as his 'counterpart', but he was stuck in some sessions of the negotiations with Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani.

2. Prince Sultan visited Taiz, and offered to pay for the asphaltting of the road connecting the city to Mount Sabir. He was surrounded by many government officials as he took out his check-book. He wrote a check for US\$ 10 million in favor of a businessman, Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies. Prince Sultan told him he wanted him to be in charge of the money! Do you think the Prince was saying he didn't trust the officials with the dough?

Hiroshi Shiojiri: "We are trying to give Yemen its due place in our priorities of the world countries."

Hiroshi Shiojiri, Senior Assistant for Technical Cooperation in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that his country has not given Yemen its due place in the list of priorities in its vision of world countries. In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times (see page 3), the Japanese

official disclosed that his country now feels that Yemen is an important country in the regional geo-strategy and stability. Mr. Shiojiri, a first-class Arabist and an old hand on Yemen, also indicated interest in bolstering Japanese aid to Yemen and bilateral trade cooperation.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Annihilation of the Middle Class in Yemen

Most people speak today about the annihilation of the middle class in Yemen. Some academicians and journalists have even researched this phenomenon and wrote about the foreboding omens it carries for the future of the country.

I would like to use specific examples to show how middle-income Yemenis suffer in today's Yemen due to the economic deterioration on the one hand, and the absence of law and order on the other. This does not preclude, however, that other groups are suffering as well, especially the poorer segment of the population.

Economic Malaise:

Due to the prevailing economic hardships, Yemen's middle class has been more impoverished than ever.

1. Galloping inflation rates have eaten away their limited savings. The rich people can hedge, and the poor people have little savings. So, the people in the middle suffer.

2. Opportunities and chances for business dwindle. Due to the recession, most middle income people suffer more than others. The rich people quickly adjust by moving their business abroad, while the poor people had little opportunities to start with. So recessions hurt the middle group most.

3. Financial blackmail is a third factor from which the middle income people suffer. As conditions deteriorate, low-income people as well as the bureaucracy and police/security groups start looking for preys from which they can grab a piece of the pie. The rich people are out of their reach because they can fend off - given the body-guards and various blocks they place between themselves and the public. So, middle income people become a target for various forms of financial blackmail, sometimes even from poorer relatives and/or friends. Thus, they are impoverished.

Absence of Law and Order:

The absence of law and order, and lack of any reference of authority in resolving disputes makes the middle class suffer. Examples:

1. Most of the victims of thefts/robberies of cars, homes, etc. are middle class people.

The rich people have large compounds and garages to house their cars. Most middle income people live in apartments or small houses. Thus the family car is left on the street next to the house. Many times, these are gone.

The homes of middle income people are not guarded by watchmen nor are they protected by various devices and high walls. You hear of many cases of families and individuals who become impoverished over night because their homes have been cleaned up by thieves.

2. In most cases, middle income people have to forgo their rights and dues because they are unable to go through a prolonged trial or serious stand off. They merely abandon what is legally owed to them because they do not have the stamina for standing up to more powerful or less busy groups.

Those middle income people who suffer include professors and teachers, medical doctors, engineers, journalists, accountants and economists, lawyers, mid-level bureaucrats, small businessmen, etc. In Yemen, as elsewhere, it is these people who are the launch pad for any development and progress. Our launch pad is getting smaller every

The Publisher
عبد العزيز السقاف

2nd Workshop on Reforms in Water and Sanitation Sector

The Ministry of Electricity and Water, the National Water and Sanitation Authority, in collaboration with donor agencies such as the World Bank and the German GTZ, are planning the second workshop on reforms in the water and sanitation sector. The program entitled "Sector Policy and Strategy Studies" is scheduled to take place at the Taj Sheba Hotel during 8-10 September, 1996.

Pricing, decentralization, and improvements in management are going to be among the key issues to be discussed.

According to Mr. Anwar Al-Sahooly, Head of the Technical Secretariat of the Project, the objectives of the workshops include "reaching a consensus of opinion on the sector's future and development, and to submit appropriate recommendations to the national leadership".

Mukalla Case Ends with a Middle Decision

The Primary Court of Mukalla passed its verdict on the famous rape case, with which it had grappled for the last few months. The final verdict tried to please both sides.

The raped women and their guardian will be freed from any fault, and the officer - while not convicted of rape - was convicted of abuse of authority. He was sentenced to two and a half years in prison.

Many observers believe that the court decision, though not pleasing completely to either side, has given each side a little of what they wanted.

British Gas to Relinquish Socotra Concession

British Gas, which has been holding an off-shore concession around Socotra island, in the Arabian Sea, decided to give up its exploration effort.

Yemen Times learned that the company will relinquish this concession at the end of this year.

The PGC Celebrates 14th Anniversary

The People's General Congress (PGC) celebrated its 14th anniversary on Thursday, August 29th.

In Sanaa, and in many other locations, members of the party celebrated the occasion with lots of fanfare.

Commercial Committee for Arab Carriers Concludes Meeting

Representatives of Arab airlines met during 27-28/8/1996 in Sanaa. They discussed tariffs and exchange rates, both of which have been thorny issues in their relations.

The representatives agreed that they will meet again in March, 1997 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to decide on these issues.

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Hiroshi Shiojiri:

“Japan’s foreign policy aims at promoting peace, stability and harmony worldwide.”

Japan and Yemen are two countries which are working towards closer relations. Although there have been snags in the relations, mostly as a result of complications on the Yemeni side, the two countries are now ready for a fresh start.

Towards that end, a senior Japanese delegation has arrived in Sanaa on August 28th on a one-week mission. It is headed by Mr. Hiroshi Shiojiri, Senior Assistance for Technical Cooperation at the Economic Cooperation Bureau at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo. Mr. Shiojiri, as the second man in the department, supervises Japan’s global assistance. Thus, he oversees projects in more than 150 countries. It is fortunate for Yemen that he could find time to come and push for better and stronger bilateral cooperation.

Hiroshi is no stranger to Yemen. He was the first Japanese diplomat to establish his country’s diplomatic mission in Aden. He also visited Sanaa nearly 20 years ago.

He now comes back full of enthusiasm, and with lots of nostalgia. In an exclusive interview, he four times referred to the 1994 civil war, calling it all the time an unhappy incident.

Ismail Al-Ghabyri filed the followed report.

Excerpts.

Q: Welcome back to Yemen. I hear you have been here quite a few years ago?

A: Yes, this is my second visit to Sana'a. The first one having taken place almost 20 years ago. I had also lived in Aden during 1977-78.

At that time, my country decided to start diplomatic relations with the PDRY (South Yemen). I was entrusted with establishing the embassy. Having lived in Aden for 14 months, I now look forward to visiting the city again. In a couple of days, I will get that opportunity.

Q: What kind of differences do you note?

A: Well, there are lots of differences. Sanaa at the time was much smaller. Today, Sanaa has more than one million people and its buildings are sprawling in all directions.

In addition, one can see many foreigners now, than had been here at the time. I think progress is clearly visible.

Q: What brings you to Yemen, this time?

A: I am here on an official mission. In my opinion, Yemen has not been given its proper place in the priorities of Japan. So, we are here asking for ideas and information from our Yemeni colleagues as to how we can work together to rectify this error.

You see, back in Japan, not many people know Yemen. The general public, of course is badly ignorant of the geo-strategic importance of Yemen for security and stability in this vital region.

In the Japanese parliament, we also have some educational work to do on this matter.

So, the purpose of this mission, over and above the mundane issues of looking at projects for possible financing by Japan, is really to talk frankly about such important issues.

Q: Are you getting answers?

A: Yes, of course. I have met with several senior government officials including ministers. This morning, I met with Foreign Minister Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani. He gave many good ideas. We will also need ideas from non-government people.

Q: What is the level of annual Japanese aid to Yemen?

A: The pre-war level was around US\$ 30 million per year. That is just a rough estimation since we work by projects rather than by annual allocations. We invite projects from the recipient country, and if they are approved, they are financed.

At the moment, Japanese aid has fallen to less than half the former level.

Q: Why is that?

A: Part of the reason is related to security. Most of our projects are

not tied to experts. Japanese experts are unable to come to Yemen because of the personal security problem. I personally feel safe in Yemen. But we have to convince the authorities in Tokyo that they can send the experts.

So, even now, not many Japanese would agree to go to the hinterland, may be just to the cities. But this puts a severe limitation on the projects eligible for financing. We are also working on this matter.

Q: Japan is one of the countries that is bound to play a leading role in the world scene. How do you see the Japanese role evolving?

A: Let me start by stressing that security and harmonious relations among countries of the world is a vital element in Japan’s foreign policy. We are a country that imports almost all of its needs of raw material, and we sell products. That means that we depend heavily on security and peace all over the world.

In that sense, Japan has been contributing to world peace, stability and harmony. Let me use foreign aid as an indicator.

Japan, for the fifth year in a row, has been the largest aid donor to the world. We give every year, more than US\$ 13 billion.

[The role of Japan worldwide is to really promote understanding, cooperation and harmony. Our

world is becoming very small, and we have to learn to co-exist peacefully and with mutual respect, and to interchange ideas, products, services.

Q: How is Japanese aid dispensed?

A: I want to indicate that our aid is based on our feeling of responsibility in enhancing world peace, through sharing some of the gains and prosperity with the less fortunate countries.

Japanese aid is dispensed mainly through JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), although it is the foreign ministry which sets out the policies and guidelines. In our ministry, we have three distinct departments that deal with foreign aid.

First is the technical cooperation division. This division is responsible for financing projects, like the tuberculosis project in Yemen. Second is the grant aid division, of which Yemen is a regular beneficiary.

Finally, there is the loan department.

We have almost 5,000 Japanese experts and volunteers working worldwide in association with these aid efforts.

Q: Let us talk about the purpose of your visit?

A: We will stay in Yemen for 8 days. We will leave on the 4th of September. During our stay here,



we will meet with Yemeni officials to discuss how to further promote our relations.

The mission’s task is interested. It is a “Policy Consultation and Program Designing Mission on Economic Cooperation Between Our Two Countries”. My mission is to find out ways and means to strengthen our relation and to exchange frank views.

I believe that Japan has not given Yemen its due place among the world nations. In our list of priorities, Yemen was delegated a lower status than it deserves.

The purpose of this visit is to find out how we can put Yemen in its proper place within the list of priorities of Japan. We have to work together to achieve this. Since not many people know about Yemen, it will require good arguing.

Q: Is Yemen’s democratization process a help in this regard?

A: Yes, definitely. I am sure this is one of the factors that elevate your country, when compared to other countries. Yemen is performing nicely in this regard. I hope this trend will continue, and it will also be implemented in practice.

Other factors such as press freedom, pluralist politics, respect for human rights, etc., will also help.

Yemen’s peaceful approach in resolving differences is also a major factor.

We have to use all these and other arguments to elevate the standing of Yemen. But we have to convince the tax-payers - the people, and their representatives.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I am happy that the officials I have met were all interested in the development of the country. This is a good sign.

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Yemeni Stamps to Commemorate the Atlanta Olympic Games

By: Yusuf Al-Shareef,
Yemen Times.

The Stamps Department at the Posts and Postal Savings Corporation of the Ministry of Communications issued recently postage stamps to commemorate the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games. The stamps are of 20, 50, 60, 70, and 100 riyal denominations printed in 50-stamp sheets. The size of each stamp is (27.55 x 33) millimeters. The Department has printed 100,000 sets of the above stamps.

Over and above the ones mentioned above, the Department has also printed YR 150 denomination of souvenir stamps. Of these, 15,000 sheets have been printed. Finally, the Department printed YR 350 denomination stamps of First Day Covers. All these stamps are available for sale by contacting:

The Director General,
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The stamps can also be acquired by buying them directly/personally from the philatelic sections of the postal services in the main cities as well as from the head office. Since the quantities of the stamps are limited, the Postal authorities are warning that they are available on first come, first serve basis, while they last.



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Islah and Opposition Sign Elections-Oriented Document

Over the last several weeks, representatives of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and the opposition parties which constitute the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition have been meeting to discuss ways and means to cooperate in minimizing violations and irregularities in the elections process. Both sides complain that the People's General Congress is squeezing them out by breaking the law.

The Yemen Times offers below its translation of the full document signed by the two sides on August 27th, 1996, and which constitutes the basis for their cooperation.

PREAMBLE:

In an atmosphere of constructive frankness, and feeling of national responsibility in this delicate stage of Yemen's history, many sessions of dialogue have been held between the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and the parties in the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition, to discuss developments in the political life, the democratic process, and the indicators that point to breaches and violations of the constitution and laws committed during the registration process in July and August 1996.

While the dangerous breaches of the basic practices of democracy, since the re-unification of the country on May 22nd, 1990, have worried immensely the opposition parties and the Islah, they also drew attention to the deteriorating conditions - which go from bad to worse - and which have added to the burdens on the citizens, and to the national issues.

These burdens are clear from the sufferings due to the (high) costs of living, economic crises, rising levels of unemployment, and the falling quality of general services. They are also due to the widespread corruption and decadence, inability and failure of (government) bureaucracy, prevalence of anarchy and lack of security, and rampant violence, revenge and fall in the prestige of the state and its powerlessness in enforcing the laws. Such a state of affairs is further evidenced from the cracks in the national unity of the country which threatens our social fabric, and which has invited those with territorial ambitions to invade Yemen and violate its sovereignty.

The Islah and Opposition Parties realize that to arrest such a deterioration in the general conditions and to stop the dangers of a complete breakdown of the country, it is necessary to transcend the political and social tension, and replace it with dialogue and co-existence among the various forces, instead of the (present) policy of eliminating 'the other'. It is important to achieve national reconciliation and to overcome the consequences of the wars and violent struggles, and to normalize the political environment leading to cooperation among all forces in order to control the economic hardships and to regain the lost political rights (and territory).

Based on the above, the Opposition and Islah confirm the importance of developing and deepening of the democratic approach as a basic condition for co-existence among the political and social forces. The approach should also lead to enhancing the abilities of these forces to cooperate and jointly work to achieve the interests of the citizens, to serve the causes of the nation, and to pave the way for progress and development in society.

Since the elections process represents the main

vehicle for democratic practices, the dialogue between the Opposition and the Islah focussed on the need for a normal political and social atmosphere in which such elections are to be carried out. This means providing the necessary guarantees for free and clean elections in which all party and individual candidates enjoy equal opportunities. The election results should reflect the will and decision of the public through positive and wide-ranging participation, thus strengthening democratic practices and national unity.

The first phase of the dialogue between the Opposition Parties and Islah has resulted in adopting the Executive Program to Guarantee Free and Clean Elections. By presenting this document, these parties commit to exert all efforts to attain its noble goals, which is the responsibility of all political and social forces which believe in democracy and the prosperity of the nation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE DIALOGUE AND CONTENTS:

1. To develop and strengthen the democratic and shoura approach, and to work to preserve/protect it.
2. To work to guarantee free and clean elections as they are the democratic and peaceful mechanism because:

- a- it is a constitutional principle which decrees that the people are the source of authority;
- b- peaceful transfer of power.
- 3. To agree on the political guarantees and procedural steps which preclude violations and irregularities against the rights stipulated in the constitution of the republic and its laws.

METHODOLOGY:

All democratic, peaceful and legal methods which are to be specified depending on the conditions of the political parties engaged in this dialogue.

EXECUTIVE PROGRAM OF WORK:

I- Objectives of the Program:

- a- To guarantee the neutrality of the Supreme Elections Committee, its affiliated supervisory and basic committees, and sub-committees.
- b- To guarantee the neutrality of the Committee of Political Parties and Organizations, and its appropriate implementation of the constitution.
- c- To guarantee neutrality of the government bureaucracy and public funds, according to the constitution and laws, and to block their use in favor of any party or individual.
- d- To guarantee a political climate that assists in moving from conditions of in-fighting, intimidation, and use of the authority of the state to eliminate or fragment (opponent) political parties, to those conditions of democratic competition, equal opportunities for all to exercise their legitimate rights according to the constitution and laws.
- e- To guarantee neutral, private local, Arab and international monitoring of the elections.

2- Foundations of the Program:

A: The Practical Guarantees for the Neutrality of the Supreme Elections Committee and the Committees it forms:

- 1. To re-structure the Supreme Elections Committee and all elections committees through the participation of (all) political parties.
- 2. To quickly enact the amended elections law as approved by parliament.
- 3. To nullify all processes so far, including registra-

tion of voters, in view of the prevalent irregularities. The Supreme Elections Committee should prepare and announce a comprehensive program for its duties within the legal period stipulated for that.

4. To make all meetings of the Supreme Elections Committee, all its decisions, procedures and documents transparent and available to the general public since it is the right of every citizen to have access to the same.

5. The Supreme Elections Committee should fully implement all court sentences and decisions since the judicial authority is the reference for proper explanation of the law.

II: Practical Guarantees for Neutrality of the Government Bureaucracy and Public Funds:

1. All political parties must pledge to adhere to the constitution and laws which forbid the exploitation of the government administration/bureaucracy and public funds for the service of any party or individual in any way that compromises the neutrality of the same, and/or affect the election results.

2. Any violation of the above stipulation is considered as an effort to compromise the freedom and cleanliness of the elections, and thus renders any results in favor of the violating party as null and void, irrespective of the stage in which the violations have occurred.

3. Any person in a public post who uses his/her authority to violate the neutrality of public funds or government posts, or facilitates or helps such a violation, is subject to accountability and liable to prosecution by law. No party should protect or cover up for such person in any way.

4. Any person occupying a public post may not contribute or promise to implement any project/s with public funds, outside of the budget allocations, and may not use (implementation of) development projects for elections campaigning.

5. To undertake to build public opinion sentiments that despise and ridicule any government official who uses government posts and public funds in the service of a political party.

6. To block any partisan employment or promotion, and to nullify any past efforts in this regard, and in accordance with the law.

7. All members of political parties shall follow and expose in the media any abuse of the public post by any person through the mis-use of government positions or money. Such violators shall be sued and prosecuted in the courts.

8. The involvement of the armed and security forces in the elections is a matter of major concern because it affects the overall political process. The constitution, in article (39), stressed the need for the neutrality of these forces, and highlighted the danger of using them in the service of any one side or party or individual or group in any way.

The danger emanates from the use of the armed and security forces to affect the election results (in a way not reflecting the will of the voters).

We stress that the members of the armed and security forces have the right to participate in the elections. But we refuse the mis-use of this right by forcing the members of this institution, of which we are proud, to vote in certain constituencies or to certain candidates that they do not know, thus not allowing them to really express their wishes.

Since voting is a voluntary right to be used in full awareness, and not a duty to be executed under duress, therefore it is not legitimate to oblige the members of the armed and security forces to register in constituencies to which they do not normally belong, or to vote for candidates whom they do not know, or have no interests with.

Thus, the appropriate solution is for the members of the armed and security forces to vote in their original (village) constituencies. This solution has the following merits:

a- To ensure the right of the members of the armed and security forces to participate in elections.

b- Not to force the members of the armed and security forces to exercise their elections rights in a constituency they do not know, and have no attachment to, or interest in, or are aware of the local issues involved.

Continues on page 12

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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

The Nose Knows

"Look, Ali! You always wanted a project that will give you millions. I now really got one for you," said Anisa, as she and her husband and three children walked out of the park.

Ali looked at his wife, somewhat puzzled. "I am still in the three digit figures, and you are talking about six digits!"

"Well, if there are a million noses in Sana'a, then it goes without saying that a million noses are yours for the talking if you do as I tell you," said his wife with a high degree of confidence.

Ali was still perplexed. "What, may I ask, will I do with a million noses?"

"You can plug them!" said, Anisa, maintaining here Merryl Lynch confidence.

"I can what?" inquired Ali, still confused about what his wife was talking.

As they walked to the car, Taha the second oldest boy, at ten years of age, complained, "Why did you have to park the car near all this garbage? I feel sick from this awful smell!"

"There is your first customer!" said Anisa proudly, continuing, "You can plug his nose!"

"Oh come on, Anisa, is that your solution to the garbage problem in Sana'a? You want me to run all around Sana'a to plug the noses of the people wherever a mound of garbage is found?" said Ali, rushing to open the car so his family can get in quickly and they can drive off away from the nauseating odour, coming from

the week's old pile of filth.

"No, no! With your weak lungs, you will not make 10 noses a day! Besides your rough hands will scratch a lot of delicate nostrils," said Anisa, in jest.

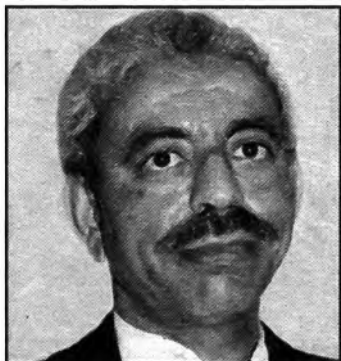
"Look, Anisa, stop beating around the bush with sarcastic comments, and get to the point. By the way, my lungs are a lot stronger than you think, if only they can get inflated by clean air, rather than all this sanitational smog our air has become contaminated with. As for my hands, Marc Anthony would have sacrificed a thousand sheep to Venus for hands like these when he first saw Cleopatra," claimed Ali proudly displaying his hands, in front of his wife, before turning on the ignition.

"Back to the noses, why do you not consider a small factory that makes plastic plugs for nostrils, which every Sana'a resident will rush to buy?" Finally getting to the point of her investment plan, Anisa revealed the latent genius her husband never knew existed in his wife.

Mohammed, the oldest boy at 13, wanted to participate in the high finance discussion. "Mom, rubber plugs for nostrils would be messy, especially for runny noses. Why not use a device like the clothes line holders used in keeping clothes on the ropes while drying?"

He reached to his jacket pocket, and took a specimen. He used on his to show it doesn't hurt.

Taha said, "You can put some



sponge or phone on the tips to minimize the inconvenience!

"Never mind all this innovative talk. Where are we going to get all the money to set up the factory?"

When they got home, Ali's brother, Ahmed was just about to leave, as they approached the gate. The little girl, Farida rushed out to meet her beloved uncle. "Uncle Ahmed! Did you bring me a chocolate bar, like always? Today is a day of joy! Daddy is going to have a factory for nose plugs. We are going to be rich. I will be able to buy 10 chocolate bars a day, without having to wait for your visits to enjoy my favorite candy."

They all walked into the house laughing at the eight year old girl's remarks.

Ahmed asked his brother, "What is this project talk Farida is referring to. Something about nose plugs and factories?"

"Farida was referring to the latest idea on dealing with the sanitation problem in Sana'a. Her mother came up with an idea of manufacturing nose plugs to avoid smelling all the garbage and sewage which plagues our once environmental paradise that Sana'a used to be," explained Ali as they entered the living room.

"Poor Anisa. She has lost faith in the city municipality being able to solve the city's sanitation nightmare. Come to think of it, the project might qualify as a Public Works Project under the

Public Works Credit Proposal to be financed by the World Bank," suggested Ahmed.

"Oh, come on, Ahmed, you are not pursuing this nose plug idea any further, are you?" said Ali.

"Look, I have seen so many people nauseate, all over the city, from the smell they have to be subjected to by all the garbage and overland sewerage network that nets the capitals' congested areas.

The city's municipality is no where near solving the problem. So, let us take advantage of the situation and sell a remedy to the residents of Sana'a that helps them escape the smell, any way they can. "Ahmed explained the logic that supports the ingenious idea of Ali's wife.

"Yes, but suppose the city government finds a solution and cleans up the mess. What do we do with all the nose plugs the factory will produce?" asked Ali.

"I am willing to bet you, a million to one, that our officials have no intention of finding a solution, let alone implementing one. The government officials have not even decided who is responsible for cleaning the city? Is it city municipal office, or the Sanaa Office of the Ministry of Housing? Then, there is the problem of money - or the lack of it," explained Ahmed.

"I would think that the city government's first priority is to make sure that the city is clean and that the city is provided with appropriate services that cater to its sanitation needs. Even if it does not have the appropriate means, it must show earnest efforts to find solutions to the problem with the relevant authorities," pointed out Ali.

"The city government is too busy selling advertising space in public areas to worry about sanitation problems. If it is not advertising space, the city squares to exploitative projects by sleazy investors out to make quick profits. When the city has money, it uses it to construct useless projects like clocks that do not work, or fountains that work only when very senior officials are due to pass by those fountains or various city decorative slabs," explained Ahmed.

"I remember Sana'a before the Revolution. It had much cleaner streets and certainly much cleaner air. In those days a donkey drawn cart picked up the garbage from specific locations in every neighborhood of Sana'a. In fact, even garbage was much cleaner. The major components were the ashes of the fire pits used for cooking in the houses of Sana'a. People were not wasteful in those days. Food leftovers were given to the poor and to the chickens, cows, sheep and goats. This made most houses self-sufficient in eggs, milk and sometimes even meat. On the other hand, liquid sewerage waste was conveniently drained to the neigh-

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borhood mosque gardens, as each neighborhood had at least one such garden. Solid waste was picked up periodically and used for heating traditional baths.

Plastic bags and canned foods and beverages had not made their appearance. Consumption of water was well regulated, since most houses drew their water needs, by hand, from the wells in each house.

"People made sure that the fronts of their houses, stores, handicraft shops and other outlets were cleaned and sprayed, or rather splattered, with water to hold down the dust. Most of the area around the city was cultivated farmland, which minimized the dust in the air. It was, environmentally speaking, a more refined culture," Ali was giving his younger brother a picture of the city, which the latter does not remember, given his young age.

Anisa came in with the coffee. "Look, with an environment like that of Sana'a in the old days, you could not hope to sell your nose plugs?"

Farida also commented; "Dad, if you don't sell your nose plugs, I will not be able to get my 10 chocolate bars a day."

Ali quickly responded, "Farida, with all the filth that is now all over Sana'a, you are going to find it difficult to stomach even a drink of water, let alone chocolate bar."

Ahmed came up with a more practical suggestion. "Why not come up with plugs to the city treasury and do a nose job on the careless government officials who have almost deliberately allowed Sana'a to become the dirtiest capital city in the world."

I suggest, the following steps:
1) Propose and enact effective and appropriate legislation that would transfer all control and responsibility for sanitation to private companies as part of the drive towards local rule.

2) Take advantage of the Public Works Loan provided by the World Bank (\$25 million) to finance the immediate clean up required to make Sana'a hygienically safer.

The World Bank people are game. They are willing to positively interact with this idea. They are just waiting for someone to approach them.

I hope the Sanaa Municipality or any other body out there will be interested. Unfortunately a Sanaa NGO was killed by the Ministry.

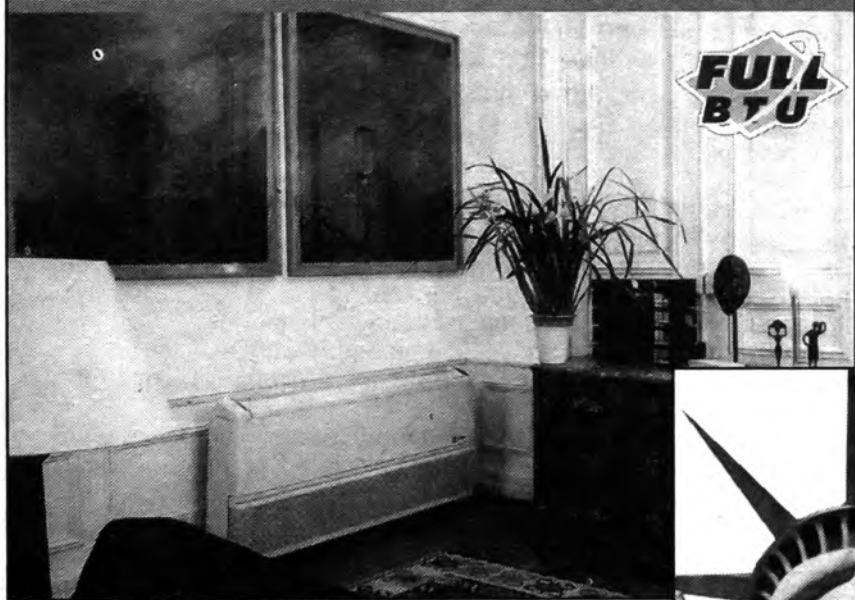
3) Blocking is warranted of all this commercial advertising that has defaced the city horribly. There is no question that such commercial trash is a reflection of poor taste. Irrespective of the income generated, the publicity drive could be envisioned in a more decent and harmonious way than the haphazard posters and placards that fill our streets.

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The elders, merchants, officers, and all people of Taiz
gratefully present their gratitude and appreciation to

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz

Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence and Aviation,

and to HRH Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Interior, and HRH Prince Saud Al-Faisal,

Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the accompanying delegation of senior dignitaries

for their gracious attention and special visit to the city, and for their support for it.

Islamic Bank of Yemen for Finance and Investment A NEW LAUNCH THIS WEEK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Abdul-Kareem Al-Aswadi,
Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh,
Abdo Rabbo Mohammed Abdo Rabbo,
Yusuf Abdul-Wadood,
Ahmed Abdullah Al-Aghil,
Lutfi Mohammed Saif Thabet,
Dr. Abdul-Razzaq Kamel,
Sheikh Bakr Bin Raihan,
Jawad Ali Sa'ad Al-Aswadi,
Tareq Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Wadood,
Abdullah Kayed Saif.



TOP MANAGEMENT

Dr. Al-Ghareeb Nasser,
General Manager
Mr. Mohammed Abdul-Galeel,
Assistant General Manager

Abdul-Sattar Abu Ghaddah,
Sharia Advisor

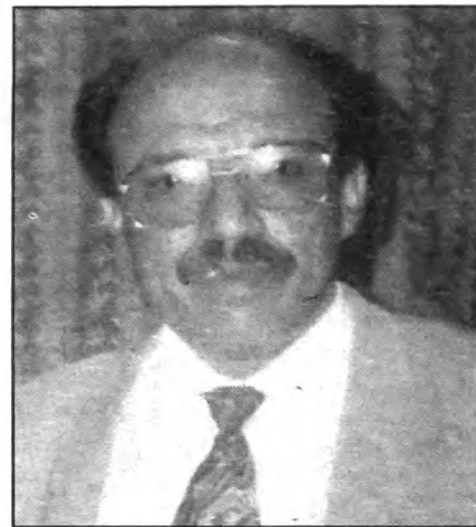
Members of the Sharia Control Board:
Sheikh Nasser Al-Shaibani,
Sheikh Omar Mohammed Saif,
Qadhi Mohammed Al-Shami



Abdul-Kareem Al-Aswadi:

"I am very satisfied with the achievements of the bank. The management report and the auditor's statement both show a strong performance.

"I am sure that with the new momentum from this meeting, the Islamic Bank of Yemen for Finance and Investment, will indeed be beneficial to the share-holders, account holders, and the country at large."



Yusuf Abdul-Wadood:

"As the first Islamic Bank of Yemen, we have had to engage in various levels of training of personnel - both at home and abroad. We have now trained a sufficient number of people to handle the business. We have also contracted professional management with long experiences. These are from Egypt and Jordan and they will lead the next phase."



Abdo Rabbo M. Abdo Rabbo:

"If the past performance is any indicator to go by, we are looking at a very successful operation. The number of projects to be financed and/or co-financed by the bank is very large. And most of these will lead to increased output, employment generation, and higher revenue for the state. In my opinion, this bank will play an important role in Yemen's development."



The General Assembly of the Islamic Bank of Yemen for Finance and Development met during 28-31/8/1996 to engineer a new launch of the bank. It was an opportune moment to assess the performance during the period of establishment, to strengthen the management by bringing in experienced experts, appoint a new chairman, a new general manager, and approve the auditor's report on the accounts for the period ending on 31/7/1996. The assembly also introduced several changes in its charter and by-laws.

The Islamic Bank of Yemen for Finance and Investment is a joint venture between some of the notable businessmen of Yemen and several leading Islamic banks such as the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, the Islamic Bank of Qatar, the Islamic Bank of Bahrain, and the Islamic Bank of Jordan.

The overall atmosphere of the meeting was optimistic and hopeful given the impressive record of the final accounts for the period ending on July 31st, 1996, as follows:

ASSETS:

Cash in Vault and with Other Banks	349,948,870
Reserve Deposits with Central Bank of Yemen	20,660,000
Investments with Other Islamic Banks	216,353,804
Investments in Musharaka Operations	12,597,000
Credit Accounts and Other Assets	67,601,226
Fixed Assets - at Cost	56,124,107

TOTAL ASSETS

723,285,007

LIABILITIES & SHARE HOLDERS' EQUITY:

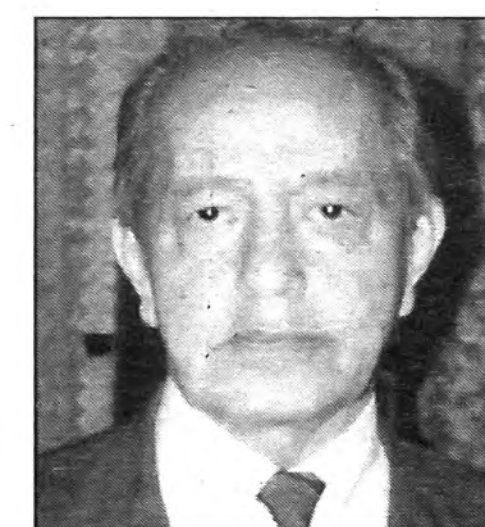
Liabilities:	
Customer Accounts	143,199,573
Other Debit Accounts	76,045,125
Total Liabilities	219,244,698
Share Holders' Equity:	
Paid Up Shares at YR 1000 a share, 50% of Authorized Capital	500,000,000
Surplus Revenue on Operations	4,040,309
Total Share Holders' Equity	504,040,309

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHARE HOLDERS' EQUITY

723,285,007

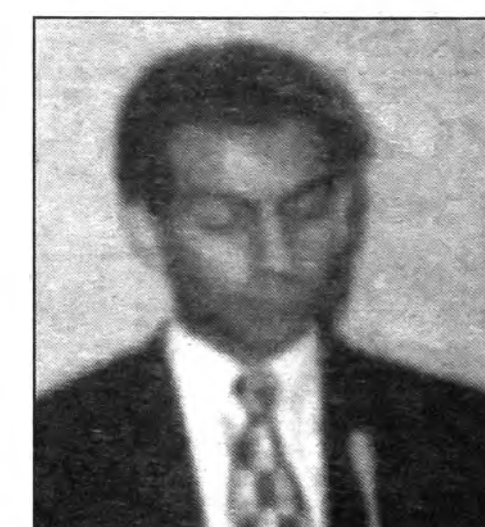
Extra Accounts

80,403,918



Ahmed Al-Aghil:

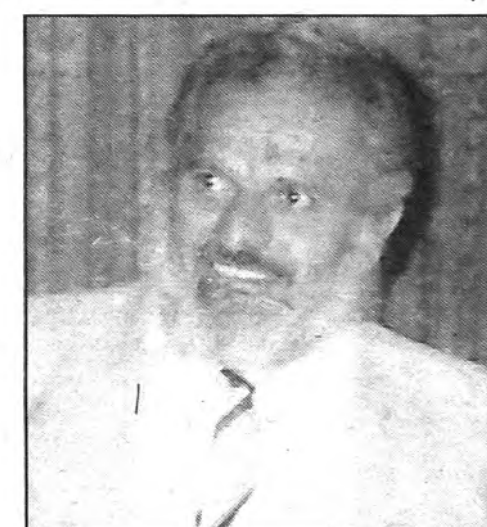
"With God's blessing, I have had the good fortune of being part of this bank, the first Islamic bank of Yemen. We have been working for a long time to reach this level. Now that we have established the bank, it is already generating a lot of response from the Yemeni public. I want to say that we are gratified with the tremendous and enthusiastic response."



Lutfi Mohammed Saif

Lutfi, the youngest of the board members, has actually been key during the bank's establishment phase, having worked as the managing director.

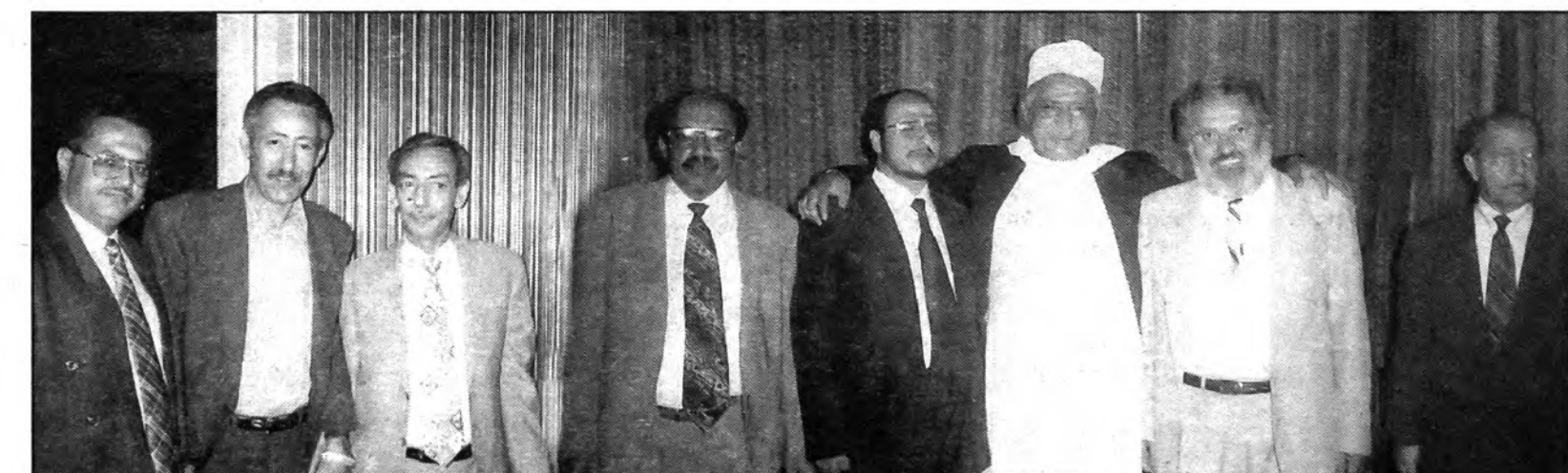
"I feel that the bank is now firmly established. It can take off. I personally can now go back to assist in the businesses of the Mohammed Saif Thabet Group of Companies."



Bakr Mahmood Raihan:

"As representative of the Islamic Bank of Jordan, our role is not only to contribute to the capital of the Yemeni Islamic Bank, it is also to transfer know, expertise and experience. Several young Yemenis have already gone to Jordan for training.

"I also would like to re-assure all sides that the bank will be a positive factor in the country's economic well-being."



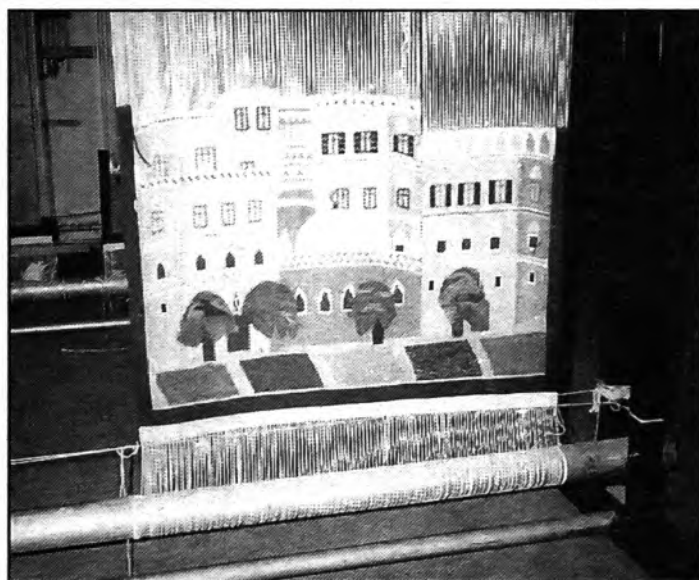
CAN YEMENI WEAVING & NEEDLEWORK BE SAVED FROM 'MODERNITY'?



"Woe to a nation that eats what it doesn't grow or wears what it doesn't weave."
Khalil Gibran

Yemeni silver is well known throughout the world, but traditional Yemeni weaving and needlework has all but disappeared.

Sanaa's best kept secret the "Women's Handicraft Center" at Bait Mutahhar in Al-Fulaihi section of the old city has been going strong amidst a violent wind of modernity and change. Can this handicraft center preserve the ancient needlework? Can it keep its proud place among the many Yemeni traditions? Only time will tell.



But Yemen Times can tell you about the efforts exerted to preserve this important dimension of Yemeni culture.

The Committee for the Preservation of the Old City of Sanaa has partially succeeded in preserving the architecture of the old city. But can it preserve the traditional life as well. That is what the Women's Handicraft Center is trying to do.

Ms. Amat al Razzaq Jahhaf, head of the center and a well known community leader, spoke to Ms. Sumaya Ali Raja of Yemen Times.

Excerpts:

Q: When did this handicraft center begin and what was the idea behind it?

A: It began with the renovation of the old city by the Committee for the Preservation of the Old City of Sanaa. After the renovation of Bait Mutahhar in Al-Fulaihi, there were worries as to how to preserve and improve the living conditions of the neighborhood. There was also an imbedded objective of helping the female segment of the population. It was correctly seen that the basic approach would be to equip the women and enable them to become producers and to keep the people in the old city from leaving it by creating jobs. In 1987, the UNDP decided to finance the project and training began with 30 women in 1989. Then the Government funded the project through the Ministry of Culture.

Q: How was the idea accepted?

A: We began by handing out registration forms for training in old style weaving and needle-work, which was an old tradition among Yemeni women in the villages as

well as cities. We had a tremendous response. It is as if they were waiting for it.

Q: In what way?

A: In the beginning, we never saw their faces. Today, our trainees consider the center their second home.

Since our first trainees in 1989, the handicraft center has become a focal point of the neighborhood and an important community center for residents of the old city. We discovered that even though people were neighbors they really didn't know each other. So they met here, exchanged news, ideas and later taught each other what needlework and handicrafts they already knew.

Q: Who were your initial trainees? And what are their numbers?

A: It started with the house-wives and the older women who traditionally helped support their families. Later we got young women, students, etc. interested. Now, the center is mostly young women who practise a traditional handicraft, and make an extra income. The numbers of applications are way beyond our capacity. For every training session of a capacity of 30 persons, we have 90 applications. We choose them on a first come first serve basis.

Q: How many women have graduated from the Women's Handicraft Center and what is the level of continuity?

A: Until now, 3200 women have completed training with us, while 1800 are presently in training at the center. All our students come totally untrained. Often, our trainees continue contact with the center.

Q: How are the women motivated?

A: Each piece of work and embroidery has the name of the women attached to the dress, sarwal or whatever garment or piece she had made. When it is sold, the proceeds go to her and only a small percentage is retained by the center.

Q: What is the support you receive from the Ministry of Culture?

A: In the beginning, the ministry used to provide the salaries, the rent of the building - "Bait Mutahhar" plus pay for the electricity and water bills. Later the Committee for the Preservation of the City of Sanaa which took over this responsibility, stopped this subsidy. We had to rely on the sales of our own weaving and needlework. The Committee now covers approximately 10% of costs.

Q: Who are your clients and what do you sell?

A: Our clients are mainly foreigners - Germans, Americans and the French; and a few Yemenis. We sell these Yemeni artifacts, dresses, pendants and hangings, and other decoration pieces.

Q: Why are your clients mostly foreigners?

A: First because they are the people interested in the old and traditional aspects of the Yemen. Second, because the exhibitions are mostly sponsored by embassies and other foreign bodies. In such exhibitions, our products such traditional dresses, saraweel, head



dresses, handbags, childrens dresses with the (gargoush) headgear, etc. The third reason is because our prices are relatively high. It takes weeks and sometimes months of meticulous handwork to create a work of embroidery. The final and most important reason is that the foreign embassies are interested in promoting our products.



Q: What about the Yemeni Embassies abroad such as the ones in Europe? Have they ever exhibited your work as a part of the fashion shows or other exhibitions on Yemen?

A: Never! We have seen video, shows of such exhibitions. They have never exhibited our embroidery or traditional dresses. We have approached them, a few times, but they have shown no interest.

Q: Have you thought of privatizing the Handicraft Center since it appears to be self supporting. Such a successful

project can expand in marketing and preservation of traditional embroidery?

A: That is the way of the future. Since I have come back from Cairo, I have been thinking of ways and means to introduce new ideas, and to break away from government bureaucratic limitations. I think that is the only solution.

At the moment, our hands are tied with government control. Our aim for the future is to expand slowly and unite all Yemeni handicrafts, especially the skills that are based on women, and these are many. As a government project we can't do much, but as a private enterprise we can work on a national level.

The third time the Yemen Times visits us (YT did a story in 1994), we could be a private firm.

News Aden Hotel Mövenpick in the autumn

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During 1995-2000, Arab Energy Demand to Rise by 30%

According to a report published this week, the Organization of Arab Oil Producing Countries (OAPEC) estimates that demand for energy in the 22 Arab countries by the year 2000 will rise to 7.17 million barrels per day (bpd) from a 1995 level of 5.53 million bpd. In addition, gas (LPG, LNG) consumption will increase to 2.92 million equivalent bpd from a 1995 level of 2.06 million equivalent bpd. Moreover, there are traditional sources of energy such as fire-wood, coal, and dung make up a sizeable part of the household energy consumption in countries like the Sudan, Morocco, and Yemen.

Within the Arab group, there is considerable variation. Saudi oil consumption will surge to 1.97 million bpd from a 1995 level of 1.47, in Iraq it will soar to 855,000 bpd (1995, 540,000), in Egypt it is estimated to rise to 805,000 bpd (1995, 692,000), and in the United Arab Emirates, it will increase to 640,000 bpd from 470,000 (1995).

In the Republic of Yemen, which has the third lowest per capita energy consumption in the Arab

World (after Somalia and the Sudan), the total oil consumption is expected to reach 250,000 bpd in 2000.

All the oil and gas consumption in the Arab World is met through local production. The Arab World sits atop 60% of the world's proven crude reserves of about one trillion barrels, and one fifth of the global gas reserves of nearly 140 trillion cubic meters.

The OAPEC report also indicated that energy consumption in general, and oil and gas consumption in particular, will rise worldwide. The rate of growth is much slower, however.

In the Industrial countries, oil demand will rise from the 1995 40 million bpd to 42 in 2000. In Japan, demand for oil will reach 10.8 million bpd from its 1995 level of 9.66 million bpd.

The second fastest oil demand region is Asia, excluding Japan. Oil demand in this region will grow to 13.7 million bpd in 2000, from its current level of 11 million.

Syria Braces for Israeli Attacks

Syrian forces in Lebanon as well as in Syria proper have been re-deployed into defensive positions in case of Israel air attacks. Over the last few weeks, Syrian armored vehicles, including anti-aircraft guns and tanks, have been moved into areas around Damascus, the mountainous Metn region northeast of Beirut, as well as other areas towards the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Fears of an Israeli attack have been mounting following persistent statements by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his generals which aim

to intimidate and blackmail Syria into submission.

Since May when the extremist Netanyahu government took over responsibilities in Tel Aviv, tension in the Middle East rose dramatically as Israel abandoned the peace process and tries to create new 'facts on the ground'. Syria has repeatedly offered to resume the peace process on the basis of the agreements signed in Madrid, Oslo, Washington, and wherever, based on the formula of peace in exchange of land.

Netanyahu, in full and visible defiance to the world community

refuses to recognize such a format, and even refuses to honor the commitments of the previous Israeli government.

Netanyahu has also been black-mailing the Palestinian Authority. Such policies have weakened the PA and strengthened the hand of the hard-line Arab organizations and governments in the region.

Arab governments in the region have indicated that if Netanyahu does not recognize the peace agreements signed with them by the previous Israeli government, they too would not abide by them if Israel attacks Syria.

Jordan Returns to Normalcy

Following the recent riots and violence in the southern regions of Jordan, triggered by the hardships brought about by the economic reform steps, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is back to normal. The removal of the subsidies have resulted in higher bread prices which set off the riots, the worst since 1989.

Prime Minister Abdul-Kareem Al-Kabariti continues to stress his government's commitment to the reform program, which calls for removal of subsidies, liberating the economy and trimming down the bureaucracy. He pledged a two-pronged policy of encouraging private investment while strengthening a safety net program to protect the poor during the transition period.

Many local and international businessmen, as well as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, welcome the package which they believe meets long-standing demands, adding that it

showed the government's resolve to go ahead despite the political costs shown by the riots. They also noted the full backing of King Hussain to the reform program.

Kabariti disclosed that drafts for new laws aimed at boosting export industries, and attracting foreign investments were ready. He said such laws will address unemployment and poverty - the main culprits for setting off the riots.

Al-Kabariti's government is also negotiating with Arab Gulf countries the possibility of sending Jordanian teachers, medical doctors, engineers, and other professionals. Already, a contract for the employment of some 6,000 Jordanian teachers has been concluded, according to Information Minister, Marwan Al-Mo'asher.

In spite of the fears of more unrest looming in the air, the situation in Jordan at the moment, is already back to normal.

Jakarta Successfully Hosts Moro Agreements

Indonesian diplomacy has secured a feather in its cap, last week, as the fourth round of talks between the Philippines government and the Muslim rebels was successfully reached in Jakarta. This brings to an end to a 25-year civil year in the southern islands of the Philippines, and which has claimed the lives of half a million people.

According to the agreement, signed on August 30th, three committees have been formed with the following responsibilities: the first will supervise the implementation of the agreement based on the time-table, the second will work out the military/security aspects, especially the ways and means to absorb the rebels in the official Philippines army and security apparatus; and the third will arrange the presence of foreign observers in Mindanao island

and will monitor the 1998 referendum.

The agreement grants the local Muslim population full control over such issues as education, finance, social services, etc. But the region will remain within the Philippines until the local people

decide in a 1998 referendum whether they want to part of the Philippines or whether they want a separate state.

This agreement brings to a close three years of peace negotiations between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front.

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تغمدها الله بواسع رحمته وأسكنها فسيح جناته
وألهم أهلها الصبر والسلوان، وإنا لله وإنا اليه راجعون

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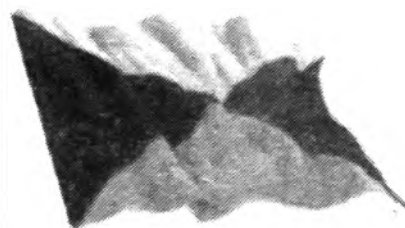
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Cont'd from page 5:

Islah and the Opposition ...

c- The members of the armed forces are a moving force and in large numbers. Therefore, they are not an integral part of the regions where their camps happen to be. And they are not in the same situation as civilian employees who reside in various parts of the country because of their jobs and professions.

The large size and the block nature of the voting of armed and security forces will affect negatively the wishes of the local population, as it is possible that the soldiers' votes will be the effective factor in the choice of the candidate. Irrespective of whether the candidate is a local or not, this whole scenario is tantamount to forgery of the wishes of the local population. Thus it compromises the legitimacy of the elections.

d- The solution (that soldiers' votes should be counted in their home/village constituencies) will eradicate any doubt or thought or possibility that the votes of the armed and security forces have been used in favor of any single party or individual. As a result, trust in the legitimacy of the elections and their honesty will be strengthened, which will also help in stability, national unity, and increase loyalty to Yemeni unity and consolidate confidence in our democratic process at the local and international levels.

9. To refrain from using any of the educational, economic and social institutions and any other government organization for electoral objectives in the service of any single political party or individual.

10. To guarantee the neutrality of the official media. The use of any political party of these media is a violation of their neutrality as it affects the freedom and cleanliness of the elections. Equal opportunity and neutrality of the official media can be guaranteed through:

a- To place all official media and branches under the direct supervision of the Supreme Elections Committee (once re-structured) until the final elections results are announced.

b- The Supreme Elections Committee shall prepare and announce an information guidelines/policy to which all official media must adhere according to the elections law.

c- All political parties shall monitor the adherence of the official media to the guidelines set by the Supreme Elections Committee, and shall work to block and expose any violations and present the violator to prosecution.

d- To refrain from using official government activities and their coverage in the official media directly or indirectly in the service of any political party during the elections process.

e- The official media shall be forbidden from transmitting/publishing any information - under whatever guise - which distort the image of any group of political party in any way during the elections process.

POLITICAL GUARANTEES:

Free, clean and honest elections leading to results which secure legitimacy and loyalty can only be achieved in an elections and political environment of democratic competition, and which does not allow intimidation/exclusion of any one party or group, and in which all parties abide by the constitution and rule of law. To achieve such an environment, the partners in this dialogue have reached the following:

1- To remove all legal and illegal limitations and constraints - direct or indirect - on the activities of the opposition parties, and to deal with these parties in accordance with the constitution and laws.

2- To ensure the Political Parties Committee works according to the constitution and Political Parties Law, and that it doesn't use its powers in an oppressive way or for political objectives.

3- To lift the blockade on the branch offices, properties and assets of the Yemeni Socialist Party and to release them in accordance with the law.

4- To abide by the law in paying the financial allocations of the political parties in the budget, without procrastination and discrimination, and in an open way.

5- To implement a thorough adherence to the general amnesty decision, to adjust job conditions, and to honor acquired rights according to the law, and not to subject them to political and/or partisan struggles and blackmail.

6- To consolidate the democratic approach and practices in dealing with political and union institutions (NGOs) of the civil society, and to refrain from working to dominate them through use of party or state authority, and to refrain from using

them for purposes outside their normal functions, or to compromise their independence in any way, or to fragment them by encouraging in-fighting within their organs and among members.

7- To work in a way to affirm the rule of law and to limit all excesses and violations which are practised contrary to the constitution and laws.

8- To create a competitive information atmosphere which is based on objectivity and accurate information, and free from dis-information, attacks on individuals and bodies by accusing them of treason (to the nation) or of deserting Islam. The media should also not engage in promoting regional or sectarian feelings which harm national unity and the supreme interests of the country.

9- To adopt dialogue and cooperation in implementing what has been agreed upon.

10- To strengthen the independence of the judiciary and to protect those who work in this domain, and to shield them from any pressures which aim to compromise their neutrality, or which aim to obstruct the performance of their duties according to the constitution and laws.

GUARANTEE OF PRIVATE MONITORING

To guarantee free and honest elections and to build trust in and certainty that the democratic practices in all aspects are proceeding in a proper way, a national, neutral and private (non-governmental) monitoring effort has to exist to inspect and check the elections procedures. Such an initiative will coordinate with and complement the efforts of national, Arab and international monitoring bodies.

III: Tools For Implementation:

To hold joint meetings between the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition Parties and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) to work towards free and clean elections. Such meetings will:

a- discuss pertinent issues and decide the position to be taken towards them;

b- follow up on implementation of the program through all means disposable to the parties participating in the dialogue, which accept a collective responsibility in implementing what has been agreed upon;

c- form a joint legal committee and parliamentary committee.

IV: Practical Steps:

A specialized sub-committee will prepare the practical steps envisaged. Such steps, to be approved by the dialogue participants, will include:

a- Specific steps tied-in with a time-table.

b- To prepare specific step-by-step scenarios for each stage based on the possible results of the preceding stage.

THE (NEXT) PRACTICAL STEPS:

1- To approve the agreement, the program of work, and to sign them.

2- To form the legal and parliamentary committees and to instruct them to define their scope of duties and program of work.

3- To determine the schedules of regular meetings.

4- To write letters to the President of the Republic and Speaker of Parliament giving details of the violations committed by the Supreme Elections Committee and its affiliated committees, and to point to the dangers of such violations on the legitimacy of the next parliament and stability of the nation. Attached to the letter will be a copy of the agreement reached in this dialogue.

5- To request an audience (meeting) with the President and Speaker to give them the letters and brief them on the results of the dialogue.

6- To prepare/launch a media campaign to mobilize public opinion in favor of the conclusions of this dialogue, starting with a press conference to announce the same.

7- To determine a timetable for meetings of the board to study the following:

- what has been achieved so far;

- the next steps, which include:

a: To publicize the elections conditions at the local and international levels.

b: To continue media efforts and filing of law-suits against violations.

c: To improve and enhance the media, political and popular actions within constitutional legitimacy.

d: To study whether to participate or not in the coming elections, in case frustrated by absence of guarantees for free and clean elections.

e: New future horizons to attain deeper cooperation

among the participants in the dialogue.

Sanaa: on 27/8/1996

Signed on behalf of the parties:

1. For: The Congregation for Reform (Islah):

Mohammed Mohammed Qahtan,
Head of the Political Department;

2. For: Hizbul Haq:

Abdul-Kareem Mohammed Al-Khaiwani,
Head of the Bureau of the Secretariat.

3. For: Union of Popular Forces:

Tareq Al-Shami,
Assistant Secretary-General of Political Affairs;

4. For: The Yemeni Socialist Party:

Jarallah Omar,
Head of the Political Department.

5. For: Nasserite Unionist Party:

Dr. Abdul-Quddos Al-Midhwahi,
Head of the Political Department.

6. For: Baath Arab Socialist Party - Yemen:

Abdul-Wahed Hawash,
Assistant Secretary-General for Yemen.

7. For: Free Constitutionalist Party:

Abdul-Rahman Noman,
Secretary-General.

Rapporteur:

Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkil.

Signatures of Representatives of Parties توقيعات الأحزاب المشاركة

Handwritten signatures in Arabic script, including names like 'رئيس اللجنة للإصلاح' and 'رئيس دائرة الحوار'. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion with lines for each signature.



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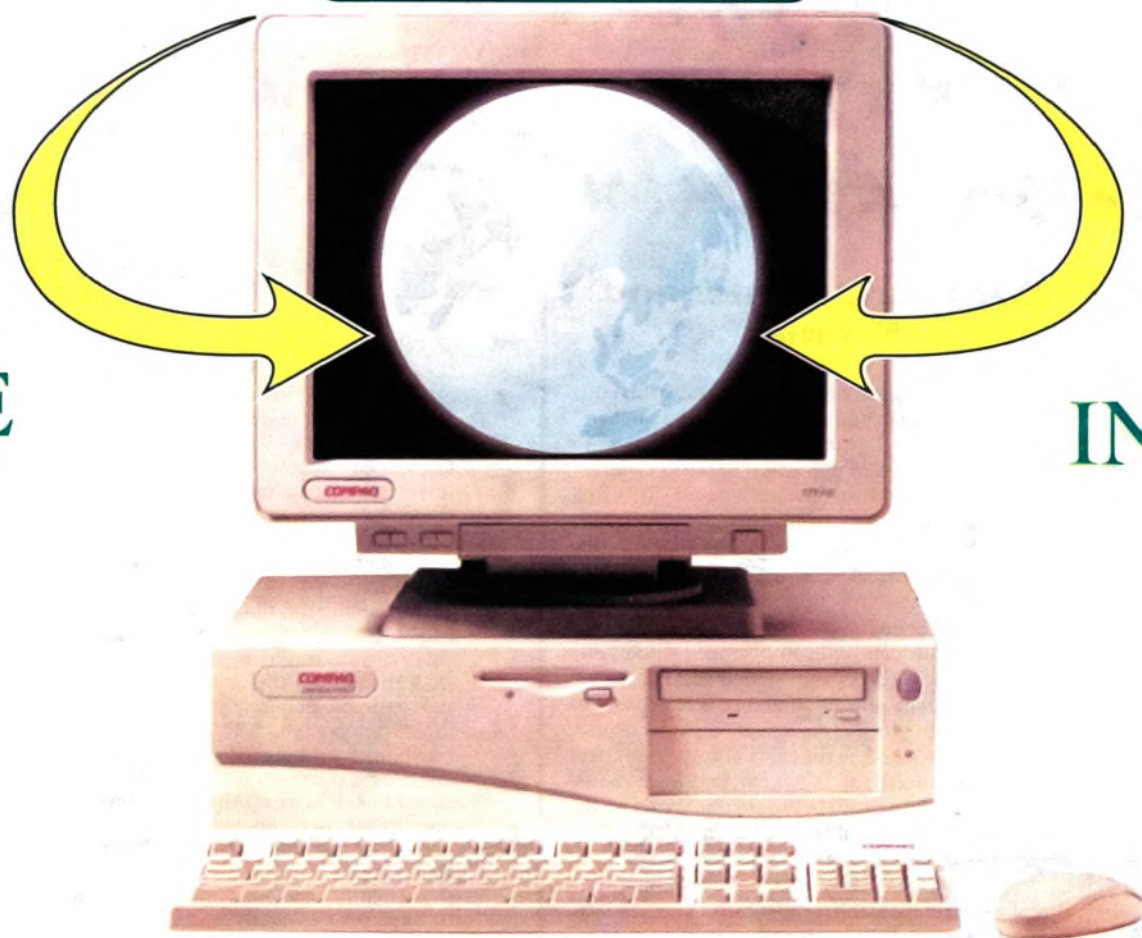
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AL-YEMEN ASSAEED: Sana'a (Weekly) 28-8-96
(People's General Congress)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Welcome to Sultan in the Home of Wisdom and Faith: Lifting Restrictions on Travel, Residence and Work for Yemenis in Saudi Arabia?
- 2) More Autonomy for the Central Bank.
- 3) What Does Eritrea Really Want?

Article Summary:

The Alliance Between the Alliance of Yesterday
Referring to the recently publicized dialogue between the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and the Opposition Parties, Ali Shamsan lashes out at the Islah Party's apparent change of heart, and of principles.

The Islah is now talking with the Yemeni Socialist Party, which it once regarded as heathen and on whom holy war was waged. In fact, the Islah had worked diligently to convince the PGC to join them in eliminating the YSP, which it considered an enemy of Islam. The YSP had accused the Islah of being Royalists and the other opposition parties, and are puppets of foreign nations. Now even Nasr Taha Mustafa, one of the most vocal antagonists of the YSP and other opposition parties has changed his tune, as he now talks of the YSP like angels!

The writer claims that the "public" is surprised by the sudden turn of relationships between the Islah and the opposition parties. Even the grass-root members of the Islah are puzzled by the improved relations. The author concludes by stating: "All the political forces should realize that the Islah is more dangerous, as it rejects coexistence with anyone not agreeing with them."

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly), 26-8-96
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) 39,000 Cases of Malaria and 300 Fatalities in the Republic
- 2) World War II Debris (in Aden Bay Area)
- 3) B.P. Gets Airplane Fueling Contract for 20 Years at Aden Airport.

Article Summary:

Justice Is a Meeting

Referring to the insistence of the government to pursue the trial of the (16 less 1) former leaders of the secessionist effort in 1994, the paper criticizes such decision in its opening editorial.

This blind inquisition or witch-hunt type of approach is not doing anything except making its



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

sponsors look ridiculous. This approach is in contradiction with memo of Dr. Mohammed Saeed Al-Attar sent out while he was Acting Prime Minister during the Civil War Period (1994) to the Secretary General of the United Nations. In that mem, the rulers committed themselves to talks, reconciliation and implementation of the Document for Pledge and Accord.

The victorious in the war had thought that time will erase the memories of the world and that the victims will forget their issues. Moreover, the rulers thought it easy to convince the public that the war and the secession were merely criminal issues, in which tens of thousands of lives were taken by the list of 16.

The rulers must end this effort which aims to cover-up the difficulties of our times by returning to the "list". We had fruitlessly tried to advise the government to end this ridiculous game which has decreased the credibility of Yemen worldwide.

By the way, the people on this infamous 'list' are also demanding the trial of those who wish to put them on trial.

It is time to consolidated the internal front through national reconciliation.

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 29-8-96
(Mouthpiece of the Military):

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Aden Duty Free Port Starts Operation Early January
- 2) More than US \$100 Million for Support of Vocational Training Centers and for Social Care.
- 3) Members of the Armed and Security Forces Will Only Vote for the Patriots of the Country Who Defended the Revolution (26 September and 14 October) and Those who Achieved Unity of the Country and Defended Unification.

Article Summary:

Democracy and Punishment

Some campaigners are telling the public that certain districts were deprived of projects and government services because they did not vote for the winning party in the previous elections. Iskander Al-Asbahy, a regular contributor to the paper, considers such political logic is undemocratic and illogical. He, in fact, states that he personally asked the people who promote this idea - with the clear intention of intimidating/enticing people to vote for the 'winning' party - if they can name any of the constituencies which received any fair share of development projects, even from among those which voted for the so-called winning parties.

In a discussion of this matter, the writer conclude with a statement from one of the participants: "All this talk is nonsense, and provides no benefit to the hungry mouths."

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly), 28-8-96
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Central Organization for Auditing and Control Accuses the Ministry of electricity of Illegal Staffing.
- 2) Defections from the YSP in Moudia, Abyan
- 3) In Protest Against University Land Seizure - The Sana'a University Council Stops Acceptance and Registration in All Campuses

Article Summary:

The First National Tourism Conference

"The Son of the Nile," a regular contributor, discusses the upcoming First National Tourism Conference, in early September. The conference will discuss the role of Tourism in the First Five Year Plan for the Republic of Yemen. The conference will also set up the Tourism Promotion Council. The Conference will benefit from the fact that the Tourism Survey has mostly been completed.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 28-8-96
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Mukallah Women and Girl Decried Innocent in the Rape Case, and the Officer Is Convicted for Restricting their Freedom.
- 2) A Popular Committee for the Defense of Yemeni Islands
- 3) Within 24 hours, Security Returns Danish Expatriate's Car
- 4) A Gang That Robbed 20 houses Arrested

Article Summary:

The Opposition and Islah Agree

In a press release on the joint talks between the Islah Party and the Supreme Opposition Coordination Council, the Ruling Coalition Partner and the Opposition parties agreed to join hands to seek guarantees that the next parliamentary elections are clean and free. An Executive Program was agreed upon to guarantee that the Supreme Elections Committee will remain neutral. The participation of all political parties was called for in supervising the elections. All patriotic national forces should work together to protect the democracy of the country by assuring that election results are not compromised through manipulations.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 29-8-1996
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Election Monitoring Committee Endorses Its Documents
- 2) Armed Robbery of Lands Owned by Officers in Aden (36 Armed Forces Officers)
- 3) Disappearance of Former Yemeni Intelligence Officer (in Cairo)

Article Summary:

The Government Violates the Constitution

The Council of Ministers recently went on to introduce some of the important changes on the elections law approved by parliament. Laws which are approved by the House of Representatives (Parliament) may not be discussed by the cabinet. This violates the Constitution, since a law is considered effective after 30 days of being approved by Parliament, unless returned by the President to Parliament within these 30 days.

The Parliamentary Presidium had issued two protest letters to the president and the Prime Minister for this constitutional violation by the Council of Ministers. The letters called for immediate corrections of the situation and adherence to the constitution, and the immediate issuance of the law.

Letters to the Editor Letters to

Abyan: Extraordinary?

The current circumstances in Abyan indicate that Abyan is a state which has its own laws and systems that are different from those in force in other Yemeni Governorates. Let me mention open corruption which is spread all over the place, illegal taxation which is levied at whim, and total chaos and carelessness.

In spite of the severe economic problems, the Yemeni citizen in Abyan, finds himself over-taxed for fanciful purposes. Let me specify with an example. When any individual wants to buy a sack of flour, he pays twenty rials as an unknown tax for God knows what purposes. Moreover, he pays ten extra rials when he settles an electricity bill. In addition to many other taxes levied in different forms. Here, what we bothers me is the relationship of all of this disorder with the role of the government and its reform programs?

By: **Nayef Haidary**
Ja'ar, Abyan.

Free Kuwaiti Prisoners in Iraq

Any one should feel sad if his/her relatives were in prison without being charged. This is the situation of many Kuwaitis who linger in Iraqi jail. Many of their relatives in Kuwait feel the anguish because their kins suffer needlessly.

We Yemenis can help. I use this occasion to ask our President, General Ali Abdullah Saleh, to use his kind offices to secure the release of these of these prisoners. Our President is said to be in good terms with Iraqi president Saddam Hussain. This should give him some influence.

The Kuwaitis were imprisoned during the Iraqi invasion of 1990/91. Their crime is that they are Kuwaitis and have resisted the Iraqi occupation. From all points of view, we should sympathize with the Kuwaiti prisoners and their relatives. It is the humanitarian thing to do.

By: **Abdulaziz Mohammed Saeed,**
Aden.

Qat's Sand Castles and Miseries

Not all that has been written about the qat tree is right. Some people think that it has advantages. Others say that it hasn't the least advantages, or rather it is an evil plant that enslaves our people.

Supporters say that it is advantageous by stressing the profitable nature of qat-growing and respectable incomes that farmers get. They also indicate that qat gatherings (maqeel) play a great role in society as means of communication and intimacy among the participating individuals. Above all, they say that the most intricate and complicated disputes and clashes can be solved and settled smoothly and easily as qat gives relaxation and lessens tension to those chewing.

But, those who stand against this attitude think that what the supporters say is a weak and meager justification that doesn't make-up for the evil and the bad consequences of this destructive plant. They emphasize that vast areas of farmland is occupied by this tree which destroys the national economy as it replaces indispensable crops such as vegetables, fruits and grains. At the same time, qat is not a cash crop that provides hard currency. To the contrary, it hinders self-sufficiency in various food needs, thus raising the import bill.

Furthermore, they think that lots of time, health and money is wasted. Moreover, qat chews care less and less about their families and social commitments because they are spending a lot of prime time with qat. Finally, qat gives a completely false euphoria which is very temporary in nature. A qat addict is deeply haunted every night as the euphoria gives way to depression. Thus, it leads to bad consequences and repercussions on individuals and families, aggravating already tense relations.

Qat also leads to fatal crimes, deviant behavior, etc. Considering this quick cost-benefit analysis, it is clear that qat is a danger. Thus, we call on all people to combine their efforts in earnest in order to eradicate this bad habit from our lives.

By: **Faisal Elamin Mekkawie**
English teacher, Sa'adah.



ALNOOR MEDICAL CENTER

We are pleased to announce the opening of a modern medical establishment in the heart of the capital Sanaa, this week.

* It provides high quality medical services in a wide range of medical and surgical fields.

* The medical center owns at present the following facilities:

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- Gynecology, obstetrics and female infertility, including ENT surgery.
- Skin and venereal disease specialty including male infertility.
- Pediatrics.
- * It has sophisticated diagnostic facilities consisting of:
 - Modern laboratory including facilities in biochemistry, hematology, bacteriology, and the laboratory is run by highly experienced specialists.
 - X-Ray facilities including urography, cholestyography, Ba-Gastro-intestinal investigations.
 - Sonography including gynecological sonography echo-cardiography, and dopler.
 - Spirometry
 - Facilities for taking aspiration or biopsy from various organs or tissues for histopathological diagnostic purposes

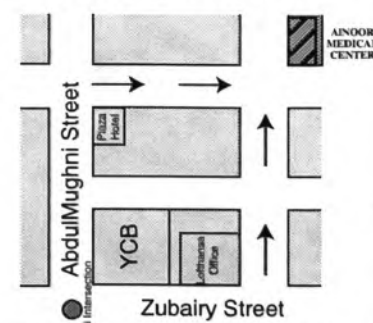
*** General Services/Specialist facilities:**

- Highly equipped operating wing
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- Vaccinations for most infectious diseases and for different ages.
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- Possibility of house emergency calls or house calls to obtain blood or other specimens for laboratory investigations.

All above services are provided by highly-qualified specialists, and well experienced paramedical and nursing staff who are dedicated to provide exceptional medical services.

Location of the medical center: behind the Central Bank of Yemen, Sana'a

Tel: 274-581/2; 274-792/3



September 2nd, 1996

Japan Finances Construction of Sports Training Hall in Sana'a

Last Thursday, August 29th, Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports, and H.E. Mr. Susumu Akiyama, Japanese Ambassador in Yemen, signed an agreement according to which Japan will finance the construction of a sports training closed hall. The agreement stipulates that Japan will make available to the Ministry US\$ 100,000 towards financing the said hall.

Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah praised the good relations between Yemen and Japan, and described the Japanese ambassador as an active person who has been instrumental in consolidating and elevating the bilateral cooperation.

The Ambassador paid tribute to the visible efforts of the minister in promoting sports in the country. He also expressed happiness at concluding the agreement. The implementation of this project falls within the scope of the small-scale projects being financed through the Embassy. Such resources are often targeted to Non-Government Organizations and voluntary grass-roots level efforts.



Sports News from Aden

Boxing :

Several boxing matches were held in Shamsan Club in Aden, last Wednesday, August 28th. Many of boxers who came from different sports clubs showed high levels of agility and action. The results of boxing contests were as follows:

Fahmy Saif of Shamsan Club won against Shehab Kamis of Meena Club; Bahgat Ibrahim of Telal Club won against Salim Ahmed of Shamsan Club; Bader Ahmed of Shamsan Club won against Yazan Mohammed of Al-Gelaa Club, Jehad Ahmed of Shamsan Club against Nasser Masoud of Telal Club.

In basketball, Al Mina Club defeated Al-Telal and thus secured the championship and the Governorate's Cup in basketball. The competitions started last week, and six sport clubs from all over the republic participated in the competitions. They



included: Al-Mina (Aden), Sha'ab (Sanaa), Helal (Hodeidah), Sha'ab (Hadhramaut) and Ahli (Taiz).

In Taekwondo, the competitions started last Friday August 30th, to coincide with the celebrations of Aden. The Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry financed the activities. Six governorates are competing in the matches.

Pakistan Cricket Club Re-Structures Its Management

In a meeting held on the 25th of August, the Pakistan Cricket Club (PCC) decided to re-structure its management. The new management, under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Amin Jan Naim, Ambassador of Pakistan, is as follows:

1. The President:
Mr. Zaki Ahmed,
General Manager of United Bank Limited;
2. Vice President:
Mr. Sikandar Mahmood,
General Manager of Yemen Commercial Bank.
3. Secretary:
Mr. Fayazuddin,
El-Aghil - Cannon.
4. Manager:
Mr. Masroor Alam Siddiqui,
Manager of Al-Sunidar Travels.
5. Captain:
Dr. Aslam Choudhery,
U.N.O. - UNDP.
6. Vice Captain:
Mr. Ali Asghar.

The PCC was the winner of last year's trophy in the All-Yemen cricket games. Yemen Times will offer comprehensive coverage the games this year, as well.

Prince Nasim Hameed: Long fight, Hard Win.

On Saturday, August 31st, in Dublin, capital of Ireland, Prince Nasim Hameed - the World's Feather Weight Champion - had to ward off yet another challenger, Manuel Medina of Mexico. This match was the hardest for Naseem to win, and it went on till the 11th round.

Nasim defended his title ferociously against the serious attacks of the Mexican. He battered the challenger, till the manager/coach of Manuel had to withdraw his boxer from the match.

Nasim has shown in this match that he is very durable as well as quick and flexible. But, he was also stunned by his inability to knock the contender.

Prince Naseem has been able to keep his title. But, this last match has shown that he needs to take his opponents more seriously. In specific terms, it means he has to train harder.



Arab Table Tennis Championship: Yemeni Players Occupy Fifth Place

In spite of their many problems in financial allocations, Yemen's table tennis athletes put up a hell of a fight in the Cairo games of the Arab Table Tennis Tournament. They came on fifth place.

Among the 13 Arab teams, Egypt was first place; Syria was second; Kuwait was third, Algeria fourth, and Yemen was fifth place.

مكتب كنيديان للمحاماه في قضايا الهجرة والتجنس

مكتبنا يضم العديد من المحامين المتخصصين في شؤون الهجرة
إسألوا عنا العديد من أبناء الجالية العربية
الذين حصلوا على إستحقاق دائرة الهجرة لهم بالإقامة الدائمة
((المحامية جيني ديفيس))
المشهوره بنجاحاتها المتعددة في قضايا الهجرة
تعلن للاخوة العرب الذين يرغبون في الهجرة الى كندا
ان الفرصة متاحة لحاملي الشهادات المهنية
مع تحيات المحامي سعيد الشيخ : نتحدث العربية ووالفارسية الأورو والهندي والصينية
للتحدث بالعربية ، يكون الإتصال من الثامنة صباحاً حتى الثالثة بعد الظهر
بتوقيتك المحلي برقم ٧٧٧-٢٢٤ (٧١٨) أو ٢٨٢-٥١٢٤ (٧١٨)

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Will You Help?

This is Khaled.
He is eight years old.
He is an orphan.
He is born with a sexual
disorder.
He needs an operation to set
his life in shape and get back
to normal.

Persons/companies interested
in helping may call the
Yemen Times at 268-661 or
fax 268-663 in order to put
you across to the family.

Your contribution will
change the boy's life.
Go ahead, call.



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**Sends a 'THANK-YOU' Note
 to All Those who Helped in Making a Success of
 Laying the Foundation Stone on August 26th, 1996
 for the Aden International Container Terminal at the Aden Free Zone
 Especially to President Ali Abdullah Saleh,
 and the officials of the Free Zone and Aden Governorate.
 We take this opportunity to confirm our commitment
 to proceed promptly in all aspects of this vital project.**



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