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A 25-Person EU Delegation Representing all 15 EU Member States, the Commission and the Council Arrives in Sanaa

EU Mission Starts Vital Talks in Yemen This Week

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, from Brussels - Europe's Capital.

On Thursday, September 19th, a formidable European Union delegation - made up of 25 persons representing each of the 15 member states, the Irish Presidency, the Commission and the Council - arrives in Sanaa for what is seen as laying the groundwork for cooperation over the next several years. Preparations for this visit have been under way for a long time, and there seems to be near-complete agreement between the EU and the Yemeni authorities. "We are happy to travel to Yemen to negotiate a new cooperation agreement that will enable the EU to play a more effective role in Yemen's development and transformation process," said Mr. Eberhard Rhein, the person in charge of the EU's policies and

strategies towards the Middle East and North Africa and one of the architects of the Barcelona Declaration of November 1995 and the subsequent understandings and agreements covering the Mediterranean Sea countries. Visibly up-beat about the visit as well as its potential results, Jazem Al-Aghbari, Yemeni Ambassador to the EU and one of the most effective envoys of Yemen abroad, told the Yemen Times, "This is the first time that a delegation to our region includes representatives of all EU member states. I am sure both sides will make the maximum out of it." In a similar note, Dr. Michael Kohler, Head of the Yemen (and Iraq) Desk, said, "The visit reflects EU appreciation and support for Yemen's policies and courage in addressing internal and external issues." **More on pages 8-9**

OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF Elections Monitoring Committee

The Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC), a private initiative which was formed on the basis of Elections Law No. 27 of 1996, is going to be formally launched on Saturday, September 21st at the Taj Sheba Hotel. Many representatives of political parties, pro-democracy groups, NGOs, diplomats and other interested persons are invited. The objective of the EMC, according to its charter, is to promote more participation and trust in the elections process in particular, and the democratization process, in general. To achieve that, the EMC has mobilized an army of volunteers in a network that covers the whole country. "There is a basic core of 1,200 volunteers who serve as springboards for much larger numbers covering the 301 constituencies," said Mr. Mohammed Al-Rabayi, Chairman of the EMC.

The approach of the EMC is to collect, verify and document data and information about the elections process. This has already started with registration of voters, and it will continue with the other stages, namely the filing of candidature, campaigns, ballot casting, vote counting and subsequent announcement of the results. The EMC is made up of independent and neutral observers who do not interfere in the elections. However, they do encourage voters and candidates to exercise their full rights according to the law. The EMC is financed almost exclusively from local donors and contributors, and most of the effort is done on a voluntary basis. "We are working with dedicated people who want to make a difference in our country's future. This kind of achievement can only be fulfilled by people motivated by high values," said Mr. Rabayi.

Aden Becomes Magnet for More Local/Regional Investments

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

Mr. Iqbal Yassin Bahadir, General Manger of Aden-Lahj Branch of the General Authority for Investments, talked extensively to Yemen Times last week. He pointed out that the authority was set up in 1991 with responsibility for issuing investment permits to industrial, tourist, and other projects including education, agriculture and even residential. He mentioned that the head office in Sanaa and the four branches of the authority in Aden-Lahj, Taiz, Hodeida and Hadhramaut have been recently mobilized to interest investors.

By provides facilities and incentives ordained in the Investment Law - such as solving problems facing investors, tax holidays, customs waiver for investment related equipment and material, and more - the authority has succeeded in interesting many local, regional and international investors. Mr. Bahadir indicated that projects licensed by the authority for investment in the Aden-Lahej region alone exceeded a total value of YR 58 billion. "As the Aden Free Zone develops more, we expect this place to be a bee-hive," he said full of optimism and hope. However, it is too early to say if such enthusiasm is realistic.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

It Is Like RIDING A BICYCLE !

I was last week in a conversation with an EU friend in Brussels about Yemen's transformation process. All of a sudden I thought the best way to describe our present situation is to use a metaphor comparing our democratization with riding a bicycle. I don't know why, but I get these good ideas when I fly out. During one of my trips to the US, I thought of comparing our democratization experience with a toddler learning to stand up and take the first steps. The baby falls, gets up, falls again, gets up again, and so on. The hope is that, at the end, the baby will not only walk, but it will run.

Well folks, the democratization process, this week is like riding a bicycle. You see, once you start the process, you cannot go back. A bicycle does not go backwards. If you try to do, you fall down. That is one dimension that is relevant to us. The other dimension that is relevant is that you have to keep pedalling. If you slow down too much, you risk falling down. Of course, we do not want to fall down. Everybody wants the experiment to succeed. So we have to keep going.

There is an off-shoot to the pedalling picture. If we start pedalling too fast, we risk losing control of the bicycle as well as losing direction. In other words, in spite of the urging of people like me, who are impatient and want to speed up the process, an accelerated speed actually poses many risks. We have seen the backlash in societies which tried to transform too much too fast. I can explain this using yet another metaphor.

I was thinking the other day about the role of intellectuals and elites in guiding the country's transformation. I think of it like a marathon race. The whole population is in the marathon, and the guiding elites are in the front row. The bulk of the population follows the leaders whose job is actually to show the way. But if these elites run too fast, and pull off to a long distance, the majority of the people behind may not see them, and thus will be unable to follow their lead. This means, the pace of progress is important. As the saying goes, slow and steady wins the race.

The Republic of Yemen is at this moment engaged in several major reforms at the same time.

1. We have the political transformation, loosely known as democratization. While much has been achieved in this front, some regression has been witnessed recently (So much for the bicycle not going backwards). But this, I see, as a small temporary cyclical matter within an overall positive trend.
2. We have the economic reforms, agreed with the IMF, World Bank and other donors. While much has been achieved in this front, the problem lies in the fact that the officials responsible for it are neither capable nor clean. This means, beyond a certain initial achievement, there is a ceiling.
3. We have socio-cultural changes that are brought about by changes in population dynamics, consumption patterns, urbanization, infusion of technology, and other factors. Again here, the overall trend is positive, but there are major bottlenecks that threaten full fruition.

Now, let me go back to the bicycle. We have to keep pedalling and continue in those reforms. We cannot stop, let alone go back. But if the pace slows down, whatever the excuse, this is no reason for alarm!

The Publisher


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Andre Seiler Takes Charge of Movenpick Hotels

Mr. Andre Seiler has just taken up his post as Director of Operations in the Middle East and North Africa of the Movenpick chain hotels. The Cairo-based Seiler told the Yemen Times that there are, at the moment, 16 Movenpick hotels operational in this region, and 15 more are under construction. "By the end of the century, we should be looking at a 40-hotel presence for the Movenpick chain. There is, of course, a Movenpick hotel in Aden, which Mr. Seiler plans to visit before the year is out.

Art Exhibition at Detalle's

A duo art exhibition, displaying the major works of Rashad Salim and Neli Ouzonova, is on starting tomorrow, Tuesday, September 17th and until Friday, September 20th, during 2:pm to 10:pm. The exhibition of such arts as graphics, paintings, etc., are sponsored by Dr. Jack Veerman and Claire Goethals, and will take place at the residence of Renaud Detalle, in the old quarter of Al-Qaa in Sanaa.

The British Council Organizes Talk on Education

On Wednesday, September 18th, Ms. Emily Allardye, Head of Inspection and Advisory Services for the London Borough of Merton, is going to give a talk under the theme of "Raising Standards in Education through Inspection". The talk will take place at the British Council, Sanaa at 19:30.

In addition, a video of teaching in a primary classroom will be shown to indicate how inspectors make judgements about the quality of education.

Politician Ahmed Kalaz Is Beat Up

Mr. Ahmed Kalaz, Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry and Head of the Secretariat of the Tajammu' Al-Wahdawi Al-Yamani (TWY) - an opposition party, was the target of an assault.

According to a communique by the TWY party, on the evening of Thursday, 12th September, Mr. Kalaz was abused by the soldiers manning the intersection of Asir and the Sixty Meter Road in Sanaa. Apparently, the soldiers roughed up the politicians by first insulting him, and then beating him up. The TWY said such behavior is a direct threat to the party, and to rule of law. The Interior Ministry is investigating the incident.

Businessman Al-Asbahi Kidnapped and Blackmailed

In a letter addressed to President Ali Abdullah Saleh on September 10th, the Yemen General Contractors' Association, asked that rule of law be restored in the country. The association was referring to the abduction and roughing up of Contractor Abdul-Malik Al-Asbahi earlier this month.

"How can we describe the kidnapping of a prominent person from right in the middle of the capital city?" the letter asked. The Contractor's car was also taken away. Both the contractor and his car were safely released, at a later stage.

Tribal leaders have identified the kidnappers and are working to punish them, it was learned.

Sultanic Fever Hits Mukalla

On September 14th, Saturday morning there was an ironic meeting at Sana'a International Airport. Two Hadhrami members of the Yemenis Socialist Party Politburo were flying to Mukalla. They accidentally met with Ghaleb Al-Qu'aiti, the last Sultan of Hadhramaut. He had ruled the Qu'aiti state as a young man of 19 for less than a year before the Hadhrami Socialists took over with British consent, while he was abroad in September 1967.

After 29 years of bitter life in exile between Europe and Saudi Arabia, Sultan Ghaleb was about to board the plane which would take him home. He looked imposing even with the nervousness that goes along with such moments.

At his side in the waiting lounge, the YSP men also waited, looking awkward and a lot embarrassed. The Sultan asked them, jokingly if they were angry to see him. They denied any such feelings. Yet, one of them - a former Minister of Education - certainly spoke approvingly of textbooks attacking the very man, and all former "feudal" rulers, who sat at his side that fateful morning 29 years ago.

Earlier in Sanaa, two months of frustrating meetings with officials enabled this historic visit. The trip seemed to have swept aside the past, and the plane landed at Rayyan Airport for a tumultuous welcome. The no longer anonymous traveler was first greeted by a line of relatives, friends and well wishers standing in line beside the Dubai-bound plane. The small group of citizens allowed on to the tarmac by order of the governor was only the tip of an iceberg. Soon, we discovered that the airport and the parking area was packed with people.

There, community elders, sheikhs, armed tribesmen, and flocks of ordinary citizens had spent the night in the open, to receive the Sultan.

Men and women, young and old, from every corner of Hadhramaut were overwhelmed by their feelings. Many a fine bedouin shed tears as they embraced their Sultan.

Poems were recited drawing on themes already present in a poem circulated several months ago:

"Forgive, O Sultan. Your people asked for forgiveness, acknowledging they erred.

The past is the past and you are worthy to forgive, Welcome and yes to the Sultan.

The good Qu'aiti went, but it left behind no debt. A love loud and clear for Awadh, Ghaleb and Saleh" (Awadh and Saleh being Ghaleb's father and grandfather respectively)

The motorcade criss-crossed the sprawling town of Mukalla, starting with the new extension towards the airport on what is called "the Millions road" and then into Dis, al-Sharqi and the Suq area.

Respecting strict orders and an impressive deployment of security, no one opened fire. But the simple fact that so many armed men toting their guns or pick up cars could drive around the town showed that Hadhrami tribesmen, many originally from Yaffa'a like the Qu'aiti dynasty itself, can look just as tough as their Northern brethren.

As the motorcade advanced into the narrow streets, the convoy created an increasing excitement which turned almost riotous and hundreds of voices chanted, "Welcome, Welcome, O Sultan," or repeated endlessly, "Ghaleb, Ghaleb!", by clapping their hands rhythmically like only Hadhramis can.

Driving by the sea front palace, the exhilarated Sultan only gave it a cursory look, along with many other properties that belong to him and that should now be returned to him according to the law.

This Saturday, these concerns were left aside and at the hotel where he settled and offered lunch to all the visiting sheikhs and tribesmen, Sultan Ghaleb was keen to express his pleasure of returning to the "blessed land of Hadhramaut".

Visitors after visitors, delegations alike, all assured him that no one had been better received in Mukalla than him. "Even women were crying as they saw you from their windows," a sheikh exclaimed.

Sultan Ghaleb is one of the latest of the former rulers to come back. Many others and relatives started to return from exile after unity and even more so after the 1994 war. Those who became wealthy businessmen abroad, usually from their former domains express kind feelings and rush back to their comfortable houses in the states that allowed them to become rich. Others carve themselves a place within the regime.

Sultan Ghaleb faces difficult challenge. Hadhramaut has become a volatile place; the recent rape case and subsequent Solomonian judgment is only the latest event in 29 years of unhappiness first with the rulers of Aden and now Sana'a. Hundreds of thousands of Yaffaa and Hadhrami emigrants live in the Gulf and of them are men of immense wealth with close relations to the Gulf ruler. Sultan Ghaleb, whom Republicans of Sana'a would prefer to call Sheikh Ghaleb, proved that his name still carries weight and that his popularity has been transmitted to the young men who came in throngs to offer their homage.

What he does with this capital of sympathy and how he deals with the high expectations placed upon him are open questions. But the chants that welcome him in Mukalla are already resonating throughout the Hadhramaut.

By: Renaud Detalle, with the Sultan's Motorcade.

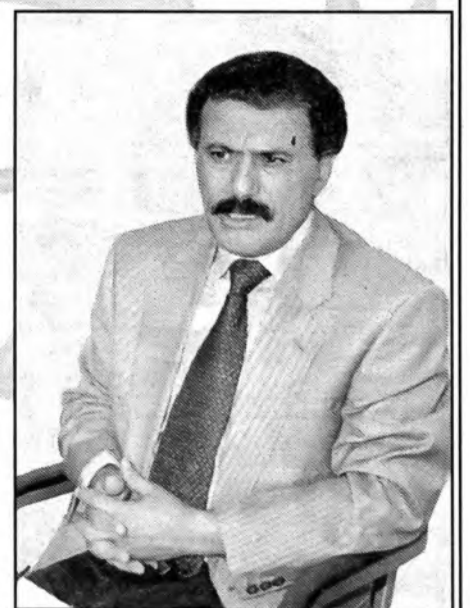


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 happy returns.

Congratulations



Dr. Mohammed Al-Mikhlafi

“It takes a few dedicated individuals to bring about change in society.”

In the history of nations, it is often single individuals who stand out in affecting their evolution. Certain individuals, at great personal risk to themselves, promote changes based on noble ideals that entrenched politicians resist. The Yemeni situation is no exception.

Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Ali Al-Mikhlafi is one of a small group of intellectuals who are instruments of change. A lawyer by training, Mikhlafi knows the PSO prison cells rather well. He has been there as a temporary guest a few times. But that is not the reason Yemen Times has interviewed him.

Mohammed is an ardent human rights activist. He is so meticulous about honoring the individual's rights that even many of lawyer colleagues think he is pushing a bit too far. He has, as a result, volunteered to assist many victims of human rights violations. In fact, he has launched and won many cases against the authorities, which are often the violators.

Given the number of cases he has won - by the way he has yet to lose a case - many individuals and groups are too happy to enlist his service, which is often on almost a free basis.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times spoke to Dr. Al-Mikhlafi and filed the following interview:

Q: You are described as a lawyer taking cases against the authorities. How did you get this description?

A: I started practicing in 1988. But conditions of the judiciary and of litigation was so bad and frustrating that I stopped.

Then after the 1994 war, I found that helping victims in the courts is one of the key ways to fight the oppression of the authorities. So, I became the lead lawyer in many cases which were filed against either the authorities or those who exert excessive influence in society.

I feel it is important that we help raise awareness among the public. One aspect of this awareness is that citizens should know they have recourse to the law if their rights are violated.

In addition, by standing up to the authorities in front of the courts, we are helping increase the prestige of courts and trust in them.

So, you can say that I see myself having a mission or a message which ultimately helps protect the rights of individuals as well as enhance the rule of law.

Q: Have you not suffered as a consequence of this?

A: Oh yes. There are many levels at which the influential people can get back at a person like me. To start with, when you confront representatives of the state, you are sure that they have more resources and more clout at their disposal.

Second, the government starts harassment steps. For example, several authorities have tried to sack me from my work (Mikhlafi is a researcher with the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research, a government body), unless I quit representing persons who file law-suits against the government. Third, I have been taken to prison, intimidated, and suffered many forms of abuse.

Let me conclude that such measures have simply strengthened my resolve to work to protect the rights of individuals and to work for rule of law.

Q: Do you feel that the judges and the judiciary interact positively with your mission?

A: In general, our justice system is archaic and corrupt. It is probably one of the worst sectors in the country.

But within this system, and especially in Sanaa city, we are lucky to have a few honest and self-confident judges who have interacted with the cases justly. These

few judges have a mission of their own - to establish the independence of the justice system.

Let me give examples. These judges include such as Hamood Al-Hitar, Abdul-Malik Al-Jindary, Mohammed Humrah, etc.

I am sure there are also many good judges in other parts of the country, but I do not know them.

Q: But don't these judges themselves suffer at the hands of the authorities?

A: Yes, they do, and that is the sad part. Again let me give you specific examples.

1. Judge Nasr Allaw, challenged the Political Security Office (PSO) which was taking illegal measures against a citizen for political reasons. The judge ordered investigation of putting him under house arrest taken by the PSO against. The judge who chaired a court in Sanaa was transferred to Bora', a remote harsh region in the Tihama.

2. Judge Hussain Mahdi, who chaired the South Sanaa Court, dismissed a classic case brought against the Yemen Times in 1993 for slander against the president. The judge found that the charges were unfounded and that the newspaper played its role as the watchdog of society. That was the very first case of the fight between the authorities and an organ of the civil society - a newspaper.

The judge was removed from Sanaa city to one of the remote mountain villages in Sanaa Governorate.

3. Judge Essam Al-Samawi, who chaired the North Sanaa Court, was removed to Hadhramaut. Judge Al-Samawi had passed several verdicts against the excesses of the state.

4. Then there is Judge Yahia Al-Aslami, who was by-passed by the recent shuffle of judges.

You see the problem is that the executive branch of authority determines where the judges will serve, and what kind of facilities they have at their disposal. The executive authority has not shied away from 'getting even' with the judges.

Q: You have been fighting for civil liberties. What are the main cases you have defended?

A: The very first case I fought for was the one of Al-Shoura newspaper versus the Ministry of Information.

Al-Shoura newspaper was the first partisan newspaper to resume publication after the 1994



civil war. It carried on with the pre-war spirit, something the authorities wanted to curb.

Thus the Ministry of Information filed a case against the newspaper accusing it of inciting sectarianism, slander of the head of state, slander of the ruling coalition parties, etc. The idea was to frighten the journalists.

But when we won the case, most other partisan and independent newspaper regained confidence and courage.

Another case I defended was that of Dr. Abubakar Al-Saqqaf, professor at Sanaa University. Dr. Al-Saqqaf was a vocal critic of the authorities, especially those who see themselves as victorious

in the war.

As a result of his beliefs and ideas, Sanaa University sacked him. We were able to get a reversal of that decision from the courts. But Sanaa University has yet to fully implement the court decision, although it has taken him back.

A third famous case I dealt with is the one of the Hadharem Welfare Association versus Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani. In this case, there was a visible interference in the activities of a Non-Governmental Organization by a senior member of the executive branch of authority. The motives are, as always, political.

The Prime Minister has more or less shut down this NGO and has given away some of its assets, notably the Women's Development Center.

The courts have again decided in favor of the NGO against the Prime Minister. We are waiting to see how the Prime Minister will respond to his decision.

Last week, the south-west Sanaa Primary Court handed down an important sentence. It protected the intellectual patent rights of a local engineering company against a foreign firm. The French firm had made illegal use of the intellectual right of the Yemeni company, and the court ordered it to pay a fine of YR 5 million, and arrange for printing the sentence with the Yemen Times.

It is important that awareness of patent/intellectual rights are understood and protected.

Q: Have you lost any cases?

A: Actually, not so far. But there are reasons for this.

First, I believe that a lawyer should not accept a case unless he/she is convinced of the position of the person he/she is defending.

Second, before taking a case, one should also see that the position of the client is defensible. Sometimes, a person is wronged, but he/she is not armed with the minimum of documents and other support evidence.

Finally, we do not take many cases at the same time. This enables us to do our homework well, and to prepare ourselves for the court sessions.

Q: You are a leading member of the Yemeni Socialist Party. How do you see the political scene and the role and place of the YSP in the coming parlia-

mentary elections?

A: In the period following unification in 1990, Yemen witnessed a balance of power which created a visible margin of freedom. Unfortunately, that balance was a sort of balance of terror based on military power. Today, a new kind of balance based on socio-political clout is developing and it is hard to destroy this using the army.

The YSP, whatever its shortcomings, represents the modern values and the future we are looking forward to. A basic pillar of this is the rule of law and a state based on institutions.

Neither the People's General Congress nor the Islah parties are future-oriented. Actually they are both fighting the notions of civil society and rule of law.

Therefore, the role and place of the YSP remains as one leading to the creation of a modern state.

The YSP has decided to participate in the coming elections. But this is really contingent on whether there is a possibility of holding fair elections.

Q: Do you think such fair elections are possible?

A: I am afraid the recent past does not give a hopeful or optimistic answer. The rulers, especially the PGC, employs and exploits all the state capabilities to have things its way. It uses state funds to finance its plans, it uses the army and security forces to boost its voters, it uses the official media, etc.

The amazing development in this regard is that the Islah has realized that these developments are not in its interest. Thus, it has initiated dialogue with the YSP and other opposition parties with the aim of ensuring a minimum of irregularities.

Continues on page 15

Taj Sheba announces the 4-day week....
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The club has an administrative committee, elected on a yearly basis. The current year's activities are organized by a 13-member committee headed by C. P. Mohan Kumar. Other officials include Vice President Wilson Jacob, Secretary K. K. Haridas, Treasurer KU Anthony, Joint Treasurer Nasser, Video Librarian Shiju Gopal, Assistant Librarian Pradeep Chandran, and committee members Stanely Varghese, Venugopal, Manoj. S. and Sudheesh Kumar.

The club has a video cassette library of Malayalam films. The library, however, is open to the members only on Fridays. Every week, a new film is released along with some old films.

Recently, the Club celebrated the



Onam Festival with a variety of entertainment programs and the famous Onam Feast. Around five hundred people attended the function, which was held at the Indian Embassy School. More than three hours of cultural programs - dances, drama, and

KERALA

Kerala is the southern most state of India. The name 'Kerala' was derived from 'Kera Vriksha' or Coconut tree of wealth. No other tree on earth provides means of livelihood for many people in different ways. Geographically a small area, Kerala's contribution disproportionately to the mainstream Indian culture of art, architecture, literature is prominent. Trivandrum is the capital of Kerala.

Traders from all over the world came to the shores of Kerala in the ancient past. Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, Chinese



ivory, ebony and teak wood also attracted traders.

Kodungallur:

This was once the capital of the Chera Kings who ruled Kerala. This place was well known to the Greeks. Ships leaving with spices, timber, pearls and even peacocks set sail to the far ports of Greek, Rome, Egypt, Persia, Syria and Yemen. St. Thomas is believed to have landed here in 52 A.D. Christianity, Buddhism and Jainism have flourished in an earlier era. Kodungallur claims the oldest Muslim Mosque in India. The famous Durga temple is the landmark of Kodungallur.

Cochin:

Cochin is the commercial capital of Kerala, rightly called the Queen of the Arabian Sea. Around Cochin harbor, modern man has built new temples of progress. The first Jewish Synagogue built in 1568 is in Cochin. A long time ago, Portuguese sailor Vasco Da Gama who discovered a sea route to India landed in Kerala.

Tourist Attractions:

This is the beautiful beach resort which stretches near to the

capital city. Periyar wild life sanctuary, Ponnudiyil station, Thekkady wild life sanctuary, Moonnar hill station and tea plantations are some of the other interesting tourist attractions of Kerala. Malayalee maintains a simplicity and elegance in dress, ornaments and living style. Kerala boasts its own architectural specialty. The Nelukettu is a type of house with four partitions. Malayalam is the mother tongue of the people. Kerala is a land of lagoons which are the delights of tourists. Back waters are not only great attraction to the tourists, but also an important mode of transportation.

The most important social festival is the Onam. Irrespective of cast and creed, Keralaites celebrate Onam with too much enthusiasm. Onam is a harvest festival. It represents the spirit of world of pleasure, peace, plenty, truth and prosperity. Onam celebrations carry on for ten days. Many folk dances and games are conducted on these days. It is believed that on the day of "Thiruvonam" the legendary King "Mahabali" pays his yearly visit to Kerala to see his beloved people. Thiruvathira Kali also known as "Kaikottu Kali" is a popular folk dance in which the participants - dressed in typical Kerala style, sing melodious Thiruvathira songs.

The Aranmula Snake-Boat race is a part of the Onam festival. These boat races are very exciting to watch.

Onam celebrations end, as a rule, with a delicious Onam Feast.

The Kerala Club has been successful in entertaining its community as well as in holding it together. This is more than one can say about the many native and foreign clubs and associations in town.

Congratulations!

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,
Yemen Times.



orchestra in different Indian Languages and Arabic, and the grand Onam-feast together made the evening a very lively and enjoyable one. This was the second such successful program organized by the club during this year.

and Arabs, all came to Kerala to buy its vast variety of spices. History records that King Solomon imported spices from Kerala. Pepper, cloves, cinnamon, ginger and cardamom were in great demand all over the known world. Forest wood like





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أسمه ووضاح شفيق القرشي
حرم رقيب حسن علي القرشي
وحرم عصام عبده ثابت القرشي
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء والجيران



Part II of Three Parts:

Text of the Amended Elections Law

Article (21):

A- The tenure of membership in the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) is four years starting from the date of appointment.

B- The procedures for nomination and formation of the committee starts within five months from the date of the first session of the

Article (22):

The candidate for membership in the SEC should possess the following conditions:-

A- 35 years of age.

B- Born of Yemeni parents.

C- Must have a university certificate, or equivalent, and possess competence and expertise.

D- Must be of good conduct and ethics.

E- Free from any record of judicial sentence issued against him, related to any election violations or crimes of honour and integrity.

F- If an appointed member of the committee has an affiliation to a political party or political organization, such affiliation should be frozen.

G- Must forfeit the right to announce himself a candidate in any general elections or participate in electoral campaigning for parties or candidatures during his membership in the committee

Article (23):

A- The rank of the member in the SEC should not be less than the rank of a minister. If a member did not have this rank before appointment to the SEC, then he acquires it by virtue of this appointment.

B- The member of the committee is dealt with as a minister regarding rights and privileges during his work in the committee.

C- A member of the SEC can only be expelled by a Republican decree and only in the event that the member has lost one of the conditions mentioned in Article (22) or due to a final judicial sentence issued against the said member. In case of a member's death or resignation, or expulsion, a successor is appointed to take his place for the rest of the membership tenure in the SEC from among the list of candidates approved by the parliament when the Committee was established.

D- The members of the SEC select one among them to be Chairman of the Committee and another to be his Deputy.

Article (24):

Before the members of the SEC should carry out their tasks, they must take an oath before the President of the Republic as follows:-

"I swear by God to adhere to the Holy Quran and the prophet's Rulings (Sunnah), to preserve faithfully the Republican System and to respect the Constitution and the law and guard the people's interests and freedom completely and keep secure the unity of the homeland, its independence, security of its lands and to perform my duty in the SEC honestly, with integrity and faithfully without favoritism.
And I swear to what I say."

Article (25):

The SEC is responsible for the management, preparation, supervision and sponsorship of proceedings of the general elections and referendums. In addition to its specialized function as specified above, the SEC is responsible for the following tasks:

A- The zoning of the electoral districts in the Republic and to specify them on the basis of equality among the population, taking into consideration the geographic and social factors. Such zones are to be legitimized by the issuance of a Republican decree.

B- Formation and appointment of the Chairmen/ Chairwomen and members of the Supervisory Regional Committees (SRC) and preparation committees of the basic and branch voter's schedules and formation of basic and branch committees to manage the elections and then distribute them among electoral constituencies in the specified times for each of them and define the specialty of each inside of each constituency.

Each committee is formed of a Chairman and two members; the formation of all the committees are by approval of two-thirds of members of the SEC and no committee should have a full membership from any one political party.

C- All activities are to be completed within a pre-set duration of time, beginning with the provision of forms, schedules, documents, election cards and the special ballot boxes of the voting process and voting papers and sealing them with the seal of the SEC and the organization/distribution of them to the pertinent committees.

D- Laying out the rules and issuing the necessary instructions to ensure reliable security arrangements of the honesty and freedom of elections.

E- The preparation of the election guide and its distribution to the subordinate election committees.

F- Calling for elections in the constituencies which the parliament announces is free of an elected member as decreed in Article (77) of the Constitution.

Article (26):

A- The basic, original, branch, supervision, security committees and the security senior officials, the governors, the heads of the sub-administrational centers (districts) and all those who do not relate in terms of tasks to the elections are subordinate to the SEC and should follow the Committee's instructions relevant to elections, and the Committee must make sure of the neutrality of the senior officials of the local administrative authority which the SEC might require the assistance of.

B- The official media is subject to the supervision and instructions of the SEC as related to the electoral process.

Article (27):

All those individuals appointed by the SEC as presidents and members of preparation committees of schedules and committees managing the original and the branch committees and the supervision committees to have the following qualifications:

a- To be a Yemeni national

b- His age must not be less than 21 years, for the members, and 25 years, for the president.

c- To have a secondary certificate or a certificate equal to it.

d- To exhibit good manners and conduct and that no final judicial sentence was passed against him in any crime of dishonor unless rehabilitated.

In all cases, it is not possible to appoint in any person in an electoral committee in a constituency in which this person is related to the fourth degree to any one of the candidates.

Article (28):

The Supreme Elections Committee shall form supervision committees on the level of governorates, to be based in the governorate capital with the purpose of supervising the preparation of schedules, managing the elections, and other general responsibilities.

Article (29):

The SEC must increase the numbers of registration stations and voting in the constituency areas so as to enable more numbers of voters to participate in the elections.

Article (30):

The SEC ought to follow up the works of election committees and send inspectors to make sure of the safe application of the procedures, starting with the process of registration to voting. In addition, it has to make sure of effectiveness of the committees and their legality.

The SEC may form any committees which it sees necessary to enable it perform its tasks and responsibilities.

Article (31):

The SEC provides the liquid substance (ink) which must be placed on the thumb of the voter when casting his ballot on condition that the substance must not be removable before the passing of (24) hours at least, so as to avoid repetition of the same person voting.

Article (32):

A- The state shoulders the full costs of elections and referendum and the government must put under the disposition of the SEC all its needs of resources, equipment and other means to enable it perform its work fully.

B- The SEC has a special allocation under its own name prepared and introduced to the cabinet and approved by the parliament and shown within the general state budget under its name.

Article (33):

A- The SEC is independent financially and administratively and enjoys legal status. It dispenses all its tasks, responsibilities, authorizations stated in this law independently and with complete neutrality. It is not allowed, whatever the case, to interfere in the affairs of the committee or to limit its authority.

B- The SEC has an administrative and executive apparatus with a special cadre formed by presidential resolution. The SEC forms its organization and necessary by-laws.

C- The SEC exercises all the authorities of civil and financial services in the valid legislation as related to the staff affairs of the committee administratively and financially.

Chapter Four:**Organization & Elections Propaganda Controls****Article (34):**

The SEC lays down the rules that govern the election propaganda campaign allowed for candidates with consideration to stipulations stated in this law.

Article (35):

The SEC undertakes the tasks of educating the citizens on the importance of elections and calls for their full participation, and organizes the announcement of candidature lists in each constituency, pro closure of candidature without nominating any of them in any way.

The official media must put all its organs under the disposal of the SEC. All candidates are banned from undertaking any electoral campaigns which involve cunning the voters or defrauding them. Mud-slinging, slurs, and other degrading styles of or defaming of others are banned in the electoral propaganda.

Article (36):

The SEC gives access to the official media to all candidates in an equal way to express their electoral programs, and guarantees equal opportunity for all in employing these facilities.

Article (37):

It is banned to use public funds in electoral campaigns or to use funds from the ministries, government institutions, and corporations, or from external financial support. It is also banned to employ the public institutions and organizations in electoral campaigns.

Article (38):

On the 14th day prior to elections, it is to appoint specified areas for laying down the electoral propaganda in the constituency. In these areas it is to specify equal space for each candidate and the number of these spaces must not exceed what is determined by the SEC.

Article (39):

The committee managing the elections undertakes allocating the spaces indicated in the previous article according to alphabetical arrangements of candidates. All local authorities and assistants are to fully cooperate in the implementation of what is directed by the election administration committee regarding appointment or allocation of required areas according to the stipulation of previous article under legal obligation.

Article (40):

It is not allowed for any candidate to put new material in the areas specified in article (38) to the previous ending day of voting day:

A- To hold 2 election campaign meetings in public areas, the candidate applying must specify the date and place of meeting.

Article (41):

It is not allowed for any candidate to use the board of advertisement or space allotted for him for any purpose except his candidature, his program and thoughts. However, it is possible for any candidate to give up his space for some one else for his advertisement.

Article (42):

It is not allowed for any candidate to distribute on the day of balloting by himself or through some one else any program or publications or cards or other documents.

In general, it is not allowed for any employees working with the state or local authorities to distribute on the day of balloting any cards, publications, programs for the candidates, neither are they allowed to put advertisements or programs or publications in the name of a candidate not listed among the candidates of the constituency.

Article (43):

It is not allowed to employ mosques, colleges, schools, institutes, government offices, military camps, public utilities, clubs, and sports stadiums for electoral campaigns in any way.

Article (44):

The candidates are required to hold electoral meetings through which they introduce their programs for the voters. The SEC lays down the rules for holding these meetings taking into consideration that it is not allowed to use mosques for these purposes. It is not allowed for the supervision committee and even the SEC to allow employing the educational institutions for the purpose of these electoral meetings.

Article (45):

It is not allowed to employ loudspeakers for election propaganda purposes, except in cases of organized electoral meetings according to the law.

It is not allowed to employ any propaganda means in favor of any candidate except as allowed by this law and according to instructions of the SEC.

Article (46):

It is not allowed to violate the campaign regulations in any form whether by tearing or distorting or destroying or any other methods the messages of rival candidates. Such behavior is regarded as an elections crime.

Article (47):

It is against the law for any political party or group or organization or individuals or any party whatsoever to practice any form of pressure or intimidation or accuse of blasphemy or treason or giving promise of material or moral gains.

Chapter Five:- The Electoral Procedures**Part One: Parliamentary Elections****Article (48):**

The House of Parliament is composed of 301 members who are elected by fair, direct, free voting. The Republic is thus divided into 301 equal constituencies according to the number of residents based on the general census results. The number of people in any constituency may vary a maximum of 5% plus or minus from the national average.

Article (49):

A- The President of the Republic calls voters to cast their ballots to elect a new parliament before 60 days of the end of the tenure of the present council.

B- The implementation of procedures related to elections is undertaken in scheduled times as stated in this law.

Article (50):

The elections are executed by fair, direct and free voting.

Article (51):

Each voter has the right to announce his candidature in the constituency where his electoral habitat is and each candidature should possess the following qualities to run for parliamentary membership:

1- Must be a Yemeni.

2- Must not be less than 25 years old.

3- Must be literate.

4- Must be of good manners and conduct and must perform the religious rituals, and that no judicial sentence has been issued against him to dishonor him unless he has been rehabilitated.

Article (52):

The application of the candidature is introduced with the application of a form to be presented to the committees receiving them during the official hours within ten days following the announcement of opening for candidature. The application should include the following:

A- Full name of the candidate (up to four names).

B- Place and date of birth.

C- Educational level.

D- Political affiliation if any.

E- Profession and position if an employee

F- The constituency and the election station in which the candidate is registered within its schedule of voters and his address.

Such application should be registered in a special book and a receipt should be given after making sure of the data regarding the necessary conditions to be met by the candidate. It is the right of the voter to have access to this book and to inspect the list of the candidates in the constituency as stated on in article (12) of this law starting from the following day of closing candidature for elections.

Article (53):

To accept candidature under the name of any political party or organization, it is necessary to produce an official letter of candidature signed by the president or secretary-general of the party or whoever is designated for this purpose officially.

Article (54):

No one has the right to be a candidate in more than one constituency and if it appears that a candidate is standing in more than one constituency, his candidature is cancelled in all of them.

Article (55):

A-Each employee who announces his candidacy for parliamentary membership is immediately deemed as on an openleave from work, if he was employed by the government. He can return to his old job or a similar one, if his candidature for parliament was not successful.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Yemen's Tribal Heritage

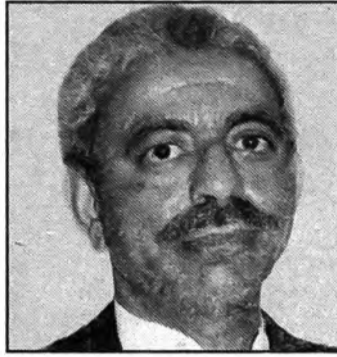
Without any doubt, Yemen's tribal structure has long established roots which go back to thousands of years. Perhaps, it is safe to conclude that tribal association has outlived all the collective institutional frameworks that came and went throughout the history of Yemen, and all the dynasties that sought to instill sovereign status to the country as a whole, or in parts thereof.

Tribal associations constitute an important element of order in most of the Arab World, especially in the Arabian Peninsula. But the sustainability and complexity of Yemen's tribal order depicts far more refinements to tribal association than those existing in any other parts of the Arabian Peninsula. The intricate tribal systems in Yemen have played an important role in determining the political status of the country and only on rare occasions was a strong central government able to impose its will on the tribes. An in-depth study of the history and the role of the tribes in the national scene of the country would present a fascinating challenge to any researcher.

The genealogical roots of the Yemeni Tribes go back to Qahtan Bin Ismael, who is typically regarded as the father of the South Arabian or Yemeni tribes. Qahtan's brother, Adnan, is the father of the North Arabian tribes of the Peninsula; North of Yemen proper. Qahtan is said to be the first Arab crowned as King of the Arabs, whom he ruled from Yemen. He fought the Assyrians

(Yucatan in the Old Testament). His descendants established kingdoms and dynasties and were actively engaged in international trade in the Ancient World - an old vital link between East and West. Himyar Hadhramaut, Saba, Maen, Dhofar and other kingdoms were important testimonials to the advanced cultural strides that Yemen achieved in ancient times until about the Third Century.

Arabia Felix, as the Romans called Yemen controlled the overland and navigational traffic between East and West and occupied fertile and pleasant grounds contrasting to the harsh arid stretch that cuts between East and West. The Yemeni descendants of Qahtan lived a settled domesticated life, where sustenance was not an issue and sufficient inputs were available for cultural enhancement and civilized development. The cousins of the Qahtanis, the descendants of Adnan were forced to develop nomadic tribal structures and Mohammed, the Prophet (P) was the first significant Arab leader of Adnani stock to have impact on human civilized development. But even Islam's growth and expansion was to rely on considerable Qahtani contributions in the form of substantial military involvement or by Yemeni migrants, traders and missionaries. On the other hand Qahtani kingdoms and dominions were also to exist in Mesopotamia and the Levant even up to the time of Mohammed (P), as the migration waves of Yemenis



settled in these areas after the fall of the Sabaean Civilization and the traditional trade routes have decreased in importance and the sea proved a faster and less taxing channel for commercial movement on an international basis. Perhaps recurrent droughts encouraged migratory tendencies. Persistent warfare and struggles for power by the various Qahtani factions became crucial factors in the migratory tendencies of the Yemeni people as a significant part of the Yemeni population fanned out with the Islamic Armies to as far as Spain, in addition to answering the call for Jihad that came after Islam became established in Medina and Mecca.

These migratory waves were to eventually blend into the regional culture they had become a part of, inputting what they had and absorbing that which could be assimilated into.

With the difficult terrain of the country, Yemen saw scattered lapses of centralized authority reigning throughout the land. Because of the scarcity of resources and difficulty of communications and transport, tight net localized social orders continued to dominate as the form of collective authority usually relied upon for protection and collective welfare. The tribe continued to serve as the focal social order adhered to by the Yemenis to serve their collective interests continuously since central

authority on an ongoing basis was absent. Without stability due to chronic civil strife, as none of the contenders for the full hold on the central authority could set up a regime that could uphold a standing system for the transfer of power, accordingly. There were lapses in the history of Yemen when central authority was established, but from the time that Islam took out a sizable chunk of the population out of the country, these lapses where more frequent as the holders of centralized power changed hands. The country for close to 14 centuries was caught in perpetual warfare! In such prevailing circumstances, it can be understood why the reliance on clan or tribal association seemed an obvious approach for Yemenis to cater to collective interests, as narrow and unfruitful as this may be from the national point of view.

From the above, it is easy to see why Yemen as a national entity, or even as an administrative unit under the various Moslem caliphates that arose in Medina, Kufa, Damascus, Baghdad and Istanbul was very difficult to arrive at. In pre Islamic times Maen, Himyar and Saba reigned as three kingdoms which thrived in sequence sometimes overlapping - for approximately 2000 years. After that anarchy prevailed with the Ethiopians and the Persians making attempts to subjugate the country, but again, the attempts were not successful.

After Islam, various authorities rose from time to time, taking on regional manifestations. The Northern part was subjected to Zeidi rule, started by Yahya Bin Al-Hussein (Al-Hadi) around the Third Century A.H. While the Zeidi Imamate had continued to be sought after by many an aspiring Imam, for close to a thousand years, since the Zeidi sect allowed any capable, qualified aspirant to claim the throne for the sake of establishing justice and law as called for by Islam, quite often many aspirants fought with each other to arrive to sole control of the state.

The many rulers that rose to the Imamate were unable to set up a lasting permanent government with its own standing army and administrations units/system. The aspirants to the Imamate relied on gaining tribal support - for the military element - thus making the state, on most occasions, reliant on irregulars whose loyalty could not be fully assured, since tribal loyalty remained an obstacle, or a cushion, depending on how one may look at it. In fact, in this fashion, the Yemeni tribes were able to provide military service to any of the power seekers, which entailed that military service was contracted out rather than becoming a permanent element of the state. With the situation as such, it is easy to see how tribal chiefs were able to continue as an important center of power in the Northern part (from Dhamar to Saad'a).

In the Central and Southern areas, a more Feudal structure existed, where tribal chiefs were literally land barons, whose passive populations were easily submissive to. In these areas states arose, like the Sulaihis and the many sultanates that reigned from time to time, some of which established dynasties for more than three centuries. But continuous inter-tribal wars and struggles for power literally closed Yemen for more than 1200 years, except for brief intervals. Some historians say that the tribal leaders were adamant on preventing the rise of a strong central government in Yemen. In the many wars that prevailed in the country between the aspiring seekers of authority, it would be typical to see tribal chiefs switching sides between competitors for the throne from

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Perhaps the only time a central authority was fully implanted throughout the country (formerly North Yemen) was during the 70 years Hamidaldin Imamate. But this had to mean that 20 years of wars with the objecting tribes had to be waged, where some tribes resisted for 3 years against the Imam Yahya's (1904-1948) army - composed of regulars and tribal irregulars. In addition, to assure, tribal stability, the Imam took children of potential trouble making Sheiks as hostages, who grew up within the Imam's household.

After the 26 September 1962 Revolution, the tribal chiefs played an active role in the subsequent civil war (1962-1969) between the Royalists and the Republicans. As the war dragged on, the tribal chiefs found profits from selling their allegiances to the two sides, with switching sides a not uncommon practice (see Yemen: The Unknown War by Dana Adams Schmidt). With the Republic finally successful in repulsing the Royalists, a national reconciliation was arrived at in 1970 between the Royalists and the Republicans, except for the Hamidaldin Family (which is still in exile to this day), thanks to Saudi mediation efforts. (The Saudis had given up support to the Royalists, once the Egyptian troops backing the Republic withdrew in the wake of the Arab-Israeli War of 1967.) After that the tribal chiefs still remained an important element of power, and a relatively weak central government was unable to impose full authority and full law and order. Tribal Chiefs continued to receive substantial funds from the government and neighboring foreign governments. Ibrahim Al-Hamdi's (President 1974-1978) efforts to over

power the tribal chiefs, eventually lead to his own downfall, despite the strong popularity the latter enjoyed. In the south, the left-wing socialist regimes that succeeded British rule dealt with the tribes as anathema to centralized Marxist rule, and the tribal chiefs were either killed or sent packing into exile.

To this day, the central government - under the leadership of President Ali Abdullah Saleh - must rely on a delicate balance of the elements of power in the country to maintain its control. But this has created considerable difficulty in imposing effective centralized control. This forces the government to allow tribal chiefs to operate beyond the dictates of law and, in fact, the tribal chiefs are the law and order in their domains and have become more capable of playing the role of weak government institutions in the settling of disputes, apprehending criminals (if outside the centers of power) and even carrying out projects (at exorbitant costs).

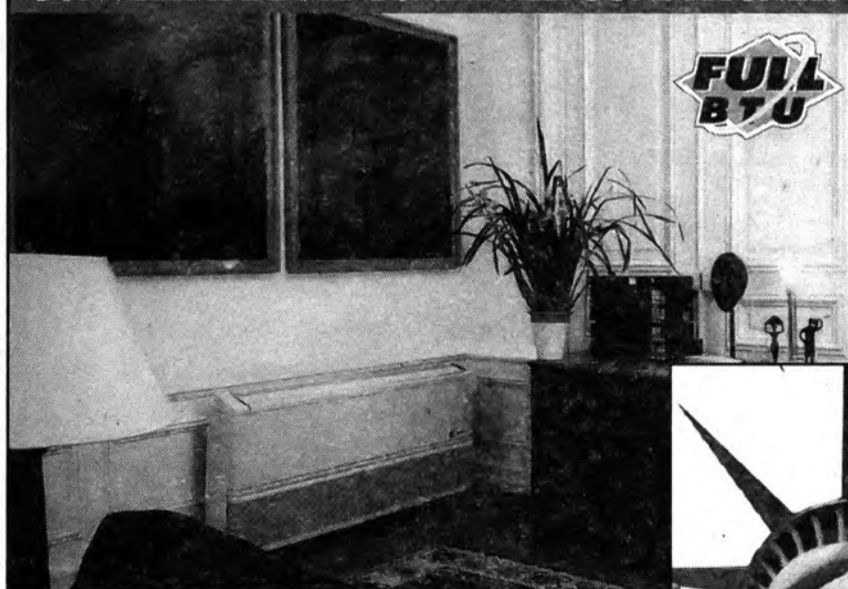
In such a national situation (the tribal chiefs of the Southern Governorates have now mostly returned with their "Sheikh" status reinstalled), it would be difficult for the government to set its priorities in order, and to instill proper democratic practice. The problem has to become a priority issue which the government must address - and the sooner, the better. The Sheikhs, themselves, can be made to realize that a strong and effective central government operating on the basis of law and order and equality of every citizen under the law, is the only proper course for Yemen, as a state, to pursue. Yemen's history is sufficient testimony to show that a weak government is not just problematic, it is also tragically pathetic.

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تعازينا الحارة

نتقدم إلى الأخ الدكتور أمين محمد قائد اليوسفي القائم بأعمال السفارة اليمنية لدى سلطنة عمان الشقيقة ببالحزن والأسى بوفاة المغفور لها والدته. سائلين امولى عز وجل أن يتغمدهم الفقيه بوسع رحمة وأن يلهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان. وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسبقون: الأستاذ/ توفيق الخامري، الشيخ نبيل الخامري فؤاد محمد غيلان الخامري، علي محمد قاسم وجميع أسرة بيت الخامري

German Contribution to Water/Sanitation Projects Exceeds YR 20 Billion

WORKSHOP SHARPENS FOCUS ON NEED FOR RESTRUCTURING

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

The 2nd workshop on reform in the water and sanitation sector was concluded in Sana'a on 10th September 1996.

The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the National Water and Sanitation Authority in collaboration with donor agencies such as the World Bank and the GTZ.

The workshop program entitled "Sector Policy and Strategic Studies", focussed on the immediate as well as long-term needs of this sector. On this occasion, the Yemen Times spoke to a number of key participants, as follows:

1. Prof. Dr. Michael Bohnet, Deputy Director General, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Q: Can you brief us on the objectives of this workshop?

A: The aim of this workshop is to lay down the ground rules for water supply, sanitation and waste water disposal. It is very important that there should be a broad reform to support the objectives of this program and boost it with the necessary planning.

Let me use a specific example. Restructuring of agriculture policy is essential because a lot of water is used by farmers. It is necessary to engage in an educational effort to explain the serious nature of the water and sanitation problem in Yemen.

So the main objective of the

workshop is to assess the problem, and study solutions.

Q: What solutions are being proposed?

A: We are looking at many options, but at the end, it is up to the Yemenis to decide which best serves their needs. In general, reforms are needed to decentralize responsibility in urban water and sanitation. It is time to give more responsibility to local authorities.

We also had intensive discussions on how we can improve efficiency. Here, training of personnel and community participation and cooperation are quite important.

Involving local community-based groupings and associations, such as NGOs, will also help reach solutions that are acceptable to society and supported by it.

Finally, these services must somehow achieve cost recovery. Consumers must cover at least the operating costs. I am, of course, referring to pricing systems.

Those are part of the solution.

Q: Has the workshop achieved its goals?

A: I believe the outcome of the workshop was positive because it has shown that there is the political will needed to introduce and implement reform steps which are necessary to solve problems in this sector.

It has also allowed to focus and sharpen the issues, and to interact with them.

Q: What has been German assistance to this sector?



A: I am happy that Germany has been able to assist in a generous way. Total German aid to this sector is over YR 20 billion. The German government is prepared to help even more.

German assistance has covered many large and secondary cities.

2. Eng. Anwer Sahooley, Chairman of the Technical Secretariat for Water and Sanitation Sector Reform.

Q: Could you define the gravity of the water shortage situation?

A: The water shortage issue lives with us every day, where in the cities or countryside. The issue used to be handled by many different organizations; namely, the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, the Ministry of Electricity and Water, the Department of Water at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources, the General Board for Rural Water, etc. But this has now become the domain solely of the National Water Resources Agency, directly affiliated to the prime minister's office.

It is not a secret to say that almost all Yemeni cities suffer from a water shortage situation.

Q: Who participated in the workshop?

A: The workshop was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr. Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi, the First Deputy Prime Minister, which indicates the importance the government attaches to this event. There were also many important dignitaries, the Minister of Elec-

tricity and Water, Mr. Abdullah Al-Akwa', several governors, members of parliament, officials from various ministries and authorities, as well as representatives of academic and business circles.

In addition, of course, there were delegates representing Yemen's aid partners.

Many of the officials of the National Water and Sanitation Authority and branches attended the full duration of the workshop.

3. Mr. Digby Davies, Management Adviser, GTZ.

Q: How do you assess the water situation?

A: The water shortage problem of Yemen is no secret. It is a most serious problem, and actually immediate action is needed to address the situation. As an example, the ground water level in Yemen is falling at an alarming rate over the last twenty years. This depletion cannot go on like this for a long time.

Q: What do you suggest must be done?

A: I would also like to underline the need to reduce water use, especially in agriculture. For example, there must be steps to

prohibit very water intensive technology.

4. Mr. Siegmund J. Sender, Head of the Advisory Team, GTZ.

Q: Do you feel the workshop will lead to something tangible?

A: I think the mood following the workshop is very positive. The policy makers were there, and it is up to them to implement the recommendations.

The GTZ with its technical team are ready to assist the Yemeni government. We have very important training plans for the NWASA. I am talking about things like leak detection and reducing water loss during water distribution. So, we can say some tangible results are expected.

Q: How do you assess Yemeni-German cooperation?

A: I think the German input in this sector has been substantial. As you have heard, Germany has provided more than YR 20 billion for water and sanitation projects in eleven governorates, covering over 80% of the population of Yemen. A commitment has been made to continue cooperation in the future.

CALL TO PARTICIPATE IN DESIGN COMPETITION FOR TAIZ UNIVERSITY

The University of Taiz

invites architects and engineering consulting firms (local and international) to participate in the general competition to prepare preliminary designs and economic evaluation of the buildings at Habel Salman according to the terms of reference and requirements of the competition which can be obtained from Taiz University, Department of Stores and Procurement near the public and police for cost of YR 1,000.

Interested participants have to meet the following requirements:

- 1) Must be fully qualified to take part in this competition and have previous experience in similar works and to be supported by documents.
- 2) Must have the technical and financial capabilities to participate in this design and must include a C.V. of the persons proposed to be involved in the study, and the office or firm.
- 3) Must be able to prepare full study as required within a duration of two months starting from date of last announcement date.
- 4) Must include a financial proposal for the detailed designs of the project in a sealed envelope.
- 5) The last date for receiving proposals at Taiz University's head office is Sunday, September 28th, at 10 o'clock.
- 6) Evaluation of proposals will be by specialized and highly qualified committee.
- 7) Prizes will be awarded to the winners as follows;

- First prize YR 1.5 million
- Second prize YR 1.0 million
- Third prize YR 0.5 million

8) All designs and proposals submitted are the property of the University.

9) Any proposals not complete and default the conditions will not be evaluated.

What the Workshop Decided

CONCLUSIONS:

The participants reviewed appropriate sections of the sector policy and strategy study and, where necessary, made recommendations for specific improvements. No significant changes were made in the study policy recommendations and the assignment or definition of functions. However, a number of policies and functions were clarified, and initial recommendations on how to implement the proposed changes were made.

The conclusion emerging from the discussions during the plenary and working group sessions is that sector reform is absolutely necessary to help the sector improve its performance, and that the policies and recommendations made in the sector study, as modified during this workshop, represent the best opportunity for the sector to progress.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants of the workshop recommend that the Government (of Yemen):

- a) adopt the Sector Policy and Strategy Study Report as amended during the workshop as the general guide for the reorganization of the sector
- b) formally adopt the policies recommended in the sector study
- c) instruct the Steering Committee to lead the implementation of the policies and the strategy presented in the sector study, as amended as a result of workshop recommendations
- d) provide the National Water Resources Authority with the support necessary so it can successfully undertake the necessary studies and take the actions required which will lead to the efficient allocation of water, inter alia the application of irrigation technology and selection of crops and the provision of water for use with the greatest economic value.



The EU & Yemen: Reaching Out

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor, Yemen Times



Based on conversation with Eberhard RHEIN, Director, IBA.

I - Europe and the Arabs: Visions for a New Partnership:

In 1973, the Euro-Arab dialogue dialogue. This went on in a half-hearted fashion until it was re-structured in 1989. But by then, West Europe was overwhelmed by developments brought about by the liberation of East Europe and the former USSR bloc from communism. It was not an opportune moment to look south.

Then came the bold steps of the Middle East peace process, which forced on the European Union to re-align its priorities. The southern flank had to be given a more visible attention, at the behest of the five Mediterranean European countries. This culminated in the Barcelona Declaration of 27-28 November 1995, in what has been dubbed as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

This was followed by high-level meetings. The focus was on six distinct fields, which are the environment, training and education, telecommunications, standards, measurement and patents, civil aviation, and banking and finance.

II - Europe and Yemen: Some specific RHEIN quotes and advice:

"I am sorry that your country is left out of the public relations effort. Nobody really knows Yemen, and therefore, you do not have a lobby group. It should be one of the high priorities of your government to embark on a public campaign in Europe and other parts of the world to put your country - not only on the map, but also on people's minds. Before your visit (speaking to Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf), I do not know of any senior government official or senior intellectual who visited the EU. Your former ambassador (Saleh Al-Ashwal) did not even speak English or French or German. We are happy your present ambassador (Jazem Al-Aghbari) is a refreshing improvement."

"Time is running out for Yemen. You have very pressing problems. Let me name some:

- You have a population explosion, growing at more than 3.5% a year, among the highest in the world.
- You have a frightening water situation. Consumption of water drawn from underground reservoirs is far higher than replenishment. Almost all urban centers suffer from a shortage of water supply.
- You have an administrative system which suffers from extreme corruption and mismanagement."

"Yemen has to join a regional grouping in order to link up with Europe. The most logical group to join is the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). We will help you by talking to the GCC countries, but it is up to Yemen to move in this direction. May be you could start by acquiring an observer status. You have to present Yemen through a regional group. It is increasingly less possible to talk to you a country to country basis."

"Yemen has demonstrated an enormous capacity at peaceful and harmonious adjustment. Examples:
- Yemen achieved re-unification peacefully.
- One million Yemenis were kicked out of Saudi Arabia and were re-absorbed into the count without making a crisis in the bilateral relations.
- Yemen has embarked on a political transformation towards democracy and multi-party system.
- Yemen has embarked on an economic reform program leading to a stronger and more efficient market system."



Based on conversation with Dr. Michael Kohler, Yemen Desk

I - In Appreciation of Yemeni Policies and Progress:

Based on the recent record of the Yemeni government, our conclusion is that the Republic of Yemen deserves better and more comprehensive support from the EU. I would like to use this opportunity to point out that there are many EU tools which are available for Yemen, but which, so far, the Yemeni side has failed to tap. These range from investment facilities, bank funds, co-financing options, NGO allocations, etc.

"Although Yemen's transformation is in its early stages, there is awareness of the major steps taken by Yemen to overcome the difficulties associated with those changes. There is a lot of debate and discussion of these changes, which is healthy. Yemen's friends in the world, and we in the EU are among them, are impressed by the ability of Yemen to take on the challenges of democratization, economic reforms, etc. and we would like to support them. There are a whole range of possibilities which we want to try with Yemen," said Dr. Kohler.

II - A New Cooperation Agreement:

Since 1985, cooperation between the Yemen and the European Union has been guided by a cooperation agreement. Now we are working to intensify relations and enhance the level of cooperation. The basic elements of the new agreement include:

- Propose to Member States a strengthening of EU-Yemen contractual relations and request a mandate for negotiating a new Asia-type cooperation agreement with Yemen comprising a human rights and democracy clause, and providing for policy and political dialogue.
- Intensify development cooperation and assistance through related instruments such as financial and technical assistance (Asia) and food aid during the the critical first phase of the structural adjustment program implementation (1996-98).
- Given the improved economic environment in Yemen and the emergence of economically viable private sector projects such as the Aden Free Zone, consider using, for the first time, tools like European Community Investment Program, encourage the European Investment Bank to include Yemen in its mandate for interventions and take up lending to it, and possibly include begin EC financed industrial cooperation promotion activities.
- Increase reconstruction and rehabilitation assistance, family planning and environment projects under specific existing budget lines for which Yemen is eligible.
- Renew electoral support in the context of the preparation of the forthcoming parliamentary elections as a means for furthering human rights and democracy in Yemen.

Unfortunately, trade relations between Yemen and the EU have been falling steadily in the recent past. Total EU imports have fallen from 212 million ECUs in 1993, to 162 million ECUs in 1994, to a meager 46 million ECUs in 1995. In the same way, total EU exports to Yemen have fallen from 532 million ECUs in 1993, to 497 million ECUs in 1994, and to 378 million ECUs in 1995. "We should work out ways to improve our trade business. There are many facilities and options that would help in this regard," stated Dr. Kohler.

"Total EU assistance, to-date, amounts to 56.5 million ECUs. "The problem is not availability of funds to Yemen. The problem is the very limited absorptive capacity of the country. If, for example, viable projects can be presented, I can immediately arrange through existing allocations an addition 10 million ECUs for Yemen. But where are the projects?" asks Michael.



The Grand Place in Brussels: The European Capital Is Gearing Up to Its Destined Role

Most people are oblivious to what is happening in Brussels. In a gradual, yet steady transformation, Europeans are acquiring a new and unified identity. No one is in a hurry to lose the present national identity, and that is not even necessary, at least not for a long time to come.

Those who are aware of what is happening have to contradictory - and both equally wrong - perceptions. 1. Some people think of the EU as the Arab League. Well, nothing is really like the Arab League. But the EU is really far more important than that. 2. Some others already think of

the EU as the United States. Well that again is a bit far-fetched and erroneous. The EU is something in-between. The momentum is there, and it is gaining speed. There are cyclical phases, of course, but the Europeans have long crossed the point of no return on their unification drive.

"Actually we have very little choice but this course. In order to preserve harmony and peace, and in order to maximize benefits, we have to come together." That is a sentence one hears over and over. Whatever the motive, unification proceeds in full motion!

An Ambassador Who Knows His Job

It was indeed quite a change. It was one of those rare moments in which I find myself appreciative of Yemen's ambassador. I found a good ambassador in Brussels.

Given my many and frequent travels, my experience has been that most of Yemen's ambassadors were not useful to Yemen. In some cases, they were even harmful as they got entangled in smuggling, underground activities and other illegal actions.

Here in Brussels, we have an exception. May be the reason is that he is a career diplomat.

May be it is because he is a young man who has not yet developed an air of self-importance. After all, he is not one of those officers who claim they started the Revolution.

May be it is because he does not belong to a club (read mafia) of interconnected kinship and other relations. He has only his services to vouch for him.

May be it is because he does not come from a strong tribe that will fend off trouble. Whatever the case, Jazem Abul-Khaleq Al-Aghbari is indeed an ambassador that knows his job. How do I know that? Well, here is how:



From left to right:
The Ambassadors of South Korea, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Jazem Al-Aghbari, Belgian Chief of Protocol, and of Lebanon entertained by their Yemeni colleague at his apartment last week

1. Most of the officials at the European Union know him and expressed visible support for his efforts.
2. Most of the reporters and journalists based in Brussels, and even Paris, know

3. He has built a network of friendships among the diplomatic and business communities.

Supporting Democracy, Rule of Law

Francesca Mosca is Head of Unit VIII-3 responsible for Human Projects, Elections and Democracy Support. She has recently allocated ECU 500,000 for NGOs supporting the electoral process. A consultant is going to visit Yemen on September 28th for assessing the needs of NGOs and the Supreme Elections Committee in making the elections a success. "We are excited with the prospects of more visible transformation in your country, and we are willing to support it, Ms. Mosca told the Yemen Times. Actually, Article 224 of the Lome IV Convention stipulates the various finance cooperation envisaged. Item (m) summarizes this as: "support for institutional and administrative reform measures, with a view to democratization and the rule of law".

However, the policy towards democratization worldwide has another side. This is clear from the many stipulations in the same convention, especially Article 366 (a) and Annex LXXXIII of the Joint Declaration. They state that if any aid-recipient government fails to live up to the stipulations of Article 5, specially to "the recognition and application of democratic principles, the consolidation of the rule of law and good governance", then the EU will hold immediate consultations with the said government for the purpose of correcting the situation. If consultations fail, then aid is suspended.

"You will note that these actions represent a step of last resort," explained Ms. Mosca. With reference to developments in Yemen, Francesca indicated that the situation looks promising and hopeful. "The elections (parliamentary, presidential, and local government) as well as the drive towards decentralization of authority are steps in the right direction," she concluded.

Channelling Funds Through NGOs

Ms. Clodagh O'Brien of VII B-2 is handling EC Facilities for NGO Cooperation and Decentralized Cooperation with Yemen. "Last year, we spent US\$ 1.26 billion in EU assistance dispensed through NGOs," O'Brien said.

Unfortunately, most EU funds for foreign NGOs have to be channelled through European NGOs. So, unless a link is established with European NGOs, it is hard to get to EU resources. "The reason for that is that we want to mobilize European NGO funds, as well," Clodagh explained. Last year, European NGOs put up matching funds of up to 174 million ECUs in a co-financing scheme.

"The main sectors of interest to us are health, education, capacity building, and all kinds of small-scale projects at the grass-roots level. We are also pushing decentralized cooperation and all forms of civil society organizations," she concluded.

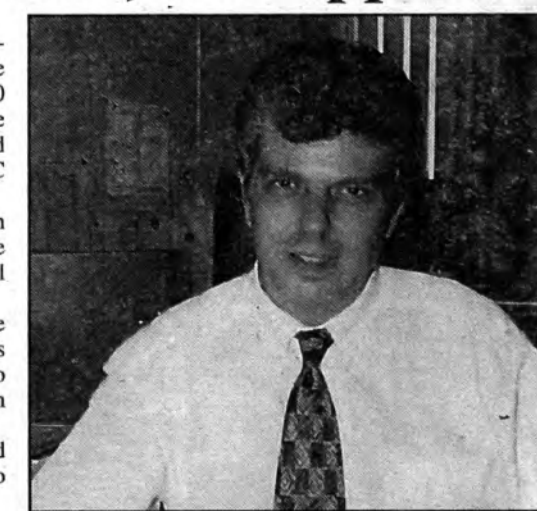
Responding to Need, Not Appeal

Last year, the total European humanitarian assistance worldwide was ECU 650 million (about one billion US dollars). This year, some ECU 450 million is to be dispensed. "This visible drop is due to a simple re-categorization of assistance," said George Maghioros, ECHO's Office in charge of EC Humanitarian Assistance for Yemen.

He is talking about the clear distinction now drawn between the various phases following a catastrophe - relief, rehabilitation and development. ECHO will handle only the first phase.

Disbursement for the other phases will require clearance from a committee recently set up. "This creates a delay of some 3-4 weeks. But we can go ahead and spend up to ECU 5 million without such clearance," he said.

During the recent floods in Yemen, ECHO provided ECU 150,000 in immediate assistance in addition to food aid.



At Al-Afif Cultural Foundation in Sanaa

Arab Artists Exhibit Work



At Al-Afif Cultural Establishment, the International Union for Applied Artists held its annual meetings at Al-Afif Cultural Establishment in Sanaa.

Ms. Ahlam A. Al-Mutawakkil interviewed some of the participants and filed this report. The meeting itself was an artistic demonstration in which professional artists exchanged expertise, experience and talked about their profession in the Arab world.

1. Interview with Moroccan artist Kareem Bannani the chairman of the Moroccan Society for Applied Arts.

Q: How do you assess the exhibition given that it being held for the first time in Yemen?



A: This was an opportunity to link up with our colleagues in Yemen. I am specially delighted with the participation of the youth, who are the coming torchbearers. There is a considerable Yemeni presence, which gives us a good idea of what is going on in Yemen. Over all, I would say this has

been a successful effort.

Q: How do Yemeni artists and their work compare with yours back at home?

A: I have been introduced to Yemeni artists only recently. However, during my tour I found that the classical paintings were the best in its approaches. You see the applied arts are improving and developing, and in a sense internationalism is overtaking us. But this is still something new for the Arab world.

In Morocco, the applied arts appeared since fifty years ago. This early introduction is due to the French presence in Morocco. Though we have to dig deep to our roots for originality, it is not bad to take from other cultures. This is what we call exchange of cultures.

2. Interview with Moroccan artist Ms. Fatima Jumalh.

Q: What is your participation in this exhibition?

A: I participated with two paintings. One of them has the name



Baghdad because I painted it right after the Gulf War. In the beginning I didn't think of giving it the name Baghdad, but when it was finished, it reflected to me the pain and suffering of Baghdad and the assaults to which it was exposed. Sometimes.

Q: Which Yemeni female artists impressed you in the exhibition?

A: First of all, I was so happy to see so many women artists in the exhibition, especially the ones from Yemen. Among those who have participated in the exhibition from Yemen, names like Amina Al-Nuseiri and Ilham Al-Arashi stand out.

Q: How do you see Sana'a city from an artistic point of view?

A: Sana'a is a living museum with fantastic buildings which stand tall in the horizon. The architecture, the beautiful mix of colors, and the highly practical nature of the buildings are impressive.

Sanaa possesses a history and civilization which go deep. It reflects Arab originality.

3. Interview with Egyptian artist Abdul-Razzaq Okasha. Mr. Okasha, based in Paris, organizes every year an exhibition to display his paintings in many parts of the world.

Q: How is the exhibition coming so far?

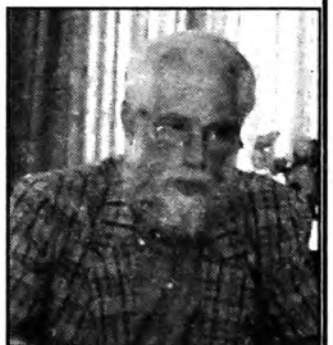
A: I am very happy to be part of



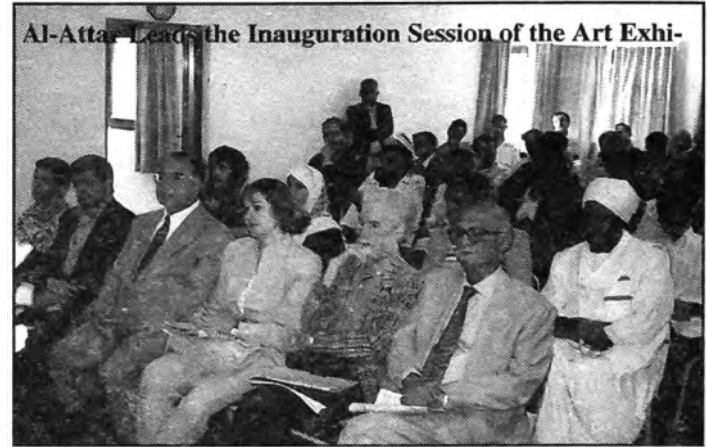
this event. Yemeni artists are lucky to be working here, because they can draw on this rich heritage. This is exactly what separates the work of Yemeni artists and gives it a special identity.

One Yemeni painter who caught my eyes was Hakim Al-Aqil with his sur-realist approach. Another painter, Abdulla Hassan Al-Ameen, who received a prize in Kuwait for his artistic recreations, also stands out. What caught my attention was the use of colors in their work.

4. Interview with Mr. Abdul-Rahman Majdalawi Vice Chairman of the Society of Applied Artists in the Arab World.



Q: How active are Arab artists?



A: Of course, the Arab World does not, as yet, give artists their due recognition. This is because of the low level of literacy and development. In general, developed art is a phenomenon of more advanced societies.

Q: And Yemeni artists?

A: I am afraid that Yemeni artists have not formed their syndicate or a society to bring them together. This would be something to think about in the future.

5. Interview with Mr. Ahmad Dari, a Palestinian artist who lives in Paris. Aldari is also a musician and a sculptor.

Q: How do Palestinian artists compare with other Arab artists?

A: You know Palestinian artists have no protection or national sponsor. Moreover, they depend on themselves in everything.

Q: What kind of encouragement are you looking for?

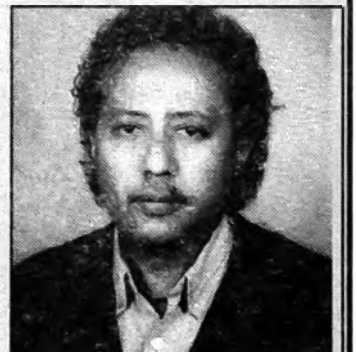
A: What we need is encouragement from governments and international organizations in the form of protecting our rights. We badly need protection of intellectual rights against many forms of violations. Many of our works are being stolen and copied by others, all the time.

German University Sponsors Al-Futaih Exhibition

On the 5th of November, 1996, Philips University in Marburg will inaugurate a special art exhibition on the works of Yemeni artist Fuad Al-Futaih. The university is going to display some sixty Al-Futaih paintings, some of them new.

Al-Futaih, a leader in the field, has moved in getting inspiration for his paintings from environmental impact to cultural surroundings. The exhibition, reflecting this development, carries the title of "Between the Worlds".

"I am very happy with this exhibition, though I have had many in the past. The main thing is to note that German institutions have become world leaders in the arts, as well as major sponsors of Third World artists," he said. Fuad is a recipient of many local,



regional and international awards such as The First National Award in Fine Art in 1989; 2nd Prize for the Logo of the International Women's Decade - 1975; Prize of the Competition for UN Poster on Disarmament, and Alexandria Museum of Art Medal.

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News Aden Hotel Mövenpick in the autumn

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The availability is limited, only a small number of rooms has been allocated for this Autumn Package. you must have a valid resident permit in Yemen. The package is only valid from September 1 until the end of 1996.



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Officials, Donors, Experts & Businessmen Discuss Key Economic Policies Region

During 15-17 October, an important gathering of government officials, bilateral and multi-lateral aid donors, experts and businessmen in the Middle East and North Africa will meet in Istanbul to discuss supporting economic growth policies. The focus will be private-public partnership in infrastructure with an eye to the experience in privatization.

Key participants among the multilateral donors are Mr. Kemal Dervis, Vice President of the World Bank, Juan Pratt, Director-General of the European Commission, Mr. Abdul-Latif Al-Hamad, Director-General of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and others. Among the relevant ministers to attend, in addition to senior Turkish officials, are Moroccan Minister of Finance, Israeli Minister of Finance, Jordanian Minister of Planning, Egyptian Minister of Economic and International Cooperation, Saudi Minister of Finance and Economy, Tunisian Minister of International Cooperation and Investments, Palestinian Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Algerian Minister of Planning and International

Cooperation, Lebanese Minister of PTT, etc.

The Republic of Yemen has not named its delegation or even said whether it will participate.

Other delegates represent banks, capital funds, investment houses, insurance companies, etc.

This seminar is an important occasion to have a closer look at the dilapidated infrastructure of the region and how to meet rising investment needs. The discussions will cover telecommunications, motorways, water supply and sewer treatment, power and gas, municipal services, ports and railways, etc. An interesting aspect of the seminar is that it will discuss the Aden Free Zone as one of its case studies.

At the policy level, the participants will discuss the outlook of private investment in infrastructure, government attitudes towards private investments in infrastructure spectrum of public-private partnerships, mobilizing financing in the region and worldwide, risk mitigation, etc.

The seminar will also study relations between privatization and new investments in infrastructure.

Kuwait Gets Ready for Elections

The Ministry of Interior in Kuwait announced that with the close of Saturday, September 14th, 258 Kuwaiti candidates for parliament have successfully filed their candidature. These include forty incumbents, four ministers who resigned their posts to run, and many others.

The 50 constituencies, reflecting the 50 seats in Majlis Al-Ummah, Kuwait's parliament, are destined to see much shouting over the next few weeks leading to the ballot-casting day, on October 17th. The number of candidates ranges from only four in constituency number 3 to 21 candidates in constituency 17.

The campaigning has started in earnest, making the diwaniiyahs even more lively than ever.

Unfortunately for Kuwait, however, the women of the country are destined to wait until the 21st century before they can vote. The State of Kuwait has yet to grant the females the right to vote, let alone the right to stand for elections. Even if that right is granted after this election, the women can only participate in the next elections, which are going to be in the next century.

There is another unfortunate dimension to the elections in Kuwait. About half the population, classified as bedoon, cannot participate in the political life of the country. These are the ones who were not included in the original census when the state was created. They are mostly the bedouins who roamed the desert.

Added to them were many Arabs from the neighboring countries who criss-crossed the border before the nation states, and thus boundaries, were created.

As a result, the number of eligible voters in a country of 1.5 million is only around 100,000.

Even then, this small number of people and the 258 candidates make a lot more noise than their numbers warrant. Whatever the shortcomings, Kuwait's elections are truly fair and clean.

To add more credibility to the system, this year's ballots will be counted on the spot, and the boxes will not be moved before the votes are counted and documented. This will also allow for announcing the results much faster.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Arwa Shipping and Stevedoring Co. Ltd., Republic of Yemen, pleased to announce our appointment as agents for China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company, Beijing, with effect from 6th of September 1996, at all Southern Yemeni ports. i.e. Aden/Mukalla.

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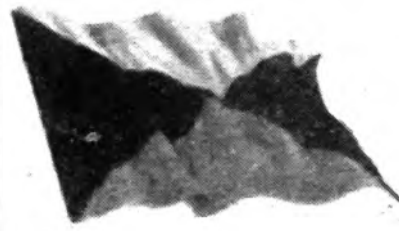
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Fax: 269896 / 269899,
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen,
Attn: Assistant Manager of Human Resources

Note: ONLY YEMENIS MAY APPLY TO THESE JOBS

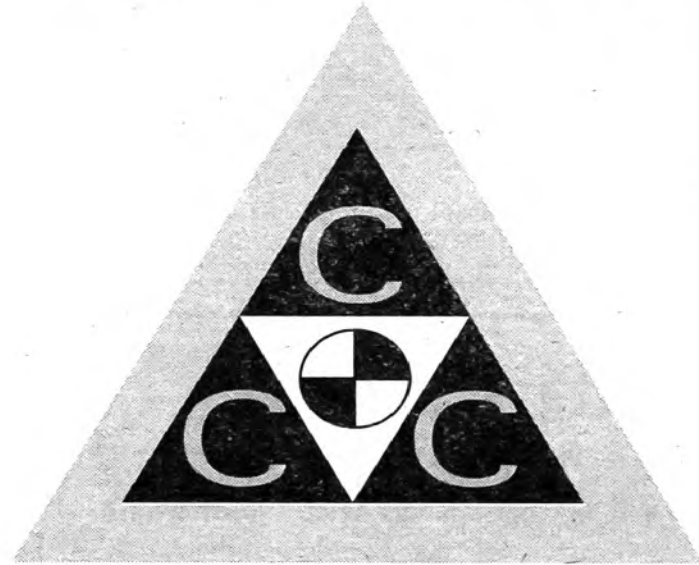
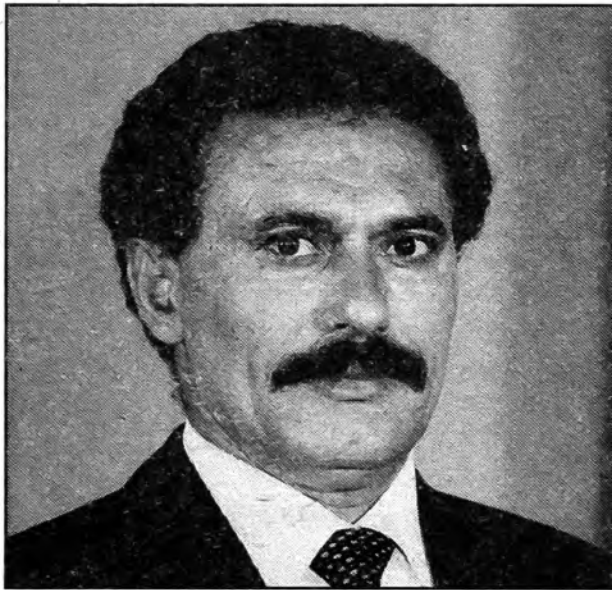
تتقدم

شركة إنحداد المقاولات العالمية

لسي لسي لسي

بأجمل التهاني وأصدق الأمنيات
إلى ابن اليمن البار فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الفريق علي عبدالله صالح
وإلى الشعب اليمني المناضل، وإلى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة
بمناسبة ثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر المجيدة
وكل عام واليمن في تقدم وإزدهار وإستقرار

سي سي سي: علاقة شراكة عمرها نصف قرن في بناء اليمن



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presents its heartfelt felicitations and congratulations
on the anniversary of the 26th September Revolution to
President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the People of Yemen and the Government,
and wishes all many happy returns.

CCC: Half a century of Partnership in Yemen's Development

26 SEPTEMBER

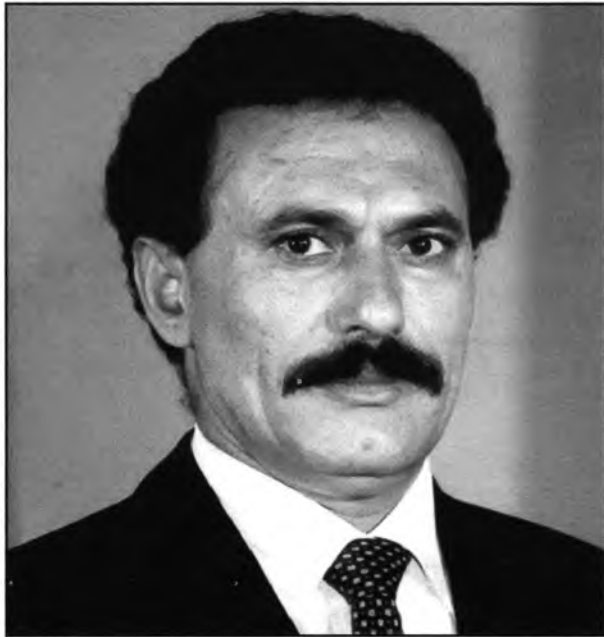
مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد إنعم

تتقدم

إلى شعبنا اليمني الوفي، وإلى قيادتنا السياسية المظفرة
بزعامه إبن اليمن البار الفريق علي عبدالله صالح، وحكومة الجمهورية اليمنية الرشيدة
بخالص التهاني وأطيب التبريكات
بمناسبة ذكرى ثورة ٢٦ سبتمبر الخالدة - التي حررت الإنسان اليمني من العبودية والظلم.

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد إنعم - صرح إقتصادي عملاق يقود النهضة اليمنية

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد إنعم



- ١) الشركة اليمنية للصناعة والتجارة المحدودة
- ٢) الشركة اليمنية لصناعة الإسفنج والبلاستيك المحدودة
- ٣) الشركة اليمنية لصناعة السمن والصابون المحدودة
- ٤) شركة الصناعات المتنوعة و مواد البناء
- ٥) شركة الألبان والأغذية الوطنية
- ٦) شركة الشرق الأوسط للتجارة (متكو)
- ٧) الشركة المتحدة للصناعات (روثمانز)
- ٨) الشركة اليمنية للتنمية الزراعية والحيوانية

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their heartfelt wishes to

the people of Yemen, our victorious leadership headed by
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on the occasion of the anniversary of the 26th September Revolution.

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- 5) National Dairy and Food Company
- 6) Middle East Trading Company, Limited
- 7) United Industries Company (Rothmans of Pall Mall)
- 8) The Yemen Company for Agriculture & Livestock Development.



ASSEA

26 SEPTEMBER



AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 9-9-96

(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Arab Development Funds Finance Eritrea
- 2) Tribal War in Al-Ahnoom (Hashid)
- 3) The War Merchants and Slave Traders in Somalia

Article Summary:

The Conference on Future Strategy

The Yemen Center for Future Studies is working diligently to organize a conference which looks at the future of the Republic. The conference, aptly titled, Yemen and the 21st Century, will be held in the early part of 1997. The Chairman of the YCFS, Mr. Faris Al-Saqqaf told the paper that the conference will look at the following topics: Future Educational Strategy, Outlook on Culture, the Judicial System, Natural Resources, National security - Internal and External, Foreign Policy and other important topics which the country must develop a policy on before entering the 21st Century. Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf also added that the documents of the conference will then be collected in one volume, as a valuable reference to be used by the government and researchers.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 12-9-96

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Ruling Coalition Leadership Agrees to Call Political Parties to Discuss Elections Violations and Excesses.
- 2) Secret (People General Congress) Document: The Islah-Opposition Document Is a Conspiracy Against Democracy and the Constitution
- 3) Public Outrage at the Subservient Role Played By the Military and the Official Media to the PGC

Article Summary:

The Elections Violations Case Against The Prime Minister and the Minister of Defense

The West Sana'a Primary Court returned the case against the 2 senior government officials (for violations of the Elections Law) to the Prosecution. The Court presided over by Judge Abdul-Malik Al-Jindary, noted that the case, as presented, did not provide sufficient specific details to further proceed with it.

The paper noted that the case is being prepared again in compliance with the court's decision for re-presentation to the court.



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Hassan Al-Haifi

Yes, the Protectors of the Nation, But...

In his regular back-page column, Ali Abdullah Al-Wasi'y responds to an article that appeared last week in 26 September by Amatal-Khaliq Abu-Rijal, in which she criticizes those who degrade the armed forces for their role in the registration efforts. Al-Wasi'y was surprised by the misunderstanding which Ms. Abu-Rijal has of the criticism and was even more surprised by the newspaper which allows such poor writers to fill its pages.

The Sahwa columnist clarifies that the criticism that the writer is alluding to involves safeguarding the rights of the military, as it should not be taken advantage of by those who dictate on them to register according to their commander's whim. "You must remember," wrote Al-Wasi'y, speaking to the 26th September writer, "that soldiers are not so easily fooled by your attempts to twist the truth... the soldiers are the worst off among those suffering in the country... and they are the ones who are exploited when they are needed, and ignored when the difficulties have passed!

AL-SHUMOO' (CANDLES): Weekly (Sana'a) 8-9-96

[Hizbullah - Yemen (?)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Why We Respect Al-Khomeini
- 2) What Lies Behind the Water and the Sewerage Problems?
- 3) The Abdulghani Government Has To Be Changed

Article Summary:

The Islah and the Opposition

The new newspaper, an organ of an unknown Islamic organization, in its first issue questions the significance of the present inter-party talks that have become the political in-thing with political parties these days. While not showing any objections to talks between different political parties, the article questions the intentions of the participants in the present talks:

First the Islah holds talks with the YSP and the Opposition, then the YSP holds talks with the PGC, and now the PGC wants to talk with everyone. The problem in all these talks is that the various political parties are concentrating on the political gains that could be squeezed out of each other, especially of the ruling coalition parties. While the opposition carries the banner of clean and honest elections, they fully realize that even after these talks, they will be lucky if they can come up with 1 or 2 seats in parliament after the elections are over. "What kind of political forces do we really have in Yemen, and what kind of opposition is this?"

26 SEPTEMBER : Sana'a (Weekly) 12-9-96

(Mouthpiece of the Military):

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Council of Ministers:
 - Approves Amendment of Yemen Drug Company Articles of Association
 - Sets Up Ministerial Committee to Prepare Plan for Elimination of Malaria in RoY.
 - Approves By-Laws for School Buildings Rehabilitation Fund
 - Sets Up Committee to Survey Ministry of Endowment Property (Nationalized By the Former PDRY)
- 2) Minister of Interior, Dr. Arab: Arrest of 2 gangs engaged in car theft and drug smuggling.
- 3) Yemeni-Saudi Talks in the Near Future on Cultural Relations, Customs and Labor (to Be Discussed by Appropriate Joint Committees)

Article Summary:

Traveling on Yemenia Is Hell

Ahmed Al-Mu'allimi, a prominent Yemeni poet and man of letters, hits hard at the deteriorating service on board of the national Airlines. The famous national patriot assured the readers that there was no personal motive behind his criticism of Yemenia. He states that at the time when Yemenia was under the chairmanship of the late

Mohammed Al-Haimy, the airline had its angel wings out, and he was never hesitant in writing poems of praise for the airline and its staff. But when services fall to unacceptable levels, then Yemenia should expect to be criticized in the hope that the present management of Yemenia will rectify the situation.

The 79 year old poet then pointed out to the awful ordeal he faced from reservations to airport boarding difficulties, to the hazards of being on board, during his recent flight to Damascus. He complained about the carelessness of the staff and their inhospitable attitude and the poor reception he noticed just about at every office of Yemenia he dealt with. He used some of his light humor to give his criticism more punch. He was surprised that he had to go through such an ordeal considering his age and his prominence. He wondered what ordinary people face. He pointed out that the trip to Damascus costed him three times the normal fare because of the ordeal he faced with Yemenia.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 11-9-96

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Police Discover 150 Tank Mine Detonators and Other Explosives
- 2) Death of 10 Persons in Traffic Accident
- 3) First Court Decision in Copy Rights Case F/O Yemeni Publisher Against a French Institute.
- 4) Discovery of 2 Unidentified Deceased Bodies

Article Summary:

1) Only A Woman Can Straighten Out Yemen

The outspoken feminist writer, Thoraya Manqoush takes pains to point out that best days of Yemen were when a woman ruled the country, citing Bilquis, the Queen of Sheba, and Queen Arwa as prime examples. She wrote this in response to a writer who once wrote: Will It Have To Be A Woman That Will Save Yemen?

2) Where Do You Live?

The regular columnist, Adel Al-A'asam discusses the terrible corruption that has plagued the country, whereby bribery has become your only gateway to getting anything done. Bribery has become more common than eating rice or bread. He cites instances in which he was confronted by this ugly menace. One instance where he asked a government employee: "Why do you revert to bribery?" The reply was somewhat difficult to absorb: "In these difficult times, what is one to do, steal to make a decent living?!"



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- A minimum two years experience in the management of a LAN and/or other multi user system and familiarity with financial data base applications.
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The deadline for receiving applications for the above is September 26, 1996.
UNICEF Yemen works in a smoke-free environment.

September 16th, 1996

Wrestling Championship in Hodeidah

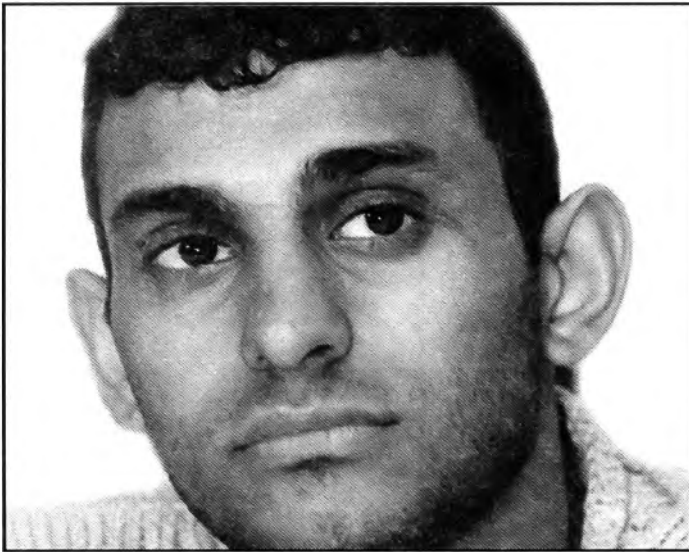


In an effort to promote wrestling as one of the sports in which young people engage, the General Federation for Wrestling has kicked off this week a championship for this game in Hodeidah. Half a dozen clubs who have athletes compete in the matches. The whole championship is sponsored by one of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies - a private business with visible interest in the general welfare. The Group also sponsors many other games as well as clubs in the country. Wrestling is one of the new sports in Yemen which is fast gaining acceptance among the youth.

NASEEM TO MAKE GRAND ENTRANCE WITH YEMENI MUSIC IN BACKGROUND

In an arrangement between the father of Naseem Hamed, the Feather-weight World Boxing Champion, and Yemeni singer Ahmed Fathi, it was agreed that the musician will come up with an appropriate musical piece that will be played whenever the Prince enters the ring for the matches in the future.

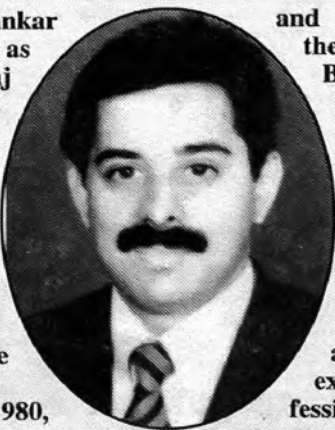
In a statement to the Yemen Times, the singer said that it was only appropriate a distinct Yemeni music is played to hail the Prince as he enters the ring to salute his supporters and fans.



Shankar Is Here Folks!

New Sales Manager at Taj Sheba Hotel

This week, Mr. Shankar Bharadwaj has taken over as Sales Manager at the Taj Sheba Hotel. His last post before that was Front Manager cum Sales Manager at the deluxe property in Dubai, the Dubai Marine Hotel & Beach Club. Prior to that, he had served in various capacities in the Gulf, Middle East, and India. Shankar graduated in 1980,



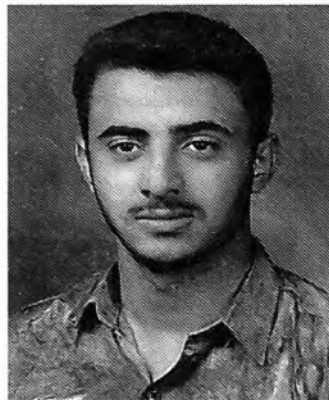
and immediately joined the Taj Intercontinental Bombay. Mr. Vijay Albuquerque, General Manager of the Taj Sheba Hotel, visibly boastful of his new man, told the Yemen Times, "Shankar brings in 16 years of hospitality experience in various positions. He will definitely add a new dimension to the existing team of professionals at the Taj."

تهانينا الحارة

نتقدم بأعطر التهاني والتبريكات للشاب
عبدالغني عبدالله الحمادي

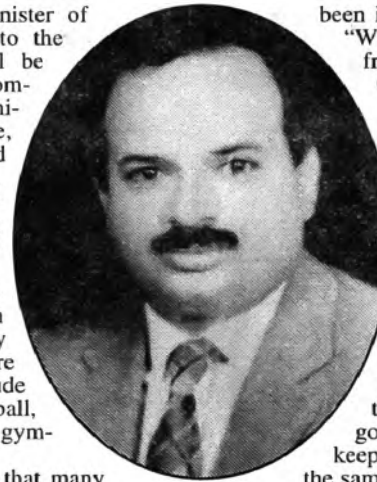
بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي
والعقبى للجميع بالمسرات، والف مبروك
المهنؤون:

سلطان سيف، إبراهيم سيف، العقيد علي حنش
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

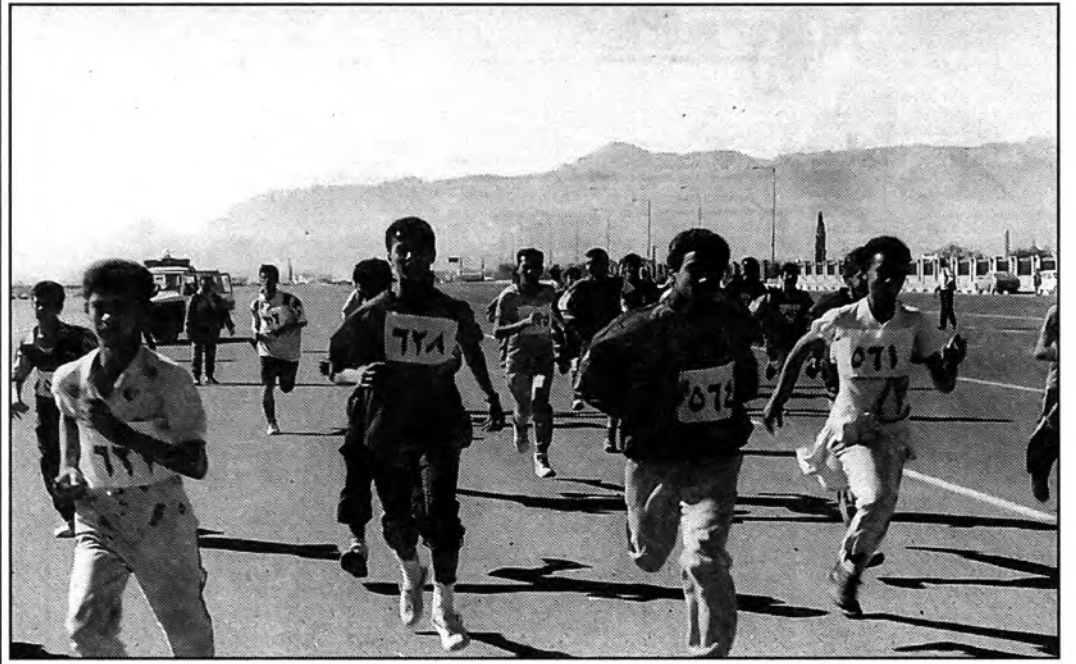


Major Sports Events to Coincide with the September Revolution Anniversary

Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports, disclosed to the Yemen Times that there will be major sports events to commemorate the coming anniversary. At the same time, several sports installations and facilities will be inaugurated. The important one among these is the race-track forming a ring around the field at the Al-Thawrah Stadium. This week, the events were already kicked off with an open marathon race in which many youngsters participated (picture below). Other events include horse-riding competitions, football, basket-ball, volleyball, tennis, gymnastics, and other games. Dr. Rawah also told the paper that many delegations and athletes from the region have



been invited to participate in the events. "We have confirmation that athletes from Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are coming. We expect additional confirmation from more countries in the next few days," he stated. Finally, many of the on-going competitions and championships are expected to climax at a time around the 26th of September. In spite of the financial constraints and many difficulties faced by the clubs and athletes, Dr. Rawah is believed to be one of the better ministers in the present government. He has been able to keep a clean personal record, while at the same time mobilizing funds to sponsor outstanding athletes and clubs.



Continued from page 3:

Al-Mikhlafi's Interview

Q: Are you worried about the survival of multi-party political system in Yemen?

A: It is very hard to answer this question. I believe that there is sufficient base among the political parties, NGOs and other civil society organizations, newspapers or simply individuals who are committed to a Yemen that is open and democratic. I do not believe that an autocratic system will return to Yemen, at least not if we can help it. Having said, I am sure you realise that there those who are entrenched in the past. These will try to thwart any efforts of progress to the future.

Q: Look at six months ahead. What do you see?

A: There is a challenge ahead of us. The political map is confused because the rulers have succeeded in dismantling of at least freezing the activities of many of the political parties, NGOs, etc. So, we have some obstacles.

I believe that the dialogue that has started between the Islah and the Opposition, and the YSP and the PGC has stirred the stagnant waters of our politics. This is a positive development.

Our politicians, especially those at the helm of power, should realize that the present mistakes cannot remain as it is. These include the use of the military as a mobile voting bloc which could be used at whim. The registration of underage voters, as well as multiple registration. The Supreme Elections Committee dropped the picture in the voting card, as required by the law.

Thus, much depends on how the PGC responds to the pleas of all sides to control these violations and irregularities in the elections.

In my opinion the coming elections will make or break our experiment. That is why it is really vital that we rectify the mistakes and proceed to clean up.

Unfortunately, I am not optimistic we will do that, though we are able to.

Q: You are a researcher at the Center for Yemeni Studies and Research. This is supposed to be a think-tank? Can you tell us about what you do at the center?

A: The original vision of the Center was very big. Unfortunately, the center does not do any research or study. It doesn't publish anything. There are some 18 researchers with Ph.D.s, and many others with lower degrees. But these are treated as employees. To prove this point, let me indicate that recently the center has decided to ask its researchers to simply come in and sign the daily attendance roster.

Q: But isn't it true that researchers have first need to do the work for the center to be able to publish?

A: Yes, that is true. But researchers have produced articles and books. They keep saying there is no money for printing. Let me give you my own case as an example.

I have given the center a book for printing. It was evaluated and approved for publication in 1992. The title of that book is "Evolution of International Private Law in Yemen". Then I gave them another book for publication. That was evaluated and approved for publication in 1995. The title of this second book is "On the Law Organizing Foreign Investments in Yemen". Neither is published.

This is also the case with many researchers. As an anecdote, let me point out that even the annual journal which the center used to put has not been coming out steadily. They are now trying to print the 1993 edition.

If you look at the center's budget, there is no allocation for research. It is made up basically of payroll allocations.

Q: Any last comments?

A: Although most of what I said is pessimistic, I want to stress that our continued struggle to create a better system is based on our feeling that it is not futile, but there is a good chance. Change is inevitable. It is just how long it will take, and at what cost will it happen.

It takes a few dedicated individuals to bring about change in society. We have to keep up the hard work and continue until we attain our goal.

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NAFTYEM ALGOSAIBI Yemen - Saudi Joint Venture

How many female candidates will your party field?

Today, Monday the 16th, a three-day seminar starts with the single objective of promoting female candidates for the April 1997 parliamentary elections.

Spearheading this effort is Ms. Amatal Aleem Al-Sousowah, Assistant Deputy Minister of Information and Chairperson of the National Women's Committee. "We are grateful for all the efforts that have been exerted to mobilize female participation in the elections. Now, we are putting forth a firm question as to how many candidates will be fielded by each of the political parties," said Amatal Aleem.

Ms. Aneesa Ghanem, another feminist leader, stated that all political parties were invited to participate. "This is an across-party issue and the whole feminist movement will interact with political parties on the basis of how they respond to our question. We do not worry much about party affiliation, as long as there is a more equitable female representation in the next parliament," she said.

There are only two female members - both belonging to the Yemeni Socialist Party - in the current House of Representatives which is 301 strong. The objective is to ensure a minimum of 30 female members (10%) in the next house.

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