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# YEMEN TIMES



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Ms. Ibtisam Al-Hamdi on Businesswomen in Yemen. Page 3.

TeleYemen GM Outlines Future Plans. Page 7.

Mental Health of Women. Page 8.

Yemenis Enjoy Playing Pool. Page 15.

## UK Foreign Minister Arrives in Sanaa on November 5th

The British Foreign Minister Malcolm Rifkind is expected to arrive in Sanaa on November 5th on a two-day official visit to Yemen. The agenda focuses on regional issues.

A few days later, the British Trade Minister will fly into Sanaa. UK-Yemeni relations have recently witnessed a visible improve-

ment from the low levels to which they had sunk during the 1994 civil war in Yemen.

Yemen Times believes that the climax in the bilateral relations will be attained during a 1997 visit to London by the Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Such a visit was delayed due to UK elections.

More on UK-Yemeni Relations on p. 5

## Yemen Decides to Participate in Cairo Economic Conference

Yemen Times learned that the Republic of Yemen has officially notified Egypt about its decision to participate in the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit which will be held in Cairo between November 12-14, 1996. Who will represent Yemen has not yet been decided.

Sources in Cairo indicate that 99 countries have been invited to the gathering; in addition to many regional and

international organizations. Also some 3000 private investors are expected to attend. Moreover, 700 journalists - over and above the 500 correspondents accredited in Cairo - will also rub shoulders in the three days of meetings.

The aim of the conference is to encourage regional and international economic links. Governments and entrepreneurs will present ideas and

projects for joint investment and financing.

Dr. Amr Moussa, Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Organization Committee, said that inter-Arab co-ordination was already underway and that he is expecting the conference to lead to many joint projects that will bring investors and governments of the region together.

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times

## Germany to Send Observers to Yemeni Elections

German Ambassador Dr. Helga von Strachwitz told the Yemen Times that her government has officially accepted the invitation of the Yemeni authorities to send observers to monitor the parliamentary elections which are scheduled for April 27th, 1997. Germany has also agreed to provide financial support to meet some of the election's expenses.

The Supreme Elections Committee has been notified of both decisions.

The Federal Republic of Germany is a staunch supporter of Yemen's efforts in the development and democratization process. It provides an annual aid of roughly DM 60 million, channelled mainly for utilities, infrastructure and human resources.

### Islah's Shura Council Communique:

**"It is not yet too late to rectify election irregularities. If we do not, Yemen will be opening a door to hell."**

The Shura Council of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) issued a carefully worded communique which was both threatening and beseeching in nature.

Issued at the end of a 3-day deliberation between the 22-24th October 1996, the communique expressed the Council's dissatisfaction with the performance of the gov-

ernment, and its frustration with the inability of its partner in the coalition, the People's General Congress, to face the tasks ahead.

Full text on page 5

## HODEIDAH: From Bad to Worse

By: M. Bin Sallam, Yemen Times

The situation in Hodeidah is deteriorating rapidly. Living conditions have become so harsh that the number of residents has fallen to about half. The city, which boasted almost 300,000 inhabitants in the late 1980s, has some 150,000 today. The hustle and bustle of the past has given way to the lethargic calm and placidity of a severe depression.

Among the major problems are recurrent epidemics. Trachoma, an eye disease, is especially prevalent among the children. Other

diseases include malaria, cholera, diarrhoea, etc. There are chronic shortages of medical personnel and supplies.

The school system has also degenerated with overcrowded classes, shortages of everything, etc. The whole place exhibits visible symptoms of decay and neglect. Other problems include a high level of unemployment and a rising level of crime and lawlessness.

The overall result of this situation is frustration and feelings of betrayal on the part of residents. As one old man put it, "I do not expect any real turn of events in the near future. It is just a slow death for the city and us."

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**OUR VIEWPOINT**

**Kidnapping Is Not Justified, Whatever the Excuse**

So the French guy is out. But what good does it do the country if unruly tribesmen can grab any foreigner and use him/her as a bargaining chip in settling scores with the state. Kidnapping is one form of terrorism, and terrorism cannot be justified, whatever the excuse.

It is important that the kidnappers do not get any support from any side. Foreigners or locals cannot be held ransom 1!2the demands of some individuals or groups. This is a bad tool, and it does not help the cause of the kidnappers themselves.

In recent times, kidnapping in Yemen had subsided. But here it is again showing us its ugly face. The leaders of this country should not bargain or negotiate with outlaws. In the short term, this may be hard to explain, but in the long-term, it pays off. If outlaws find out that they end up paying a heavy price, they may not resort to this tactic. Unfortunately, our politicians have been - in the past - rewarding kidnappers with cash and other 'gifts'. This is an incentive to repeat the action. In spite of government denials, this have been their policy in the past.

Appeasement does not work in these circumstances. I have heard even now some politicians - with an eye to the coming elections - asking for flexibility and understanding. That is asking for trouble. Our tribesmen read appeasement as weakness, which it is. That is why, they grow bolder.

The Government of Yemen can do another to help us get out of this problem. It can shape up. The logic the tribesmen present is compelling. They say the government is full of thieves, and that stealing from a thief is not a bad thing. In the very least, the Government has no credibility.

What that does is that it moves the issue from sheer economics to politics. Some tribesmen have a grudge. They feel left out, and that they have no say in public affairs. That explains why most of the difficulties come from Khowlan, which is one of the largest and strongest tribes of Yemen.

The leadership of Yemen decided to ignore Khowlan as a block although it does prop up some individuals from the tribe. But Khowlan is not alone in this predicament, although it alone - well almost alone - went to the kidnapping business. Many other segments of the Yemeni population have serious grudges and complaints. The authorities are still not listening, thus forcing them to break the law.

Whatever the politics, resorting to terrorism is not the answer. Innocent people cannot be made to pay for the grudges some individuals or groups have against this or that government. In my opinion, nothing justifies terrorizing innocent people.

*The Publisher*

**EMIRATES Plane Touches Down at Sanaa Airport**

An Emirates plane on the first flight between Dubai and Sanaa touches down at Sanaa International Airport, today, Monday, October 28th. To receive the flight at the airport is a large crowd of supporters. This is the first of two weekly flights between Dubai and Sanaa. Emirates Sanaa office is already functional, and the GSA, Apollo, are already exceptionally busy promoting the route. Industry observers believe that the new flight will attract passengers who are looking for quality service. It is not for nothing Emirates is dubbed, "The finest in the sky".

**Preparations Continue for Mass Vaccination Against Poliomyelitis**

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the WHO and Unicef, is pushing ahead preparations for mass vaccination. According to Dr. Elias Durry, Medical Officer with WHO in Yemen, "The Republic of Yemen will conduct two rounds of National Immunization Days on November 25-27, and December 29-31, 1996." To achieve the eradication of polio, every child under 5 years of age, will receive a dose of oral polio vaccine during those two rounds. The Republic of Yemen is among few countries in the region that have not conducted National Immunization Days as a strategy to eradicate polio.

**Bait Al-Halaqa to Be Officially Opened**

October 31st has been set for the official opening of Bait Al-Halaqa, which is located on Baghdad Street, next to the Qubati Skyscraper (under construction). In a circular, Jacques Veerman, the brains and dynamo behind the project, explains that Bait Al-Halaqa will be the focal point of the Yemeni-International Cultural Circle, which will arrange the works of one artist every month. Programs have been scheduled until April 1997, when Yemen's elections will be held. Many organizations' plans venture that far only. After that ... well, it will depend on what happens in April. Membership is welcomed for a fee of US\$10 per person per year.

**New Yemeni Saudi Joint Venture**

A joint-venture agreement was signed in Sana'a last month between the Yemeni NAFTYEM Consultancy & Petroleum Services Co. Ltd. and the Saudi Algoasabi Group of Companies. The agreement was based on a joint venture company under the name of NAFTYEM-Algoasabi Co. Ltd. This company is to provide services to oil companies working in the Republic of Yemen especially in catering. The Algoasabi Group of Companies is one of the largest companies in the Saudi Kingdom and the Gulf region in catering. The entrance of Saudi companies into the Yemeni market reflects the rising level of cooperation, and the support of both governments to mutually benefit business.

**Premiere Lays Foundation Stone to College of Technology**

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani laid the foundation stone for the College of Technology in Taiz. This is financed by the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies. The PM also inaugurated schools financed by the Group.

**YT Chief Editor Receives Personal Cable of Thanks from the Emir of Qatar**

The Chief Editor of Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, received a personal cable of thanks from the Emir of Qatar His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Aal Thani. The Editor also received a similar letter from Crown-Prince Jassim Bin Hamad Aal Thani. Both cables come in response to congratulation messages sent out by the editor on the occasion of the naming of young Jassim as Crown-Prince of Qatar. Dr. Saqqaf has friendly relations with the ruling family of Qatar, and the Yemen Times is well-regarded in the State of Qatar.

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**French Fugitive Is Out**

The French diplomat who was kidnapped by Al-Zayedi Clan in Jahm, Khowlan, was released in the evening of Saturday, October 26th. He was safely flown into Sanaa yesterday, October 27th. Government sources insist no deal was cut with the kidnappers to secure the release. The kidnappers say the government and the authorities do not listen to their complaints. So, getting foreigners involved this way gives the necessary audience and chance to air their views and complaints. On this particular case, the tribesmen were saying that compensation payments ordered a few months ago due to the flood damages were not released as they are stuck in the bureaucracy.

**Training of Health Educators in Leprosy**

The Governor of Taiz, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri, inaugurated yesterday Sunday, 27th October, a workshop to train health educators. The focus is on leprosy and how to handle both patients and the general public. Dr. Yassin Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati, Director of the National Leprosy Control Program, said that one representative of each of the governorates is participating in the workshop. "The idea is that these individuals will then spearhead a public awareness campaign all over the republic," he indicated. Society in Yemen continues to shun victims of leprosy and assigns to them remote and isolated areas.

**SEC and EMC Discuss Cooperation**

The Chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC), Mr. Mohsen Al-Olufi, received in audience Mr. Mohammed A. Al-Rubayi, Chairman of the Elections Monitoring Committee, to discuss cooperation. While the SEC is an official part of state, the EMC is a private voluntary initiative. The SEC agreed to offer certain facilities to the EMC in order to enable it perform its tasks fully and more appropriately. Some of the envisaged forms of cooperation include the dissemination of SEC information through EMC, and authorizing the EMC to issue observer badges to non-SEC personnel.

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**Ibtisam Al-Hamdi:**

# "We have to form a union to help accelerate women's entry into business."

Doing business in Yemen is, to start with, a difficult task. It is near impossible if you are a woman. The world of business in Yemen is the world of men.

Yet, in the recent past, some women have made in-roads. It started with the professionals - medical doctors, accountants, and lawyers. Now women, are moving into the tough world of trade, imports, marketing, etc.

One of the pioneers is Ms. Ibtisam Mohammed Al-Hamdi. She has been one of the active figures in public life, including politics. She has now moved into the sphere of marketing and advertising.

Ibtisam, 32, from conservative Thula - 30 kilometers northwest of Sanaa - is a graduate of the College of Commerce in Cairo. After her graduation, she worked with the government for some time. She participated in many voluntary activities.

Today, she is the owner and manager of one of the successful businesses in Sanaa.

Yusuf Shareef of Yemen Times spoke to her about her business.

Excerpts:

**Q: What kind of business are you in?**

**A:** Initially, I began in marketing and advertising. I had been involved in this during my career and academic study in the university. I came to understand the market and the companies interested in working in Yemen. The Yemeni market is different from those of most other counties in the region. The laws prevalent in the world market do not suit the Yemeni market, at least, not easily. Therefore, it is part of my job to give advice and suggestions to companies doing business here. I also discuss ways and means to increase their commercial activities in the country.

That is my business. Helping companies in marketing their products and arranging public relations and advertising.

**Q: Do you provide such service on a commission basis, or is it a consultancy fee, or is an umbrella contract?**

**A:** I do marketing in the general sense of the word. This includes advertising, publicity and conducting market research in order to ascertain the conditions of the local markets. I aim to help the companies which I deal with by increasing the distribution and sales of their products. I also deal with advertising and publicity materials like newspaper advertisements, placards, signs, etc. The service can be rendered in many formats. As you mentioned, it can be done on a commission basis for a fixed job, or a consultancy fee, or a contract or a retention, or any other way.

**Q: How large is your business?**

**A:** In terms of employees, it is

small. But, in terms of turnover, it is respectable. People no longer assess the strength and size of a business by the number of employees.

**Q: How did you decide to become a business-woman?**

**A:** I have been a rebel since childhood. When I decide to do something, I become determined to see it through and reap its fruits. I have the ability to withstand the consequences of my actions and choices.

When I worked for the government in the field of education, it was comparatively comfortable, but found myself under the control of my superiors. I was quite good as a teacher, but when I was transferred to the department of kindergartens, clashes and disagreements started with my superiors. I have been known, since childhood, for my refusal to comply with repressive form of authority. Therefore, I decided to quit working for the government and be the "master" of my destiny. In a sense it was the drive to be my own boss that finally made me start my own business. That was last year, when I started my company "New Generation". The choice of the very name does tell something.

**Q: How did you choose the field of marketing and advertising?**

**A:** I had explained earlier that even during my study years in Cairo and my career in education, I had been involved in some marketing activities. I found it challenging and interesting. Besides, it does not require a lot of capital up-front, and the fruits are good.

Finally, it is the kind of business in which you meet a lot of people and you do a much leg-work and lots of communicating.

**Q: Was there any difficulty in registering a company under a female name with the authorities?**

**A:** No. There was no objection or difficulty to register the company. Well, some of



the government staff members were amused, but it did not go beyond some comical gestures.

**Q: Have you asked for permission or even a nod of consent from your husband or other members of family before embarking on this work?**

**A:** Of course, I talked about it with my immediate family. But that was not in the form getting permission, but in the form of keeping them informed of my ideas and plans.

It is within my capability and right to take my own decisions. I am a full adult and I do not feel I need anyone's permission for pursuing my career.

For the record, let me say that there was no objection from my family or my husband to start this business.

It is really quite ordinary to open an office and there is no statement in the law which forbids such work by women.

**Q: What were the major obstacles you faced in going out to work on your own?**

**A:** I found that the values which I got from my parents were well in advance of the traditions that control our society. When I started work, I immediately sensed the discriminating treatment of women by society. However, the most astonishing and frustrating discouragements I got were from women! Many of my female friends used to say to me, "This line of work is very hard for men to cope with, you'll never be able deal with it!"

**Q: Has being a woman added to your worries at work?**

**A:** Yes, of course. The launch of my office was quite unconventional. It was a widely publicized affair. It would have been much easier if it had been done in a less visible way.

**Q: Do you think the state or any other organ can help accelerate the chance of women setting up their own businesses?**

**A:** There is a need for a syndicate or a union to defend the rights of women in the private sector. What we need is cooperation and coordination among us to defend

our rights. This will be a big step forward.

**Q: Do you have any advice to give to women who want to start up their own business?**

**A:** I think they should be strong, capable of enduring the problems that they will definitely face in their work. It is not easy to violate traditions, values and habits. In general, they should depend on themselves and be patient in facing obstacles that they may encounter. There are two kinds of difficulties: The difficulties of work and the difficulties of being a women.

**Q: What about your experience regarding clients?**

**A:** Many of our customers are, by now, contented with our work. At first, it was a little bit awkward for some men to handle a woman on the other side of the table as an equal business partner. There are a lot of men who are really supportive. Some came to visit with fun in mind. They had ulterior motives. They don't see a business partner, they just see a woman. Sometimes you have to be harsh with such persons and make them wake up.

**Q: Are there any individuals who supported you?**

**A:** Yes, there are quite a few. I

have already mentioned my husband and family. They gave me their trust and support.

Among outsiders who helped me were Dr. Hamid Al-Iryani and Abdulla Faris. They were, and continue to be, reliable friends.

**Q: What is your plan for the future?**

**A:** I think that I have put my foot on the first step on the ladder of success and I am very optimistic about the future.

I direct these words to men: You must give us the opportunity to prove ourselves, as women capable of clear thinking and excellent work.

**Q: Did your involvement in public life help?**

**A:** Yes, I was involved in a lot of public activities such as voluntary work through NGOs. I was also involved in promoting women's rights, and more recently, in direct politics. The experience of working with men was helpful.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I want to tell you journalists have a major role to play. You can explain that women are capable of almost everything that men can do.

I want to give credit to the Yemen Times which constantly writes about women and their rights. Together, we can work for a better and more prosperous Yemen.

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Hamish Daniel:

**"I am delighted that Britain's bilateral relations with Yemen have shown much progress in the period of my assignment."**

Mr. Hamish Daniel, Deputy Chief of Mission at the UK Embassy, is leaving Sanaa after having served here for over two years. His new post is at the UK embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Hamish was quite active. He frequently visited many parts of the country. His network of friends has also been extensive.

Mr. Daniel is succeeded in Sanaa by Mr. David Pearce, who flew in from London on October 16th.

On this occasion, Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Daniel.



**Q: What are your impressions of Yemen?**

**A:** I have much enjoyed my time in Yemen. I arrived in August 1994 and have been excited by the prospect of serving in Yemen at a time of major political and economic progress. I leave Yemen for my new posting in Jakarta, Indonesia. I was delighted to learn that there are several million Yemenis present in that country. That will give me the opportunity to continue my contacts with the Yemeni people.

**Q: How would you describe Yemeni-British relations today?**

**A:** I am delighted that Britain's bilateral relations with Yemen have shown much progress in the period of my assignment. These changes have been brought about at the highest possible level. Yemen's Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdul Karim al-Iriani, had the opportunity to visit the UK in May this year. The next step in furthering the relationship will be marked by the visit of Britain's Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, to Yemen on 5 and 6 November. We will then have a visit by Britain's Minister for Trade in mid-November.

The Ambassador and I have had many contacts with Yemenis both here in Yemen and in the UK and have developed close personal relationships with many people. I am particularly delighted that the Yemeni/British Friendship Society is so active and that their sister organization, the British Yemeni Society, have many of their members visiting Yemen at present.

**Q: There have been a number of British trade missions to Yemen. Any results?**

**A:** There has also been much progress in developing commercial ties. Mr. Nelson's visit in November is an indicator of how seriously we want to expand. There has been much trade between Britain and the Yemen for many years. We hope to assist Yemen in developing an enterprise initiative. This year there have been two trade missions to Yemen. The companies participating have been excited by the prospects they have identified.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I leave Yemen in a few days time. I want to take the opportunity provided by the Yemen Times to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity shown to me and to the other members of the British Embassy. Yemen will remain very much in my thoughts. I am delighted to have been able to have seen much of this beautiful country. I hope to visit again in the future, to keep in contact with my many friends and I look forward to seeing further progress as Yemen develops.

## Communiqué of the Shura Council of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)

The Shura Council of Islah had held its fifth ordinary session in Sanaa from 10th to 12th Second Jumada, 1417 AH. (22-24 Oct. 1996). This session takes an exceptional importance because it coincided with our people's celebrations of the September-October Revolutions in an atmosphere of anticipation of the upcoming parliamentary elections. Islah is also preparing to hold the second session of the First General Conference during the next few days.

After ratifying its work agenda, the Shura Council heard the Secretary General's report on the most important organizational activities and national issues and developments. The issues included in the report were discussed by the council in a friendly and responsible atmosphere. The council has taken the following steps and decisions:

### First, on the Organization Side,

1) The council praised the efforts of the Supreme Board headed by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar and the General Secretariat.

2) The council expressed its gratitude for the local executive offices and all members and supporters of Islah for their exceptional efforts and patience in performing their duties.

3) The council has ratified the general statute chapter concerned with membership in Islah as a preliminary step to presenting it to the second session of the General conference.

4) The council emphasized the importance of organization, continuity and holding orientation programs for the members in order to help them follow the changes and developments in Yemen.

### Second, on Issues of Public Concern,

The Council reviewed the general circumstances of the country and the problems facing our citizens. The Council holds the view that these circumstances and problems that burden the citizens require more efforts to remedy them. Accordingly the Council stresses the following points:

1) The importance of conforming to law and constitution and enhancing the democratic Shura approach and protecting it from any failures. It also stresses the importance of improving the climate of freedom, human rights and dialogue as Islamic principles and original Yemeni values. These values represent a means for peacefully resolving conflicts and expressing different points of view. Dialogue is a peaceful and safe method for uniting the people and avoiding any conflicts that are detrimental to the nation.

In this respect, the Council expressed its commendation for the dialogue being held between Islah and other political parties. Such dialogue represent a healthy and positive indicator in the political field and a correct means to enhance the democratic approach and raise the level of political activities in the country.

2) Urges Government commitment to implementing the budget as enacted by parliament and not to spend the allocations in other than their specified fields. The commitment should also cover implementing developmental and utility projects outlined in the budget and ensuring their just distribution among the various regions of the country.

3) Government should improve services so as to satisfy at least the minimum needs of the citizens. It should give deprived areas especially southern and eastern regions the highest priority in this regard.

4) Government should enable the security apparatus and the judiciary to perform their full constitutional and legal duties in establishing safety and justice and protecting rights and freedoms.

5) Government should expend great efforts to avoid the shortcomings of the information apparatus so that it can realistically reflect the true values of the Islamic Yemeni society. The media should make active contribution to enhancing the values of Shura and democracy and present an example of conformity to law, constitution and neutrality.

### Third, on Elections,

The Council reviewed the procedures of registration that are the corner-stone to the elections process. Registration for election were plagued by many wrong practices that ran contrary to the constitution. The council rejects and condemns such irresponsible practices. It regards the elections as a means to bring forward the best and most capable elements of society. Elections also help in reducing tension and enhancing political and social stability.

In this respect the Council emphasizes the following:

1) The importance of providing guarantees for free and clean elections and providing equal opportunities for all candidates and political powers. Public funds and public civil administration must never be used for the benefit of any one of the political parties.

2) The irregular and unconstitutional practices that took place up to now have created an atmosphere of suspicion and worry within society. This situation renders the continuation in the elections process or holding any future referendums not possible without correcting the errors and wrong practices. The Supreme Elections Committee and all of its sub-committees must have a proper legitimacy according to law number 27 of 1996. There is still enough time to rectify all shortcomings if good and truthful intentions exist, away from accusations and counter accusations. The public should be informed of all steps taken so as to assure all citizens and political powers of honesty and correctness. Determination to proceed without taking the necessary corrective measures will fling the door wide open for the evil forces to use the suspicions towards the elections as a weapon that may jeopardize the future of the whole country.

3) The elections must be held in their constitutionally specified time. Any obstruction could lead to great dangers. Honesty in this regard is not a matter of simple talk, but the earnest work on the ground that can contribute to the integrity and credibility of all election procedures.

4) The Council commends the responsible and neutral stances adopted by some government officials and public figures.

5) The Council praises the dialogue carried out by the Supreme Board and General Secretariat with the People's General Congress (PGC) and other political parties and organizations. The Council also agreed on continuing the dialogue in order to achieve free and clean elections. The Council will receive a full report in an exceptional meeting regarding the outcome of such dialogue.

### Fourth, on Relations with the PGC,

The Council reviewed the development of relations with the PGC and stressed on keeping them strong. These relations are not newly established but were based on strong, historical and ideological grounds of shared struggle. The coalition between the two organizations is built on basic national foundations untainted by any narrow interests. Their basic and greatest aim is, first and foremost, to serve Yemen and alleviate the suffering of its people. They look forward to establishing the state of law and order, achieving justice and shura, erecting the correct social structure, guaranteeing freedom and human rights and upholding all lofty values. Towards that end, the Council emphasizes the following:

1) Calls upon the coalition government to be conscious of its big responsibility towards the country and the two parties, particularly during this very sensitive time. The government must work during the time left to rectify any errors and shortcomings so as to fully implement the program upon which it gained the confidence of parliament. It must also implement the promised program of financial and administrative reform so as to alleviate the people's suffering and provide them with better public services. The Council calls upon this government to conduct a full evaluation of its performances.

2) The Council directs the grass-roots of Islah and calls upon those of the PGC to fully comprehend the dangerous consequences of conflict not only on the two parties, but also on the nation as a whole. This shows the importance of uncovering conspiracies and machinations instigated and perpetrated by hateful elements.

3) It is essential that the media belonging to the two parties should refrain from all harmful rhetoric and must offer a forum for objectivity and honest opinions.

4) The Council values the role performed by the leadership of the coalition headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh in solving problems and intensifying meetings in order to remove obstacles, resolve conflicts and strengthen national unity.

### Fifth, on Foreign Issues,

1) The Council acknowledges the role performed by the political leadership in dealing with the Eritrean aggression on the island of Greater Hunaish. It calls to proceed on peaceful arbitration between Yemen and Eritrea to be publicly declared.

2) The Council expresses its praise for developing relations with Saudi Arabia and the bilateral meetings and visits at all levels. It hopes that these relations will become stronger and more deeply rooted and offer an example.

3) The Council reviewed the suffering of the Palestinians and the daily killings, evictions, blockades and oppression they face. It also reviewed the continuous attempts to obliterate the Islamic features of Jerusalem and the criminal attempts to destroy Al-Aqsa Mosque to replace it with the Temple of Solomon. The Council completely rejects all these practices and reminds the Arab and Islamic nations of their holy duties towards Palestine, the land of the third holy shrine. It also calls on all Palestinians to unite and face this Zionist conspiracy.

4) The Council holds the international community responsible for protecting the unity of Iraqi people and integrity of Iraq. It calls to end the embargo, and suffering of the people. It also calls for ending the blockade imposed on Libya and Sudan.

5) The Council calls on the Organization of Islamic Conference to play a serious role in ending the bloodshed in Afghanistan and to search for a comprehensive solution that serves the high interests of the Islamic nation and conserves its dignity and grace. It also calls this organization to end the fighting and bloodshed in Somalia and Kurdistan.

6) The Council calls on all Arab leaders to work to re-establish Arab solidarity and revive the role of the Arab league in order to protect the shared interest of Arabs and conserve security, grace and dignity.

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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## "In God We Trust"

Mr. Khalis did not understand my thinking, contentions or political affiliations, as evidenced from his response to me last week. "Islam on the Move" as I projected in Common Sense Issue No. 37 (CS/37) was out of place in the contents of last week's critique on the aforementioned Common Sense article. Last week's effort raises several questions, however. The most obvious being that despite the passage of two months, why was the effort characterized by incorrect judgment on matters and issues I did not even touch upon on CS/37, six issues back?

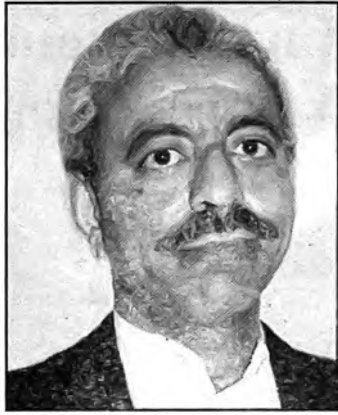
I encourage readers to express their views on my humble contributions through the Yemen Times, but I would expect that such views do not take things out of context, nor inapplicable implications and motivations made. I would also hope that the views would be in tune with the intentions behind Common Sense commentary. Common Sense is more a reflective commentary on observations of the forces at work which shape the events of our times, locally, regionally or internationally.

The column is not meant to propagate any partisan or dogmatic view, or any predilection towards any organized movement. Nor is the column associated with promoting any political inclinations that the Yemen Times should find favor in adopting. While Common Sense may reflect upon the political connotations of the

circumstances being discussed, such reflections are not meant to suggest active political engagement or association of any kind by me, or this paper. In fact, the active political performance of the paper never goes beyond reading, writing and voting.

There are some important revelations that come to light from Mr. Khalis' position and insinuations. The article underlines the fact that many intellectuals are indeed lost when it comes to the adoption of clear and concise principles, especially when it comes to matters of sentiment and cultural and spiritual affiliation. Many intellectuals tend to overrate their academic and cultural attainments, and thus place themselves in closed shells of elitism. This does not change the fact that these same individuals are incapable of relating to their cultural and spiritual origins, nor of finding their place in the world which they envision as the only right world appropriate for their people - intellect without wisdom.

While not finding any significant points of intersection between CS/37 and the critique of last week, one is bound to point out the unusually high level of inaccuracies and inconsistencies of thought and general misunderstanding in Khalis's views on historical, social and cultural development, regionally as well as internationally. The problem here is where to begin?! I will start by asking Mr.



Khalis to read CS/37 again carefully and without any prejudice or tendency to reach quick conclusions. Needless to say, CS/37 shall stand on its own merits and little, if any, of Mr. Khalis' insinuations change the level of propriety of the observations made nor suggest a more digestible trend. Islam, as I see it, is a dynamic force, which is increasingly determining the course of regional as well as international affairs. This was the crux of the message behind CS/37.

In 1976, I visited the island of Rhodes, once a Turkish island fortress, which was handed over to the Greeks by the British earlier this century, as was Cyprus later on. I remember walking in the old part of the city, along with some of the other fellow Arabs, who were all attending a bankers' executive training course in Athens at the time. The four of us were in a small humble gift shop owned by an indigenous resident of the island, whose Turkish origins could not be overlooked. He had conspicuously guided us into the store. He was so delighted that he could get a chance to speak to his "Muslim brothers" who had come to Rhodes. He was a little over middle age and apparently had seen the "ethnic cleansing" efforts of the Greek occupiers in their slow progressing drive to eliminate any Islamic or Turkish

social or cultural marks on the island. His first tasks were to convey to us that he was a Muslim and that his children were secretly studying the Quran, as is the case of all Muslim children on the island. Such teaching has to be discreet, for the Greek authorities are not inclined to tolerate open and institutionalized Islamic schooling.

He always referred to himself as a Muslim and not a "Turk" and he tied the Greek intolerance of the indigenous people of Rhodes to their Islamic affiliation, rather than their "Turkish" association. He pointed out that they are only allowed to use the Mosques on Fridays for prayers. During the rest of the week tourists' feet were allowed to tread between the pillars, "with shoes on" (as our Rhodesian friend illustrated angrily).

I had wondered before why the Muezzin's call was not heard as there are a lot of mosques still to be found on the island. The Muslims then tried to explain to us that when the Greeks took over the island they started to drive the Muslims out by intimidation, religious persecution and other forms of pressure. Some bowed down to it, packed and left for Turkey and other Muslim countries, but many, like himself were adamant on not capitulating to the pressure. They would resist as long as possible and find ways to circumvent the pressure, until Allah may restore their rights, one way or the other. He wanted us to deliver a message to the Muslims of the world, that their brethren in Rhodes should not be ignored. It is every Muslim's duty to uphold the rights of his Muslim brothers everywhere, regardless of nationality. This is the grass-roots universal approach referred to in CS/37, which seems to have been misunderstood.

I do not think that grass-roots approach should be considered unnecessary "sentiment". It is not in tune with the denial of the contention that a Muslim Nation does exist, which Mr. Khalis seems to have overlooked as one of the most important attributes of Islam. It would be misleading to view the Islamic notion of nationhood to the various "nations" suggested by the latter, and certainly, it would be a sin to suggest that the Zionist conception of nationalism fits well with the Islamic "Ummah concept". It is clear that Mr. Khalis has distorted views of his own "nation" and naive inspirations about other national movements of the world. Incidentally, it was Allah who labeled his faithful worshippers "Ummat al-Islam" and not I, which Mr. Khalis could take note of.

In any case, why should Mr. Khalis worry about a revival of an Islamic Nation that extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with considerable human and material resources and a large culture mix of many active backgrounds that provide sizable contributions to overall human civilized development? Is he pleased that at the present time it is harder for a Yemeni to go to Saudi Arabia than to London or New York? Does he find it realistic that with unemployment so high in the Arab World, that the Gulf states rely on non-Arab or even non-Muslim nationals for their labor and service sectors?

So many more misconceptions, illusions and sometimes even absurd suggestions were packaged by Mr. Khalis bombard in his belated 'right to express his opinions', that I am bound to wonder what all his talk is leading to.

At least, it was irrelevant to the material of the Common Sense he was supposedly criticizing. In fact, Mr. Khalis insisted on mainly discussing matters and

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issues I did not even touch on! Since Mr. Khalis had intentionally, or unintentionally, forgotten to give reference to the title of the article he thought he was putting on the guillotine, it would seem plausible that the commentator could easily forget the articles contents as well, intentionally or otherwise!

An interesting element of Mr. Khalis' "down to earth" "non-sentimental" approach to culture and religion is the naive belief that religion, whether in the East or the West has taken a back row seat in the theatre of life of the world's people. Religion, he says, was okay for the past, but now it is the enemy of science, and a stonewall barrier to human progress!

Now we come to the matter of vague enemies. I will only refresh Saad's mind that the Serbs, who were raping Muslim women all over the gentle slopes of Bosnia were not vague at all about their "ethnic cleansing" campaign. The thousands of Muslims who have been killed by Indian troops in Kashmir and the millions there being denied their most basic human and political rights, in full defiance of international legitimacy, as well, have a very clear enemy confronting them, which sees no problem in giving the Muslim minority in the rest of the subcontinent a hard and sometimes bloody display of intolerance.

The opening of the "tourist tunnel", as Israel's media supporters in the Western Press have discreetly excused it, has nothing to do with religion, as Mr. Khalis would have us think! One can go on and on with examples from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Now we come to the discussion of Revolutionary Islam as the Western Press labeled it. It was the Ayatollahs of Iran who dissolved the Pahlavi regime in Tehran - not I. If the Islamic religious overtones of the coup in Iran were amiss to Mr. Khalis, then the latter can easily be judged as immature, to say the least, when attempting to analyze political situations. Ayatullah Khomeini would certainly turn in his grave if he ever heard such an assessment of his motivating factors.

As for the suggestion that the West's retirement of religion (thus finding the avenues to progress), again, the analysis fails to take note of the fact that the religious reforms of the West were inspired by the fact that a

narrow-minded "church" was absent in Muslim societies and thus allowed them to surpass the West in cultural and scientific development for centuries while the church blanketed Europe with darkness for a thousand years, which drove the Europeans to limit the Church's influences on the right to think.

Islamic scientific advances provided the basic cornerstones for the "Renaissance". On the other hand anyone who has lived in the West and got a feel of Western thought and culture would not fail to note the significant weight of religion in the respective societies. Mr. Khalis probably is unaware that the various Church congregations hold and manage the largest amassment of capital of any Western institutions or establishments. Mr. Khalis would also fail to realize that an inescapable share of Western philanthropy is tied to religions associations and missionary activities. Close to a million missionaries are spread out throughout the world 'delivering' the message of Jesus to all the heathens of the world, of whom Muslims are still to a large extent regarded. Billions of dollars are invested to deliver notions, as given in last week's CS, to gullible intellectuals who are keen on showing the western representations in the area that their thinking is running in parallel ways.

Finally, to give Mr. Khalis an idea of the level to which religion influences Western thought and culture, the biblical roots of modern Western literature are still deep. On the other hand, it might be suggested that Mr. Khalis go over the stamped motto that is to be found on every minted or printed currency of the United States - the leading Western nation and the global superpower of our times. He would probably be stunned to find that America's mighty dollar and all the other denominations of US currency are engraved with the motto, "In God We Trust".

There is nothing wrong with that at all, or is there, Mr. Khalis? Best wishes for more meaningful and worthwhile opinions. Common Sense must not be depicted as any mumble jumble of words. Common Sense requires clear motivations, sincere enhancement of truth, reason and a feeling for the reader's level of comprehension, which a writer must always respect.



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## TeleYemen's New Service: International Telephone Cards

TeleYemen has become, in many ways, a symbol of Yemeni-British cooperation. It is, after all, a successful joint venture between Cable and Wireless of Britain and Yemen's Public Telecommunications Corporation. Given the new services TeleYemen has introduced, and the others being planned, Mr. Ismail Al-Ghabry, Head of the Sanaa Bureau of Yemen Times, interviewed Alan Wilson Oldfield, General Manager of TeleYemen. Extracts.

**Q: How do you assess the introduction of Internet Services in Yemen?**

**A:** We introduced the Internet service at the beginning of September, and a great deal of interest was aroused. Before that time, we had kept a list of people who had contacted us in

connection with the Internet and we began by offering them a service in a logically ordered way.

Our objective has been to provide the best service possible. So we have worked with each customer to help overcome any difficulties in adapting his or her personal computer to accommodate the Internet.

We now have over 250 customers connected and the total is growing daily, as news of the (Internet) service is gradually passed around the community.

**Q: Do you have the technical support base for the service?**

**A:** Yes. Our objective is to be technically proficient and independent in all areas of our operation. We ensure that our staff are fully trained on each and every aspect of our operation. The Internet is no exception and our staff have received extensive training on the system.

Our technical support base is

required not only for operation and maintenance, but also for planning network growth and expansion. To expand a telephone network efficiently and effectively, it is necessary to constantly optimize customer demand, equipment provisioning, and the network configuration. This is what we do in all our networks and again the Internet is no exception.

**Q: The Mobile phone service is back. What is the story behind it?**

**A:** We are very pleased indeed that the authorities have given permission to reconnect the mobile service. We have begun reconnection of the existing customer base as appropriate and in the three weeks since commencement, we have reconnected over 2500 customers.

You will realize that reconnection is time consuming. We are reconnecting customers as fast

as we can on a first come first served basis, providing all their outstanding bills are up to date and their documentation is in order.

**Q: We understand you are planning many services, like the card call phone. What are the details?**

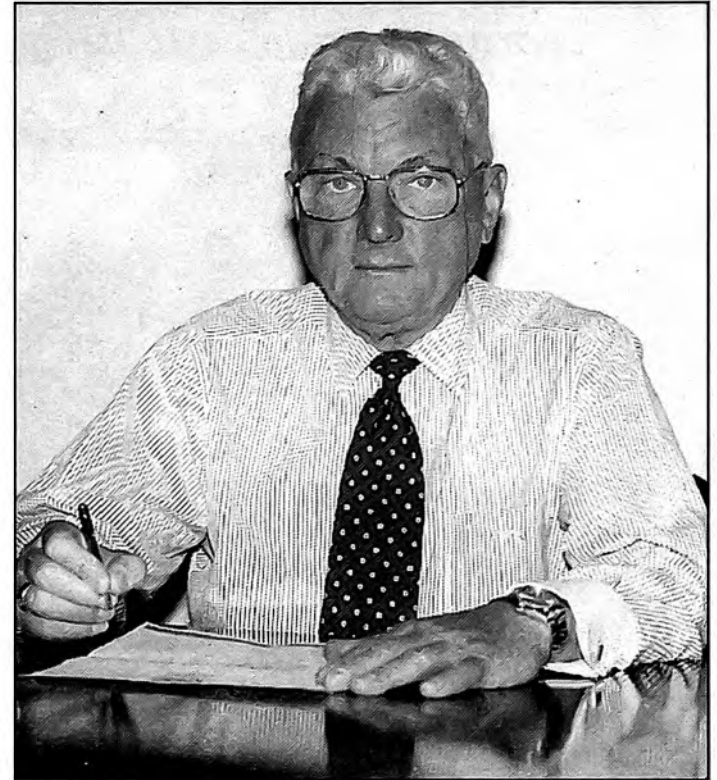
**A:** Yes, we have a number of new services in planning and these will gradually be launched throughout the coming year. The object in all cases is to enable the people of Yemen at large to be able to make international telephone calls easier.

Your question mentions our Calling Card Service in particular and we intend to issue two types of card. The Gold Card will offer full national and international calling from within Yemen and from more than 60 countries worldwide with billing to the customer in Yemen. The Silver Card will offer full international calling facilities from any telephone within Yemen with billing to the customer in Yemen.

In addition, we will be extending the Home Direct Service to all telephones, which again will further expand international calling opportunities.

**Q: Could you give us a brief background of the experience of Cable and Wireless in the Yemeni market?**

**A:** Cable and Wireless first came to Sana'a in 1971, and introduced international services. This was expanded and



in 1990, TeleYemen was formed with a license agreement to operate all international services. Under the license agreement, royalty payments are made to the Yemeni Government.

TeleYemen benefits from the involvement of Cable and Wireless because they provide managerial and technical support of world class standard and assist TeleYemen in many respects. Over 99% of TeleYemen staff, however, are local Yemeni nationals. A fact of which we at TeleYemen are very proud.

**Q: How do the international call rates compare with other countries?**

**A:** International call rates from Yemen compare favourably with other countries in the region. In

fact, international calls from Yemen are cheaper now in real terms than they were 5 years ago. But because of the devaluation of the Riyal, the common conception is that they are more expensive.

**Q: How do international calls from Aden and Sana'a compare in terms of growth?**

**A:** As you are aware, international calls reflect, to a certain extent, the international trade activity of a country.

In this respect, international calls from Yemen in general are growing with Sana'a marginally ahead of Aden. However, we believe that the Free Trade Zone in Aden will have a major impact and we are anticipating this in our forward planning.

## World Food Summit: A Global Approach to Beat Hunger

In assessing the development pattern of humanity in the last two hundred years, people tend to be attracted by the successful changes in standards of living. Comfort, leisure and luxury have attained unprecedented levels shared by the world population. But there are also development trends which present serious distortions between what may be agreeable and what might continue to sow seeds of unrest and instability leading to a chronic threat to world peace. There is a side to development that could suggest that illusions of the state of the world must be readjusted to reflect that disparity in human conditions amongst the world population. This is the dark-side of the phenomenal progress which mankind has achieved.

The world population has now reached the point where the available resources are in need of more effective management standards that will channel them in the direction of being capable of avoiding disparity and human misery and suffering.

During 13-17 November 1996, leaders of some 180 countries are going to be asked in Rome to make a commitment to achieve the World Food Summit goal of "Food for All". This conference is expected to achieve important developments in the fight against human hunger.

1) The issues of food and nutrition shall assume a higher priority status, and will fix the responsibilities of fighting hunger and alleviating flood supply and distribution irregularities and misappropriations on the leadership of the world.

2) The World Summit will raise the level of concern towards the achievement of sustainable food supplies for the present and future generations, in conjunction with other development goals that work to raise standards of living and the participation of all members of the societies of the world in the production sectors and in equitable returns of society's productive capacity.

Two of the important concepts in development that have increasingly appeared in the literature of development agencies and organizations are empowerment and access. The two are fundamentally associated. In 'Food and Nutrition For All', the issue becomes paramount when we realize that food and nutritional production, on a world-wide basis is, in terms of output, sufficient to meet the requirements of everyone in the world. But, is everyone capable of obtaining their needs of food and nutrition, with equal ease and satisfaction?

At present, the numbers are not encouraging:

1) Approximately 800 million people are chronically undernourished - a frightening number - 20% of populations of developing countries.

2) 80 Countries in the world are unable to feed their populations through production and/or food imports.

3) 43% of sub-Saharan Africa's population is starving.

What the above facts clearly indicate is that a sizable population of the world, most of whom in developing countries with insignificant or negative growth rates that is unable to meet sustenance needs of the populations.

Close to half the countries in the world are unable to produce sufficient foods for their people, nor do

they have the resources to make up for their shortages by purchases of food from other countries. Yet even in these countries there are segments of the populations which do not suffer, which create the basis of social ills since a large element of the population do not have access to an adequate food supply - on a systematic basis.

On the problem of Africa, the problem seems to be the resources of the continent are poorly exploited and their benefits are not easily accessible to the majority of the populations. Political instability and violent conflicts tend to stall efforts to solve the food shortage problems and other poverty associated ills.

Food production, on a world-wide basis has kept pace with population growth. In the decades leading to 2050, by which time most of the increase will have taken place, world population growth will dominate over other demographic factors as the primary cause of increasing global food demand.

Thus further food production increases will be challenged by pressure of consumption demands as well as the effects of such increase in production on the ecology and environment. Then, there is the decreasing availability of land, and depletion of water resources in many areas of the world.

It becomes obvious that the international community must work together to find solutions to existing food and nutritional deficiencies, and to establish the food production and accessibility programs that will meet the increasing demands for food over the next half century. That is why the Food and Agricultural Organization has called on world leaders to re-establish commitments that will not just deal with increasing food production, but with parallel commitments to solve the development issues and social disparities that will continue to prevent access to food to all the elements of the world population. The World Food Summit is a result of a call made during the FAO conference (28th Session) held in October 1995. The UN General Assembly subsequently endorsed the conference by unanimous vote.

The Summit will be expected to mobilize all the government departments required to provide a comprehensive vision of the multiple dimensions of the food issues to enable the heads of state to come to the conference prepared with a comprehensive vision.

The actions that the conference will precipitate into the following principal areas

- political, macroeconomics and trade conditions needed to foster food security
- policies and institutions that contribute to improving access to food for all.
- meeting transitory and emergency food needs in ways that encourage development.
- approaches to agricultural and rural development that encourage adequate, stable food supplies.
- equitable involvement of all people in decisions and actions that affect their food security.
- investment in research, extension, infrastructure and institutions for sustainable agriculture.
- international cooperation and assistance for food and agriculture.



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## Leprosy Continues to Haunt its Victims:

# In Spite of Progress...

Almost 100 years ago, when the First International Leprosy Congress was held in Berlin in 1897, the only point on which all experts agreed was that leprosy was incurable. Now, on the threshold of a new century, not only is there a cure for the disease but the World Health Organization can actually foresee eliminating leprosy worldwide as a public health problem by the year 2000 (less than one case per 10,000 population).

In 1984, WHO estimated that there were 10-12 million leprosy sufferers in the world. Today, more than 8 million cases have been cured, the estimated number of patients requiring treatment is less than 1.3 million, and more than two-thirds of these are already receiving therapy. Over the past decade the use of improved therapy has reduced the leprosy burden by more than 80%, and in May 1996 the total number of registered cases receiving therapy fell below 1 million.

The "miracle cure" that has made this possible is multidrug therapy (MDT), a cocktail of three drugs -- rifampicin, clofazimine and dapsone -- which prevents the leprosy bacillus *Mycobacterium leprae* from becoming resistant. Treatment consists of simply taking the drugs regularly at the right intervals and over the right periods of time, the complete regimen being 6 months for paucibacillary leprosy and 2 years for multibacillary leprosy.

### Disease Burden:

\* There are currently an estimated 1,260,000 leprosy sufferers in the world.

\* Of these, 940,000 people are registered for treatment, of whom 90% are receiving MDT.

\* Between 1-2 million individuals are disabled because of past or present leprosy. Since MDT was introduced, it is estimated to have prevented about 2 million patients are suffering new disabilities.

\* Leprosy is endemic in 60 countries, headed by India (543,000 cases) followed by Brazil (138,000), Indonesia (42,000), Myanmar (21,000) and Nigeria (17,000).

\* More than half a million new cases of leprosy are diagnosed each year.

### Global Action:

Finding leprosy cases is no simple matter. Many infected people live in remote and inaccessible communities, and the stigma attached to the disease keeps families and communities from reporting cases even to the health teams who can rapidly cure them.

There are two new initiatives aimed at eliminating leprosy world wide. Special Action Projects for the Elimination of Leprosy (SAPEL) provide MDT services to patients living in difficult-to-access areas or situations and to members of neglected population groups such as nomads, migrants and refugees. Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (LEC) seek to detect leprosy cases -- especially "cases of consequence" that remain undetected in the community due to lack of awareness about the disease or because leprosy services are inadequate -- and to treat them with MDT.

In the next four years before the year 2000, an estimated 2 million cases of leprosy will need diagnosis and MDT treatment. Large numbers of cases are being newly diagnosed every year as the world-wide elimination drive gains momentum.

With regard to disabilities in leprosy, the earliest possible diagnosis and treatment is the best way to prevent complications. Long after the disease has been eliminated, there will be a residual tally of disabled persons needing care and rehabilitation.

### Collaboration:

The all-important partners in the elimination effort apart from WHO include: national leprosy control programs in all endemic countries; NGOs and charitable bodies working in the leprosy field, many of them members of the international Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP); the Nippon Foundation of Japan and many others. The World Bank is among several world bodies which provide financial aid to leprosy programs. The especial contribution of the Nippon Foundation, announced at the First International Conference on the Elimination of Leprosy held in Hanoi, Vietnam, in July 1994, was to pledge US\$ 10 million annually until the year 2000 for the supply of MDT drugs, through WHO and free of charge to all patients in need.

### Future Challenges:

It is possible to reach 2 million more patients by the year 2000. But the world has to ensure that there are adequate resources to achieve elimination by that time. Eliminating leprosy over the next four years will cost the international community an estimated US\$ 300-400 million, including \$65 million for MDT drug supply and management.

### The Situation in Yemen:

The socio-cultural stigma associated with leprosy created immense human misery as well as difficulties in treatment. Leprosy victims are first hidden from the public, and then ostracized and shunned to a life of isolation in remote areas until they die. If a person catches the disease, his/her life is practically over. The spouse and family would dis-engage, the property would be taken away, and the patient would be sent away to any far-away place.

During the 1980s and 1990s, the messianic drive of one individual, Dr. Abdul-Aleem Al-Qubati, and his team at the National Leprosy Control Program (NLCP) - based in Taiz, have made a difference. Closely working with the NLCP has been the German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA) which has been involved in Yemen's efforts since 1989.

The second major step came in 1992, with the establishment of the Yemen Leprosy Eradication Society (YELEP). Headed by the philanthropist and businessman Ahmed Hayel Saeed, YELEP has financed the treatment and rehabilitation of hundreds of Yemeni lepers.

The total patient-base is estimated today at 3,000, of whom 760 are presently under treatment. "This year alone, we have discovered 360 new cases. In international standard terms, Yemen is a leprosy-free country in the sense that the number of known cases are less than the WHO standard of 1 patient per 10,000 inhabitants. Actually the prevalence rate in Yemen is 4 patients per 100,000," explained Dr. Al-Qubati. But two regions within the country - Hadhramaut and Hodeidah - have prevalence rates higher than the WHO standard of 1:10,000.

The efforts of Dr. Al-Qubati and his team have paid good dividends in the attitude of the general public towards the patients. At one time, people would be scared to be in the company of lepers. Dr. Al-Qubati has come on television on many occasions, touching and hugging lepers. He spends hours with them under the camera. The message: leprosy is not contagious, and you don't get it by shaking the hand of a leper.

The public attitude in Yemen, although changing, is still not friendly. Progress has been made, it is true. Thanks to Dr. Al-Qubati and his team, as well as international donors like WHO, GLRA and others. But more work still needs to be done.

## MENTAL HEALTH OF WOMEN

Today, in many countries, the social environment - one of the most important determinants of health - is characterized by poverty, overcrowded living conditions, unemployment, job insecurity and inequity, a growing number of broken marriages, man-made and natural disasters, wars, ethnic violence, as well as violence against women, children and the aged. Such an environment makes everybody vulnerable to neuropsychiatric disorders. Women are especially exposed to these risks.

Various studies carried out in both developed and developing countries and in different social groups suggest that symptoms of depression and anxiety are more prevalent among women.

In rural Uganda, for instance, major depression was found to affect 22.6% of women and 14.3% of men under 65 years of age. In urban Brazil, neurotic and psychosomatic disorders struck 21% of women, compared to only 8% of men.

In the United Kingdom, of all people diagnosed as mentally ill, 55% are women and 45% are men. A study of a random sample of 9,000 people in the community showed that 33% of women, as against 25% of men, had psychiatric symptoms of anxiety and depression.

Worldwide, the female to male lifetime prevalence ratios for major depression and dysthymia (Chronic depression) are in the ranges of 1.5-3.5 (women) to 1 (men) and 1.7-4.8 to 1 respectively.

There is also growing evidence that gender differences in rates of depression relate to marital status. Being married seems to have a protective effect on men but not on women, since the higher overall rates of depression among women are largely

accounted for by higher rates among married females.

Furthermore, married women with children are at even greater risk of depression than men. Here again, social circumstances are to blame. For example, most married men work outside their homes. A significant proportion of women do not. They have to rely mainly on their role as housewives for identity and self-esteem. This role carries many frustrations, such as constant routine, isolation and lack of income. Moreover, the role of the housewife has been increasingly devalued in modern society.

No better is the situation for women entering the job market. They have to face economic discrimination and job inequity. Much of the work available to them is poorly paid and labour intensive. The combined pressures of conflicting home and work responsibilities on working women can be extremely difficult to cope with. Unfortunately, not many men appreciate this.

Women with a stable partner and one or two children, and who have a part-time income generating job, seem to be less exposed to depression and anxiety disorders.

In addition, violence against women, has been widely recognized as a growing public health problem. Studies have shown that up to 50% of women have been physically abused by their partners at some time in their lives. Half of the abused have been raped by their partners. The issue of women's health is high on the international agenda. This issue was discussed at length at the Fourth International Conference on Women in Beijing (1995). The new interagency UN program "Nations for Mental Health", initiated by the World Health Organization (WHO), has

a special component on the mental health of women.

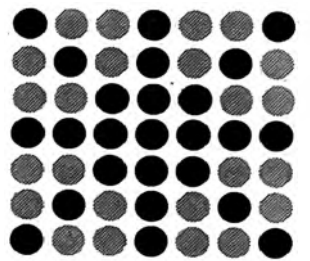
In fact, at a recent meeting in Washington (September, 1996) which brought together the wives of 18 heads of state, ministers of health, ambassadors and mental health experts from 20 countries in the Western Hemisphere, a core group of women leaders was identified to promote women's mental health within the framework of the "Nations for Mental Health" program.

The World Health Organization has highlighted problems of women's mental health in a document on "Psychosocial and Mental Health Aspects of Women's Health". Another document on gender differences in mental disorders is currently in preparation.

WHO has also developed a program with an emphasis on the importance of women's contribution to their children's psychosocial development. One of the aims of the program is to improve the interaction between women and their children.

WHO carries out a multi-country study on the prevalence, health consequences and risk factors of violence against women. The focus is on violence in the family. The study documents and evaluates interventions to prevent such violence and manage its health consequences.

Today, there are an estimated 400 million people with anxiety disorders and 340 million with mood disorders worldwide. A higher proportion of them are women. On the whole, one quarter of the world's population is estimated to be affected at any one time in their life by some kind of neuropsychiatric disorder, including mental, behavioral and substance abuse disorders. Three-quarters of those affected live in developing countries.



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## Vacancy for a Doctor

ICD (International Cooperation for Development) - a British non-governmental organization - is looking for a doctor for a primary health care project which offers services to the refugee population in Sana'a.

The Refugee Health Project requires a doctor with experience in general practice and in MCH. The doctor will be required to provide curative treatment within the center and to manage a referral system to other health facilities where necessary.

Candidates should have demonstrated knowledge of and commitment to work with marginalised communities and ability to transfer their skills to others. Fluency in Somali language as well as command of Arabic and English is required.

For application forms please contact Azza at:

Tel: (01) 275 222

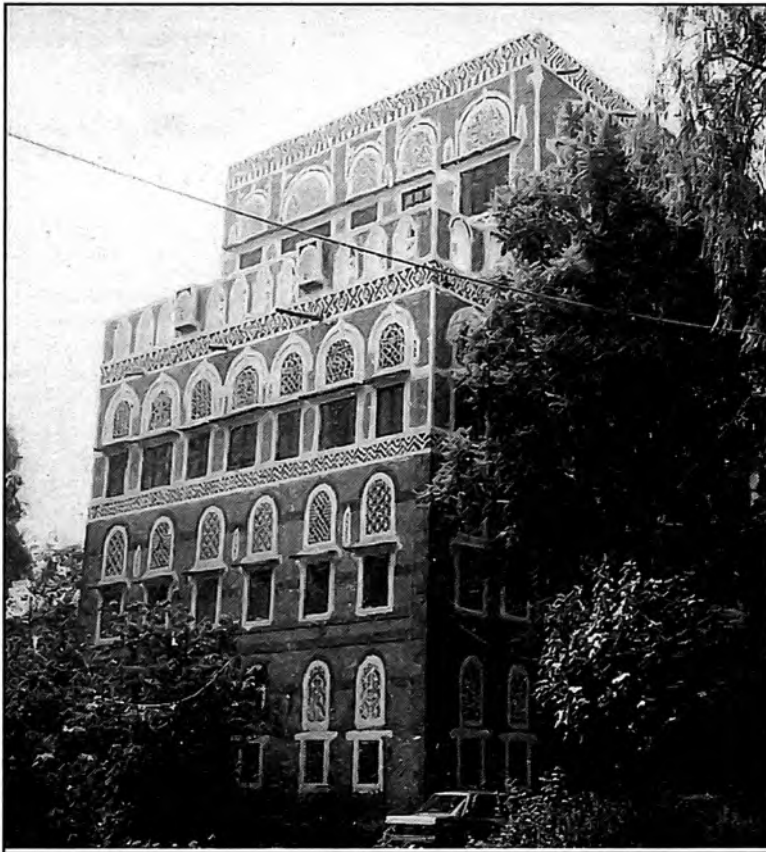
Fax: (01) 276 576

Closing date for submission of applications is  
the 7th of November 1:00 p.m. 1996.



## YEMEN'S ORDINARY HOTELS & THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT

Many are the reasons that make people move or travel from country to country or from city to another within the same country. They may travel for tourism, commercial deals, studies, in search of medical services, family visits and many other activities. People who travel here and there spent a number of days or even weeks as guests of hotels. Hotels, thus, become the first requirement for most of them. Not all of them will use five or four stars hotels. Most of these visitors - especially natives and an increasing number of tourists - use the ordinary hotels. The rates are much lower, and there is a certain family or personal touch in the service.



The buildings of ordinary hotels in Yemen are very adequate. Actually, some of them are old palaces or tall buildings owned by wealthy individuals. The ambience is also appropriate, and gives a feel of Yemen.

Unfortunately, however, ordinary hotels do not apply the minimum requirements of standard services, specially at the present time. From a personal experience, I have noticed that there is a glaring difference in the level of services in these hotels. So, it is important that you check out the reputation of a hotel before you make your booking. Some hotels really offer good services and they have adequate facilities. Others merely show their guests inside the four walls of a room, and that is it.

In 1990, just a few weeks before the unification of the country, I visited Sana'a for the first time in my life. I was with some of my colleagues and we spent two nights in one of the ordinary hotels. My colleagues and I admired the services very much. The rooms were very clean, and in good condition, the corridors, reception, and toilets were also clean and up to the standard. Changing of beds was done daily and so were the towels. Soap and other needs were supplied. I then visited other governorates like Taiz, Ibb and Hodeidah. Again here, the services of the hotels were more than adequate. That was in 1990.

This year, I was again on a tour. Again I had to stay in hotels. This time, hotel services in all the governorates of the republic have fallen to the lowest standard. That is except the five-star hotels which cater almost exclusively to foreigners. This deterioration reflects the owners'/managers' unwillingness to invest in the upkeep of their hotels. It also shows that there is effort on the part of the regulating authority, whether it is the General Tourism Authority, or the Ministry of Tourism. The customers have little say in the whole affair. There is little they can do.

It seems to me that the concerned authorities have completely neglected to follow-up on the condition of the hotels. Once licensed, a hotel owner/manager can stop worrying about the government agency. Of course, with time, a hotel could lose its business if the service falls too much. But that happens after a long, long while.

From a service point of view, I would like to mention here twelve points in relation to hotels. I will concentrate on the ordinary hotels.

1. Every hotel owner should obtain a license from the concerned authorities. Such license should entail commitment towards the upkeep and services. The premises must be kept in good condition and in a hygienic situation according to the laws.
2. Sleeping rooms should be kept clean at all time and in a good state or repair, painted, well lighted and ventilated naturally and artificially.
3. Sleeping rooms should be provided with:-
  - beds in good condition and well repaired.
  - adequate mattress, two sheets, two pillows, two pillow-case, a bed cover, a blanket, a towel, besides a locker, a cupboard, a table, a table-lamp, at least two chairs, a water flask with two cups and a waste paper basket. All bedding should be changed daily or at least every other day and on the

day the guest leaves.

4. All sitting rooms should be kept in a good state, painted and kept clean all the time. Sitting rooms should be provided with enough:

- Comfortable chairs
  - Tables
  - Lighting and ventilation naturally and artificially. There must be a television set in each sitting room.
5. All corridors, verandah and stairs should be kept clean all the time and well lighted and ventilated.
  6. Showers and bath-rooms and toilets should be kept in a good state of repair, painted and kept clean all the time and provided with a good means of lighting, ventilation, hot and cold water, mirrors, toilets papers, cleansing materials and waste paper basket. There must a sufficient supply of clean water - both hot and cold - at all times.
  7. All the windows and entries of the hotel should be sealed adequately in order to prevent the entry of insects, vermin, and rodents into the sleeping rooms and other places in the hotel.
  8. There must be adequate safety features such as fire-fighting equipment, refusal of admission of people with fire-arms, etc.
  9. Daily removal of waste-papers from the hotel. The dust-bins and waste-paper baskets need to be kept clean after the removal of the waste from them.
  10. Finally all the workers in the hotel have to receive medical check-up and they should obtain medical fitness certification from the concerned health authorities. All must be kept clean and well-dressed during their shifts, show good behavior and know how to deal with the guests respectfully.
  11. Hotel front-desk people have to be knowledgeable about their city and about certain paper formalities to help the guests, if they so need.
  12. Food preparation is a vital component of proper services. The kitchen of the hotel must be clean and safe, the cooks must know about hygiene, and the raw material used in food preparation must be up to standard.

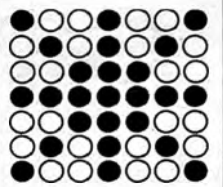
The above items should be taken into consideration not just on the time of issuing the license, but also need to be rechecked upon renewal, and on a regular basis, from time to time. That means that tourist authorities must undertake routine inspection visits of the hotel premises.

No one can deny the right of the hotel owners and managers to make money. But the rates are so different from one hotel to another, some kind of system is required.

Finally, I suggest a round-table meeting in a sort of seminar or workshop for all concerned authorities from the different governorates to discuss the services and conditions of ordinary hotels. This is important, even for international travellers. I am sure that the five-star hotels do not have the capacity for the flood of tourists coming our way. So, some efforts to raise the standard of the ordinary hotels is a vital step.

By: Saleh Ali Saleh,  
Aden.

## The British Council Cultural Events



November 1996

### Exhibition

Science in Profile Exhibition

3 - 28 November 1996

Venue: British Council Library

### Photographer of Aden

20 - 23 November 1996

Venue: Aden University

### Music

The Duke Quartet

7:30 p.m. 4 & 5 November 1996

Venue: Sheraton Hotel (tickets \$40)

### Films

The Jungle Book

4:30 p.m. 5 November 1996

Pride & Prejudice Part 1

7:30 p.m. 5 November 1996

Internet - An Introduction

4:30 p.m. 19 November 1996

Pride & Prejudice Part II

7.30 p.m. 19 November 1996

Venue: British Council Library

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# The World Gets a Moment to Ponder: EXPO 2000 HANNOVER

Ambassador Jalonek is a professional diplomat. He spent 37 years as a career diplomat engaged mainly in two lines of activity: the United Nations and European integration. He took part in drafting the Maastricht Treaty. Last week, he visited Yemen to receive Yemen's response to the German invitation to participate in the Expo 2000 Hannover. The answer was, "Yes." On the occasion, Yemen Times talked to Mr. Jalonek.



**Q: Could you tell us a little bit about Expo 2000 Hannover?**

**A:** Worldwide expositions are 150 years old. The Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Crystal Palace near London, the Atomium in Belgium are all famous for past expos. The Expo 2000 Hannover is going to be the first ever world exposition to be held on German soil.

This is one of our major political projects for the years to come. We had first applied to host the Expo 2000 in 1987. That is almost ten years ago. Since then, much work has been done, and much more still awaits us.

**Q: Is this a project of the Federal German government?**

**A:** Yes. Actually, it is a project for the whole of Germany.

**Q: What is the idea behind the Expo 2000 Hannover. I mean, what is the theme?**

**A:** This is not a trade or export promotion fair. It is a meeting of the world's nations to take stock of the achievements of humankind. We will try also to look into the future.

You see, the expo will take place in the year 2000. This year has a special meaning. It is the threshold of a new millennium in the Christian calendar. It will represent a moment when mankind can "sit back" a bit and try to figure out where they are, what our achievements and shortcomings are; and most importantly what the problems of our age are and what to do about them.

The slogan or leitmotif (guiding principle) for the exposition and the participating countries is "Man-Nature-Technology". It reflects the thinking of the Rio de Janeiro conference of 1992 and its Agenda 21.

**Q: What will be exhibited?**

**A:** What will be exhibited is up to the participating countries. We do

not dictate that. But, we do offer ideas in order that we maximize the benefits of the event. The theme is about life and how all of us can enjoy a better quality of living.

So, along that line, countries can present their ideas and systems. We are talking about the work environment, home affairs, the urban situation. Such issues as energy, health, mobility, education and information and the environment are all key. Nations are invited to address those issues and present their solutions.

All in all, pavilions and show-sets will cover 400 acres. But the centerpiece of the expo is the Thematic Area, which alone occupies 100,000 square meters.

**Q: This is a very ambitious project. How much is it going to cost?**

**A:** All in all, it will cost about DM 3 billion !

**Q: Who will pay for it?**

**A:** That is an interesting question. There are various sources of financing. Germany is, of course, a leading source. But, we are looking towards international companies to sponsor various aspects of the work. We already have secured several giant corporations which are involved.

Then, there is the contribution of the participating countries. Finally, there is the revenue from tickets of visitors. Remember, during the 150 days of the expo (June 1st through October 31st), over 30 million visitors will have been there.

**Q: How many countries are going to participate?**

**A:** We have invited 185 countries which represent all of the world but with some exceptions. Yemen has been invited, and I am happy to say that it has accepted.

**Q: Can you name the countries that are not invited?**

**A:** We have followed a U.N. list in which some countries are not favourably listed. These are mostly the countries which are under U.N. sanctions. But we are open minded, if their situations changes favourably, they will be invited.

**Q: How many countries have accepted so far?**

**A:** Today (Tuesday October 22nd), I received the formal acceptance of Yemen. That makes it the number of countries which accepted 81. Also two international organizations have accepted. These are the UN and the EU.



**Q: What do you expect these countries to do?**

**A:** I have already explained the theme of the gathering. We hope that countries will share their ideas and unique approaches to world problems and issues. We also hope they will try to reach out to one another. The gathering is a meeting of minds, and a meeting of human souls.

**Q: That means countries will be allocated space to exhibit their ideas?**

**A:** Exactly. Each country will exhibit projects which offer solutions or part of solutions to human needs. The overall guiding principle is Agenda 21 which calls for adopting policies of sustainable human development which portrays visible environmental responsibility.

**Q: What do you expect Yemen to present?**

**A:** Yemen is a country with a long history. You have an impressive cultural heritage and a civilization that is unique. In the past, as well as in modern times, you have had many ideas and solutions which are put in to practice. We are very interested in having Yemen on board because we believe it will have a lot to contribute to this exposition.

**Q: Any last comments ?**

**A:** We leave it to each individual country to decide which item to exhibit and which contribution to make. We would like all to share the same orientation so as to serve the theme of the exposition.

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## VACANCY

AMIDEAST, a non-profit organization specializing in education and training is looking for a project accountant. Responsibilities will include audit support, organizing documentation, preparation of accounting statements and financial reports. Requires B. A. / B. S., professional level English, advanced computer skills and relevant work experience. mail resume and cover letter to:

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P. O. Box 15508, Sana'a, Yemen.

No phone calls please

## News Aden Hotel Mövenpick in the autumn

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حميد أحمد حميد الأشموري  
بمناسبة ارتقاؤه توأمان أسماها  
هاجر وسارة.  
متمنين له دوام الأفراح والمسرات  
عمال وموظفي شركة الأدوية

أجمل التهاني القلبية  
نزفها للدكتور  
أحمد بلال  
بمناسبة الزفاف  
المهنؤون:  
د/ أحمد أحمد النابهي  
جمال الحمادي، كمال المشوري

أجمل الأمانى والتهاني القلبية للأخ  
أكرم عبد الكريم زبارة  
بمناسبة عقد القران والزفاف.  
متمنين له حياة زوجية سعيدة،  
وعقبال البكاري، وأدام الله السرور  
المهنؤون:  
محمد محمد لطف الزبيري،  
وجميع موظفي شركة الأدوية

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات  
نزفها للأخوين الأستاذ  
رياض مهدي الحاج  
بمناسبة الزفاف، والأستاذ  
محمود أحمد راجع الجانقي  
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## Chirac Wins the Hearts of Arabs

The French President Jacques Chirac won lots of praise from Arab rulers at the end of his Middle East tour last week. He covered Syria, Israel, Palestinian Self-Rule Areas, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

The French leader openly called for the establishment of a Palestinian state on territory to be turned over by Israel on the basis of the land-for-peace deal signed by Israel and the Arabs. He urged Israel not to shy away from turning over the land, as it is the only guarantee for its security, safety, and acceptance in the region.

Mr. Chirac also demanded a European involvement in the peace negotiations. He indicated that Europe cannot serve simply as the bank-roller of the peace effort, it has to have a say in the way the talks evolve. That would mean an end to American monopoly as a peace broker.

Although the Arabs cheered Chirac, he was given a decidedly cold welcome by the Israelis, who think too many cooks will simply spoil the broth.

But Chirac did not offer any specific initiative or formula. Besides, he went to great length to show that France - or even Europe for that matter - will not seek to replace or even compete with Washington, the traditional mediator in the region. On their part, the Americans, while logically irritated by the French overtures, have remained tight-lipped about the possibility of a more visible European participation in the mediation effort.

Israel's intransigence has created a tense situation in the region. The reasons are many, including the following:

1. An Israeli pull-out from Hebron which should have taken place in March, has yet to materialize.
  2. The Likud Government has authorized oil drilling in the occupied Golan Heights.
  3. The 5-nation (France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, USA) committee monitoring a truce accord in South Lebanon has twice declared that Israel has violated the truce by attacking civilians.
  4. The construction of new settlements and expansion of existing ones continues unabated.
  5. The tunnel which Israel constructed in the vicinity of the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem led to much violence.
- Finally, US mediator Dennis Ross failed visibly in making Israel implement the agreements. Those reasons justify Chirac's demands.

## Turkey Moves to Reign in Its Cops

Last week, the trial of 48 police officers started in the Turkish town of Aydin. The cops went on trial after the beating to death of a journalist who worked for a left-wing newspaper, Evrensel.

Metin Goktepe, who wrote articles exposing police brutality inside Turkish jails and interrogation centers, bled to death after being beaten up by a group of police officers following his arrest on January 8th. When the police discovered the sad fate of the journalist, they tried to cover up the whole affair. But another journalist exposed the cover-up.

Of the 48 accused officers, 12 face up to 16 years in prison for "collective homicide", and the remaining 36 could face up to 3 years of prison for "complicity". In addition, the police administration which tried the cover-up also faces disciplinary and corrective measures, including the sacking of half a dozen senior officers.

Attending the court proceedings which started on October 18th were Mr. Fernando Castello, President of Reporters Sans Frontiers; European MP (of Turkish origin) Magda Aelvoet; Nayel Gurelli, President of the Turkish Journalists' Association; representatives of Committee to Protect Journalists and other international organizations; and members of the important political parties in Turkey. Also attending the session were distinguished persons from the Turkish civil rights movement.

The case is being pushed by more than 50 Turkish and foreign lawyers who are filing joint and separate civil suits in the case.

The case reflects the new mood in Turkey, which tries to shed off the image of police and military brutality, which has been made famous by many books and films. It also shows the unwillingness of the Turkish people to accept irresponsible police action against civilians under the misguided notion of protecting the national interest. The new public mood is best expressed by the journalist's mother, Ms. Fadime Goktepe, who has been regularly attending the court sessions. "The police believe they know what is good for Turkey and that they are responsible for upholding it. First of all, as the police are among the least educated in Turkish society, it is not certain that they know what Turkey's interests are. And second, why should they be the sole guardians of such an interest?"

## Bangladesh to Put 1975 Coup Leaders on Trial

In an effort to set the record straight, Bangladesh is set to scrap a law that bars the trial of those military leaders involved in a bloody coup in which the country's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur-Rahman was killed.

The first steps to repeal the so-called indemnity ordinance will be taken shortly during the coming parliamentary session. The MPs already have a government report to lead the way.

A special government committee has decreed the law was "not part of the constitution and no constitutional amendment... is necessary to repeal the ordinance". The State Minister for Law, Abdul-Matin Khasru, said the indemnity ordinance "was not even a law as the constitution has guaranteed fundamental rights to all citizens". He added, "There cannot be any law to stop the trial of a murder."

The 1975 coup was engineered by many of the high-brass of the army, some of whom are still in service. The plotters assassinated the president, Sheikh Mujibur-Rahman, the father of the present Prime Minister, Ms. Hassina Wajed. Also killed in the plot were the prime minister's three brothers, including an 11-year old one.

Speaking on the memorial ceremony of the anniversary of the birthday of her youngest slain brother, Ms. Hassina said the perpetrators will definitely be tried... so that no culprit could ever dare to commit such a heinous act against humanity".

The State Minister for Law indicated that the indemnity ordinance repeal bill could be easily passed by a simple majority in parliament. "By scrapping the ordinance, the government wanted to end the politics of coup, killings and conspiracy," he indicated.

The government has already arrested six army personnel, including three senior officers and a former minister, for their alleged involvement in the coup. Most other coup leaders have fled the country. But the government is reportedly taking steps to track them down and bring them to Bangladesh for trial, with the help of the Interpol.

## QATAR Puts Its House in order

The State of Qatar was able to settle two outstanding issues which were critical for the stability and peaceful development of the country. These are as follows:

### a) Settling the Question of Money Transferred by the Former Emir:

The State of Qatar was able to reach a solution amicably regarding the issue of the government funds transferred to personal bank accounts abroad by the former Emir, Sheikh Khalifah Al Thani. The Government had initiated legal procedures against the former Emir, after cordial and private efforts failed to convince him.

Finally, two weeks ago, an amicable solution was found and the case was settled, out of court. No details were given as to how much was refunded, and when it was done.

### b) Appointing a Crown Prince:

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifah Al Thani, the Emir, issued a decree naming his son, Jassim, as Crown Prince to the throne of Qatar. Jassim, 20, had studied at Sandhurst College and is described as a mature and intelligent young man. He is also described as hard working.

With those two issues settled, the rulers of Qatar are now more free to attend other issues of development and state-building.

Since the peaceful court coup in which Sheikh Hamad took over power, he has been able to breathe a new spirit into the country as well as the working of government. He has pushed ahead with modernization, investments in education, infrastructure and industry, especially the hydrocarbons. In foreign relations, Qatar was able to chart an independent course and steer away from traditional patterns. Within the Gulf States, the small state of Qatar was able to pursue a course relatively independent of its two giant neighbors - Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Yemen's relations with Qatar have been, and continue to be strong and exceptional. Qatar stood by Yemen when it was ostracized following its position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1991. Qatar also provided some limited development assistance.



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P. O. Box: 50261; Tel: (05) 303913; Fax: (05) 303503; Tlx to Aden branch.

*The Second Population Policy Conference*

# Determined Efforts to Control Yemen's Population Growth!



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

The focal point of a concerted effort by the government of Yemen and donor agencies has become an important conference in Sanaa. During 26-29 October, 1996, the Second national Population Policy Conference was held.

The objectives of the conference were:

1. To deepen the understanding of population issues in Yemen and their relationship to sustainable development with the goal of increasing the standard of living of the Yemeni people.
2. To increase the official and public support for the updated population policy objectives and strategies at all levels of the Yemeni community.
3. To develop a plan of action for attaining the objectives of the population policy and to mobilize resources for its implementation.

To show commitment to population policy issues, President Ali Abdullah Saleh personally came to kick off the meetings. Also attending were the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and the top members of his cabinet. They all used the occasion to express full support for the effort to bring sense to the growth rates. Media/educational measures and public awareness programs on the implications of high population growth rates need to be enhanced, they agreed.

Why is the present trend alarming? The following statistics give the answer.

1. Yemen's population growth rate stands now at 4.1%, rising from a 3.7% in the 1980s. This is among the highest in the world.
2. 50.3% of the Yemeni population is under the age 15 years.
3. The dependency ratio is 539%. This means that each income earner supports 5.4 persons - including him/herself.
4. Although declining, the fertility rates in Yemen still stands at 7.8. That is the number of live births in a woman's productive years.
5. The average age of marriage for women has risen from 15.7 years to 18.1 years. But this is still too low. On average, women carry their first child before they are 20.
6. The rate of child mortality, under the age of 5, is still a three-digit number, standing at just over 100 per 1000.
7. If the present trend persists, the population of Yemen will rise to 30 million in less than twenty years.

The Prime Minister gave the inaugural address. He demanded:

- a) To review and assess the policies and direction for the 1991-2000 period.
- b) To define and specify what needs to be done and corrected.
- 3) To expand the participants in this national effort.
- 4) To maximize effectiveness in the use of local resources and foreign aid in this field.

Mohammed Ali Al-Haj, Secretary-General of the National Population Council (NPC), indicated that the population growth rate of Yemen was not supportable. "Immediate measures need to be taken to convince

Yemenis that large families are not in the interest of the country. "We are under obligation, given the various international accords and covenants, to enlighten our people on the dangers and burdens of high population growth rates," he said. The Secretary-General of the NPC stressed the need for collaboration among the various government and private bodies. The issue of population growth requires the concerted effort of many ministries and other government agencies, NGOs, and other private partners. We also need the contribution of the media, educators, preachers, religious leaders and community elders," he said. He finally expressed gratitude and appreciation to the UNDP, UNFPA, the World Bank and the Government of the Netherlands



for their continued support and interest. Also speaking on the occasion was Mr. Som P. Pudasani, Representative of the UNFPA and the UN Population Fund. "Work on population

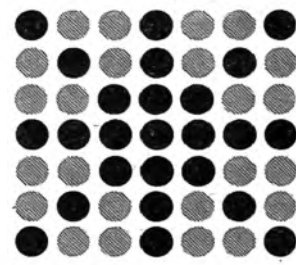


is a long-term matter. It is important that a commitment is made, and persistent effort be exerted," he said. He also indicated that the relevant UN bodies will assist Yemen in its efforts to

improved, and on the other, better family planning is achieved." The issue of population control finds its justification on many grounds - notably in the inability of growing populations to meet their needs, on the one hand, and on the deterioration of the quality of life because of the number of births and children. It is these challenges that make the need for

address this issue. "If the condition of women is improved - by offering them better education and participation in the economy and public life, then a double benefit will have been achieved. On the one hand, the lot of women will have been

strong policies to be adopted immediately. If the present conditions are dismal, the future prospects are even more gloomy, if the trend persists. While the role of the government and its institutions are critical, the real actors are really the Non-Governmental Organizations which have grass-roots presence and a higher level of credibility with the public. These NGOs should be brought-in as main players to complement the current efforts. Respected public figures, community elders and religious leaders must also be brought on board. Their cooperation is a vital component of the future success of the on-going efforts. Revising the present strategies in light of the above is a task of the conference. When it concludes tomorrow, the recommendations will definitely shed light on the forthcoming work. Yemen Times, as a committed organ in this issue, will carry the recommendations and the impressions of some key participants in



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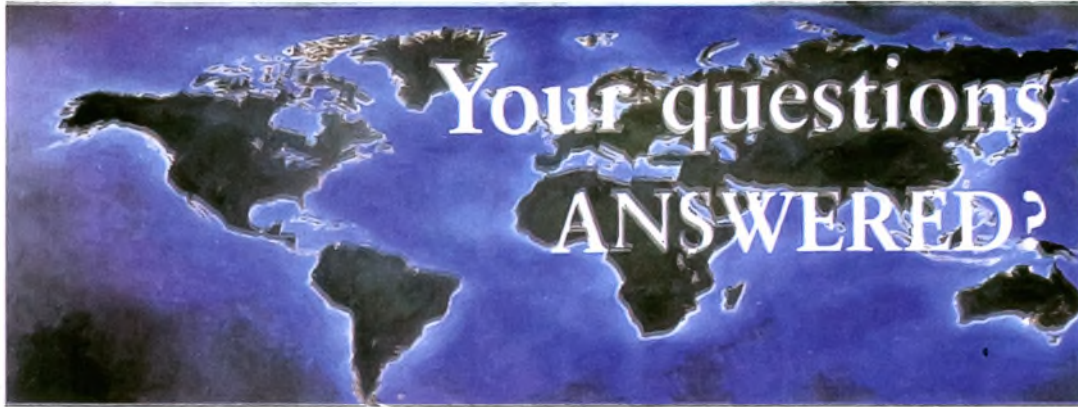
## Announcing The Good News

The Yemen Specialized Hospital invites highly qualified French surgeons specialized in Laparoscopic Gastrointestinal surgery. They will perform various Laparoscopic operations such as Antireflex, gallstones, and ulcer surgery.

The international surgeon doctor Al-Neimi and professor Premont will arrive from Paris to the hospital on 30th October. Also, the hospital offers treatment and operations for fractures, back and joint distress, ear, nose and sinus problems by international specialists.

For reservations and inquiries, please visit the Yemen Specialized Hospital, Al-Horriah Street, Near the Ministry of Planning or call (01) 224-963

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AL-SHA'ABIA: Sana'a (Bi-Weekly) 21-10-96

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Interruption of Flight Movements In al-Janad Airport (Taiz)
- 2) Kidnapping of French Diplomat
- 3) Televised Wealth Only

Article Summary:

**A World of Truth**

In its first issue, the paper's Editor-in-Chief, Ahmed Yahya Al-Madani writes, in a back page editorial column, on the Minister of Information Abdurahman Al-Akwa'a. The writers' praise of the Minister is based on meetings with him while processing the permit for the paper:

- Intelligent and quick to learn
- Good manners and humble
- Easy to reach. No crowds accumulate in front of his office
- Good political conversationalist. Worthy of respect even if opinions differ.

Al-Madani is hopeful that such five traits as these will eventually filter down the Ministry to make it become an institution of high credibility and proven independence. The Minister has the capability to turn the entire media sector into an effective and dynamic force that serves all of society's needs. He will cater to the opposition forces as well as the government and will serve the interests of the citizen before that of the rulers.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 22-10-96

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Spoiled Flour Arrives to Al-Mokha Port
- 2) 75 Deaths in Al-Dhala'a (48 from Malaria, alone) Due to Disease Infections
- 3) Taliban in Aden

Article Summary:

**Put Up For A Vote**

In his regular column: "Something of Logic," Dr. Abdul-Haq Sultan criticizes the ruling that forces high school graduates to wait a year before they can pursue higher education.

The writer argues against all excuses that lead to the making of such a decision and criticizes its continuity. Dr. Sultan insists that it demoralizes the students and causes them to leave a systematic life after 12 years of schooling - the student becomes paralyzed academically and bodily!

Abdul Haq Sultan suggests that the forthcoming



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

Parliament should pass a resolution that contains two elements:

- 1) Cancel the previous resolution and get the universities to put up terms and conditions of acceptance which will allow them to admit the appropriate number of students. Unaccepted students should be guided to technical or skill training institutes.
- 2) The government should provide academic scholarships to outstanding students who graduated from high school, which should support the exceptional student throughout the university as long as he maintains high grades. This will provide incentives for students to excel in high school as well as at the university level.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 23-10-96

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) 165,109 Voters (Male and Female) Registered In Sana'a City
- 2) National Population Conference Begins On Saturday
- 3) The Damned Blood Feuds

Article Summary:

**All That Is Written**

Hussain Al-Awadly, in his regular backpage corner criticizes those papers that sometimes state that all that is written by a particular writer expresses the opinion of the writer and not necessarily the papers views. Any paper must be ready to accept and respect its writers viewpoints and to protect them in times of hardships, as Al-Awadly puts it.

On another note, Al-Awadly states that it is not permissible in a country that claims to be democratic to state that they are government papers and should only show news and interviews of those in the government only.

"There may be cars which have private license plates and others that are government, but newspapers are owned by the nation and their voice should be loud against wrong doing wherever it emanates from."

He continues: "When newspapers become walled areas for applauding (the rulers), hypocrisy, and cosmeticizing the establishment, it loses its noble mission."

He appeals to the responsible authorities: "Democracy without a free clean and responsible press is nothing but a big lie!"

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 21-10-96

(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Sultans Give Out Gratuities
- 2) College Deans In Aden Face Investigations by The Political Security
- 3) The Governor Assaults an Old Man in Abyan

Article Summary:

**1) Yemeni Saudi Border Deal after Elections.**

He points to the recent developments in Yemeni-Saudi relations in light of the recent visits by Prince Sultan Abdulaziz and Prince Naif. Firstly, these visits signal a trend towards overcoming the work of the technical committees and overpassing Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, once regarded as the key to Yemeni-Saudi relations. The upcoming elections of Yemen will probably give the Peoples' General Congress the comfortable majority it needs to be able to complete the border agreements and thus limit the ability of Islah in deciding the future direction of Yemeni foreign policy.

**2) The Kingdom on Guard**

Reporting on a Daily Telegraph article by Christopher Lackard, the paper points out that the Saudi Arabians are guarding against the possibility of another bomb blast. The issue or victim could extend to other than American troops who have so far been easy targets. The DT article insists that opposition to the Saudi regime is a major factor in causing the explosions and also extends the opposition to the Middle Class and other Saudi sectors including the religious establishment.

AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly) 24-10-96

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Military Prisoners Appeal For Help From the Minister of Defense
- 2) The Election Supervision Committee Refuses to Issue Voting Cards to Voters of the 76th District in Lahj.
- 3) An Armed Group Attacks A Judge in Hajja

Article Summary:

**The Government Resorts to the Sheiks For French Diplomats Release.**

The government has requested the assistance of tribal leaders from the Marib area to obtain the release of the French diplomat kidnapped earlier this week from Sana'a.

The efforts to release the First Secretary of the French Embassy in Sana'a by issuing ultimatums have failed. The area where the Frenchman is being surrounded by governmental forces, who have also taken 8 hostages from the area of the kidnappers. The kidnapping was said to be in protest over withholding of relief assistance for flood victims or their improper and sometimes illicit channeling.

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## Letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor

### Why is it important to protect the back of the neck?

The part of the brain situated at the back of the head is called the cerebellum. Its location at the back and below the skull is a very delicate one since it coincides with the place where the skull and the backbone meet.

Artificial protection of this part of the head has always been a problem; for instance, in time of war special helmets were used to protect the nape of the neck.

Why go to so much trouble?

Because the cerebellum has the delicate task of coordinating the movements of the muscles, of keeping them in a state of readiness to perform whatever orders they may be given whether it is a delicate task, some simple operation or the rapid movements of self defense.

By Khaled Abdulrahman Al-Shamiry, Sanaa.

### YEMENIA:

#### So Much for Going Back on Track:

I would like to complain about YEMENIA AIRLINES. My brother, Hakim, and I were travelling with my sick mother from Sana'a to Aden. The Flight number was IY 754 and it was supposed to leave Sana'a at 20:00 hrs. The flight was on a Yemenia Dash 7. After we all boarded the plane, the pilot started the first S1 side engine, but the lights in the plane began blinking! As soon as he started the other engine, all the lights in the plane and the first S1 engine stopped at once. It was too dark to discover the problem with the plane. However, there was another flight to Aden after an hour and this plane was a B737. When the Dash 7 was eventually unloaded, the B737 was already on the runway ready for take off but it was re-called so that we could board. The flight was half-empty. These events beg the question, "What is the use of having two flights and how can there be such mismanagement and lack of care?" Yemenia should

have more concern and check their aeroplanes after every journey.

Hatim Saifuddin M. Kayemally.

Aden, Crater.

### Alas! Yemen Times departs from us.

The indispensable English newspaper, the Yemen Times, which has been enriching us with knowledge and information has got away from us. It used to always encourage its readers but it has gone. I'll make myself clear. The Yemen Times used to have a whole page devoted to letters to the editor. It has nearly stopped now. Also the Yemen Times used to have an office in Taiz, but it's recently been shut down.

As a regular reader and occasional contributor, I feel just as if a part of my body has been amputated. One of the most important things for me is that the Yemen Times should reopen its office in Taiz.

I, along with those concerned, would like to be in genuine contact with the paper. It's the first and last paper that I've ever got along with.

Could Dr. Saqqaf (the Editor) accept this request?

Mohammed Noaman Al-Hakimi, Al-Hujariya, Taiz.

### Eyes Eyes Eyes

You can't find beautiful eyes, rarely you can run into them but in seconds with little time and sweet! Eyes Eyes Eyes they have a language they have difficult one a language with disappearing expressions some know, some no.

Hani Taha, Sana'a.



On Monday, the 28th of October, the inaugural flight of Emirates, the international airline of the United Arab Emirates, will touch down at Sana'a International airport at 17:35 local time. To mark the occasion, a high level delegation will be on board the flight.

The delegation will be headed by H. H. Sheikh Ahmed Saeed Al Maktoum, the Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Dubai, Chairman of Emirates Airlines. The delegation includes the Deputy Minister of Transportation of the U. A. E., H. E. Matar Hamid Al Tayer; Mr. Mohiyddin Bin Hindi, the Managing Director of Civil Aviation Authority of Dubai; Mr. Shoaib Khoory, the Senior General Manager, Middle East, Africa, & CIS; and Mr. Ali Al-Soory, the General Manager of the Chairman's Office. Along with the delegation, a group of journalists representing the media and television of the U. A. E. will be flying on board the inaugural flight.

The operation between Sana'a and Dubai will consist of two flights a week, namely Monday and Friday, using modern Airbus fleet with first and economy class configuration. The route is expected to be highly successful due to the fact that the Yemeni community in the U.A.E. is quite large. The tourist attraction that Yemen enjoys is also expected to contribute to the success. Furthermore, Emirates Holidays is due to undertake a massive advertising campaign to promote the route. And according to Mr. Adnan Kazim, the Area Manager of the airline, the campaign will increase the demand for tourism travel on the sector.

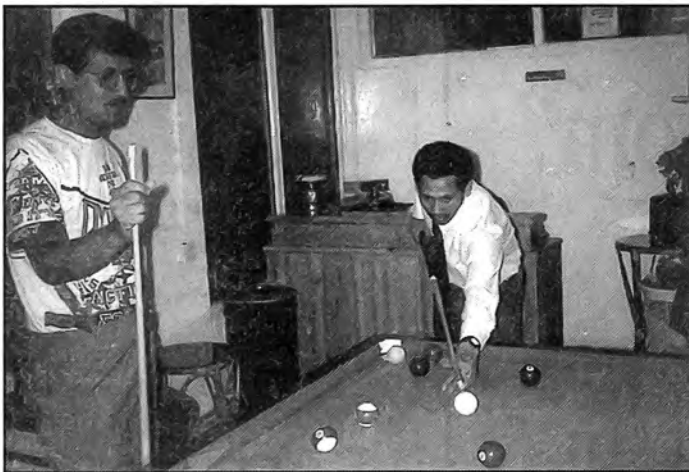
Emirates is planning to have a gala dinner at Sana'a Sheraton on Wednesday to celebrate the occasion. It has also planned a tour for the media representatives to several tourist attractions in Sana'a, Mareb, Wadi Dhahr and Manakha.

In a statement of the press, Mr. Adnan Kazim, has expressed his thanks to officials of the government of Yemen for the cooperation extended to the airline in setting up its headquarters in Sana'a. He also said that Emirates along with its General Sales Agents, Apollo Travel Co, has been preparing for the inaugural and jointly setting the new premises of the airline in town. He assured the travelling public that Emirates will provide them with a superior standard of service and will link Sana'a with more than 40 destinations worldwide.

It should also be noted that Emirates provides air cargo services on board its flights and provide connection to shipments to over 140 daily flight from Dubai to different international destinations.

## POOL: A Challenge to Mind & Skills

The game of pool requires a lot of practice and concentration. It does not need physical effort. That is why it attracts many people. It is a challenging game of excitement, which one needs after a good's chew of qat. The player becomes engrossed, mentally and physically with the progress of the game. Many Yemenis, young and old, are being introduced to this enjoyable game via a number of unofficial club halls. Yemen Times visited some of these, and talked to the athletes.



**Khalid Ali Mohammed, 22:**  
"I have been practicing this game for four years now. It is a very exciting and enjoyable activity. Many young men flock to billiard halls which are unfortunately very few in number or inside some hotels. It is a nice, quiet game which develops the spirit of challenge, competition, mental concentration and correct planning. There is an agreement among players that the loser pays the fees for using the facilities."

Haddah Hotel. There aren't many such halls and the existing ones usually have one billiard table, thus causing people to queue in a crowded hall. "I also had the chance to play the game abroad where the billiard halls are better equipped and quieter which helps in concentrating on the game."

**Mr. Salim Ali Al-Lubani, 45:**  
"For someone who does not want to chew qat in the afternoon, this game provides a nice and entertaining pass-time. I play the game with a friend in a hall in

introducing this game. "We have often been criticized for not attending to the needs of female athletes. Here is a game that can offer an outlet for female energies. This can be done at the YOC," said Mr. Hussain Al-Awadhi. The YOC is also going to assign two full days for female athletes, while the remaining five days are for male athletes. So, pool is in Yemen. So are other games associated with the UK. Cricket to name another game, which has making inroads into the local community, thanks to expatriates from the Indian sub-continent.

## THE PIONEERS OF CRICKET ORGANIZE THEIR 1996 AGM

The Lion and Jambia Cricket Club (LJCC), pioneers of cricket in Yemen, held their annual general meeting at the Taj Sheba hotel on Sunday 20th October, 1996.

The meeting was attended by all the committee members as well as team members.

In his speech, the out-going captain, Mr. Steve Murphy thanked the management of Rothmans and the Yemen Times for having sponsored the team annually.

During the AGM, a new committee was elected as well as the Captain and Vice Captain for the new team which included several new members.

To acknowledge the efforts of individual members of the LJCC during the recently concluded tournament, the lion of the series was awarded to Mr. Waris Ali for his all round performance. The prize for the best bowler was awarded to Mr. Sudhesh Kumar and Mr. Nafees Hussein for the best batsman. The prizes were given away by Mr. Chris Rimer of Rothmans.

The newly elected captain Mr. Ajay Tandon told our Yemen Times correspondent that he was very positive about his team's capabilities for the next tournament which is to be held during 1997. Any new players wishing to join the club are welcome and may contact the secretary or the Captain for registration.

Besides cricket, the LJCC has plans to promote other sports such as table tennis and darts which will be another step in the right direction for sports enthusiasts in Yemen.



**Rothmans**  
official sponsor  
for LJCC-1996

## 215 Players in Taekwondo Championship for Adolescents

The first Taekwondo championship for adolescents concluded on Saturday 27th October. This championship was organized by the Taekwondo Union in the Secretariat of Sana'a in co-operation with the Diplomatic Club. 215 participants from 15 clubs competed in 8 weight categories over three days. The concluding session of the championship was held in the hall of the Military Sports Union and was attended by Col. Abdullah Al-Nahmy, the Public Relations Director in the Union, Mr. Faris Al-Sanabani the director of the Diplomatic Center of Taekwondo and Mr. Yahya Deghaish, the Secretary General of the Taekwondo Union.



The first competitions were held among the youngest participants weighing 20 kilograms each. The young athletes were so remarkable in their performance that many thought the game would have excellent future in the country, if these kids found sponsors.

The winners in the 20 kg category - in the pairs in which they played - were:  
1) Abdulrazzak Hashim over Imad Mukb  
2) Mohammed Tameem over Ali Salim  
3) Mohammed Al-Awdi over Abdullah Hamoud  
4) Mu'ath Muhsin over Ali Abdulmughni  
5) Nashwan Tahir over Ali Al-Majdali

The other weight categories - upto a maximum of 62 kgs. - also competed. Many athletes and coaches, as well as supporters of the game attended the events.

## YOC Supports School Sport Activities

Yemen Olympic Committee (YOC) has initiated a program of support for some sport activities in schools. These activities are incorporated in the extra-curricular programs of the schools. The YOC will then conduct inter-school competi-

tions, and the winners will be honored in various ways. The YOC disclosed ambitious plans to develop school activities, specially in the field of female sports. Last week, it presented sports equipment to four female schools in Sana'a. It was

a good step to start for female athletes in Yemen. The YOC has appealed to local and international support for the school clubs. Yemen Times was the first to respond with a donation of 500 T-shirts for the school kids.



## Under the auspices of Rothmans, The 7th Week of the Yemeni Excellent Football Tournament

Al-Tilal Club of Aden is steadfastly holding on to the first position, while al-Ahly of Sana'a - the title holder - is trying to catch up with everybody.

The 7th round of the Yemeni Excellent Football Tournament represents a major showdown among the big teams. The excitement of this round follows the unsatisfactory performance in the last round.

Al-Tilal kept its advanced position by clinching a two-nil victory against Al-Wahda of Aden. Al-Wahda of Sana'a retrieved its second position by beating its guest team, Al-Shu'la of Aden, two-to-one in the opening match last Thursday.

Al-Ahly of Sana'a regained some of its glamour by beating its guest team, Al-Sha'ab of Al-Mukallah, two-nil, in a highly enjoyable match of skills and dexterity.

Al-Ahly of Hodeidah achieved a draw in its game with Al-Itihad of Ibb. The game was attended by more than 15,000 spectators.

The match between Al-Zohra of Sana'a and its host Shamsan of Aden of Friday, thus gaining a draw point.

A one-one draw was achieved in the match between Hassan of Abyan and its guest team, Al-Sha'ab from Sana'a, which remained ahead of its contender by one goal to the last minutes.

Jameel Al-Maktary occupies first position among goal scorers. He is the star of Shamsan of Aden. Jameel is in the ascendance. He now occupies the first position with 10 goals to his name compared with six goals only scored by a distant second, Khalid al-Okbary of Al-Sha'ab team from Mukallah.



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