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INSIDE	The Principal of a Private School on Education. Page 3.	Dr. Abdullah A. Nasher on Yemeni-UK Relations. Page 5.	Yusuf Abdul-Wadood on Business in Yemen. Page 7.	The Charter of the EMC. Page 12.
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EMC's First Report: Over 100,000 Challenges and Contestations in the Registration Phase!

The Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) is putting together the draft of its first report on the elections process. This is the first of three reports which will cover the registration phase, the candidature/campaigning phase, and the vote casting phase, respectively. This report, which is being compiled, tabulated and legally scrutinized by lawyers contracted by the EMC, involves over 100,000 challenges and contestations covering 162 constituencies. Of these, the majority are still with the basic committees since they were filed by individuals and political parties. Of about 68,200 challenges, the basic committees have only processed about 18,630 complaints which they deemed as legitimate and credible. The rest, they thrashed. In addition, the primary courts have received about 34,000 cases of complaints - most of them against the basic committees and the Supreme Elections Committee. Outside a few much heralded cases, the courts have yet to look into the cases. It is worth noting that the two ruling parties have filed 71% of the challenges. The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) filed about 39% of the cases, while the People's General Congress filed 32%. The opposition and independents filed the rest. The government is saying that the challenges have to go through the legal channels, which would take about three years to sort out, if the courts did no other cases but these. A political solution is necessary to address the issue. The EMC report is expected to be finalized and released next month. The dimensions of the problem are mind-boggling.

So, You Are a Minister: Big Deal!

Minister of Electricity and Water, Mr. Abdullah Mohsen Al-Akwa' - Islah appointee - is sulking at home. He says he has been humiliated. The story goes like this. There has been a power struggle between him and Mr. Ahmed Hassan Al-Aini, Managing Director of the Public Electricity Corporation - PGC appointee - who technically is the minister's subordinate. The minister accuses the managing-director of insubordination. On paper, he charges Mr. Al-Aini of many violations including embezzlement. He says he has documented to prove this, and on October 29th, he presented the charges and documents to the attorney-general's office for investigation and action. Al-Aini charges the minister of inefficiency and inability to make decisions. He says that the minister is not letting him do his job. Even worse, he accuses the minister of deliberately holding back decisions that would allow progress in the electric supply. He especially cites the situation in Hadhramaut, which he says, the minister wants to exploit for political ends. Al-Aini convinced both the President and Prime Minister of his views. Both, by-passing the minister, authorized him to sign several multi-million dollar contracts. The minister says Al-Aini netted \$800,000 on those contracts - again he says he has the proof. One day, after the Minister referred Al-Aini to the attorney-general's office for investigation, the Prime Minister issued instructions directly to Al-Aini nullifying the minister's instructions and ordering the managing-director to stay on at his job.

More on page 9

Call for Nominations YT 1996 Person of the Year

The Yemen Times is happy to invite its readers to nominate the 1996 Yemen Times Person of the Year. A six-person committee has been set-up at the newspaper to receive and assess the proposals. The two basic criteria for the choice are:
1- Success in personal life; meaning a happy family life and a successful career/profession;
2. Distinguished service to the community/nation.
This will be the sixth year in a row that the newspaper is honouring exceptional Yemeni individuals whose lives offer a model for society. The past recipients of this honour have been Dr. Tareq Abu Luhum (1991), Engineer Mohammed Al-Anisi (1992), Businessman Ali Mohammed Saeed (1993), Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby (1994), and Dr. Wahib Fara' (1995). Please send in your nominations to:
YT 1996 Person of the Year Committee,
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OUR VIEWPOINT

Out in the Cold

Winter has come, and the nights of Sanaa are becoming increasingly cold. Yet, some of our people - many of them children and older folks - are left out in the cold. They are the homeless.

I come to work rather early. As I walk by every morning, I see a lot of people sleeping in various parts of the streets, keeping tight against the walls. You can see them shrinking their bodies inwards to protect against the invading cold. It is a sad picture.

Society has a responsibility to take in these people. Society must provide shelter for these individuals.

Now, that is easier said than done. The government has no money to spare, and is thus unable to offer much. Shelter for the homeless is not available through private help. Charities and NGOs do not have the resources, either.

I have an idea.

Everywhere, there are mosques. Just like the church brings in the homeless in many Christian lands, why can't the mosques play a similar role. The doors can be opened after the night prayer, allowing the homeless to come in and spend the night. Maybe some blankets, bedcover and other sheets can be made available. In the morning, they can be collected, for users the following night.

There will be people who will object to this idea. Some will worry that the homeless will desecrate the mosque. Some will worry about theft. Others will complain about bringing 'dirt' into the mosque. Some will say we have converted the mosques into hotels.

May I provide answers as follows:

1. Irrespective of the reservations, the role of religion is to help the poor and disadvantaged.
2. Every mosque has, at the moment, at least one employee. Often there are two or three people working in each mosque. These people can manage this sleep-over idea.
3. The mosques can raise some marginal funds to finance any additional needs for blankets or even to pay for an employee who will regulate the sleep-over and clean the mosque for next day use.
4. Society cannot ignore its less fortunate members. Morally, ethically, and even legally, there is an obligation.

Now that the idea is explained, who will take the first step? I think the first step lies with the Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs. If he can authorize any NGO or individual to have access to the mosques, then the homeless have a chance to sleep inside. If breakfast can be offered before the homeless leave in the morning, then that would be a wonderful addition.

The Publisher


Yemen Invited to Join Commonwealth

Informal talks with the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, during his visit to Yemen alluded to the possibility that Yemen may seek to join the British Commonwealth. The decision in this important matter will be left to the Yemeni constitutional establishments and the Commonwealth association itself.

The future of Yemeni-British relations seems very bright indeed. There is a big British interest in widening business ties with Yemen in general, and the Aden Free Zone, in particular. A large delegation of British businessmen headed by the Trade Secretary will visit Yemen next week with the purpose of promoting more cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Iryani Meets Prince Nayef

The Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani met Prince Naif Bin Abdulaziz, the Saudi Minister of Interior. Their talks centered around the border issues between the two countries. The meeting took place in Riyadh during Al-Iryani's official visit to Saudi Arabia, earlier this week. There will be further talks with Saudi officials about the border between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

Navigation Dangers in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

A workshop will be held in Aden during 17-19 November to highlight the efforts to return the Port of Aden to its past glories. This workshop, which the first of its kind, is being sponsored by the Arab Organization for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. It is funded by the World Bank. Navigation dangers and environmental pollution in the region will be the two main themes to be addressed by the workshop. Due to the vital importance of this region as a whole and the Aden Gulf in particular, a second workshop is scheduled to be held in Egypt during the first quarter of 1997.

More Treasury Bills on Auction

The Central Bank of Yemen has issued a statement indicating that it will auction off Treasury Bills with 91 day maturity over the next few days. The total value is put at YR. 1.5 billion. The statement also indicated that another lot of 182-day maturity treasury bills, valued at YR 1 billion, will also be auctioned off.

Government Pushes Literacy Programs

The cabinet approved last week a plan to push forward programs to eradicate illiteracy. The project of a law to be passed on to parliament for enactment, demands a government commitment for literacy programs. The program calls for night classes and other classes to teach adult illiterate persons.

Immigrants Donate \$100,000 to Hadhramaut University

Yemeni immigrants, mostly from Hadhramaut, have made a donation of US\$ 100,000. The money went for the purchase of equipment, mainly computers.

Paying Final Tribute to a Great Statesman

Today, Monday, November 11th, 1996, the President of the Republic, General Ali Abdullah Saleh, will lead a procession of the most distinguished Yemenis to pay final tribute to Ustaz Ahmed Mohammed Noman. Today, marks the 40th day since his departure.

At the Shokani auditorium at the Police Academy, the occasion will be marked with awe and respect, befitting a man who has spent his life fighting colonialism, oppression, injustice, and ignorance.

Indeed, the march that Noman and some of his colleagues - known as the Free Yemenis - which started in the 1940s, has yet to bear full fruit. The struggle continues.

Noman, in his long struggle, endured a lot of suffering, including flogging, extended periods of imprisonment, exile and other pain. He was several times taken out for execution, but his days had not yet come to an end.

He fought for the liberation of the southern and eastern governorates from British colonial rule, and he fought for the unshackling of the northern and western governorates from the tyranny of the Imam.

They tried in the 1948 Revolution. They tried again and again, until the success of the 26th Revolution, which also led to the 14th October Revolution. He and his colleagues in the Free Yemeni Movement joined hand to build the modern Yemen they



had envisioned. But fighting a war is one thing, and constructing a new system is another, as the visionary found out. He rose up the ranks to occupy the posts of Member of the Republican

Council and Prime Minister. But building a modern state is a long and arduous job, no less risky than fighting a colonizer or an oppressor. May his soul rest in peace.

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Mohammed Qassim Alwan:

"We must study the reasons behind low educational achievements."

Education is a vital tool for progress. Most nations, including the poor ones, allocate considerable proportions of their resources for education. In some countries, the budgetary allocations for education rise up to 50% of total government expenditures. In worst case scenarios where commitment for education is low, governments spend some 8-10% of their budgets on education.

Most of the world has enacted laws that make education, at least the basic level of it, compulsory. Again most of the world, provides at least basic education free.

Recently, dissatisfaction with public education worldwide has led to the encouragement of private education. As a result, without dismantling public education - but without allowing for its growth - many Third World countries have vigorously embarked on private education.

In the Republic of Yemen, the standard has been public education, meaning free for all. The government has been spending about 11% - on average - over the last ten years. But government resources have not allowed this service to reach only about 50% of the school-age population. To compound the problem, the quality of public education has been dismal. Pressure has been increasing since the mid-1980s for private education to take the driver's seat. At the moment, some 420 private schools have grown up in various parts of the country, but limited to urban centers.

To shed light on this phenomenon, Ismail Al-Ghabry, Head of the Sanaa Bureau of Yemen Times visited one of the oldest 'private' schools in the Republic, Azal Modern School - Haddah Branch. He interviewed its principal, Mr. Mohammed Qassim Alwan. Mr. Alwan, is by far, one of the most experienced principals, and he has many qualities that make him an able administrator. Excerpts.

Q: Tell us a little bit about Azal Modern School?

A: I heard you refer to Azal Modern School as a private school. This is not exactly accurate. Yes, like private schools, we charge our pupils fees, and we successfully self-finance our operations. But, we are part of Sanaa University.

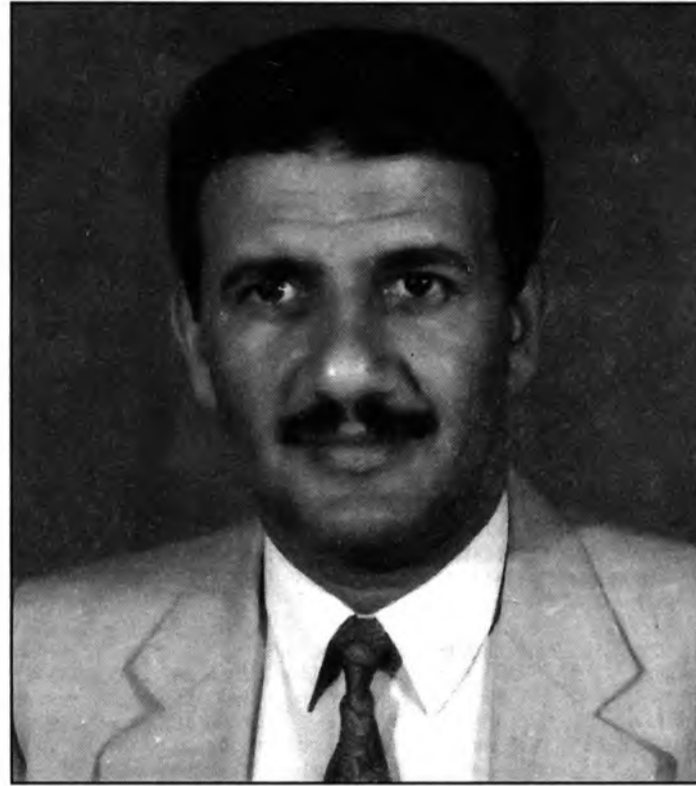
You see, we were established in the early 1980s as the practical part of the College of Education at the university. In the beginning, most of the pupils were the children and teaching and admin-

istrative staff of the university. Our Board of Trustees is still named by the President of Sanaa University.

As you may know, there are two branches, one for girls at the residential campus of the university, and a boys' branch here in Haddah.

Therefore, Azal Modern Schools is really a hybrid or bridge system.

Q: How much supervision is there by the College of Education?



A: In a sense, the school was envisaged as a forum to experiment with the application of new educational ideas and tools. We had different teaching aids, teaching techniques, etc. Some of the lecturers of the College of Education, and some of their senior students would do research and other work at the school.

Q: From which economic classes or social strata do the children come?

A: I would like to highlight a few points in this regard.

First, the children of university teaching and administrative staff no longer dominate the student body. They are a minority. Second, the students and pupils come from a very diverse background and variable social strata and economic classes.

Third, we are still selective in terms of admission. We started the system of an admissions test, which is now applied in some quality schools.

At the moment, we have 1,142 students in the Haddah branch of Azal Modern School.

Q: You referred to quality education in your school. What is special about your school?

A: In addition to the normal curricula of the Ministry of Education, a special English language course called "English Today, Side by Side" is taught from grade 1 through grade 8.

We are very alert to the number of pupils and students per class, as well as the teacher/student ratio. The largest class has 41 students, and the numbers could go down to as few as 26. The average number is around 34. This is quite different from the numbers in public schools, and in some private schools.

We have better laboratories, libraries, and other facilities, including playgrounds.

We also emphasize extra-curricular activities, specially group outings.

Finally, we try to spot gifted children in any one of the various courses or activities.

Q: Why is educational achievement so low?

A: Educational achievements are low for many reasons, which I cannot answer in full. Let me share with you some of the reasons I believe are responsible for this:

- Low level of teacher qualifications, partly due to low wages and salaries.

- Low level of commitment from the Ministry of Education, as well as the administrative bodies of the schools.

- Inadequate financial allocations and facilities.

- Low input from parents, or even negative input.

- Finally, the values children have are not conducive to educational achievement.

I think some of the above are responsible for the problem. But the issue needs a more thorough research and study.

Q: How do you assess the examination system?

A: I think the system we have is very old. It is based on a final exam at the end of the year or term. We need a system that allows for evaluation on a weekly basis.

Few parents follow the progress of their children with sufficient concern. I am sorry to say that even among the educated parents, I have met some who didn't even know in which grade their children were.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I call on the media to shed more light on education. The television, radio, and newspaper can do a lot. Others can also focus attention on this matter.

YEMEN TIMES PEOPLE: Up in the Air!

This week has been special at Yemen Times. The paper which is a near-total focus on Yemeni affairs, has been steadily receiving invitations from other countries to learn about what is going on there, and plus to investigate bilateral relations.

This week, three of Yemen Times people are abroad visiting other places - on a mission.

Ms. Aneesa Ghanim, Social Editor, is in the United Arab Emirates. She is looking at the experience of that country in caring for children and women, and the less fortunate members of society. Visit duration: 7-14/11/1996.

Mr. Emad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf, is headed for Oman. He is going to join in the Omani celebrations on that country's national day. They have done well. Visit duration: 15-24/11/1996.

Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is headed for the Netherlands. He is going to meet Dutch officials, and will use the occasion to make a one-day dash to Brussels to meet the EU people. Visit duration: 17-24/11/1996.

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which feature backrests adjustable up to 60 degrees. All First Class seats also enjoy adjustable lumbar support and electric seat/footrest setting with swivel tables. The Business Class cabin has meanwhile been reduced to 54 seats, with only six seats per row, providing either window or aisle seats for every passenger. The new seats are wider, and as in First Class, all feature adjustable lumbar support, hydraulic seat-integrated footrests and swivel tables. Inflight Entertainment on Luf-

thansa's new First and Business Class sections is second to none in international air travel. The in-seat video is built into the arm-rest with a choice of 16 audio and 8 video channels for passengers to choose from, while telephone calls can be made to over 200 countries using the airline's Skyphone. For Arabic-speaking travellers, Lufthansa has also reinforced its Arab Welcome Service at Frankfurt Airport, with more dedicated personnel available to provide information and assistance,

in Arabic, to arriving and connecting passengers. Mr. Wahib Arafa, Lufthansa's Sales Manager in Sana'a said, "With the introduction of the new reconfigured aircraft, passengers can now enjoy more comfort, room and entertainment than ever before. That, allied to our superb on-board service, will ensure that passengers will experience the best in international air travel - every time." Lufthansa, which celebrates its 70th anniversary this year, is the second largest airline in inter-

national air traffic. The Lufthansa Group employs a workforce of 58,000 and boasts a fleet of 332 modern aircrafts serving, together with its alliance partners, 461 destinations in 126 countries. In 1995, Lufthansa carried more passengers than ever before, carrying 40.7 million passengers on more than 580,000 flights - that means that every minute a Lufthansa aircraft takes off somewhere in the world, and every minute one lands some place in the world.

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Dr. Abdullah A. Nasher:

“Yemeni-British relations are witnessing a take-off.”

Yemeni-British relations have seen their share of ups and downs. Recently, there have been dramatic improvements as the two nations work together towards better relations. Of course, the governments of the two countries take much of the credit.

Yet, one of the organizations that helped in this regard is the Yemeni-British Friendship Association. Created in 1992, the organization has worked hard to bring about more understanding and cooperation in various educational, cultural, business and other fields.

One of the key persons in this regard is Professor Abdullah Abdulwali Nasher, the Chairman of YBFA. Born in Aden 1943, he was raised and educated in the former Crown Colony. He graduated in Medicine from Liverpool University in 1968. He is now a professor in the College of Medicine at Sanaa University and heads the Surgical Department. A Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and Glasgow, he is one of the outstanding surgeons of Yemen.

Anwar Al-Sayyadi of Yemen Times filed the following interview.



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Q: What are the objectives of the YBFA?

A: Since its establishment in 1992, the YBFA has tried to offer yet another channel for stronger Yemeni-British cooperation and understanding. Its objectives, as stipulated in its charter are to promote the centuries old relations and friendship between Yemen and Britain, as well as to encourage development of human relations between both nations in cultural, scientific, economic, educational, commercial, and other fields.

Q: How many members does the YBFA have and where?

A: We have more than 600 members and they are all over the country. The majority, however, are in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz, Mukalla and Hodeidah, in that order of importance.

Q: How is the YBFA financed.

A: We have many sources for our needs. To start with there is the annual membership subscriptions, which although small, are the most vital source to us. Then, there donation and contributions from people who see the importance of stronger Yemeni-British relations. These are mainly business people and philanthropists.

There is also the support we get from the British Embassy and British council, as well as the Yemeni and British companies. Allow me to single out a few individuals and bodies which have been a steady source of moral and material support:

- Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani and his team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Abdulrahman Al-Akwa and other officials in the Ministry of Information, Saba News Agency and Al-Thawra and 26th September newspapers.
- Mr. Yahya al-Mutawakel,
- Mr. Hussein al-Maswary, Lord Mayor of Sana'a.
- Mr. Amin Ahmed Kassim who gave us his villa on Hadda Road to use as our office.
- Dr. Hussein Al-Amri, member of the YBFA committee and our Ambassador in London.
- The British Yemeni Society in

London.

- The Yemen Times newspaper and especially its chief editor.

Q: What are the main activities of the YBFA?

A: Our main activities in the YBFA are multifocal. Let me mention a few:

Cultural and Educational:

- We work closely with the British Council in Sana'a and the British-Yemeni Society in London to organize Yemeni and British national festivals in both countries, such as the Yemeni/Welsh Festival in the UK and Yemen in 1995.

- Exchanging Yemeni and British lecturers and university students. We also encourage our private students to go to the UK.

Economic and Commercial:

- We encourage Yemeni and British companies to work in both directions. Joint venture and trade possibilities are enormous.

- We also contribute to the growth of tourism from the UK to Yemen.

Medical:

- We stood by and worked hard with Marie-Stopes International. They are going to start four reproductive healthcare centers in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Ibb, which will care for mother and child.

- We encourage exchange of medical professional staff, and we encourage Yemeni patients to seek specialized medical care in the UK.

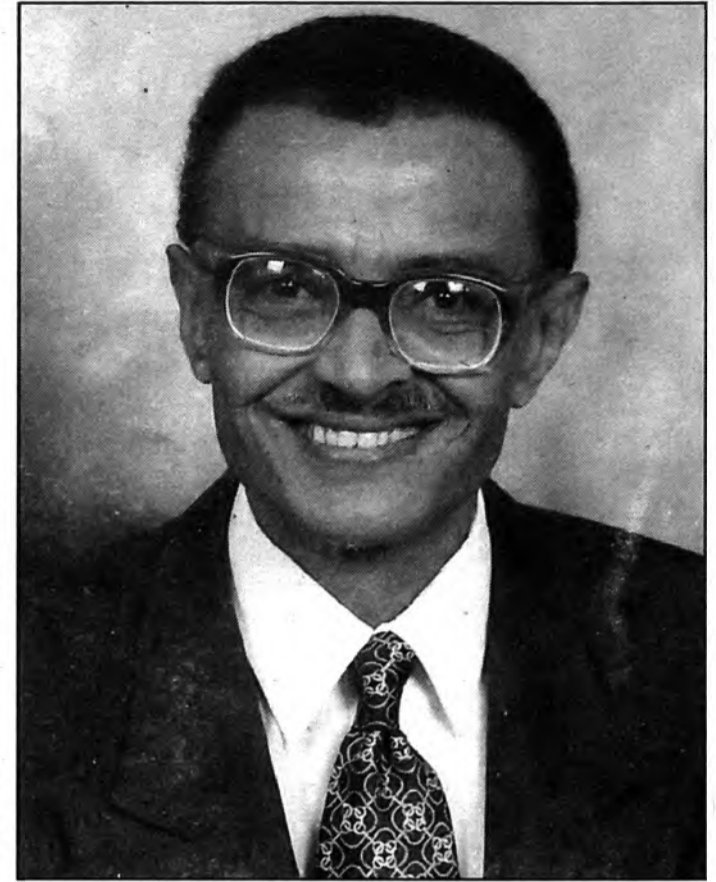
Q: What future plans do you have?

A: Our future programs are well in line with present efforts.

- We will continue to work with the Arts Circuit International to organize the Yemeni Festival in UK next year.

- In the next, few days, we are going to receive in the YBFA office H. E. Mr. Anthony Nelson, British Minister of Trade, for the purpose of meeting Yemeni friends and businessmen.

- We will continue to work with the British Council to open a branch in Aden, which we hope will also house the YBFA branch office.



As I said, our future plans are mainly going to continue along the above mentioned activities.

Q: How do you see closer Yemeni British relations? And what is the potential?

A: Since Dr. Hussein al-Amri took office in our Embassy in London, and Mr. Douglas Scrafton took office in the British Embassy in Sanaa, Yemeni British relations took a great leap forward. I think that the next few years will see still stronger relations between our countries. The visit to Sana'a by Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, UK Foreign

Minister, and the coming visit by UK Minister of Trade will further boost our relations. I believe, the planned visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to London in 1997 will be a high mark in the bilateral relations.

The potential is immense. As they say, the sky is the limit. We are all encouraged by the repeated visits by British trade missions and the trips made by Yemeni businessmen. The Aden Free Zone holds tremendous opportunities.

Chances for cultural, social, athletic and educational exchange are also excellent.

البقاء لله

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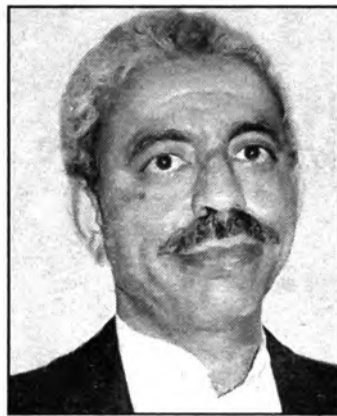
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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

On Politics, Management and Institution-Building



The difficulties encountered by developing countries and Yemen in particular could be historically or culturally rooted. These difficulties could also be blamed on imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and economic domination - all activities which generally have been and still are associated with the military and economic powers of the world of this epoch. But the rather slow and insincere approaches adopted by most Third World countries to put their countries on the true path to real progress and productivity seems to show that even with sovereignty, these countries are now really victims of their own inability to grasp the requirements for a successful catalyst. They are still plagued by the vicious cycles of chronic economic stagnation, unstable political and administrative climates and hopeless social deterioration. Notwithstanding the existence of external forces that effect the tracks taken by developing countries, it seems quite obvious by now that national sovereignty, as adopted by most developing countries, is not sufficient enough as a catalyst for political, economic and social progress. One might even argue for some of the developing countries, sovereignty has only increased the possibility that these countries will fail to realize the cultural

leap which will be needed to allow the peoples of the world, wherever they live, to enjoy the standards of life that are now feasible, thanks to the progress that man has achieved in science and other fields. One is even inclined to direct the blame on the populations of these countries for the pitiful status that many of these countries have plummeted to. The problem is more acute when the absence of awareness becomes a common trait. The lack of awareness includes their sorry conditions of how they are being cheated out of better lives by the misdeeds of certain elements of their respective populations. When viewed from a different angle, the situations of developing countries could be traced to the absence of initiative in facing up to the challenges of achieving sustained development. Opportunities that are there for achieving improvement are ignored, even though they could be within easy reach. Priorities are not properly weighted according to value and outcome, but become arranged to suit standards that have no bearing on the overall welfare of the nation. On the other hand the overwhelming majority of the population are prevented from making the appropriate decisions that they have to make to upgrade the standards of life for themselves

and to contribute to the collective sustained development of the nation as a whole for the future generations to come. The major characteristic shared by nations which are unable to achieve continuous growth and development is the poor organizational framework by which the society performs its functions. This is so, when talking about institutions, families and even individuals, to a large extent. In such societies, organization becomes a dilemma - an unsolvable mystery that only a stroke from a magic wand can untangle - to the point that the problem becomes the search for this magic wand rather than for the appropriate cures of the organizational ills themselves. Real issues become sidetracked and left to continue their downhill trend. Reality takes on new meaning, as logic and practicality are defined in terms of the narrow dimensions dictated by a self-proclaimed small minority who have monopolized national interest and assigned themselves title to all the available resources of the nation at large. When a society succumbs to basing economic and social activity for serving the limited interests of just a small element of the population, it is

then inescapable that the foundations will be weak. Free access to all the available resources, assets and services, which should be theoretically at the disposal of every citizen are not available on equal terms to all citizens. The resources are there and the people are there, but the systems for proper interaction between the two fail to find their rightful places in the relevant society. While much of the above can be said to be applicable to the Republic of Yemen, it goes without saying that Yemen's development predicaments are magnified because the attitude towards organization and systems is largely shaped by political and personal considerations. Thus, institutions and national establishments become frozen due to the inability of the leadership in these organizations and institutions to guide them on strictly professional or functional grounds. The situation is made worse due to the absence of accountability, thus encouraging senior officials to disregard professional standards and in many cases to set aside ethical values and conscientiousness while making decisions that are associated with their positions. One would expect that in a pluralistic democracy, the extent of accountability should become enlarged: the legislature, the political parties, the media, and eventually, the voters all stand in the way of excesses and irresponsible decisions by whimsical senior officials. But Yemen's democracy is still lacking in the non-institutionalized elements which are nevertheless essential factors to instill a sense of responsibility among public officials. Widespread public awareness on the appropriate leverage that the public can exert on government to get it to shape up when the latter's functions become tainted with irresponsibility, is the most effective element. Even though there is open discussion of the government's inability to reform itself before it should work on reform of the economy - mostly in qat sessions, - these critical discussions do not reach the government as a protest! On a similar note, the press freedom has reproduced this discussion literally. But it can be said that the press exercised this right with more vigor and attention to details during the post unification period than since the end of the Civil War (July 1994). It gets harder and harder as time progresses. Yet, it remains to be seen when the right triggers will be pulled by appropriate standards and measures that define government efficiency and effectiveness, which eventually lead the government to rectify its shortcomings. The Parliamentary elections of 1997 will add more to the democratic experience of the Republic of Yemen. Even the bad experiences can be made to be useful, in that they will enlighten future generations of what should be avoided to streamline the democratic process in Yemen. One might say this is building democracy by the process of elimination. The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) has embarked on a rehabilitation effort of its image to make it more conducive to the political realities and to give its name a little more weight in its role as a coalition partner. As a partner in the ruling coalition from 1993-96 (one of three, for a year, and then one of two) Islah Party has failed to make any effective reform in government that will give the name of the party more compatibility with its political dimension. Surely the party leadership recognizes that in a democracy, cred-

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It also knows that the people have not seen what was expected to come out of Islah, once it shared power in government. For the time being, many of the people in the streets are questioning if Islah has really lived up to its name as an effective executor of government. The Ministries under Islah suffer from less effectiveness than even those held by its not so effective partner in government, the People's General Congress. Some moves by Islahi ministers are also being questioned as to the sincerity of their intents. Suggested reforms never go beyond shifting of staff or attempts to justify personnel changes under the pretext of waging a war against corruption. In reality, the use of such logic has not been very impressive so far, because the relevant ministers are unable to actually pinpoint clearly where the corruption lies. In fact, some of the moves in this regard have backfired to clearly show that the respective ministers have really been unfair to their victims and to their platform by simply picking on the wrong guys

to start this anti corruption drive. While this is no complaint against the Islah party as an important national political force, it goes without saying that Islah ministers need to overcome the problem of mixing functional professionalism with partisan dictates. This could lead to misguided decisions that are unfair to the victims of such decisions and at the same time do an injustice to the people who expected much more from them. Despite the many shortcomings of the system, one might be inclined to admit there are some positive indications that the innocent will not be so easily overtaken. In several actions of this sort, the President of the Republic, Ali Abdullah Saleh, should be commended for taking the immediate and appropriate decision that protected the innocent and restored respect for the law and order in the governmental institutions. He must oversee and assure that political partisan maneuverings do not take precedence to functional professional effectiveness.

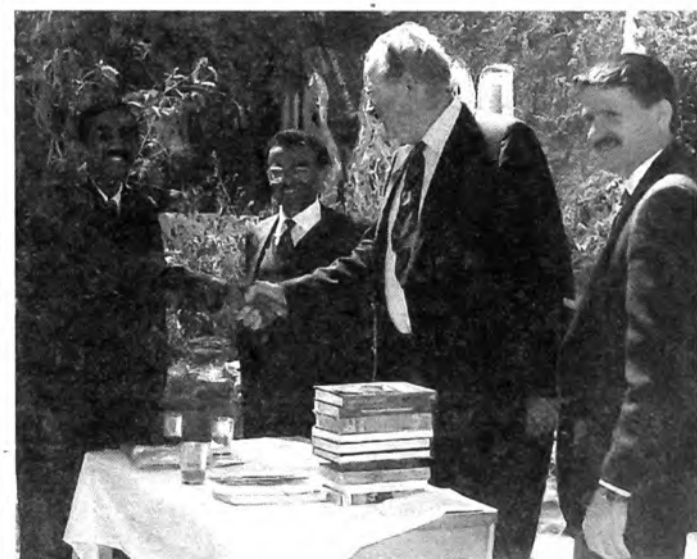
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YBS Prize at YBFA



Saturday 9th of November 1996, at 12 noon, the Yemeni-British Friendship Association and the British Council held a reception at the YBFA office in Sana'a. The event was attended by Mr. Jim Ellis from the British-Yemeni Society in London and many other friends. Mr. Ellis handed over the prize for the best essay competition organized and financed by the BYS for Yemeni students. The subject of the essay was related to Yemeni British relations. Ahmed Sallal Ahmed Mansour, a student at Zubairy School, Sana'a, was the winner of the prize, which he received in person. "The YBS plans to hold additional essay competitions and other activities in the future," said Mr. Ellis.

Yusuf Abdul-Wadood:

“Consumption and production, stamp taxes, and high interest rates have to be lowered.”

Yusuf Abdulwadood Saeed is a story of rags to riches. He is, in many ways, a self-made man who today commands a respectable position in the business community.

Yousuf, 50, is the Chairman of the Sal-haddin Group of Factories in Hodeidah and Taiz which produce many kinds of office and household appliances, utensils, etc. He has stakes in various businesses such as insurance, banking, and other industries. He is today the Secretary General of the Hodeidah Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He is also involved in a lot of charities and volunteer efforts and organizations. M. Bin Sallam interviewed him in his home at Hodeidah. Excerpts:



ahaddin Trade and Marketing was established. In 1976, the first industrial plant was established and ten years later, in 1986, Sal-haddin Industrial Complex for Household Appliances was set

economic conditions in Yemen?

A: These are hard times. The annual economic growth is quite low and does not lead to a big leap in development, that is badly needed. The main reason for the modest economic growth in our country is the weak and rather primitive infrastructure which is not conducive to investors. The government needs to invest more heavily in infrastructure such as roads, industrial zones, water, electricity and sanitation. The government must also arrange soft loans with reasonable interest rates for investments in industry, agriculture and fisheries. Projects in these fields are beneficial for the nation because they generate income to the public, revenue to the state, and reduce unemployment. What Yemen needs at the moment is more economic growth. With growth, you can attend to all problems. But is the stagnation and recession continue, then the situation could get out of hand.

rently implemented by the state?

A: The reforms are necessary and their implementation will improve our economic performance. The proof of this is the stability of the Yemeni rial against the dollar and other foreign currencies. The government must undertake many other steps in this regard. In short, I see the reform as a necessary investment in ensuring better conditions in the future.

I realise that some of the immediate results of the reforms may bring hardships, especially in the poorer segments of society. But we have to go through with them. Meanwhile, we need to minimize the suffering through a variety of programs targeting the poor and vulnerable.

Q: Are there any particular issues that you think must be addressed?

A: Yes, I think that an unfair tax has been enacted. This is the production and consumption tax, which must be restructured. The stamp tax is also very high. Finally, the interest rates have to be lowered if capitalists are to undertake new investments. I hope the government will review these issues.

Q: Any final comments?

A: Yes, while I am supportive of all the democratic measures like elections and other issues, I wish they could be done with least violence and volatility. The economy needs stability and law and order.

Investors in Dispute with Sanaa University Hold a Press Conference

Half a dozen investors and their lawyers took up the panel on Saturday morning, November 9th. They were there to explain their side of the story on the dispute with Sanaa University regarding a large chunk of land, next to the College of Medicine.

The investors offered to the journalists authenticated copies of deeds which showed that the investors had legally purchased the land. "Can somebody ask Sanaa University to produce the documents that show the land belong to it?" they repeatedly asked. Indeed, the university, when asked could not produce any documents. What they have is a government decision and a master plan from the Ministry of Housing and Municipalities which assigns the government land to the university. It was taken for granted for a long time that the land was part and parcel of the campus.

But then, the government turned around and sold the land to the investors. Actually, the businessmen who bought the land, immigrant Yemenis, bought the land three times. First, they purchased it from the government, then they paid up handsomely to the tribes who work on the land, and finally, they made contributions to the officers and soldiers of the military camp next to it.

"We have incurred a lot of unnecessary costs. Is this the way Yemen invites investors. Is this how investors are treated? How can the country attract investors from abroad - whether Yemeni or foreign - if this is what happens to them?" There were many questions without answers.

The lawyers representing the businessmen indicated that the case was being shuffled from one person to another. "Finally, President Ali Abdullah Saleh asked Judge Mohammed Ismail Al-Hajji, Chairman of the Supreme Court, to resolve the matter. Although the intentions are good, the Supreme Court is not where the case should be handled. Because, assume either party is not happy with the decision, who does one appeal to?" asked Mohammed Naji Allaw, a lead lawyer on behalf of the investors.

Meanwhile, the investors, under protection of a paid-for military contingency, continues to speed up the construction process, while Sanaa University, crying foul, is trying to stop it. So far, Yemen Times learned that the investors have already poured in tens of millions of Riyals in constructing the entertainment and residential/office complex. "We expect construction to be finished early in 1997," said one of the partners.

Sanaa University is offered another plot of land, much smaller in size, and not immediately adjacent to the Medical College, although not far from it. The Board of Trustees has, so far, refused to accept the offer.

Q: Tell us a little bit about your business beginnings?

A: I started commercial activities in 1964. That was when the Sal-

up. The first specialized teapot factory was established in Taiz in 1990.

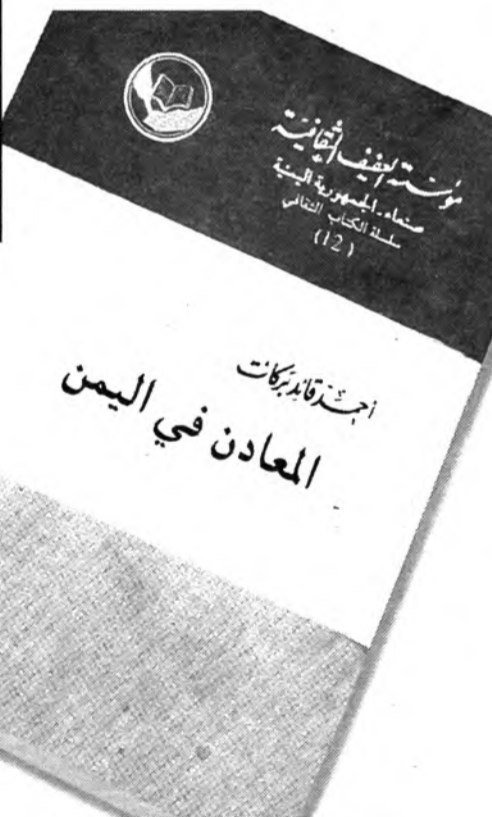
Q: How do you see the present

Q: What is your opinion on the economic reforms being cur-

Book Review:

Al-Afif Foundation's New Book: 'MINERALS IN YEMEN'

In pursuit of his endeavor to shed some light on the natural resources of Yemen, the author Ahmed Kaid Barakat - a mining and petroleum engineer by education - has followed his previous book *OIL IN YEMEN* (published 1991) by another on minerals. The aim of the author, as he explains in his preface, is to present to the general reader as well as to the interested researcher, a comprehensive, yet concise, introduction to useful minerals and their ores in Yemen. The information is derived from historical references, but chiefly from recent field explorations and surveys and scientific investigations, supported by personal work and experience in oil and mineral affairs in the course of the last four decades.



This little book comprises ten chapters of condensed material, beginning with a short summary of praise made by local and Arab historians about minerals and mineralized sites in various parts of the country. Mining activities and smelting, refining and testing of several minerals especially those of precious metal - gold and silver were also mentioned.

The expert knowledge of Al-Hamdani - a renowned 10th century Yemeni historian, scientist, geographer and traveler - is briefly presented to demonstrate the advanced stages these activities had reached in Yemen centuries ago.

In order to facilitate understanding of the subject by the general reader, the author provides introductory chapters related to general scientific information on the presence of minerals in the earth's crust, mineralogy, rock formation and classification, sources of mineral ores and methods and tools of mineral exploration. The rest of the book deals with the principal subject,

starting with a review of the many programs of prospecting and exploration carried out in several parts of the country by groups and individuals from a number of European countries (Sweden, Germany, France, Romania, Russia, the Czech Republic and others) and from the USA, China, Canada, the UN and the World Bank. It also highlights the programs implemented by the Department of Geographical Survey at the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources.

As a result of these programs, factual and extensive data has been compiled on mineralization in Yemen. Recommendations for further investigations on particular deposits of commercial

viability are also defined. The author draws special attention to deposits and urges early exploration. He concludes his book with two chapters of particular importance to both the country and investors in the mining industry. They focus on laws and regulations and administrative procedures which should be free from bureaucratic red-tape and complication. The rewards and benefits of a successful mining industry and its positive effects socially and economically are highlighted in the final chapter.

The book is in Arabic and is published by Al-Afif Cultural Foundation and can be obtained at public book shops.

News Aden Hotel Mövenpick in the autumn

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The Cost is only? Single \$99,- or Double room \$109,- for Foreign residents. Single YR9900,- or Double room YR10900,- for Yemeni residents. All above rates are inclusive 10% service charge and 14.5% taxes, as well as Mövenpick Buffet Breakfast.

When to go ? Whenever you are in need of a short break on Thursday and Friday when the hotel has availability. Also it might be possible to come on national-holidays. Reserve in advance, not to be disappointed.

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When people talk about any distress, agony, pain or disability in society, people often talk about it as a transient phenomenon which needs to be alleviated. Yet, there are those among us to whom pain and disability is a permanent part of their lives. We are, of course, talking about the the disabled and handicapped.

Society should make special arrangements for these people, for they are part of it. From the outset, one should insist the handicapped do not need handouts or pity, they just need to be helped to integrate into mainstream society.

One organization that is helping integrate handicapped into society is the Aden Handicapped Society. Radhwan Al-Saqqaq of Yemen Times Aden Bureau filed this interview with Arif Al-Awlaqi, Director of the Aden Handicapped Society. Excerpts.

Q: When was the society established? Who helped?

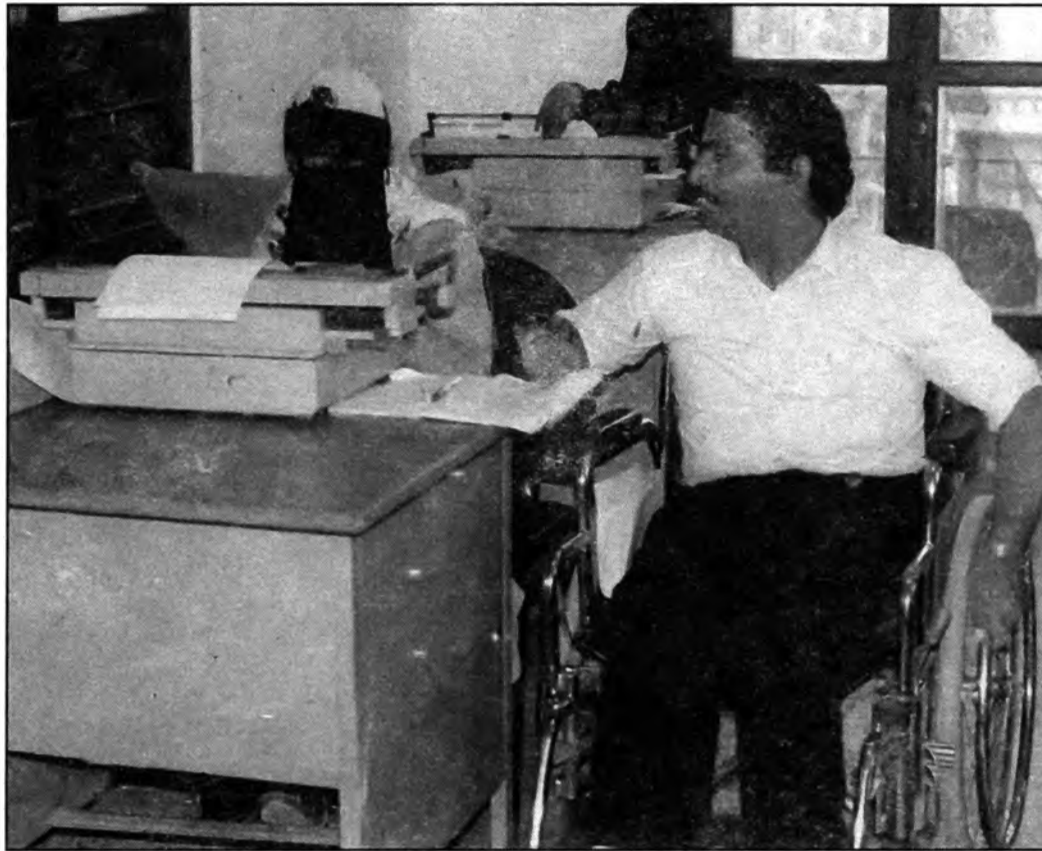
A: The Handicapped Society of Aden was established in January 1993. Many individuals and the government felt there was urgent and great need for such a step. It is important to start training handicapped individuals in order to give them a chance to get involved in society and interact with it positively.

We started with 32 handicapped male and female individuals. Unfortunately, we were immediately overtaken by the crises and war which overwhelmed the whole country during 1994.

I would like to use this occasion to pay tribute to the Governorate of Aden which granted us a building which we use as premises for the society.

We received contributions from local philanthropic and humanitarian associations and business men which allowed us to repair and re-structure the building. But the substantive help came from Rada Barnen and OXFAM, whose assistance enabled us to

The Handicapped Society in Aden: "Give us a chance to integrate into mainstream society."



equip the society with the necessary facilities. By October, 1995, we were ready for business.

Q: What are the activities in which you train the handicapped?

A: We qualify the handicapped to produce goods demanded by the market. Using simple and light tools, they are trained in various fields:

- There is the sewing workshop. Here the task is to learn to produce garments, etc.

- There is the simple household goods which are produced manually. The goods are taken to the market for sale, or they are auctioned in bazars and exhibitions, when they are held.

- There are secretarial skills. Here the handicapped individuals are trained to be typists, telephone operators, etc.

- Finally, let me mention that we offer regular classes to handicapped children. You know that the school system does not offer the necessary protection for handicapped children. So, they end up not going to school. We are trying to reach out to the children.

Q: Are your products and your trainees received well by society?

A: I am afraid not. For example, after completion of vocational training, the handicapped individuals face discrimination in employment. If a handicapped can serve well as telephone operator or typist, or whatever, what difference does it make if he/she can walk like others or not. whether in the public or the private sector and this means the doors are going to be closed before us in life and the reason "You are handicapped". I think society should change its attitude toward us for we can interact and contribute. We also urge people to buy products made by the handicapped as a gesture of support.

Q: How can the government help?

A: We already receive YR 15000 per month from the state. This covers some of our needs and requirements. In reality, we are in need of stronger support to enable us to return to mainstream society. Maybe the state media can help by raising awareness among the public regarding interaction with us. Finally, the state should enact a law to forbid discrimination in employment and other treatment.

Q: Any last comment?

A: From here, I call all the philanthropic Yemenis, international organizations and NGOs to lend a helping hand. We want to live like others.

Let me express appreciation for the Yemen Times, which we call the newspaper with a heart.

I remember your newspaper raised funds - mainly from oil companies - to buy wheelchairs for the handicapped in Sanaa in 1993. In the winter of 1994, the newspaper financed from its own funds clothings for the handicapped, again in Sanaa. Will your newspaper help the handicapped in Aden?

The Wonders of Garlic

Garlic, along with its brother onion, is the most famous medical plant on earth. Egyptian garlic is the best due to the nature of soil and Nile waters. It is mentioned by the Holy Quran and its health benefits were inscribed on the pyramids of Egypt 4500 years ago. It used to be given to Roman wrestlers before a match to give them speed and power. Scientific evidence have shown that garlic purifies the blood from cholesterol and germs. Garlic contains 49% proteins and 25% volatile sulfuric oils and some proportions of minerals and fat solvents. There are some recipes for curing various ailment with garlic.

1- A Moduretic and Cleanser of Urinary Tracts:

Three cloves of garlic must be crushed and mixed with a well boiled and cooled amount of barley. The mixture is to be drunk daily before breakfast along with plenty of lemon juice. Fizzy drinks must be avoided.

2- To Combat Ameba and Dysentery:

A chopped clove of garlic must be eaten after each meal for a week along with a table spoonful of olive oil.

3- For Indigestion, Flatulence and Stomach Cramps.

Three cloves of garlic, crushed and mixed with pear juice must be take daily before sleep or when stomach cramps occur. The abdomen can be massaged with a mixture of garlic oil and olive oil.

4- For Curing Typhoid:

Five cloves of garlic must be crushed and mixed with warm milk sweetened with honey and taken before sleep. The patients vertebral column and limbs can be massaged with a mixture of garlic oil ad olive oil. Also, garlic vapors must be inhaled for 5 minutes every morning.

5- For Infected Wounds:

Garlic must be crushed to the consistency of an ointment and placed on the infected wound. It may hurt or sting but it can prevent the onset of gangrene which lead to amputating the infected limb.

Wounds can also be cleansed and disinfected by a mixture of crushed garlic and warm water which can kill all germs.

6- Diphtheria:

A clove of garlic must be chewed like a chewing gum for 3 minutes than swallowed after each meal. After that, the vapor-of boiled garlic has to be inhaled for 3-5 minutes. Cold must be strictly avoided.

7- Alopecia:

A dough of garlic should be kneaded with a teaspoonful of gun-powder until it resembles a black ointment. The infected area of the head is then lacerate with a sterilized razor blade until blood appears.

The ointment is to be placed on the infection and the area bandaged. This procedure must be repeated for give executive days until alopecia is killed and hair starts growing again. (Tried).

8- Rheumatism:

A clove of garlic must be peeled, crushed and kneaded with some honey an teaspoonful of fine fennel seeds. The mixture is then placed on the rheumatoid area and left from evening till morning. This process should be repeated at least twice and rheumatism disappears.

9- For Nerves:

A clove of garlic must be chopped and swallowed before breakfast with warm milk with a few drops of amber. This will help to strengthen and soothe the nerves.

10- For Deafness:

Seven cloves of garlic must be crushed and heated in olive oil. After the mixture cools down a bit, it can be instilled (few drops) in the ear which must then be closed with a peace of cotton. This process must be repeated every second day.

11- To Combat Influenza:

Orange and lemon juice mixed with seven crushed garlic cloves must be drunk every morning before breakfast. The vapor of boiled garlic must be inhale before going to bed. This is to be repeated at least twice until influenza is cured.

12- For Flu and Runny Nose:

A clove of garlic is to be swallowed after each meal, plus lemon and garlic drink and inhaling garlic vapor will do wonders in curing cold.

13- Cancer:

Garlic contains an anti-cancer substance called albine. Cancer patients are advised to have plenty of garlic and carrots to help them combat this deadly disease.

14- For Whooping Cough:

The vapor of a handful of chopped garlic cloves and boiled in slightly salted water must be inhaled before sleep for at least a week.

15- For Tuberculosis:

Three cloves of garlic must be crushed and eaten with a piece of bread before breakfast. In the evening, garlic vapor (similar to whooping cough recipe) must be inhaled. This process must continue for at least a month.

16- For Dandruff:

Three cloves of garlic are to be crushed until they become like a dough. This is then kneaded in apple vinegar and placed in a glass bottle in the sun for a week. The scalp must be massaged with this mixture for a week. After that, olive oil is used. This process removes dandruff and softens the hair.

17- For Enhancing Memory General Vitality:

Three cloves of garlic are mixed in a blender with three tomatoes and little salts. The mixture is to be taken as a chilled drink to vitalize mental and physical powers.

18- To Strengthen the Teeth and Gums:

Desiccated garlic is use to massage the gums then mint could be chewed in order to remove the smell.

19- As an Aphrodisiac:

Garlic is crushed and lightly browned in olive oil on low heat and then stored in a small bottle. When it is needed, the mixture is used to massage to the root of the pen is in a circular motion. It must not be washed before one hour.

20- For Hardened Blood Vessels and High Blood Pressure:

Garlic is crushed and fried and left covered in the sun for forty days. A spoonful of the substance must be taken before breakfast for forty days.

21- As a Preventative of Plague and Aids:

Three crushed cloves of garlic must be mixed with a cup of honey and some water and taken daily.

22- Garlic leaves can be chewed and placed on the eye in the morning and evening to cure trachoma.

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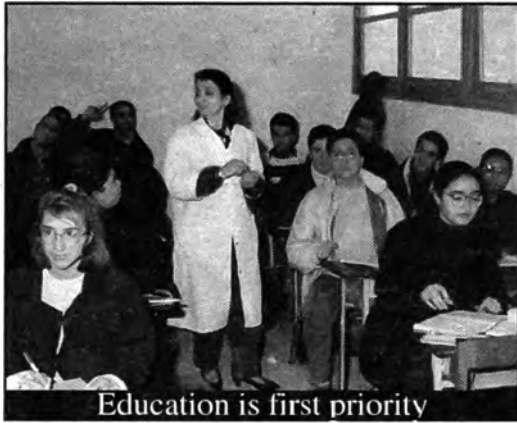
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Bin Ali on the Move!

Tunisians Celebrate 7 November

When one usually hears or reads about any of the Middle East or North African countries, one is bound to come into contact with the turmoil, despair, frustration and other maladies that plague the area. But for the past 9 years so far, Tunisia has not made the headlines in world news. Why? The reason brings us good news. The truth of the matter is that Tunisia had nothing to offer to the sensationalism-hungry media. Tunisia was so busy doing what is expected of any developing society: working to come of age. Since President Zein Al-Abideen Bin Ali took over on the 7th of November 1987, the people of Tunisia have been diligently working to catch up with the advanced world. As a result, Tunisia boasts one of the highest and steadiest growth rates in the world.



Let us look at the land that produced Hannibal some 2200 years ago who threatened to take over Rome in the year 216 BC in the latter stages of the Second Punic War. With the collapse of the Great Carthage, the land known as Tunisia was to wait until the arrival of Islam in 670 AD until it would witness new grandeur. It soon turned into one of the most important cultural and intellectual centers in the Mediterranean Basin for more than a thousand years, boasting one of the first universities in the world at Al-Qairawan.

Tunisia, the Land and the People:

Tunisia is situated at the top-most point of the African continent being only 137 km east of the island of Sicily. It is bordered in the East and North by the Mediterranean and on the South East by Libya and on the west by Algeria. It occupies an area of 162,155 square kilometers and possesses a coastline of 1298 km.

The land area varies from fertile and well irrigated land in the north to arid and inhospitable terrain in the southern Saharan desert. The average altitude is 700 meters with the highest peak being Mount Al-Sha'aniby (1544 meters). The climate is on average very moderate with the temperature not dipping below 10 degrees in December and not exceeding 30 degrees in July.

The country enjoys unseasonal rainfall that reaches 800 mm per annum, in the north to as low as 50 mm to the south.

The population of Tunisia is around 9 million of whom 60% are urban dwellers, while 37% of the population is under 15 years of age. The growth rate of the population is 2.5% annually. The religion of the nation is Islam.

The Economy:

The economy has been Tunisia's big success story as the government - enjoying stability for many years - was able to focus attention on economic development. It was able to achieve sustained growth and progress. The average real growth of the economy is 4.2% per annum, and exports were growing by 10.8% per annum.

Productivity rose by 2.2% per annum whereas labour productivity was growing at 2% per annum. Consumption was also growing at 2.7%. Debt service by 1991 had gone down to less than 20% of exports from a high of 28% in 1987.

The chief products of Tunisia are agricultural produce. Growth rate over the last ten years averaged 20%. Agricultural produce is varied from dates to wheat to Egyptian Soya and other grains, in addition to fruits and vegetables which are also export items.

The government is paying attention to the agricultural sector by providing incentives for investments and facilities for marketing and transport of commodities whether internally or to outside markets.

On the other hand, Tunisia enjoys a conducive



environment for investors. Stability, law and order, easy conditions, and a skilled labour force. A rapidly growing tourist industry - an essential source of foreign exchange, has also left its mark. The number of tourists that entered Tunisia reached well over three million, of whom 1.8 million were Europeans (650,000 from Germany alone, being the largest single group). Investment in this sector is being encouraged as it adds 9000 additional jobs every year.

On the political front, there is a sincere effort to instill law and order and to have the democratic process become a fact of life and not just slogans. Women are enjoying a liberal environment that allows them to share in all the rights and duties accorded to citizens. A civil society is being enhanced through the establishment of non-governmental organizations and charity associations which enjoy full institutional rights to carry out their functions.

The future of Tunisia looks promising as the government continues to push for free market policies and for liberalization of trade and encouragement of greater private sector involvement in the economy. With the continued stability the country is enjoying, Tunisia should have no problem continuing to be a model for other developing countries.

Cont'd from page 1:

Big Deal

There are mistakes on both sides. Let us specify them:

The Minister's Mistakes:

1. It is true that Minister Al-Akwa' is extremely slow in decision-making. This exacerbated an already difficult electric supply situation.

2. Manging-director appointments are by presidential decree. Therefore, a clearance from the President or Prime Minister is required to suspend them from work. It is clear the minister did not have this.

3. Minister Al-Akwa' has been noted to play a subservient role to his party's wishes. While a little sucking up to party bosses is understandable, it is believed Minister Al-Akwa' overdid it.

The Other Side's Mistakes:

1. The President and Prime Minister should not discuss and decide on major issues in any ministry without involving the minister, even if they don't see eye to eye with him.

2. The President and Prime Minister should not take steps, under whatever pretext, to block the investigation of officials.

3. The Prime Minister could have ordered the minister to re-instate the managing-director. He did not need to nullify the minister's decision the very next day.

The President is often caught in such situations, partly because he is fed with twisted information to entice him to take a certain stand or position. Yet, the system does not offer the mechanism to get back at those who 'use' him in this way, even when he later realizes what had happened. And yet, he cannot sit back and watch government officials squabble and let things get out of hand. The solution really lies in institution-building. The nation needs to create organizations that can take decisions and be held responsible for them. There must be channels through which all officials can interact among themselves as well as with higher authorities.

At the moment, since the final word rests with the President, the people who have access to him have it their way, irrespective of whether they are right or wrong! This does not help bring about the best ideas and solutions.

REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
Ministry of Electricity & Water

الجمهورية اليمنية
وزارة الكهرباء والمياه

REF: _____
DATE: _____

الموضوع:
قرار وزاري رقم (١٣٦) لسنة 1996م بشأن توقيف مدير عام المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء وتنظيف من يقوم بعمله

رئيس الجمهورية، والسيد:
بعد الاطلاع على القرار الجمهوري رقم (1) لسنة 1994م بشأن تشيخ العمرة وعلى القانون رقم (19) لسنة 1991م بشأن الخدمة المدنية والاحتفاظ بها واستعداداً لتسيير الجهاز المركزي لتربية وتنشيطه ونظراً للنتائج والتميز التي تميزها المهندس أحمد حسن العيني مثقفاً بشك مقصدياً وولعاً بالهبة المتعددة في تقويم التوظيف المدنية لذلك وستة تحقيق أهداف مسيرة الإصلاحات المدنية والإدارية التي يقومها فعادة رئيس الجمهورية تنطبق على حياته صالح

مادة (1) يوافق المهندس أحمد حسن العيني من العمل ويحال إلى التقية.
مادة (2) تمت كتابة مستحبات الشكر وتمس آية قرارات تر ترحيباً بشخصاً الشكر من تاريخ صدور قرارنا هذا.
مادة (3) يوافق المهندس/عبدالمعطي عبدالعظيم الجندبة لتسيير بأصل مدير عام المؤسسة العامة للكهرباء.
مادة (4) احس نقابة الأثبات والبرقيات الترتيبية لتتولى مهامها في هذا القرار وتنسب له.
مادة (5) يعتبر هذا القرار نافذاً من تاريخه.
صدر بوزارة الكهرباء والمياه بتاريخ ١٧/١١/١٩٩٦م الموافق ٢٤/١١/١٩٩٦م.

رئيس مجلس الوزراء

الأخ/المهندس أحمد حسين العيني
المدير العام للمؤسسة العامة للكهرباء، المحترم

بند النحية،
بالإشارة إلى قرار الأخ/وزير الكهرباء والمياه رقم (١٣٦) لعام ١٩٩٦م بتاريخ ١٠/١١/١٩٩٦م... فقد تسنا باتخاذ الاجراءات المناهبة. وبنأء عليه نبلغكم بالاستمرار في مواصلة أداء مهامكم كمدير عام للمؤسسة العامة للكهرباء. وشكراً

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Yemen's Musical Heritage: FOR EXPORT ONLY

By: Walid Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times.

The official government agencies dealing with culture and the fine arts have literally closed their minds, ears, and hearts to Yemen's rich musical folklore heritage for almost two decades. In fact, artists in the music field, with any degree of talent, have no place of standing with the relevant authorities. Even innovative music has been limited to that which enhances the image of the rulers or builds national pride, and the Ministry of culture is aloof from all other arts and creativity. Some Yemeni artists, especially musicians, have become so distressed with the official reception, when they sought employment or to execute ideas towards modernizing and institutionalizing Yemeni musical art, that they just packed up their bags and gone overseas to reach the destiny they choose for themselves. Many have indeed found fortune, fame and success awaiting them. A few examples: Abu Bakr Salim Balfaqui, Ahmed Fathy and many others. They found reception, they found encouragement and motivation.

Badr Ahmed Awadh was not lucky to make it in the Gulf states as many Yemeni artists, but he nevertheless continued to perform his musical talents in the other countries he went to. He was able to make a modest living out of it, although his



talent was far above the returns his music generated.

Badr complains that Yemeni musical art is a victim of inexcusable neglect by the relevant authorities. Badr Awadh believes that while he performed mostly outside of Yemen, his nationalism never left him, and he performed politically

inspiring songs to sell the Yemeni Revolution and the Unification of the country. His talents received recognition and the press of the countries he lived in were quick to give the artist critical acclaim. His audiences were surprised that a Yemeni artist was able to give appealing renditions of Yemeni

folklore music, which many were unfamiliar with, in addition to performing the works of fine, Arabic musicians like Ahmed al-Moojy and Abdul-Halim Hafez. Mister Awadh's dilemma was that the only reception accorded to him by the relevant bodies were shocked to find that they did not even care to hear about his strong efforts to promote Yemeni folklore music overseas, and to spread the Yemeni nationalist message even to the United States.

They even refused to grant him the appropriate monthly stipends given to nationally known artists who sing patriotic songs. He complains, "Who are these people who wield so much power, yet without having done anything worthwhile towards enhancing Yemeni culture, locally or overseas. In fact," he asks, "what have they done for the country?"

Most musicians have given up



hope of any encouragement from the government. They also shy away from recording their creative songs as no propriety rights are respected, because copyright laws are not enforced to protect the rights. Therefore musicians will simply eke out any modest living they can by singing in weddings and other festivities.

Establishment of Branch Office of FUWPO:

Call for Stronger Family Values

Al-Hamad Hotel on Wednesday 6th November, saw the inauguration of a branch of the Family Union for World Peace Organization in Yemen. The ceremony was attended by Mr. Kim, the head of the new branch. Mr. Fritz Piepenburg, Head of the Union in Peru; Mr. Sakigushi and his wife, representatives of the Japan branch, and many Yemenis.

The Family Union for World Peace is an international organization that was first established in Korea in 1973 by Mr. Sun Mian Moon and his wife Mrs. Han Jahan Moon. Other Family Union branches were opened in Japan (August, 1994), and Washington, USA (August, 1996).

A lecture about the role of Yemeni women in the family and society was delivered by Dr. Amatal-Razak Ali Hummad, President of the Women Bureau in the Permanent Committee of the People's General Congress. Other leading Yemeni women also spoke about the need to return to strong values and family relations. A film showing the activities of the Union in Korea was presented at the gathering.

The objectives of the Family Union for World Peace Organization can be summarized as follows:

1) To encourage development and strengthening of the family, and to stress the responsibility of parents towards their children in order to help them develop their personalities and behavior and protect them from exploitation.

2) To link up and coordinate with other world organizations that are interested in addressing social problems.

3) To channel efforts and assistance of patrons, philanthropists and charities to helping stronger family ties and values worldwide, irrespective of nationality, religion or politics.

It was learned that the Family Union for World Peace Organization - Yemen Branch is registered with the Yemeni authorities as an NGO. It plans to undertake various activities leading to stronger



commitment to and more awareness of the role of family in society. Such a role is determined by the strength of the family itself and the values it holds as dear.

Yemeni organizations and associations working towards the

same objective will be visited by the new NGO's officials to coordinate efforts and to discuss joint activities.

By: Aneesa Ghanim,
Social Editor,
Yemen Times.

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Arab Food Imports to Peak at \$50b This Year

Total food imports by Arab countries are set to jump by more than 40% to a record 50 billion dollars in 1996, mainly because of higher cereal consumption. The food imports by the 22 member Arab League, mostly from industrial nations, stood at nearly 35 billion dollars in 1995, said a report issued last month by the Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.

"Expectations are that the import bill will rise to 50 billion dollars as Arab states will import more cereals, including 20 million tons of wheat," said the report.

According to official reports, Arab countries imported between 15 million and 18 million tons of wheat annually over the past five years. Imports also cover other cereals as well as meat, food oil, sugar and vegetables.

Arab Governments have often come under fire for failing to take measures to ease reliance on imported food, in spite of the excessive rhetoric about food self-sufficiency and food security. Factors behind such a reliance include inadequate farming policies and lack of agricultural investment.

Only 64 million hectares (160 million acres) of the arable land of 198 million hectares (490 million acres) are exploited.

Low farm productivity (less 1.5 tons per hectare as compared to the average of 3-4 tons per hectare in the advanced countries) has combined with a rapid population growth to create a permanent food gap in the region. The gap, the difference between imports and exports, has accumulated to nearly 160 billion dollars since 1980.

"Arab states are invited to take measures to ensure social security for their people," the report stated.

"Such measures include removing customs barriers, setting up a free trade zone, revising agricultural policies and increasing cereal stockpiles," it said.

War Reduces Sri Lanka to Low-budget Tourism

Nestling amid huge trees fanned by cool breezes from the nearby lake, the Culture Club resort looks as if it comes straight from a picturebook of Sri Lanka's past.

Visitors are greeted by traditional drums, ushered to their rustic-looking cottages in bullock carts and treated to flute music during sunset refreshments on the verandah. The Culture Club is one of many idyllic resorts scattered throughout Sri Lanka, all waiting impatiently for foreign tourists.

They may have to wait some while longer. Sri Lanka's tourist industry, once the tropical island's top foreign exchange earner, has been badly hit by the civil war, now in its 14th year, pitting Government forces and Tamil rebels seeking a separate homeland. "We are all scrambling for the business and prices are tumbling as a result," said Dirk Flamer-Caldera, a director at Connaissance de Ceylan Ltd., which owns the Culture Club at Kandalama, 140 km northeast of Colombo. "I guess beggars can't be choosers."

Last year, the tourist industry earned \$224 million, lagging behind the garment industry, expatriate remittances and tea exports as a foreign exchange earner. Its ranking could slip further this year.

Unable to attract a high spending clientele, Sri Lankan hoteliers have brought down their prices to rock-bottom levels. A double room that averaged about \$80 per day five years ago, now goes for as little as \$23. First class hotels sell a room for \$40 on a group rate, down from the \$90 rate which was regarded as necessary to make a profit.

Tourism officials are quick to point out that the war is contained in the north and east of Sri Lanka, well away from tourist attractions such as the southern beaches, the central hill country and the ancient kingdoms in the north central region. "Although the war is limited to a specific area, the perception is that this is a country at war." The Government announced it will soon launch a \$4 million global advertising campaign to press home the message that the war is contained.

Tourist Board figures show arrivals for the first seven months of this year fell 30% from a year earlier. And industry sources say winter bookings do not change the picture much. Sri Lanka had a little over 400,000 arrivals in 1995.

Hoteliers say the industry's woes are not limited to the headcount. "The problem right now is not with the numbers. We have tourists coming but at ridiculous prices."

The industry has responded to the bleak forecasts by laying off staff, closing down sections of hotels and holding back on expansion projects.

Court Ultimatum to India's Illegal Factories

India's Supreme Court has given the New Delhi administration a five-day deadline to find a new home for 39,000 illegal and polluting factories. Judges Kuldip Singh and Saghir Ahmed warned the city's Hindu nationalist Government that it would have to pay workers if the units could not be relocated following the September 11th order for them to close.

"If the state Government cannot carry out the court's direction, we may have to direct the Government to pay compensation to the workers," they said. About 200,000 workers could be affected by the move, officials say.

The judges ordered the Delhi Development Authority to identify an industrial estate on the outskirts of the city by Tuesday and rapped the Government for inaction, saying it "had nothing so far". The Supreme Court ordered the closure of the factories by January, following a petition by leading environmental activist and Supreme Court lawyer Mahesh Chander Mehta.

Mehta, 50, earlier said that the number of clandestine factories in New Delhi - rated the world's fourth-most polluted city - could "run up to 100,000 at a conservative estimate."

"There are five people working in each of these factories and that means a total 500,000 persons," he added. But Mehta, who is trying to help to persuade the businesses to relocate outside the capital, argued, "Illegal activity cannot be allowed to flourish for fear of possible unemployment."

An entrepreneur affected by the move said that industry was being made a scapegoat.

"Industry is the softest target. It is easy to tell us to fold up and leave within such a short time even though it was they (the Government) who invited us in the first place," he said on condition of anonymity.

"This city is worst affected by vehicular pollution but who would dare ask the numerous cars, the buses or the three-wheelers to leave the city?"

Mehta, who successfully asked the Supreme Court to order polluting factories to close down around the Taj Mahal in Agra in 1984, said New Delhi had become unbearable to live in. The number of people with breathing problems in New Delhi has been increasingly visibly.

Morocco Fights the Perils of Pollution

Within its medieval ochre walls, amid white buildings and green spaces, there is little hint of the dangers facing the Moroccan capital Rabat or the rest of the north Africa country's environment. But insidiously destroying its fabric, ruining Morocco's coast, and threatening its countryside, economy and health, pollution is being targeted as a relentless enemy that must be defeated.

Environment Minister Nouredine Ben Omar Alami says pollution is costing 20 billion dirhams a year and could largely be beaten by spending 4.6 billion dirhams a year which would bring annual economic benefits of 14.2 billion dirhams. His Ministry, set up four years ago in recognition of the problem, has since had an army of specialists working on a strategy for the years 2005-2035.

So far, its main task has been to assess the size of the problem. Some of the findings are alarming.

"Rock near the main discharge station (of the coast) is burnt, eroded and devoid of all form of life," says Abdelghani Chafik of the Fisheries Ministry, referring to waste pumped into the sea by edible oil, leather and phosphates industries.

While the phosphates earn foreign currency, local fishermen suffer, shellfish mutate, and waste and pollution threaten beaches which should be a magnet for the average three million, but falling, number of tourists visiting Morocco each year.

The Medina (Rabat's old city) is heading for squalor ... its historic attraction rapidly crumbling. In the center of Rabat, home to more than 750,000 people the lead and dust content (of the air) in places is 200 per cent higher than World Health Organization recommendations.

Rubbish is evident on parts of Morocco's 3,500 km coast and passing ships empty their waste making the Mediterranean the world's most polluted sea.

Stand by old quarries near Casablanca, the country's main financial center, and watch 2,000 tons of waste a day being 'disposed off pell-mell', tipped from a height of 30 feet to land where it will. Pollution of the water table from the quarries extends 300 meters from some sites, say the specialists.

They have for the first time pinpointed endangered plants and animals, targeted 10 factories for help and reform in the most industrialized area, surveyed waste produced by the 27 million population, and set priorities to change its ways.

"In the end, the adoption of the most compelling principle, 'the polluter pays', will have to be the standard policy. "Each year in Morocco, 3.9 million tons of solid household waste are produced in urban areas. Of the 85% which is collected, only 2% is recycled ... the rest is dumped without control..."

Ethiopian Defense Minister Sacked

Ethiopia's former Defense Minister Tamerat Layne, who was also Deputy Premier, has been dismissed from both posts and replaced by Addis Ababa Mayor Taffera Walwa, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi announced last week. Meles told Parliament that he had taken the decision with reluctance, adding: "When the choice must be made between a friend and the survival of a party or an ideal of the people, the choice is clear."

Tamerat was sacked from his post as Secretary General of the Amhara National Democratic Movement, ANDM, one of the main parties in the ruling front, for "indiscipline." In a statement read on national radio, the central committee of the ANDM stated that Tamerat, who is also Deputy Primer Minister, had failed to abide by the discipline expected of a combatant. The committee said he could not retain "the post of a parliamentary deputy or of a government official in the name of the party".

Political analysts said the statement could not have been broadcast without the approval of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, EPRDF, which includes representatives of the country's many ethnic groups. Tamerat, attending the special parliamentary session, bowed out with grace, saying his removal had been decided democratically. "I was not opposed to it myself."

"I am not fit to take on a portfolio and my repeated lack of discipline has in the end influenced my work," he declared.

On the reasons for the Defense Minister's departure, Meles said: "There are people who bend before fire and weapons, others who yield to sugar (money) ... after years of struggle. Mr. Tamerat has given in to personal problems."

Tamerat was Prime Minister during a transition period between 1991 and 1995, after the overthrow of Marxist military strongman Mengistu Haile Mariam, and formed the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, EPDM. The name of the party was later changed to the Amhara National Democratic Movement to take account of demands by Amharas and it took on an ethnic character. Taffera was another founding member of the ANDM.

Tamerat had spearheaded the political battle after the EPRDF seized power to convince opponents of the feasibility and sense of dividing Ethiopia into largely autonomous regions based on language and ethnic groups.

UAE Emerges as International Auto Parts Distribution Hub

Regional dealers in auto parts and auto accessories say the UAE is fast developing into an international distribution hub for the industry.

"Major markets such as the states of the former USSR and Pakistan are focusing on the Emirates as their main sourcing center," explained B.N. Bharath Kumar, Senior Manager, Dynatrade, Sharjah. "Because of this, we expect business volumes to double from their current levels by the year 2000."

Dyatrade, which recently concluded Government tenders and contracts from Iran and various African states, is now looking to establish an agency network encompassing Africa, the CIS, Pakistan and Yemen. Many of the auto parts importers of Yemen are already receiving the needs of their markets from the Emirates.

"We are looking to make the contacts at the Autostop 96 exhibition and have the network in place soon after," said Kumar.

Dynatrade is one of several exhibitors which are using Autostop 96, the garage, forecourt equipment and autoparts exhibition, as a stepping stone to emerging markets.

Technical Leisure Services of Dubai says East Africa will be a major re-export player in the Middle East's automotive spare parts market in future years. The company is currently re-exporting between 35 and 40% of its stock to East Africa and says the market will continue to grow.

"Many East Africans are now coming to Dubai to buy automotive products which they find difficult to source in their own countries," explained Brian Bell, General Manager, Technical and Leisure Services. "Dubai can serve the needs of these people particularly in view of the highly competitive freight rates available to us."

Exhibitors from nine nations are taking part in Autostop 96, which will be held at the Dubai World Trade Center from November 25 to 28. Organizers say the visitors' promotion has been widened to attract traders from emerging markets.

Meanwhile, the development of shipping lines with the Indian Sub-continent, South Arabia and East Africa over the last few years has facilitated the trade routes with the Emirates.



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**First of
2-Part Article**

The Charter of the Elections Monitoring Committee

Yemen Times is happy to offer its translation of the Elections Monitoring Committee's charter, an NGO dedicated with helping to increase public confidence in the country's elections and the democratization process.

Quote:

The Elections Monitoring Committee is a private voluntary initiative which aims to promote civil society and democracy in Yemen.

INTRODUCTION:

The world is undergoing great political transformations these days. These changes are based on the fact that legitimacy of a system is derived from the will and consent of its citizens. How such legitimacy is acquired is varied, though all democratic systems share some common elements like political pluralism, peaceful transfer of power through the ballots, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and other elements which we have come to regard as pillars of democracy.

The experiment of the developing world in this field - known as democratization - is full of a lot of contradictions and changes. Among those politicians in the third world, some pursue the policy of pushing forward while others are still look to the past under a number of pretexts that impede the achievement of the democratic transformations or at least distort its features. Such behaviour has resulted in fear of the fate of these transformations. It has also created unclarity and doubt among the majority of the people on the credibility and success of the democratic experiment. This doubt and frustration are seen most clearly when dealing with the elections that have become part of the democratic system.

The intelligensia that attached itself voluntarily to the pursuit of democracy must be committed to contributing in the process. It may only succeed by raising the degree of trust in the democratic process and urging society to interact positively. Thus, a number of mechanisms have come into being to serve this very purpose.

The need to monitor the election has most assuredly arisen. Concepts on monitoring elections have developed during the last decade. It has not remained a mere supervision on the honesty of voting rights from the preparations of the elections up to the division of constituencies and other registration proceedings, whether for candidates or voters. Efforts are being exerted in recruiting the public media. Finally, the process of voting itself, the process of counting the votes, the announcement of the outcomes and the system of voids are all being reviewed.

The responsibility of monitoring the elections lies on an official apparatus supported by the state, such as the Supreme Election Committee in Yemen. As well as this, there are local, regional and international monitoring committees that undertake a full role in placing trustworthy citizens in positions of responsibility with regards to the outcomes of the elections. Working toward this aim, some of the civil institutions in the Republic of Yemen, such as the Yemeni Institute For Developing Democracy and a number of political parties, exerted themselves with emphasising the necessity of holding honest elections by laying down objective guarantees including an independant civil monitoring committee.

Election Law No. (27) consolidates this trend in a number of its articles, particularly the article which encourages the formation of a civil Yemeni effort - besides foreign efforts - in the process of monitoring the elections.

The response of a number of the intelligensia was towards the formation of a voluntary neutral civil committee participating in monitoring the elections. This initiative emerged after the first stab at elections in April 1993. This came into being in the form of a serious interactive co-operation by the National Democratic Institute for International Relations in Washington. In this respect, Yemen witnessed the formation of a temporary committee which participated in monitoring the elections. This new experiment emerges in completion to previous efforts, taking into account that some of the initiators had the honour of contributing in the previous experiment.

CHAPTER ONE: DEFINITIONS:

Article (1):

The Elections Monitoring Committee is a private, independant, neutral, voluntary initiative established according to the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and Elections Law No. (27) of 1996 and the laws and regulations in force in the Republic of Yemen. Its essential aim is to monitor the elections process in all its stages and to

document any violations that occur, specifying the degree of fairness of the elections and to what extent their outcome reflects the will of the voters. The EMF is a legal entity in front of the law.

Article (2):

The main office of the EMC is in Sanaa, and has branches and sub-branches all over the country.

Article (3):

Definitions of the organs of the EMC:

- The Committee: This is the General Assembly formed from all members - whether organizations, institutions or individuals. The committee is the highest body and is responsible for directing the works of EMC according to this law.

- The Founders: This is the total number of founders of the EMC and is made up of the organizations, institutions and individuals who conceived and established the EMC.

- The Executive Board: This is the apparatus which guides the work, and is responsible for managing and executing the operations of the EMC.

- The Chairman: This is the chairman of the EMC and is elected by the Committee.

- The General Secretary: This is the general secretary of the EMC and is elected by the Committee.

- The Assistant General Secretary for Technical Affairs: This is the assistant of the general secretary for technical affairs and is elected by the Committee.

- The Financial/ Administrative Assistant General Secretary: This is the assistant of the general secretary for financial and administrative affairs and elected by the Committee.

- The Departments: These are the group of the specialized departments which make up the Executive Board.

- The Head of the Departments: These are the persons responsible for the departments, and each is elected by the Committee.

- The Coordinator: This is the person who heads the branch office of the EMC. He is named by the Executive Board on the proposal of the Head of the Department for Volunteer Mobilization.

- The Head of the Constituency: This is the person who heads the team of observers stationed at each constituency. He is named by the Coordinator following the approval of the Executive Board.

CHAPTER TWO: GOALS & MECHANISMS:

Article (4):

The EMC works to achieve a number of goals, including the following:

First:

Supporting the Electoral Process through:

A- Preparation and publication of reports concerning the electoral process to the authorities, the local media and the international community about the way in which the elections have proceeded.

B- Evaluation of fairness of elections and the degree to which they reflect the will of the voters, and to assess equal and free competition among the candidates.

C- Providing moral support to the voters and providing information to the voters and candidates to enable them exercise their rights fully.

D- Encouraging those citizens who face impediments/difficulties in exercising their rights (such as women, minorities, the poor, the illiterate, etc.) in participating in the elections process.

E- Issuance of the final report about each election process.

Second:

Formation of a Correct Democratic Culture to be reflected in the behavior of society through the following:

A- Collecting, documenting and summarizing of modern, behavioral heritage for the regulations of the elections process.

B- Building a base of information and resources about the modern political systems in the world as well as in Yemen.

C- Encouraging the citizens to interact positively by participating in the election process in general and in the work of the EMC in particular.

D- Urging all political parties, the social forces and candidates as well as their supporters to respect the rules and regulations of the elections and to open up to the monitoring committees.

E- Building up a base of information about the boundaries of the constituencies and how they are drawn.

Article (5):

The EMC depends on a number of means to achieve its goals, which are:

A- Formation of branch monitoring stations in the governorates - besides the head office - through which a wide network of voluntary teams, formed in the constituencies, will gather information and

monitor the elections process.

B- Training of the teams of volunteers.

C- Enhancing public awareness by educating all the employees of the monitoring committee and volunteers.

D- Formation of a network of volunteers all over the country.

E- Monitoring, following-up, documenting, and publishing the violations in all stages of the elections process after verification and confirmation.

F- Monitoring abuse of any individual or party of public funds, the official media, administrative organs and institutions and other local authorities, in addition to the military/security in the process of the election.

G- Cooperation with the electoral authorities, the local civil and international agencies that are interested in the electoral process.

H- Naming representatives to attend the balloting and tallying process.

I- To follow-up the activities in the campaigns so as to assess whether, and to what extent, the law is violated.

J- To participate in meetings and seminars locally, regionally and internationally as related to elections.

K- The EMC shall work to consolidate fairness in the elections, in coordination and co-operation with similar institutions, whether private or official.

L- To participate in meetings and seminars locally, regionally and internationally as related to elections.

M- The EMC shall work to consolidate fairness in the elections, in coordination and co-operation with similar institutions, whether private or official.

CHAPTER THREE: THE STRUCTURE OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE

Article (6):

The EMC is composed of the following:

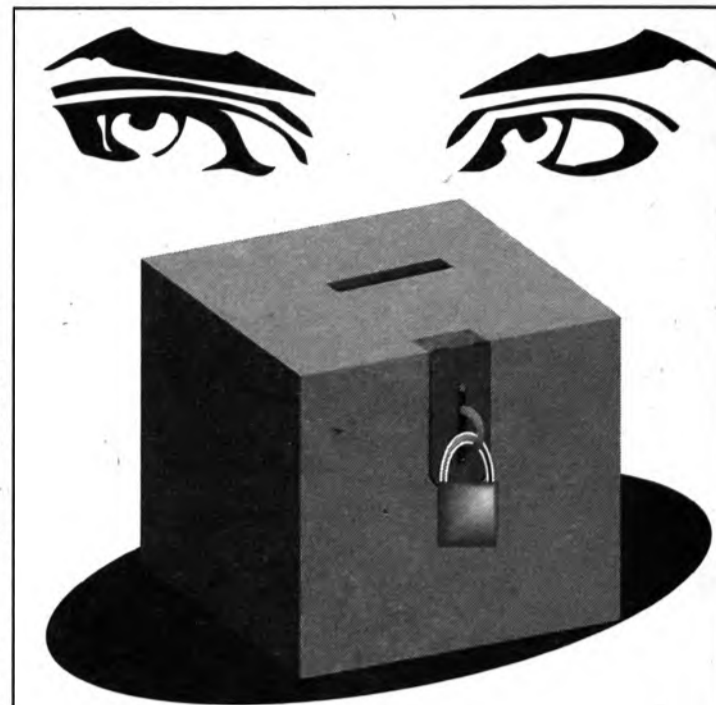
A- The Committee

B- The Founders

C- the Executive Board

D- The Departments

E- Branches



Article (7):

The Committee is formed of:

A- The Founders

B- Representatives of non-government organizations working on human rights and concerned with democracy who have a desire and are capable of contributing in the electoral process.

C- Any other parties that acquire membership of the committee and are approved by the "Founders".

Article (8):

The Founders are made up of:

A- Non-Government Organizations and civil institutions that undertook the responsibility of establishing the Elections Monitoring Committee according to documented meeting minutes.

B- Public figures who participated in establishing the Elections Monitoring Committee according to documented meeting minutes.

Article (9):

The Executive Committee is formed of the president, the general secretary and his assistants, the heads of the constituencies and others who have been agreed upon by the committee.

Next Week: Final Part

Shams detergent



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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TADHAMON ISLAMIC BANK



Mr. Ahmed Jabir Afif, Chairman of the Tadhamon Islamic Bank, was at the head of the delegation receiving the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, on November 5th, on the occasion of the official inauguration of the bank. "The bank operations actually started about four months ago," he said. Speaking about the experience, Mr. Afif said, "The experience is short and does not lend to proper assessment. The number of clients and amounts deposited were beyond our even highest expectations," he added.

Mr. Afif also expressed hope that Islamic banks will succeed in serving the community and in making a real contribution to investment options to the public.

Mr. Abdul-Jabbar Hayel Saeed, representing the largest block of share-holders and Managing Director of the bank, stressed the training and re-training effort exerted by the bank. "Some of our staff are already well-trained in Islamic banking operations, but the majority have undergone specialized training arranged by the bank," he said. He also pointed to the ultra-modern system and facilities of the bank. "The operation is performed through computers and modern equipment," he added.

Abdul-Jabbar then praised the monetary authorities of Yemen which, he said, interacted positively with the bank and provided all kind of support.

Yemen Times then spoke to Mr. Tawfeek Jameel Abu Dabsah, the General Manager. "We have already floated three investment portfolios. Trade, is of course, another major business area," he pointed out. The public response was very good, although investment channels are not well established. "We have successfully formed the appropriate channels for receiving money and investing it in various commercial activities, the GM said.

Speaking about the procedures and investment methods that distinguish Islamic banking from others, he indicated the investment portfolios established by the bank. "Depositors, or rather investors, will be able to choose from a variety of portfolio options" Abu Dabsah then pointed to a new interaction system with clients. "We are embarking on a new experiment in Yemen. Clients will be served by one "station" only, i.e.; depositing and withdrawing will be handled by one officer on a "one-stop" operation system.

In terms of helping the country, Tadhamon Islamic Bank has initiated many export-promoting mechanisms. "We are going to finance the export needs of Yemeni products, starting from finishing and packaging, as well as helping with regional and international export possibilities."

But Islamic banks do not use interest, while the international banking system is based on this concept. How do Islamic banks

complete their worldwide clearances? "Islamic banks have proven their capabilities. They are an integral part of the banking systems of the future. Many international banks are beginning to introduce facilities for Islamic investments and clearances. The third largest bank in the world, Chase Manhattan Bank, has established new facilities for Islamic investment. Citibank started Islamic investment schemes' in the 1980s and recently opened a branch to deal entirely with Islamic banking systems. So you can see that Islamic banks can operate worldwide without having to violate their interest-free system," he said.

The Republic of Yemen is bound to benefit from the establishment of Islamic banks. "We have great hope for Yemen given its vast human and natural resources. The petroleum, minerals, agriculture, fishing, tourism, and other sectors offer tremendous options and opportunities for investments."

TADHAMON ISLAMIC BANK is Yemen's first Islamic bank to be officially inaugurated. The occasion was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Dr. Mohammed Al-Attar, Sheikh Abdul-Rahman Mohammed Ali Othman, Minister of Supply and Trade, Dr. Ghalib Al-Qurashi, Minister of Endowment and Religious Affairs, the Governor of the Central Bank, Mr. Alawi Al-Salami, and many officials and general managers of the banking system.

By: M. Bin Sallam,
Yemen Times.



Address:

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AL-MITHAQ: Sana'a, (Weekly,) 4-11-96
(PGC Mouthpiece)

Main Headlines:

- 1) PGC Leadership Meeting in Hadharmaut
- 2) A Youth Camp in Jabeen
- 3) Police at Madhbah Seizes a Quality of Heroin
- 4) Confiscating 60 Pieces of Unlicensed Firearms Within 48 Hours.

Article Summary:

"The Constitution of the Administration," by Faisal Al-Soufi

So long as you are an employee, you have to how your head and be patient. You have to bear the insults and "kicks" of your employer in order to be promoted and moved up the bureaucratic ladder. Beware of showing your real capabilities and talents so as not to annoy your employer or arouse his suspicions.

Better still, you can let your employer exploit your efforts and present your suggestions and achievements as the product of his genius. Be a flatterer and a sycophant so as not to incur the wrath of your boss.

We often complain of failure and blame it on mismanagement or lack of experience. In spite of the well qualified and experienced managers and personnel that staff the establishments of our country, we tend to attribute failure and unproductively to the ignorance of executives and their lack of skills. The problem is not in skills and qualifications. It is a problem of ethics and values. Selfishness, authoritarianism, conspiracy, nepotism, favoritism, exploitation, lack of initiative and creativity and fear of change have become the predominant forces of our administration. Such negative values stifle and will eventually lead to killing the spirit of devotion, team work, creativity, achievement and many other positive attitudes.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a, (Weekly), 5-11-96
(Nasserite Unionist Party Mouthpiece)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Contradicting the Constitution: YR 1.2 Million Extra Credit for SEC.
- 2) A Dark Forecast for Yemen in World Bank Report.
- 3) Condemning the Decision to Stop Teaching Philosophy at College of Education.

Article Summary:



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

"From Within Our Schools and Universities," by Abdul-Salam Hassan Qayed.

What can a university become if it chooses to assassinate the mind and kill the spirit of research, discovery and criticism? Sana'a University has stopped accepting new students at the Philosophy Department in the College of Education. This step represents the pinnacle of the tragedy. Sixteen years or more of education can pass without any effects on building the mind by diversifying knowledge and science and modernizing teaching methods. Students must be able to acquire comprehensive views and be helped to form mental images of existence.

They must gain the basic capabilities of creativity in the academic and practical aspects of life. We as a backward society, have to establish an education system that gives priority to quality over quantity. A system that is capable of building minds and preparing generations for a life of creativity and abundance. Our shelves have become crowded with certificates that prove our successes in schools and universities and our failures in the fields of creative thinking and work. An honest and responsibly revision of our educational system is urgently required.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 6-11-96
(Official Government)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Currents of Division Between the Socialist Party and Islah
- 2) The President is More Open to Dialogue than Islah
- 3) Divisions Threaten the Socialist Party.
- 4) The Last Shipment of Electric Generators Reaches Mukallah.

Article Summary:

"Parties ... or Political Anarchy"

In editorial, the paper talks about weaknesses and shortcomings in the performance of political

parties which must be uncovered and presented to the public without any hesitation. The number of political parties is increasing daily. Some individuals form parties and forsake them the next day, just like the pagan who ate his idol of dates when he became hungry. We do not want parties that yell more than they work; parties with volumes of communiqués. Every party, no matter how large its participation in authority is, must not treat its government officials as if they were its employees to be ordered about. Partisan activities must be purged of undemocratic mentalities. People with such mentalities are possessed by a feverish desire to exploit democracy and own the country, its people, and authority. In the advanced countries of the world, the opposition seeks the support of the people. In our country, the reverse is happening. The people are distancing themselves from the opposition and the narrow-minded partisan activities and their regrettable chaos.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 6-11-96
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The British Royal Navy Will Contribute to Settling the Yemeni-Eritrean Conflict.
- 2) The Huraib Military Sector Commander Occupies an Agricultural Compound.
- 3) The General Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary in Al-Mahra Abstain from Work in Protest Against the Security Apparatus Interventions.

Article Summary:

"Secondary School Certificates for Sale," by Abdullah Hashim Al-Masani

I was greatly astonished when I saw the secondary school certificate that was issued for an individual after paying YR 10,000. The person concerned had to leave primary school in order to provide for his poor family. He later joined the army and reached the rank of captain. After the damned war of 1994, he was ordered to stay at home and receive his

monthly salary. He had to look for work because he was not paid for the last 8 months.

The opportunity came for him to work in the army of Qatar. But candidates for such jobs were required to have, at least, secondary school certificates. In view of the terrible circumstances of his family, he saw no other alternative but to pay 10,000 rials to a corrupt official recommended to him by a friend

I saw the forged certificate along with some of my colleagues. It looked quite authentic with all the necessary stamps and signatures, and grades for each subject taken! So long as the difficult circumstances persist, there will always be weak officials who will easily succumb to the lure of money. Pity the poor students who study very hard to get a certificate that can be bought for a measly 10,000 Rials.

AL-SAHWAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 7-11-96
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform [Islah])

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Islah Supreme Committee Emphasize the Importance of Dialogue with Other Political Forces.
- 2) Sana'a University Council Threatens to Resign.
- 3) Sana'a Investment Power Station to Start Operations Within 6 Months.
- 4) The Palestinians Pay the Price for America Elections.

Article Summary:

"Even Though, There Are Some Good Americas," by Ali Abdullah Al-Wasee.

Despite all the hospitality and ambivalence with which the American government treats the Muslim World, we must be fair and admit there are good Americans who oppose aggressively the policies of their government. Patrick James Bucannan described the American congress as a "land occupied by Israel."

According to Dr. Sullivan, also an American, who stated in the Diplomat Magazine that, "America's political history has never witnessed such as an aggressive attack by the media like the one waged on Bucannan." He was described as a racist, anti-Semitic, and sinful person. "Bucannan rejected the 'Last Temptation of Christ' in the same way he rejected the 'Satanic Verses' by Salman Rushdi for their blasphemy," Sullivan said.

When will America be free and when will it be led by free men? When will they stop prostrating themselves in front of the Jews?

The Jews are using the terms racist and anti-semitic as poised swords against whoever disagrees with them or uncovers their disgusting truth. We must extend our hands to all Americans who sympathize with us and feel that we have won friends worthy of respect.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden, (Weekly), 4-11-96
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation Mouthpiece)

Main Headlines:

- 1) In View of (Continuation of) the Status Quo, Recognizing the Elections Puts an End to Democracy and Pluralism.
- 2) Fighting Is Renewed in Baihan.
- 3) The Dean of Aden University: "PSO Did Not Interrogate Heads of Colleges."

Article Summary:

"Abandoning Our Rights"

In its editorial, the outspoken Al-Tajammu' talks about forsaking rights.

It is very clear and there is no need to repeat that we started the march of elections with forgery and we will end with more of it. The opposition Council declared its position very clearly. The opposition will enter the elections on certain conditions and guarantees. This was announced before the start of voter registration. But our "friends" in some opposition parties and in authority pushed people to the registration centers without the slightest consideration to the decided popular mood.

The issue is not just the official forgery committed by the coalition, it is the need of the country to return to normalcy. We, along with the rest of the people, will not participate in such elections even if the whole Supreme Elections Committee and all the results of its work are abolished.

In order to honor the country and the people, the opposition must put forward its legitimate and serious demands. To continue picking-up the crumbs of their contradictions and election plans without linking them to a broad base of national reconciliation and putting a plan to implement the Pledge and Accord Document is a total abandonment of the rights of the people. Moreover, it is an acceptance of the status quo. Recognizing the elections under such circumstances puts an end to whole democratic process.

Letters to the editor. Letters to the Editor. Letters to the editor.

A Point to Contemplate

I was watching a program on CNN international a few days ago. The program was a CNN special presentation called Down the Dark River. It was a documentary about the Congo river that runs across Zaire. Whilst watching the program, I couldn't help but draw parallels between Zaire and Yemen.

Zaire people had pinned high hopes on the revolution, which led to independence in 1990 from Belgium. In his first years as president, Mobutu brought relative political stability to the country, began to liberalize the political system and made all kinds of promises - that never materialized.

But as Mobutu plunged the country more and more into an abyss, the people of Zaire came to the realization that this man's only expertise was in keeping himself in power. He appointed officials solely on their loyalty and subservience. Ignorant and incompetent members of his clan were running the country forcing out those who were not from the oligarchy. First they took over the military. Then they squeezed "undesirables" from the political system. Finally, they monopolized the economy and plundered the country's resources. Those who can flee the country, do so. Those who have no choice, wait.

endurable and a necessary price for political stability. But they eventually combined to make the country one of the world's poorest, with gross domestic product (GDP) actually declining by about 6 percent a year by the late 1980's.

Due to gross mismanagement and the outrageous exploitation and corruption by its politicians and officials, Zaire has degenerated into a total basket case. It is now one of world's poorest countries. Its population lives in misery and degradation. Qualified engineers and other professionals barely eke out a living raising chickens or selling goats.

By the early 1990s Zaire's formal economy had begun to disintegrate. In 1994 the World Bank declared Zaire insolvent and the country was suspended from the International Monetary Fund. Today, the giant Zaire is an easy prey unable to defend itself against Rwandan insurgents.

Although Zaire's deterioration has been exceptionally bad, unless we learn the lessons from this example, we may end up in a similar state. Those who have been observing Yemen in recent times can relate to the mismanagement, exploitation, blatant abuse of power and neglect.

By: Mazen Loqman, Sanaa.

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Yemen-American Friendship Association

Sanaa: 6/11/1996

Mr. William Clinton, President of the United States of America,
Washington.

Dear Mr. President:

In my name, and the name of my colleagues in the executive board of the Yemen-American Friendship Association, I am pleased to forward my congratulations and felicitations on the trust of the Yemeni people by re-electing you to another term. This trust by your people, I am sure, will be the driving force to lead your great nation into the 21st century with more achievements.

We also look forward to stronger ties between our two nations under your leadership and that of General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic of Yemen. I take this opportunity that our association will also do its share in strengthening cooperation and understanding between our two peoples.

I repeat my congratulations, and wish you all the best.

Abdul-Wassa Hayel Saeed Anam

Chairman of the Board

TILAL Supporter is Killed by His Enthusiasm

Ahmed Mohammed Ali was one of the well known supporters of Al-Tilal Football Club in Aden. His love for the sport and the team went beyond all bounds. His favorite Al-Tilal was playing against Shamsan on Saturday the 2nd of November in Al-Jaish stadium in Aden. Arriving late, he found the stadium's doors closed and the benches were all occupied, which was a major blow. He was shouting and cursing, but it didn't help. But, there was no stopping him. Ahmed wanted, or actually needed to attend the match. He was boiling as rumors of the progress of the match came out in bits and pieces.

He finally decided to climb the roof of a tall building overlooking the stadium. He then climbed the tower of the building. He was jumping with joy and happiness when Al-Tilal defeated the rival team 6-nil. His jumping soon got wild, and a bit out of hand leading to a sad ending.

Widely jumping up and down in his euphoria, Ahmed fell off the roof of the four storey building. His foot slipped during one of these wild jumps and he fell to the ground. He later died at hospital.

Al-Tilal team, which was enjoying the fruits of its steady victories, was very well touched by this incident. Coach Abdullah Ba-Amer, Captain Sharaf Mahfoodh, and team members flocked to the house of the deceased to pay their respects to one of their staunch supporters. Our condolences!

Recognition After Death

I still remember Ahmed Al-Emad the twenty year-old table-tennis champion. I remember his childhood and adolescence in achieving great victories in Arab and international sports arenas. He won many medals of all

He remembered we had a champion worthy of great care and attention, which we could not offer during his life.

An obituary ceremony was held to commemorate Al-Emad on the 22nd October. Many speeches



colors, shapes and sizes. Despite all his achievements, he did not receive the necessary care and support to enable him to live a decent life, a life fitting his great victories.

Al-Ahly Club of Sana'a was his large family which adopted him and provided him with whatever possible help and assistance. The Ministry of Youths and Sports thanked him often, especially after each round of victories. But that was it.

Despite all of that, he was resilient and continued his training with visible persistence that went beyond the limits of the sport. That continued until his untimely death, at the young age of 20.

The Minister of Youth and Sports woke up at last to the bitter reality of losing one of the greatest stars of Yemeni sports.

were delivered expressing deep sorrow on the death of this young sportsman. As a lasting tribute, a sports hall in Sana'a is named after him. This accomplishment is due to the efforts of Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youths and Sports. A book about the life of Al-Emad will also be published as announced by Mr. Muttahar Taqi, Deputy Minister of Information.

A total of YR 220,000 was presented to the family of the deceased sportsman by Al-Ahly Club, the Olympic Committee, the Table Tennis Union and the honorary president of al-Ahly, Mr. Abdulaziz Murshid. Will this great loss be a lesson to take greater care of our budding sportsmen and women? Or will the current situation of 'heroes after death', persist.

At the End of the 10th Week of Yemeni Excellent Football Tournament

Tilal Still Insists on Being Best

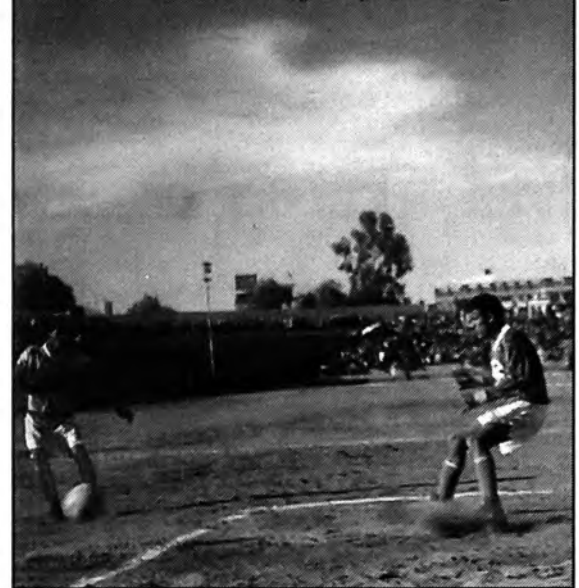
At the beginning of the tenth week of the Yemeni Excellent Football Tournament (7th November 1996), two teams remained. Shaab Sana'a and Shu'la of Aden. They played at the Sana'a stadium.

Results

Al-Shu'la played a skillful game and was rewarded with a goal to nil victory over Shaab Sana'a. On the same day, 7th November, Wahda of Aden lost to Shaab of Mukkalla in a close-fought game. Wahda of Sana'a defeated Ittihad of Ibb one-nil in a deserved victory at home. In Aden, al-Tilal scored a memorable three goals over a poor display from Zohra of Sana'a - although they produced one goal. Ahli of Hodeidah scored a single goal to clinch their match against Ahli of Sana'a in what was a rather quite game. Lastly, in Abyan, Hassan swept to victory over Shamsan by four goals to one in a very solid performance.

Al-Tilal continues to lead the football league table with twenty-three points which is a treatment to the coach and the team's hard work. Al-Tilal still insists on being the best!

Successful maneuvering for yet another goal!



Male/Female Table Tennis International Course

Last Saturday, 9th of November 1996, the international table-tennis course for coaches was concluded in the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports and leading sports figures and supporters were present for the grand finale. Dr. Abdul Wahab Rawah talked to the participants about the need to continue training in their clubs

and to spread and develop the game in all governorates.

Mr Mohammed Al Fadhly, the Egyptian lecturer of the course, told the Yemen Times, "I found the Yemeni participants have a real desire to study, I gave them a lot of information about new table tennis techniques in practice and theory. I think I can say that Yemen has quite a few good coaches for the future."

This is the first time that Yemeni females have participated along with their male colleagues in training and coaching lessons. Four female table tennis coaches - from Sana'a, Aden and Taiz - attended the course.

They qualified as table tennis coaches and were given certificates, accordingly. They said they planned to train female athletes in this game.

A Million Dollars for Magic Punches

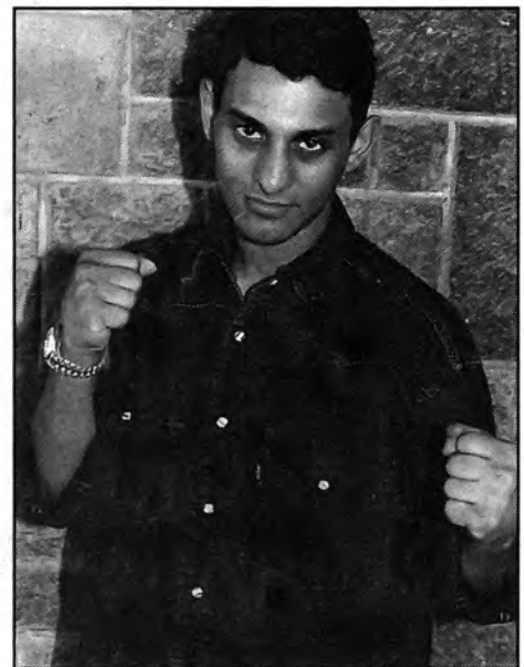
The British world champion for feather weight category, Prince Naseem Hameed, retained his title by defeating the Argentinean challenger, Romigio Molina. It was an easy match. The Prince delivered the knockout punch in the second round of the match held in Manchester, England on Saturday the 9th November.

Thus, Naseem has successfully defended his title - which he gained after defeating Steve Robinson, the ex-champion, last year - for the fourth time.

Molina, 26, was carrying 27 wins to his credit while Naseem, 22, had won 22 matches. The Argentinean boxer - never defeated before - looked overconfident.

The first round ended to Naseem's advantage. During the second round, Molina became desperate and played aimlessly and without caution. The knockout punch came from a very powerful right hand punch, followed by a few left hand punches delivered by Naseem. Molina staggered, and fell. The referee had to stop the match after 2 minutes and 48 seconds announcing Naseem's victory.

Naseem will get a million US dollars for his efforts. The Yemeni hero will face Tom Johnson, the American winner of the International Boxing Federation championship, in a decisive and powerful game, next month.



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Does the PGC Really Understand What Is at Stake:

The PGC Gains Most from Proper Elections and Loses Most from Discredited Elections

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Professor,
Sanaa University.



On Friday, November 8th, the second of two extended meetings was held between representatives of all political parties and President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The purpose was to reach common ground on what to do about the irregularities that have taken place in the registration process. From the outset, one should state that all political parties, which were able to cheat, did so. Thus, the burden falls on all of them, without exception, and there is no room for any single party to play a "holier than thou" game. Second, the People's General Congress, it turns out, is more keen to resolve the pending issues of irregularities than the others. Although in the beginning it did need some nudging, it is now looking for solutions by itself. The reason is simple, the PGC is the biggest loser if the elections are discredited, and it stands to gain most if the elections are done properly. Third, it is already a good sign that Yemeni politicians are looking for solutions to the irregularities, and it is another good sign that they are trying to resolve them through talking. In spite of their differences, they at least agree to find negotiated solutions. Fourth, in the past, some parties would always have a problem sitting down with

certain parties, for whatever reason. For the first time, no party vetoed the ratification of other parties to join in the talks. What we really have to look at is the substance of the talks. The main issues are related to the challenges and contestations filed by the various parties and individuals, and the role of the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC). As far as the contestations are concerned, over 108,000 have been tabulated. (See front page for details.) The majority of these will be either withdrawn or ignored in a tit-for-tat deal in which the challenges against a party will be nullified by its own challenges against others. In other words, the purpose is not really to rectify the mistakes, but to simply get rid of the challenges. A four-person committee (one each from PGC, Islah, Supreme Opposition Council, National Opposition) has been formed. Already, several deal possibilities are already being nego-

tiated, notably between the PGC and Islah. The second issue has to do with the formation of the SEC and its role. On this subject, the President stands firm - no deal. He insists that the SEC is legitimate and that the new SEC will be formed by the new parliament in 1997. His reasoning is simple. If this SEC is abolished, forming another SEC will require a two-thirds majority in parliament. This means that he will have to accept dictation from the other parties, as the PGC does not command a two-thirds majority in the current parliament. That is a goal for the next parliament. Various other issues were discussed, especially the formation of the new/additional supervisory elections committees. There is one additional issue to be discussed - the environment about which the competition is taking place. The authorities have taken many measures, which can be construed to bring pressure to bear on the smaller parties. Even the larger parties such as Islah and the Yemeni Socialist Party are complaining of rough treatment. But that is nothing compared to what has been happening to individuals, especially the intellectuals. These days, the ruling authorities are squeezing a select group of intellectuals and opinion makers. There is a visible effort to reign in the 500 or so leaders of the

Yemeni intelligentsia. Fall in line or else. The harassment takes many forms. The following are typical:
- phone tapping.
- tailing.
- mail searching.
- intimidating phone calls.
- name-calling and accusations in public.
- visits by PSO agents.
- humiliation in public and demoralization tactics.
- imprisonment.
- embroiling intellectuals in fabricated litigation and other squabbles.
- discharging and firing them from their jobs.

In the final analysis, most Yemenis would like to see the elections succeed, even with certain irregularities. The intellectuals of Yemen, by and large, are willing to support the elections, provided the mistakes are not intentional, and that there is good will to resolve them properly.

Successful elections are not just a credit to the PGC or even the regime, they are a credit to all Yemenis. It is in this light that all Yemenis want to see them succeed. But ruling politicians should not see the elections as simply a legitimizing factor for their continued rule. Nor should they use state resources to dictate the results of the elections beforehand. Will Yemen's politicians rise up to the task and make us all proud of the elections!?

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