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Page 12.

## World Leaders Pledge to Resolve "INTOLERABLE" Problem of Hunger!

Yesterday, November 17th, some 100 heads of states and governments concluded a five-day World Food Summit in Rome pledging to resolve the "intolerable" problem of hunger in the world. Among them was Yemen's Prime Minister, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani. The summit endorsed the Rome Declaration of 31st October on Universal Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action. This embodies seven commitments, ostensibly laying the foundation for food security at the individual, household, national, regional and global levels, with an immediate goal of "reducing the number of undernourished people to half the present level by no later than 2015."

Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) - who first proposed the summit, was visibly optimistic and hopeful. The statistics support his mood. *World Food Survey*, published by FAO on the eve of the summit, states "food production in the world as a whole is continuing to grow faster than the population." *Food Outlook*, another FAO publication also issued in November, also had some good news. "The number of people with inadequate access to food declined from 918 million in 1969/71, to 906 million in 1979/81, and further to 841 million in 1992." However the hunger situation is still grave worldwide.

More on page 7

## UK Trade Minister Ends Successful Visit

Anthony Nelson, the UK Trade Minister, left yesterday, Sunday, November 17th at the end of a four-day official visit to the Republic. Mr. Nelson, a banker by training, is a determined promoter of free trade, which he says, he will push at the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference in Singapore, next month. In an interview with the Yemen Times, the British minister disclosed that he has also discussed with Yemeni officials and the business community possibilities of stronger bilateral trade relations. "We are eager to open up new scopes and levels of cooperation with Yemen. We believe Yemen holds the prospect for a vigorously growing economy in the future," he said.

Full interview on page 3



## Yemen's Crime Rate Up 18% Juvenile Crimes Up 39%

According to sources at the Ministry of the Interior, 7,072 crimes were reported during the first half of 1996, as compared to 5,974 crimes for the same period in 1995. This means crime has grown by 18.4%. The 1996 numbers are even higher because the crimes committed in Lahej and Amran, both notorious for high crime rates, were not included in the report. The adjusted growth rate could rise to 25%. Even more disturbing, however, is the growth rate of crimes committed by juveniles (people

under the age of 16 years), who represented a good 8% of total offenders during 1996, a rise of 39% since 1995. During the perpetration of the reported crimes, 382 persons were killed, while 622 were injured. Finally, YR 242 million were reported stolen in theft cases. The Ministry says it retrieved YR 73 million (30%). The statistics also show 102 vehicles stolen during the first half of 1996, of which 34 have been retrieved. Less than 2% of cases are fully resolved.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Ministry of Finance and Its Stupid Policies

There are many policies that are so ridiculous that they have become legitimate targets for jokes and ridicule. Examples.

#### 1. Postponement of Project Implementation:

One of the standard tactics of the Ministry of Finance is to postpone implementation of projects just to show lower budgetary deficit now, irrespective of what happens in the future. This is not only stupid, but it is suicidal as a fiscal policy, because the government ends up paying a lot more when the project is later implemented. Take these examples:

The furnishing of the Republican Hospital was to cost YR 26 million in 1988. After remaining idle for half a dozen years, its furnishing in 1995 cost YR 2,000 million. The Stadium in Ibb was to cost YR 20 million in 1993, it is now implemented at a cost of YR 120 (1996). The Central Laboratories was to cost YR 60 million in 1994, it is now (1996) being implemented at a cost of YR 400 million. The Sayelah (rain-water floodway) passing through Sanaa was estimated at YR 210 in 1994, and it is now estimated at YR 680 million.

What I am saying is that the government should not make beautification of the budget numbers as the over-riding factor in its decisions. This is stupid.

#### 2. Paperwork on Government Payments:

The time and paperwork involved in collecting dues on the government is ridiculous. That is why many contractors beef up their demand, say on government contract, in order to make allowances for collection time and costs. Thus, the government ends up paying what it owes many fold, simply because of its own paperwork.

Take another example. It takes about ten-to-twenty months of pushing formal paperwork before anybody can be employed by the government. Many badly needed skills are thus left to languish on the streets. In 1995, badly needed mineral engineers were delayed for nine months just because of this. Many university graduates who are needed to bolster the week and inefficient administration are available some time in October or say November. The earliest they now can join the service is April the next year.

The Ministry of Finance props up the paperwork to delay employment to postpone incurring dues. This is stupid.

#### 3. Productivity:

The ultimate purpose of our government's fiscal policy seems to be less expenditure. Now, on the surface of it, this does look attractive and logical. In reality, productivity of an expenditure is far more important than its volume. If more expenditure is incurred in order to yield a higher per unit productivity, that is far more efficient and better for the country than a smaller expenditure amount which yields little or nothing. Insisting on paying less irrespective of the consequences is stupid.

*The Publisher*  
عبد العزيز

#### New Art Gallery

Three well-known Yemeni artists, Nasher, Nizar and Yassin, have joined forces to start a new gallery in Sanaa. The Hadda Art Gallery will be formally inaugurated on November 27th, 1996, at 6:00 pm. It is open to all.

#### Yemeni-Saudi Talks: Drifting Along

The 7th round of Yemeni-Saudi military talks were concluded in Riyadh. Nothing new was produced by the talks other than agreeing to talk again, some time soon, as the communique said.

#### Islah Convention on 20th November

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) announced that it will hold the 2nd round of its convention on November 20th. The members will listen to a report on the activities of the party since September 1994.

Informed sources say that the party leadership would like to feel out the sentiments of the members regarding the association with the People's General Congress, and to discuss the present partnership.

#### The End of the 11th Week of Yemeni Excellent Tournament

Al-Tilal remains on top at the end of the first phase of the tournament's games.

The 11th and last week of the first phase of the football excellent tournament witnessed fierce rivalries leading to stunning results.

Al-Tilal, with 25 points, continues to be top of the table followed by the title holder, Al-Wahda of Sana'a, with 20 points. The next round of 11 matches will definitely witness stiff competition among the teams. Rothmans of Pall Mall International is sponsoring the Excellent Football Tournament.

#### President Saleh on Field Visits

General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic, has just embarked on field visits to several governorates. The first stage of the visits has taken him to Radaa and Al-Baidha (Al-Baidha Governorate); Mukairas and Lowder (Abyan Governorate); and Aden.

Rival political parties, witnessing the popularity of the presidential visits - given the promises of projects and services the president is making - have described the field visits as political campaigning with the elections in mind.

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UK Trade Minister Anthony Nelson:

# “Britain is keen to build up a new axis in the relationship with Yemen.”

Yesterday, November 17th, Mr. Anthony Nelson, UK Trade Minister, left Sanaa following a successful three-day visit. He came in the footsteps of Mr. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Minister, who was here a few days earlier.

The two visits come as a culmination to the heightened political and economic relations between Yemen and the United Kingdom. This is, indeed, a substantial departure from the strained relations only two years ago. The two governments, and more to the point, Ambassadors Dr. Hussain Al-Amri and Mr. Douglas Scrafton, have done a lot to achieve the improvement.

Beyond the courtesy objectives, the two visits by UK ministers to Sanaa signalled the British drive to have stronger cooperation with Yemen. The Aden Free Zone is already a forum for British investments, and trade possibilities are much improved.

Recently, the forum for the arbitration tribunal between Yemen and Eritrea has been moved from Paris to London. The move was an indicator that Sanaa and London were at much better terms than they were in the recent past.

Mr. Nelson's visit was aimed at pushing ahead with economic links. He met with a number of businessmen for this purpose. He also visited the Yemen-British Friendship Association for a qat chew. Well, almost a qat chew. He did try the stuff.

Ismail Al-Ghabry, Sanaa Bureau Chief, interviewed the minister and filed the following report.

Excerpts:

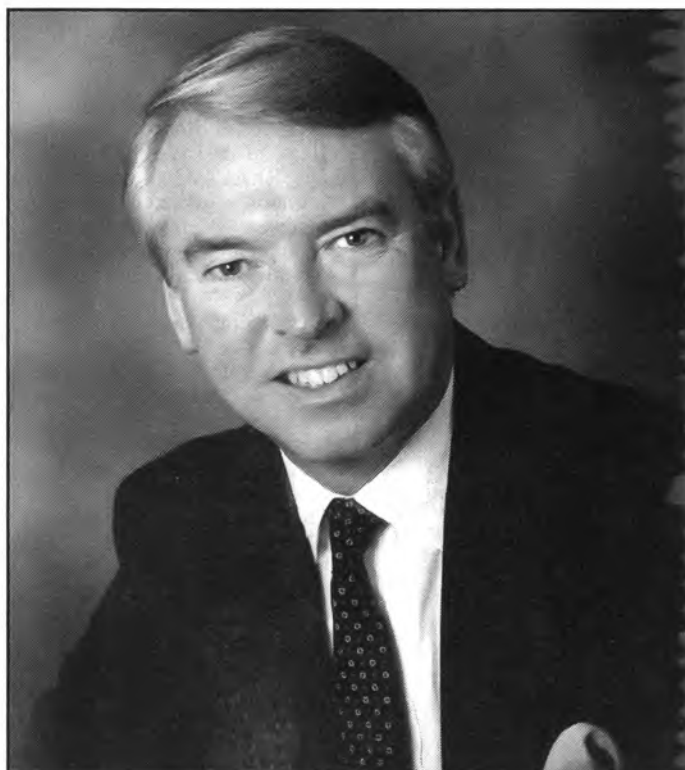
**Q: What is the purpose of your visit?**

**A:** This is my first visit to Yemen. I have decided to come here to see for myself what is happening, to try to understand the changes taking place and to form my own judgment as to what the future potential and economic and commercial prospects for traders and investors are in Yemen. I have to try to lead British public and commercial

opinion. I hope also to make myself more aware so that I can inform British businesses about the opportunities here.

So this is an exploratory visit that will hopefully take forward an increasing number of ministerial visits particularly after the recent visit of our Foreign Secretary, Mr. Malcolm Rifkind.

**Q: What agreement have you concluded in your visit?**



**A:** I am hopeful that we might be able to sign a protocol during my visit here. My officials are working on this at the present time. This will be a statement of good will and an agenda for better and closer relations. For many years in my country, Yemen has been off the map, but it is now on the map. I think many businesses are looking with keen interest to what is happening here. I very much hope that if I could send a signal to them as well as to our friends here in Yemen about the excellent opportunity which British companies have to offer, then I think this will be to mutual advantage.

**Q: Do you have any concrete proposals regarding the Free Zone in Aden?**

**A:** We hope that we will be able to play a part at this stage. Some of the professional studies associated with the Free Zone such as the relationship between the Free Zone and Aden (city) and what will be the economic and infrastructural implications of the Free Zone. The British government has offered to pay for a professional study of this. This is being considered at the time. Thereafter, if the project has the green light to go ahead, as I believe it will, then British companies will take keen interest in the opportunities offered. But I think it needs to be well advertised and promoted.

**Q: You have called for total liberalization of trade worldwide. Have you discussed this issue with the Yemeni authorities?**

**ities? What has the response been?**

**A:** I have not yet. I have just arrived in the country. I have come straight to this qat "session". Pleasure before business.

Naturally, I hope that amongst my discussions with my host the Trade Minister and my counterpart ministers here, we can talk about the upcoming Singapore World Trade Organization meeting. This is a very important international conference where developed and developing countries can talk about the common benefits we gain in liberalization of trade and investment.

**Q: Many Yemeni businessmen and professionals find difficulty in getting visas to the UK. How do you see yourself resolving this matter?**

**A:** I am not aware that there have been such difficulties. This is the first I have heard about it. But I will make it my business to ask our consulate here and I hope very much that we can address any problems in the pipeline. Let me say that there is a very large Yemeni community in the UK. They are most welcome. Many of them are British citizens. They are fellow countrymen of ours. All are equally respected.

I like to think they feel very comfortable in our community. I think it is the largest Yemeni community outside Yemen. Naturally, there will be quite a lot of movement by people wanting visas to visit families or to come over to conduct trade and business. As Minister for Trade, I am anxious to see as much movement as possible - not just students and families that are residents - but, of course, business people as well.

So if there are any problems, I should be anxious to hear about them and seek to address them.

**Q: Do you envisage UK credit**

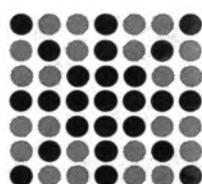
**facilities for Yemeni businessmen?**

**A:** We have in the past offered export credit facilities to Yemen. But there were years of difficulty when arrears arose and there were problems in payments of liabilities. This means that the government export creditors are not able, for the time being, to extend medium-term credit to Yemen. However, short-term credit is available for commercial sources. It is my hope as Yemen gets on to an economic even keel, as the economy and its management adhere to the high internationally set standards for sound economies, that you will be able to build up a track record that will give export credit agencies confidence to support and back medium-term credit and investment. I hope that this is something on the horizon, but it is not here now.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I hope very much during my stay here, that I can give the clear impression that Britain is keen to build up a new axis in the relationship with Yemen. I believe that much of what is going on is good, but there are problems of course. You are struggling valiantly to overcome these problems.

The key element for me is private investment and the willingness on an international competitive stage for the British players to come to this market and see for themselves whether they can team up in joint ventures. They should be able to determine whether there are good opportunities in the new Aden and port developments and whether some of the traditional industries can be directed towards reviving what is a very old relationship between the UK and Yemen. I hope my visit will be seen in a positive light in that respect.



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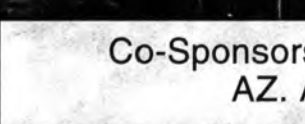
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## Yemeni Engineers Win First Prize in Computer Technology

The American "Byte" prize for best modern technology was won by Arab Digital Agencies (ADA) of Yemen in the GITEX 96 International Exhibition. More than 4000 world famous computer companies such as Microsoft, Oracles, Sun, Lotus etc., took part in the exhibition which was held in Dubai, earlier this month. More than 100,000 visitors from various parts of the world went to this exhibition.

The prize was received by the company's Board President, Dr. Hameed Al-Iryani and his deputy Dr. Khalid Al-Akwa in a big ceremony attended by many representatives of international computer companies, journalists and Yemenis living in the UAE.

The team responsible for developing the Arabic SX system which got the prize includes brilliant Yemeni engineers headed by Eng. Abdullah Faris, Eng. Ghamdan Al-Anisi and Eng. Thayer Al-Rezzami.

The developers of Arabic SX (Universal Phonetics Search Engine) claim it to be the first system of its kind in history. Mr. Faris is now traveling among world capitals in order to patent his ultra modern system and try to strike marketing deals with international companies.

The new system is an important qualitative addition to the field of artificial intelligence. It will help to break language barriers. Through this system any computer user will be able to obtain data from any database whatever the language with which it is written. The system works in a Macintosh "environment", but the team of engineers that developed it are now working on adapting it to be compatible with Windows, UNIX and Digital VMS. The lingual support includes 28 languages.

The "engine" remains active in the memory, uses little space and works in the processing background. The peripheral programs remain as the foreground "environment". The basic functioning principles of

this system are as follows:

Inputs consist of groups of letters that form particular vocal value irrespective of their content. But this vocal value can only be analyzed by the human brain. The brain translates the vocal values back into textual values through listening comprehension. The Yemeni team of engineers divided the letters of seven languages, including Arabic, that cover the vocal ranges of 28 languages into vocal 'families'. These 'families' were then analyzed into values divided into structurally related lists. A particular structural relationship allows the required value to pass between specified upper and lower limits. If the vocal value lies outside these limits, it is then passed on to another structural relationship. The vocal values continue to settle and accumulate in their proper places until a complete vocal value for a particular textual value is established. At this point, the 'engine' starts to examine the data values for identifying and extracting them as search results.

Through Arabic SX, Arabic data, for instance, can be used to extract English data and vice versa. This process was quite difficult to achieve due to the lack of compatibility between Arabic and other languages. This achievement is very remarkable and indicative of the amount of research and work that went into it.

The new system has many and diverse uses ranging from data search on the internet to issuing telephone directories on LASER discs that can be supplied to companies and establishments within the country and abroad. The new technology can also be incorporated within existing systems such as those used by the immigration and passport authorities to increase their efficiency. Many international computer companies have already expressed interests in acquiring licenses to use this new system.



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## Yemeni-Oman Relations Withstand the Test of Time

# Oman: Ready for the 21st Century

By: Emad Al-Saqqaf,  
from Muscat

Today, Monday November 18, Omanis are celebrating their national day, and with good reason. Oman, from the least Arab country only a few years ago, has become a model for all. Indeed, Oman under Sultan Qaboos has come a long way.

Anyone who knew Oman of the past, and has a chance to see Oman today or just read about it, will not believe the progress the country has made. The big transformation from a feudal and backward country to a nation that interacts with digital technology is indeed worth admiring. Even among the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council members, Oman has continuously and systematically pursued a successful course of development, in which its very limited resources are used to effect maximum benefit for its people. For the Omanis, this translates into a better

standard of living, a greater reliance on a civil society in which law and order are not negotiable and equitable access to the state's services and facilities guaranteed to all law abiding citizens.

There is no question that Sultan Qaboos Bin Said has been a classic engineer of effective national leadership whose balanced approach to guiding his people to the path of economic development and social harmony does not conflict with the cultural and historical allegiance to a heritage of traditions and values. On the 23rd of July 1970, Sultan Qaboos ascended to the throne as Sultan of Oman after completing his education, in which Qaboos was able to obtain the dynamics of a modern Western scholastic and military training as well as the traditional cultural studies, which instill national pride and confidence in the ability of his people to cross the centuries. Qaboos was educated in the UK topping off with being an Officer Cadet at the Royal Military

Academy at Sandhurst.

When he first sat on the throne, Oman could have been regarded as being at the lowest scale of development: no infrastructure, no institutions, no internal stability, no public services of any value to speak of, no police force and understandably, almost no hope - considering that Oman had not shown any promise of being an important oil exporter.

Oman occupies a very strategic location at the southwestern 'forefoot' of the Arabian Peninsula where three important seas meet: The Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. This location gives it control of one side of the vital Strait of Hormuz.

On the other hand, Oman borders with three countries in the Arabian Peninsula: The Republic of Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Despite its strategic location, Oman's sensible foreign policy and accommodating neighborly policy have been important sources of regional stability.

The numbers below give us an idea of what Oman is all about:

### Geography:

The third largest country in the Arabian Peninsula occupies an area of 312,500 sq. km., 82% of which is desert. The coastline extends 1700 km most of it being over the Arabian sea. The capital of Oman, Muscat is in the most important coastal plains overlooking the Gulf of Oman.

Administratively, there are three governorates: Muscat, Dhofar and Musandam. Musandam, the peninsula that overlooks the Strait of Hormuz, is separated from mainland Oman by United Arab Emirates territory and now linked by a superhighway. The other parts of the country - with 44 other local units - fall under the Ministry of Interior.

### Population:

The 1993 census shows that the total population of Oman is 2,018,073 of whom 1,483,226 are Omanis and 534,848 are expatriates. The density is 6.5 persons per sq. km., but the population is widely distributed in naturally accommodating pockets which are in the coastal plains and internal highlands. 41% of the population is literate (over 80% of people below 15 years of age). Illiteracy was well over 95% prior to 1970. The Omanis are 100% Arab and Muslims. English, however, is a widely spoken language.

### Economy:

Before oil exports took on significance in the 1970s, Oman was considered an agricultural economy with dates and fish occupying the top of the list of

exports. Before 1986, crude oil accounted for 99% of exports, but by 1994 crude oil comprised only 38% of the Gross Domestic Product and by 1995, 72% of government revenues. The Per Capita income stands at US\$ 6,442 at the end of 1995.

The development of Oman is overseen personally by Sultan Qaboos. Under 4 successful Five Year Plans, the first one beginning in 1975, Oman has undergone a major transformation. The Development Council focuses on 2 areas: infrastructure development and enhancing the role of the private sector.

The most important characteristic of Oman's development schemes has been the pragmatic approach of human resource development, with education topping the list in terms of budget allocation and careful utilization of invested capital in projects which only produce a social, economic and cultural return.

Oman's Fifth Development Plan (1996-2000) aims at development of human resources and the improvement of skills to keep up with technological advances. It anticipates an annual average growth rate of 4.6% and anticipates to have non-oil GDP share rise to 69%. The plan includes heavy vocational training inputs where the government will continue to bolster training before and on the job training. Even private sector staff training will continue to be subsidized by the government.

On the other hand, the trend towards privatization will continue to include utilities, where even foreign investors will be allowed to own 65% stock in public infrastructure projects. Oman has also developed a sophisticated banking and financial market. The banking system consists of the Central Bank and 18 commercial banks (7 incorporated locally). The Oman Development Bank (formed in

1979) has financed 541 projects and granted loans to the private sector. It is a mixed sector financial institution with the government owning 54% of its shares. In addition, the Central Bank has been issuing development bonds since 1991.

Oman has recently opened an active securities exchange market in which company stock is put up for trade, as well as other securities. Noting its limited oil reserves, Oman has encouraged fast paced growth of other productive sectors. Manufacturing growth rates during the Fourth Five Year Development Plan averaged 11.5 % per annum. By the year 2000, manufacturing should contribute 6.7% of GDP. Tourism is gaining grounds with the private sector actively involved. Hotels, previously owned by the government are being slowly turned over to the private sector, and new hotels are being encouraged.

Oman's successes at home, highlighted by a steady development trend that crosses the spectrum of Omani society is matched by a pragmatic, realistic approach in handling its foreign relations with the rest of the world. It goes without saying that its good neighbor policy has successfully ended a border dispute with Yemen, and permanent borders have been drawn. Oman also maintains close relations with Iran, which shares with Oman control of the vital Strait of Hormuz. This is important for regional peace and stability.

On the political front, Sultan Qaboos has introduced important changes which encourage popular involvement. Parliamentary elections have been carried out. A constitution has been ratified which makes Oman the first constitutional monarchy in the AGCC. Qaboos in Arabic means light. Indeed the Sultan is the light of Oman.

## Treat Yourself to Italian



Chef Delonte Orazio and wife, Yole, are here to offer you sumptuous dishes from Italian cuisine. They have been flown into Sanaa as part of the Italian Festival Week (21-25 November) at the Taj Sheba Hotel.

Delonte is from South Italy, thus offering specialties that have a distinct Mediterranean touch. Yole is from Bologna, thus focusing on the Alpine taste. Between the two of them, they will give you all of Italy.

The chef and his assistant have travelled and served extensively in the Middle East, especially the Gulf. They have fond memories of Bahrain and Dubai. They had also been to Yemen before. "It is good to be back and rekindle old memories of Sanaa and the guests of the Taj Sheba Hotel," he said.

Food, oh yes, regarding food, the dishes are numerous. The names by themselves say a lot. To start with, there is the Faraon Alla Erba Aromatiche. What is that you say? It is a guinea fowl roasted taste with herbs in vinegar sauce. Then there is Bruschetta Al Pomodoro Aglio E Basilico, Orata Al Cartoccio, and Tiramisu Al Mascarpone. The fish-dishes are especially good, and you got to try them.

Orazio and Yole offer a lot of classical Italian and international dishes. "We especially know the taste of Euro-Americans with a Middle East experience. That mix of background has developed a taste, to which we especially address our kitchen," he said.

There is another bit. Orazio sings. "What is that?" you say? Well, it is a hobby that has developed as much as his culinary talents. So, sometimes, he indulges your ears as your taste buds go awol.

Who gets credit for getting the Italian couple in Sanaa? First, there is the Italian Embassy. Then there are the travel agencies, notably AZ-ABM Travel & Tourism. Of course, over and above all, there is the Taj Sheba Hotel which invites you to its Golden Peacock Restaurant during 21-25 November. Have you already made your reservation, or not yet?

By: Yusuf Sharif,  
Yemen Times.

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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread"

The leaders of the world have finished their summit in Rome which they'd dedicated to ending hunger in the world. It would have probably been more appropriate to convene the summit in the Zaire-Rwandan border, where world leaders could get a first hand view of the terrible agony of having to face hunger - right there in the heart of the richest agricultural land in the world. When God created the earth and decided to put man upon it, He made sure that this unique planet is endowed with sufficient resources, so that no man should ever go hungry.

Large numbers of human beings continue to be poor, homeless and clothed with the minimal amount of garments, though mother earth offers enough for all. Such abundance of nature's gift is further coupled by the genius of man in bringing new land to use, and in increasing productivity.

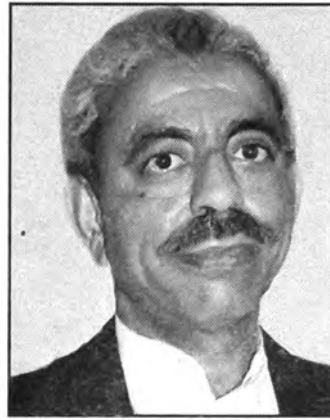
But human genius has also led to industrialization, urbanization, overpopulation, overconsumption and all the maladies which have represented the dark side of our progress. Thus men of misfortune (and women, of course) cannot get enough to keep healthy and to survive. Even the seas have become inaccessible to the misfortunate ones, since the shorelines have become polluted and unsuitable for marine life.

On the other hand, political sove-

reign factors have severely limited the free movement of people and factors of production in the world. Thus overall world-wide production is far less than could be, and people seeking areas of more abundance cannot move to other sovereign places.

As societies learn about the world they live in and pursue enhanced standards of living, the institutions that are organized to systematize the exploitation of world resources, tend to ignore the natural balance in which man was only a link in a long chain of living organisms. Thus, the balance is disturbed and the harmonious continuation of life not assured.

While most organisms in the biological balance instinctively adhere to the natural laws and dictates that will maintain the right balance needed for life to continue, man's extra endowment of emotion, drive, ego and other super traits have backfired to disrupt the ecological balance and thus eliminate one of the most important freedoms man used to enjoy without any constitutions, man-made laws or statutes: freedom from hunger. Man has been unkind to himself. He has destroyed forests, polluted the air and the seas, excessively hunted down fauna and destroyed flora and denied himself the natural right of freedom from hunger. On the other hand, political circum-



stances and international disputes have caused mass movements of people from their traditional habitat, thus creating large communities of refugees living on handouts that are never enough to meet nutritional needs, let alone restore any human dignity which life at home might have provided. But refugees are not just the product of political crises. Urbanization, industrialization, over-cultivation all have incited the deserts to creep in and reduce the suitable areas of the world available for food production.

Moreover, improved health care in areas where human fertility refuses to come under control have blocked development gains in food production from having an effect on reducing hunger. According to reports by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, this problem could continue until the year 2050, when world population growth is expected to stabilize.

The World Summit Conference will certainly not be expected to go beyond extracting a commitment from world leaders that hunger will get more TV coverage as an international issue that needs to be solved. The top leadership in the world had previously met to discuss poverty and made commitments to eradicate poverty. Yet the Rome Con-

ference was not as bold as to even say that hunger is really a crime - an ugly form of slavery where men are forced to submit their will and their fate to the provider of the first spoonful of food that is offered to the hungry mouth. Hunger is the borderline of death - by deprivation, more than for any other reasons.

Deprivation is a human interpretation for the survival of the "fittest". Deprivation usually arises out of bad intents - a criminal attitude to prevent access to the natural bounties of the land to be shared equally and equitably by all the inhabitants of the land. Without access, as such, people are bound to be hungry - not just poor. A hungry man may come to the point of finding crime as the only outlet from hunger. Hungry people are the grass-roots element of the criminal world. They are the ones who have taken a beating in society that lives under the "law," and the ones who find themselves in the criminal world, because they need to survive. They become the meatflesh of prostitution, drug pushers, the bullies, burglars and other elements who usually represent the contact point between the underground and the society of law abiding citizens.

These are the people who have no choice but to revert to crime to stay out of hunger's way. The greedy elements of crime exploit the hungry by directing criminal activity to fulfill their unsatiable quests. Hunger is Crime!

One can easily say that if hunger can be eliminated, the world can indeed eliminate crime. The greedy elements of crime will be deprived of the troops and workers who carry out their designs. To eradicate hunger is to dispense with crime.

Of course, crime is not the major beneficiary of hunger among men. But, it goes without saying that crime's impact on society is the institution of fear in that society. Freedom becomes endangered. "There is nothing to fear, but fear itself," said Franklin Delano Roosevelt. So it is hunger, crime and fear, that will continue to menace the world for generations to come. Unless world leaders succumb to the fact that a lot of the hunger is a product of their own misdeeds, hunger will persist in creating instability in societies and create ghettos that breed the grassroots elements of crime.

### Hunger in Yemen:

With the Republic of Yemen going through many successive transformations and restructurings, many people are becoming displaced, unable to quickly and successfully adapt to the rapidly changing world around them. Society is also undergoing stratification as sustenance becomes more difficult to achieve. A saturated labor market reduces the opportunities to find work. Relocation has shifted community arrangements and damaged the spirit of belonging. Urbanization has broken family links, and with it, the security that comes with extended families. The return of Yemeni expatriate laborers from Saudi Arabia, the continuous political struggle for power, the brief but damaging civil war, the IMF/World Bank-inspired reform doses, corruption - all have created a large element of society that suffers from poverty and hunger. Social norms are changing. Standards are becoming shady and the hungry grow in number and in hopelessness.

For the Republic of Yemen the economic crisis has created and increased reliance on crime to meet the inability for individuals or families to feed themselves. When the hungry of Yemen see

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elements of the society indulge in excessive festivities where the amount of food is usually many times the amount that would be considered reasonably adequate for the attending guests, despair sets in. Children find no reason not to pick the pocket, fidelity falters, and values crumble.

People become unconcerned as their neighbors are burglarized by a group of poor school kids whose parents are unable to find jobs and who are too proud to seek handouts. The children ignore the pride and refuse to seek handouts. They join the world of crime.

With law enforcement absent, the temptation to commit crimes becomes almost unavoidable, especially if the justification happens to be that the little brother has not had a glass of milk for a month, or that the garbage that is piled up in the streets has been there for a week and unfit for scavenging for any possible food. Just a few years ago, no one would have dreamt that Yemenis will have to go to garbage bins to fulfill their dietary requirements.

Yemeni women now go to garbage bins to scrape the remains of yogurt plastic cups, because they are usable to breast feed their children, due to their

own malnourishment. This happens right next to a newly established fancy restaurant that serves five course meat dinners to those who have no idea what hunger is.

In the past, people always made sure that their neighbors were not without food. Compassion was a good guarantor against hunger.

But now even "imported" kindness finds its way to the black market, as food aid is detoured from going to its rightful beneficiaries. The hungry seem to have no one to speak for them. With so much begging now seen in the streets, people are less reluctant to look at their really more misfortunate fellow countrymen. "You can't tell who is really needy and who is the impostor." That has become a new attitude among those who are able to help, to convince themselves not to help.

There is no stopping it, hunger is here to stay, unless human values are reinstated to regard hunger as a crime which cannot be tolerated.

Bon appetite to the world leaders as they savor Italian pasta in all its varieties. Bring back the empty yogurt cans, with some left in them to throw to your hungry people.

## VACANCY

### Associate External Relations/Programme Officer

The United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Yemen is inviting applications for the post of: Associate External Relations/Programme Officer in Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

- The successful candidate shall perform the following duties:
- 1/ Maintain and follow up regular contacts with specified counterparts in Government, Press, NGOs and interest groups in order to promote UNHCR's mandate in the Republic of Yemen.
  - 2/ Provide draft briefings on UNHCR's activities for dissemination to key counterparts in order to ensure an open and coordinated policy towards refugees in Yemen.
  - 3/ Attend meeting held between the Representative and counterparts of the Government and provide interpretations and translations where necessary.
  - 4/ Liaise with governmental officials in order to facilitate the implementation of refugee projects to ensure cost-effectiveness, conformity with UNHCR mandate and due response to political sensitivity.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

- University Degree, Diploma or its equivalent in Journalism, Social Science, Administration or related fields.
- Good writing skills and very good data processing skills.
- The Applicant should have very good knowledge of written and oral English (the working language) and excellent Arabic.
- Six years progressive experience in a professional position in refugee work particularly in relation to the above mentioned activities of UNHCR.

#### Remuneration:

- Salary will be paid in accordance with United Nations Local salary scales. Other social benefits shall also apply.
- This position is open to Yemeni nationals only. Qualified and interested candidates are requested to send applications with a detailed curriculum vitae to: The Representative, UNHCR, P. O. Box 12093, Sana'a
- Applications should be received not later than 30 November, 1996; Applications received after this date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgement will only be sent to applicants meeting the requirements of the post.
- Please note that UNHCR is an equal opportunity employer and is currently prioritizing the recruitment of equally qualified female candidates among professional staff.

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محمد سيف ثابت

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لكافة أبنائه وذويه

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وأن يلهم الجميع الصبر والسلوان

وكل نفس ذائقة الموت

انا لله وانا اليه راجعون

الأسيف :

د/عبدالعزیز ياسين السقاف



**Said Khoury:**

## "Yemen's economic viability is steadily improving."

"In the past we used to run around in order to interest international companies to come and work in Yemen. Now, since they are aware of our association with Yemen, they are calling us trying to get in," said Mr. Said Khoury, President of Consolidated Contractors (International) Company - CCC - who was on a business visit to Yemen last week.

CCC's boss met with all the senior officials of Yemen including President Ali Abdullah Saleh, House Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar, Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Oil Minister Dr. Mohammed Said Al-Attar, and many more. The purpose is to investigate possibilities for implementing several projects in the country, including the following:

1. Upgrading and expanding the Aden Refinery;
2. 300MW Power Plant in Sanaa;
3. LPG Plant in Sanaa;
4. 120/150 MW Power Plant at Aden Port;
5. 2,000 ton per day Fertilizer Plant at Aden Port;
6. 1,000 ton per day LPG Plant at Aden Port.

The CCC official indicated the long association with Yemen. "CCC started right here in Yemen some fifty years ago. We feel we partly belong here, and we want to help in the development process," Mr. Khoury said.

There are hindrances in pushing ahead with some of the CCC proposals. The LPG projects are a non-starter since the associated gas being pumped back into the reservoirs are not large quantities. Moreover, the Ministry thinks that it may be more viable to leave the gas underground, for now. The project CCC pushes ahead at the moment is the refinery. Said Khoury and Joseph Lammam, Area General Manager, and Hani Shehadeh, Regional Manager of CCC in Yemen, flew to Aden as they are both hopeful.

CCC is also doing a lot of business in the region. It has just picked a major gas gathering unit, along with the engineering and infrastructure works in Saudi Arabia (Empty Quarter).

The company also has a number of projects in Abu Dhabi in addition to other Gulf countries and internationally.

CCC is also involved in state-building in areas under the Palestinian Autonomous Administration. It has set up a \$ 10 million training and quality enhancement center for Palestinian contractors and engineers. "We have no projects there. Our interest, at the moment is to develop skills among young Palestinian engineers and new companies," explained Mr. Khoury.



CCC is, of course, one of the largest construction companies in the world. It was ranked by Engineering News Record magazine as the number one in the Middle East and North Africa, and the 21st largest contracting company globally. Its business spans the five continents.

Here in Yemen, the company executed many large projects including the Hunt Oil Company installations in Marib and the pipeline running to the Red Sea, the Canadian Occidental installations in Masila and the pipeline running to the Arabian Sea, in addition to many roads and buildings.

### البقاء لله

تتقدم جمعية الحضارم الخيرية  
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في مصاب الجميع وفاة المرحوم  
محمد سيف ثابت  
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وبذلك، نتقدم بالتعازي والمواساة  
لابنائنا وجميع الأهل والأقرباء  
وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون  
الأسفون:  
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وابنائنا عبدالرحمن ومحمد ويحيى وشعيب وادم  
وعيسى ويوسف وجميل ووليد ومعاذ وسليمان وداود  
وكافة آل عثمان  
وخالد عبدالرحمن الأديبي ووالده  
وخالد عبدالولي الأديبي ووالده وأخوه  
وطه محمد عوض الأديبي  
وعلى عبدالباري نعمان الملاح وعبدالحاميد عقلان  
الاستاذ / عوض مجر

Continued from page 1:

## World Leaders at Rome Food Summit

At an unprecedented gathering in Rome during 13-17 November, world leaders endorsed a policy statement "reaffirming the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with right to adequate food and of everyone to be free from hunger."

Some 100 heads of state and government came to Rome in response to a call from the World Food Summit, and discussed the world food situation. It was the first time in history that such a high-level conference has come together to discuss the issue of "food security."

The Rome declaration approved by the leaders states: "We pledge our political will and our common and national commitment to achieving food security for all, and to an on-going effort to eradicate hunger in all countries, with an immediate view to reducing the number of undernourished people to half their present level no later than 2015."

The Plan of Action attached to the declaration states: "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."

The aim of the summit was achieved. It was to raise awareness and have the commitment at the highest level to launch a global drive to provide "Food for All" - to feed those who are hungry today, and to implement a wide-ranging plan of action to ensure that future generations will enjoy the food security that has eluded the world so far.

"While the farmers, technical experts and practitioners of development are well aware of the situation, the top policy-makers in our states and governments have now been convinced and mobilized," says Dr. Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, following the summit.

"We must work together to remedy matters by changing policies where necessary, by allocating resources where needed, and above all, by relying on farmers and restoring their confidence."

The Plan of Action, negotiated and agreed unanimously at FAO's Committee on World Food Security, and approved by the summit, details practical measures in seven specific areas:

- the general conditions for economic and social

progress conducive to food security:

- poverty eradication and access to adequate food;
- sustainable increases in food production;
- the contribution of trade to food security;
- preparedness, prevention and response to food emergencies;
- optimal investment in human resources, sustainable production capacity and rural development;
- cooperation in implementing and monitoring at the Plan of Action.

Now that the summit is over, it is the primary responsibility of each nation independently to consider how to achieve the agreed objectives and implement the Plan of Action, in the context of national and international solidarity and cooperation.

While the world leaders were deliberating at FAO Headquarters, parallel events were held in Rome to complement their discussions. In particular, reference to a forum of non-governmental organizations, (NGOs) is appropriate.

An International Youth Forum was also convened, as well as a meeting of parliamentarians at the Italian Senate and a seminar jointly organized by the private sector food industry and FAO and Food Safety and Food Processing. The Summit documentation recognized the important role of each of these bodies, and especially the roles the NGOs and other actors in civil society play in the development process.

Preparations for the summit were extensive, and helped lead to its success. These included broad-based consultations with governments, inter-governmental organizations, NGOs, the private sector and renowned international experts. Dozens of conferences and symposia have contributed to the process.

The event has been carefully planned to keep costs to the minimum. Total expenses were around US\$ 2 million. FAO put up a total of US\$1,271,000 from its regular budget for direct expenses, and US\$ 842,000 for staff assigned to the summit secretariat.

In addition, also to keep costs down, existing conference facilities at FAO's Headquarters were used, and donations have come from governments, organizations, foundations and the private sector to meet other expenses. Italy, in particular, as host,

has given material and diplomatic support.

Participants were encouraged to avoid holding receptions and dinners, and to donate any funds which would have been used for such hospitality to FAO's Special Program for Food Production in Support of Low-Income Food-Deficit Countries.

The enigma the summit is called upon to resolve is complex, as Dr. Diouf explains: "We are faced with the continuing logic-defying paradox of a planet that produces enough for everyone, but at the same time has more than 800 million people who have no guarantee of an adequate diet."

The Director-General added: "It is a paradox, too, that up to very recently, alongside food insecurity, there have been countries with food surpluses they had no idea what to do with it. And a further paradox in that a large number of people suffer nutritional deficiencies - including 200 million children under five - while obesity in some countries is reducing life expectancy."

In the last two decades, food production has managed to grow faster than populations, apart from sub-Saharan Africa, where it has not kept pace. But world cereal stocks are at their lowest levels since the early 1970s and food aid has declined by almost half in the last three years.

The world's population is forecast to grow from 5.7 billion today to 8.7 billion by 2030, and the challenge for food producers, and those who back them up in government and in the laboratory, is to raise food production by 75% in the next three decades. That calls for a heavy resumption of investment in agriculture to ensure that this target is met.

A complex interaction of political, economic, social and environmental factors is involved in the food security equation, and it will take all the skills and wisdom of the world's to resolve it "in

partnership with all actors of civil society."

The Declaration warns: "The problems of hunger and food insecurity have global dimensions and are likely to persist, even increase dramatically in some regions, unless urgent, determined and concerted action is taken, given the anticipated increase in the world's population and the stress on natural resources."

In Dr. Diouf's words: "We have the tools in the form of science, technology and the traditional knowledge of farmers, foresters and fishermen. What we need now is the political will to use them wisely, well and with equity."

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,  
Yemen Times.

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# YEMEN ISLAMIC BANK for Finance & Investment

On Tuesday, November 12th, Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani officially inaugurated the Yemen Islamic Bank for Finance and Investment. Capitalized at YR 2 billion, the YIBFI is the country's largest bank.

"This is a successful joint venture between Yemeni entrepreneurs and foreign investors, including many respectable institutions," said Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Aswadi, Chairman of the bank. "The experience of the last few months since the bank has been in operation, is very promising and hopeful. This official inauguration by the prime minister and many senior government and banking officials adds to the momentum," he stated.



ment such situations. "Even more important, as we can see in Yemen, a lot of savings are kept at home because individuals do not want to deal with interest-based banks. So Islamic banks have provided a mechanism to tap these resources and bring them into the banking system," explains Mr. Nasser Al-Ghareeb, General Manager of YIBFI. Islamic banks also perform the role of middlemen between financiers and users of funds.

The main commercial activities of Islamic banks:

- 1- Direct trading (buying and selling) of various commodities.
- 2- Purchasing operations and long-term selling (Goods are delivered, but payment is postponed).
- 3- Participating in exchange operations.
- 4- Participating in sharing operations.
- 5- Purchasing, selling and leasing of real estates.
- 6- Managing of properties of others.
- 7- Investing in housing, industrial, agricultural and other projects.
- 8- Establishing contracting companies to carry out projects for others.
- 9- Establishing and operating various types of factories on a subsidiary basis.
- 10- Managing different coffers for the benefit of their owners in return for a commission.
- 11- Purchasing agricultural crops in a long term arrangement (paying now, taking delivery later).
- 12- Purchasing products and equipment.

The Islamic Bank of Yemen performs all these activities, but in a gradual way according to the circumstances of the local market.

#### C) The Future of Islamic banks in Yemen:

Islamic banks have proven their success in many other Islamic countries. Some of them were able, during the first few years of existence, to achieve higher returns than the "traditional" banks. Islamic banks introduced more developed and efficient tools and mechanisms such as investment portfolios. Yemen has many factors that can lead to the success of Islamic banks.



#### A) Milestones on the Road:

The Islamic Bank of Yemen for Finance and Investment, along with other Islamic banks, whose commercial activities resemble those of an investor and entrepreneur, base their dealings on the rules of Islamic Sharia Law. Islamic banks do not give out loans or borrow money like traditional banks. Although, some Islamic banks do allocate some of their excess cash for interest free loans. But these are mainly given out for social purposes and excluded from the income-generated activities of the bank.

An Islamic bank, like any other bank, receives money from its founders, shareholders and depositors whether they are investors or not. But it does not guarantee a pre-determined return or interest. What the investors will get depends on the turnover of the Islamic bank, which is specified at the end of the fiscal year. It can be profit or loss according to the outcome of the viability and feasibility of the activities.

#### B) Meaning of Investment in Islamic Banks:

Islam has general guidelines and specified frameworks to define the concept of investment. Plans and implementation are then left to the investors, according to the rules and regulations of Sharia. There is great demand for capital to be channelled to investments that achieve honest return in accordance with Islamic principles. Therefore, the need for establishing Islamic banks has arisen to imple-



Some of these factors are:

- 1) The overall total liquid cash is estimated to be around YR 160 billion.
- 2) Foreign investors refrain from coming to Yemen due to the absence of developed and diverse investment options. The existence of Islamic banks will help in expanding the range of internal investment options.
- 3) A massive demand for capital which has not been met by the commercial "traditional" banks, represents a fertile ground for the investment activities of Islamic banks.
- 4) The substantial natural resources in the mining and extracting industries, and the attractive investment possibilities in agriculture, fishing, tourism, oil, natural gas - and the availability of low cost human power - are all encouraging factors that lend themselves to new investments.

Islamic banking started more than 30 years ago. It has long passed the experimentation stage. "The Islamic bank in Yemen is supported and aided by the top Islamic banks in the Islamic world. They are providing their expertise and experience. So this is not a new experiment because we rely on expertise and systems that were sufficiently tried outside Yemen. We have well trained and experienced staff and hopefully, the opportunities will be better than anywhere else," said Dr. Al-Ghareeb.

Five major Islamic banks have large stakes in the YIBFI. These are the Islamic Bank for Development (based in Jeddah), the Jordan Islamic Bank, the Islamic Bank of Bahrain, the Al-Baraka Group, and the International Islamic Bank of Qatar. These huge establishments represent an international extension for our bank in the foreign markets. "They will help us enhance and widen our activities

abroad. They will also fund import and export deals on our behalf," the General Manager said.

"This inauguration came as an official recognition of the importance of Islamic banks. Our bank started in Sana'a about 5 months ago. It succeeded in attracting a large number of customers. We received a positive response from about 80-85% of the invitations we sent out," he added. Since many Yemenis refrain from dealing with traditional banks due to their use of interest rates, the YIBFI was able to quickly develop a large clientele base. "We have today about 2000 clients who have opened new accounts with us. A very large proportion of these are first time depositors who never dealt with a bank before. We concentrate on this aspect in order to widen the base of our clientele," the YIBFI official said.

The Republic of Yemen recently enacted a law to

adjust the control and regulation mechanism of the Central Bank of Yemen to suit the dealings of Islamic banks. This step was warmly welcomed by the investors and promoters of Islamic banks in the country.

In terms of approach, the YIBFI management has developed a new strategy. "We are working on three major fronts. The first one aims to cover the various regions of Yemen and to open up ties with first-time banking clients. The second one is to attract local and foreign investments and to mobilize private financing resources. The third one is related to high-yield investments which is of a somewhat risky nature. "We have the funds that will enable us to embark on gigantic projects," explained Dr. Al-Ghareeb.

In a clear reference to people who doubt the viability of Islamic banking, Dr. Nasser Al-Ghareeb said, "Any doubt or disbelief could arise from an erroneous understanding. Some people may think that this new endeavor will face massive and insurmountable obstacles that will eventually lead to failure. But, I want to stress that there is already more than three decades of experience and expertise behind this system. There are more than 150 Islamic banks worldwide. The idea itself is not a new one, and it is beyond doubt."

Obstacles to Islamic banking could arise due to rigid laws, officials of central banks who are not capable of a new vision beyond the traditional banking system, lack of public awareness, a negative media campaign, etc. The management of the YIBFI is aware of these problems and is gearing up to address them. They are already feeding the local media with information about their work in order to build trust and cooperation. They are also working closely with the Central Bank of Yemen and other bankers. Finally, the YIBFI is mounting a public awareness campaign in order to better inform the general public.

Mr. Mohammed Abdul-Galeel, Assistant General Manager, and the person who has been key to the bank since its inception, is aware of the need to work closely with other actors. "Ours was the first Islamic bank to open its doors to the public. We are keenly aware of the responsibility that fell on us on account of that fact alone," he said. The Yemen Islamic Bank for Finance and Investment was opened in June, 1996, on an experimental run. Since that time until the official opening by the Prime Minister, we worked

#### Yes, prospects. What does the future hold?

"We feel confident about the success of this bank. It is well-capitalized, it is in good standing, and we are looking at a series of very good projects," said Mr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Aswadi, Chairman. "We have many long term plans and ambitions, but we now mostly implement the shorter term programs. We have an investment program to employ the money deposited in the bank specially on the local level. It is essential that excess cash must not remain frozen, but it has to be employed to bring good returns. In order to avoid the problem of unused and uninvested money that plague many other Islamic banks, we plan to establish investment funds," the chairman added.

"A special importance is attached to this fund, particularly for Yemeni expatriates. We are now in the process of coordinating with the Dallah Al-Baraka Group to invest in a number of joint projects. A shared fund between the two establishments will help to benefit us from their expertise. This idea will be implemented as soon as the necessary studies and plans are completed," he said.



Dr. Al-Ghareeb

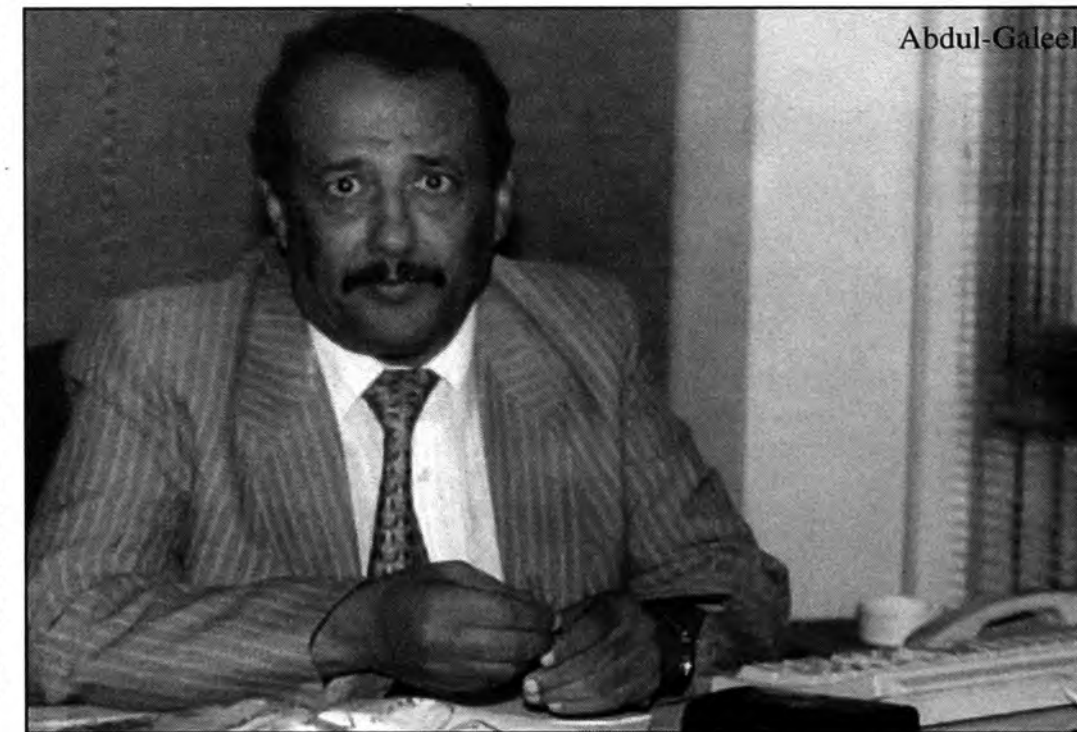
Speaking about the experience so far, Mr. Abdul-Galeel said, "First we have to put into application the concept of Sharia exchange which is different from the economic exchange. Work in Islamic banks is based on the fact that the clients who deposit money with the bank are actually investors. They receive return on their investments, and these are, of course, the profits generated by real business activities. People's acceptance of this concept represents a real economic development in society. Within this framework, people receive only what they truly earn. While in traditional banks depositors earn interest rates, in Islamic banks, people earn real return on real projects," he said. People become real partners by contributing to the economic cycle and activities. This is a big opportunity for the Republic of Yemen.

"I truly believe that Islamic banking has a bright future in Yemen. People here have great respect and adherence to Islamic value, and the experience will be quite successful. The initiative is now in the hands of the founders and investors of Islamic banks to enlighten the public regarding this newly introduced system. The media has a special role to play in this respect. I hasten to address the responsibility fully," the General Manager said.

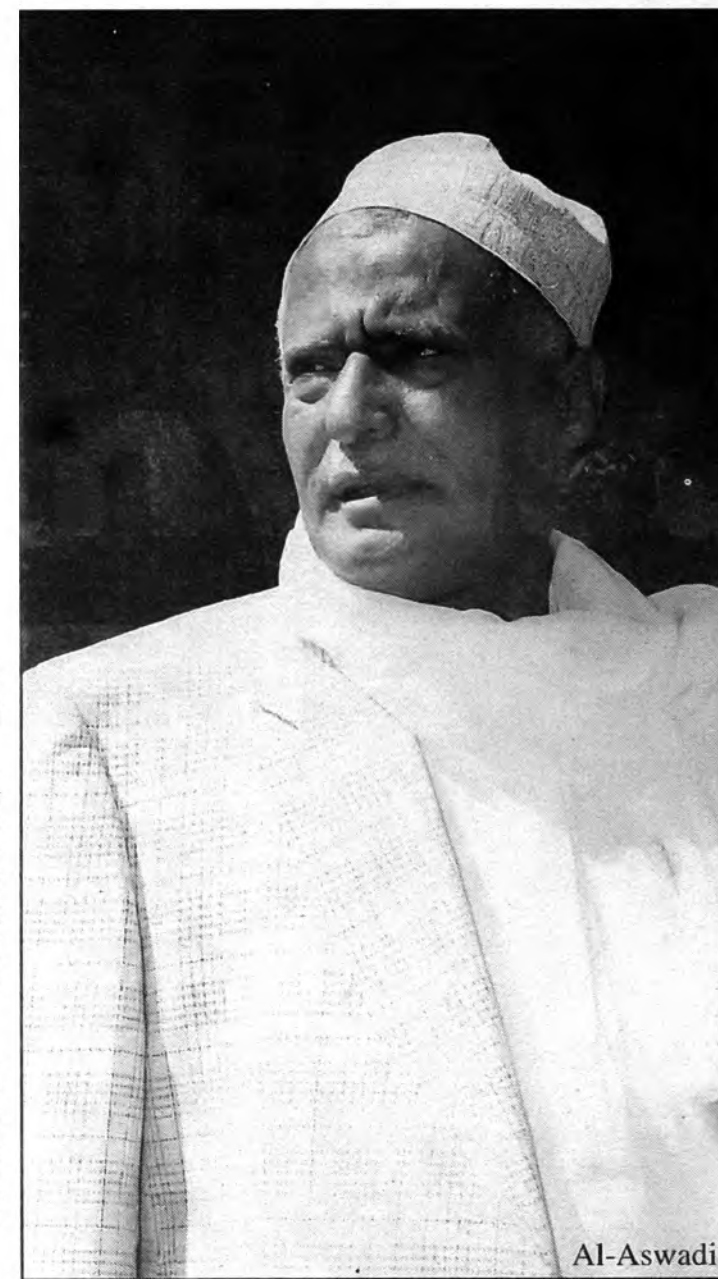
to complete the organizational and administrative structures of the bank. As the bank became ready and well prepared to carry out its banking and investment activities, we found that it was proper to announce its official inauguration. This inauguration can also serve to direct people's attention to the importance of such a banking system. One week ago, the Tadhman Islamic Bank was inaugurated. We will work together for a common goal and we will coordinate our actions for the good of the investors, depositors and the nation."

In terms of the resistance that Islamic banking is facing, Abdul-Galeel was not surprised. "It is normal that any new idea should face some resistance. You will note that the idea is somewhat new to Yemen, but not in other countries. Other countries like the Gulf States, Sudan, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and even the West, they have Islamic banks, and they have succeeded. I believe that we will overcome whatever resistance may exist. In fact, I feel that Islamic banks in Yemen will do very well, given the beliefs and needs of the Yemeni public," he said.

The mood is upbeat and optimistic at the bank. Even the depositors and share-holders have shown a lot of confidence in the prospects.



Abdul-Galeel



Al-Aswadi



## YOS Leads Awareness Campaign on Environment & Wildlife

By: David B. Stanton,  
YOS Chairman.

For more than a decade, the Yemen Ornithological Society (YOS) and its predecessors have provided bird-watchers in Yemen with an opportunity to band together. Founded in 1984 as the Ornithological Society of North Yemen (OSNY) the society has grown and changed over the years. Briefly OSNY became NOSY, the Nature and Ornithological Society of Yemen. This change accommodated members whose interest in the natural world was not limited to ornithology. Following unification, NOSY was renamed YOS to include members from Aden and elsewhere in the south. YOS has three aims; to study the birds of Yemen and collect information, to encourage Yemenis to become interested in birds, and to work with other conservation organizations for the benefit of Yemen.

Because of its unique highland terraces, Yemen is home to 13 endemic bird species, birds which live nowhere else. Socotra has an additional 6 endemics. Additionally, due to its location on a major migratory flyway, Yemen hosts millions of migrating and wintering birds. So far more than 360 bird species have been recorded on Yemeni soil. Over the years society members have contributed much to our pool of knowledge of birds in Yemen.

As it expands, YOS recruits an increasing number of Yemeni members. Young Yemenis in particular are discovering the joys of bird watching. They are finding that this inexpensive and richly rewarding hobby can be practiced virtually anywhere at



any time. With hundreds of bird species breeding in or visiting Yemen, there is always the challenge of identifying new species. While YOS serves a social function, its real work is in the third realm.

Recently, YOS has co-operated with the Yemen Environmental Protection Council and BirdLife International to produce and distribute a bird book specifically for Yemeni school children. The book, which illustrates 96 of Yemen's most important birds, has a strong conservation message. Although distribution is not complete, we intend to place copies in the library of every Yemeni school.

Every YOS member enjoys numerous benefits. The society organizes monthly field trips to places which are rich in birds. Recently, YOS groups have visited Bab al Mandab and Mahwit, areas which have been internationally recognized as "Important Bird Areas." YOS has also sponsored trips to Wadi Dahr

and Wadi Haml, both of which are easily reached from Sanaa.

In addition to field trips, YOS has a meeting each month during which informative lectures are presented and slides of Yemeni birds are shown. The slide presentations have been particularly popular since beginning birders can practice their skills whilst comfortably seated.

YOS members also receive issues of our monthly newsletter, 'The Lammergeier.' Each issue is packed with ornithological news and informative articles. Regular features include an advice column, recent noteworthy sightings, and the monthly "mystery bird." Readers who would like more information about the Yemen Ornithological Society are invited to contact:

David Stanton,  
Tel: 248 309, Fax: 234 438,  
E-mail: david.s@netqsi.com,  
or P.O.Box 2002,  
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen.



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وجميع الأسرة والأهل

## Towns of Wadi Hadhramaut Hold Past Glory, Modern Hope

Wadi Hadhramaut extends for about 1000 kilometers in an east-west stretch. It has been an important trade route through the ages. With time, great cities grew in this wadi. They were the base for many a kingdom in ancient civilizations.

Hadhramaut itself is a plateau in which many riverbeds are carved by the rainfloods over the years. The plateau reaches its peak in the north-central region, while in the south the elevation falls until it reaches sea-level along the coast. North of Hadhramaut, piles of sand dunes make the fringes of the Rub-al Khali or the Empty Quarter.

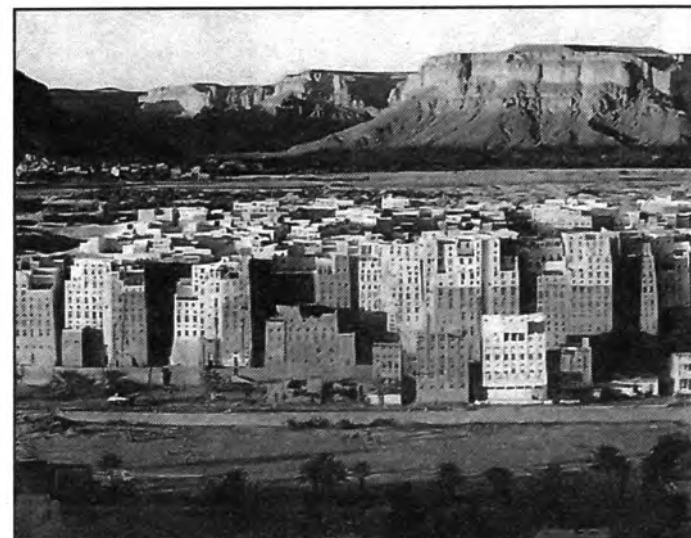
Today, Hadhramaut cities continue to attract students of history, archaeological excavators, investors, traders and tourists. Here is a short description of three of them which are located inside the Wadi, and are enveloped by mountains.

### Seiyun:

Seiyun is the largest town in Hadhramaut governorate. It is situated right in the center of the Wadi.

Folk-tales say that the city derives its name from that of a woman reputed to have lived there in ancient times in a magnificent castle and was herself called seiyun.

Every year, Seiyun celebrates for 20 days. The Seiyun Festival in 1996 was celebrated from 26th of September through 14th of October. Many foreigners and tourists attend this festival.



It is a chance to look at history. One can see the historic remains and exciting sites of antiquity. You also get a first-hand look at the Seiyun folk customs and traditions. Finally, visitors go to the old market and the former palace. Yet, modern Seiyun is also in the making. One can see civilization evolves as new industry, services and business.

### Tarim:

Tarim is famous as a religious center. Its numerous sites of religious learning and mosques attest to that. Today, 365 are still in service in this small town. The most famous one is Al-Mihdhar Mosque with its high minaret. It is an example of fine Yemeni architecture.

Scholars of theology from various Yemeni regions and neighboring countries flock to Tarim in quest of religious knowledge.

### Shibam:

Shibam dates back to the 3rd century A.D. and its distinct and most striking feature is its tall buildings. These are evidence the city was the seat of a flourishing and advanced civilization.

Shibam's sky-scrapers are the private homes of citizens. They are not palaces or states buildings like in other cultures. These mud sky-scrapers not only resolved the problems of limited space but transformed the town into an impregnable fortress.

Space for building purposes is limited by the flow of the wadi floodwater which reaches right up to the edge of the town.

The houses, built with mud brick reinforced with straw, have been able to withstand the passage of hundreds of years.

By: Lutfi Abdullah Baraja,  
Friendship Center,  
Seiyun, Hadhramout.



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## Successful Cairo Economic Conference

The three-day Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference successfully concluded in Cairo on Thursday, November 14th.

The gathering, which brought together representatives of 78 countries, 52 regional and international organizations, 2000 business persons, and 1500 journalists, focussed on possibilities of joint investments within the region. The total value of the projects discussed in the conference exceeded US\$ 45 billion, according to Egyptian sources. Egypt alone presented 188 giant projects valued at about US\$ 10 billion.

The conference, which was envisioned as a vehicle for integrating Israel into the region, ended up highlighting the isolation of the Jewish state, thanks to the extremist policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Instead of integrating Israel into the region, the conference showed Netanyahu's Israel to be a pariah state in the region. Netanyahu, who has served as prime minister for only six months, was able to slow down the peace momentum, reverse the integration process, and nullify the in-roads made by his Labor-government predecessors. During the conference, several Arab countries which had initiated normalization programs, disclosed they have decided to put such steps on hold.

Israeli regional projects advanced in the conference also faced a stumbling block. "How can Israel seek to negotiate economic ties when it is trying to starve the Palestinians by closing off the West Bank and Gaza," asked one Arab minister.

A golden opportunity to make headway in regional economic cooperation and better political understanding was thus lost, again thanks to Mr. Netanyahu's extremist policies.

In fact, the Conference Communique called on Israel to fully implement the agreements signed with the Palestinians. The Communique also affirmed that the basis for the peace talks was the Madrid understanding of peace for land. "Israel should live up to its commitment to the world community as stipulated in the agreements," the communique states.

Meanwhile, Israel and the Palestinians are still negotiating on how Israel will implement withdrawal from Hebron, according to the agreement signed last year.

## Disaster in the Air

A Kazakh cargo plane headed from Delhi International Airport crashed into a Saudi passenger plane which had taken off from Delhi. The crash killed all persons on board - 350 of them.

According to Civil Aviation sources in Delhi, the crash took place some 60 kilometers west of Delhi. The sources did not yet specify the party to be blamed, although they said the Civil Aviation was not to blame, thus leading a pointed finger to the pilots. Additional media sources said that the pilot of the Kazakh plane did not understand English, implying he may not have followed tower directions fully.

The majority of the passengers were Indians and Nepalese. In addition, however, there were Pakistani, Jordanian, Moroccan, American, and of course, Saudi nationals on board.

The Indian authorities have recovered the black boxes in the two planes, and they expect to shed light on how and why the accident happened. But the investigations will take a few more days.

While this is the second airplane disaster that hits Saudi Arabian Airlines, it is the tenth horrible disaster in aviation history over the last two decades.

The most recent disaster before this one was the TWA flight that was knocked out of the sky shortly after its take-off from New York on its way to Paris. Investigators have yet to determine the cause, although the most plausible explanation so far is that the plane was hit by a rocket from the American marine maneuver with live ammunition, a few hundred kilometers off the American east coast.

Saudi authorities have dispatched representatives to consult with the Indian authorities and to follow the investigations. They report that their early findings will be made available later this month.

Meanwhile, Indian Prime Minister Dave Gowda has instructed his government to give priority to new investments at Delhi International Airport. The two most pressing projects are a new runway, so that departing and arriving planes will use different runways, and upgrading and modernizing communication and plane tracing equipment at the tower.

Meanwhile, financial compensations for the victims' legal heirs are being worked. Saudia announced it will shortly publish a final list containing the names of people on board its flight.

## UAE to Have Special Nature Reserves

Several new areas in the UAE will be officially declared as nature reserves, said Dr. Marycke Jongbloed, director of the Sharjah Natural History Museum (SNHM).

The areas earmarked as nature reserves include Khor Kalba, the Shimalia Mountain Range, Musandam, Ras Al Jebel, Al Faqa, Al Siniyyah and Jebel Hafeet.

"Turtles will be re-introduced, in addition to a large variety of birds and crabs, the famous mountain gazelle, and the Arabian leopard," she added. Mangroves and coral reefs accommodating a large colony of cormorants and dugong will all be part of the new habitat.

These steps came due to concern over the delicate ecological balance often threatened by progress and pollution. "The ecosystem is quite fragile. Cans and bottles litter the desert. Other waste includes chemicals and fertilizers in the wadi," she added.

The first efforts in conservation were initiated by the Abu Dhabi Natural History Group which contributed to the creation of a mangrove reserve rich in marine life. Dubai Creek was the second nature reserve being planned as it is home to a resident colony of flamingoes. "The creek has now become their natural breeding ground as they cannot find enough shrimps elsewhere," Dr. Jongbloed said.

The third nature reserve was the Snoopy Rock, along the coast of Sharjah. There is a growing need to protect the UAE's varied collection of indigenous species to avoid their extinction.

Jongbloed's first involvement in conservation began with the observation of the Gordon's wildcat in the UAE and Oman. This species, a relative of the wildcat found in Europe, is now being bred at Dubai Zoo. Some other interesting animals such as Caracal lynx, the Egyptian spiny mouse and Blandford's fox in the Hajar mountains were also observed and recorded.

The famous Arabian leopard has been seen in Musandam and the wild goat has also been observed - one specimen is at present housed in Al Ain Zoo. There are also fascinating reptiles like the leopard gecko and the fan-tailed gecko.

Meanwhile, the SNHM has been concentrating on more research on the desert park. "The desert park has a breeding center for the Arabian leopard which will continue to develop an expand, to become an excellent example of a desert habitat," she said.

## Zaire Alone and on the Brink of Break-up

If Zaire's shambolic army is defeated by Tutsi forces in the east, Africa's stumbling giant will be at greater risk of dismemberment than at any time since its independence in 1960. The prospect of military defeat loomed large with news of further Tutsi gains in and around Goma and Bukavu, capitals of the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu.

Zaire's armed forces, the FAZ, were already a byword for indiscipline in Africa. They have proved no match for the ethnic Tutsi rebels supported by the Tutsi armies in command of neighboring Rwanda and Burundi.

"It is fair to say Zaire has no army today. After years of tribalism and political interference, we have a lot of men in uniform but no real army," said one Zairian analyst in Nairobi.

The bad news from the east could stir a rare display of patriotic fervor in Zaire's capital Kinshasa. But it is just as likely to encourage secessionist elements in mineral-rich Shaba, bordering Zambia, and diamond-studded Kasai in the center of Zaire. The threat of break-up has long been an issue but one man, Marshal Mobutu relying on foreign friends when he was a key pro-Western African leader during the Cold War.

The armies of France, Belgium and others intervened in the 1970s and 1980s to crush secessionist rebels, mainly in Shaba. An array of nations, led by the United States, provided arms and security assistance.

Today the Cold War is over, Mobutu is a 66-year-old cancer patient, and Zaire has no powerful friends. "Zaire is alone for the first time and during its biggest crisis," the Zairian analyst, who declined to be quoted by name, said.

With Mobutu now not fully in charge, the political vacuum is deepening. There is no designated or constitutional successor. With nothing to show after six years of pro-democracy agitation, the opposition is utterly split and many parties are tribal or secessionist or both.

Zaire's 35 million people are insulted and ashamed at their army's showing. The government says the Tutsis of tiny Rwanda, with a population of only six million, have orchestrated the Tutsi rebellion in the east. "The Zairian army is a force with no morale or discipline. It pays itself by looting property."



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- Cover for any absent department personnel.
- Any other related tasks assigned by Department Manager.

### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

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**EXPERIENCE** : 3 years related experience.  
**KNOWLEDGE** : Ability to speak and read English fluently along with the ability to write and type in both Arabic and English. Proficient with Word Processing computer applications.

if you have these qualifications, please send your C. V. to the following address:

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Final 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.

Second and Final Part:

## Article (10):

A- A number of specialized departments work with the Executive Board.  
B- The head of each department is automatically a member in the Executive Board.

## Article (11):

A- The EMC has regional branch offices to serve as points of diffusion located in all the governorate capitals in addition to some of the major secondary cities which represent gateways to the hinterland rural areas.  
B- A coordinator of the regional branch office is responsible for the activities in his/her region, and participates in the sessions of the Executive Board which discuss topics related to his/her region.  
C- A number of monitoring stations are established by the regional branch office to correspond to the constituencies. The Coordinator of the regional branch office names the person responsible for each station, and a resolution from the Executive Board is issued accordingly.  
D- The person named to head the station has full responsibility for it.

## CHAPTER FOUR: THE DUTIES:

### First: The tasks of the Committee and Method of Decision-making.

## Article (12):

A- The Committee is the highest authority of the EMC, and it is regarded as the general assembly.  
B- The Committee discusses any suggestions for amendments of the charter and by-laws of the EMC.  
C- It approves the plans, programs and general policies of the EMC.  
D- It elects the Executive Board.  
E- It discusses/accepts applications of new members to the EMC or terminates such membership.  
F- It discusses/approves the budget of the EMC.  
G- It discusses/approves the final accounts of the EMC.  
H- It discusses the final report of the EMC.  
I- It decides to establish new departments.  
J- It discuss/decides accords of cooperation between the EMC and other local or foreign committees of similar tasks.

## Article (13):

A- The Committee holds a meeting, at least once every three months, and its meetings are called by the president or the general secretary or one third of the members of the Executive Board, according to how the by-laws show the proceedings.  
B- The resolutions of the committee are regarded legal and valid if voted for by half of the votes of the present members, except those cases which require an exceptional majority as specified in this charter.  
C- The meetings of the committee are regarded as legal if attended by half of the members, with exception of those sessions which require an exceptional majority as specified in this charter.  
D- When the agenda of the committee includes items related to dissolving of the committee or amending the constitution of the committee or withdrawal of confidence from the president or the general secretary or assistant secretary-generals or the heads of the departments or acceptance/dismissal of any member, such meeting shall not be legal unless attended by three quarters of the members, and the resolution is not binding unless it is voted for by two thirds of the votes on condition that such votes include two thirds of the founders votes.

### Second: The Tasks of the Executive Board and the Method of Decision-making

## Article (14):

The Executive Board is responsible for implementation of the plans, programs and general policy as approved by the Committee, according to this charter, and it shall take all the steps and resolutions which enable the EMC achieve its goals and tasks. Specifically, it implements the followings:-  
A- Approves the agenda and the sessions of the meetings.  
B- Discusses/approves the executive programs prepared by the specialized departments which are presented to the committee through the general secretary or his assistants.

C- Prepares/discusses the plans and budget to present the same to the Committee for approval.  
D- Works to mobilize resources on the local and the foreign levels.  
E- Names the bank which the committee deals with.  
F- Discusses the periodic (phase) reports and the EMC and presents the final report to the Committee for approval.  
G- Names the heads of the regional branch offices in the governorates.  
H- Confirms the heads of stations in the constituencies based on the nomination by coordinator of the regional branch office.  
I- Employment of support staff of the general-secretariat based on the recommendation by the general secretary or his assistants.  
J- Formation of committees for specified tasks.

## Article (15):

A- The Executive Board holds its meeting weekly in its head office.  
B- The Executive Board can hold exceptional meetings to implement its duties.  
C- The Executive Board takes its resolutions by a simple majority.

## Article (16):

The tasks and duties of the Chairman of the EMC:  
A- To supervise all the work of the EMC.  
B- To represent the EMC in the official and public circles.  
C- To call to the meetings of the committee, the executive Board and to chair them.  
D- To mobilize moral, financial and manpower support for the EMC.  
E- To sign the final report of the committee.  
F- Any other work that the committee assigns.

## Article (17):

The tasks and duties of the general secretary:  
A- To direct all the executive work in the committee, the departments, and to head all the financial, technical and administrative works.  
B- To implement the programs and activities of the EMC within the framework of the general policies as approved upon by the committee.  
C- To sign the final report of the committee.  
D- To mobilize moral, financial and manpower support for the EMC.  
E- To fill in for the chairman of the EMC in his absence.  
F- Any other work assigned by the committee.

## Article (18):

The tasks and duties of the assistant general secretaries:  
A- To assist the general secretary in his tasks and duties according to the by-laws.  
B- To direct the work of the office of the general secretariat.  
C- To fill-in for the general secretary in his absence and each within his/her sphere of work.  
D- Any other work assigned by the general secretary.

## Article (19):

### First: The Tasks and Duties of the Legal Department:

A- To follow-up proper application of the electoral stipulations from a legal point of view and to evaluate their performance in all the stages of the elections process.  
B- To assess application of the elections system.  
C- To study reports of violations of the elections law and to give the EMC a legal opinion on them.  
D- To prepare the final report project as related to the elections process in coordination with other departments.  
E- To offer legal advice to the general secretary and the departments on cases referred to it.  
F- To inform and enlighten citizens on their civil, political, and human rights according to law.  
G- To prepare accords with Arab and international bodies for the purpose of cooperation in the sphere of joint activities regarding monitoring of elections after consulting the other departments.  
H- Any legal tasks referred by the chairman or the general secretary.

### Second: The tasks and Duties of the Information Department:

A- To follow-up proper application of the electoral stipulations from the information point of view and to evaluate the adherence of the various media organs to the rules and regulations during all the election phases.  
B- To study the reports and complaints as related to violations of the elections stipulations and giving an opinion on them.  
C- To prepare the information report project.  
D- To prepare brochures to inform on the tasks of the EMC.

E- To issue a monthly news-letter on the work of the EMC and the elections process, under the supervision of the general secretariat.  
F- The head of the department is the official spokesperson of the EMC.  
G- Any other media tasks assigned to it by the chairman or the secretary-general.

### Third: The Tasks and Duties of the Foreign Relations Department:

A- To evolve cooperative relations and coordination with similar Arab and international bodies.  
B- To gather and document reports and articles in the Arab and international media on Yemen's elections.  
C- To prepare and offer to local and international bodies files on violations in Yemeni elections.  
D- To prepare drafts of protocols of cooperation with similar Arab and international bodies in coordination with the other departments.  
E- Any other tasks assigned to it by the chairman or the general secretary.

### Fourth: The tasks and Duties of the Volunteer Mobilization and Training Department:

A- To implement the monitoring policies approved by the Executive Board and to lay down plans within the said framework.  
B- To coordinate internal monitoring efforts with the political parties and organizations.  
C- To work out training programs and to implement them following approval by the Executive Board.  
D- To gather and document the work of the EMC in the governorates and to coordinate field work.  
E- To supervise the coordinators' work in the governorates.  
F- To recruit and select the volunteers in coordination with the other departments.  
G- Any other tasks assigned to it by chairman or the general secretary shoulders.



## CHAPTER FIVE: GENERAL STIPULATIONS:

## Article (20):

A- The EMC does not receive any instructions from any authority local or foreign in performing its work and it abides by the constitution and the laws in force in the Republic of Yemen.  
In doing its tasks, the EMC draws guidance from the spirit of the noble principles on which God created humanity, from the ultimate duty of humanity to engage in a worthwhile life on earth, and from the conscience of humanity so eager for freedom and dignity.  
B- The EMC opens its arms for full cooperation with all the organizations and institutions working in Yemen for a similar goal.  
C- The EMC is financed by donations and contributions from its members. It also accepts unconditional support from Yemeni and foreign companies and organizations according to the laws of the Republic of Yemen. Such contribution shall be published in all the local press.  
D- The properties of the EMC if and when dissolved shall be donated to civil society organizations which have the same goals, based on a resolution by the Committee.

End of Constitution.

# CONDOLENCE

The Board of Directors of  
Inchcape Marketing Services  
extends its sincere condolences to the  
management and staff of the M S Thabet Group  
and to Mr. Towfiq Thabet, Mr. Lutfi Thabet  
and their families, on the sad  
death of Mr. Mohamed Saif Thabet  
INCHCAPE MARKETING SERVICES

# تعزية

مجلس ادارة شركة إنشكاب لخدمات التسويق

يتقدم بخالص العزاء والمواساة

للاستاذين / توفيق ولطفي ثابت

ولكل ذويهم وأقربائهم

كما يتقدمون بالتعزية والمواساة لمديري وموظفي مجموعة شركات محمد سيف ثابت

للحادث الرجل الذي أصابهم بوفاة الاستاذ / محمد سيف ثابت.

تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع الرحمة ، وألهم أهله الصبر والسلوان.

وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون



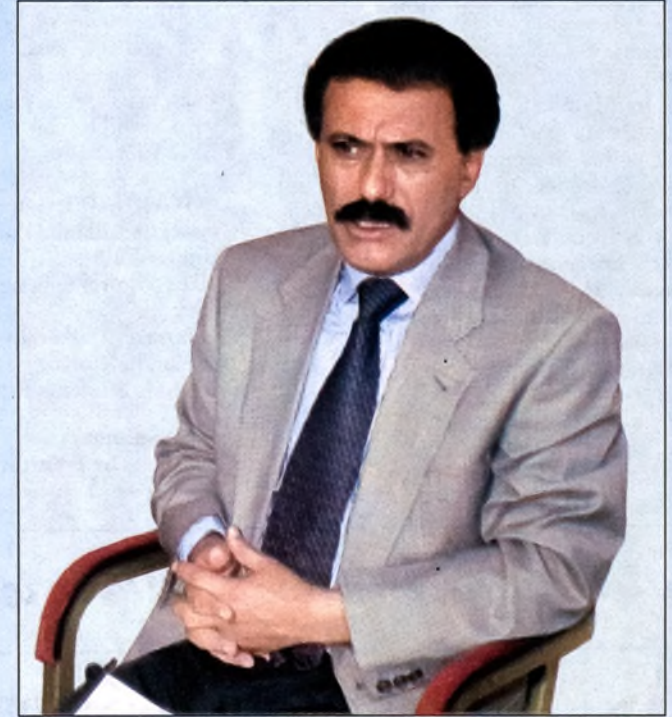
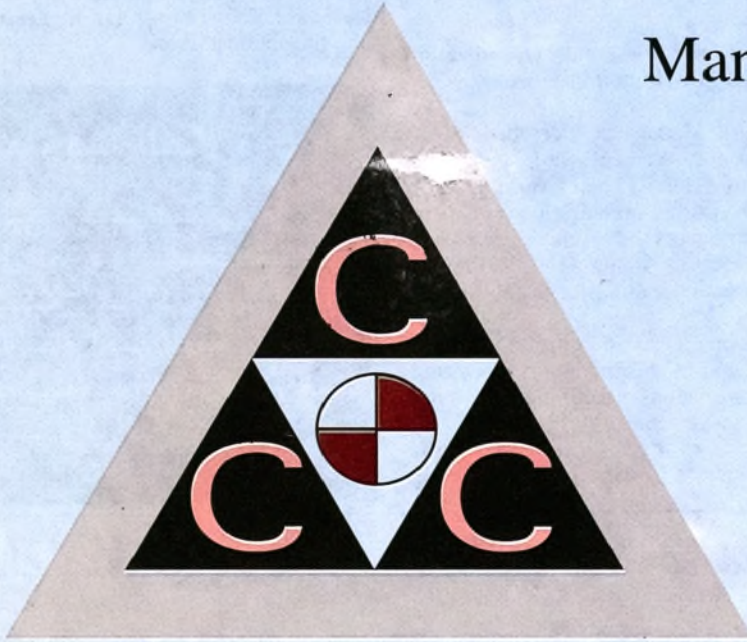
The Top Management, Engineers and Workers of

**C C C**

present

their congratulations and felicitations to  
General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic,  
the Government and People of Yemen  
on the occasion of the 30th of November:  
(Liberation Day of the Southern Part of the Homeland, and  
the anniversary of the signing of the Re-unification Agreement).

Many Happy Returns



الإدارة العليا ، والمهندسون ، والعمال في

**سي سي سي**

يتقدمون

بالتنهاني العطرة والتبريكات الحارة  
للفريق علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية  
والحكومة والشعب في اليمن  
بمناسبة ذكرى الثلاثين من نوفمبر  
(ذكرى الجلاء من الجزء الجنوبي من الوطن ،  
وذكرى التوقيع على إتفاقية إعادة توحيد اليمن)  
وكل عام والجميع بخير.



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

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Quartite Committee Proposal Is Submitted to the President.
- 2) Law and Human Rights Violations in Abyan
- 3) Fisheries Establishment and its Employees Will Remain.

**Article Summary:**

**"1000 Tons of Fish Went Missing".**  
More than 1000 tons of fish, which were to be given to the state as duties by foreign companies fishing in Yemeni territorial waters, were missing! Rumor has it the Minister of Fisheries whose Ministry is responsible for receiving these quantities personally sold the fish to the private sector. The staff of the Ministry's bureau in Aden have confirmed that tens of millions of riyals went astray due to huge quantities of fish being forwarded to a private sector company (Al-Mawarid). This was done contrary to storage regulations according to direct instructions by the Minister himself. The Minister had previously conducted a lot of publicity for the aforementioned company.

**AL-MITHAQ: Sana'a (Weekly), 11-11-96**  
(People's General Congress Mouthpiece)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Two Meetings for the PGC General Committee and the Ministerial Corporation.
- 2) The President Meets the Leaderships of Political Parties and Organization
- 3) The National Immunization Campaign Against Polio Starts Today (11-11-96).

**Article Summary:**

**"A Crisis of Conscience and Awareness,"**  
by Abdulaziz Al-Hyagim.  
Yemen suffers from many economic crises, bureaucratic corruption, a widening gap between the rich and the poor, a decline in the levels of education and health services, etc. Why? What are the solutions? It is a crisis of conscience and awareness not of government or economy. True change must come gradually and without resorting to illegitimate means. The progressive and conservative cadres see the problem from completely different perspectives. Ideological differences must be respected and must never come before the interests of the nation. The education system has suffered most from these ideological squabbles. Many means, legal or otherwise were



# Yemeni Press in a Week

by: **Adel J. Moqbil**

employed to contain the wide student base by one party or another. We need to create a citizen that is committed morally and religiously and capable of creativity and abundance.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly), 13-11-96**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) A Group of Advisers from the Coalition and Opposition to Oversee the Supreme Election's Committee.
- 2) Two More Explosions in Al-Howta
- 3) The Emirates Charity Committee Builds Schools and Health Centers in Yemen.

**Article Summary:**

**"Teachers of the Capital Refuse to Receive Their Salaries."**  
A group of teachers in Sana'a have refused to receive their salaries for October. The reason for this is that some amounts of money were deducted from their salaries due to absenteeism, but were asked to sign for receiving full salaries. They were also denied receipts for the deducted amounts. "This means that the deducted money will not be returned to the state treasury, but will be intercepted on the way," said one female teacher. She added, "We are confident that the government and its organs will stand by us." A correct and legal administrative approach will be able to combat corruption and save millions of riyals for the country.

**AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly), 12-11-96**  
(Nasserite Unionist Party Mouthpiece)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Supreme Elections Committee Hinders Dialogue.
- 2) Sana'a University Council Abandons the Decision to Resign.
- 3) Female Students Escape a Kidnap Attempt.

**Article Summary:**

**"The Political Security Office,"**  
by Ali Al-Saqaf

Seven months have passed and Yaseen Al-Hammadi is still interned by the Political Security Office (PSO). Despite his heart condition and asthma, the PSO is adamant at keeping him jailed indefinitely. His wife and 3 children are not allowed to see him or even know his fate. He was the treasurer at Al-Thawra Public Hospital whose management has accused him of embezzlement and called in the PSO to investigate. It is not known why the PSO should be involved in such a case which lies in the domain of the Central Organization for Audit and Control. The PSO has other and quite different concerns and duties. Could it be that there is a somewhat dubious association between the hospital's management and the PSO?

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

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Second Round of Islah's First General Conference to Be Held Next Wednesday.
- 2) A Smear Campaign by the (Official) Media Against the Minister of Electricity
- 3) An International Conference for Islamic Banking in Sana'a.

**Article Summary:**

**"The 1st Masonic and Missionary Organization in Yemen,"** by Hamoud Mansoor.  
The Korean priest, Moon, has succeeded in officially infiltrating into Yemen! Under such misleading slogans like "family" and "world peace", a new branch for the priest's organization was opened in Sana'a on Wednesday 6th November in al-Hamd Hotel. Many booklets in Arabic were distributed at the inaugural ceremony calling for supporting this so called savior! A mixture of masonic ideas and distorted Christian beliefs are advocated by this organization. Opening a branch for this suspicious organization sets a dangerous precedent in Yemen. Moon has been trying for years to extend his influence into this country by establishing relationships

with prominent and public figures in Yemeni society. Moon, 76, claims to have been chosen by God to guide humanity and that Jesus has appeared in his sleep asking him to complete his mission!!

**AL-THOURY: Sana'a (Weekly), 14-11-96**  
(Yemeni Socialist Party Mouthpiece)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) 100% Increase in Wheat and Flour Prices at Beginning of Next Year.
- 2) Siege is Still Imposed on the French Diplomat's Kidnappers
- 3) Oppression Against Health Cadres in Aden.

**Article Summary:**

**"They Deceived Her by Saying: ..."**  
by Hatim Sabran  
Yemeni women in politics seem to be optimistic about their future in parliament. These women are either trying to outbid each other as a form of propaganda for their respective parties. They are deceived by the big words and promises of their leaders. The political power map and alliances indicate a dark future for women in parliament. Women, from the viewpoints of political parties, are either mere voters or propaganda items. If the "party of all parties" wins a "comfortable" majority, then it may wish to install more women as a propaganda facade. Despite the plethora of literature calling for women's liberation, the stance towards women's issues is still very backward. Everybody practices the reverse of what they say. A change of attitude towards women requires an accumulation of awareness and experience. The bitter truth is that political women are themselves very backward. They beg for a man's decision to let them into the political arena.

**تعازينا الحارة**  
يتقدم حسن الحيفي  
بالتعازي الحارة والمواساة العميقة  
للأخوين الدكتور عبدالله والمهندس علي  
ولدا الحاج احمد الهيصمي  
ب وفاة والدهم تغمد الله بواسع رحمته  
وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون

## Letters to the editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the editor Letters to the Editor

### Steps to Restore Peace to Somalia

Recently, the Yemeni government invited the leaders of the main three Mogadishu factions. Although they did represent a small section of the Somali Society as they control the capital and its environs only, nonetheless their meeting was a welcome development. However, what puzzled most observers was the rejection of the Aidid Faction to participate the conference. Yemeni officials were snubbed by Aidid Jr., despite the fact that they were sympathetic to his faction. However, a month later, when President Arap Moi of Kenya invited the same factions to Nairobi, Hussein Aidid was the first faction leader to attend. Nothing tangible came out of the Sana'a meeting, given the intransigence of Hussein Aidid, due to his insistence of being dealt with as the head of state of Somalia. But the Sana'a meeting showed his admirers that the Aidid faction has always been the main obstacle for the realization of peace and normalcy to Somalia. Since he succeeded his father a few months ago, the young Aidid has followed his father's footsteps, thereby aggravating Somalia's already turbulent situation. Having been rebuffed by the Aidid faction, we would like the Yemeni authorities to switch their support to peace-oriented factions. For instance President Ali Abdullah Saleh could use his influence with Libyan's Col. Muammar Qaddafi to convince him to reduce the massive support Libya gives to the Aidid faction. So far Libya is the only country which has recognized the self-styled government of the late General Aidid.

The only other source of trouble in Somalia is the secessionist north-west movement led by Ibrahim Egal. Yemen which had experienced a painful secessionist attempt in 1994, should use its influence in the region to ostracize the northern Somali secessionists both politically and economically. For instance the Yemeni port of Mocha is a major market for livestock and other products exported from the port of Berbera. An area which is controlled by Mr. Egal. Thus given his heavy dependence on Yemeni and Saudi Markets, both countries could put pressure on him to abandon his secessionist plans and ambitions. Meanwhile, most of the country's 18 regions are peaceful. The international community should concentrate on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the peaceful regions. Relief agencies should not as in the past extend assistance to the chaotic regions only. Such policies have proved counter-productive. The same mistake should not be repeated. Moreover, supporting and nurturing troublesome factions by some Arab countries either due to ignorance or a sheer desire to perpetuate the conflict has greatly contributed to the continuation of the crisis. Yemen could help reduce the tension by encouraging peaceful dialogue among the various factions and by asking governments which provide support to the troublesome factions to terminate such support. These are the only feasible steps that could hasten the restoration of peace and tranquility to our shattered country.

By: **Mohammed Said Ismail,**  
Somali Resident of Yemen,  
Sana'a.

### Why Have You Stopped the Crossword Puzzle?



I am one of the ardent readers of Yemen Times. I enjoy reading all reports and different articles. I find the newspaper very informative and useful. One of the sections I used to enjoy was the Crossword Puzzles that were prepared by Al-Farouq Institute for Computers and Languages. In addition to enjoying the puzzles, I used to compete for the prizes that are offered by the institute. But now the Yemen Times has discontinued this section. I do not know why. I know that the whole page (Page 15) is now dedicated to sports, which is also important. But is there any way to combine the two services? I hope the Yemen Times will consider this proposal.

By: **Abdul-Fattah Al-Alimi,**  
Sanaa.

### A Cry from the Sanaa Central Prison:

### Ethiopian Fugitive Seeks Help

I am an Ethiopian national who has been in the Sanaa Central Prison for over thirty months. I was brought here on 26/4/1994. Yes, I committed a crime by hijacking the Ethiopian Airline plane, which was on a flight from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. I had political grievances which the Ethiopian authorities ignored. Upon landing at Sanaa International Airport, I voluntarily gave myself up to the Yemeni authorities. I hurt no one on board the plane, nor did I expose any person to risk. I simply wanted to highlight the grievances. I expected the Yemeni authorities to deal with my case with justice and compassion. I have written to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and many other senior officials. I got no response. No body has even touched my case, as I languish in jail. I have the right to a fair trial. But the Yemeni authorities must have forgotten me after throwing me in jail.



After several appeals to the legal authorities, last month the prosecutor's office ordered the jail authorities to take me to the person who had ordered my imprisonment, as the copy of the order (above) shows. But nothing has happened. I know I made a mistake, but that was in response to the oppression and discrimination I faced in my own country.

When I hijacked the plane, my life was at stake because the Saudi authorities were repatriating me to the Ethiopian regime. Now, I am suffering in jail. I wish human rights organizations and other groups would look into my case. How much suffering should one undergo for self purification?

**Belay Meshasha Mengiste,**  
Sanaa Central Prison.



## “Get your racket and jump in!”

Based on an arrangement between the Yemeni Tennis Federation and the International Tennis Federation, Mr. Piotr Unierzyski of Poland was invited to come to Yemen and give courses and tips in lawn tennis. The program started on November 11th in Sanaa.

On this occasion, Yemen Times talked to Mr. Unierzyski.

**Q: For a good future in tennis, where do we start?**

**A:** Most good tennis players say they started at home or at school. The trick is to start early in life, and keep it up. Of course, that will depend on the facilities available to the children.

**Q: What is the program of this training course and for how long will it continue?**

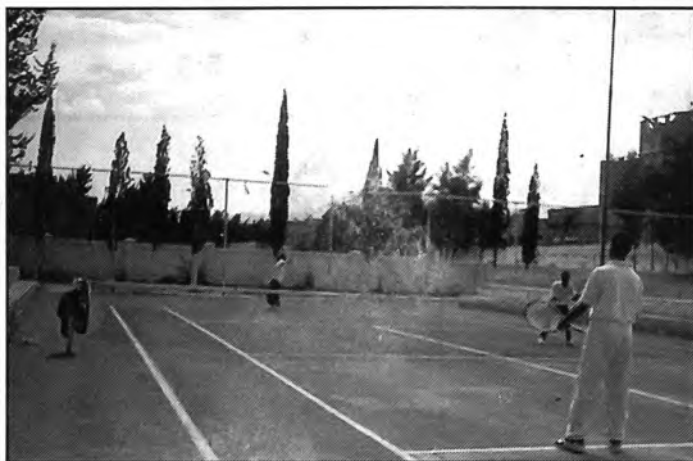
**A:** The program includes teaching tennis coaches modern techniques and skills essential for training youngsters and adults. It will go on for two weeks: one week in Sana'a and another in Aden.

**Q: How do you find the training facilities in Yemen?**

**A:** Some of the playing fields I saw are alright, but require some repairs. Tennis facilities are not very costly.

**Q: How do you find the levels of participants in the course?**

**A:** The overall level is alright. The players need more support to improve. The number of participants is not very big. The game needs more attention. I hope this course will provide a good start to spread the game in Yemen. The participants in my course are making very good and noticeable progress.



**Q: What is the international Tennis Federation in supporting this game?**

**A:** The ITF works very hard to support this game in developing countries. I took part in coaching people in Azerbaijan, Egypt and Pakistan where we organized many courses and competitions. As for Yemen, the ITF will assist in developing the game by providing some facilities and training expertise. There will be more training courses during 1997.

**Q: Would you like to give advice to improve the game?**

**A:** Tennis in Yemen needs plenty of support and assistance. This can be amply provided by the ITF and other organizations such as the International Olympic Solidarity. To improve this game we have to start attracting and training young people. School activities represent the first step in discovering potential talents not only in tennis, but in all other sports.

### Sport For All Organizes an Open Marathon

To mark the anniversary of independence day - 30th November, and unification agreement in 1990 - the 'Sport For All' will organize an open Marathon in Sana'a on 19th November, 1996. More than 2000 youngsters will participate in this event.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports will support the event by financing part of the cost. The private sector will also resent many prizes for the winners of the Marathon.

### Hadhramaut Governor Contributes YR 300,000

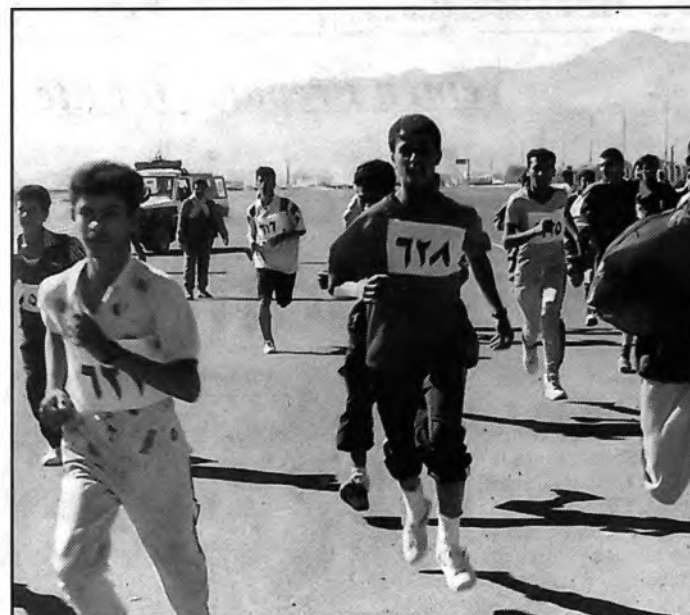
Last Wednesday 13th November, 1996, Colonel Ali Saleh al-Khowlani, Governor of Hadhramaut, inaugurated Al-Nasser Club in Al-Mukalla. On the occasion, and as a gesture of support, he contributed YR 300,000 to the new sports club.

The governor's gesture was well-received. "We are waiting for similar steps from the other governors," said an official at the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

### National Team of Body Builders Participates in the 15th World Championship

The national team of body building athletes left Yemen on Thursday 14th, November, to participate in the 15th Championship of Youth Body Building. The competition was held in Jordan during 12-16 November, 1996. The three participants were: Khaled Ebrahim, Hesham Awlaqi, and Mohammed Abdullah. The head of Yemeni sport delegation was Mr. Abdullah Al-Maghrabi, president of Yemen Bodybuilding Federation.

The team was delayed in Sanaa because it was chasing paperwork in government bureaucracies to get their per diems.



## PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

The Ministry of Fish Wealth (Coastal Fishing corporation) of the Republic of Yemen invites all dealers in the purchase of fish, whether domestic or international firms, to enter the public auction, or submit bids by those who are unable to be present, of the currently available quantities or rock lobster (tails) stored at Dhaboat cold stores.

The lobsters quantities at the Dhaboat cold stores in Al-Mahara Governorate are distributed according to the following values and standards:

Volume	No. of cartones	Carton Weight (Kg)	Total Weight (Kg)
2/3	50	10 Kg	500
3/4	81	10 Kg	810
4/5	286	10 Kg	2860
5/6	290	10 Kg	2900
6/7	171	10 Kg	1710
7/8	186	10 Kg	1860
8/9	127	10 Kg	1270
9/10	92	10 Kg	920
10/12	51	10 Kg	510
12/16	42	10 Kg	420
<b>Total</b>	<b>1376</b>	<b>10 Kg</b>	<b>13760</b>

### Bids Submission Conditions:

1. In the event of entering the auction via bids, these must be submitted before the opening of the auction.
2. Payment of an amount of ten thousand US Dollars (US\$10,000) as guarantee for entering the auction. The amount will be refunded to the unsuccessful bidders.
3. Those wishing to examine the quantity may do so at the Dhaboat cold stores in Al-Mahara Governorate.
4. The quantity offered for sale is from the production of the month of October until November (15/11/1996) and the quantities available after November 15 with the date of holding the auction will be automatically added to the quantities offered for sale.
5. The auction will be held on 26/11/1996 in Al-Mahara Governorate in the presence of all bidders.
6. For further information kindly contact the office of the General manager, Coastal Fishing Co. Aden, on telephone number 221123 or 213843 or by fax number 211834





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## Yemen Prepares for the Fight Against Polio:

# Reaching Out to 2.6 million Kids in 3 Days

There is only one week left before the start of the mass immunization program against polio, in the Republic of Yemen. The plan is to reach out to 2.6 million - all children under the age of 5 years within three days - 25-27 November. For that purpose, the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the office of the World Health Organization and the UNICEF, has been mobilizing all resources to make this effort a success. On paper, everything is done. On the ground, much needs to be done.

The plan calls for the establishment of 7,500 immunization points, of which 6,000 are mobile. The plan also calls for nearly 20,000 volunteers to administer the immunization and coordinate the effort. It calls for an investment of about YR 100 million. It calls for making 8,000 vehicles available for the campaign.

On the ground, the points of vaccination have yet to be named. On the ground, the 20,000 or so volunteers have to be found, and have to be given, at least a crash course on what is to be done, why it is done, and how it is to be done. The WHO and UNICEF have already provided half the money needed, and the Yemeni Government has pledged YR 40 million. The balance of YR 10 million will



come from the budget of the Ministry of Health. Statistics indicate that 10% of the children under five are handicapped, some of them due to polio. The reason is that the current immunization coverage is around 40-50% of the child population. As a result, Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula which has not eradicated this disease. In addition to Somalia, it is the only country in the Middle East.

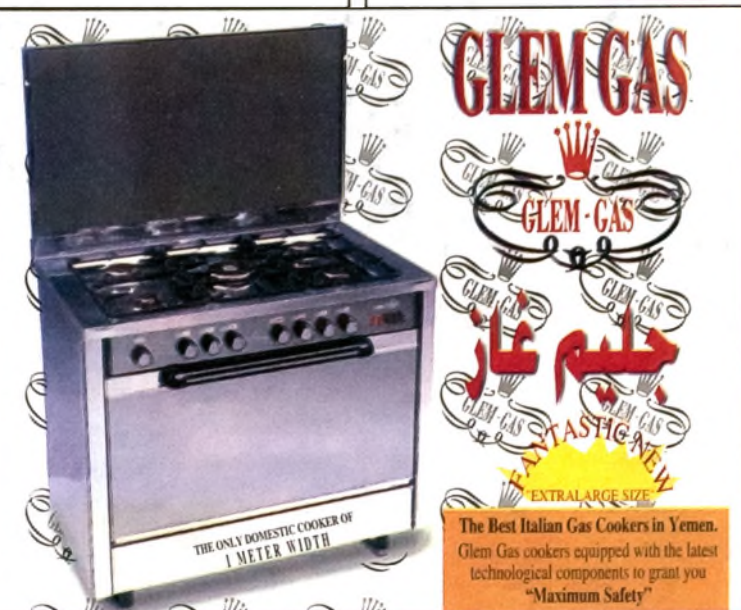
Hence, the need for an extra effort to address this problem. The vaccination has two stages. The first will take place during 25-27 November, and the second during 29-31 December. All children under five years of age residing in the Republic of Yemen, whether local and foreign, whether previously vaccinated against polio or not, must take the two doses. The doses are each simply one drop in the mouth.

The mass immunization campaign is a worldwide effort to eradicate polio. The concept was first developed and applied in China.

Unless the disease is eradicated from the whole world, no country is safe from it. The reason is that affected regions end up giving it back to countries in which it had been eradicated. The same holds true within a country. If any pockets of the disease are missed during the mass immunization campaign, then, the disease will end up affecting all regions.

Over the next few days, the Ministry of Health will announce the vaccination points in cities and in the countryside. The information will also be carried by the print media. Yemen Times had volunteered to print the whole list and other pertinent information free of charge. Unfortunately such information is not yet available.

Given the enormous task, and the need to reach all children within only three days, the Ministry of Health has mobilized the resources and presence of the armed forces and the Ministry of Education. The three bodies are now working together to make this effort a success. A fourth body, the media, also needs to be brought in to ensure the people are well informed.



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