

GSA for: AA BA RJ TC Thai
Sales Agent: IY DY UL



UNIVERSAL Travel & Tourism
Call us at: 275-028/29/30
267-929; 273-924

YEMEN TIMES



Worldwide Express
We keep your promises

Sanaa: (01) 268551, 249878
Aden: (02) 242128; Taiz (04) 225383
Hodeidah (03) 217490; Mukalla (05) 354844
Seiyoun: 0984-4288/3208

First Class BUSINESS CARDS

• SANAA • January 6th thru 12th, 1997

Vol. VII, Issue No. 1 • Price 30 Riyals

mutarreb
for electronics

01-269303/ 01-278222



فندق حضرموت
HADHRAUT HOTEL
ALMUKALLA

For reservation please call
Tel: 05-303441/2 Fax: 303134



Ahmed Al-Iryani on
Controlling Govt Corruption.
Page 3.

A Falling Yemeni Human
Rights Record in 1996.
Page 5.

STROKE:
Kinds and Causes.
Page 8

Ali Abu Munassar on
Tourism in 1997.
Page 10.



MINOLTA
Copiers

Head Office - Sanaa
Tel: 272-338, 278-546;
Fax: 272-310;
Hadda Br. Tel: 207691
Taiz Br. Tel: 211-141

THABET SON CORP.

YT Person of the Year 1996: Mohamed S. AL-NAQEEB

Mohammed Saleh Al-Naqeeb will turn 43 next week, on January 12th. Born and raised in Al-Qudma, Yaffa, Mohammed had a tough childhood. At the age of 2, he contracted polio. He was destined to move on crutches all his life. At the age of 5, he was orphaned. The poor boy was left to the sporadic generosity of a sister. He fought to go to school in Qa'atabah and to remain there. He continued his education in Aden. The boy excelled, went on to become a medical doctor, and went to Budapest to specialize in pediatrics. A happily married father of four, he served in Al-Thawra Hospital in Sanaa. Soon, he mobilized private resources to build a big hospital in Upper Yaffa. The hospital offers free care to almost half its patients, especially the little ones. "No child should be exposed to the hardships I went through," he says in a determined voice. Yemen Times proudly presents Dr. Mohammed Al-Naqeeb as its 1996 Person of the Year.



Full details on page 4

ADEN HOTEL
MÖVENPICK



Business center

tel: 02-232911 / fax: 02-221255



Phone: 275106, Fax: 237715

AZ. ABM TRAVEL & TOURS

Ali Abdulmugni St.,
P. O. Box 1870
Tel: 280235
Fax: 272 510
Europe Office
(Italy)
Tel: 0445-575046
Fax: 0445-575755

شركة الشريف
التجارة والمقاولات المحدودة

Tel: 416072 Fax: 416071

AL SHAREEF
Trading & Contracting Co. Ltd.
GEN. PETROLEUM SERVICES
P.O.Box 19663, Sanaa, Rep. of Yemen

التأمين المتحدة
UNITED INSURANCE

حمايتكم هي سر نجاحنا
Our Success is PROTECTING YOU

Tel: Sana'a : 214232
Taiz : 215012
Hodeidah : 217292
Aden : 240971



Arabian Horizons Tourism
Phones: (01) 275 366 • 275 414
Telex: 2487; Fax (01) 275 415

Canon
Copiers

Elaghill Trading Co.
Office: St. No. 13,
Parallel to Khartoum St
P. O. Box 66, Sanaa
Tel: 241-412, Fax: 265-495,
The 2213 ELAGHIL,
Shawwan: Al-Qur St
Tel: 272-4289

KLM
TO AMSTERDAM
SUN & WED.
GSA
YEMEN TRAVEL & TOURS
Tel: (01)278747 Fax: (01) 278757

IDA Loans to Yemen: \$1.1 billion

Over the last quarter of a century ending in 1996, the IDA, the lending-arm of the World Bank, provided Yemen with US\$ 1,132 million. The money went to finance 103 projects, of which 22 are still on going. The largest share of the money, 27.6% went to 32 agricultural/livestock projects. Next come 18 transportation projects with 17.6% of the total resources, followed closely by 16 educational projects picking up 17.2%.

All IDA financing is on a soft-loan basis, extending in maturity to 30 or even forty years, with a ten-year grace period, and with almost no interest. Such IDA loans are oriented towards Least Developed Countries, a category which include Yemen. This money does not include the amounts available to Yemen under the reform package, which in itself is estimated at US\$ 365 million over the 1995-97 period.

Released Polish Hostages Left

Five elderly Polish tourists, who were kidnapped for one week by Al-Masmi of Bani Jabr tribe in Khowlan were released on Thursday, 2nd. January, 1997.

The five are Mr. Lestaw Adamski, 63 years old, Mr. Zbigniew Hauser who celebrated his 57th birthday yesterday, January 5th, Mr.

Henryk Amerski, who celebrated his 50th birthday in captivity on December 25th, Ms. Helena Sobolewska, 64 years, and Ms. Ewa Maria Adamska, 52 years.

The release of the Poles was secured following long and difficult negotiations with the tribal leaders who hold a grudge against the state.

The five Polish tourists were planning to go to Marib, from there through Wadi Hadhramaut, south to Mukallah, and back the coastal way through Aden, to Taiz and back to Sanaa. Their journey was cut short. The ambassador of Poland personally made sure they were flown out on Jan. 2nd.

1997 Budget Law Passed

On Thursday, January 2nd, 1997, Presidential decree No. 1/97 was issued to establish the government budget for 1997. The House of Deputies had approved the 1997 budget a day earlier, on Wednesday, January 1st, 1997.

The budget authorizes a total expenditure of YR 314 billion, and calls for a total revenue of YR. 301 billion, leading to a budgetary deficit of YR 13 billion, the lowest in a decade.

The law also specifies the budgets of social security, pensions fund, religious endowments, the public and mixed sector organizations, and various other budgetary annexes which are independent of the government budget.

It is the first time that the government of Yemen is able to enact the budget law in the beginning of the year in question.

Detailed analysis on page 7

EL SOFFARY
السفاري

Mercedes Automobile Maintenance
Phone: 230161

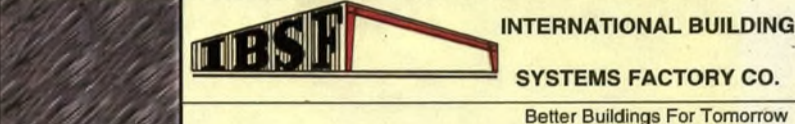


International Travel & Tourism
الوكالة للسياحة والسفر
Yemen Republic-Sanaa- Al-Zubairi St.
P.O.Box 4289, Tel.280300/1, Fax 283951

Muratec

Elaghill Trading Co.
Office: St. No. 13,
Parallel to Khartoum St
P. O. Box 66, Sanaa
Tel: 241-412, Fax: 265-495,
The 2213 ELAGHIL,
Shawwan: Al-Qur St
Tel: 272-4289

The FAX Specialists
High Quality High Functional
High Speed



INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
SYSTEMS FACTORY CO.
Better Buildings For Tomorrow

Manufacturer of
PRE-ENGINEERED
STEEL BUILDINGS
Saudi Arabia

To Help You Build
Better, Faster and
More Economically

Faster
Economical
Reliable

- Warehouses
- Hangars
- Factory Buildings
- Camp Buildings
- Low rise buildings for Offices, Schools, Hospitals, etc.

Head Office Riyadh Industrial Area 2,
P. O. Box 1737, Riyadh 11441
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Tel: 00-966-1-498-5151 Fax: 4982580

IBSF YEMEN OFFICE: CERTIFIED BUILDER

ATC ATTAMIMI TRADING & CONTRACTING
Phone: 967-1-414-294, Fax: 414-295
P. O. Box: 7174, Haddah, Sanaa, Yemen

Montana

مونتاننا لك أنت
Your Taste



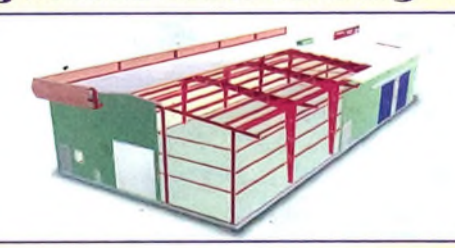
DUNLOP
DRIVING TO THE FUTURE

Dunlop's World-famous Tyres
دنلوب الإطارات المشهورة عالمياً

HIGHEST QUALITY • FASTEST DELIVERY • BEST SERVICE

ZAMIL STEEL

The Largest Manufacturer of
Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings in Asia



OVER 20,000 BUILDINGS SOLD SINCE 1977

FACTORIES
WAREHOUSES
SPORTS HALLS
AIRCRAFT HANGARS
SUPERMARKETS
ALMOST any ONE, TWO or THREE STOREY BUILDING

Mr. Ali Al Hussain, Resident Sales Executive
• Phone 23-6635, 23-6636 • Fax 23-5901

HIGHEST QUALITY • FASTEST DELIVERY • BEST SERVICE

OUR VIEWPOINT

Unfair Competition

One of the basic rules of elections is that contenders start on an equal footing. When the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) invites candidates to apply for the April 27th, 1997 elections on March 22nd, 1997, the start will not be on an equal footing. President Ali Abdullah Saleh would have started his party's electoral campaign 6 months ahead of them.

The President has been on field trips that have taken him deep into the hinterland of Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara; the mid lowlands of Al-Baidha and Lahej; the coastal stretch of Abyan and Aden; and the countryside of Hugarriah. He has taken his campaign to many regions which will determine the outcome of the elections. The President, and a select group of fixers from his party, are travelling on government vehicles, using government money, employing government security and bureaucracy, and exploiting government media.

This behavior is not helpful to the democratic transformation of the country. It is ethically unacceptable and it is morally wrong. What makes the impact of all of this worse is that the President and his party, the People's General Congress, are already way ahead of others. The present campaign is an overkill.

I do not belong to any of the competing political parties, but anybody can guess the mood. Leaders of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) - seen as the main competition - are fuming mad. They rightly point to the unfair competition, and indicate that their chances continue to dwindle. The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) has seen the Presidential campaign go deep into its territory and claim new converts. This issue came out to the open in the meeting of the Political Bureau last week. So much so that many YSP leaders are now calling for a boycott of the elections. The Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Al-Nasseri (Unionist Nasserite Party) - the last of the four large parties in Yemen - is also witnessing a rising level of frustration. Again here we see calls for a boycott.

The Presidential visits and the corollary gifts, financial handout and promises of projects are directly related to the elections, irrespective of what any PGC person may say. The legitimacy and credibility of the elections is being eroded by this presidential campaigning.

For the life of me, I do not understand why the PGC needs to openly break the law. If it is not breaking the letter of the law, it is at least breaking the spirit of the law. In my opinion, President Saleh and his party have it made for the coming elections. They do not need to go for an overkill, which may actually jeopardize the whole thing.

The other parties may not be able to stop the President and his party from winning. But they sure can complicate things to the extent of complicating the scene for all. I hope that there are still some far-sighted PGC individuals who will see the dangers of this unfair competition, and bring an end to it.

The Publisher


Al-Afif Foundation Starts 1997 in a Strong Way

The Al-Afif Cultural Foundation starts its 1997 activities in a strong way. Over a hundred poets, novelists, singers, painters and other artists will participate in this year's events starting from tomorrow, January 7th. The activities are open to the general public, and they are held at the Foundation's premises.

Opposition Council Elects New Leadership

As called for in its charter, the Supreme Opposition Coordination Council chooses a new leadership every six months. Last week, it elected the following collective leadership: Ali Saleh Obad of the Yemeni Socialist Party as Rapporteur; Dr. Qassim Sallam of the Baath Party as Vice Rapporteur; Tareq Al-Shami of the Itihad Al-Qiwa Al Sha'abiyah as Official Spokesman; and Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkil as Registrar.

Dr. Ba-Sardah Dean of Media College

Dr. Ahmed Ba-Sardah was appointed as the first dean of the Media College at Sanaa University. The Media Department was recently turned into a full-fledged college.

Success Reported in Second Phase of Polio Vaccination

Preliminary reports indicate that the second phase of the immunization campaign against polio was extremely successful. The effort which took place during 29-31/12/1996, covered more than three million children under the age of five years.

Appeals Courts in Shabwah and Marib Order Dropping of Over 10,000 Names from Registration List for Elections

The Appeals Court in Shabwah ordered the Basic Committee of the Supreme Elections Committee to drop 4,142 names from its lists. These names belong to individuals who were illegally registered. Similarly, the Appeals Court in Marib ordered the Basic Committee of the Supreme Elections Committee in that governorate to drop some 6,000 names from the list of potential voters, because the names belong to people who are no longer residing in the constituencies in question. Similar court decisions are expected in other governorates.

ألف مبروك

أجمل آيات التهاني نزفها
 للاخ عزت فضل القرشي
 بمناسبة الخطوبة،
 فآلف مبروك.
 المهنؤون:
 فتح عبده مقبل القرشي،
 عبدالحبيب مقبل القرشي،
 محمد مقبل القرشي،
 شوقي سعيد المقطري
 وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

YEMEN TIMES

1997 Advertisement Rate Card

| Advertisement by Size/Category | Price |
|--|--------|
| 9 x 10 cms | 12,000 |
| 9 x 13 cms | 15,000 |
| Quarter page (13.5 x 18 cm) | 25,000 |
| Half page (28 x 18 cm, or 13.5 x 36 cm.) | 40,000 |
| Full page (28 x 36 cm) | 65,000 |

Color advertisement

For full color advertisements, please add 50% to the above rates

Cover Page Advertisements:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Front Page Business Card (4.3 x 3,2 cm) | 14,000 |
| Back Page Business Card (4.9 x 4 cm) | 14,000 |

Last Page Advertisements:

| | |
|-----------------|--------|
| One Eighth page | 25,000 |
| Quarter Page | 40,000 |
| One third page | 50,000 |
| Half page | 70,000 |

DISCOUNTS ON ABOVE RATES:

10% Discount on 4 Consecutive Repeat Advertisements,
 20% Discount on 8 Consecutive Repeat Advertisements,
 30% Discount on 16 Consecutive Repeat Advertisements,
 40% Discount on 26 Consecutive Repeat Advertisements,
 50% Discount on 52 Consecutive Repeat Advertisements.

1. Lay-out and Design is done Free of Charge by Yemen Times.
2. Please confirm order by Thursday to make sure advertisement is printed on the following Monday.
3. All payments are to be made in favor of Yemen Times by crossed check.

For further information, please call 264253, 268661/2

HAPPY HOURS AT SHERATON SANA'A HOTEL

AL MANDHAR

L O U N G E

Take out some time from the day's busy activities and enjoy a breathtaking view over Sana'a city while you relax with your favourite cocktail, have a snack, or enjoy a game at the pool table with friends. Happy hours feature nightly from 6pm - 8pm, and live music seven days a week makes the Al Mandhar Lounge the place to be.

Bring your business card, you may be the lucky winner of a raffle prize for the most frequent visitor of the month.

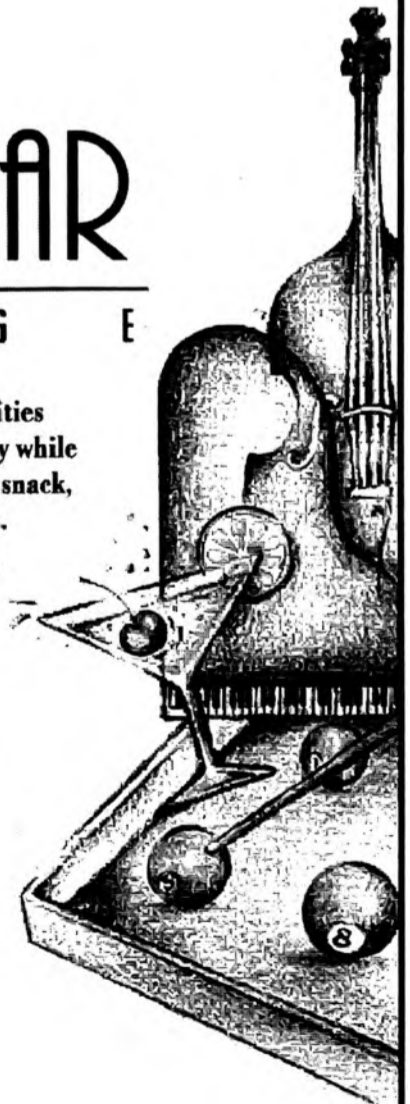
Dial 237500-8 for your reservations.



فندق شيراتون صنعاء
Sheraton Sana'a
 HOTEL

Sheraton

OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU



YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



Editor-in-Chief & Publisher:
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Yemen Times Contact Address:
 Telephones: + 967 (1) 268-661/2
 Facsimile: + 967 (1) 268-663
 Advertisement Department: (01) 264-253
 Post Office Box: 2579,
 Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

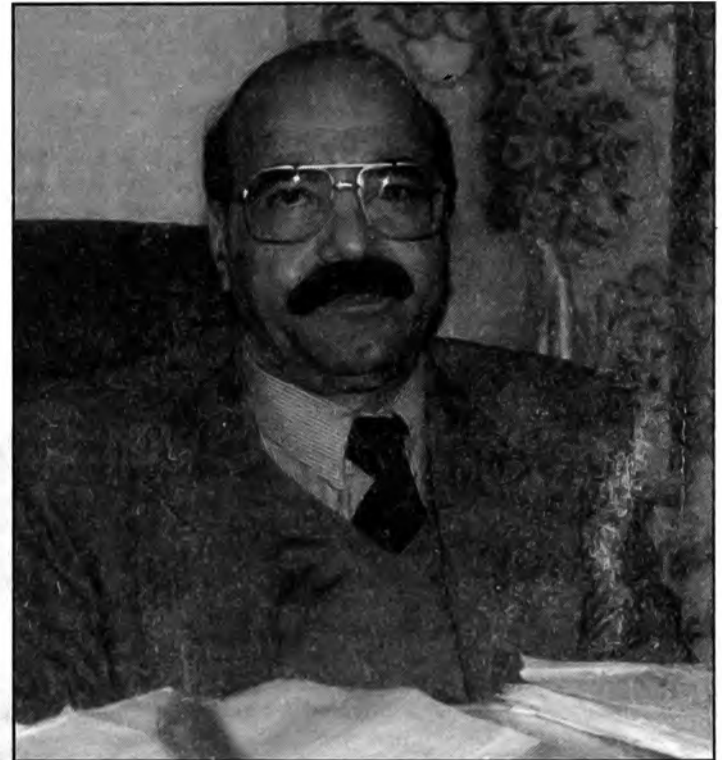
Sanaa Bureau Chief: Ismail Al-Ghabri,
 Phone: + 967 (1) 268-259

Aden Bureau Chief: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
 Phone/Fax: + 967 (2) 342-843

Home-page: <http://www.y.net.ye/yementimes>
 e.mail: YEMENTIMES@Y.NET.YE

Ahmed Al-Iryani:

“COAC has referred 505 cases of violations in 1996.”



On Saturday, January 4th, 1997, the Court on Public Funds Crimes was deliberating on case number 368, since its establishment on July 4th. It is part of the corrective measures taken to reign in corruption in government circles. Most of these cases were referred to the offices of the Prosecutor-General and the Prosecutor of Public Funds Crimes by the Central Organization for Audit and Control (COAC). Yemen Times attended the court session to assess what is going on. But, it was necessary to go back to the source - COAC. Ali Al-Saqqaf interviewed Mr. Ahmed Al-Iryani, Chairman of COAC, and filed the following report.

Q: The government relies on the COAC in implementing its corrective program. To what extent has the COAC been able to carry out its tasks properly?
A: The COAC aims to achieve active control and supervision of public funds, and to measure the performance of government units. Special inspection and auditing teams closely follow the various government bodies. Reports detailing the findings of COAC are submitted to the relevant authorities on a regular basis.
 The COAC has played an active role in protecting state revenues through applying close control and supervision. Many constructive recommendations were submitted regarding, for example, the retirement of employees in order to revitalize the bureaucracy. Many cases of violations and abuse are referred

to the prosecutor-general's office. Corrective measures are taken by them in coordination with relevant executive and judiciary organs.
Q: COAC today is affiliated to the office of the president, while, presumably, you investigate violations in the executive branch of authority. There is a contradiction. Some suggestions were made that it should be affiliated to parliament. What is your opinion?
A: The COAC is an independent body with a distinct legal entity according to clause 'A' of article '3' of law no. 3 of 1992. Clause '1' of article '2' of the same law also stipulates that, "the organization is free to address all issues and aspects without binding directives or external interference or any pressure. It

conducts its duties by expressing neutral and objective technical opinions according to the rules of the law..."
 "COAC implements an annual investigation without any outside interference by any authority. The outcome of the investigation is submitted to the relevant organs in government, presidency and parliament..."
 We find the fact that COAC is directly answerable to the Presidency gives it a better position to do its task.
Q: How many persons are employed by the COAC, how many branches does it have and how large is its annual budget?
A: There are more than 1,200 people employed by the organization. In this respect, COAC personnel receive certain privileges which have enabled the apparatus to apply a seasonal-incentives program according to the actual performance of each employee. We have branches in all governorates.
 In the 1997 budget, COAC allocations are YR. 813.8 million, up from YR 632.3 million in 1996, YR. 412.9 million in 1995, and YR. 207.9 million in 1994. This shows the rising attention it gets from our political leadership.
 COAC enjoys the full support of the political leadership headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Q: Is this 'support' enough for the COAC to stand up to the big sharks that have infested the system?
A: COAC works according to international control rules, adopted to meet Yemeni needs. During 1996, we have transferred over 500 files of criminal investigations. Our responsibility stops there.
Q: What kind of relations exist between COAC and the judicial bodies such as courts and prosecutors?
A: COAC has, some years ago, coordinated with the prosecutor-general's office to establish special courts and special prosecutors to deal with matters concerning public funds. Currently, periodic meetings are held by COAC representatives from Sanaa and other governorates on the one hand, and representatives from public funds courts and prosecutor offices, on the other. COAC also cooperates with the judiciary to obtain the essential documents required for bringing public funds crime cases to courts, and to provide the prosecutor-general with the necessary details.
Q: What is the volume of violations discovered by COAC? What cases were referred for

prosecution. For how many of these cases were court verdicts?
A: COAC conducts its activities with complete neutrality and independence through previously prepared auditing and examining guidelines. Our aim is to provide a neutral technical opinion regarding the integrity of financial statements by government bodies.
 You seem to think that discovering errors and violations is our major duty. Our main duty is actually to study deviations, why they happen, how to rectify them and how to prevent their recurrence. This is done through providing appropriate recommendations regarding any weaknesses or shortcomings that in the system.
 COAC, of course, refers the people who commit violations to the relevant authorities. During 1996, 505 cases were referred by

COAC to the prosecutor-general and the other bodies. What happens to these referrals is not our job.
Q: Can you name some of the organizations and persons that were referred?
A: I am not at liberty to do that.
Q: Both COAC and the media serve a watchdog role. How is your relationship with the media?
A: We take great interest in what is being published by the press in the areas of exposing public fund crimes.
 Every case brought to light by newspapers is studied and examined by COAC to verify its authenticity. Once that is achieved, appropriate steps are taken via reports submitted by the COAC to the relevant bodies.
 Continues on page 8

Ramadan Kareem



YEMEN TIMES readers/subscribers TAJ SHEBA guests EMIRATES AIRLINES passengers

Wish you all a very Happy New Year..

Come join the contest and win a ticket to Dubai for Eid holidays..!!

During the holy month of Ramadhan, the more often you come to break your fast at the Taj Sheba, or take packed order from our coffee shop, you enhance your chance of winning a free ticket !!!
 - Ask for your special group discount ..!
 - Come with family, friends, colleagues ..!
 - Special menu every Wednesday/ Thursday, strike the lucky date, cut along the dotted line and present the advert to our Manager in the Bilquis and avail of 10% discount ..!

Draw on 6th of February 97.. Sponsor to the event: Yemen Times, Emirates, Taj Sheba ..!

Name: _____
 Telephone No.: _____
 Date: _____

- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30

- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1
- 31

Person of the Year:

“A disability is what you make of it.”

The search for Yemen Times Person of the Year has been especially rich this year. We have received 48 nominations from our readers, and many of them are worthwhile candidates. But the YT team worked to screen the candidates, the list got smaller and smaller. Again the overriding criteria in the choice are success in one's personal life (good career, happy family, etc.) and a meaningful contribution to society. It is indeed gratifying and a source of major hope that there are so many Yemenis that qualify for those criteria. Difficult as it may be, the choice had to be limited to one person.

This year's Yemen Times Person of the Year comes from the steep mountains of Yaffa' in Lahej Governorate. He belongs to a small village, Al-Qudma. Dr. Mohammed Saleh Mohsin Al-Naqeeb, 42, is a father of 4 kids.

This man has overcome tremendous odds and disadvantages in order to lead an ordinary life. But he had to do better than ordinary. And he did.

Yemen Times travelled to the high mountains of Laboos in search of its Person of the Year. Here is the story.

Q: Can you tell us a little about your childhood?

A: This is a long and difficult subject. Let me start by praising the on-going efforts to vaccinate Yemeni children against polio. At the age of two, I contracted polio, and lost my ability to walk. It is indeed vital that we protect all children from this suffering.

At the age of 5, my father died. I vaguely remember him. Again, he died of an illness. You see, there were no medical services.

Along with my elder brothers, I was shipped to Qa'ataba where I attend the traditional mi'lama (religious school). Later, I went to Qa'ataba or my primary schooling.

Q: What do you remember of your time in Qa'atabah?

A: It was just a larger village. But the most troubling part of my Qa'atabah experience was the summer months. When my brothers returned to the village in the summer, I was left behind in Qa'atabah because I could not walk the distance. It was very hard for a small boy to be left in the care of others for so long.

I sincerely urge parents and guardians not to do that to their kids.

Q: Then you moved to Aden.

A: Yes, I went to Aden for preparatory and secondary education. It was the late 1960s, and English was used as the medium of instruction. I was lost, for a while. But I was able to make up and catch up. I remember one incident in this regard.

Immediately after independence, all schools taught in English. As a new secondary school student, I was asked something by the teacher in English. Having my earlier studies in Qa'atabah, of course, I did not understand what he was saying. The teacher shouted at me, "Get out of my classroom." I was scared. I picked up my walking stick (He got his first proper crutches as a medical student in Hungary) and started to leave the room. Seeing I was disabled, he told me to stay and pay close attention. I promised to work on it.

I felt something burning in me. It is as if my bowls were on fire. During that summer, I finished 7 books of the English curriculum and 4 books of grammar. By the time, schools were open, I was ready. My English was adequate.

But, you know what happened. English was no longer the medium of instruction. I did not regret that. On the contrary I kept up my English. The story is not finished.

A few years later at school, I had class with the same teacher who did not recognize me. One day, he was explaining the various types of English sentences, and asked if anybody in class can give an example of a complicated structure. I gave a particularly good one, which surprised him greatly. He asked where I learned my English. I showed him my crutches. We became good friends.

Q: You had a scholarship to Hungary?

A: Yes. As one of the top graduates in the late 1970s, I was awarded a scholarship for university education in Hungary. I graduated from the College of Medicine in 1983, and returned to work for a while in Aden. Then I went back to Hungary for my specialization in Pediatrics. This time, I returned to al-Thawra Hospital in Sana'a.

I made one more dash to Hungary for a doctoral degree in Pediatrics, with emphasis on heart diseases.



Q: Has your disability been a handicap?

A: It would be untrue if I said "No". My family played a major role in helping me out. But, if you think hard, a disability is really what you make of it. If you see it as one more reason to work a bit harder, it becomes a driving force. That is the way I have been handling my handicap.

Q: Some disabled people become disappointed and angry with society. You are trying to help society. How do you explain this?

A: Many disabled people whether in backward or ever advanced societies develop some negative traits in response to their society's negative viewpoints towards them. Logically, they have the reason to be bitter.

But many, on the other hand, can overcome all obstacles through good family support and positive outlook to life. I never felt disabled. I had, and still have, a wide circle of human relationships.

Q: What made you study pediatrics?

A: One particular professor at the university had a great influence on my making this decision. I originally wanted to specialize in internal medicine, but she convinced me that I have the special feelings and emotions which qualify me to deal with children.

Children in Yemen suffer from neglect due to the generally low level of education their parents. So I try to offer a positive input in the process of bringing-up healthy and capable people. Children are, primarily, in need of good care by their mothers. Good physical hygiene and mental and nutritional care can do wonders for little children. They do not need pediatricians as much as they need proper care and attention from their families.

I chose my specialty as a personal endeavor to help change the conditions of Yemeni children for the better. I received many tempting job offers from some Gulf states. But I had to decline them all. I had to think a thousand times before accepting such jobs and leave my country.

I have a responsibility here. Imagine, in my clinic and at hospital files, I handle 2900-3000 cases of children with cardiac problems. To whom will I leave all these cases? I am the only pediatric cardiology specialist in Yemen. On Judgement Day, God will ask everyone of us what we have done for our fellow human beings.

Q: Tell us about the hospital you have established in Yaffa. Why this place? Who financed it?

A: The idea to open this hospital is originally suggested by my relatives, the Al-Naqeebs. We discussed the idea and project thoroughly. I had to be absolutely sure that all the necessary conditions for success were there. We chose one of the most deprived regions and which forms a focal point for population concentration. The idea is to serve as large a population base as possible. Many studies were conducted.

Now that it is in place, it is doing very well.

Q: How much did the hospital cost?

A: The medical equipment cost US \$ 2.6 million and the building/furniture cost YR 250 million. It wasn't easy to convince the investors to put up such money. We are now working hard to make it worth their while.

But then again, the investors do not view this as a regular business. They want to help the region.

Q: Tell us more about the hospital and what sort of facilities it has?

A: There are 5 main wards: pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, internal medicine, general surgery and a bone and fractures section. These are the ones in highest need by the people.

We have the most up-to date medical equipment such as the multiple system sonograph, extromicroscopy, ABB system, ACG system, a blood bank, a respiratory machine, a modern laboratory, etc. We have a highly qualified team of foreign and Yemeni surgeons and MDs.

We constantly benefit from external expertise in developing our own.

Q: What kind of obstacles do you face in doing your work at the hospital?

A: There are two major obstacles.

First, people fail to understand that one hospital cannot house all branches of medicine. So when a patient comes to us with eye or ENT complaints, we have to refer them to other hospitals. They get upset and complain that they have come from long distances for nothing.

Second, some people still have the old concept of free medical services. It is true that our hospital has a charitable side, but it also represents an investment project. Although, we charge the lowest possible fees, we still face problems, especially given the falling levels of income.

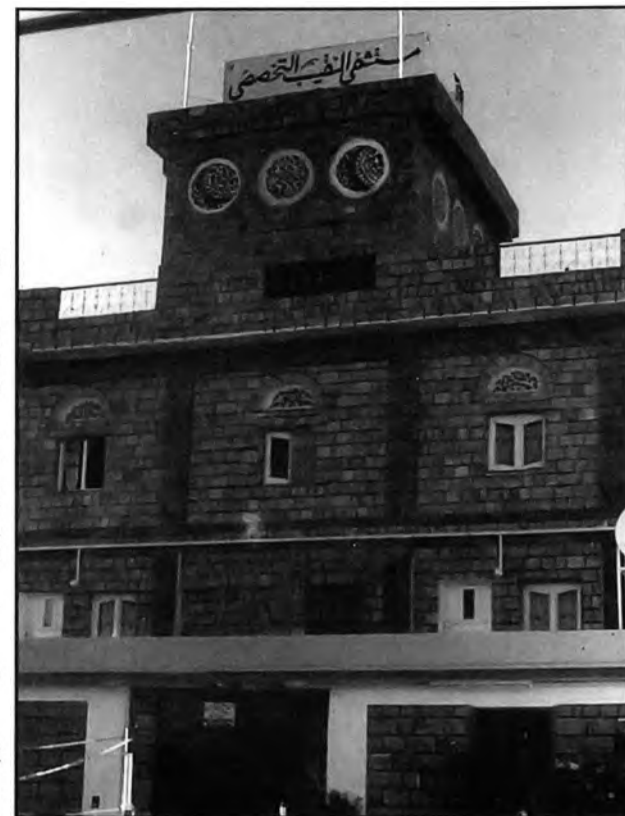
Q: You mentioned a charitable side. Can you elaborate?

A: If people are poor, we usually charge only 50% of our fees. We also have many cases in which we offer free services. It is our policy not to turn away any patient simply because they are unable to pay for the service.

In many cases, especially with children, I order the hospital administration not to report the service.

Q: Do you receive any support from the official authorities?

A: The local authorities and the Ministry of Health



provide us with very important moral support. The hospital was visited by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Minister of Health. The Minister of Communications promised to provide the hospital with 10 telephone lines. We are still waiting.

There are about 450,000 people living in this region and the roads are very rough indeed. Road construction and repair would help alleviate suffering.

Q: What are the most common cases referred to your hospital?

A: There are the typical internal diseases and gynecological problems. But, I was overwhelmed with the number accidents inflicting injuries. People falling off trees, falling off a mountainside, car accidents, falling into a well, injuries due to physical fights, etc. We many such cases daily.

Q: Is your future here?

A: A good part of it is here. But I really wish for a specialized center for heart diseases. That is where I belong.

NOUR AL NEGOUUM RESTAURANT

it's all happening at Sheraton!

NONSTOP ENTERTAINMENT



MARIE

EVERYDAY SPECIAL MENU

COLOURFUL ENTERTAINMENT SIDE BATED



ARBEEL



EVERYDAY FROM 8 pm ONWARDS

Except on Monday's

CALL 237500 FOR RESERVATIONS.



فندق شيراتون صنعاء
Sheraton Sana'a
HOTEL

Sheraton

OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU

1996 Developments in Yemen:

A DETERIORATING HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD

The Middle East Department of Human Rights Watch issued 1997 Report (events covering 1996). The New-York-based organization gave the Republic of Yemen mixed results.

Here is the abridged text on Yemen:

The government of President Ali Abdallah Saleh, which prevailed in Yemen's 1994 civil war, further constricted civil and political rights in that country. In 1996, Yemen's human rights profile compared unfavorably with the relative tolerance that had characterized the four years following the May 1990 unification of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) and that ended with the civil war. In addition, the tribal-Islamist alliance embodied in the Reform (Islah) Party headed by Sheikh Abdallah Al-Ahmar, the speaker of the Parliament, represented a coercive force somewhat autonomous from that of the state and the ruling General People's Congress Party, further contributing to constraints on the exercise of basic civil liberties and human rights.

At the same time, government control over Yemeni society remained less encompassing than in many other states in the region. Perhaps most significantly, human rights activists and political critics of the government were able to look to the courts as a frail but nonetheless useful defender of their constitutional rights to publish and to speak out.

The Political Security Organization (PSO), an agency that reports directly to President Saleh and operates without any written authorization, was responsible for the harassment, beating, and detention without charge or trial of a number of government critics, and contributed to an atmosphere of intimidation. The PSO's plainclothes agents also infiltrated and harassed the independent press, syndicates, and civic associations, in some cases forcing those organizations to cease their activities. Persons seeking to work for any government institution, such as Sana'a University, required clearance from the PSO.

The most serious instance of punishment outside any framework of law was the abduction in December 1995 of Abubakar al-Saqqaf, a sixty-one-year-old professor of philosophy at Sana'a University and columnist in various newspapers. Al-Saqqaf, who had been named minister of education by the secessionist government in 1994, had been abducted and beaten previously, in January 1995, but continued to write articles criticizing the government's policies toward the southern part of the country. According to al-Saqqaf - as reported by the *Yemen Times* - unidentified men seized him near his home and threw him into a car without license plates. He said they demanded that he stop writing articles critical of the government as they beat him with sticks and an electric baton, fracturing his skull, braking several teeth, and inflicting bruises on his torso. Al-Saqqaf and others charged that his assailants belonged to the PSO.

The Ministry of Interior denied this and claimed to be inves-

tigating the second abduction, but no findings or arrests had been announced as this report went to press. Al-Saqqaf also faced harassment in the form of dismissal from his university post, but was reinstated by a court order.

Human Rights Watch received reports of similar attacks in the course of 1996. On July 11, Arafat Jamali Madabish, a reporter covering parliamentary affairs for the Socialist Party-affiliated newspaper *Al-Thawri* (Aden), was assaulted inside the parliament by guards and subsequently detained for several days without charge before being released. On August 19, Abdullah Al-Marwani, a lawyer active in civil liberties cases, was attacked outside a court in Ibb, reportedly by persons known to be connected to the PSO. According to a letter from the lawyers' Union to President Saleh, al-Marwani had been "attacked [physically] several times" in connection with his representation in court of opposition newspapers.

Other forms of harassment of government critics were frequent. In December 1995, security officials at Sana'a airport interrogated and confiscated the papers of Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Malik Al-Mutawakkil, a political science professor at Sana'a University and vice-president of the independent Yemeni Organization for the Defense of Liberties and Human Rights and Hisham Bashrahil, editor of the independent weekly *Al-Ayyam* which is printed in Aden, on their return from academic conferences abroad.

In February 1996, the government arbitrarily withheld the salary of Dr. Abdu al-Sharif, professor of political science at the Sana'a University, following a lecture he delivered at Georgetown University, in Washington, DC, on human rights and democracy in Yemen. Yemeni officials threatened Dr. Sharif and Dr. Mohammed Zabara with arrest and physical harm upon their return to Yemen because the *Yemen Human Rights Report* newsletter, which they co-edit, had directly referred to President Saleh's responsibility for human rights violations.

Opposition parties and independent organizations and publications critical of government policies were generally given legal status but faced routine harassment. Trade unions, professional associations, and other independent organizations were often the target of government efforts to manipulate their governing boards by packing meetings and replacing government critics with supporters. The government closed down the opposition weekly *Al-Shura* from mid-1995 through mid-1996, ostensibly because leadership of the party to which it is affiliated - the Union of Yemeni Popular Forces - was being contested by a government-backed former member.

Sana'a was the site of a January 1996 UNESCO-sponsored seminar on press freedom, which adopted a "Declaration on Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media." Unfortunately, the principles of the declaration were repeatedly breached in 1996 by legal and extra-legal attacks on independent media and publications

affiliated with legal opposition parties in Yemen. Fuad Bamatraf, the director of radio broadcasting in the southern port city of Mukalla, was arrested while covering clashes between demonstrators and security forces in mid-June. Authorities also blocked distribution of the opposition newspaper *Al-Tajammu* (Aden) in connection with the same events, and the government-owned 14th October Printing Press subsequently refused for more than a month, for no stated reason, to honor its contract to print *Al-Tajammu*, forcing the paper to suspend publication.

In August, Salem al-Hilali, a cartoonist for *Al-Tajammu*, was banned from publishing his cartoons and PSO officers prevented an exhibition of his cartoons in Aden.

On September 28, plainclothes security officers entered tried to seize journalist Abdul-Rahman Khubara (for sending reports to Kuwait News Agency). Colleagues intervened, saying that he could not be taken without a warrant. The officers left without Khubara but waited outside, forcing him to remain in the office with colleagues overnight for fear of arrest. *Al-Ayyam* published a front-page account of the incident the next day, following which the PSO desisted. Khubara had been detained and interrogated by PSO officers for four days in 1995.

On September 30, Mohammed al-Saqqaf, a lawyer and writer, appeared voluntarily for interrogation at the office of the attorney general in Sana'a and was charged with "publishing false information with malicious intent" - a violation of Yemen's press law - because of articles he had published critical of government preparations for parliamentary elections scheduled for April 1997. A trial date had not been set at the time of writing.

The Yemen Times (Sana'a), an English language paper often critical of the government, charged in its July 1st issue that the PSO was effectively in control of the central post office, opening incoming mail and dumping copies of the *Times* that were addressed to international subscribers.

On July 7, President Saleh accused the *Yemen Times* and *Al-Ayyam* of "dubious practices." "I am directing an early warning to them because I know that the minister of information is hesitant to take legal measures against the papers," the president stated, according to *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, a London-based Arabic daily, "but I shall take the appropriate measures at the appropriate time."

Clashes between crowds and security forces erupted in Mukalla in June 1996 in an episode that reflected widespread perception of discrimination by the northern-based government against southerners. The disturbances were set off by a state prosecutor's remark, during a court hearing on a lawsuit filed by two southern women against the police for wrongful arrest and sexual molestation, to the effect that all southern women were "whores". Over the course of several days of rioting, police fired on unarmed demonstrators, injuring seventeen. Although the court later ruled in favor of the two women and against the

arresting officers, the incident illustrated the problems arising from the replacement of virtually all local security forces and government officials by northerners after the 1994 civil war.

The Mukalla case also highlighted the fact that the courts, alone among institution of government, on occasion challenged abuses and attempts to restrict civil and political rights. Much of the credit rested with one judge in particular, Abdul-Malik al-Gindari, in the west Sana'a court, who ruled, for example, that Professor Abubakar al-Saqqaf should be reinstated, that the weekly *Al-Shura* could be closed only by a court order, thus allowing the weekly to reappear, and that the government could not shut down the independent Hadharim Welfare Association merely because it had received material support not routed through the ruling General People's Congress Party. The government threatened to reassign Judge al-Gindari to a small village, and also pressed for the Judges' Association to open its membership to prosecutors as well, a move judges argued would seriously impair its independence.

Prison conditions varied widely, and generally did not meet international standards. There continued to be an undetermined number of prisons not established or regulated by law that were associated with the PSO and with different ministries and high officials, including, reportedly, Speaker of Parliament Sheikh al-Ahmar. Many, possibly thousands of prisoners remained in detention for common crimes after many years without documentation regarding their trials or sentences. This reflected both a lack of resources devoted to the court and prison systems and a lack of political will to remedy the situation.

There were few reported cases of severe physical abuse of political detainees. There was, however, at least one case in 1996 of a suspicious death in detention. Ahmad Sa'id Bakhubira, thirty-five, was arrested in mid-June for allegedly being in contact with the National Opposition Front. PSO officials refused to cooperate with efforts of his father to locate him, and seventeen days later his body was discovered in a Mukalla hospital morgue. Bakhubira's father has filed a complaint against the PSO and refused to accept a payment offer of 50,000 riyals (about \$ US 400). This case received wide press coverage in Yemen.

One of Yemen's most egregious and long-standing cases of wrongful incarceration remained unresolved in 1996. Mansur Rajah, an activist with the leftist National Democratic Front, had been arrested in July 1983 and charged with the murder of a man in his village in Taiz province. He was interrogated, reportedly under torture, for nine months, in order to compel him to release the names of other NDF activists. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to death in March 1984, a sentence that had been upheld on appeal but had not yet been ratified by the President. Yemeni human rights activists considered him to have been framed; in any event his trial in March 1984 was patently unfair, and Amnesty International has long regarded him as a prisoner of conscience.

YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY

VACANCY

YHOC has an opening for a qualified individual as a **FIELD MEDIC** to work in our Medical Department.

Eligible candidates must have minimum certification of UK. SRN/RGN with an additional qualification in either Occupation Health, MCN or CTHM & H (tropical diseases). Additionally, the candidate must have a minimum of five years post registration nursing experience in primary health care.

Fluency in both spoken and written Arabic and English is required and **all candidates must be Yemeni Nationals.**

If you meet the above requirements, please forward your resume and a photograph to:

YEMEN HUNT OIL COMPANY

Attn: Personnel Dept.
P. O. Box 481, Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

VACANCY

ABU ADEL TRADING & AGENCIES

require a *Female Secretary* with the following qualifications:

- Bilingual (Arabic and English) written and spoken;
- Knowledge to Operate Computers;
- Experience in day to day secretarial functions.

Interested and qualified candidates may contact:

The General Manager,
Abu Adel Trading & Agencies,
Khowlan Street, Sanaa,
Telephone: (01) 265-651,
(from 8:00am - to 12:30pm and 3:00 - 9:00pm)
or fax your CV to:
(01) 244-366



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The University of Science & Technology, in Cooperation with the British Council, cordially invites interested people to a talk entitled:

**Translation Policy & Practice in Europe:
The Case of the British Center for Literary Translation**

Given By: Professor Terry Hale, Director of the British Center for Literary Translation, The University of East Anglia, UK

At: The University of Science & Technology, Main Lecture Hall, Al Hasabah Campus

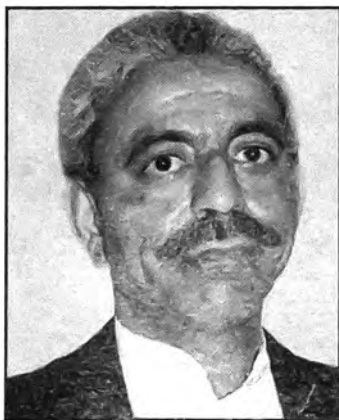
On: Tuesday, 7th January, 1997, at 11:00 am

You are all invited!

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

On Aunts, In-Laws and Big Brother



"I can remember when this city (Sanaa) had no car congestion (actually no cars at all), no sewerage problem, no beggars on street intersections and no cement slabs all over the place," said Merwan to his cousin Ali, as they headed for the marketplace to do their monthly shopping.

"You are not longing to see Sana'a the way it was thirty-five years ago, are you?" Ali was younger and had difficulty relating to the serenity his cousin was trying to portray, of life in Sana'a before the onslaught of 'modernization' had turned everything inside out in the city.

"How many people lived in Sana'a, Merwan?" inquired Ali.

"I would guess around forty to fifty thousand. The city was made up of two sections. You had the old city that was the city inside the old wall of the city and you had the Bir Al-Azab area - the area that lay west of Al-Saayila starting at what is now the Ali Abdul Mughni Street. The latter was the newly developing area of the city, relatively speaking, most of which had not exceeded three hundred years or so of development. But the city, as a whole, reflected a good harmony with the natural surroundings, and a high respect for the appropriate environmental factors that should go into city planning, even though by medieval standards." Merwan sighed as he recalled to his cousin the history of old Sana'a.

"I don't understand how you people who lived in Sana'a in the days of the despotic Imam should have so much to say. It looks to me, you were living 5 centuries back in time!" said Ali, somewhat still unimpressed by his cousin's nostalgia.

But Merwan was not impressed with the talk of progress his cousin was giving. "Would you mind to assure me that we have now, as a country, really crossed those 5 centuries?"

"Look at how many schools there are in the

country!" affirmed Ali

"But what are they turning out?" asked Merwan, adding, "They are not schools in the full sense of the word. I am not impressed by the educational level of our university graduates, either. As for cultural attainment, I think it is not hard to see that there is indeed a cultural vacuum - a society lacking in innovative spirit."

"Look at our cities! Modernization is apparent every where you look," argued Ali.

"My dear cousin," insisted Merwan, "we are not going to judge our cities by looking at the surface. A few dazzling palaces here and there, built at the expense of public interests by crooked officials or vampire merchants is not exactly civilization. Our cities are becoming breeding grounds for gradual social decay. Unreliable public services are the rule, and not the exception, as can be seen by the filth in liquid and solid form that abound everywhere. Random construction, mostly by home-steaders, speculators and corrupt officials have left our cities without any aesthetic flavor. Even the beauty of the cities left by our forefathers and some of the post-revolution regimes has been distorted by fancy expensive rock-work, here and there. City growth and expansion is not accompanied by any urban planning to speak of: no parks, no consideration for pedestrians, no hope for the less fortunate to obtain decent housing and halfway decent recreational areas. Commercialization has made our cities ugly as the city municipality has become an advertising agency renting off public property to billboards and advertisements for exploitative products. Why should we pack more than 1 million people in an area, with a water supply that is expected to be finished in 10 year's time? Our cities are going to be jungles in 5 years, if the situation remains as we face now."

"Yes," said Ali, "but the government is working on correcting the situation."

"Ali, which government are you talking about? I have never heard of one which gets you in a mess, be able, or willing, for that matter to get you out of that mess! Our government, it seems has no interest in responding to the real needs of the people. In fact, the government will reject any expression of public concern for the direction the country seems to be almost deliberately pursuing. Ali, it is not easy to escape the frustrations that are mirrored in people's faces every where you go. But our government officials reject any talk of public discontent at the failure of the government to put the country on the right track. Can you imagine? In a democratic society, public expression of discontent is viewed as heresy and treason. They tell us: 'Yes, you are living in a democratic country, but only say what we have to accept. Yes, you have the right to vote, but we will tell you who to vote for.' In fact, they will start to convince you that your vote can be a source of income for your family: a sack of wheat or flour for the impoverished. Yes, Ali, your voting card is cash, if you know how to use it."

"Forget about those who tell you that, this voting card is the public's tool to safeguard against inefficient government. 'We issue that card to you We tell you how to use it. You vote, but we make the choice for you.' If you ask me, I would say such a government is actually worse than an outright dictatorship. In the latter, the lines are clearly drawn and there is no confusion in any body's mind. But now with democracy, people seem to be in a daze." Merwan was trying to impress upon Ali, the overall public mood, as he sees it.

Ali was not sure what his cousin was getting at. "I think you are being unfair to our leaders. I have seen a lot of people who come up with your kind of talk. They talk about high prices, power cuts, traffic jams, legal hassles over property ownership, their rotten aunts, uncles and in laws, bad mechanics and repairmen who cannot fix anything, lack of water supply for days."

"But is the government to be blamed for all of that. In fact, the government constantly tells the public all that it is doing for the people. Government officials are constantly on the move laying down foundation stones for projects and inaugurating finished ones. We have problems, no denying, but they are all inherited from the 'good old days' you speak of, which you consider as being happy days!" Merwan had not lost hope in his cousin fully understanding what the real situation is all about. "The problems you cited, except for maybe the rotten relatives, are all a product of government inefficiency and poor performance. In fact, one might almost believe that the government actually encourages the continuation of such conditions. This way, people will be engaged in so many trivialities, they will not have time to think about the political manifestations of it all. You must also remember that public awareness and political culture within the public at large is very limited."

"The government knows this well and strives diligently to take full advantage of it. Can you not see that what the authorities tells the public is what appeals to only gullible simple minds that are unable to verify the authenticity of the information fed to them? Moreover, the government has built itself the appropriate apparatus that monitors the

public mood, but sadly enough the monitors themselves only report what their bosses want to hear. With jobs so hard to get, no one would like to have to lose a job in hand. Of course, many people are aware of this monitoring and thus would think twice before giving strong political opinion in public. They have enough problems as it is, so their opinion on the authorities would best be kept private. On the other hand, the majority of citizens are generally misinformed of what a democratic government means and how citizens are expected to become active politically to safeguard their rights and to make sure that nobody is fooling anybody when it comes to the management of public interest. Otherwise, citizens will not succumb to having their vote bought by a sack of flour.

Ali was beginning to understand. "Can you just look at some of the other countries of the world? If the price of a loaf of bread goes up by a meager amount, the streets will be shaken by angry citizens protesting government economic policy. Look at the way, prices just move up, up and away in Yemen. People talk about it, but no action is taken to let the government know how the people feel. Even our parliament fails to express public concerns about government failure. Parliament itself is helpless in doing anything to regulate government activity. It seems that our parliament is just another account in the budget of the rulers."

Merwan was hopeful now. "Ali, it is up to people like you and I to inform people wherever possible that they must begin to understand what a modern democratic government is all about. It is a duty that all informed citizens are obliged to execute. We cannot expect the government to convey the true picture of democratic practice to the general population for 2 reasons.

The first one is that democracy was declared in Yemen for reasons that are void of good intentions or real national patriotic feelings. On the other hand, the aims of declaring democracy in Yemen had to do with the leader's own political arithmetic rather than an accommodation of popular demands and a real desire to see Yemen truly become a democracy and to get on the track that leads to the nation's real progress. The people who declared Yemen a democracy know fully well that a real democracy has no room for their kind of politicians to exist. But as long as the people do not know that, you can declare all the democracy in the world to be poured on Yemen and things will carry on pretty much as usual."

"I still do not understand why our parliament does not play its role fully?" inquired Ali.

"Even if it wanted to - and this is only wishful thinking - it couldn't. The members know that they lack the appropriate popular base that can give them the power they need to stand up to executive muscle. After all, their seats in parliament are not a product of a truly free public mandate. It was the rulers that got them the seats in parliament."

"So where can one find some hope for the future?" asked Ali.

"The only hope lies in greater public awareness. That means less worry about aunts, uncles and in-laws and greater attention to what Big Brother - Government - is really doing or not doing!" After that, it becomes automatic, the way I see it.

CANADIAN OXY

VACANCY

PILOT/MARINE SUPERVISOR ASH SHIHR TERMINAL

We offer a challenging opportunity, for a Yemeni National to train as a Pilot/Marine Supervisor at Ash Shihr Petroleum Export Terminal near to Mukalla.

Successful candidates are required to have the following experience and qualifications:-

- A Master Mariner Foreign Going with command experience.
- Served a minimum of 5 years as Chief Officer / Master on tankers over 80,000 tons. Preference will be given to candidates with VLCC / ULCC experience.
- A minimum of 2 years pilotage experience and service at offshore crude oil Terminals berthing tankers of up to 400,000 tons at a Single Point Mooring (SPM).
- Proficient in the English language, both spoken and written.

A comprehensive training programme will be provided to enable the successful candidates to supervise the marine operations department with the ultimate view of being responsible for the overall maintenance of the offshore facilities, the SPM, the small boat service harbor and all the support vessels.

If you think you fit the job description, please send your CV to the following address:

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen
P. O. Box 15137
Fax 269896 or 269897
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Attn. Assistant Manager of Human Resources.

تعزية

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره،
تلقينا نبأ وفاة الشيخ أحمد الحربي بالسعودية.
واننا إذ نتوجه بخالص العزاء والمواساة
للأخ نزار أحمد الحربي- الملحق الاعلامي
بالسفارة السعودية لوفاته والده،
ندعو المولى القدير أن يدخل الفقيد فسيح جناته،
ويلهم أهله الصبر والسؤلوان، وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون
الأسيفان،
د/ عبد العزيز السقاف، يحي عبد الرقيب

"كل نفس ذائقة الموت"

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره، تعزي الأستاذ
محمد علي البديري - النائب العام - في وفاة ابنته
التي اختارها الله إلى جوارحه يوم الخميس الموافق
١٢/١٢/٩٦م. وندعو الله أن يسكنها فسيح جناته،
ويلهم أهلها الصبر والسؤلوان،
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.
الأسيفون،
د/ عبد العزيز السقاف،
طه علي صالح، جعفر سعيد باهيمسي
محمد حسين علي، د/ عبد الله سيف البريهي

ألف مبروك

نتقدم بخالص التهاني وأطيب التبريكات
للأخ عبد الجليل علي أحمد - مدير المركز
الثقافي اليمني-الأمريكي بولاية ميتشجن في
أمريكا بمناسبة ارتزاقه وحرمة مولودا أسمياه

إبراهيم

المهنزون: مولفو المركز الثقافي اليمني-الأمريكي بولاية
ميتشجن، الجالية اليمنية بالولاية،
د/عبد العزيز السقاف وكافة موظفي «مين تايمز»،
والأستاذ طارق الشامي، والأستاذ يحي عبد الرقيب

ألف مبروك

أجمل التهاني وأرق التبريكات
للأخ عدنان عبدالعزیز السقاف بمناسبة ارتزاقه
مولوده الجديد الذي أسماه

عبد العزيز

جعله الله قرّة عين والديه، ونفع به أهله ووطنه.
ألف مبروك .

المهنزون:

جميع موظفي البنك العربي
عنهم رضاء عبدالرحمن السقاف

جميع موظفي «مين تايمز»
عنهم عماد أحمد السقاف، وليد عبدالله السقاف،
متار عبدالغني السقاف

A Budget That Holds the Promise of Better Times

1997 Seen as the Economic Launch Year

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqaf,
Professor of Finance,
Sanaa University.

The Government Budget that was passed last week comes as a climax to improving economic indicators. The numbers, indeed, look good.

The inflation rate has come down. From triple digits in 1994, it is now estimated at around 25%. The main mechanism for bringing down the inflation rate was reduced government borrowing from the Central Bank of Yemen (through printing of fiat money). The authorities claim they will bring down inflation to less than 20% in 1997.

For the first time in four years, there could be a positive growth rate in the economy. The gross domestic product (GDP) is reported to have grown by 2.3% in 1996, and holds the promise of a 4% growth rate in 1997.

The Riyal/US Dollar exchange rate has been stable over the last several months. The free market rate continues to hover around 125-130 Riyals per dollar.

Pressure from outstanding foreign debt was eased. On September 24th, 1996, the Club of Paris debtors met to discuss new terms for Yemen. Although involving only a fraction of the debt, the debtors agreed to reschedule the installments over the medium term. They also cancelled a part of the loans, and granted Napoli terms to the balance.

Riyal savings have come back to the black, after a history of

negative rates. Savers are gradually gaining confidence in riyal instruments, whether through commercial banks (e.g., time deposits) or the treasury bills of the CBY.

The government has successfully implemented a stabilization program, thus warranting visible support from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Total resources available to Yemen from those two bodies is more than \$ 500 million.

It is in this light that the new budget must be seen. The new budget offers new improvements as below:

1. It is the first budget in almost two decades in which there is a surplus in the current budget (current expenditures are less than current revenues).

2. Total allocations for new project investments are almost double their 1996 level. Almost half of the YR 81 billion allocated for project investments, however, are from foreign financing.

3. Although the Government is moving away from subsidies and price distortions, the economic reform program has required a safety net program to minimize the suffering of the vulnerable groups in society. A total of YR 74 billion is spread through the budget for such programs.

4. The budgetary deficit has been brought to marginal levels. The 1997 budget deficit is estimated to hover around 3% of GDP, quite a striking departure of the 1994 deficit which was 21% of GDP.

5. Military and quasi-military expenditures have seen the lowest growth rate in allocations, while allocations for infrastructure, utilities, service and economic development projects witnessed much higher rates of growth.

Having said all that, there are quite a few booby-traps in the way. These include the following:

1. The Government has been successful in presenting good budgets on paper, while the implementation has generally been poor. For example, transfer of funds from one use to another has often resulted in smaller expenditures on development uses and more on non-development uses.

2. Uncategorized allocations are still a big puzzle in the Yemeni government budget. These are lump sum amounts whose use is left to the discretion of the political leaders. In the 1997 budget, there are numerous such amounts reaching some YR 14 billion, in total.

3. Payrolls continue to claim a disproportionate share in total expenditures. While as a percentage of the total, the figure has come down, it is still a solid 27% of the total.

In general, however, the government has to be given credit for the strenuous effort it has exerted to bring its finances under control. The efforts have been worthwhile, and the results are visible.

Congratulations!

Five-Year Comparison of Budget Numbers

| REVENUES | 1997 | 1996 | 1995 | 1994 | 1993 |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|
| TOTAL REVENUE | 301,222.0 | 155,886.3 | 93,313.8 | 42,857.1 | 38,123.7 |
| Current Revenue | 251,581.2 | 112,561.0 | 74,164.2 | 36,739.2 | 30,652.6 |
| - Zakat Revenue | 1,950.2 | 1,500.0 | 920.0 | 612.6 | 525.9 |
| - Income Tax | 47,443.8 | 17,515.5 | 15,384.9 | 11,710.0 | 8,072.2 |
| - Customs Duty | 29,022.2 | 22,988.2 | 16,738.5 | 7,327.6 | 7,535.4 |
| - Consumption Tax | 4,998.5 | 3,062.0 | 2,478.0 | 2,599.0 | 1,668.0 |
| - Production Tax | 12,714.8 | 10,055.7 | 7,431.6 | 2,193.4 | 3,430.6 |
| - User Fees/Charges | 2,576.2 | 1,913.4 | 1,332.6 | 774.2 | 828.7 |
| - Profits from Govt Activities | 16,183.4 | 17,018.0 | 15,770.7 | 6,679.2 | 4,291.9 |
| - Tax on Oil | 124,913.3 | 28,500.9 | 7,843.7 | 1,985.1 | 1,600.0 |
| - Tax on Gas | 2,825.0 | 2,295.0 | 350.5 | 100.0 | 275.0 |
| Capital Revenue | 49,640.8 | 43,325.3 | 19,149.5 | 6,117.8 | 7,471.1 |
| - Revenue from Oil Sales | 28,813.9 | 34,784.1 | 15,102.5 | 4,392.1 | 5,600.0 |
| - Loan and Grant Receipts | 19,554.8 | 7,593.7 | 3,662.6 | 1,470.8 | 1,403.2 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 313,985.8 | 181,415.7 | 119,880.1 | 87,128.3 | 68,983.7 |
| By: Main Users: | | | | | |
| - Presidential Office | 2,395.6 | 1,467.6 | 2,181.2 | 1,761.9 | 1,521.7 |
| - Ministry of Interior | 12,441.8 | 9,515.1 | 7,905.5 | 5,557.1 | 4,262.1 |
| - Ministry of Defence | 46,506.5 | 40,711.2 | 35,896.5 | 30,272.6 | 19,751.8 |
| - Ministry of Education | 44,065.5 | 33,688.8 | 20,565.2 | 15,095.8 | 12,104.0 |
| - Ministry of Health | 10,043.6 | 8,036.8 | 4,216.4 | 3,025.6 | 3,100.6 |
| By: Main Uses: | | | | | |
| - Payroll | 84,649.4 | 74,156.7 | 65,551.8 | 47,705.6 | 40,110.7 |
| - Investment Projects | 39,325.0 | 19,977.2 | 7,921.5 | 2,809.2 | 4,422.9 |
| - Debt Repayment | 30,309.5 | 25,926.7 | 16,985.7 | 11,231.0 | 8,546.0 |
| BUDGET DEFICIT | 12,763.8 | 25,529.4 | 26,566.3 | 44,271.2 | 30,860.0 |

Notes: a: Source: Ministry of Finance.
b: All numbers are in current 1000 Riyals

QAT - Catha Edulis: Historical Perspective

By: Dr. Fareed M. Saeed,
MD, General Police Hospital,
Sanaa.

The qat bush, like many other plants, has no known origin. It was probably first cultivated in pre-Christian times. The ancient people of Mahara in Yemen used to call it gana or qafa.

Qat is also found in historical references in Turkmenistan and Afghanistan. It was mentioned in a medical context by Al-Bayrooni (973-1051 AD) in his book, Al-Tibb. "Qat is imported from Turkistan. It has a sour taste and a red-black color. It cools fever, soothes the gall bladder, and cures the stomach and intestines," wrote Al-Bayrooni.

It was also mentioned in Al-A'qaqer Al-Murakkaba (Drug Preparations) by al-Samarkandi (? - 1222 AD). The author states that qat is beneficial for inducing vitality, euphoria and happiness. Also, it is good for curing melancholia and depression.

In our region, it is believed that the Ismaelites - a Shia sect - were the first to use qat during the 13th century AD. Many historians believe Ethiopia to be the birthplace of qat. Folklore has it that a shepherd noticed that one of his goats was exceptionally active, for no apparent reason. Upon further observation, he found that the goat had been eating the leaves of a particular plant. He tried it himself, and reached a state mental and physical uplifting. This was the folk tale beginning of the qat phenomenon.

(1364-1442 AD) stated in a book about the history of Ethiopia that qat - a fruitless bush with leaves resembling those of bitter orange, was a favorite of the locals. They chewed its leaves to activate their memories. Learned people in that land were particularly amenable to the use of qat.

It can therefore be concluded that qat was first widely used in Yemen in the 13th century AD.

Documents indicate that qat was discovered in Harar, in Ethiopia, and was later introduced into Yemen around 1449 AD by an Islamic preacher, Sheikh Ibrahim Abu Zareen, who went from Hadhramaut to Djibouti and Ethiopia in order to spread Islam. When he and his companions returned to Yemen, during the middle of the 15th century, they brought qat with them.

It is very likely that qat growing first appeared in the highlands of Yemen, particularly in Ibb. The Arab scholar and historian, Al-Tabari (1374-1438 AD) wrote about qat pointing out that it was introduced into Yemen during the latter part of the 13th century AD.

A book entitled "Al-Qat" by Mr. Kassim Ghalib Ahmed indicates that Sheikh Al-Miswari who lived in the 13th century AD, had mentioned qat in his books and poems. The Sheikh's poems, which are still recited at qat chewing sessions, eulogize this plant. According to the qat loving Sheikh, it helps researchers research, students study, and the pious pray.

The Sufi scholar Ahmed Ibn Alwan stated in a letter addressed



to one of the kings of Bani Rasoul in the 13th century, that qat should be prohibited as it was used by Sufis as a means for spiritual elevation. The cautioning letter showed the widespread consumption of the plant.

In a book about qat, Dr. Shawin refuted the opinion that qat came into Yemen from Ethiopian or Turkmenistan. He indicated that qat was grown and consumed in Yemen during the 14th century by a particular group of people called Al-Sadah (Masters) who are the descendants of the Prophet (P).

Other evidence points that the use of qat started in Ethiopia and that it was spread to the southern parts of the Arabian Peninsula during the 15th century AD or even during the 16th century.

A complete treatise devoted to qat was written by the scholar Ahmed Bin Hajar Al-Haynami who lived in the 15th century AD. It was entitled "Warning the Pious Against Qat." Some Yemeni rulers like Imam Sharafuldeen who reigned during the later half of the 16th century AD, ordered the destruction of qat plantations.

From all the above, it can be safely concluded that the earliest use of qat in Yemen was in the 13th century AD. Before that, its use or even existence could have been too limited to warrant observation.



مودرن لايف 97

MODERN LIFE 97

First Time in Yemen

For Display and Direct Sale

SPECIAL PRICES

RAFFLES

Valuable Gifts

| | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cameras | Radios | Tape Recorders | Videos | Television |
| HI-FI Systems | Tapes Cassettes | Video Cassettes | Central Antenna | Monitoring Cameras |
| Satellite Receivers | Refrigerators & Freezers | Microscopes | Telephones | Washing Machines |
| Cookers | Air Conditioners | Hair Dryers | Blenders | Fans & Heaters |
| Sewing Machines | Air Conditioners | Fruits Juicers | Dishes Washers | Irons |
| Cookers | Cigarette Lighters | Furnaces | Stoves | Water leakers |
| Optical/Hearing Aids, and Electric Household Appliance | | | Gas Stoves | Gas Heaters |

The First Yemeni International Exhibition for Consumer Electronics and Household Appliances

20-26 January, 1997

Exhibition Hall, Republic Palace Quarter, Sanaa, Yemen

Visiting Hours: First Shift: 2-5 afternoons; Second Shift: 8 pm - 1 am (nights)

Organizers: Yemeni Corporation for Exhibition and International Trade
P.O.Box 11031, Phones: (01) 271-031, 275-049; Fax: 274-134; Tlx: 2220.

WORLD ALLIANCE FORMED FOR ELIMINATION OF TRACHOMA

The World Health Organization (WHO) leads an international alliance of interested parties to work for the global elimination of trachoma - an infectious disease responsible, at present, for at least 15% of the world's blindness. Worldwide, there are about 6 million people largely irreversibly blinded by trachoma, and an estimated 146 million cases of active disease in need of treatment, if blindness is to be prevented.

The alliance - in collaboration with WHO - carries out essential activities such as epidemiological assessment, including rapid assessment and mapping, project implementation, coordination, and monitoring, disease surveillance, project evaluation and resource mobilization. It is open to all parties - governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations - which are willing and ready to contribute to international efforts.

International efforts to eliminate trachoma as a blinding disease are based on the WHO-developed strategy - a combination of interventions known by the acronym "SAFE", which stands for Surgery for trichiasis (inturned eyelashes), Antibiotics, Facial cleanliness and Environmental improvement. These interventions are community-targeted and seek community involvement through the primary health care approach.

The alliance decisions were taken at a meeting, convened by the WHO Program for the Prevention of Blindness and Deafness (PBD) and held at WHO's headquarters in Geneva during 25-26 November, 1996.

The meeting was attended by representatives of a number of international nongovernmental development organizations (INGDOs), The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and the philanthropic section of Pfizer International Inc. - the company that has developed *azithromycin*, a new long-acting antibiotic which will be used to fight trachoma. This drug may eventually replace *tetracycline eye ointment*, which is currently used in trachoma treatment. Because of certain disadvantages, topical tetracycline has not been fully accepted in community-based programs.

Azithromycin has already been tested in a number of countries. The initial results look very promising: one dose of this antibiotic per year may eliminate the blinding propensity of trachoma.

Morocco is the first country where the new drug is being tested and used on a large scale. The experience of this country, which is making tremendous efforts to eliminate trachoma as a blinding disease by the year 2000, could pave the way for a worldwide application of *azithromycin* as part of the

SAFE strategy in the fight against the disease.

In the meantime, WHO and its partners will be implementing the SAFE strategy in the sixteen priority countries, which have been tentatively chosen on the basis of severity of disease and feasibility of program development. In these countries, it will still be necessary to use topical tetracycline over the next few years.

TRACHOMA is one of the oldest infectious diseases known to mankind, which dates back several thousand years and was first documented as early as the pharaonic era in Egypt.

The culprit is *Chlamydia trachomatis* - a micro-organism resembling both bacteria and viruses, which spreads through contact with eye discharge from the infected person (on towels, handkerchiefs, fingers, etc.) and through transmission by eye-seeking flies. *Chlamydia trachomatis* provokes an inflammatory reaction in the eye with formation of follicles in the conjunctiva. After years of repeated infections, the inside of the eyelids may be scarred so severely that the eyelid turns inwards with eyelashes rubbing on the eyeball. If untreated, this condition leads to blindness.

The disease is associated with poor socioeconomic conditions in general: with overcrowding, poor personal and environmental hygiene and, in particular, with very limited access to water and sanitation. Trachoma has been eliminated as a blinding disease from several previously hyper endemic countries and regions, both through significant improvements in the socioeconomic status of populations and through specific control efforts.

Despite these successes, in many least developed countries of the world blinding trachoma continues to be an important public health problem. In some of the countries where trachoma was once hyper-endemic, there remain residual pockets of blinding trachoma and complications, such as inturned eyelashes (trichiasis), which require eyelid surgery.

Today, the disease is found mainly in poor rural areas, including parts of central and south America, most African countries and some countries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Trachoma is still endemic in several Asian countries, but there is a lack of updated information from some major populations, e.g., in India and China.

In the Republic of Yemen - traditionally one of the endemic countries - much progress has been achieved over the recent past. Unfortunately, however, as economic conditions deteriorate, especially in urban slums, and as water supply gets more scarce, medical circles fear a strong return of the disease.

Continued from page 3:

COAC's Iryani...

Q: To what extent do political considerations enter into your work?

A: As I said in replying to a previous question, COAC is an independent control body. Towards that objective, examination and auditing guidelines are implemented within the framework of an annual plan. COAC achievements are evaluated by comparing the actual performance at the end of the year with what was planned at the outset. This is done irrespective of any political or partisan considerations.

Q: Some people often refer to the pressures being exerted on COAC by powerful individuals or organizations which prevent you from carrying out your duties fully. What do you say to that?

A: These pressures exist only in the minds and imaginations of a few people. Work-wise, no individual or organization can influence our performance. COAC, as mentioned previously, is completely independent and neutral.

Q: What improvements have you brought since you took over the helm of COAC a few years ago? And what are future plans for improving and developing the organization?

A: We have worked to achieve COAC goals of conducting active control and scrutiny of public funds management. We also improved the performance of all the units under our supervision. COAC personnel together participated in developing the control and audit profession in Yemen. The most significant COAC achievements during the last few years are as follows:

- We issued a comprehensive control and audit guide-book similar in standard to those used in advanced countries. This guide will raise the levels of auditors and improve control systems for public funds. COAC has organized many training courses

for implementing this comprehensive guide.

- Law No. 39 for 1992 was put into effect to guarantee financial and administrative independence in order to exercise the control and audit duties and to achieve efficient control of public funds.

- COAC has proceeded to improve its relationships with similar regional and international organizations. Many staff members were sent abroad to be acquainted with modern financial control systems.

- COAC adopts concurrent as well as retrospect, auditing procedures.

- COAC undertakes training of its cadres to improve their performance. An on-going training program is now being applied in a number of units. It is bound to raise the standard of economic and administrative performance of units under COAC supervision.

- A very important issue is the introduction of computerized systems to some control procedures implemented by our organization. Most of COAC staff are now being trained to use these modern systems to be able to fully rely on computers starting from 1997.

- Work is now underway to finish the construction of COAC building which we hope to move into during 1998.

Q: Any plans for the future?

A: In view of the many shortcomings prevalent in the control and audit profession, I believe that as a fundamental step, local accountancy and auditing standards have to be established in order to catch up with recent economic developments in this field. This is one of the promising projects being formulated and evolved by COAC.

After perfecting comprehensive control basis, reinforcing performance control systems and increasing the efficiency of internal control systems, COAC will venture into wider control areas related to the environment and the quality of services and commodities provided to society.

STROKE



Stroke is an acute focal neurological deficit resulting from cerebrovascular disease lasting more than 24 hours, and which may cause death. The main types of stroke and their relative occurrence are cerebral infarction (85%) - ischemic stroke, and intracerebral hemorrhage (10%) - and subarachnoid hemorrhage (5%) - hemorrhagic stroke.

Stroke is the most common cause of adult physical disability and causes 12% of all deaths in the UK. The annual incidence in developed countries is about 2 persons per 1000 people. The incidence of stroke rises steeply with age and is more common in men.

Risk Factors of Stroke

It has been confirmed that there are many factors which increase the risk and chance of both hemorrhage and ischemic stroke. These include increasing age, hypertension, ischemic heart disease, arterial fibrillation, diabetes mellitus, high cholesterol level, smoking, alcohol, obesity and so on. The most important treatable risk factor is hypertension; the risk of stroke in a patient with a diastolic blood pressure greater than 110 mmHg is fifteen-fold that of a patient with diastolic pressure of less than 80 mmHg, but even borderline hypertension is associated with increased stroke risk.

Causes of Ischemic Stroke

1- Cardiac embolism from thrombus in the left atrium or ventricle accounts for almost 30% of ischemic strokes. The following strongly suggest cardiac embolism: valvular heart disease, atrial fibrillation, recent myocardial infarction and intracardiac thrombus, atrial enlargement or ventricular aneurysm.

2- Atherosclerosis of the major vessels supplying the brain is the other major source of cerebral embolism. The emboli are usually platelet aggregates or thrombus formed on atherosclerotic plaques, but occasionally consists of cholesterol and other atherosclerotic debris. Symptomatic atherosclerosis is most common at the bifurcation of the carotid artery into the external and internal carotid artery, but emboli may also arise from the aorta, the carotid siphon, the common carotid artery and the vertebral and basilar arteries. The causes of atherosclerosis include hypertension, diabetes mellitus, smoking, genetic factors and abnormalities of lipid metabolism.

3- Dissection of the vertebral or carotid arteries account for approximately 5% of ischemic stroke in patients under 60 years. There may be a history of minor neck trauma occurring days or weeks before the onset of stroke.

4- Major vessel occlusion may be asymptomatic or may cause embolic TIA, or minor or major stroke. It can also result in a stepwise progression of symptoms from propagation of thrombus. For example, vertebral artery occlusion may first cause only a TIA with transient vertigo and diplopia, but if the thrombus spreads to the basilar artery the patient may develop a major life-threatening brain stem stroke a few hours or days later.

5- Lacunar stroke is another major cause of stroke. Occlusion of small penetrating arterioles,

usually secondary to hypertension or diabetes mellitus, leads to small infarcts in the subcortical white matter, internal capsule and basal ganglia, known as lacunas or lacunar infarcts.

Secondary Prevention of Stroke.

Secondary prevention of stroke means to prevent the recurrence of stroke in patients who have had TIA or stroke. General measures that should be recommended to all to prevent stroke include stopping smoking, regular exercise and a low fat diet, hypertension and diabetes mellitus should be carefully controlled and monitored. Hyperlipidemia should be treated with diet or drugs as appropriate.

1. Aspirin has a clear benefit in preventing stroke and vascular death in patients who have had a TIA, though only 25% of stroke may be prevented. Aspirin also prevents recurrent events in patients who have had a stroke. Large dosage of aspirin which was recommended in the past has had no preventive effect and 75 mg/day or lower may be adequate. It is reasonable to start with 300mg/day and reduce the dose to 150 mg/day or 75 mg/day if the patient experiences gastrointestinal side-effects. In patients who are allergic to or unable to tolerate any does of aspirin, alternative anti platelet agents should be commonly used.

2. Anticoagulants should be given to the patients with TIA and stroke associated with the following conditions:

- Valvular heart disease, particularly mitral stenosis
- Acute internal carotid artery thrombosis, acute basilar artery thromboses, internal carotid artery dissection, extracranial vertebral artery dissection, prothrombotic states
- Recurrent transient ischemic attacks or stroke
- Cerebral venous thrombosis

Warfarin is more commonly used as an anticoagulant.

It has been suggested that some patients with severe carotid stenosis and recurrent subarachnoid and intracerebral hemorrhage from aneurysm and arteriovenous malformation can be prevented by carotid endarterectomy and appropriate neurosurgery respectively, but the benefit is currently under evaluation.

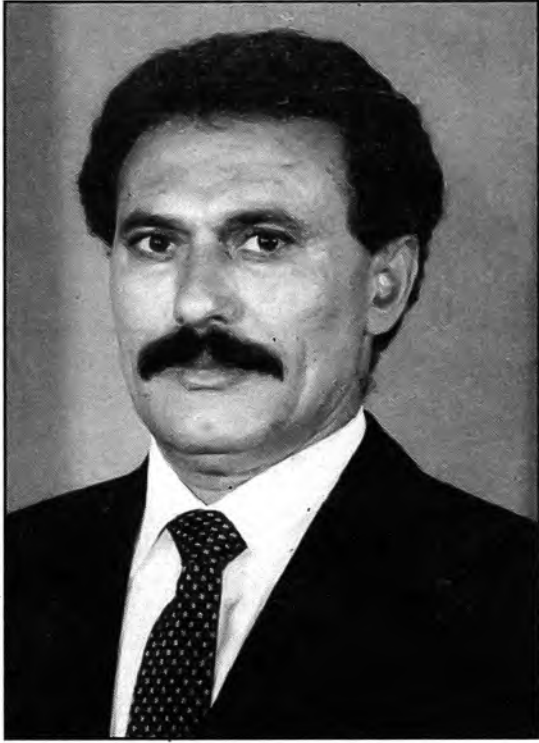
Dr. Wang Ancai, Medical Specialist, Chinese Medical Team, Seiyun.

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

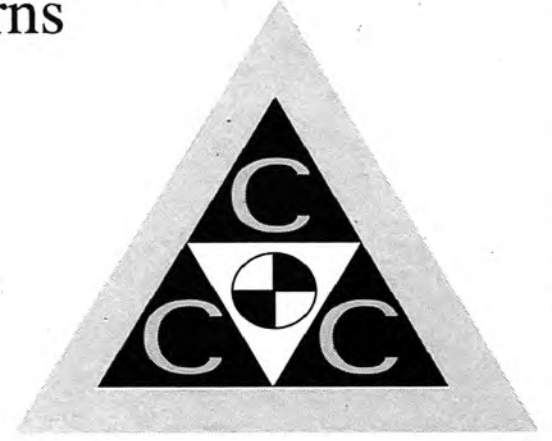
بقلوب حزينة تلقينا نبأ وفاة الحاج سعيد،
وإننا إذ نتقدم بخالص العزاء والمواساة للأخ ياسين
الحاج سعيد، ندعوا الله المولى القدير أن يسكن المرحوم
فسيح جناته، ويلهم أهله الصبر والسلوان،
وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.
الأسيفون: د/ عبدالعزيز السقاف،
وكافة موظفي صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

Consolidated Contractors (International) Company

CCC



presents its heartfelt felicitations and best wishes to the Yemeni people and political leadership of Yemen headed by General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic on the new year (1997) and on the holy month of Ramadhan. Many happy returns



شركة إتحاد المقاولين العالمية

تتقدم

إلى الشعب اليمني العزيز وإلى قيادته السياسية

بزعامه ابن اليمن البار الفريق

علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

بمناسبتى حلول العام الجديد

وشهر رمضان المبارك

أعادهما الله على

اليمن وأمتنا العربية

بالخير والبركات

وكل عام والجميع بخير



Ali Zaid Abu Monassar:

“1997 will be the take-off year for tourism in Yemen.”

Tourism is one of the growth sectors of Yemen. The country enjoys comparative advantage, has all the attractions tourists are looking for, and it is relative inexpensive. That is the new Five-Year Development Plan puts heavy emphasis on the tourist industry. It is a source of foreign currency, creates employment, and provides income to the government and a large network of private enterprises.

Ismail Al-Ghabyry of Yemen Times went to speak to one of the leaders of the tourist business in Yemen, Mr. Ali Zaid Abu Monassar, owner/operator of AZABM Travel & Tourism and AZABM Trade. Mr. Abu Monassar is also the Vice President of the Association of Yemeni Travel and Tourism Agents. Excerpts.

unknown in many parts of the world. Having said all that, I want to insist that one crucial aspect of our future success lies in tourism. We must do the right things to develop this important part of the national economy.

Q: What do think of the specialized tourism?

A: Specialized tourism is an advanced stage of the industry. Yemen has the potential to develop such aspects as diving, mountaineering, desert-trips, beach resorts, 'trips into history', etc. This offers a market niche into high-spending tourists. But it requires some doing, and a lot of investments.

Q: What problems face tourism in Yemen?

A: I think that the main problems which we face is security. The personal safety of our guests is of paramount importance. Other issues such as expansion of the hotel capacity and development of the infrastructure will come with time. If I were to put my finger on the one real headache, it is security.

Q: Your company is organizing a desert car race every year. The last one was during December 27, 1996, till 5th January, 1997. What is the idea behind it?



A: Over the last 4 years, we have been organizing a car race through the fringes of the Rub al-Khali (Empty Quarter) desert. It starts in Marib and end in Seiyoun.

The idea is to replicate part of the incense route. One day, we hope to be able to organize a race to cover the distance from Oman, through Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and all the way into Syria. But the cooperation of those countries is a critical factor in this project.

Meanwhile, we are expanding the route within Yemen. In the 1996/97 race (December 27th - January 5th), we started in Marib to Seiyoun. Then, we added two legs to the race: from Seiyoun to Mukalla, and from Mukalla to Aden. The drivers are all Italians, with three persons forming the crew of each car. There was a total of 35 cars, which were all provided by our company.

Q: Your company's focus is Italy. Why and how did you choose this market?

A: We chose the Italian market because I have been living in Italy for more than 20 years. I have an office and marketing and promotion facilities there. But we are also interested in other markets such as Spain, France, England, Germany and Austria and we have participated this year in more than 15 international fairs in these markets.

You will note that Italy is possibly the first, or at



Q: Let us start by asking for your assessment of the year 1996. How did it go for tourism?

A: The best way to describe 1996 is that it was the year the foundations for a take-off were laid down. Many prerequisites for a boom in tourism was achieved.

The country participated in 2 very important international fairs - one in Milano, Italy; and the other in Berlin, Germany. The Government organized the First Yemen Tourism Conference and hosted the Regional Tourism Seminar in Sanaa in collaboration with the EU and UNESCO and other partners. We have witnessed the birth of the Association of Yemeni Travel and Tourism Agents. We have seen the introduction of services on new airlines like Emirates Airlines, Air Tanzania, and possibly British Airways will come back. All these are positive developments which augur well for the future of tourism.



Q: Beyond the generalities and pleasantries, tell us the real possibilities of growth in tourism?

A: Yemen has more attractive tourist resources and destinations than many countries. It is not a matter of being pleasant. But of course, there are limitations. The total first-class hotel capacity in the whole country is less than one thousand rooms. By comparison, the city of Dubai has more than 54,000 rooms capacity. There are also shortage of transport services, and simple facilities like rest-rooms along major highways.

We also need promotion efforts. Yemen is still



least second largest source of tourists to Yemen.

Q: You were elected Vice President of AYTТА. What is it doing?

A: The AYTТА is the only private organization in tourism. It has more than 40 corporate members, which represent almost the whole industry. It was only established last August (1996) and is trying to establish itself. Its main mission is to explore possibilities for tourism in Yemen and defend the interests of its members. We are now working out specific plans of action for the future.

Q: Do you think that local and international private investments will be forthcoming in tourism in Yemen?

A: Over the last 2 years, more and more private investors started to pour money into this sector. You can see that many project are being implemented, notably in hotels and transportation. But, this is far less than optimal. Investors worry about stability. They also worry about too many changes in the laws governing their business. In my opinion, the country is going in the right track.



APL upgrades service to the Red Sea

APL re-affirms its commitment to the trade with the addition of a 4th vessel, the Eagle Breeze, in the Red Sea service with effect from December 9, 1996.

This service enhancement will offer a more reliable weekly service to all destinations in Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Jeddah and Yemen.

For Yemen specifically, APL now offers its customers direct calls and increased space to Aden and Mukalla.

APL's Red Sea service includes the following ports of call:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| YEMEN | : HODEIDAH, ADEN, MUKALLA |
| S. ARABIA | : JEDDAH |
| SUDAN | : PORT SUDAN |
| JORDAN | : AQABA |
| EGYPT | : ADABIYA, ALEXANDRIA, PORT SAID, SUEZ & DAMIETTA |
| OMAN | : SALALAH (ON INDUCEMENT) |
| DJIBOUTI | : DJIBOUTI (ON INDUCEMENT) |

For booking and further information please call at following telephone Nos. in Yemen.

Saba Shipping & Stevedoring Co. Ltd.,
As Agents: American President Lines Ltd,
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN.

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| - HODEIDAH | : IQBAL/IMAAD | - 226807 / 226220 |
| - SANA'A | : NOORI/MOHD KHALI | - 207862 / 203052 |
| - ADEN / MUKALLA | : AHMED ALAWI / NASHER | - 241247 / 243830 |

We thank the trade for their support and look forward to being of continued service.



Tunisia: Release of Political Prisoners

The Government of Tunisia concluded the year 1996 with a step forward in improving its international image in terms of respect of human rights. On December 30th, 1996, the world community welcomed the release of Mohammed Mouw'ada and Khemis Shammari.

Mohammed Mouw'ada, leader of the opposition party le Mouvement des Democratistes Socialistes (MDS), was accused of threatening the external security of the state and intelligence with agents of a foreign power aiming at undermining Tunisia. He was sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment, following a trial, which Amnesty International, which attended them, described as in clear violation of international human rights treaties.

Khemis Shammari, a human rights activist and former MDS official and member of parliament, was sentenced in July 1996 to five years of jail on charges of "disclosing a national secret to a foreign power". Actually Mr. Shammari exposed the irregularities in the trial of Mr. Mouw'ada to the European press.

In Mr. Shammari's trial, the government prosecutor had failed to produce any convincing evidence to substantiate the charges. While the world community praised the Tunisian government's step in releasing those two prisoners of conscience, it called on Tunisian authorities to release additional prisoners who still languish in jail. President Zain-al Abideen Bin Ali, on the occasion of the new year, gave a speech which carried the blue-print of the strategies of the future. In addition to full-fledged thrust in socio-economic development, he stressed full respect for human rights, political pluralism, and press freedom. But seeing is believing.

UAE Establishes New Nature Reserves, Promotes Greening

The Arabian Leopard Trust (ALT), a Non-Governmental Organization established in 1993, will open the first of five nature reserves next month. ALT which has battled hard to secure a protected site for wildlife, has fenced off a 3,000 acre Mangrove Forest Kalba, which will provide a sanctuary for the rare white-collared Kingfisher and Booted Warbler. Dr. Marycke Jongbloed, coordinator of the ALT, praised the support they have received from the community, but warned there was still a long way before they could guarantee the survival of endangered species like the leopard and the tahr. Dr. Jongbloed blamed particularly the annual four-wheel races for the sad fate of wildlife. "After 1,000 four-wheel vehicles cross the sands, all wildlife is pushed deep into the ground," she said.

Establishment of another reserve in the Shimaliyyah Mountains, home of the dwarf goat, the leopard and possibly the wolf, is also in its final stages. "We have set ourselves the goal of establishing five reserves by the year 2000," Jongbloed said.

The United Arab Emirates has stressed an environment-friendly development from the outset. Today, it boasts the reclamation of vast areas of pasture and agricultural land from the desert, the revival of endangered bird and wildlife species, and the reforestation of plains and mountainsides.

Even in city and urban planning, greening is a priority. As such parks, recreation facilities, and other such projects are an integral part of UAE cities. This is especially visible in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Al-Ain, Sharjah, Deira and other cities.

Israeli Colonies Continue to Spring up in the West Bank

Israeli colonies (settlements) are continuing to spring up and grow in different parts of the West Bank, in spite of commitments and pledges made by the Israeli government to the world. These colonies are settled by Jewish immigrants from all over the world who evict Arab citizens. The colonies are built on land confiscated from their legal owners.

Israeli governments repeatedly promised to stop these settlements, but the promise has not been kept. The implications of these settlements on the peace process is visible. "If we are negotiating with them (Israelis) to return the land to us, it is contradictory that they are continuously putting their people on it. We do not want land spotted with Israeli colonies," stated a Palestinian negotiator.

Large areas of lands are being taken over by new settlers in Ramallah, Al-Khalil (Hebron), Nablus, Janeen, Bethlehem and other West Bank cities. Bulldozers are commonly used by the Israelis to sweep away planted trees, and level-off the lands.

The implementation of an enormous settlement project in Ramallah started in October. Arab farmers regularly get killed by Israeli settlers while trying to defend their land. Illegal roads are also paved through many Arab farms and orchards in order to link settlements. Israeli settlers resort to the criminal acts such as intimidation, fencing-off of lands with barbed wire, etc. in order to prevent Arab citizens from returning to their land.

Recently, in Janeen, an area of 372000 dunams was cordoned off as a military area. That is the beginning of a new settlement.



PILOTS ASSISTANT'S

We offer a challenging opportunity for a Yemeni National to train as a pilot's assistant at Ash Shihr Petroleum Export Terminal near Mukalla.

The successful candidates are required to have the following experience and qualifications:-

- A valid class 2 certificate of Competency to serve as a deck officer.
- Served for at least 5 years on tankers, 3 years of which to have been at the rank of 2nd Officer. Preference will be given to candidates with VLCC / ULCC experience.
- Practical work experience at offshore crude oil Terminals involving Single Point Moorings.
- Proficient in the English language, both spoken and written.

A comprehensive training programme will be offered to enable candidates to assist the Terminal pilots in all aspects of their duties.

If you think you fit the job description, please send your CV to the following address:

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen
P. O. Box 15137
Fax 269896 or 269897
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Attn. Assistant Manager of Human Resources.

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY YEMEN TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LIQUIDATION

In implementation of the Council of Minister's Resolution on 295 dated 27/11/1996 regarding Liquidation of industrial enterprises according to the rules and regulation of law no. (35) for the year 1991 related to public enterprises, companies and authorities.

The Ministry of Industry Announces the availability of the tenders documents relating to liquidation of the following industrial organizations and factories:

- 1- The Revolution Factory for Metal Products
- 2- Leather Shoes Factory
- 3- The Public Bakery
- 4- Martyrs Garment Factory
- 5- Osan Biscuits and organization and sweets + Al Mansoor Automatic Bakery
- 6- Agriculture and Metal Products Factory
- 7- Dairy Public Organization
- 8- The Vegetable oil - Seed Factory

Those interested (companies, enterprises, authorities and individuals) are requested to:

- 1) Submit their bids on tender forms which can be obtained upon payment of a **non-refundable fees 15,000 Yemeni rials for each form starting Saturday 4th of January 1997 at:**

The Financial Department (fifth floor)
Ministry of industry - Aden Branch

- 2) All bids must be accompanied by a bank Guarantee (Bid Bond) valid for 90 days from the below specific date in accordance with the conditions in the tender documents.
- 3) Last date to handover bids in a closed red-waxed sealed envelope addressed: **General Director, Aden Branch, Ministry of Industry, is 10.00 am Thursday, 3rd, April 1997.**

إعلان مزاد علني بشأن تصفية بعض المؤسسات الصناعية العامة المتعثرة

تنفيذا لقرار مجلس الوزراء رقم (٢٩٥) بشأن تصفية المؤسسات الصناعية بحسب قواعد وأحكام القانون رقم (٣٥) لعام ١٩٩١م بشأن المؤسسات والشركات والهيئات العامة، تعلن وزارة الصناعة عن توفر الوثائق الخاصة ببيع وتصفية المرافق الصناعية التالية:

- ١) مصنع الثورة للمنتجات الحديدية
- ٢) مصنع الأحذية الجلدية
- ٣) الخبز الشعبي
- ٤) مصنع الشهداء للملابس
- ٥) مؤسسة أوسان للبسكويت والحلويات + الخبز الآلي بالمنصورة
- ٦) مصنع الأدوات الزراعية والمعدنية
- ٧) المؤسسة العامة للألبان
- ٨) مصنع الزيوت النباتية بالمنصورة

فعلى الراغبين (من الشركات والمؤسسات والهيئات والأفراد) المشاركة في المزاد العلني المذكور أعلاه تقديم عطاءاتهم على كراسة العطاءات المتوفرة والممكن شراؤها اعتبارا من يوم السبت الموافق ٤ يناير ١٩٩٧م من الدائرة المالية - الدور الخامس - مبنى وزارة الصناعة، فرع محافظة عدن مقابل مبلغ لا يرد قدره (١٥,٠٠٠) ريال يمني، آخذين بعين الاعتبار مايلي:

- ١) ارفاق ضمان بنكي وفقا للشروط الواردة في كراسة العطاء ساري مفعول لمدة تسعون يوما اعتبارا من التاريخ المدون أدناه.
- ٢) آخر موعد لاستلام العطاءات في ظروف مغلقة ومختومة بالشمع الأحمر بإسم مدير عام مكتب وزارة الصناعة - محافظة عدن الساعة العاشرة صباحا من يوم الخميس الموافق ٣ ابريل ١٩٩٧م.

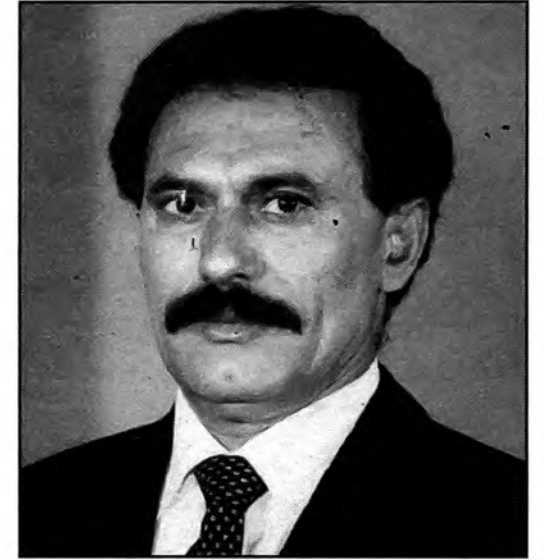
مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

تتقدم

إلى الشعب اليمني العزيز وإلى قيادته السياسية
بزعامه ابن اليمن البار الفريق
علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية
بمناسبتى حلول العام الجديد وشهر رمضان المبارك
أعادهما الله على اليمن وأمتينا العربية والإسلامية بالخير والبركات
وكل عام والجميع بخير



ASCA



The Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies

- 1- Yemen Company for industry and commerce Ltd.
- 2- National Company for Sponge & Plastic Ind. Ltd.
- 3- Yemen Company for Ghee & Soap Ind Ltd.
- 4- General Industries & Package Company
- 5- National Dairy and Food Company
- 6- Middle East Trading Company, Limited
- 7- United Industries Company (Rothmans of PallMall)
- 8- The Yemen Company for Agriculture & livestock Development
- 9- National Trading Company (NATCO)

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

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

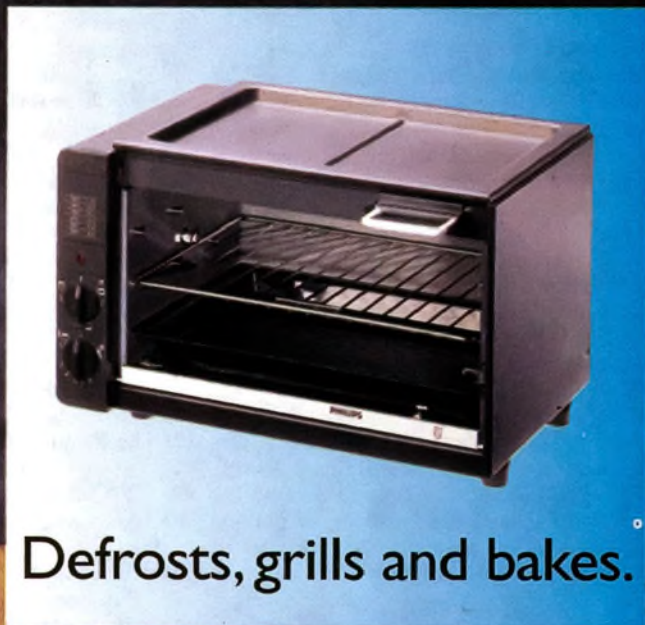
THE HAYEL SAEED ANAM GROUP OF COMPANIES

presents its heartfelt felicitations and best wishes
to the Yemeni people and political leadership of Yemen headed by
General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic
on the new year (1997) and on the holy month of Ramadhan.
Many happy returns



For all
your kitchen
needs.

Ramadan Mubarak with Philips.

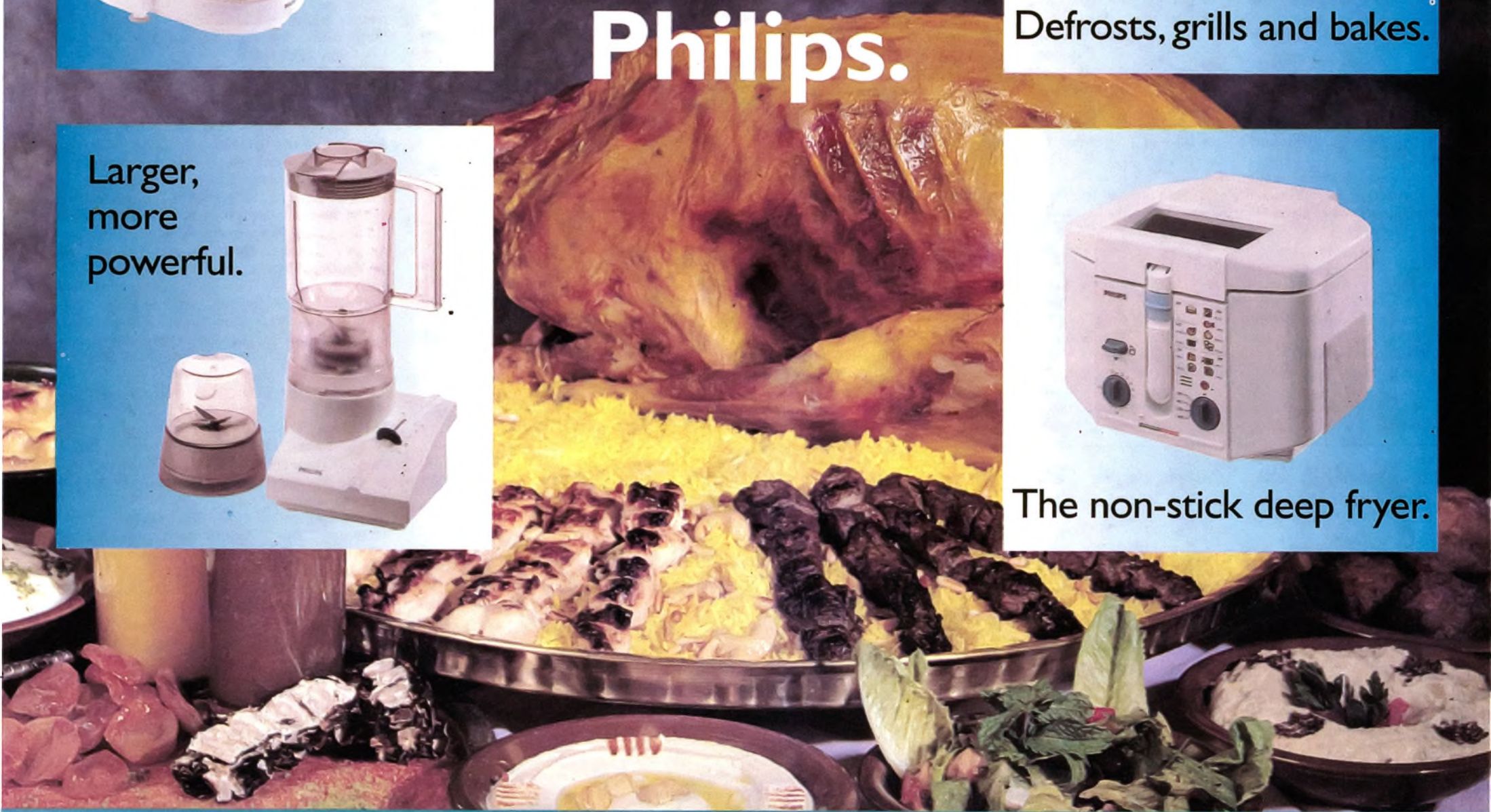


Defrosts, grills and bakes.

Larger,
more
powerful.



The non-stick deep fryer.



Let's make things better.



WORLDWIDE
GUARANTEE

This Ramadan, Philips gives you good reason to rejoice. A Food Processor that's so advanced, you can run through all your food preparation quickly and easily. A more powerful Blender with a larger capacity, so you can now make more of these delicious milk shakes. There's also a Deep Fat Fryer with a double non-stick coating for easy cleaning. And there's a new Mini Oven that makes defrosting, grilling or baking so much of a pleasure. Visit your nearest Philips dealer today and get the help you need to make your Iftar parties more enjoyable.



PHILIPS

Universal Trading & Investment Co. Ltd., (Near Hadda Cinema), Tel/Fax: 268236.

AL-SHOURAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 29-12-96
(Federation of Popular Forces Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Great Tension in Marib and Renewed Fighting in Udain (Between Islah and PGC Groups)
- 2) Yemen Socialist Party Offices in Aden are Usurped.
- 3) Islah Attempts to Revitalize Opposition Coordination Council.

Article Summary:

"The Reforms Did Not Pass Through Here!"
by Izzat Mustafa and Saleh Al-Baidhani.

International statistics have indicated an increase in the number of Yemenis living on the breadline. One visit to the infamous Hodeidah rubbish tip can amply illustrate the extent of many people's abject poverty. Hundreds of men, women and children rummage through piles upon piles of rubbish looking for their daily sustenance. Expired canned food, out-of-date medicines, rotten flour, frozen chickens and many other food stuff represent well sought-after treasures for many poverty-stricken families. Partially destroyed expired food and medicines are collected by the scavengers and sold to unscrupulous merchants, who resell them to unsuspecting citizens. No statistics are available for the amount of rubbish dumped every day because the scales used for this purpose were stolen. About 500 tons of rotten flour are now in the warehouses of Hodeidah. Goodness knows where they will end up.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 31-12-96
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Doctored Budget Statistics and a New Dose of Reforms in July.
- 2) Three Citizens from Mukallah are Still in Custody Accused of Assaulting a PSO Official.
- 3) Police in Aden Protect Land Usurpers Despite Government Orders.

Article Summary:

"Paralysis of ethics", by Ameen Sharaf.

"Paralysis of Ethics" is the most dangerous and contagious of the diseases afflicting Arab society in general and Yemeni society in particular. It manifests itself as embezzlement of public funds, political mismanagement, economic crises, social maladies, frauds, sycophancy, lying, etc. It has become the common denominator among employers and employees, and government and



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

opposition. Like AIDS which destroys the body's immune system, this disease destroys society's ethics and values system. A symptom of this disease is the prevalent abuse of child labor. The authorities have neither confronted this problem nor prepared enough educational facilities to receive the hundreds of thousands of school-aged children. There must be a national campaign to eradicate the paralysis of ethics disease similar to the one conducted to eradicate polio.

AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 1-1-97
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President in Taiz: "We try to be very close to the people's important issues."
- 2) The People's Elections Monitoring Committee (3rd of its kind) Holds Its Inaugural Conference
- 3) 72 Constituencies Await Court Rulings on Elections Registration Irregularities.

Article Summary:

"The Year of Transformations," [Editorial]

The past year has witnessed many noteworthy achievements in the fields of development and alleviating the citizens' sufferings. As an example, the President has focused on issues of great concern to the general public especially those living in the eastern and southern governorates. These people have, for long years, been suffering from misery and deprivation, and only started to feel relief after the unification of the country.

Thanks to honest and massive efforts, the eastern and southern governorates started to get the benefits and basic requirements of the new age. More efforts and energies are being channeled toward continuing the programs of economic, financial and administrative reforms.

The first and second stages of the reform program have achieved reasonable successes in the fields of stabilizing the national currency and curbing inflation. It is no exaggeration to say that 1996 served as a launching pad for more gains and achievements during this coming year.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 1-1-97
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Opposition Coordination Council Indicates Authority's Determination to "Possess" Next Parliament.
- 2) Several MP's Demand Petroleum Companies' Accounts from Ministry of Petroleum.
- 3) A New Leadership is Elected for Opposition Coordination Council.

Article Summary:

"State and Authority"

by Abdulrahman Khubara.

The most important difference between developed and developing countries is that the former are governed by the state, and the latter are ruled by pure authority. A state means the supremacy of civic institutions, law and order, modern administration, free market economy, etc. At the other end of the scale, authoritarianism means the ascendancy of brute force and police and intelligence organs. There can be no proper democracy in countries where authority rules supreme; as the first condition for a real democracy is the existence of a state. The phase of authority is characterized by the absence of equality among citizens, most of the country's budget being spent on organizing the apparatuses of power such as the army and the police and democracy becoming one big lie.

AL-MITHAK: Sana'a (Weekly) 30-12-96
(The People's General Congress)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Vice-President Launches Second Round of National Immunization Campaign.
- 2) Head of PGC Women's Sector Stresses Commitment to Fair and Free Elections
- 3) PGC Secretary-General Heads Expanded Consultative Meetings of PGC Leaderships.

Article Summary:

"Education Between Chaos and the Turnover of Ministers," by Abdulmalik Al-Mikhlafti.

The sector of education in Yemen suffers from many negative aspects such as overcrowded classrooms, lack of textbooks, unfair distribution of teachers, lack of supervision, low wages, absence of training programs and partisan rivalry. The education system affects, and is affected by, the general social fabric. Economic and financial factors are the most dangerous adversaries of this system.

Continuous economic crises put enormous pressures on teachers and students alike. The other dimension of the problem is represented by political and partisan divisions and disputes, whether in the educational or in the students' bodies. Lack of general social awareness of the importance of education compounds the dilemma facing our education system. This dilemma cannot be solved by the mere changing of ministers. Greater public and official awareness and participation are required to help address the multifaceted educational issue.

AL-SHUMOU'U: Sana'a (Weekly) 31-12-96
(Shiite, Iranian-backed)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The Present Government is a Brand of Shame on the "Face" of Parliament.
- 2) Rotten Flour is Distributed in Sana'a by the Cereals Establishment.
- 3) A Governmental Committee to Study Possibility of Raising Bread Prices.

Article Summary:

"Opposition for Elections or Opposition to the Coalition" [Editorial]

As the date set for parliamentary elections draws nearer, the opposition parties raise the tone of their calls for fair and free elections. But the alliance forged between some opposition parties and one, or the other, of the two ruling coalition parties give a stark indication to the opposition's bankruptcy. The opposition has miserably failed to make an important alliance with the people. It can be clearly seen that opposition parties want to exploit the upcoming elections for their narrow political gains irrespective of the real interests of the people. This fact can be demonstrated by the opposition's calling for election guarantees at the expense of guarantees to alleviate the people's suffering. The upcoming elections will prove beyond doubt that the opposition was set up by the coalition for the purpose of elections only. It has nothing to do with the people.

AL-JUMHURIAH: Taiz, (Daily) 1-1-97
(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) The President Pays Field Visits to Different Parts of Hugarriah.
- 2) The Security Council Retains the Sanctions Against Iraq.
- 3) Postponement of the Arafat-Netanyahu Meeting, and American/Egyptian/Jordanian Efforts for a Successful Conclusion of the Palestinian/Israeli negotiations.
- 4) The Vice President Inaugurates the Arab Center for Strategic Studies in Sana'a.
- 5) Russia Affirms Commitment to Non-Interference in Chechnyan Internal Affairs.

Article Summary:

"Art, Wars, and the Suffering of People"

By: Farooq Al-Jifri

It is true that artistic work is the reflection of the soul of a person and the agonies he (she) undergoes. One look at the works of the American artist, Evan Albright will convince us fully on what wars do to people. Even the very names of the paintings of this artists tell a lot. One is called "Fear", another is called "Destruction", and a third is called "Death". The lines, the colors, the vacuum in the paintings explain much. The pictures of maimed bodies, of distorted faces are all the result of violence and war, leading to such disgrace. The main message of the artist is clear. These are the results of going to war. Can we learn something for this?

Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to

Thank You Note

I am a 22-year-old Somali refugee who arrived here in the Yemen. I suffer from a gunshot wound which I had sustained in my country three years earlier. The bullet had perforated the bladder, which prevented the regular flow of urine through the urinary tract. After months of suffering in a territory whose medical services are crippled by civil war, the urine was coming out of my body through openings in the lower abdomen. I was examined in various hospitals and finally I was referred to the Al-Salam Hospital in Sa'adah for treatment. At Al-Salam Hospital I was found to have bladder stones, urinary fistulae of the bladder on the abdominal wall, a fistula of the scrotum emanating from the urethra and a stricture of the urethra. After several operations, the blocked tracts are again functioning properly. My clothes are no longer soiled by urine and I can now lead a normal life. I would hereby like to thank Dr. Mansour Al-Zaharani, Saudi Director of the Sa'adah and Hajjah Hospitals and Dr. Willem Van Der Linden who performed the operations together with his colleagues, Dr. Refa'at Al-Feky and Dr. Abdulaziz Noman, for the help and support they have given me during my treatment in the hospital. I would also like to thank Mr. Uruj (UNHCR Officer) and the ICD doctors for facilitating my admission to Al-Salam Hospital.

Name.....

It is Useless!

Hide your naive dream. . . ! Be ware . . . !
Do not tell any one about it . . . Be ware!
You'll ask why?! and how?!
You say that you gave a hint of it . . .
Perhaps he read it in your eyes
or was it in your lines?
You'll say . . . Is it true?!
And then? What?! Did you see?
He did not care, did not even relax!
He did not respond positively. . . !
Ha! What?! One day he was happy.
Is it, may be, but little, little happiness.
Never mind. I know . . .
His horizon is wider than your narrow one.
Stare, gaze carefully. Can you see the limit?
The horizon?! You cannot see it!
did you see it?!
You cannot! Give it up.
You'll say, 'You're the most truthful, faithful'
and maybe the best one !!
You'll say anything. Okay, say it.
But be ware, do not let it be heard.
Just, tell your dream to yourself.
Hear your heart beats . . . your missed words!!
You know why?! Allright . . . allright
because it's useless. Just that.
It's useless to tell him about your dream!
He will not listen, will not listen to you.
and will not care for you. Will not . . . will not.
Now you're standing before the gate of his castle
getting close, shivering, and confused!
Be careful! be ware! be strong.
Even if you would step over on your own dream.
When you come close to his eyes,
do not stumble over words.
Be careful! He would scorn you.
You may not see the glitter
that he would grant to all fingers
surrounding him from all sides.
Ha . . . you would not see it . . . !
You know why?! . . . Okay . . . Okay
because those fingers can . . .

Yes they can arrange a speech
that reaches his ears easily and softly.
It may reach his hear. Why not?
And now, you're coming close,
close to him.
Getting more confused,
escaping very quickly.
Ha. He might mock you.
He might neglect you, totally.
Like each time . . .
there you are . . . broken.
He would not listen
to how much you're broken.
Do you see?! Look . . .
•you're in pieces and pieces!
You remain spread everywhere
around him, about him.
Beseeching without his awareness.
Look. he went away with them,
went away without being aware !
What?! Do you like deliverance?
Allright. allright. I'll give you a last chance
Ha. remember, the last chance.
From now on, form now on!!
Tear your naive dream.
Come on! Tear it!!
When you get close to him.
Re-arrange your phrases carefully.
Re-arrange them like their phrases.
Do not forget . . . like theirs. !
At this moment,
perhaps he will listen to you.
Perhaps, when he listens.
Do not stare at the brightness of his eyes.
Do not . . .
Be ware! . . . Be ware!!
Just stare at their eyes . . . only theirs. . .
Stare, fearfully, deeply, and carefully . . .

By: Amna Yousef
Translated - Mariam Yousef

إنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

ببالغ الحزن والأسى نتقدم بتعازينا
ومواستتنا للأخ حسين فضل محمد - مدير عام
البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير وأجوانه
وكافة آل هرهرة بوفاة والدهم المغفور له
الشيخ فضل محمد بن هرهرة.

الأسيفون:

سالم محمد الضباعي، محمد علي هيثم،
جمال الشوبلي، عبدالمجيد الصلاحي، علي عزان

End of 17th Week of Excellent Football Tournament

A Round of Excitement and Challenge

The 1996 football tournament was characterized by excitement and instability in the achievements of top-of-the league teams. These teams did not always maintain high standards to be able to win the overall tournament. As an example, top of the tournament, Al-Tilal was beaten by Al-Ahli of Hodeidah 1-nil which held sway throughout the match of January 2, 1997. This result cost Al-Tilal 3 precious points.

A 1-1 draw was reached between the title holder, Al-Wahdah of Sana'a, and Shamsan of Aden. This gave Al-Wahdah one point only enabling it to keep its 2nd position following Al-Tilal. On the same day, Hassan of Abyan defeated Al-Zuhra of Sana'a 2-1 in a rather mediocre performance.

The long awaited push forward was achieved by Al-Ahli of Sana'a by beating its hometown team, Al-Shaab 4-2. This resounding victory has secured Al-Ahli's place in the Excellent Tournament, and dispelled the specter of dropping out.

In a powerful match and a crowded Ibb stadium, Al-Ittihad of Ibb defeated Al-Shaab of Mukallah 1-nil. Al-Ittihad has proven its ability to compete despite the lack of resources.

Al-Shu'ulah of Aden has reached third position by beating Al-Wahdah of Aden 2-1, and gaining 3 points to increase its credit to 28 points. After this defeat, Al-Wahdah faces the grim prospect of dropping out of the tournament altogether.

The 18th and last round before Ramadhan starts on Tuesday 7 January. The competing teams will have a much needed respite to be able to evaluate their past performances, and prepare for next challenging rounds.



| Team | Points | Goals | | Game Played | | |
|-------------------|--------|-------|---------|-------------|-----|------|
| | | For | Against | Won | Tie | Lost |
| Tilal | 34 | 32 | 15 | 10 | 4 | 3 |
| Wahdah of Sana'a | 29 | 26 | 14 | 8 | 5 | 4 |
| Shu'ulah | 28 | 34 | 19 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| Zohra | 26 | 21 | 21 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| Hassan of Abyan | 25 | 23 | 18 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| Ahli of Hodeidah | 24 | 20 | 26 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Itihad Ibb | 22 | 31 | 30 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| Ahli Sana'a | 21 | 17 | 20 | 5 | 6 | 6 |
| Shaab of Mukallah | 19 | 14 | 18 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Shaab of Sana'a | 19 | 17 | 28 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| Shamsan | 18 | 24 | 44 | 4 | 6 | 7 |
| Wahda of Aden | 18 | 24 | 30 | 4 | 4 | 1 |

VILLA FOR RENT IN CENTER OF HADDA

- 1) Basement 250 sq. m. Open space for use as an office and store + Kitchen + Bathroom + One Room.
- 2) First floor 250 sq. m. FULLY furnished Areas with High Standard for Family Living + Kitchen + 2 Bathrooms.
- 3) Second Floor 250 sq. m. Fully Furnished Areas with High Standard for Family Living + Kitchen + 2 Bathroom.
- 4) Garden + Garage (3 Cars) + Two Maingates + Dish Satellite + 2 Telephone Lines IDD + Generator + Solar Water Heating.

For further inquiry call Mr. Abubaker 412-301

Special Committee to Form National Team

Iraqi Coach is Chosen



Iraqi Coach Hazim Jassam

and for his ability to easily acclimatize with the psyche and nature of Yemeni players.

Yemen Times was informed that both the Qatari association and the Iraqi coach have expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Yemeni union. This move demonstrates the strong and distinguished ties between the Yemeni and Qatari football associations.

Jassam is expected to arrive in Sana'a next February, during which time a special committee will be formed comprising top level football specialists from different governorates to select players for

The Yemeni General Football Association has made contacts with its Qatari counterpart for the purpose of seconding the Iraqi football coach Hazim Jassam, who is expected to train and prepare the Yemeni National Football Team for the Asian competitions leading to the World Cup games in 1998.

Jassam is chosen for his good Yemeni background acquired during his previous work coaching Al-Ahli team in Sana'a,

the national team. Would-be candidates must not be over 25 years of age, possess high level abilities and exhibit good behavior and team spirit. In the case of equal traits, the youngest candidates are chosen.

Yemen Times salutes the General Football Association for its massive efforts to develop the level of Yemeni football. Very good luck to the players of our next national team.

Women's Chess Championship in Sana'a University...

Maha Al-Sharjabi from the College of Information defeated Nourah Al-Attab from the College of Arts in the final match of the women's championship organized by Sana'a University. Buthainah Al-Qurashi and Teraz Azzam have won third and fourth places respectively.



The championship which started on December 29 will open the way for other sport activities involving female university students. Awards were presented to the

successful students by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Makalih in a ceremony held at Jamal Abdunnasser hall at the College of Arts on Thursday 2 January.

... And Al-Shaab Secondary School Wins Chess Championship



Organized by the General Chess Association branch in Taiz, the first chess championship for schools was concluded on Wednesday 1 January. Zayid Mohamed Al-Ameer from Al-Shaab secondary school has won first place followed by Nadhim Abdulsamad and Muaadh Al-

Kahali from Muaadh Bin Jabala school in second and third positions. In fourth position came Issam Abdullah from Greater Taiz secondary school. The winners were announced in ceremony attended by many sport officials in Taiz.

A YR 6 Million Deal for an Aden Sports Club

Al-Meena's sports club which is situated in Al-Tewahi near Aden's world-famous port has successfully concluded a deal to lease a plot of land belonging to the club to the Yemeni investor Salim Mansar. Lasting for 25 years, the lease will provide the club with an annual income of YR 6 million, 18 million of which will be paid in advance.

Al-Meena has become the first club in Aden to make such a step which will immensely help in financing and developing the club's activities. The way is now wide open for other clubs to follow suit, and become less dependent on the small allowances provided by the Ministry of Youths and Sports.

تعزية

بالحزن والأسى نتقدم بتعازينا ومواساتنا للأخ/ حسين فضل محمد - مدير عام البنك اليمني للإنشاء والتعمير، وإخوانه، وكافة آل هريرة بوفاه والدهم المغفور له الشيخ فضل محمد بن هريرة.

تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته، وألهم أهله الصبر والسلوان الأسيفون: سالم محمد الضبايعي، محمد علي هيثم، جمال الشوبلي، عبدالمجيد الصلاحي، علي عزان، الشيخ صالح حسين الرفدي

تهانينا

نتقدم بخالص التهنية للأخ علي أحمد مثنى بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزواج.

المهنؤون:

أنور، جمال، عبدالخالق، وكافة موظفي وعمال مطابع الأدوية، وموظفي يمن تايمز

ألف مبروك

نتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات للأخ طارق محمد راشد بمناسبة ارتزاقه المولودة البكر

مرورة

المهنؤون: جمال العواضي، بسام العواضي، يوسف الشريف، هديل العواضي، ياسر الأغبري، عبدالإله الجرزموزي

تهانينا

أجمل التهاني القلبية للأخ غيلان أحمد الضاوي بمناسبة زواجه المهنؤون: أمير المعلمي، نجيب سلام، محمد الغفاري، فضل حفزة، محمد البيضاني، هاني الضاوي، يحيى البابلي، أمين المطري، شوقي الحماسي، يوسف الشريف، وجميع آل الضاوي وآل الروني

Plaza Suites Hotel



Naukshout Street Sana'a, RoY
For reservations, call Tel (09671)205483 Fax 204431

Lufthansa

Operates flight twice weekly,
Sana'a/Frankfurt
Every Wednesday & Sunday.
for further inquiries please contact our
GSA: Tihama Travel & Tours
Fax: (01) 207194
Tel: 213400, 219252, 206349 Sana'a

YEMEN TIMES



ALNASSER

Universal Ogden
SERVICE WITHOUT LIMITS.

INTRACSS
International Transportation and Catering Services Ltd.
Tel: 415934, 417369 Fax: 414864
P. O. Box: 12002, Sana'a, ROY

ALAMERY
العامري

Fax: 03 234860
Showroom phone: 03 246526
Office phone: 03 253311

Plant Protection Products
MAIN DISTRIBUTOR in Yemen

BASF

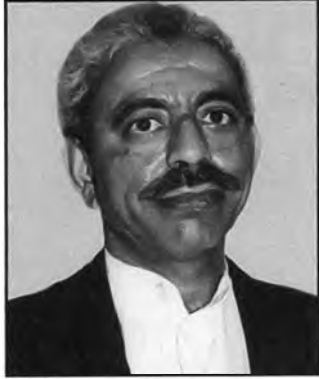
The First of Five Articles on Ramadhan Food: The Sana'ani Cuisine

By: Hassan Al-Haifi,
YemenTimes.

Many people think that Ramadhan is a month when Muslims deserve pity for the hunger they go through. These sympathizers need to be reminded that once the cannon at Jabal Nuquom blasts away, some of the fasting faithful end up eating more than usual. In fact, people tend to eat during the one fasting month of Ramadhan more than they do throughout the rest of the year! While Islam discourages excesses, for the sake of piety, there is no harm in enjoying the bounties of Allah, as long as it is earned legitimately.

The Yemen Times is pleased to present a sampling of the Yemeni cuisine, during the Holy month of Ramadhan. It is worth noting that there are special regional preferences and cuisines which the faithful indulge in during the holy month of Ramadhan. We start with the cuisine of the city of Sana'a, in this issue. Next week, we shall take another region's cuisine.

The Sana'anis have developed a refined routine for breaking the fast. It starts off with the male members of the family getting together in the mosque to greet the sunset. Then they await in huddles around the following appetizers:
Haamidha (which is ground phenigree beat to a mild batter with some green scallion-like



By: Hassan al-Haifi

This phenigree is made sour by some vinegar and the sourness is made milder by the addition of sugar to the mixture. You dip bread in this sauce.
Some also bring in 'zahawiq' - a homemade tomato sauce made in the blender with spices and usually hot peppers. Some also bring in lemon juice and some sweets, especially dates which is the traditional breakfast material for Ramadhan, throughout the Muslim World. After the sunset prayers, the faithful run home for the feast dinner. The women pray at home and wait for the men and boys to come back from the mosque.

The whole family gathers to enjoy the feast which often includes the following components:

* Sambousa - a fried batter with vegetables and greens or ground meat.

* Hamidha - More sour phenigree eaten with radishes - root and leaves.

* Shufoot - Buttermilk with pancake-like bread made with flour.

* Ma'asouba - honey smothered bread, which had been butter fried before.

* Salad.

* Rice and potatoes and other vegetables.

* Hulba (phenigree) with gravy, preferably beef, ground meat, eggs, hot sauce (zahawiq) eaten with bread - a meal in itself.

* Roasted or fried liver, various kebabs, ta'amiyah, which is an assorted fried ball of batter and vegetables inside.

* Gravy, and lamb meat.

* Lamb Gravy Soup (Very important for Qat chewers).

* Meat, and lamb is preferred in Ramahan although with present prices, chicken has become an alternative.

The dessert is of course a variety of sweets inherited from the bad old or good old Ottoman days, if you do not have diabetes. This include:s

* Rawwani: a combination of heavily beaten eggs (yolk, and white-beaten separately)

* Baklava

* Qatayif

* Su'uobia

* Mahallabia

Except for the latter, and where indicated, all the above are batter combinations with

nuts and other goodies immersed in sweet sugar syrup.

Mahallabia is a custard with milk.

Some families will also insist on adding bintal-sahn, a batter layered bread immersed in honey. Fish and other goodies, depending on the standard of living, are recent additions to the Sanaani Ramadhani menu. An hour prior to sunrise, the faithful get ready for the pre-fasting suhoor or meal.

Between the dinner and the suhoor (which will come below), for those who do chew qat, one will see the Sana'nis lounging around from one coffee shop to the next looking for things to munch on

For Sana'anis, this may include asead with mateet, which is a batter mix of flour drenched in soup of buttermilk and rye flour and oregano with butter.

Then the white phenigree and milk sauce is eaten with bread.

This helps to reduce thirst during the fast.

That is the traditional suhoor. Some however will do with a little fool mudammas (minced kidney beans eaten by dipping bread and scooping it up, in keeping with the economic reform program of the country.

Sana'anis believe that there is no reason why they cannot satisfy their palate, even in Ramadhan.

Yemen Branch of ACSS Established

On Monday, 31st December 1996, Vice President Abdo Rabbo Hadi Mansour, inaugurated the Yemen Branch of the Arab Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), headed by Mr. Ali Nasser Mohammed, former President of the former PDRY. Also attending the event were House Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani, several ministers and leading intellectuals, businessmen, journalists and public figures. The Damascus-based institute is

a new forum which seeks to sponsor quality studies that help offer policy-makers more insight and options regarding the management of inter-Arab issues. "Policy-makers need the contribution of intellectuals and researchers for making the right decision. This center aims to bridge the gap between intellectuals and policy-makers," said Ali Nasser Mohamymed. He also praised the personal interest and support of President Ali Abdullah Saleh in establishing the Yemen branch.



**CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS
INTERNATIONAL COMPANY S.A.L.**
Construction of Mechanical and Heavy Civil Projects

- ⊕ Petrochemical plants and refineries
- ⊕ Heavy and light industrial plants
- ⊕ Power and desalination plants
- ⊕ Water treatment plants, reservoirs and distribution systems.
- ⊕ Sewage treatment plants and collection networks
- ⊕ Oil fields ancillary installations
- ⊕ Pipelines construction and maintenance
- ⊕ Air purification for industry
- ⊕ Fuel and water storage tanks
- ⊕ Offshore structures and underwater works
- ⊕ Marine docks, harbors, deep sea berths and refinery terminals
- ⊕ Airports
- ⊕ Roads, highways, bridges and flyovers
- ⊕ High quality buildings, hotels, hospitals, universities and sports complexes
- ⊕ Prefabricated accommodation and office facilities.

SANAA
Phones:
(967-1) 243070
(967-1) 247852
Fax:
(967-1) 243652
(967-1) 263043

ADEN
Phones:
(967-2) 377328
(967-2) 377294
Fax:
(967-2) 377716
Telex:
2247YD CCCSAL
P O Box 3015



WORLD LEADER

طبعتم بقطاع الشركة اليمنية - لادوية