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# YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • March 24th thru 30th, 1997 Vol. VII, Issue No. 12 • Price 30 Riyals



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## PGC Already Named 202 Candidates: Electioneering Starts in Earnest

Open only for three days, election centers are already being flooded with questions from potential candidates who hope to compete in the April 27th parliamentary elections. Informed sources believe that the number of candidates competing in the elections next month will be more than 4000 persons, yielding an average in excess of 13 candidates per constituency. Yemen's political parties are now faced with a major problem in choosing who to nominate under the party ticket. This is clear from the deliberations and haggling over the last few days. During the registration phase, the political parties, notably the (PGC) People's General Congress pushed different local leaders to mobilize their followers to register, under the implicit understanding that they will be nominated to run by the party. As a result,

a multi-polar PGC leadership has mushroomed in many constituencies, and the party leaders face the difficult task of convincing these leaders to pool forces behind one candidate. Over the last few days, the PGC has gone ahead and named candidates in 202 constituencies. It only has a few more to name to complete the target of 230 candidates, representing the number of constituencies in which it will compete. The task ahead is to convince the persons not chosen to run, to sacrifice their ambition and fall in line behind the party candidate. One tactic that had worked in similar situations in the past is to pay-off some of these leaders under the guise of reimbursing them for costs incurred in the mobilization of supporters. If the local leaders are not happy with the arrangements, they may compete as independents.

This could lead to fragmentation of the party base and votes. Though to a lesser extent, this problem also exists within the ranks of Islah, and to still a lesser extent, among opposition parties. Yemen's parties do not have primaries to filter candidates. This is left to personal relations within party hierarchies. At another level, the Supreme Elections Committee stated that the 12 political parties competing in the elections need to field candidates in at least 10 constituencies in order to qualify for free air time on government television and radio. Electioneering has started in earnest. The biggest spender, by far, is the PGC. Over 100 color posters are going to be printed. Each PGC candidate will receive some 300 copies of each. Total cost of PGC posters alone is put at YR 100 million.

### Congressional Staffers Arrive Next Week:

## 487 Foreign Observers and Reporters to Come for Elections

The number of foreign observers and reporters interested in the Yemeni elections is rising steadily. Last week, a number of think-tanks in Washington wrote announcing their intention to come for the elections. According to the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC), a private voluntary initiative which offers assistance to foreign observers and reporters flying in for the elections, the number is approaching 500 persons. At another level, senior election officials and experts from Sweden, Mexico, and the USA are presently visiting Yemen. The visit program, sponsored and arranged by the


Washington-based National Democratic Institute, includes meetings with government officials and private individuals involved with the elections. An American delegation of Congressional staffers at the Foreign Relations Committee is arriving in Sanaa on a visit during 1-4/4/1997. This group includes Walker Roberts, Majority (Republican) Senior Professional Staff, Deborah Bodlander, Majority (Republican) Professional Staff - Middle East, and Chris Kojm, Minority (Democratic) Professional Staff. The group will hold various meetings with an eye on the elections.

### Using the Backdoor, Already Six Candidates:

## YSP Joins Elections ?

The Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) had decided two weeks back that it will not participate in the coming parliamentary elections. The reasons given were that the party could not compete on an equal footing given conditions. It complained of unfair and unequal competition. The party's decision was based, at least partially, on its inability to secure guarantees of certain minimal results in the race.

Whatever the case, six YSP leaders have already decided to join the elections as independents. To add insult to injury to the YSP, the People's General Congress (PGC) decided that it will support senior YSP candidates to win up to 12 constituencies. The irony of it all is that for the 'YSP' candidates, PGC support is more effective in winning than if they had run on a YSP ticket. You would think they had planned it this way.



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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Is It Politics? or Is It Just Incompetence?

My home telephone line is not working. It has been dead for almost a month now. As the editor-in-chief of the Yemen Times and the Secretary-General of the Elections Monitoring Committee, this represents a big problem to me.

At first, I handled the issue through the standard channels. For the first week, I took up the matter with the complaints department of the Sanaa telephone authorities. Many promises were made, none of them was kept.

During the second week, I called the senior officials of the General Corporation for Communications. Mr. Mohammed Al-Kassous, the general manager, was personally involved. Again, promises were made. None was kept.

On the third week, as the problem was leading to serious complications in my ability to do my work, I enlisted the assistance of influential people in the system. Many promises were made, again none kept.

Now, it is the fourth week, and I thought may be I will involve the public at large to get life to my telephone line.

Is this the result of dirty politics? I do not know, though I think not. I do not rule it out, but I have a deep feeling this is just sheer incompetence and inefficiency. I conclude this way because many of the telephone officials are embarrassed by their inability to make the telephone ring.

Yemen's performance in development will depend on whether the people in charge of such vital services were competent or not. It is impossible to accept that the engineers and technicians of the telephone department are unable to fix a telephone line for almost a month.

There is a third dimension. A friend told me something disturbing. He said that the big bosses are not actually in control in most of these government bodies. "Some little rascal is the source of your trouble, and he is waiting for you to pay him off before the service is restored."

If that is true, then that is embezzlement. This rascal first disconnect the service, and then asks for payment to re-connect it. Meanwhile, I am waiting. Even if I wanted to pay off the rascal, I do not know him. Until he presents himself, I will simply continue to file my complaints.

But what if this dirty politics?

I have had a similar experience in the past. All my telephone lines suddenly went dead on me in 1994. This is a mechanism used by the authorities to isolate trouble-makers, from the regime's point of view. I know for sure my lines are tapped. I have long given up complaining on that count. But total disconnection of the service to a paying customer is not correct.

To add insult to injury, TeleYemen, operating under directives of Political Security Office (PSO), is refusing to restore my mobile telephone line. I am a subscriber with TeleYemen, and have paid for them for the service. But this is Yemen!

**The Publisher**  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

## YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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### Cardiff Wheelchairs for Handicapped

The UK Embassy in Sanaa announced the arrival of some forty second-hand wheelchairs last week. These are donated by the people of Cardiff to handicapped Yemeni women.

Following the visit of the Lord Mayor of Cardiff and his wife to Yemen in October 1995, they organized a campaign which led to the donation.

Cardiff is home to one of the early Yemeni settlements in Britain.

### At Al-Afif Foundation, Egyptian Artist Displays Drawings

The work of Egyptian Artist Bahgat Othman is on display at Al-Afif Cultural Foundation in Sanaa. Visiting hours are 4:00-7:00 and the exhibition will last until the 26th of March.

Bahgat is a famous caricature artist whose sketches and drawings have filled the pages of newspapers, magazines, children's books, etc.

On display are 80 art-pieces.

### Japanese Small Grant for NGO Project

Ahmed Al-Jahrani, Chairman of the Agricultural Highlands Cooperative Association, and Noboru Hara, Charge d'Affaires at the Japanese Embassy, signed last week a grant assistance agreement.

According to the agreement, the Japanese Embassy, through its "Grass Roots Projects", will provide a cash grant of US\$ 11,585. The money will be used to complete the construction of Al-Dheeb Secondary School in Jhara, Dhamar Governorate.

### Prime Minister Chairs First Session of SFD

Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani chaired the first session of the Board of Directors of the Social Fund for Development on Saturday, March 22nd.

The SFD sponsors small-scale grass-roots projects in order to raise the standard of living of the general population.

### Opening of Translation and Language Center in Aden

Mr. Taha Ghanim, Governor of Aden, inaugurated on Saturday, March 22nd, the Center for American and English Literature and Translation, which is associated with Aden University. The project is jointly financed by USIS, the British Council and the Yemen Government.

### SEC Establishes Media Center

The Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) has decided to establish a media center which will be used by the stringers and reporters to cover the elections. The center, which will offer various communications facilities, will be located at the Officers' Club in Sanaa.

### Yemenia Operates New Airbus

Yemenia, which has received the first of two Airbus A310-300 planes, has already put it to use. The second plane will be received on March 29th.

Mr. Hassan Sobhi, Chairman of Yemenia, indicated that the arrival of these ultra-modern airplanes will allow to expand its network and to provide better services to its customers.

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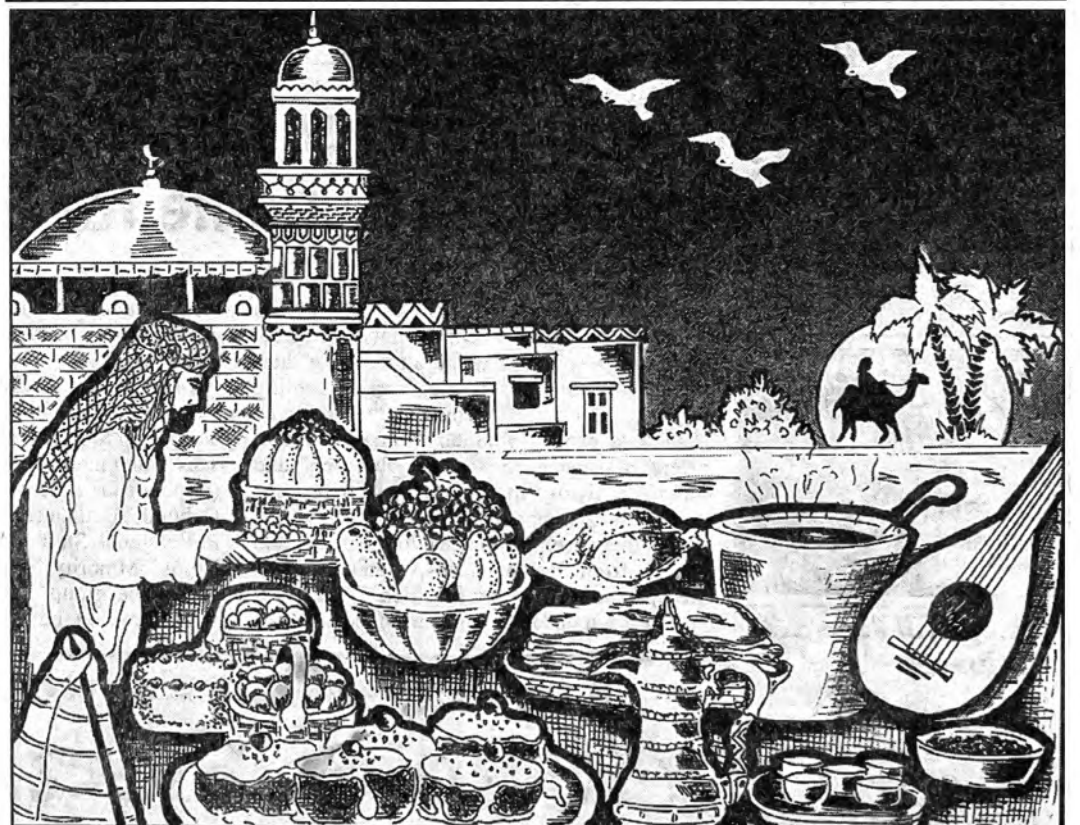
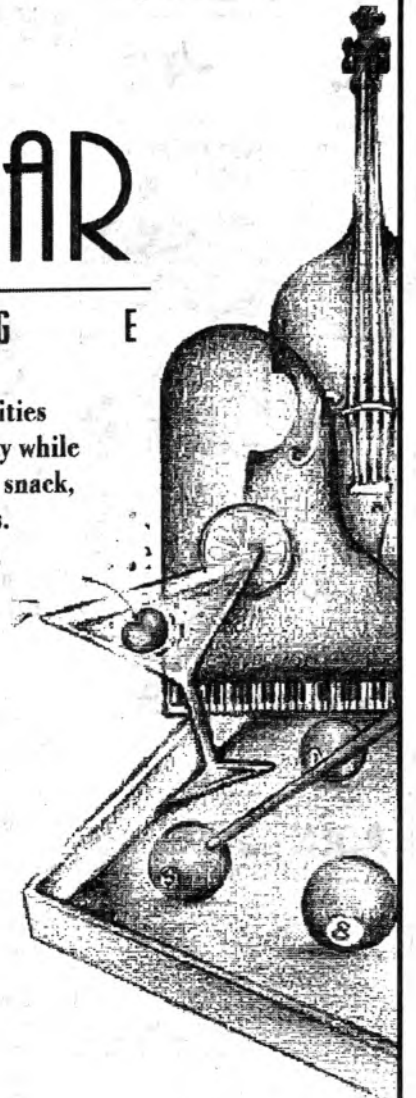
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Moussa Sharaabi:

“At the end, what matters is that we are all humans!”

Judaism in Yemen is as old as the country. The history of the country is interwoven with Judaic history, and the contribution of Yemeni Jews to civilization is very decidedly visible.

For the last three thousand years, there is a Jewish tradition and a Jewish community in Yemen. This is now over.

Israel has managed to bring an end to a 3000 year tradition, presence and interaction. The call to collect all Jews in Israel started a 100 years ago. During the 1940s, most of Yemen's Jews left for Israel under the 'Magic Carpet' project.

The fate of these Jews was not an altogether happy one. But it is home, a new home to them.

Yet, for many of them, there persists a nostalgia for Yemen and a longing to come back. One such case is Muossa Ibrahim Al-Sharaabi, born in Sana'a City in 1940, who is now visiting with his wife (also born in Yemen, Al-Saddah, Ibb Governorate).

Yusuf Al-Sharif of Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Sharaabi and filed the following report.

**Q: You are back in Yemen for the 7th time. Why?**

**A:** Why? This is home to me. I was born in Sanaa. Come, let me show you the house in which I was born. Do you see that window, over there. I fell off that window. I still remember that, and so do many people of my generation.

I feel comfortable among Yemenis. Even in New York, where I live, I associate with Yemenis - whether Arab/Muslim or Jewish.

**Q: You have your family with you.**

**A:** Yes, we both have a sense that we belong here.

We were very comfortable in Yemen. My father used to work in dental fixture. He learned his profession from a German doctor who had come to Yemen. My father was also a merchant. Our house still stands in Ga'a Al-Yahood area in old Sana'a. It is kept in a very good condition. Old people in that area still remember my family. Meeting them was very exciting and nice. I was received so warmly.

**Q: What happened when you arrived in Israel?**

**A:** We left Yemen to Israel in 1949. We were put in a camp. When we arrived at the Israeli camps, the children were taken away and put in nursery homes. They said they wanted to put them in better conditions. We did not suspect anything at the beginning. But children disappeared in the hundreds and thousands. Not many parents realized that this was a premeditated and planned conspiracy to steal our children.

**Q: You are talking about the strange events of the late 1940s and early 1950s?**

**A:** Yes, the children of Yemeni Jews, and to a lesser extent the other Jews were stolen and shipped to the USA where they were sold to parents who adopted them.

They told the fathers and mothers that their children had died. They refused to show the parents their children's bodies, graves or even issue date certificates. They just ignored all basic human matters. We did not know what was behind that scheme.

Healthy children were taken away from their parents. There are many mind boggling testimonies by parents who went through such tragedies. They treated the Jewish Yemeni community with unbelievable cruelty. We were supposed to meet our so-called brothers. Those "brothers" caused these many tragedies. Parents who tried to complain to

the police were ignored completely. They found all doors closed. Not only that, but they were treated brutally. Some parents believed that their children had died, even if they did not get any documents to prove it.

Almost every family at that time lost one, two or sometimes three children.

**Q: But something like this could not be kept a secret. Was there no investigation?**

**A:** We tried hard to get a formal investigation. The complaints reached the Knesset in 1950, but were ignored completely. We still ask ourselves what the motivation was for such cruelty. This can only be explained by the attitude European Jews have towards Middle Eastern Jews. They look down on them. You cannot imagine that a people that suffered from such racism and cruelty could turn around and practice the same on others, on their own kind. They treat us unjustly. They considered us primitive.

**Q: Still, it is unbelievable that something of this magnitude could be covered up?**

**A:** In 1966, we formed a small group of Yemeni young people to try reveal the truth. We thought, in the beginning that we were dealing with tens or at most hundreds of cases. To our surprise, we came to some 4000 cases of missing children right at the beginning of our work. Today, we know that there are about 10,000 such cases.

The issue is being forced on the Israeli community. Israelis have to face the reality of what happened, and come to terms with it.

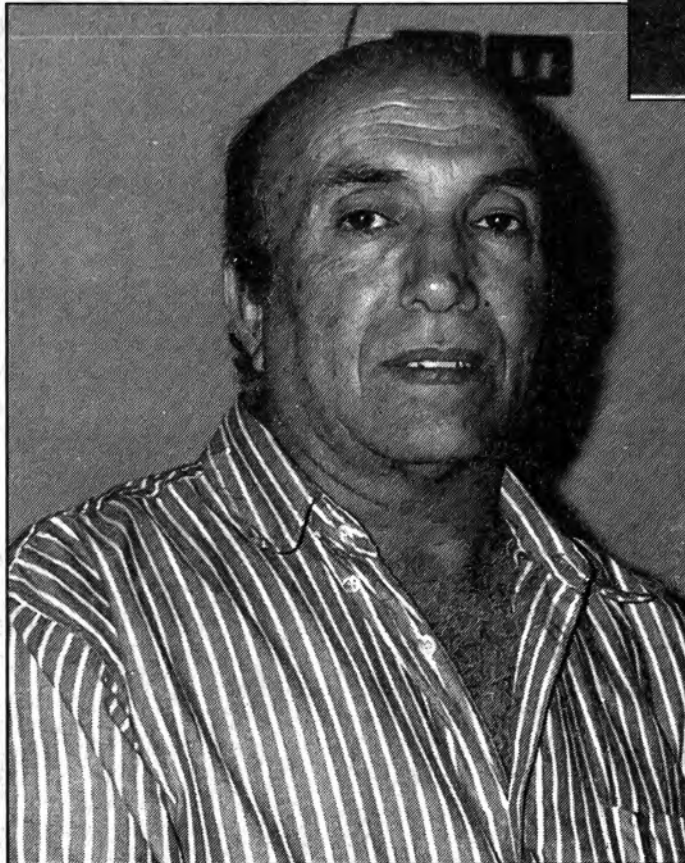
**Q: What kind of market existed for such whole-sale of children?**

**A:** We discovered that most of the children were sold in the USA. They were sold to holocaust survivors who had lost their children. We learned that there was a black market for adoption in the 1950s.

Between \$5,000 and \$10,000 was paid for each child. We now know the name of the person who was in charge of the operation in the USA. His name was Bernard Bergman. He was the head of one of the religious parties in Israel called Mabdal.

This action is against any of God's order. In our Torah the sentence for anyone who steals a child is death.

Would you not say that the fate of Jewish children is more important to investigate than the fate of Jewish gold lost during the



holocaust. Where is the investigative reporting here!

**Q: Don't you find it strange that so many decent religious people would be involved in a project that involved kidnapping and stealing of children with the purpose of their re-sale?**

**A:** I think they believed at the time that they were doing good service to the children and to the childless people. They considered the Yemenis as having too many children. Taking away some of them would not hurt too much. At the same time, the "transferred" child would be given a better education and a better life. At the same time, some parents who had lost their children would find solace in the adopted children. To top it off, they would make some money on the side.

Of course they were doing a terrible mistake. They were sick people.

**Q: Have you lost immediate relatives, yourself?**

**A:** Yes. My mother, however, was clever enough to constantly hide me in the shower whenever those people came.

**Q: What have you and people like you done?**

**A:** In 1985, a new committee was formed because of the unrest among the Yemeni Jewish community. But again there was no break-through.

The real change came with the efforts of a Yemeni rabbi named Zvi Meshona. He used a different tactic. For 20 years, he was smart enough to collect material about this affair. He was well posted in the intelligence service. He got hold of the relevant documents. He decided to devote all his life to this cause. He has thousands of students around him.

This rabbi publicized the whole affair.

The media played a terrible part. Much of the blame falls on them. The media in Israel claim today that they were being censored. But this is not an excuse.



718-934-8641). This is a crime against humanity.

**Q: Do you expect anything from Yemen on this count?**

**A:** There have been good discussions between Yemen and Israel to let Yemeni Jews go to Israel. We believe the only chance for us to get the Israeli government give relief to the parents is by putting international pressure, especially through the press.

The Yemeni government does not have a direct role in this matter, but the press does. By reviving the issue, you can at least force out the truth.

**Q: Yemen, as well as the other Arabs, are slowly opening up with Israel. There is an ongoing peace process, notwithstanding Netanyahu's sabotage efforts. How do you see this?**

**A:** I have an American passport. We love Yemen. Yemeni Jews will be the bridge with Israel. I am very positive about that. Peace is a noble goal to work for. It benefits all sides.

**Q: What is the situation of**

**Yemeni Jews in America?**

**A:** We have a very strong community of about 5000 Yemeni Jews in US. We have our own synagogues. We are hard-working people making a real contribution to the USA.

**Q: You have preserved your Yemeni folklore - the dresses, songs, cuisine, etc.?**

**A:** Yes, indeed, haven't we. In fact, we have preserved this culture and tradition more than Yemen itself has.


In addition, there is now a serious revival and renaissance. We are working on reviving the old ways without obstructing progress.

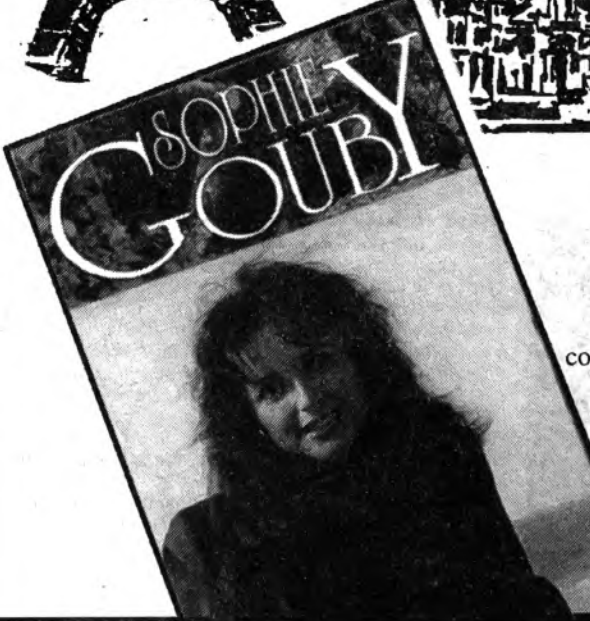
**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** My family and I are happy with this visit. Do you know that the village people in As-Saddah, Ibb Governorate, where my wife was born, treated us so warmly. They remembered my wife's parents and they talked so warmly about their friendship. At the end, the most important aspect of one's life is feelings and the human warmth. It does not matter what your color or religion or your height is. The human factor is most important.

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March 24th, 1997

## Chinese Ambassador Throws Dinner Party for Yemen Times Staff

The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Yu Xing Zhi, threw a dinner party exclusively for the Sanaa staff of Yemen Times, on Monday, March 17th. Some 21 persons from Yemen Times and a number of embassy staff attended.

"I am giving this dinner reception in recognition of the vital role played by the Yemen Times in consolidating Yemeni-Chinese relations and under-

standing," the ambassador said. He also indicated that his embassy is interested in maintaining the close and friendly association with the newspaper and its staff.

The ambassador also briefed the YT journalists on various key aspects of China's internal and external policies, especially the on-going preparations for the return of Hong Kong to the mainland. He pointed out that Hong Kong will have a special

status within China according to arrangements for this purpose.

He stressed the success of China's economic development strategies. "It is clear that China has been able to achieve spectacular economic growth rates, thus enabling it to raise the standard of living of its people, and positively interacting with the rest of the world," he said.

Indeed, China's dual system approach to economic

development has paid impressive dividends while minimizing any social disruptions.

Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Publisher and Chief Editor of the Yemen Times, gave a short "Thank-you" note to the kind gesture of the ambassador and his colleagues. He also promised continued cooperation.

The Yemen Times enjoys a good standing within the diplomatic community and visible cooperation



### صبراً آل محرم

تتقدم مدرسة خوله بنت الأزور ممثلة بإدارتها ومدرساتها وطالباتها  
بأحر التعازي وأطيب المواساة للأستاذة/ أم إيهاب اسماعيل محرم  
بوفاة والدها المغفور له عبدالسلام محرم  
أسكنه الله فسيح جناته وألهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان  
وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون

## Yemen Wins Pollution Case and Collects US\$ 4.75 million in Compensation

Judge Aishah Hael Said, presiding over the Commercial primary Court of Aden, awarded the payment of US\$ 4.75 million in compensation for oil pollution and damages to the Yemeni Government. The verdict was against the owners and insurers of two commercial vessels, the Mendana Spirit and C. Ergli.

On 10/2/1991, a collision of the two vessels, the Mendana flying a Bahama flag, and the Ergli flying a Turkish flag, led to extensive pollution and adamage at the Gulf of Aden.

The Ergli was sunk, its captain drowned, and its cargo of oil spilled in a large area near Ras Al-A'ra Coast, west of Aden.

Abdullah Bahamish and Fadhal Salim represented the Yemeni government, while Sheikh Tariq Abdullah represented the defendants, in the case that has been going on for six years.

Judge (Ms.) Aishah, one of Yemen's few remaining female justices, passed the sentence following lengthy deliberations. The court sessions were carried out in Arabic and English.

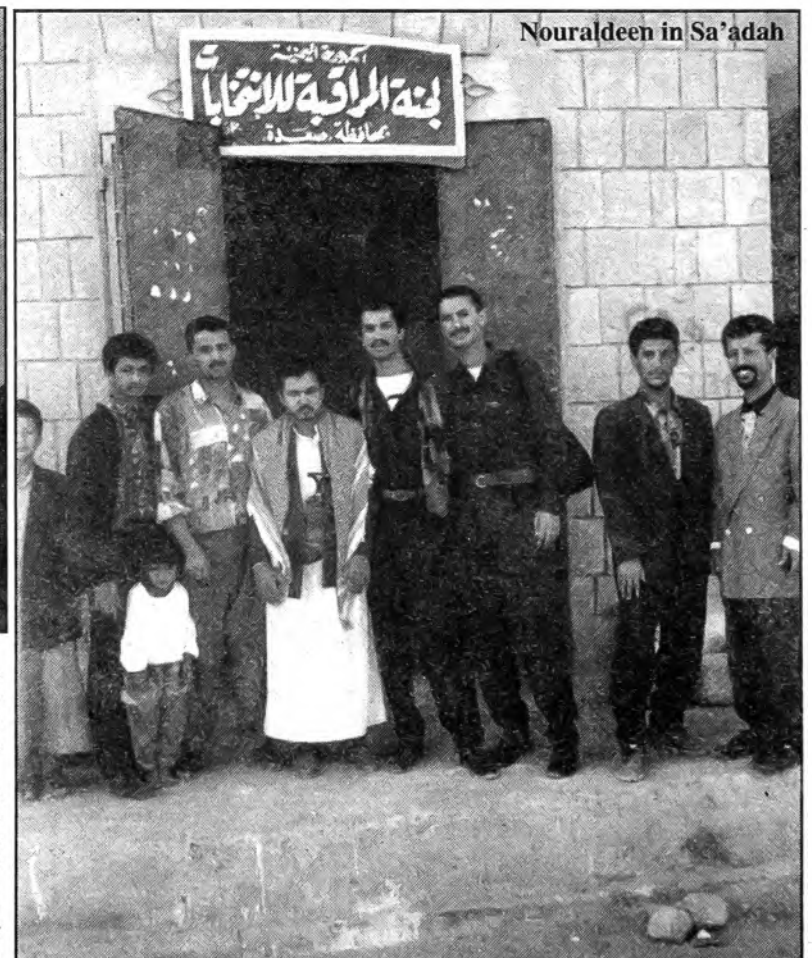
## EMC Raises Number of Election Observers to 7,000

By: M. Bin Sallam,  
Yemen Times.

The Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) has embarked on what is seen as the final descent towards elections. Many of the EMC leaders are travelling around the country to make sure the necessary preparations are in place for the April 27th elections. Last week, Shada Mohammed Nasser, Assistant Secretary-General for Technical Affairs, concluded arrangements for the Aden workshop, EMC's third. "This workshop will bring together about 700 observers working in Aden, Lahej, and Abyan," she stated. The effort will be based on lawyers and intellectuals in the Aden community. "We are targeting the workshop for the first week of April," Shada disclosed.



Maria in Al-Qayidah



Nouraldeen in Sa'adah

At another level, preparations for the second workshop to be held in Taiz. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Secretary-General, paid a quick visit to the Taiz branch to oversee on-going preparations for the Taiz workshop scheduled to start on March 26th.

Mr. Nouraldeen Al-Azazi, Rapporteur, visited the Sa'adah branch to finalize the list of volunteers to monitor in the constituencies in the northers areas. "These are relatively backward regions. But since these constituencies are close to the Saudi border, we are interested in bringing them in line with the rest of the country," he said.

Maria Machiaverna, working for the European Union (EU), paid field visits to the EMC branches in Dhamar, Yarim, Ibb, Al-Qayidah and Taiz. In these branches, she spoke to many of the coordinators and volunteers and observed the preparations. "I could see the enthusiasm and interest in their eyes," she later said. Speaking about the female volunteers, she added, "I felt

they were quite aware of the importance of the elections. They want to be full partners in the events."

The EU is providing financial support to the EMC as well as to the ADI and the Supreme Elections Committee.

The EMC has decided to expand the number of volunteers who will monitor the elections on its behalf. The total number of volunteers now stands at almost 7,000 persons, a third of whom are female.

"Although this means additional financial commitments, we believe that it is important to cover as much ground as possible," said Ms. Salwa Ahmed Dammaj, Assistant Secretary-General for Financial and Administrative Affairs.

Meanwhile, Mr. Abdullah Basunbul, Coordinator for Hadhramaut, is finalizing arrangements for the training of the volunteers in that governorate.

Finally, the Teachers' Union has proposed to link up with the EMC in order to bolster its monitoring effort. Abdullah Qassim, who represents the syndicate in the EMC board disclosed that several of their leading members will be involved in the EMC monitoring efforts. Arrangements are already underway.

Other unions and groups have also approached the EMC General Secretariat proposing cooperation with it. "They are offering to provide volunteers from among their rank and file," the Yemen Times learned.

Meanwhile, the EMC is working with Faris Al-Sanabani and Jamal Al-Adimi - both of ADI - to print a booklet or kit, of which every observer will get a copy.

The first part of this booklet will include lots of tips and advice in the form of 'Questions & Answers' which will serve as reminders to the observers. These are quick reminders as to what to do in different situations.

The second part is a collection of forms the observers will need to fill up in their documentation. These perforated forms are handy tools for easy reporting.

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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## To Boycott, Or Not To Boycott? That is NOT the Question

When a country embarks on a political system based on democracy and political pluralism, expectations are that the population of that country will begin to take an active part in the political life of the country. Furthermore, the government is expected to respond to the needs and aspirations of the citizens.

Unfortunately, this does not happen automatically. To wait for this to happen by itself is a misconception. It does not do the public any good to push these misconceptions to unrealistic limits.

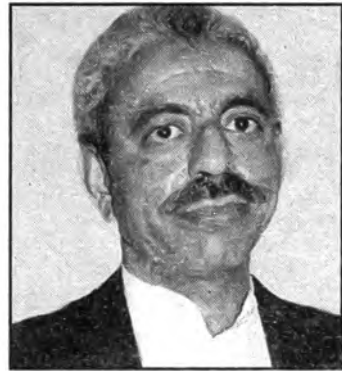
It must be borne in mind that present-day democracies did not become that way overnight. For many of them, democracy developed over several centuries. Many generations had to come and go and to contribute their fair share of input to complete the democratization achieved to date. In this human development that spanned through generations of mankind, some democracies developed peacefully while others required a few jolts of violence and civil disturbances. The road to human progress was never considered to be an easy road to travel.

The struggle for human rights and democratic government should not be viewed in terms of decrees issued or legislation enacted. Democracy is a socio-cultural development in which

the mind-set of the public at large has become entrenched in certain political practices that have become an established way of life that cannot be overturned or abandoned. To many, democracy is the essence of religion itself! Thus, one would view any step forward in the democratic process, no matter how small this step is, as a gain that should not be effected by any narrow political considerations.

Voting is a public right. All citizens have a right to practice and hold it dearly. One would assume the impression that no person or entity should ever call citizens to boycott elections, no matter what justification is given, unless the result to be realized by the boycott is an increase in democratic freedom or enhancement of human rights, by which all citizens stand to gain and not just one entity or group.

The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) has had a tumultuous history. Almost immediately after the far left elements in the fight for independence from British control of the southern parts of Yemen got the upper hand, they adopted a demagogic platform of Marxism-Leninism. Never mind that such a platform was historically, culturally and socially out of league, out of context, and out of place with the general attitudes and inclinations of the people in the country and the region as a



whole. One might recall at the time (the late 60s), that even the most radical of governments in the area that sided with the Eastern Bloc in the Cold War, would never entertain the thought of adopting a national ideology based on scientific socialism. This was regarded by most of the population as adherence to an atheistic dogma, which seemed a little far fetched for most of the populations of the area.

When the situation pertains to Yemen, the understanding of Yemen's cultural and social set up would surely cause one to wonder how such a platform seemed appropriate for the YSP to adopt and propagate. It seemed obvious that the YSP was to become beset with difficulties and, eventually, collapse.

To add insult to injury, the YSP took on the role of everybody's antagonist. The YSP was, unbelievably, at odds with everyone and everything that was a part of the local social and cultural fabric which had taken centuries to mold. The YSP did not see Yemen's long traditional track record and the heritage of many generations of artists, men of letters and thought and a very deep association with the religion of Islam. Somehow all that heritage did not cross the mind of the YSP decision-makers.

Even after so many years since the failure of their platform of demagogic socialism, the party took to bloodshed to resolve the differences of opinion within its ranks, and continued to close its eyes to its own isolation from the people it tried to forcefully assert itself over.

When the YSP realized that its Soviet guardians were folding over, the YSP again took a sharp radical turn, politically and ideologically. It was not difficult to wonder whether the transformation of the party's ideologies were due to political necessity or a real reform in their mind set.

Even before the unification with the northern part of the country (formerly, the Yemen Arab Republic), the YSP leadership had set out to create a seemingly positive political environment with quickly enacted legislation that indicated that the Southern Yemeni leadership was engaged in its own perestroika. Many interesting policies and programs were declared that sharply contrasted with the former extreme left rhetoric that the YSP had been blaring out for twenty years prior to that.

It was never really clear whether this was the result of political maturity or just an accommodation with the New World Order. Nevertheless the new face of the Southern Yemeni leadership was not at all pleasing to the other regimes in the Peninsula. It was not long before the YSP leadership was put to the ultimatum: unification or the possibility of being challenged, with no hope of backing from anywhere.

Whatever the case, the YSP was put in front of two options: to face collapse, or accept the North Yemeni call for the re-unification of the country. The second option seemed to be the more inviting of the two, especially when coupled with full rehabilitation.

Thus, when the two former sovereign Yemens merged to form the Republic of Yemen. The YSP now clung to its newly found political image and insisted that the new face that was being envisaged for the Southern Part should become appropriate for all of Yemen. Thus, the unification agreement included such new political inputs as democracy, political pluralism and the peaceful transfer of authority, all of which seemed inconsistent with the realities that existed in both totalitarian regimes of Sanaa and Aden.

The possibility that the YSP could have been successful in carrying out its reforms of the south, had unification not been achieved was not a remote one. After all, the YSP leadership was manned with a sizable group of intellectuals who had influence in the policies and directions and were fairly alert as to the connotations of the reforms they had embarked upon. But the different makeup of the leadership in the North was underestimated by the YSP and may have been the party's biggest blunder in political calculations. Thus the power struggle that came soon after unification was one in which the YSP was obviously the lesser prepared party to engage in.

Moreover, the YSP overestimated the appeal that their newly found platform was to have on the general population, although their populist platform did have substantial backing from many independents and other newly established political parties or those that came out from the underground. The newly emerging political forces saw in the YSP a favorable balancing factor in extracting political concessions. Yet with all the power that the YSP possessed, it could not use it in keeping the People's General Congress and the more anxious Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) on the defensive.

It did get some achievement such as the Document of Pledge and Accord which was a milestone in the political evolution of Yemen. Perhaps the YSP leadership refused to accept the fact that, for all intents and purposes, the YSP, alone, had no chance anymore of behaving as a force with sovereign dimensions. Many would argue that the YSP leadership should have come back into the mainstream of political life, right after the signing of the Document for Pledge and Accord in February of 1994, rather than take the detour towards a secession attempt. Others might even suggest that the YSP leadership was railroaded into armed confrontation, even by those in the region who presumably backed the detour which the YSP had taken.

Thus the YSP turned a victory - the Document for Pledge and Accord - into a military disaster for the party. That blunder did not subtract much from the other forces in the country that saw in the Document a chance to keep aspirations high. They saw Yemen still had hopes in a real democratic future and a chance to offer a model for all the region to try to imitate. Whatever the case, chances are that the YSP would have been in a much better position today had its former leadership not opted for the attempted secession.

Now, we come to the issue of the upcoming elections. Again, the YSP's rather hesitant decision as to the course it will follow in the upcoming parliamentary elections still meant that the party relies on its own political arithmetic. The belated decision to boycott the elections, regretfully for the YSP, was seen by many as a reaction to not being able to bargain successfully for retaining some of its former assets, and to

make some political headway with the present ruling coalition. In fact, the YSP had failed to convince many, even among the opposition, that its decision to boycott the election was prompted by strong nationalistic and democratic ideals.

On the other hand, the party's continued insistence that it speaks on behalf of the southern governorates, weakens whatever grass roots backing it may still have had in the northern governorates. Furthermore, the YSP's claim to democratic principles has become questionable in the wake of the decision to forego participation in one of the last symbolic remnants of the democracy which the YSP had actually introduced into the political life in the country, seven years ago.

No one has any doubts that the upcoming parliamentary elections are not going to be accompanied by questionable practices by the ruling coalition parties. But for the YSP to boycott them for this reason, is to speak with a forked tongue, since the YSP was guilty of many of the same practices, when it had muscle in the 1993 parliamentary elections. In fact, in the 1993 elections, the YSP bullied some independent candidates in such a bad way that it lost any credibility of meaning what it was saying.

The point to be made here is that the YSP is trying to re-establish itself in the political arena, but has failed to realize that its position as a defeated party in the previous elections and in the attempted secession, should not make the road to political assent easy for the party. Other opposition parties will not hesitate to take advantage of this position to further their own political standing.

Thus the YSP has failed to even show any effective leadership in the opposition camp, since it refused to back up strongly some of the calls for guarantees to make sure that the upcoming elections are kept as honest and as clean as possible, which some of the smaller opposition parties had called for. The more appropriate move for the YSP was to try to take the challenge of trying to get as many seats in parliament as possible, to prove that it still has strong popular grounds, despite the loss of most of its assets and instruments of power.

By active political campaigning and with the support of the other opposition forces, the YSP should have stuck to adopting a populist platform and used its available human and material resources to defend the proper use of voting to enhance proper democratic practice and to push for the guarantees that will help get people elected on the basis of their competence rather than on their political muscle.

This can only be done if the YSP participates in the elections and thus be able to prove to the public and the world that the ruling coalition did, in fact, compromise with the people's right to free and honest elections.

The YSP should not have difficulty finding the proof, since after all, they were once using the same practices. Instead of boycotting the elections altogether, the YSP and the opposition forces should suggest to the voters to submit blank cards, if none of the candidates in their areas show any promise of helping the country move closer to being a real democracy.

The idea behind this is that we have to get people to get accustomed to the idea of voting first, while at the same time make them understand the power that can be generated by the proper use of these votes. I cannot see how the YSP boycott should present it as a champion of real democratic practice in Yemen.

### ألف مبروك

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فؤاد علي عبدالله جميل  
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولودا جديدا اسما

عزالدين

المهزون

منصور حافظ الأهدل، الصف السادس موسكي  
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### تهنئة

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يحيى البابلي

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# MARKETING: Young Hayel Saeeds Take on the Job

No business family has done as much as the Hayel Saeeds in educating and training the newer generations. Most of these young men and women are trained in the best of schools, notably in the USA (California). The young whiz kids are now masters in the various sciences such as management, marketing, new technologies, and other skills needed to keep their companies on top. Last week, Yemen Times met with two of the rising stars of this family - both charged with marketing of the products of the Hayel Saeed Group of companies.

Walid Ali Mohammed Saeed is the general manager of Al-Saeed Trading Company. "The job of this company is to find new markets and to develop existing ones." Al-Saeed already has representation offices in Addis Ababa, Dubai and Amman. It plans to start similar offices in Kenya/Tanzania and Southeast

Asia. Products of Hayel Saeed Group of Companies are shipped to such diverse destinations as New Zealand, Britain, USA, the Bahamas, Canary Islands, East and West Africa, the Gulf countries, Lebanon, Jordan, Sudan, Kenya, Malaysia, Russia, etc. Walid used this reality to stress the quality of these products. "The fact that our products are accepted in these markets is proof that these are high quality products, and that the packaging is of international standard," he indicated.

Walid disclosed that private industry and the government are joining hands to establish an export promotion association. "We already have the blueprint for the organization. The Deputy Minister for Industry, Mr. Mohammed Al-Haimi, is now studying this project, along with senior government officials," he stated.

In a few weeks, the idea could be



fully developed and the association formed. The objective of this association is to foster and promote Yemeni exports. "This means it will be involved in various dimensions of exports, such as regulations, procedures, laws, taxes, and in mediating between exporters and other parties. The vision is for a joint government-private body that will be able to mobilize the potential of both sides," Walid added.

Another young star in the group is Muneer Ahmed Hayel Saeed, Deputy Executive Director for the Commercial/Services Section of the Group. That means that he is involved in the internal marketing of the products of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies.

The products of this group suffered visibly in 1996 when the government's economic reform policies removed barriers to imports. "As a result, the market

was flooded with products from Saudi Arabia, Gulf Countries and other regional exporters. Our marketing suffered for a short while. But now, we are back in track, and you can see that we have regained our place in the market," said Muneer.

He is also optimistic about the size of demand. "More economic well-being will lead to higher income and a stronger purchasing power."

Muneer is also in charge of imports of products for which the commercial/services section hold representation or agencies. "One thing I want to stress is that competition is good for everybody. But sometimes, smuggling and import of poor quality products hurt both the state (given loss of revenue) and the customer (given low quality products). That is why the state has to play a certain regulating role, without interfering in the workings of the market," he concluded.

## Al-Shareef Company: Poised for a New Jump

Al-Shareef Trading and Contracting Co. Ltd. is one of the largest companies which render general services for petroleum companies.

Since the strike of the first oil field, Mohammed Al-Shareef the General Manager, thought about the needs of this growing sector and started in a small way. But this start was very hard, and soon enough, plenty of new service companies were established. "Our company was spurred on to new methods of services based on quality of work, punctuality and safety of personnel and properties," explains Mr. Al-Shareef.

This way, the company quickly won the confidence of the market and grew to become one of the most respected service companies in the country. "Our fleet of desert and highway trucks are running everywhere, moving goods and rigs, carrying heavy support equipment, constructing roads and bridges, rushing in parts, setting up camps, offering restoration and maintenance, and rendering all kinds of services in Shabwah and Hadhramaut, etc.," he added.

In January 97, the company started new services such as pro-

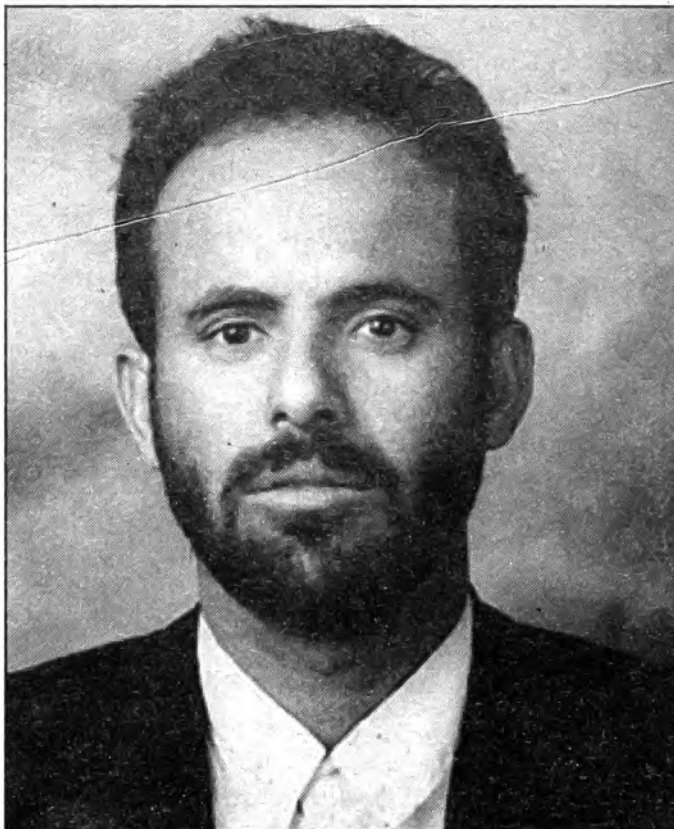
curement, purchasing and crating (fuel, oil/spare parts medical supplies). Experienced staff and engineers respond 24 hours a day to any emergency.

"We are proud to achieve 3300 man hours without loss of time or recordable injury in 1996," Mr. Al-Shareef said.

**Investment:**  
"In my opinion, investments are the shortest way to build a strong economic base. There are some basics if implemented, the investment climate will improve," he indicated. These include:

- 1) Government should maintain ownership equity to give comfort and confidence to foreign and local capitalists.
- 2) Government should outline investment plans along with responsible authorities and deadlines.
- 3) Government should facilitate and clarify customs duty requirements, and should provide incentives.

What future plans does the Al-Shareef Trading and Construction Company have? The answer includes a long list, but mainly the following:



- To re-organize the company in order to enhance efficiency, modernize and upgrade activities.
- To establish new branches and departments, in accordance with growth of business.
- To look forward to activate relations, especially foreign trade

with partners who work in related fields.

With all those improvements, Al-Shareef Company is poised to make a new jump.

**By: Yassin Al-Hag,  
Yemen Times.**

## Have You Dumped a 'Ford' Car Lately?

It is amazing what improper maintenance, inadequate spare parts, and unprofessional service can do to a good product. Ford cars are one of the top trade-marks in the vehicle industry, worldwide. The name is an important part of the confidence of customers.

But here in Yemen, user after another have been dumping these cars because of the agent - NATCO. The list of complaining customers is now hitting the roof. At the end, they have no choice but to give-up the car.

Let us shed light on the problem using the most recurrent complaints of the customers.

### 1. Cheating on Spare Parts:

You deliver your car to the workshop of the agent on the assumption that they will change a spare part. You pay for it, and you drive away not with a new spare, but with an old one.

The management of the agency discovered this internal cheating system and sacked several of its employees in spare parts and repair engineers. Still the problem persists, because it does not pay them adequately.

### 2. Wrong Repairs:

Many times, a customer brings in a car for specific repairs, he/she is confronted with a list of additional repairs that were presumably done. The costs are astronomical.

More often than not, the repairs that are done, are re-done, and re-done within short time intervals. Again at the customer's cost.

### 3. No Spare Parts:

At times, the workshop would tell customers that the required spare parts are not readily available. They promise to have them flown in from wherever. This means the car under repair remains at the workshop for weeks.

During the first quarter of this year (January, February and March), for example, many cars stayed at the workshop for weeks, until spare parts are flown in.

### 4. Improper Service:

At times, the car would be rolled out of the repair workshop, only to be taken back one or two days later, mostly for the same thing. Many customers had this experience, which they reported to the Yemen Times.

We have used a few examples to illustrate the negligence on the part of what is presumably an important company representing an excellent product. Yemen Times can, and will, give detailed and specific examples, if the company asks for them.

## LOOK US UP!

For all those interested to learn more about Yemen's civilization, tourist destination, current issues, political affairs and all news on politics and elections in Yemen, you have a useful source on the internet.

Click in at:  
[www.GPC.Org/index.htm](http://www.GPC.Org/index.htm)

## VACANCY

The "Environmental Resource Assessment for Rural Land Use Planning" project, funded by the Government of the Netherlands and executed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, has a vacancy at its project site in Dhamar for one (male or female)

### SOIL SURVEYOR

The incumbent will be required to undertake soil survey and land evaluation work in the highland rainfed areas of Yemen, producing maps with accompanying memoirs, and investigate, advise and report on aspects of fertility status, land resource management and land degradation.

#### Qualifications:

- Academic degree in soil science, physical geography or a closely related subject
- At least three years experience in mapping and characterizing of land resources, preferably in Yemen or a similar semi-arid environment
- Fluent in spoken and written Arabic and English, and capable of writing reports in English
- Demonstrable experience in land resource management would be a distinct advantage

The successful candidates, who must be a Yemeni national, and who will be required to live in Dhamar, will initially be appointed for one year, with a possible extension for one more year. The salary will be commensurate with qualification and experience.

Interested candidates are requested to send applications with a detailed curriculum vitae before 17 April 1997 to:

**Chief Technical Adviser, GCP/YEM/021/NET**  
c/o FAO Representative  
P. O. Box 1867, Sana'a

Only the application of candidates who strictly meet the above requirements will be acknowledged.

# Tropical Diseases Responsible for Millions of Disabilities CAN BE ELIMINATED

Four tropical diseases - leprosy, river blindness, chagas disease and lymphatic filariasis - can be eliminated as public health problems within ten years, says a new report by the special program for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). "We now have an historic opportunity - a window that may not return - to eliminate these diseases," says Dr. Tore Godal, director of TDR. "With some additional investment, elimination is within our grasp."

Some 1.6 billion people are currently at risk from leprosy which causes gross deformities of the face and limbs; approximately 1.1 billion are at risk from lymphatic filariasis which causes elephantiasis, genital and internal organ damage; 100 million are at risk from chagas disease which strikes mainly children and young adults causing sudden death due to heart failure some twenty years after infection; and 120 million are at risk from river blindness which leads to blindness and serious infections.

One or more of these diseases are endemic in many developing countries, some of which are undergoing economic and social changes while others are involved in conflicts and civil wars.

Innovative research has led to the development of some extraordinary effective tools and to the commitment to make use of these tools. According to TDR, which is funded by the United Nations Development, the World Bank and the World Health Organization, the main reasons these diseases can now be controlled and eventually eliminated are:

#### Research:-

##### 1- New Drugs:

Over the past twenty years, a

small research effort by the world's scientific, medical and pharmaceutical communities has resulted in low-cost and easily administered treatments including ivermectin for river blindness and multi-drug therapies to treat leprosy and lymphatic filariasis.

##### 2- Vector Control:

New tools to combat insects carrying the diseases have been developed and used. They include insect-killing bacteria, insecticide-containing paints, and simple fumigant canisters.

##### 3- Disease Mapping:

Low-cost mapping methods were developed and mapping programs are now able to chart precisely where a disease is focused.

##### Support for Control:

###### 1- Distribution.

International organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national and local governments have created and maintained efficient distribution systems. In some cases, research has shown that communities themselves are the best agents to distribute drugs.

###### 5- Government Support:

Governments all over the world have been allocating higher levels of their budgets for combating these diseases. As an example, the Ministries of Health of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay have disbursed over USD 200 million since 1991 to accomplish the elimination of chagas disease in their territories.

###### 6- Donations:

Merck, the U.S.-based pharmaceutical company which developed and makes ivermectin, the drug which controls river blindness has donated it for as long as

needed for treatment of this disease. The Nippon Foundation has pledged to meet substantial needs in leprosy drugs until the year 2000.

The type of commitment to the three most advanced control programs has been different. Leprosy control has been supported particularly by NGOs; onchocerciasis control by industry (MERCK) and multi-lateral aid, with the World Bank playing a predominant role; and chagas disease control mostly by national governments.

##### River Blindness:-

There are approximately 18 million cases of river blindness in 34 countries, mostly in Africa but also in Latin America and the Arabian Peninsula. The disease has blinded 326,000 people, reducing their life expectancy by more than a decade. A less virulent form of the disease causes severe skin problems.

The disease is caused by the onchocerca parasite which is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected blackflies. Adult worms develop in nodules just below the skin from where they release large numbers of larvae (microfilariae) into the surrounding. In the past, the worst onchocerciasis problem existed in West Africa, but the Onchocerciasis Control Program in West Africa (OCP) proved extremely successful.

Transmission of the disease has now been virtually eliminated in all 11 countries of the Program, protecting 30 million of the 90 million people at risk on the continent. Originally, OCP relied on vector control by aerial spraying of larvicides, a rather expensive control strategy.

Today, the NGOs and local gov-

ernments distribute ivermectin free of charge. The drug is effective against the microfilariae which are responsible for producing the harmful symptoms. However, the adult parasite are not affected by ivermectin and live on the body so it is necessary to take ivermectin annually until the adult worms die.

"River blindness could be eradicated, given a safe new drug against the adult worms," says Dr. Godal. "Until such a drug reaches the market, the strategy is to find the people who need ivermectin and treat them every year for at least 10 years," says Dr. Hans Remme, a WHO expert on river blindness. "That will prevent them from going blind and getting skin lesions and this will eliminate the disease as a public health problem. Scientists do not yet know long treatment programs need to continue before the adult die out."

To eliminate river blindness beyond the 11 countries of West Africa, in 1994 TDR helped to establish the African Program for Onchocerciasis Control (APOC). This program is based on community directed treatment. It depends on communities rather than trained mobile teams to distribute ivermectin.

After training, community representatives travel to a central place in each district to pick up medicine and then return to their communities to organize distribution. "The more responsibility is given to communities, the better the treatment coverage, a multi-country study has shown," says Dr. Remme. "The new program is cheap because we work with NGOs and local health services."

TDR's task force has worked for three years to prepare the ground developing treatment methods, mapping highly infected areas and reassessing the skin disease burden. "Our task force has completely changed most perceptions of where the hot spots of this disease are" says, Dr. Remme. "The next step is to obtain more information on the long term effect of the drug. It can prevent blindness but its effect on skin disease and itching is not sufficiently known."

The APOC Program will gradually accelerate until it reaches its peak in the year 2000.

The prime need now is to raise funds, the next six years are already funded but further funding will be needed.

##### Leprosy:-

About 560,000 new cases of leprosy are reported annually according to WHO, in 60 leprosy-endemic countries of Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. There were an estimated 1.26 million cases in the world in 1996.

The clinical course of leprosy varies from asymptomatic infections to severe disfiguring disease. Skin lesions range from light-coloured patches to multiple nodules with extensive atrophy resulting in deformities especially of the feet and hands.

Leprosy has only recently become controllable. Dapsone which acts mainly by stopping the bacteria from multiplying rather directly killing them, has been available since the 1940s. Often life long treatment is necessary with this drug and dapsone resistant strains of leprosy have become widespread.

In 1981, WHO made the daring decision to develop and support a simple three-drug regimen of therapy - a combination of dapsone and two other highly

potent anti-leprosy drugs, rifampicin and clofazimine. This treatment - multi-drug therapy (MDT) - is able to cure all patients even those with dapsone resistant leprosy bacilli.

By the end of 1996, the global number of registered leprosy patients was 940,000 a five-fold decrease since 1985; and 91% of these cases are taking multidrug therapy.

To ensure the elimination of leprosy as a public health disease by the year 2000, WHO set up the Action Program for Elimination of leprosy in 1994. "The greatest challenges for elimination will come from India and Brazil and countries where civil strife and wars prevent us from reaching the affected populations," says Dr. Shaik K. Noordeen, director of leprosy program, with funds from Nippon Foundation, the estimated cost between 1996 and the year 2000 to eliminate leprosy is 370 USD million for all organizations involved. WHO needs to raise 60 USD million over the next four years as its share.

##### Chagas disease - South American Trypanosomiasis

Chagas disease is endemic in 21 countries of Latin America. Some 16-18 million people are infected and about 45,000 people die from the disease each year. It is transmitted to humans via bloodsucking "kissing" or triatomine, bug.

These carrier insects are similar to large bedbugs. They live in the cracks and crevices of poor-quality houses in rural areas of Latin America. At night the insects leave their cracks to feed on the blood of sleeping victims. The parasites can also be transmitted by blood transfusion and from mother to foetus.

The acute stage is sometimes fatal. It develops within 2-3 weeks of infection and may last up to 2 months.

Symptoms at this stage consist of fever, lymph node swelling, enlargement of liver and spleen,

rash and acute myocarditis.

In the chronic stage which can last for years, the parasites invade most organs of the body and damage the heart and intestine.

##### Lymphatic Filariasis

Some 20 million people in 73 countries of the tropics are infected with lymphatic. The disease is transmitted by the bite of mosquitos infected with larvae of the worm. In the human, the larvae develop into adults in the bloodstream and lymphatic vessels. In 44 million people, the chronic stages of the disease mean blockage of the lymphatic system.

During the past decade, dramatic advances in research have led to new diagnostic, monitoring and treatment tools as well as a new control strategy.

This control is based on mass treatment of communities using chemotherapy with one drug or a combination of two drugs. One annual dose of two drugs (ivermectin plus DEC or albendazole) reduces the number of microfilaria in the blood by 99% for a whole year.

"We have learned that the disease can be controlled with just a single yearly treatment with these drugs," says Dr. Eric Ottesen of WHO's Control of Tropical Diseases Program. "In addition, in elephantiasis, an extremely simple regimen of washing with soap and water and applying antibiotics has been shown to produce dramatic results."

Costs per person treated have been estimated at about five cents (US\$ 0.05); which includes the costs of health education, distribution and diagnosis, as well as treatment. "What we need is to build up a strong support system for the elimination of filariasis," says Dr. Kazem Behbehani, Director, CTD.

In most cases, health education can go a long way to help control these infections.

## YEMEN TIMES

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Qualifications:

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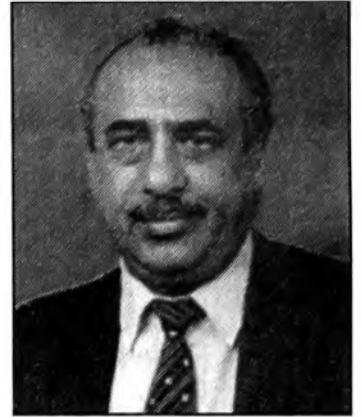
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Abdul-Rahman Mahyoob:

# “Yemen is putting the pieces together for a tourism launch.”



The 15th Regional Convention for the Middle East Committee of the International Tourism Organization was held in Sana'a during 18-20 March. The participants at the conference stressed the importance of incorporating tourism development within the general development policies of each country.

Ismail Al-Ghabiry and Ahlam Al-Mutawakil of Yemen Times filed this report.

The conferees discussed several major issues related to tourism development in the region. They discussed WTO's action plan for 96-97 which includes a number of activities concerning technical cooperation among member states.

The action plan for 97-98, which was also addressed by the conference, has six major parts:

1- Work programs for developing efficient national administrations in the fields of training people and planning environmental and recreational activities.

2- Training programs to create a well-qualified and competent work force.

3- Planning and funding schemes for protecting the environment in order to achieve sustainable tourism.

4- Providing information and technical support for the tourism industry to enhance its economic benefits.

5- The best ways to help member states to develop their tourism sectors and implement the relevant policies.

6- Means of communications and how to raise public awareness of the importance of tourism its economic, social, cultural and environmental effects.

The next conference is to be held in Turkey during 17-24 October, 1997.

opment (USAID).

**Q: Could you tell us a little bit about your work?**

**A:** We are looking at the problems of tourism as related to the natural environment, ad how to protect the environment that draws tourists to come to Egypt.

**Q: What is your main impression of this conference?**

**A:** The conference addressed the heart of the problem, such as creating the kinds of people that are needed to staff the hotels, tourism companies, provide guides and also provide the broader programs throughout the community; while maintaining the natural and cultural resources that bring people to Yemen.

**Q: Did present any papers at this gathering?**

**A:** No, I am here as a guest. I am listening and trying to understand what Yemen is doing and what are its plans for the future.

**Q: What do you think about the future of tourism in Yemen?**

**A:** I think that, just from the limited experience and time that I have had here, enormous natural and cultural resources that can attract tourists exist in Yemen. If they are properly managed, Yemen's future for tourism is very good.

**Q: Have you visited Yemen before?**

**A:** This is my first time here, but I always read about Yemen I wanted to come to see the architectural buildings and the countryside and the people. So I am very happy to have this opportunity.

**Q: What is your opinion about Yemen democracy in view of**

**Q: Do you think that more cooperation and coordination are needed to put plans into action?**

**A:** I think that the challenge for the Environment Ministry working with the Tourism

**Q: What kind of interesting aspects that you see in Yemeni people?**

**A:** I think just the general very pleasant and cooperative spirit of the people is what I noticed first of all.

tribute. There must also be cooperation between the public and private sector. Entrepreneurs and private tour operators have to be incorporated within the general tourism policies, especially in the promotional part.



Ministry is to come up with clear strategies that protect the resources that exist, both the natural and cultural. Also they must improve things like solid-base management, the appearance of the cities as you drive from one point another. These things are not only for the benefit of tourists, but for the people here. They will provide better quality of life all around. These are the kind of things that tourists who come from Europe and other destinations notice immediately when they come. So it will be very important to develop this integrated programs that are more than just building hotels, but in fact creating communities.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** I think the opportunities here are enormous. They have to be properly managed. They need a strategy and a vision for the future. If that is done, and if the environment and tourism sectors within the public and private sectors come together, with a common vision; then the potential for Yemen's tourism future are very good. Both the public and private sectors need to work together. Some things are better done by the private sector, while other things are better by the public sector.

**Interview with Mr. Francesco Frangialli, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization**

**Q: What are your impressions from your visit to Yemen?**

**A:** This is my first visit to Yemen and I have not yet seen much of it. I visited Sana'a, especially the ancient part. I went around to visit some beautiful villages and I have a very good impression. Yemen is in a position, in the future, to offer very genuine and authentic tourism product. Not so many countries are in such a situation. I think it is really exceptional. It is clear that there are a lot of obstacles to overcome such as the general economy, the infrastructure, training and many other things. But you have an exceptional potential.

**Q: What do you think is the main aspect for promoting tourism in Yemen?**

**A:** Tourism is a very complicated and sophisticated activity. It implies that many components are involved and that everything is working well. If there is any difficulty or an obstacle in the tourism chain, there is a big problem. If the airport, for instance is functioning well, but you cannot find a taxi to go to your hotel, there is a problem. So the important thing to remember is that all the partners have to work in the same direction and to cooperate together. This is true for all the government. Tourism policy is not only dependent on the ministry in charge, but all the other ministries will have to con-

**Q: What are the foundations for tourism in Yemen and what are the obstacles?**

**A:** Many visitors are interested in cultural and environmental products. This is the core of what you have to offer. Some good developments are also possible in beach tourism. I visited Kenya, Seychelles, Maldives, Oman where they have developed good beach tourism. These areas, including Yemen, are closer to Europe than East Asia for example. I am sure that the combination of cultural heritage and environmental potential and the potential for beach tourism are very great. Of course, many obstacles exist such access, infrastructure, training, etc. But these can be solved.

**Q: What kind of assistance can your organization provide to Yemeni tourism in general?**

**A:** WTO has started assisting Yemen with the support of the UNDP. Yemen is an associated member. For example, this seminar is for exchanging experiences, education and training programs. We will also present other things such as quality, marketing, statistics, etc. The WTO is an executive agency of the UNDP. It will receive the support of the UNDP for, first of all, a training institute in Aden. In the near future, there will be a small project concerning the development of eco-tourism which is going to be funded by the UNDP.

**Q: What are the most interesting side in Yemen for tourism?**

**A:** You have a unique image in terms of maintaining some tradition. The result of long political isolation had bad aspects, but also helped in preserving tradition. If you can keep this tradition, then you have good card to play.

**Q: What do you think about the future of tourism in Yemen?**

**A:** What was interesting about this meeting is that there was not only cooperation inside the country, but it shows a wish for opening up to other countries of the region. There are here representatives from most Middle

countries, some of which are very capable with tourism such as Egypt.

**Q: What do you think about the recommendations of this seminar?**

**A:** The recommendations are not only for Yemen. They are directed to all countries in the Middle East. The meeting is attended by many specialists in the field of tourism from the USA and Europe. so I think this combination is good and I hope that it will be an operational one.

**Q: How do evaluate the cooperation between WTO and other tourism organizations in the Arab World?**

**A:** WTO as entitled by the UN General Assembly plays an active role in the field of tourism. We are the world institution in charge of cooperation in this field. WTO is the only one of its kind. We have 130 member countries and 340 affiliated members from the private sector. We cooperate with international and regional institutions.

**Interview with Mr. Mohammed Muttahar, the Vice Chairman of the General Tourism Authority:**

**Q: Who are the major participants in this conference?**

**A:** The World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Middle East committee of the WTO which includes 18 Arab countries in addition to tourism experts from the USA and Europe. The Arab countries represented at the conference are Oman, Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan, Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

**Q: What was Yemen's contribution to the conference?**

**A:** Yemen has presented a paper about the realities of qualitative tourism training in the country, and the extent to which it is connected to returning expatriates who start working in this field. The paper also touched on the historical basis for tourism training in Yemen, as well as its incorporation within the five-year plan of 960-2000. Trained Yemenis working in the tourism sector are beginning to match and replace foreign workers.

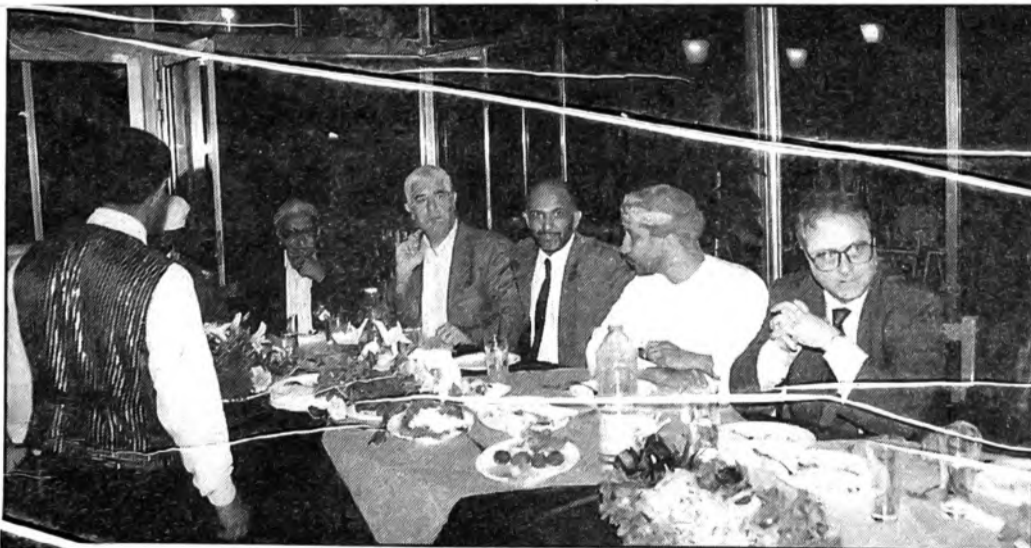
**Q: What do you suggest for attracting more people?**

**A:** Young people should be made aware of the importance of the tourism sector. Graduates of the Tourism and Hotel Institute in Aden will have to provided with ample opportunities for working in their field of study.

Tourism is an industry that must be given a prominent place in governmental policies. It will become one of the most important feature of the 21st century.

**Q: What are the main tourist attractions in Yemen?**

**A:** The basis are still in most part historical and cultural. There is a great architectural and archaeological heritage. Tourism in this country will continue to rely mainly on these aspects. At the same time, we aim to diversify the tourism product to encompass beach, marine and environmental tourism. There are plans to achieve this diversification soon.



Mr. Abdulrahman Mahyoob, Chairman of the General Tourism Authority, indicated that the WTO will provide Yemen with much needed technical and training assistance in addition to scholarships in tourism. It will also help in developing the Tourism and Hotel Institute in Aden.

**Interview with Mr. David B. Smith, Chief of Party and Resident Project Manager, works for the Environmentally Sustainable Tourism Project which is based in Egypt and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).**

**the upcoming elections?**

**A:** I am not an expert in political questions, but I think it is very good that there are election. I wish the country all the best with the outcome.

**Q: What do you advise the Yemeni Authority for the Natural Environment and Tourism?**

**A:** I have not met with the ministry people, but with the General Authority for Tourism who seem very much aware of the kinds of issues that need to be addressed to enhance and encourage tourism.

**Q: How do you find Sana'a? What are the good and bad aspects?**

**A:** It has been mostly good. The people are extremely friendly and very hospitable. The buildings in the old city are fantastic, something that everyone should come to see. The only difficulties perhaps are in the traffic.

**Q: Are you planning to visit other places?**

**A:** I had an opportunity to go to Marib before the conference and also to Tula, Taweela and Kawkaban. So I had a chance to see some of the sights that are known throughout the world.

## SEIYUN:

# The Bride of Wadi Hadhramaut

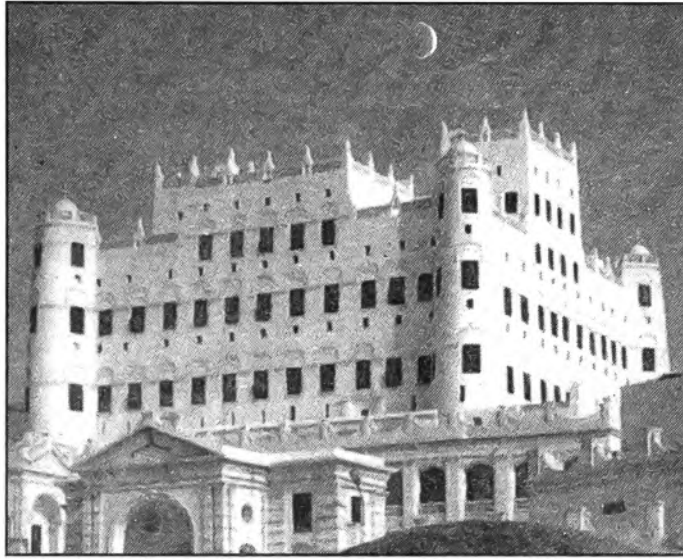
The history of Hadhramaut dates back to several centuries before Christ. The kingdoms and civilizations of this part of Yemen have flourished as important trading centers between Persia, India and China in the east, and the civilizations of the Mediterranean up north.

Hadhramaut, by and large, has two major regions - the coastal stretch, with Mukalla at its heart, and the interior Wadi Hadhramaut. In the wadi, several cities conjure images of a rich past. These include Seiyun, Shibam, and Tarim, among others.

Today, Seiyun is by far the largest, and it is also the administrative capital of Wadi Hadhramaut.

Most of the nearby village dwellers prefer to call Seiyun "The Bride of Wadi". The natives like to call it 'Al-Taweela'. Researchers and foreigners appreciate it by calling it the master of Al-Ahgaf valley. Situated in the center of the valley, Seiyun is always kept clean and tidy.

If you are in Seiyun, you have to visit the ex-Sultan's palace. That building witnessed many turns in the Al-Katheri Sultanate in the past. The huge building which represents the architectural grandeur of the wadi, houses today an archaeological museum. Inside this palace are displayed



antiques as well as traditional folklore.

### Accommodation

There are adequate accommodation facilities in Seiyun. Al-Taweela Hotel, owned by the former Sultan's Advisor, has been converted to a nice hotel. Other hotels include Samah Hotel (4 star) Al-Salam hotel (3 star) B.M.C. Hotel (3-star) are all hotel offering standard services. There are also public hotels and fundooqs, which offer less than standard services.

Strolling through the old souk of

the city, one gets the aroma smell of history, and you get a feel of Hadhrami lifestyle.

The houses are of typical Hadhrami construction and are either whitewashed or left with their natural clay color.

### Eating and drinking:-

Hotels and restaurants serve delicious food, rice with meat, well known Beryani dishes, Sayyadiya and other sumptuous meals. Clean restaurants have been recently opened serving cheap and tasty meals. However, it is advisable to use bottled mineral water, which is found everywhere.

Some sites which you may want to visit include:

- 1- The museums either public or private
- 2- The old markets (old souk) of ancient silverware
- 3- The handicraft center
- 4- The old part of the city
- 5- Tourist agencies

### Other Interests:

The city's known history dates back to the second century B.C. The main landmark of Seiyun is the ex-Sultan's Palace consisting of seven show-room galleries displaying artifacts, traditional costumes, documents and archaeological relics. When you enter the Saeed Palace, the first impression one gets is of the marvelous Hadhrami architecture.

Other worthwhile places to visit are the old part of Seiyun on west side. Here, colorful domes and cupolas spread everywhere. In addition, there are shops of ancient silver antiques, handicrafts, traditional folklore products, etc.

One thing you may want to look for is traditional medicine. Hadhrami expertise in shrub and herb-based medical concoctions would simply stupefy you. But don't let them take you for a ride, you should not pay too much, however useful the stuff is, as they will surely tell you.

Wherever one goes in Seiyun, one will notice the charming and pleasant nature of Seiyun people. You will meet highly respectable citizens and the broad smiles of innocent kids.

Seiyun airport, being upgraded today, is one of the vital projects given special attention by the nation. Tarmac roads also connect connect you to wherever you like, and taxis are readily available. If you like traditional transportation - by donkeys and camels - you need prior arrangements.

By: Hassan Ali Bahumaid  
Seiyun, Wadi Hadhramaut

## This Week at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa:

### Treat Your Buds to French Cooking

This week, UK-born Chef David Beckett, and French-born Chef Jean Moinean, are teaming up to give Taj Sheba Hotel customers a little bit of France - its food.

The two have been in the cooking business for a very long time - Beckett for the last 20 years, and Moinean for the past 32 years.

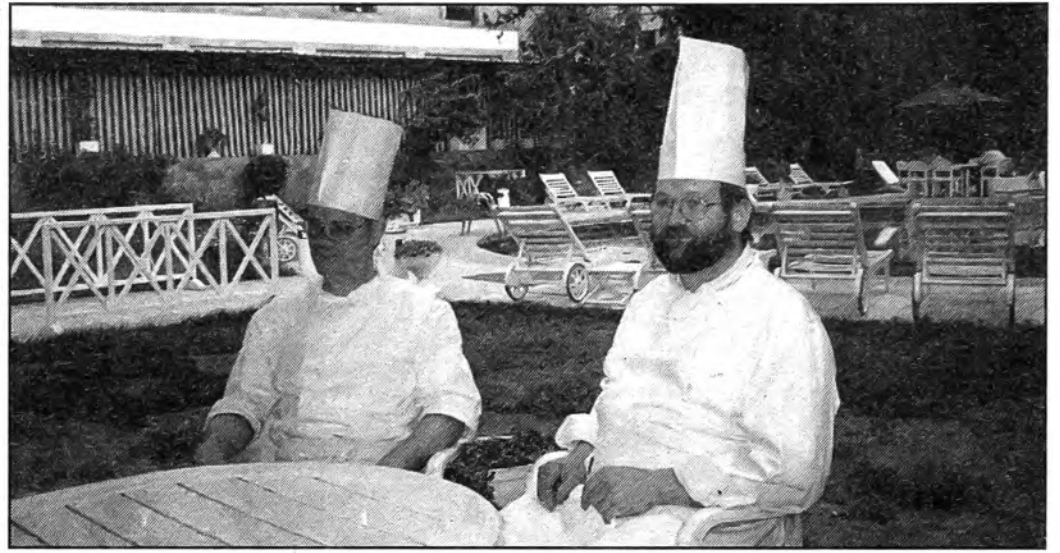
They are now here in Sanaa. After Yemen, they are headed for Zambia and India to do French festivals and French promotions, with the Taj Group.

Chef Beckett, says his cooking is based on the use of fresh products. "Wherever I am, I go to the local market to choose the ingredients. This gives my dishes special flavor, as opposed to cooking frozen food," he told the Yemen Times.

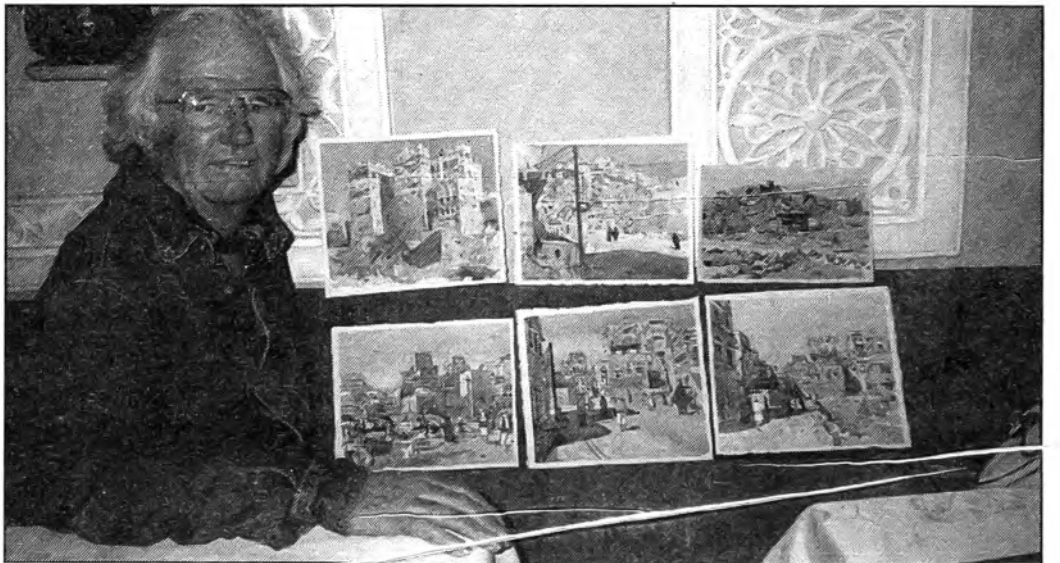
The French dishes are going to be presented at the Golden Peacock at the Taj Sheba Hotel starting on March 26th. This is a prelude to the French Festival to start on April 3rd. The French cuisine will include game, hare, venison and pheasants. "There is going to be an a la carte six-course menu with tremendous choices for the customers," explained Mr. Gautam, the Taj's Executive Chef.

For Chef Moinean, this is the first time he is traveling out of France, but Chef Beckett has been around, including an earlier visit to Yemen.

The two chefs will do good Easter eggs during the Easter season. A pastry week is also being planned. Mr. Shankar, Sales Manager at the Taj, expressed appreciation for all the sponsors of the event.



### The Man Who Painted Yemen in 10 Days



Ken Howard, 64, is of Chelsea, London, where "originally all the artists lived". He is a member of the Royal Watercolor Society, Royal Institute of Oil Painters, Royal Society of British Artists, Royal West of England Academy, Royal Birmingham Society of Artists, Associate of the Royal College of Art. He was made a member of the Royal Academy of Art at the age of 50.

Ken Howard's maiden visit to Yemen, and his exhibition which started on March 20th, are sponsored by UNIVERSAL Travel and Tourism and the Taj Sheba Hotel.

Q: How long have you been painting?

A: All my life. I started at the age of 10. I went to art school and then to the Royal College of Art. Then I taught in an art school for 14 years. After that, I became the official war artist in Northern Ireland. During that time, I travelled the world with the British army. I worked for them in Lebanon, Cyprus, Nepal, India, America, Canada, the West Indies and other places.

Q: Why did the army employ you in that capacity?

A: The British army has a tradition of commissioning paintings which they then hang in the officers' mess. They usually make prints of them, because the soldiers like to have prints commemorating where they have been. So I used to go along doing water colors and drawings which they later reproduce. They are not the same as photographs.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about your paintings?

A: I paint a lot from live models such as individuals, villages, the sea, etc. My paintings are very figurative, as opposed to abstract.

Q: This is your first visit, yet you have all these paintings. When did you paint them?

A: I did them during the last 10 days. They are all new. I always do my paintings in front of the subject. I have been doing it for a long time, so I am fairly fast and practiced. Yemen presented me with the most fantastic visual experience. It is even better than Katmandu, Nepal. It is as good as Venice with which I am in love. Yemen is astonishing. I only

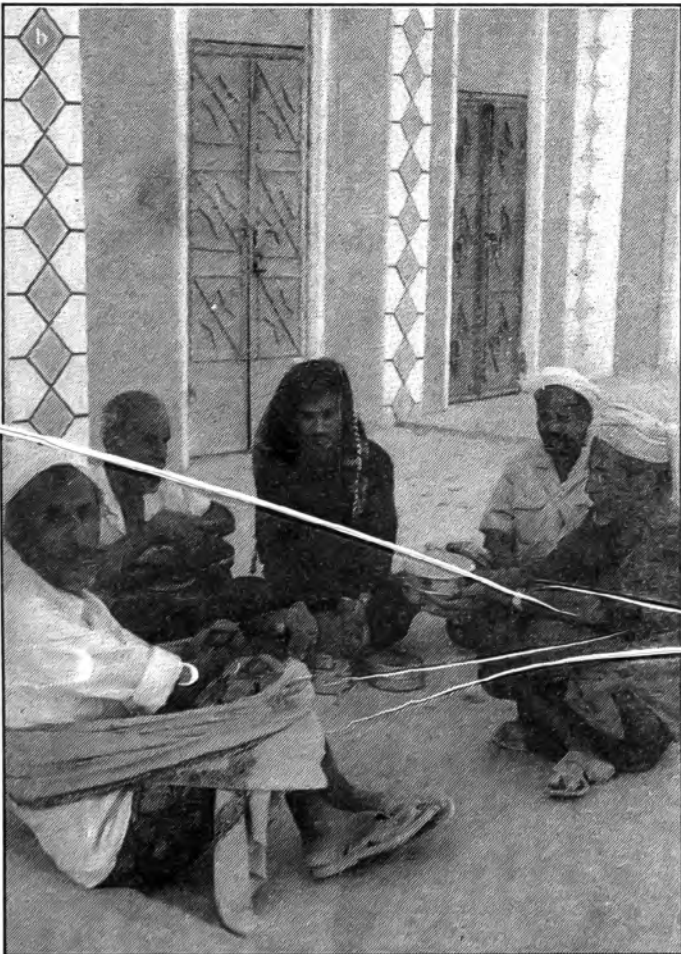
hope it stays. I only hope that cars and roads do not ruin it. I saw it happen in Oman. Once the oil and roads came, all the traditions went out. You have great traditions. The old city of Sana'a ought to be preserved. It is unique. For the next 1000 years, people from all over the world would want to come and see it. You have something absolutely unique and beautiful here. You won't find anything like it anywhere else in the world. I know you cannot stop progress.

Q: How have you presented your exhibition?

A: There are nine of us, of different standards. But some are very good. We'll be showing our paintings in Taj Sheba's Omar Al-Khayyam hall. All of us choose our own colors and composition.

Q: Are you planning to visit other Middle Eastern states?

A: Yes, I'll be going to Morocco in a month's time. I also want to work in Egypt. But I don't think anywhere can equal Yemen, which had been fairly closed for many years. Therefore, European influence is not readily visible.



بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره، وبأن الموت حق، نتقدم بأحر المواساة القلبية إلى الأخ حسن علي الحزمي وزوجته وذلك بوفاة ابنته ريم سائلين المولى أن يتغمدها بواسع رحمته، وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسيفون  
كافة آل الحزمي  
عنهم هاشم محمد علي الحزمي

### EGYPT TO PROBE WHETHER DAYAN KEPT ANTIQUITIES

Egypt has launched an investigation to determine whether former Israeli defense minister Moshe Dayan returned all of the antiquities which he took from the Sinai desert. The investigation came after revelations in the Israeli press and by a member of the Israeli Knesset that Dayan allegedly looted the pharonic temple of Sarabit Al-Khadim in south Sinai.

Israel occupied Sinai in 1956 in the Suez crisis and captured it again in the 1967 war. Israel returned Sinai to Egypt in 1982 after the two countries signed a peace treaty. A committee has been formed to state the missing antiquities during that period. Dayan who died in 1980 was a chief of staff of the Israeli army during the 1956 Arab-Israeli war a post which he held till 1977. He was said to be an amateur archaeologist and collector of antiquities. According to the Israeli authorities, Israel returned to Egypt all the antiquities that he took from the temple but some of the experts believe that Dayan had illegally kept some stelae.

### AFEWORKI PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR SUDAN OPPOSITION

Eritrean president Assaias Afeworki said his country would not hesitate to provide military assistance to Sudanese opposition forces fighting to overthrow the government in Khartoum if they needed such assistance, but added that his government's support is until now confined to diplomatic and political aid.

In an interview with Arab News, the Eritrean leader said his country would provide military support in the form of training or other military capabilities available. Sudan accuses Eritrea and other neighboring countries (Ethiopia and Uganda) of direct military intervention by sending in troops to fight with the opposition working under the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). All sides are denying the charges.

He also confirmed that his country did not take any role in fighting in Eastern Sudan where the opposition captured the towns of Kurmuk and Qaissam in January. "Our principle position is to back the Sudanese people diplomatically and politically. Military support may not be of that importance in our view. As for the recent operations inside Sudan, the opposition has enough military capabilities to conduct operations."

His statement comes at a time when fierce fighting is raging in Southern Sudan where the rebels captured the strategic town of Yei in Western Equatorial province and were advancing towards Juba, the main city of the south. They also coincided with an NDA general conference in Asmara which considered the next move in its drive to topple the government of president Omar Al-Basheer. Col. John Garang, the leader of the SPLA, who is inside Yei oversteering military operations, did not participate in the conference.

Afeworki said the government in Sudan has been trying for years to recruit what he described as agents of the National Islamic Front (NIF) led by Hassan Al-Turabi from among the Eritrean refugees living in Sudan. An estimated 600,000 Eritrean refugees have been living in Sudan since the 1960s when the Eritreans started an armed struggle for independence from Ethiopia. As for the accusations that Eritrea is conspiring to turn the Red Sea into an Israeli lake, the Eritrean leader denied such accusations. He said those who repeat such claims do not properly understand the reality of what is taking place in the region and have no sincere intentions toward the stability in the Red Sea.

### GCC MEASURES TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENT

A ministerial meeting of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), which concluded last week in Manama, Bahrain, reviewed major international environmental accords including a UN accord on anti-desertification. The meeting called upon Gulf nationals and expatriates to take urgent individual measures to curb pollution and clean the environment.

The GCC meeting reviewed major international environmental treaties including the Vienna Convention on ozone protection, the Greenhouse effect and the environmental impact of the hoarding of biological and chemical weapons. The meeting also reviewed existing environmental standards in member states.

A GCC communique said that the meeting also discussed ways to evolve a unified system for wildlife protection in Gulf countries. Oman and the United Arab Emirates have both evolved sanctuaries and parks for wildlife.

The meeting examined various related environmental issues including radiation, garbage management and inter-Gulf transportation of hazardous materials. A study, which contains technical instructions in handling dangerous waste, has already been prepared on transporting wastes across borders for treatment, recycling or disposal.

### PILGRIMS TOLD NOT CARRY PROPAGANDA BOOKS, PHOTOS

Saudi Arabia warned pilgrims against carrying political and propagandist booklets, photographs and leaflets during the coming Haj season scheduled to fall on 15th April. Violators of this rule will be punished and deported. The Saudi ministry of interior stressed its determination to ensure the security and safety of pilgrims. If any pilgrim is found with any prohibited material whatever it may be, he/she will be punished in accordance with Saudi regulations without leniency.

The ministry emphasized the need for maintaining the peaceful atmosphere to help pilgrims perform their Haj duties with ease and comfort and with full concentration.

### ERBAKAN GOVT. TO FULLY IMPLEMENT ARMY DEMANDS

Turkey's government is fully enforcing a list of demands ordered by the powerful military, a Cabinet minister said. "The (National Security Council) MGK decisions will be carried out to the letter," Defense Minister Turhan Tayan told reporters last week.

"The government is very determined and committed on this issue," said Tayan, a member of the coalition's True Path party wing.

The military-dominated Council told Prime Minister Negmeddin Erbakan's government - a coalition between the Islamist Refah Party and the secularist True Path Party - to crack down on anti-secularist activism.

"Our government is committed against the reactionary danger," said Cabinet spokesman Lutfi Esengun, a member of Erbakan's Welfare Party after a Cabinet meeting, last week. This is the agreement reached at the Cabinet meeting regarding the resolutions of the National Security Council (MGK)," Esengun said.

Those resolutions, taken at a February 28 meeting of the MGK, call for a crackdown against anti-secularists.

Erbakan, who initially refused to approve the crackdown, later signed the resolutions and brought the issue into the Cabinet's agenda.

The Turkish constitution awards the top brass of the military the role of guardian of secularism. However, the Turkish military does not want to push the Islamists, who have come to power through the polls, too far lest they should repeat the Algerian tragedy. It is in this light that the military is taking a gradualist approach.

### UAE TO SPEND USD 10 BILLION ON ARMS OVER NEXT DECADE

The United Arab Emirates plans to spend in the region of US\$ 10 billion on the purchase of defence equipment over the next decade. The purchase list includes six patrol boats, six corvettes or small frigates, up to four maritime patrol aircraft, around 100 fast intercept crafts of between 15-20 meters, up to 80 fighter aircrafts, command and control systems for the airforce, tank carriers, logistical support vehicles, missiles, and electronic equipment.

Many deals are presently in the making, although some have already been consummated.

Last week, the UAE announced the award of two defence contracts, one training contract, and one management contract. The largest of these deals - worth 108.2 million Dirhams - went to Eurotrop of France which will supply torpedoes. The Norwegian firm NorControl won a DH. 29.4 million contract to supply tactical training simulators to the UAE navy.

The Netherlands Marine Consortium sold the UAE Navy two in-service S-Class frigates for Dh 1.3 billion. The first of the two, a 140-meter frigate will be delivered in September, and the other one early next year.

## Netanyahu's One-Track Mind: Will It Lead the Middle East to Disaster?

The Middle East is again in turmoil. It is clear that the region is destined to jump in fits of violence from one problem to another.

The new problem is the Israeli decision to build a new settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim (the Western media refers to it by its Israeli name, Har Homah). Here, on land confiscated from Arabs living in nearby Um Tuba and Beit Sahur, 35,000 Jews are to be housed.

From the Palestinian view, it is not just the loss of land. This new scheme totally and fully cuts off Arab East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank hinterland. In other words, Arab East Jerusalem cannot be linked to the rest of the Palestinian homeland. In plain language, Israel is creating new facts that will undermine any Palestinian demand for the return of East Jerusalem. That is why Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa exclaimed, "The Israeli government thinks it is very intelligent and that others will not see what it is trying to do."

The Israeli action was condemned by all sides. The American administration has termed the project as "an obstacle to peace". King Hussain of Jordan had warned against it. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called it, "totally unacceptable ... a violation of everything written and agreed upon". The UN General Assembly condemned the project, and so did all European countries, without exception.

Yet, Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu refuses to change course. One observer described the Israeli Prime Minister as obsessed and insensitive to the needs of his partners in peace. "He has a one-track mind."

The price is escalating violence and a suspension of the peace effort. The death toll from the violence continues to rise.

The crazy shoot-out of a Jordanian soldier, the bombing of a Tel Aviv cafe, the daily confrontation between Palestinian youth and the Israeli army and police, and a return to the 'intifada' climate and atmosphere, ... are all symptoms of the frenzy that grips everybody in

The peace talks are on hold, and tension along the Israeli border with Lebanon and Syria is rising.



There have been many calls within Israel for the resignation of Netanyahu. Even for the Likud, he seems to have become their biggest liability. He is blamed for creating the tense climate that seems to derail the peace process, that was so diligently worked out by his Labor Party predecessors. In fact, Netanyahu is even blamed for the evil atmosphere his campaigns had created, and which eventually led to the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Today, Bibi, as he is referred to, is carrying the burden alone for the stalemate and the rising risk of open warfare between Israel and its neighbors.

The closest ally of Israel, the USA, is most embarrassed by all of this. The US had to veto a UN Security Council condemning the construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim. This brought more Arab anger and less trust of the impartial role of the Americans as arbiters in the peace process.

The next few weeks will be crucial in the region.



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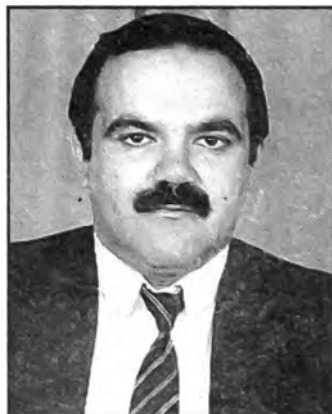
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لأخويه عمر وفؤاد الشيباني  
وإلى جميع آل الشيباني  
تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته  
وأنا لله وأنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون:  
د/عبدالعزيز السقاف  
الشيخ عبدالوارث هزاع القرشي  
الشيخ عبدالكريم العرنوط الأصبحي  
محمد غالب العقاري  
عبدالرحيم عبدالقادر القاضي

## The Rumbblings Inside the Aching Mind of a Thinker, Journalist and Political Activist:

# 14 Months After UNESCO's Media Seminar in Sanaa

By: Saad Salah Khalis  
Sana'a



During 7-11 January, 1996, UNESCO organized in Sanaa a seminar on "Independent and Pluralist Media in the Arab Countries". Participants came from all the Arab countries, press and journalist organizations, human rights watchers in addition to government reporters. Attendees talked and talked, papers and studies were presented, and what was meant to be a technical seminar turned into a highly exciting political pulpit for political activism pitching governments and opposition.

Points of view and counter points of view were presented. It was really a demonstration of open exchange of views one does not often witness in these parts of the world.

On that occasion, and despite all differences, a final declaration was announced. The well-written recommendations were read out to the satisfaction of all. Unfortunately, with the passage of time, it became clear that this was yet another addition to the UNESCO bookshelves and archives.

Of course, there is not much that UNESCO or any other organization can do about implementing the recommendations of this or other meetings, as it is the responsibility of the journalists themselves before any one else.

What has been the lot of journalists and press freedom?

The annual report of the Committee to Protect Journalists indicates that the year 1996 (the year of the seminar) had set a record in the number of journalists in prison - 185. Turkey was the leading state for the third year in a row with 78. Around the world, 26 journalists were killed in action (in 1996 the number was 57), 6 of them in Russia, and 7 in Algeria. That raised the number of Algerian colleagues murdered to 59 since 1993.

For sure, those numbers do not give the full picture, as no

accurate records can be obtained from most parts of the third world. In Arab countries, this is almost impossible. It will not be far-fetched if we multiply those numbers by two or three or even more to arrive at the true picture of our state of affairs.

The atrocities of some countries are never mentioned in the annual reports of due to their unique interests with the super powers of the world. In others where killing and oppression is a daily practice, there is no meaning to have any statistics as the numbers of overall killings and imprisonment in all aspects of society are too much to mention.

What can be done?

The struggle for freedom will go until the end of the time. The legendary sacrifices, and the cruel reaction to them by the world order, has turned freedom and justice turned into one the worst jokes of the century.

More than ever before, thinkers and visionaries find themselves under pressure to admit they are having fun and joy under the freedom and justice they are presumably experiencing. They are told to fake it. And the international lie goes on, as more rights are confiscated, more freedoms tabooed and singly oriented patterns of thought are imposed all over.

It is understood that the human beings chained by economic

needs can never be free. The British say, "A hungry man is an angry man". If the current situation persists, there is no escape from severe explosions of violence all around.

Something needs to be done to avert such a catastrophe. Turning the world into two parts - a smaller and producer part, and a larger and consumer part - both governed by one policeman will not help in establishing stability and the basis for growth and development.

Monopoly of power and fortune has led to the monopoly of decision-making and the false belief of acquiring the truth. Throughout history, great nations were toppled while day-dreaming of that false belief.

Hence, the struggle for freedom will go on all fronts, economic, social and political.

Journalists being the watchdogs and mirrors of society spearhead this struggle. But is it enough to just talk or write from one's safe house, while colleagues and friends are slaughtered here and there - for the real cause.

How can we make such action commutative, effective and worthy? Is it through the formation of new unions and associations? Is it through meetings and seminars?

First, there are already too many such associations and meetings. Second, how do such gatherings escape the control of governments and their financing tools, and where such finance can be arranged? Any form of finance would add a new chain to entangle the free spirit we long for.

Third, the UNESCO itself is a collection of government representatives. So, can it stand up to these same governments that it represents?

Talking about the UNESCO effort, I am overlooking one vital fact - that no piece-meal change can successfully take place apart from a comprehensive social change. Direct questions need to be asked.

Can there be free organizations or associations in societies that justify killing just because of a difference in points of view? Or in states and regimes that place the criteria of loyalty above any other basis? The answer is 'No'.

But should we stop trying?

The answer is 'No' as well. Attempts should go on to sow the seeds of freedom in every land no matter how barren. Sticking to the democratic process and teaching people how to practice their basic rights and respect the rights of others, regardless of their differences is a must. That is where pluralism will materialize. The masses have to be taught and instructed, and political parties are the right tools for that.

Democracy might be a game, but all should learn how to play it. Then, time will come when democratic traditions are well established enough to the extent that no tyrant can dislodge them. The game has to be played and replayed for generations, until the right of voting, or the right of abstention is fully comprehended by both the state and the citizens, to become a daily practice in life.

As for the economy, the freedom/justice equation has been difficult to solve over the past decades. But I believe that humanity and human consciousness are still fertile enough to envision solutions, especially in view of the technological revolution taking place.

Such revolution enlarges the role of the press and journalists in establishing and consolidating the basis for scientific thought, which is an inseparable part of the quest for freedom and development. Here comes the main battle-field, education.

What sort of education should be provided to nourish the minds of our youngsters? What kind of curricula is right and to what extent are our children attached to the scientific revolution. Where do our universities and

technical institutes stand in the ever-advancing technological stream flowing around the world? Where are we from India and Pakistan for instance (let alone Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and the like).

I learned recently that India has superseded the USA as the first producer for computer software in the world! Do our ministries of education and higher education comprehend this? What does our primary and intermediate stage students know about artificial intelligence, while their counterparts are gaining patents all around the world. What is the position of the free transfer of information in all this process?

Moving far away from the major point, one has to admit that this is not an easy task to achieve. I hope that all participants in the UNESCO seminar, each from his/her position and from his own orientation, are still trying hard to transform the recommendations into reality. Those may seem not directly related to the issues discussed above, but it is one, unified process in the end. It is true that those recommendations may not fully represent all what the participants were looking for, nor are they, by any means, comprehensive, but they are steps in the right way.

I wonder how many of us have seriously tried to materialize what has been discussed in those meetings 14 months ago. How many of us considered a joint action, regardless of differences. In fact, apart from individual and sporadic contacts every now and then, the enthusiasm has been replaced by the race for day-to-day living and concerns.

Freedom is a dream, yet it is a form of slavery if drowned in selfishness and if idealized in fixed pattern of moulded phrases. It is a way of life. A way that respects one's and others' right to believe or disbelieve, the right to live decently and honestly, the right to choose and to be responsible for that choice. It is a dream of a just system, where no one is prosecuted for his/her way of thinking, nor for his political or religious affiliation.

A system where the citizen is free of economic needs that enslave him/her to the financier. A system in which humanity takes precedence. A system which brings out the best in every one of us. A system which allows every one of us to be our best. Such a dream seems to be far away, especially in the Arab World. But we have to cling on to it, and... to fight for it.

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• Program coordinator	Sana'a	1

For the social counselor positions, applicants should have university degree in social sciences such as sociology or social science related fields, at least five years professional experience and demonstrated interest in refugee matters. Fluency in English is required, Arabic and Somali languages are desirable.

The position involves regular counseling for refugees on social and legal counseling in Sana'a, Aden the camp as well as liaison with UNHCR and other authorities in refugee related matters.

The program coordinator performs a variety of information collecting, monitoring, technical and administrative services of moderate scope and difficulty in support of program activities. Applicants should have a university degree in economic / business or social science or relevant demonstrated professional experience. Five years of experience and fluency in English and Arabic is desirable.

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# DUBAI:

## A Name Associated with Professionalism & Business

By: Yemen Times Staff Writer Dubai.

As you look on, you can't help but be impressed. The place is fully alive with all sorts of activities. Dubai today is an important international center for business - whether it is trade or travel, whether it is banking or industry, and whether it is tourism or simply shopping.

Dubai is the second largest of the seven emirates which together make up the United Arab Emirates - a federation that was born in 1971. The UAE comprises of Abu Dhabi, as the capital, Dubai as the commercial center, and Sharjah, Umm Al-Quwain, Ajman, Ras Al-Khaimah, and Fujairah.

In the late 1870s, British traders recognized Dubai's importance as a center for the import and export of goods. It was not long before other merchants and traders - from India, Southeast Asia, the Far East, East Africa,

the Gulf countries, and even from Europe - all converged on Dubai for business. From then on, the story of success grew only in magnitude and scope.

Its creek, a natural deep water inlet cutting through the core of the city, has become a center for ocean-trading activities and a safe home for merchants' vessels loaded with goods.

Today, Dubai has earned its place as the largest trading center in the Middle East, and Dubai Creek represents the throbbing heart of it all.

The stability and wisdom offered by the ruling Al Maktoum family is to a great degree responsible for the Dubai success. That is well-understood and cherished by the people.

Beyond that, however, it is the free and outgoing spirit of the merchant class of the city that carries the credit for the boom. The people of Dubai, along with their other UAE brethren, have cultivated and nourished the opportunities at hand.

The Gateway to Opportunity: Jebel Ali Free Zone



A great contribution to the growth in commerce was made by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It is here that the main bridge with the rest of the world is maintained. The history of the chamber is one of efforts to bring prospective partners together.

Of course, oil played, and continues to play a major role. But it is the country's commerce that has given it the hallmark of professionalism. As Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Minister of Finance and Industry and Chairman of the Dubai Municipality put it:

*"At the crossroads of vibrant economic activity in the West and the Far East, Dubai sits on the doorstep of a billion consumers. Although oil may have significantly contributed to its prosperity, trade is still the lifeblood of its custom. Open skies and a free trading environment continue to support this trading culture."*

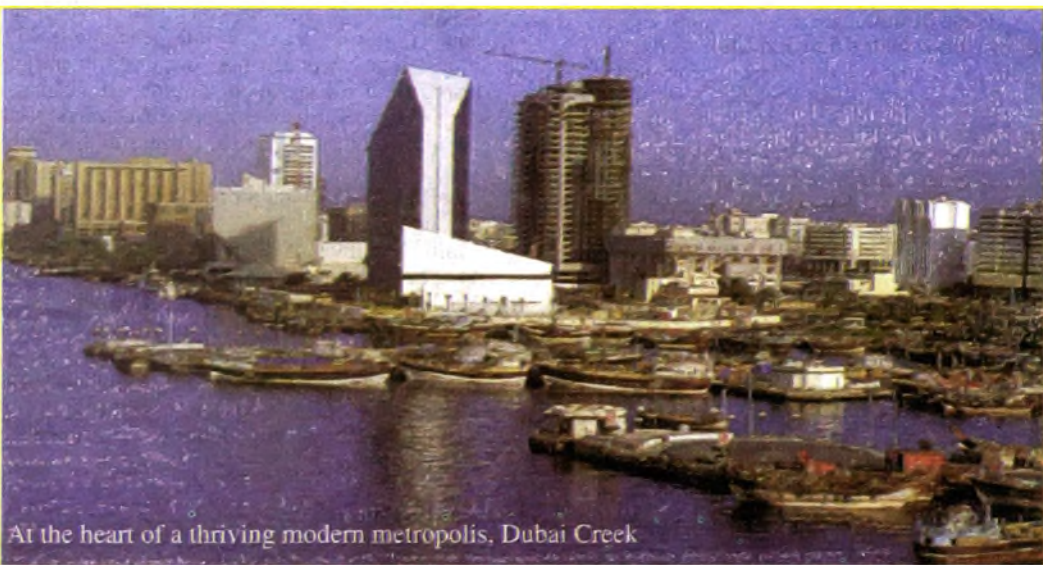
If one talks of trade in Dubai, Jebel Ali Free Zone immediately comes to mind. The idea of a free zone may have originated elsewhere, but it was perfected at Jebel Ali. In 1985 when it was formally inaugurated, some 60 companies were involved. Today, more than 1000 companies are

operational. Every month, eleven more companies join, and the available space and infrastructure is expanded and upgraded continuously. "Success is a journey, not a destination". With that motto driving the people at Jebel Ali, East and West, South and North have indeed found a meeting place. Mr. Sultan Bin Sulayem, Chairman and Managing Director of the Jebel Ali Free Zone, personally gets involved to entice foreign investors to come and check it out.

Already, the accommodation facilities in Dubai, already enormous by any standard, are quickly getting filled up as the bookings continue to flow in. Emirates Airlines has also seen its reservations rise.

Al-Mamzar Park and other recreation facilities are already gearing up for the pleasure of the visitors. Daily fireworks will adorn the skies at the Dubai Creek during the shopping festival.

All in all, this is going to be a unique and memorable event.



At the heart of a thriving modern metropolis, Dubai Creek



Daily Fireworks during DSF '97

But it is not just business. Life is supposed to be fun. With that in mind, Dubai has taken on a new motto "business with pleasure". Towards that end, it initiated last year the annual "Dubai Shopping Festival".

When ingenious ideas are coupled with good planning and hard work, any dream can become a reality. The Dubai Shopping Festival was an immediate success. It was not just a dream come true, it has become a sensational experience for shoppers from around the globe.

During the month of March 26th through April 27th, some 3,000 retailers with amazing discounts ranging from 20-70% are going to set up shop and exhibit their products. Last year's event was a major success, with more than 1.6 million visitors and US\$ 800 million of incremental business generated. This year, the scope of success will be a lot more, as the level of business is expected to double.

Over 102 events including lots of children's activities are going to be part of the program. The most exciting of all entertainment programs - and not only for children - are going to be the world-famous Disney characters.

The Republic of Yemen and the UAE have cordial and strong historic relations. Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan meet and confer regularly.

Now, it is time to reflect such strong relations in more business cooperation. Many Yemeni businessmen have already made their bookings to join in the events. Local companies have been authorized to help out with the visa, travel and hotel arrangements.

The whole world is invited to the DSF 97. Whether it is for business or fun, for shopping or entertainment, you are among the list of guests.

Journalists are also welcome. In fact, to entice journalists do an original cover of the event, DSF is offering a journalism award.

Dubai, a city whose name has become associated with business and professionalism, is continuously coming up with new and ingenious ideas. Ideas that bring people together, for the mutual benefit of all.

Indeed, it is worth your serious and immediate consideration to pack up and go.

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**We Have Worldwide Correspondents**



**AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 16-3-97.**  
(The Federation of Popular Forces Party)  
Main Headlines:

- 1) Islah in Taiz Boycotts Elections.
- 2) Holy Shrine in Abyan is Blown up with Dynamite.
- 3) Judiciary Corruption and Trade Union Struggle in Hadhramaut.
- 4) Secessionists' Trial Adjourned Until May 10, 1997.

**Article Summary:**  
**Indefinite Sit-in**

More than 100 Yemeni students studying in Sudan are staging an indefinite sit-in at the Yemeni embassy in Khartoum. The students are demanding an increase in their allowances in accordance with the President's directive, issued during his visit to Sudan at the end of 1994. In a statement issued by the students, they explained their hard living conditions due to the chronic shortage of money. They stressed that they will not leave the embassy unless their demands are met by the ministries of Finance and Education. The President's directive was followed by instructions by the Prime Minister to increase the students' pay, but the relevant authorities have not yet responded.

**AL-MITHAK: Sana'a (Weekly) 17-3-97**  
(The People's General Congress)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President in Sa'ada: "Development is that today you are demanding books instead of arms."
- 2) PGC's General Committee to Hold Extended Meeting this Week.
- 3) Security Chief in Aden: "There is no truth in allegations of harassing Socialist Party members".

**Article Summary:**  
**YSP Counts on Eid Holiday!**  
by Abdultawab Sayf.

There is no doubt that the Socialist Party's decision to boycott the elections is an erroneous step. The YSP, which became a ruling partner in 1990 had participated in the elections of 1993, and won tens of seats in parliament. But it seems that YSP had heavily relied on its then strong control over the eastern and southern parts of the country in winning the 1993 elections. Some observers have facetiously explained the



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

YSP's boycotting of the elections as a maneuver to exploit the Eid holiday when most people go to the countryside to visit their relatives. Hence when the towns are almost deserted, it would seem that the people have responded to the YSP's call to boycott the elections.

**AL-TARIQ: Aden (Fortnightly) 18-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Ruling Coalition Partners Agree on Their Candidates in Aden Constituencies.
- 2) Tobacco Companies Sued for Encouraging Smoking Through Alluring Prizes
- 3) Yemeni Doctor Sues Russian Embassy for Smuggling His Russian Wife and Daughter Out of Yemen.

**Article Summary:**  
**Citizens Complain to the President**

A number of citizens in Aden have sent a letter to the President, complaining for not getting back their agricultural lands in Abyan. These lands were originally nationalized by the socialist regime in the south. But according to decree number 65 for 1991 by the Council of Ministers, all nationalized lands are to be returned to their rightful owners. Some influential individuals have already usurped the lands belonging to the complainants who demand either the lands or suitable compensation. The requested compensations amount to YR37 million - the lands' income of five years.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 19-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) President of Islah's Shura Council: "We hope to win in the constituencies of Aden because people there are known for cherishing their religion."
- 2) Speaker of Parliament: "Yemen does not

consider taking its border dispute with Saudi Arabia to the international court."

- 3) Citizens of Cardiff, Britain Present 40 Wheelchairs to Yemeni Society for the Disabled.
- 4) World Bank Presents \$70,000 to Repair Flood Damages in Shibam.

**Article Summary:**  
**Industrial Projects in Aden**

The Hayil Saeed Group of Companies intends to implement a project of flour mills and silos in Aden's Free Zone. The expected project will be the biggest of its kind. The mills' capacity will be 2,500 tons per day. The silos' storage capacity is 75,000 tons. The total cost of the project is estimated at about \$40 million. Work has already started by preparing the allocated plots of land in the industrial zone. Negotiations are underway with international companies to import the most modern equipment for the project. It is worth mentioning here that the overall storage capacity of present silos in Yemen does not exceed 50,000 tons.

**AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden (Weekly) 17-3-97**  
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Prime Minister Allocates \$5,000 to Kidney Dialysis to Al-Jumhuriya hospital, Aden.
- 2) Opposition Coordination Council in Taban, Lahaj to Boycott Elections.
- 3) Former MPs will be Rewarded with Honorary Title of Deputy Minister.

**Article Summary:**  
**The Poor Will Enter Paradise**

Last Monday's [11th March] afternoon prayers in the Ja'ar mosque in Mukalla were followed by a rather an usual event. People at the mosque and passers-by were surprised at the presence of armed bodyguards in a state of high alert. It transpired that the prominent Islah leader, Sheikh Abdulmajeed Al-Zindani, is in town. He delivered a lecture at the mosque with the usual stuff about promoting virtue and curbing vice and the necessity for replacing a corrupt ruler.

Large crowds of poor and hungry people who filled the mosque were disappointed when the Sheikh repeated the sentence about the "poor being God's beloved who will be the first to enter paradise." They were expecting more earthly rewards. Upon leaving the mosque, the Sheikh ordered his bodyguards not to receive any of the petitions being waved high in the air by desperate people.

**AL-WAHDAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 19-3-97**  
(Official)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President Transforms His Words Into Deeds.
- 2) Socialist Party Sources Indicate that Decision to Boycott Elections is not Final.
- 3) Dialogue Between Ruling Coalition and Opposition Coordination Council Continues.

**Article Summary:**  
**Weapons' Talk - by Faysal Al-Soofy**

In a society where the authority of law and order is at its lowest level, people tend to readily resort to force in resolving their disputes. Incidents of killing for very insignificant and silly reasons have now become common in Yemen. Some tribal and political figures exacerbate matters by surrounding themselves with heavily armed retainues. Carrying arms have become popular, and is considered a sign of manhood. This led to sharp increases in kidnappings, tribal fights, highway robbery and many other forms of bloody incidents.

In 1995, Sana'a alone witnessed 5710 crimes which included premeditated murder, manslaughter and commencement of murder. During the same year, 18 tribal wars and 105 kidnappings took place. The police and judiciary must be made more powerful and just in order to become the resort of weak and oppressed people. Public awareness must also be raised, and people must be convinced to abandon their bad old ways.

**AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a (Weekly) 18-3-97**  
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Nasserite Party Will Participate in Elections on Condition of Implementing Agreement with Ruling Coalition.
- 2) Jordanian Lawyers' Syndicate will Defend

Corporal Who Killed Jewish Girls.  
3) Arrest of Islamic Fundamentalists in a Number of Governorates in Yemen.

**Article Summary:**  
**The Right Decision - editorial**

The Nasserite Party's decision to participate in the elections has not surprised many people. The opposition, in general, has kept its decision to participate in the elections subject to the ruling coalition's adherence to guaranteeing free and fair elections. The dialogue with the coalition could have led to one of two major outcomes: either an agreement on guarantees leading to a positive decision, or a failure leading to a negative stance. A draft agreement was prepared by a mini committee which included the Socialist Party. When the agreement was signed, a few days after the Socialist Party's decision to boycott the elections, the rest of the opposition parties saw in it a gain for democracy. Irrespective of the volume of guarantees given by the coalition, the Nasserite's decision to participate was dictated by many patriotic considerations. This decision, however is still subject to the implementation of the agreement.

**AL-SAHWAH: Sana'a (Weekly) 20-3-97**  
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah))

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Islah Sues Supreme Elections Committee for Endorsing Nasserite's Election Symbol Similar to Islah's.
- 2) Islah's Shura Council Starts Its Ordinary New Term.
- 3) Fever of Land Usurping in Aden Extends to Rubbish Tips.

**Article Summary:**  
**Who Will Save Us from the Abyss?**  
by Ali Al-Wasiey

The recent phenomenon of beating school teachers is a shameful one. It should be immediately combated by the wise people in this nation. If this dangerous state of affair continues, it will lead the country into an abyss. Whole generations will be ruined if teachers are not accorded their rightful respect and reverence. It is quite astonishing that such disgraceful behavior toward teachers was not confronted by all the decent citizens in this land.

**AL-BALAGH: Sana'a (Weekly) 18-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The Minister for Defense Asserts Yemen's Wish to Join Gulf Cooperation Council.
- 2) Parliament Ratifies YR. 5 Million Project for Liquefying Natural Gas.
- 3) Trailer Hits Two Cars and Demolishes a Cafeteria and a Mechanics Workshop, Killing Four People and Injuring Others.

**Article Summary:**  
**Population Growth in Yemen**

Many studies and researches submitted to the National Population Council indicate that the population growth rate in Yemen has risen from 3.3% during the 80s to 4.1% now. This is regarded as the highest growth rate in the world. Improving health conditions, the decrease in death rates, and high and steady fertility are partially causing this high growth rate.

Population density, on the other hand, is estimated at 28 persons per square km. This represents an increase of about 23% over the figure of 1990. Taiz is considered to have the highest population density in the country. It has about 14% of Yemen's population.

**AL-RAY AL-AAM: Sana'a (Weekly) 18-3-97**  
(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Teachers Beg for their Salaries at Ministry of Education.
- 2) New Airbus Airplanes Arrive in Sana'a.
- 3) Prosecutor Demand Most Severe Punishment for Secessionist Leaders.

**Article Summary:**  
**Horrendous Crime in Umran**

A non-Yemeni teacher in Umran [suburb of Greater Sana'a] was arrested on charge of sexually interfering with female students. He was uncovered by parents of female students to whom he gives private lessons. It is alleged that this teacher usually keeps one student form going home. In the last time, a student returned looking for her colleague only to find her naked and being molested by the teacher. No actual intercourse took place.

There is evidence that this teacher has molested about ten girls aged no more than ten years. Investigations relying on medical reports are being carried out by the police.

*Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor, Letters to the Editor.*

Reply to a Yemen Times Article

### The Quote Is Misleading

To: The Editor,  
Yemen Times.

I am write to express appreciation for your article "The Prophet's Medicine", in your issue of March 10th, 1997.

While the article was useful and informative on Islam and good health, there is a quote which I do not comprehend or even believe is correct. There was a story about Angel Gabriel telling the Prophet Mohammed that if he ate harisa - a kind of bread pudding - he would have the power of forty men and increase his potency.

This misleading quote gives Islam a bad reputation, because it cannot be true.

I hope that you would kindly review the information you use before publishing.

Thank you.

Dr. Sameer Abdul-Rahman Sanganeer.

To: The Authorities Concerned

As a Somali Teacher who has been working at the Sana'a governorate for the past three years, I would like to add my voice and shed more light for the terrible problems to which we are subjected to.

As a rule, all Foreign teachers' passports are kept at the Ministry of education and the teachers are given identity cards by the Ministry. Recently a colleague of mine was working at a village when his passport was given to somebody else to go to the Umra to Saudi Arabia. However, when the person who took the passport skipped into the country, the Saudis contacted with the Yemeni immigration authorities, giving them the details of the passport and it's owner.

However, the immigration authorities traced the owner of the passport to his working location. And to their surprise numerous people including the village elders had testified that the man did not leave the village for several months. Eventually, the authorities tracked the man who arranged the crime. It was none other than the chairman of the Somali union at the Sana'a governorate.

Rumor has it that he would have landed in jail had he not given huge kickbacks to investigating officers.

When the French embassy in Sana'a recently eased restrictions on visa applications by allowing Somalis who have legal residence permit to apply and obtain visas, numerous passports were taken from the said office and given to other people. When some of it's owners protested, they were threatened with dismissals unless they kept silent.

Eventually, they were issued with new passports and new residence permits. All this scam is masterminded and perpetrated by the chairman of the Somali teachers union at the Sana'a governorate in collusion with senior officials from the Ministry of education.

I would like the government to investigate in order to uncover this apparent breach of the country's laws.

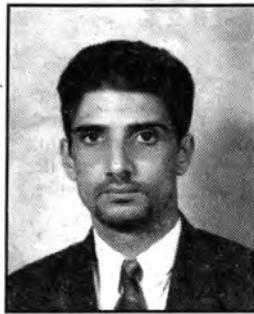
By: AbdIwahab Ali Jima'ale  
Sana'a.

### من أعماق القلوب

أجمل الأمانى وأصدق التهاني  
نرفعها للأخ  
عبدالواحد عبدالله سلام بمناسبة  
ارتزاقه مولوداً جديداً.  
جعل الله قرة أعين والديه،  
وألف ألف مبروك.

ياسين الحاج، وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

## Yemeni Sports: Is There Any Hope?



The Excellent Football Tournament is now over. It witnessed the severe defeat of many a distinguished team. It was also accompanied by marked stagnation for other sports. This goes to prove that Yemeni sports suffer from chronic maladies, the symptoms of which do not need a specialist to diagnose. The cure is very well

known for sports officials in our country. The treatment is two-fold: providing training facilities and good sport venues, and planning and implementing short and long-term programs. If implemented, such steps will very likely lead to our sports teams achieving great results in international competitions, reflecting a bright image of Yemen.

The government has already started executing one of the above solutions. The Youths and Sports Support Fund has been set up, and is being financed through levying a tax of one riyal on each cigarette packet sold.

If this money is correctly directed towards financing sports projects, it will contribute to elevating the status of Yemeni sports. If this step is not accompanied by proper planning which channels the funds in the right direction, then funds alone will not have visible effects. In the absence of planning, money will be spent on sports clubs and associations without any proper and direct supervision by the relevant authorities.

The sports indicator for 1997 is still pointing to a downward trend. There are many promises for establishing new sports venues and stadiums but without any specified time periods for implementations. This means that there are no plans, whether short or long-term. It seems there are only dreams with no substantive and practical sides to them.

However, the efforts made by the Ministry of Youths and Sports in building sports arenas, and supporting and sponsoring sports activities in various governorates are to be commended. It must be emphasized here that competing in, and winning international sports events do not come through sheer luck or chance. Properly planned and executed programs and, above all, hard work and training that could go on for years are the way to picking the fruits of success.

The aforementioned fund has already started supporting sports associations and clubs. But we still await the programmed planning that is essential for any development and growth in sports.

Can we be optimistic? Is there any hope for rescuing Yemeni sports from decline? Yemen has its great share of ambitious men and women who are eager to give their very best. All they need is for them to be properly led towards a brighter future. In any society, sport has become the mirror that reflects its development and advance.

In Yemen, the cure for the maladies afflicting sports activities is there, but the problem lie in how to administer this medicine in order to achieve full recovery.

Sport Editor

## Athletics National Team in Italy

Organized by the Italian Athletics Association and supervised by the International Association for Amateur Athletics, the activities of the 6th international championship for long-distance running was started in Italy on Sunday 23 March. The Yemeni Athletics Association is participating with a team of adults and another one of youngsters. This participation represent a starting step for developing athletics activities in Yemen during 1997.

Our national adult team champions are participating in the 12 km races along with other world champions, thereby proving Yemen's presence in international sports arenas. Renowned Yemeni players taking part in this event include Hussein Juaim, Mohammed Al-Atashi, Abdulrahman Abduaziz, Mohammed Ali Yahya, Mohammed Al-Hadaa and Anwar Al-Harazy.

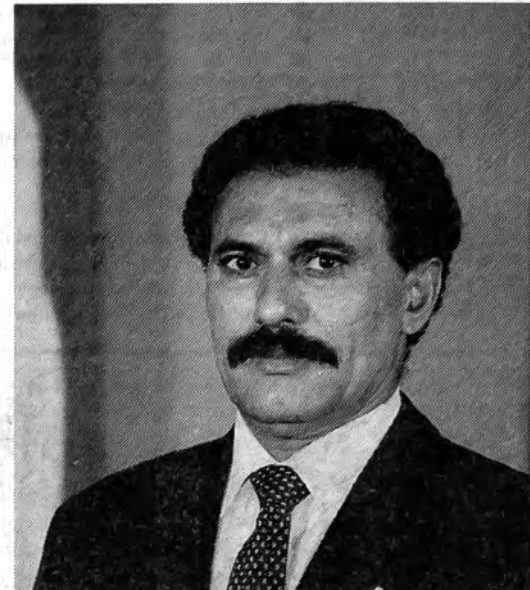
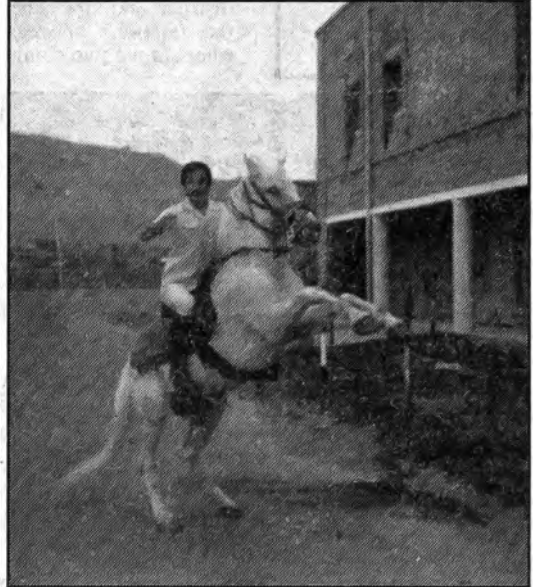
In the 8 km races, the youngsters team include Mohammed Al-Khawlan, Anwar Mohammed, and Fouad Mohammed Obad. It is expected that this team will achieve good results and attain an advanced position. It is also hoped that this participation will be a good start of more activities abroad. Our national team left for Torino, Italy after a 20-day training camp. We wish our national athletics team the best of luck in Torino city.



## Under the Auspices of the President of the Republic, Al-Husainia Horsemanship Festival is Inaugurated

The fifth Husainia Horsemanship Festival and camel races were started on 23rd March, under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh who had attended many such events in the past and presented the winners with their trophies. The week before the start of the festival had witnessed intensified efforts in preparation for the festival. The Minister for Youth and Sport had personally supervised the final arrangements for the event.

The minister, Dr. Abdulwahab Rawih said that,



"this festival aims to preserve a special style of distinguished activities associated with the heritage of the ancestors." The festival will become a "means for spreading and developing these activities, giving them their rightful status among young people." Many horsemanship, camel racing and athletic activities are included in the festival. Fifty horsemen and 100 camel riders participated in the event. Camel jumping, which is a famous and novel event at the festival, is also held. Many youths and youngsters took part in this festival.

## Naseem Vs. Hardy

# Will the Prince Gain European Title Again?

The feather weight world boxing champion, Naseem Hamid is preparing for yet another big fight. The Prince already holds two international boxing titles: the World Boxing Organization (WBO) and the International Boxing Federation (IBF).

The new fight will be with Billy Hardy, the new European champion in this weight. Hardy challenged Naseem for the world championship, and has vowed to topple Naseem off his throne.

The British champion of Yemeni origin said that he regards his challenger, Hardy, as a stepping stone for going on to collect more world titles. He also asserted that he will defeat Hardy not later than the 5th round of their fight.

The match will take place in Manchester, England on 3rd May.

If Naseem wins this fight, he will gain the title of the European feather weight champion.

It is worth remembering here that Naseem got the title of European bantam weight champion in Manchester in May, 1994. He beat the Italian former champion Bill Castro.

Will Naseem get the European title again, in the feather weight this time?

We'll just have to wait and see.



## ألف مبروك

أحر التهناني والتبريكات نرفها للأخ  
علي أحمد الحدي بمناسبة المولود الجديدة التي أسماها

« رنا »

فألف مبروك يا أبا رنا.

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محمد أحمد الحدي، عبدالقادر الشراحي

محمد محمد صالح، عبدالخالق اسماعيل

محمود راجح

وجميع موظفي شركة الأدوية

أجمل التهناني والتبريكات للأخ العزيز

عبدالسلام عبدالله أحمد مظفر

وذلك بمناسبة الخطوبة وعقد القران فألف مبروك،

وعقبال دخول القفص الذهبي.

المهنؤون:

العاج / حمود يحيى ميخوت الحبابي وأولاده

عبدالله حمود الحبابي وأولاده

محمود حمود الحبابي

أحمد حمود الحبابي، خالد حمود الحبابي

صالح محمد مهدي، يحيى علي مظفر وأولاده

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## لاحول ولا قوة إلا بالله

نتقدم بخالص العزاء والمواساة

للأخ/ محمد الخلجي واسرته، وذلك لمصابهم

الجلل بوقاة ولداهم محمد بن محمد الخلجي.

تغمده الله بواسع رحمته وألهم أهله وذويه

الصبر والسلوان.

وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

علي صلاح، جمال العواضي،

عبدالإله الجرهموني، علي العطاب،

يوسف الشريف

## ألف مبروك

نهني الأخ نضال الصبيحي بمناسبة

ارتزاقه المولود البكر التي أسماها

ليال

المهنؤون: جميل محمد أحمد

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## Yemen & Saudi Arabia: "Then He said, 'Let there be light'."

The Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have a lot of problems in their bilateral relationship. That is because there is a lot of distrust and uneasiness in the relations between the rulers in the two countries.

Let us start from there. The two sides must openly accept that they do not trust each other, and proceed to see how they can build and develop mutual trust. This cannot happen by hiding the fact that they do not trust each other.

Second, each side has misgivings about the other side. Let us list them.

From the Saudi side:

1. Saudi Arabia still has a grudge about Yemen's position during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. That is legitimate, but there is little Yemen can do about that now. The two sides can use that experience to discuss how to avoid a similar situation in the future.

2. Saudi Arabia also worries about Yemen's democratization. While this is an internal matter, the way Yemenis go about their transformation can be fine-tuned in order to pacify Saudi worries and anxieties.

3. Saudi Arabia wants to be in on Yemen's regional relations. This is their undeclared goal. As the big brother in the region, the Saudis feel, at least they need to be consulted before Yemen plunges in regional deals and alliances. Does Yemen owe it to Saudi Arabia on this count? Not on the basis of present-day circumstances. For Saudi Arabia to qualify for such a privilege, it has to offer some kind of arrangements.

4. Finally, there is the border dispute. Saudi Arabia needs to finalize this matter once and for all. Again, this is a legitimate concern, and Yemen is willing to proceed with it.

From the Yemen Side:

1. Yemen also has a few grudges against Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom played a negative role in the recent civil war, as it worked to split the country. But Saudi Arabia can do very little about that now.

2. however, it could a lot about the opposition in exile. Saudi Arabia is bank-rolling them and even harboring many of the enemies of the regime in Sanaa. It cannot have it both ways - talk to Sanaa and support its opponents.

3. Yemen also worries about Saudi in-roads and influence through the tribal sheikhs and centers of power. That is seen as a mechanism to weaken the central government, and even to de-stabilize the country.

4. Finally, Yemen also wants a border deal. It wants to get it over with in order to be rehabilitated within the region.

At this juncture in history, Saudi Arabia is the stronger in this bilateral relationship. But does that mean it can engage in a take-take formula, or should it be a take-and-give format.

One of the major problems with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is that he is insensitive to his peace partners' needs. He believes he can push everybody around and get away with it. To a great extent, Yemenis feel the Saudis are treating them in the same way.

It would be in the interest of the two peoples and countries to strike a deal that offers something to each side. More than ever before, the ball is with the Saudis.

Will they play it right, and with an eye to the long-term future?

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

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