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EMC Taiz and Ibb Observers Ready for Election Day

EMC Completes Training of Observers in Taiz & Ibb

On Sunday, April 6th, the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC) concluded the last of a series of training workshops in Taiz. In this workshop, 638 men and women were trained on the task of monitoring elections. With the completion of this job, some 2,130 EMC observers in Taiz and Ibb are now ready for the 27th of April - Elections Day.

The inauguration ceremony on April 5th was attended by the Deputy Governor of Taiz, Mr. Mohammed Al-Hayagim, Mr. Peter Dost, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Netherlands Embassy, Mr. Ahmad Hayel Saeed, Honorary Consul of Denmark in Yemen, and many other senior dignitaries.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Junaid, Director of the Taiz EMC Branch, expressed his delight with the enthusiasm and eagerness of the young men and women to volunteer for work with the EMC.

The Deputy Governor expressed his full support. "These voluntary grass-roots efforts complement the activities of the state in making the elections a success," he said.

Peter Dost said he was impressed with the turnout - especially among women - and the organization. "Democracy is one of the main reasons for international support for Yemen," he indicated.

More details on page 5



CRUCIFICTION: At This Time and Age ?

The crime he committed was horrible. He went on a mad shooting spree killing staff, teachers, and injuring pupils in two schools - Al-Talay' and Mussa Ibn Nussair, both in the southern end of Sanaa city.

The verdict from the Appeals Court of Sanaa was equally savage. After a 2-day trial at the Primary Court of South

Sanaa, and 2 days of deliberations at the Sanaa Court of Appeal, the man, 45-year old Mohamed Ahmed Al-Nedhari of Ba'adan, Ibb, was sentenced to stand before a firing squad. Then his body would be crucified for 3 days. The Supreme Court upheld the death sentence, without the crucifixion, That God.

The sentence was executed on

Saturday, April 5th.

The sordid and gruesome crime, and the punishment, raised many questions among Yemenis and foreigners. Is it true that the savage crime was in reaction to a lot of injustice that the man had endured? Is crucifixion an acceptable form of punishment? What can Yemen learn from this ordeal?

At Last, Action at the Aden Free Zone: Dredger Is HERE

On April 10th, 1997, the dredging and deepening of the Ma'alla Harbor in Aden will start.

On the 29th of March, the first shipment of equipment for the dredger arrived at Aden port. More equipment has since arrived.

The job of deepening of the harbor area of Caltex, and the construction of new wharfs is finally underway.

"The arrival of the equipment and the start of work is a sign of how seriously we address this matter. The dredging process will start on the 10th

of April and will be completed by July," said Dirhem Noman, President of Aden Free Zone Authority.

The dream of the free zone is fast coming true. The business and diplomatic communities have interacted positively with this development.



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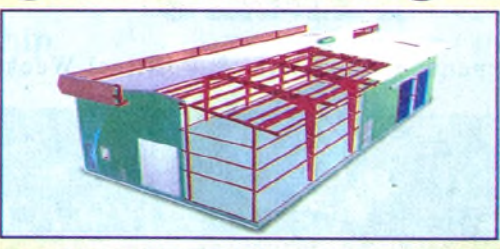
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OUR VIEWPOINT

Who Did You Say Was the Great Fixer?

A few weeks back, there was a lot of talk regarding how the People's General Congress, in general, and President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in particular, were able to determine the results of the elections beforehand. The other parties complained a lot about how the President swayed the votes, and that the outcome was already known.

As things stand today, that complaint is proving to be wrong. I can point to at least two factors:

1. Regions Resisting Influence:

It is true that President Ali Abdullah and the PGC have much influence in many constituencies and regions. But, it is also true that certain constituencies and regions remained beyond their reach, let alone their influence. Therefore, it is hard to talk about determining the results, at least in these constituencies. In fact, what is happening is the opposite. The size of the constituencies in which presidential influence is exercised for elections reasons is falling.

2. Independents Disturb the Calculations:

Out of a total of nearly 4,000 candidates in the Republic, more than 2,700 are independents. Many constituencies which were perceived as guaranteed to certain parties, are no longer so. Independent candidates, many of them with high appeal in their local communities and commanding much respect, look set to upset the calculations of the political parties.

As a result of those factors, many of the political parties, especially, the ruling coalition partners are in worried. To add insult to injury, some of the senior party candidates who have ventured to stand for elections, will almost certainly lose, unless a miracle saves them. And, of course, miracles have long ceased to happen.

As the agony and anxiety of the party leaders, especially in the PGC and Islah, is mounting, many pro-democracy individuals - local and foreign - chuckle at the dilemma of the PGC and Islah. "It is a healthy sign for democracy and elections," they all repeat.

In a setting of open competition for all, no one should have preponderant control over the outcome. Even the little person out in an unknown village has a say, and how this little guy decides will affect the final results. It is also gratifying to see the party bosses, who were so over-confident a few weeks back, squirming as the uncertainties grow. This is one of the beauties of democracies in action.

But this uncertainty in itself is a plus to whoever wins big in this election. It proves the authentic nature of the free competition of all political parties and candidates.

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The German Hostages Are Released

On Saturday, April 5th, the four German hostages were released by the Zayidi clan of the Bani Jabr tribe in Khowlan. Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Al-Zayidi was said to have been instrumental in securing the release.

Internet Subscribers Reaches 500

As of April 1st, 1997, the number of subscribers to the internet was 476. "We expect the number to have reached 500, by now," said Mr. Christopher Leather, Divisional Manager at TeleYemen - Commercial, Operation and Marketing. Does it already pay for itself? "You bet."

Election Survey Shows High Awareness Level

An elections survey indicated that even in the most remote of Yemeni corners, Yemeni citizens show a high level of awareness. A survey of 948 potential voters (459 women and 489 men) in March in constituencies 147 (Mukalla/Al-Shihe) and 158 (Seiyun/Thamud) showed voters were aware of how to vote, under what circumstances the voting will take place, etc.

65% of the men and 68% of the women were aware there are segregated polling stations for men and women. 58% of the men and 49% of the women knew that all women's polling stations were 'manned' by women officials only. 62% of the men and 56% of the women knew the ballot is secret. More importantly, 67% of women knew that 'secret ballot' meant freedom to elect a candidate without outside (read, male) pressure or influence.

However, only 38% of men and 24% of women realized that the paper will contain visual symbols for each candidate to help illiterate voters.

The survey was designed by the Electoral Reform Society of Britain, and was funded by the British Embassy.

The results will help design an electoral awareness campaign.

Tribute to Chinese Buried in Yemen on Qingming

On Saturday, 5th April, a number of Yemeni and Chinese officials paid tribute to the Chinese people buried in Yemen. A ceremony, to mark the "Qingming" - the occasion to mourn the dead - was held at the Chinese Memorial Site on Hodeidah Road in Sanaa. Mr. Hussain Al-Maswary, Mayor of Sanaa, Mr. Jamal Al-Khawlani, Mr. Yu Xingzhi, China's Ambassador in Yemen, and many other officials.

The ambassador gave a short address on the occasion. He mentioned that the first Chinese to be buried in Yemen was Engineer Zhang Qixuan who sacrificed his life in 1961 during the construction of the road between Sanaa and Hodeidah.

Mayor Al-Maswary said Yemeni-Chinese relations were solid and growing all the time.

Poets' Union Concludes Today

The Ninth Conference of the Union of Yemeni Poets and Literary Persons concludes its meetings today in Sanaa. The union, though ineffective at the institutional level, has members who enjoy visible influence.

The conference will elect a new board of directors and a general secretariat to replace the outgoing ones.

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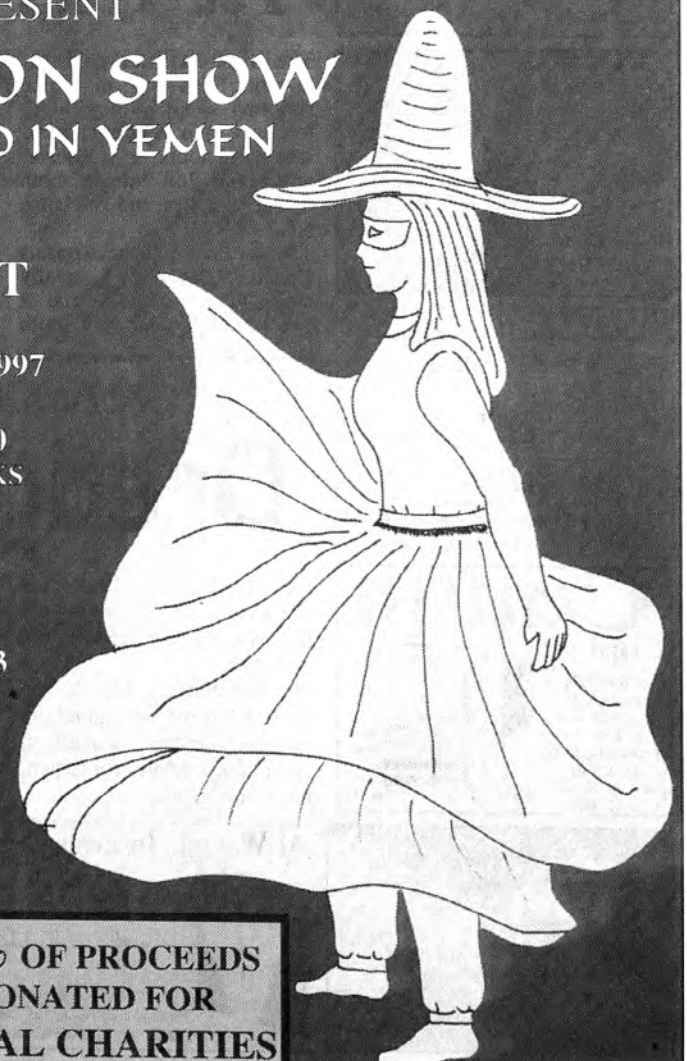
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Faris Al-Sanabani:

“We see choices!”

The democratic experience of Yemen has created a class and culture on the subject. Many NGOs and consulting firms are also involved.

One of the rising young stars is Mr. Faris Al-Sanabani. He is a hybrid of the tribal north by birth and background, and the business-mind of Taiz by up-bringing. To further improve the mix, Faris spent a few years in the USA.

One day he attended a lecture entitled "Giving Back to the Race", which called on Black American scholars to go back to the ghetto to help one's own. "I felt he was talking to me too."

But, upon his return, he did not quite settle in. He worked as a translator for one year. The he worked for the government for ten days. Later, he worked for FAO. The, he started his own businesses.

Now he is heavily involved in various projects under the umbrella of the Arab Democratic Institute (ADI) which aim to assist Yemen's in democratization process.

Yemen Times seized this opportunity to talk to him. Excerpts

Q: You are heavily involved with the elections. How do you see it going?

A: It is going and that is important. It is a continuing process, and that is how it should be. It is like a ball of snow, growing bigger and bigger as it rolls. That is how I see democracy in this country.

The efforts of the ADI, the Elections Monitoring Committee (EMC), other organizations, and every one in this country will help realize democracy.

Q: Are you worried at all?

A: I am excited. I am happy, and I am nervous. I am happy about the people who are proud about democracy. It is a flag we can raise in the region and show the whole world. I am worried because there are some people who are not supporting democracy, and are very critical.

The way we see it at the ADI is that we should go with the flow, and bring change from within, instead from without. We are afraid that working against it might stop the momentum. Going with it can help shifting it one way or another.

Q: What is ADI? What is it doing?

A: It is an Institute that started its activities under a different name to monitor the 1993 elections. (It is an organization the seeds for which came from the Washington-based National Democratic Institute). It was a very simple step towards democracy but we are excited about it. I was among the people who started with the movement.

After the elections, international organizations started contacting us to talk about our experience. All of a sudden, we became knowledgeable people. We carried our experience to people in Washington D.C., Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and other places.

Now the ADI is a well-established NGO. When we started the ADI, there were three

of us - Mr. Hafidh Fadhel, a prominent lawyer, Mr. Jamal Al-Adeemi, another lawyer, and myself. We later invited Dr. Rauofa Hassan to join.

Q: Could you tell us a bit about ADI activities?

A: There are several distinct activities of the ADI, as follows:

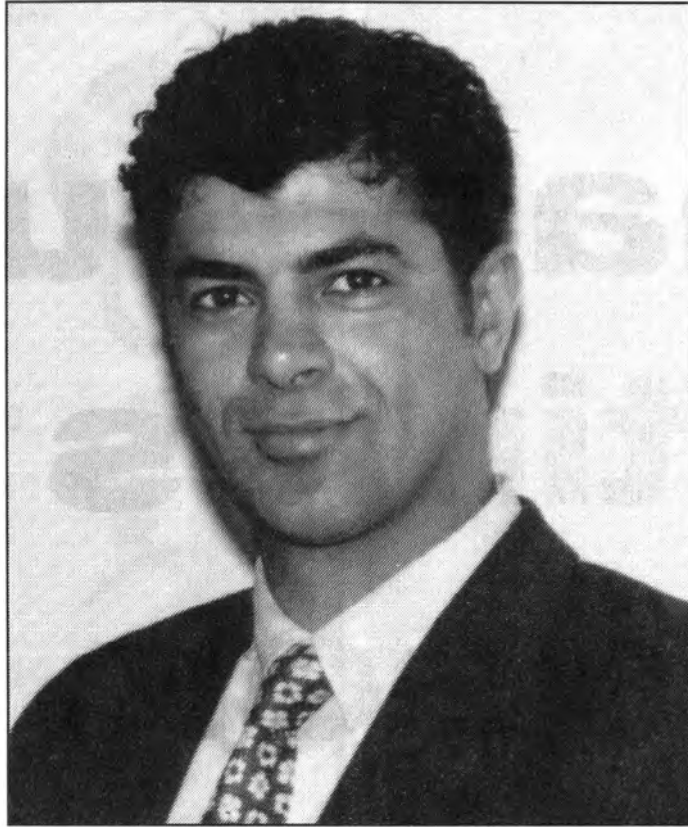
1. Elections monitoring is one major activity, and it is under the direct supervision of Hafidh Fadhel. He was the executive director of the Group in 1993. He also joined in several international monitoring delegations. This activity is financed by the NDI. We have been able to recruit 8,000 volunteers male and female volunteers. We have trained the coordinators and their assistants, who in turn will train the volunteers.

Unlike the EMC which covers only some of the constituencies, we at ADI aim to cover all the constituencies in the country and all the polling centers. We also monitor the election process - starting from the registration phase, to the distribution of cards to election campaigns all the way to election day.

2. The second project is the Democratic Forum, which is an Arabic newspaper directed toward voters education. It is financed by a grant from the Westminster Foundation.

It deals with all kinds of ideas and discussions on democracy. This is an open forum for all thoughts and ideas. One interesting feature of this newspaper is a four-page cartoon directed to illiterate people. These are also useful for the non-Arabic speaking members of the international community. Jamal Al-Adeemi has taken charge of this project.

3. The third project is concerned with increasing women's participation in elections. This is a big project, funded by the EU. The idea behind it is to identify the constituencies that have low female participation and promote more active involvement. We recruited and trained coordinators



to go to these constituencies; and educate voters and encourage women to participate. Dr. Rauofa Hassan is in charge of this project.

4. The fourth program is election and poetry. In Yemen, there are some great Yemeni poets whose poetry are so perfect and beautiful. We have started a competition on who can come up with the best poems on elections, and this is done in collaboration with Sanaa television. We received more than 150 poems, which are being screened at the moment, in order to select the best 12.

There will be seven TV episodes, in each one of which these poems will be recite, leading to the elections.

Through the Yemen Times, I would like to extend an open invitation to Yemenis and foreigners to come to the Cultural Centre and attend this historical movement in voter-education poetry.

5. The fifth program is the a secretariat to assist foreign observers. This is a joint effort between the UN the EU, and ourselves to assist the international observers in coordinating their monitoring. We will make a standard unified form, which all observers will use to write their political comments. We will also organize talks with the secretary generals of the various political parties for half an hour at the Sheraton Hotel on 21st and 22nd of April.

This effort is being financed by the Netherlands Government, under the EU umbrella.

Q: All ADI activities seem to be oriented to the parliamentary elections which will happen on April 27th. What happens to ADI after that?

A: This is a very good question. Our biggest worry is that after elections all the funding will cease. So one of our main goals is to make a huge impact to make our names recognized. So, through the last project, we hope to make international organizations aware of ourselves in order to generate additional funding.

Q: The EMC is a complementary as well rival organiza-

tion. We have seen its workshops, volunteers, and other activities.

Q: Is there any coordination between the EMC and ADI?

A: We have worked with the Yemeni elections in 1993. We joined four international observer missions.

We worked as consultants for local groups in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. We have experience.

We have offered to all parties to contact us and benefit as much as possible from our experience.

The EMC has through its Secretary-General, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, been in contact with us. We have provided them with some forms which could be developed into an observer manual.

The EMC has also invited ADI to participate in its workshops. Our Hafidh Fadhel has contributed to their Sanaa workshop.

We hope to strengthen this cooperation even more.

Q: Let us move to a different subject. You are also a journalist, the editor-in chief of the Yemen Observer. Can you tell us a little bit about it?

A: We saw need for another English language newspaper in addition to the Yemen Times, which covers too much politics. The purpose was to cover culture, social issues, etc. The Yemen Times was too much into politics. That is how the Yemen Observer

was born. Unfortunately, we faced a lot of difficulties, and the paper has stopped to come out for some time, now. We intend to come back and continue with it.

Q: Why did it stop. Was it political? Was it financial?

A: Actually neither of those. We stopped because we did not have enough material to print. We had problems of getting information. It is a matter of a network of stringers or journalists who could supply us with a continuous flow of information.

Q: Where do we go from here? What do you see?

A: We see choices, for the people and the government. We see prosperity as well as disasters. We have to work as one group towards prosperity. All the people in Yemen need that.

Q: Any last comments?

A: We really appreciate it if you could allow me to make this statement. We have found cooperation from all sides - SEC, the international community, embassies, the UN, etc. We are proud and very thankful to those who have been supportive.

We hope the atmosphere remains that way.

I call on all donor organizations to continue to support organizations like ADI which are adding something meaningful and positive to Yemen's transformation.

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Cont'd from page 1:

EMC Training Workshop

Dr. Selah Haddash, Dr. Abbas Al-Junaid and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and other experts offered in Taiz over the last few days theoretical lectures followed by

One of the key points stressed by the Secretary-General of the EMC was the fact that the volunteers were making history. "Our nation is making history

At another level, Ms. Shadah Mohammed Nasser is presently finalizing arrangements for a major workshop to be held in Aden. "This workshop will bring

Meanwhile, the EMC is helping make arrangements for the foreign observers who are coming for the elections. Already the early ones have arrived this



workshop training to the observers who will man roughly 60 constituencies in Taiz and Ibb governorates. The two-day workshop is one of a series of training programs held in various Yemeni cities and organized for EMC volunteers.

with these elections. But so are we, by monitoring them. We are establishing the right of private citizens to monitor the government efforts at managing these elections," his announcement came leading to an uproar of applause.

together volunteers working in constituencies in Aden, Lahej and Abyan," she indicated. She also said that the 800 or so volunteers to join the Aden meetings will cover nearly 40 constituencies in the three above governorates.

week, while the others are planning on coming as the 27th of April approaches.

"We will offer whatever information we have to whoever asks for it," said Dr. Selah Haddash, the person who is handling this matter at the EMC. "The service is costing the EMC very little, and it is available free of charge to whoever wants it," he added.

Journalists, parliamentarians, academicians, and other persons interested in Yemen and/or democratization are among the large groups coming for the April elections.

The Supreme Elections Committee is making arrangements to help the local and foreign observers take their proper role fully, said Abdullah Al-Sayyadi. "We are giving them full freedom to check things out."

By: M. Bin Sallam,
Yemen Times.

Congressional Staffers Impressed with Yemen's Democratization

"We are arranging for congressmen to visit Yemen."

Following a 3-day fact-finding mission to Yemen, three congressional staffers from the International Relations Committee had a lot of words of encouragement regarding Yemen's coming elections, in particular, and the democratization process, in general.

Walker Roberts, Chris Kojm, and Deborah Bodlander met with a number of senior government officials, political party leaders, media personalities, and a number of public figures. "We are working on arranging an official visit by congressmen and senior state department officials," said Walker Roberts. He said that such a visit, in addition to its symbolic support gesture, will further strengthen and already friendly relations.

Deborah Bodlander, specializing on the Middle East, praised Yemen's effort to open up and democratize. "We support the elections and we encourage all parties and groups to interact positively," she said.

Chris Kojm went one step further. "We hope Yemen will continue on this path, and will strengthen its democratization experience," he said.

In meetings with the media, the congressional staffers were versed on the internal conditions as well as on regional issues, especially the Yemeni-Saudi relationship. "Unless Yemeni-Saudi relations are put on the right track, stability in the region will be jeopardized," they were told repeatedly.

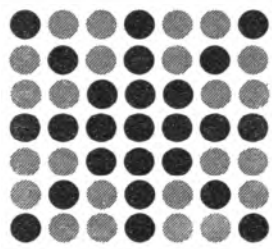
US Ambassador David Newton

disclosed a fact overlooked by many Yemenis. "The US is actually contributing well to the development process of Yemen. Last year (1996), the USA was the fourth largest aid donor, with US\$ 9.5 million in disbursements," he indicated. The ambassador stressed that assistance aimed at strengthening public participation in the projects being implemented. As examples, he pointed to rural health projects being carried out in various parts of the country. He too had lots of encouraging words on the political fronts, in spite of visible and numerous shortcomings. The understanding nature of the American position is due to the less democratic regional picture.

The US Government has been a staunch supporter of Yemeni reunification. Its position during the summer 1994 civil war saved the day for Sanaa. It was American pressure that stopped some countries in the region from recognizing the break-away state that was announced in Aden during the civil war.

More recently, US-Yemeni relations went through a limited deterioration, especially as American economic and commercial interests were forsaken to win more French sympathy.

"But there is now a visible warming up between the two old friends," says Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani. This would be further consolidated by a high-level American visit to Sanaa before the year is out.



The British Council

Quality Language Learning World-Wide

The British Council - Children's Courses

The British Council's highly successful Children's Courses will resume Sunday 13th April.

- Term 5:

13th April - 28th May, with a break for Eid Al-Adha.
2 hours per week. 12 hours total: \$65. Age range 6-14.
All levels are available.

Registration for April/May Course:

Monday	7/4/97	3:00pm - 6:00pm
Tuesday	8/4/97	10:00am - 1:00pm & 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Wednesday	9/4/97	10:00am - 1:00pm & 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday	10/4/97	10:00am - 1:00pm

For more information visit the British Council at No. 7 Sabain Street or simply call (01) 244155

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PROCESS FOR TREATING UNSATURATED HYDROCARBONS

Abstract of the Disclosure

A process for treating unsaturated hydrocarbons comprises subjecting an unsaturated hydrocarbon component to metathesis in the presence of a catalyst system. The catalyst system comprises silica, alumina and alkyl tin compound. One or more different hydrocarbons is thus formed.

Copies of the specification and drawings, if any, of the aforesaid invention maybe obtained upon application to the above-mentioned owners.

It is hereby declared that the aforesaid SASTECH (PROPRIETARY) LIMITED., claim the full, sole and exclusive right, power and authority to make, use, exercise and vend in The Republic of Yemen, the aforesaid invention and that they will take any legal steps against any person or persons infringing such rights.



Announcement

اعلان

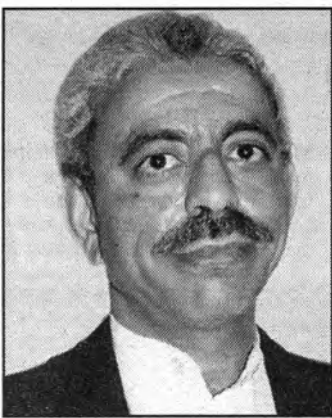
It is the pleasure of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen to announce that Dr. Waleed Jazrawi is appointed in the position of the President & General manager of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen, The Republic of Yemen

يسر شركة كنيديان اوكسيدنتال بتروليم يمن أن تعلن بأن د. وليد جزراوي قد عين بوظيفة الرئيس والمدير العام لشركة كنيديان اوكسيدنتال بتروليم يمن - الجمهورية اليمنية.

Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Normalization Here and There



You keep talking about trends, as though we live in a crystal ball. The only trends I can see are those that indicate unfavorable times ahead of us. That is what you keep saying. Human beings are not programmable, but trends do mean that the country would be running along well laid-out plans, governed by laws that are applicable to all, institutions that have clearly defined functions and everybody knows what they are doing and where they are going. Mujahid had interrupted his friend's long discussion on trends which he had started while they had tea on the sidewalk refreshment and tea cafe near the Central Bank of Yemen, in the heart of the city of Sana'a.

Now Massoud continued the discussion. Look at the trend in prices. Look at the trend in kidnappings. You know when you speak about trends, there are positive trends and negative trends. The trends you would expect from the kind of world you mentioned are positive trends. Trends that are positive can only come from a disciplined society, as you rightfully pointed out. But, for all intents and purposes, you can rule out positive trends, not just for Yemen but for the entire Arab World. Is the mind-set of the Arab so clogged that he cannot understand that. We are a homogeneous nation - with the same language, the same religion and, relatively speaking, the same cultural heritage?

Again, Mujahid saw good wisdom in interrupting his friend's talk. Look, brother Mujahid, just stick to Yemen. We have enough to keep us busy here in Yemen. Let us not start to worry about all the other Arab countries.

But you cannot just contend that what goes on in Yemen is related to what happens elsewhere in the region. Chances are you will not see any Arab country being run along the same lines as modern nations are managing their affairs. I would not rule out that there are forces in the world that refuse to let the Arabs fully comprehend the approaches of proper nationhood.

Massoud again continued his looking at events from a broad perspective. Still, Mujahid would not have any of this panoramic approach to analyzing the state of the nation. Look, Massoud, this global conspiracy theory is just not my idea of the way to look at things. If you tell me, it is just a strain on the mind. It also means that we might as well give up any effort or hope towards overcoming our obstacles that stand in the way of progress, whether, for us as Yemenis or for the entire Arab World.

The best thing and the one that seems logical to me, is to keep our thoughts and discussion as close to home as possible. How can we start to search for solutions for the problems of the entire Arab World, when we have not been able to solve the problems in our own turf? Besides, there are just some Arab problems that are so messy, I would not want to touch them with a hundred meter pole. They just do not seem to have a beginning or an end. Look at Somalia, the Sudan and Algeria. As for Palestine, all I can tell you is that, by sheer magic from Disneyland, the problem I had been transformed from correcting a historical wrong to such trivial issue called normalization. How incredible can the facts of life be changed so quickly? The whole world is jumping up and down about rights, justice freedom and so many idealistic inclinations. But in Palestine, these words are thrown out the window by everyone with a role in the problem: Netanyahu, Clinton, Arafat, Ross, Albright, Mubarak, the Gulf leaders, the Arab Generals turned into Presidents-for-life-all of them.

The non Arabs, I mentioned, will tell you that it is wrong and meaningless to talk about rights when talking about Palestine. Normalization is the issue at stake, and the only problem is how to place the region on a normal course, or normal template, as my computer would have it. Those who are Arabs on the list have never worried about rights that their people should be enjoying. One would think that as far as they are concerned the word rights has no place in the Arabic tongue. Because every time anyone mentions the word, these great leaders will cut his tongue out for corrupting the free-flowing smoothness of the Arabic language. Oh, these leaders will be willing to talk about such things as national interests. But the only interests on their mind is their own; the rest of the population could all go to hell as far as they are concerned.

National interests to them are simplified to mean their pockets and their quest for as much power as possible over their peoples rights. So, you should not expect any of these people to worry about rights of the Palestinians or the rights of the Lebanese in Southern Lebanon, or the rights of the Syrians on the Golan Heights. So why do you bother yourself with such unnecessary talk about the rights of the indigenous people of Palestine, when you know that you will be charged with going one of the primary projects of the forthcoming new century. Do stop

from getting into a heavy discussion of mans inhumanity to man in such a big expanse.

We have enough of it here to keep us busy for some time to come.

An Iraqi teacher who sat beside them a few minutes ago wanted to put matters in their right perspective: You Yemenis are really as bad of as some of your brethren in the rest of the Arab World. I must admit, you Yemenis manage to keep a lot more freedom than a lot of other Arabs cannot even hope of ever realizing, let alone enjoy. At least, your leaders admit that you are entitled to some political freedom and work hard to try to show that, indeed, you have it.

Mujahid was not impressed by the Iraqi teachers last comment: I hope their attempts have not been too convincing to you. I admit we are not like some of the other dictatorships in the area, but believe me, when we Yemenis talk about rights, the understanding of rights differ between the power wielders of the country and the people at large. The play on semantics can be frustrating at times. I would think that it is better to be told that you do not have rights and leave it at that, than top be told you have rights and then learn the hard way that someone up there is really pulling your leg!

The Iraqi teacher went on. "I am telling you from what I see you Yemenis have so much freedom. Any of the citizens of the other Arab countries would sell all that they have to be just like you."

Mujahid quickly added, "The so much freedom you are talking about is called chaos and anarchy, not freedom. It is freedom that only gives weight to strength, money and influence. With these you will be able to enjoy more freedom than you will ever need - even the freedom to kill, rob and juggle the law anyway you like, take any piece of land you like and even kidnap foreigners. But for the vast majority of the population, the only freedom they are looking for right now is the freedom from hunger. That is the only freedom we are looking for. Do you know where we can find it?"

You should not talk about hunger, we Iraqis know it better than anyone else," said the Iraqi.

I can not believe that in the Arab World there could be hunger. If the Sudan just, by itself gets act together, there would be enough produced there to feed everyone in the Arab World. If the Arab states could just get into institutionalized form of government rather than to let a bunch of power hungry dictators run the show in their countries, without giving them anything in return, I am telling you the whole Arab World could be rosy. Look at we have in the region: oil - lots of it, fertile lands, a large intellectual base, a strategic international position, I can go on and on.

Massoud was telling his friends about the opportunities that the Arabs were not taking advantage of.

Mujahid emphasized his hopelessness with the Arab leadership. "To our leaders there is no room for accepting to live without border problems with the neighbors. Border disputes can go on forever between states that should not be even separate entities. How can you expect them to think about sharing the bounties of the land?"

Look, my friend, Massoud cut in, nobody is asking the rich to give to the poor, or for the distribution of the mango crop in the Sudan throughout the Arab World. What we want is to be able to have the free flow of capital and resources, so that the Arabs can get to become a really productive nation.

About the only free flow you have now in the Arab World is the free flow of blood. Look at Algeria, the Sudan and Somalia. How much blood is being spilled there, for no apparently logical reason. Look at how much of this blood is the consequence of a senseless political struggle, for which the people of the countries have no positive outcome to look for, no matter who wins in the struggle. Mujahid continued to express his doubts about the Arab leadership.

If the Arab leaders start thinking just 25% of the time about their peoples, I think we can easily throw all the problems into the past tense. I think that these leadership is going to have to start to realize that the reason their countries are the way they are is because of their mishandling of the crisis that their countries are facing., the Iraqi expressed his view.

Mujahid had a more to-the-point explanation. "Look these crisis can not be solved by the very same leaders who cause them. The problem, really, is that Arab leaders do not want to give their people the chance to work out of their problems. I can bet you that if the Arab populations had a say in how their countries are run, there would be really no problems or crisis. Even on the Palestine issue, I can assure you that if Netanyahu knew that the Arabs had a say in the way they are governed and by whom, he would think twice, not just about

building settlements in East Jerusalem, but of being in the region at all. We really have to start thinking about basics. There are no Arabs who like to see Arabs fighting Arabs for any reason. But our leaders have distorted the basics of adherence to nationality. They have even distorted the basics of religious adherence, although all the Arab radio broadcasting stations start off their programs and end them with a recital of the Quran.

Now you should be able to see why I say you Yemenis have gone a long way towards achieving the freedom and rights the citizen should have in an Arab country. I can assure you that what you are saying now, could never be said in any of the Gulf states or Iraq. Chances are the guy who says something like what you are saying could be considered as having said his last words. Burt here in Yemen, you can say anything you like., the Iraqi still wanted to comfort his friends about the freedoms that they have.

Just think of how different Iraq would be if the Iraqis had political freedom. There would not have been any Gulf Wars. There would be prosperity for all the Iraqis, considering the oil wealth of the country. All the Iraqi intellectuals-and there are a hell of a lot of them-would be back working to build their country. Iraq would not

have to be at the mercy of the New World Order for the daily intake of bread its people need or for the vitamins that its children need to avoid facing infant mortality. Just think how Saudi Arabia would be if the people had the right to decide how their oil revenues should be spent. As for us in Yemen, I can assure you that the democracy we have is only a democracy of convenience for the rulers to carry on as they like, while the Yemenis let off steam at their daily qat sessions, presumably criticism the government, but not really able to do anything about getting over all the inappropriate use of the government's resources, which are meager as it is, but the government has decided to regard as off limits to the people of the country., said Massoud, looking at his watch to be sure that he gets back in time to sign

VACANCY NOTICE

PAD, UNHCR Implementing partner, is looking for qualified candidates for the following positions,

Position	Location	Person
• Social counselor	Sana'a	1
• Social counselor	Aden	1
• Program coordinator	Sana'a	1

For all 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.

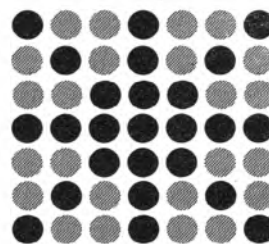
The position involves regular counseling for refugees on social and legal counseling in Sana'a, Aden and the camp as well as liaison with UNHCR and other authorities in refugee related matters.

The program coordinator performs a variety of information collecting, monitoring, technical and administrative services of moderate scope and difficulty support of program activities.

Applicants should have a university degree in economic / business or social science and relevant demonstrated professional experience. Five years of experience and fluency in English is require and Arabic is desirable.

Attractive salary and other benefits for qualified candidates.

Send your application ad CV by April 20, 1997 to:
PAD Sana'a P. O. Box 18012 Fax 01-241255
PAD Aden P. O. Box 6090 Khormaksar, Aden.



The British Council

Quality Language Learning World-Wide

GENERAL ENGLISH CLASSES/BUSINESS ENGLISH CLASSES & CHILDREN'S COURSES

The British Council Teaching Centre is pleased to announce the beginning of a new term on Sunday 13th April 1997.

Registration Sunday 6th April - Thursday 10th April.

- * Sunday - Wednesday 9:00am - 1:00pm and 3:00pm - 6:00pm. Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm.
- * All new student will take a written test and have an interview with a teacher to identify their initial level of English.
- * All courses last for 48 hours and each class usually meets for two hours a day from Sunday to Wednesday.
- * Modern methods, accompanied by audio-visual teaching aids. All students receive free short-term membership of the Library and Information Centre and have access to a self-study Listening Centre.
- * Courses for all levels of English ability from complete beginner to advanced. The cost of each course is \$250 which includes all course books and materials.

BUSINESS CLASSES AT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

Sunday - Wednesday 2 hours per day (8 hours). Cost of Course (48 hours): \$250.

Also courses in Report-Writing and Presentation Skills

CHILDREN'S COURSES

Year round Children's Course: 13 April - 28th May.
2 hours per week. 12 hours total: \$65. Age range 6 - 14.
Registration Times: Monday 7th April 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Tuesday/Wednesday 10:00am - 1:00pm and 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday 10:00am - 1:00pm

For more information visit the British Council at no. 7 Street or call no 244155.

Gulf Air Honors Key Travel Agents: "We are ready for a new launch that will take us into the 21st century."

In a ceremony held on Tuesday 1st April, Gulf Air presented a number of the leading travel agencies in Yemen with accomplishment awards for their excellent, revenue-generating performances.

"With the support of these sales agents, Gulf Air was able to achieve a load factor of approximately 80%," announced Mr. Sayed A. Ahmed, Gulf Air's regional manager in Yemen. The award winners were selected according to the revenue they generated during 1995, taking into consideration many local factors that affected the industry. "According to passenger response, Gulf Air stands as one of the most favorable airlines operating in this region," added Mr. Ahmed.



In addition to passenger sales' agents, cargo sales' agents are also very productive. Mr. Ahmed, known around town for wit and humor, announced the importance of cargoes, "our silent passengers who seldom complain".

When asked about Gulf Air's GSA in Yemen, Mr. Ahmed was ready with an answer. "Ashtal Travels has been most productive and has generated the highest income for Gulf Air in the Yemeni market. They are just superb," he said.

Mr. Najeeb M. Al-Ashtal, General Manager of Falcon Travel Services - Gulf Air's GSA in Yemen - indicated that his company started operating in 1986.

Gulf Air flies two trips a week between Sanaa and Abu Dhabi



and Bahrain, with easy and convenient connections to many destinations, worldwide. The main problem faced by Falcom Travel Services and many others in the business is the "low value of the Yemeni riyal, hence the inability to raise prices beyond certain limits," Mr. Ashtal indicated.

The occasion was attended by a large number of people from the business, as well as representatives of the companies which need the service.

According to the customers, Gulf Air services are reliable and excellent. "We have been using Gulf Air on many of our trips to the Gulf and beyond," said an executive of an oil company.

From his side, Al-Sayed indicated that the re-organization that has been carried out in the company has allowed for better efficiency. "We constantly adjust to match market changes. With the recent re-structuring, we are ready for a new launch that will take our company to the 21st century," he said in a visibly upbeat mood.

Travel agencies honored on the occasion were:

- 1- **Ashtal Travels:** Golden Award
- 2- **Universal Travel and Tourism:** Silver Award
- 3- **Yemen Intercontinental Travel:** Recognition Award
- 4- **Marib Travels:** Recognition Award
- 5- **Huraish Travels:** Recognition Award

Cargo agencies honored:

- 1- **Gas Aviation:** Recognition Award
- 2- **Yemen Packing Agency:** Recognition Award
- 3- **Red Sea Packing:** Recognition Award
- 4- **Aramex:** Recognition award



Tender Announcement

The Ministry of Fish Wealth (Coastal Fishing Corporation) of the Republic of Yemen invites all dealers in the purchase of fish, whether domestic or international firms, to submit their bids for the currently available quantities of rock lobster (tails) stored at the Aden Cold Stores. The lobster quantities at the Aden Cold Store in Aden Governorte are distributed according to the following standards:

Size	No. of Cartons	Carton Weight (kg)	Total Weight (kg)
1/2	114	10	1140
2/3	324	10	3240
3/4	729	10	7290
4/5	333	10	3330
5/6	92	10	920
6/7	72	10	720
7/8	76	10	760
8/9	58	10	580
9/10	66	10	660
10/12	64	10	640
12/16	72	10	720
Total	2000		20,000

Conditions for Bid Submission:

- 1- Bids must be submitted in closed envelopes at/or before envelope opening.
- 2- Prices to be submitted in US Dollars.
- 3- US\$ 10,000 in cash or bank guarantee must be submitted with the bid. This amount will be returned to unsuccessful bidders.
- 3- The quantity of lobster tails offered is from the production of December 1996 until March 1997.
- 5- Opening of the bidding envelopes will be at 1:00 pm on 12/04/97 in the General Corporation Building at Ma'alla-Hugaif.
- 6- The company which will be successful in the bid, will open a full credit 100% of the amount through any bank which deals with the Central Bank of Yemen, for two weeks.
- 7- The amount must be transferred to our account within one week from receipt of shipment documents.
- 8- Shipment will take place within one month of notification to the successful company.
- 9- For further information, kindly contact the office of the

**General manager Coastal Fishing Co, Aden,
on telephone number 221123 or 213834, or by fax no. 211843**

Their EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES ARE



Your INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES



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INFORMATICS COMPUTER SCHOOL

Informatics offers a staggering range of IT programmes from user applications to professional examinations to graduate and post-graduate degrees. Many of these are accredited by reputable universities in the USA, UK, Australia and Canada. For example, our Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies are validated by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate and the University of Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations respectively.

THAMES

Thames provides certificate, diploma and degree programmes in business administration, administrative management, marketing, accounting and secretarial studies from leading universities and professional institutions in the UK. These include the University of Oxford Delegacy of Local Examinations, the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK) and the Association of Business Executives (UK). Thames also offers language training programmes for effective communication and writing.

CAL

CAL (Computer Assisted Learning) is the largest chain of children's computer schools in the region. As the leading provider in computer literacy courses for children, CAL helps shape young minds from 4 to 16. CAL is also the first children's computer school in the world to be accredited by the National Computing Centre (NCC), UK.

- Excellent track record - ISO 9001 Quality Management System Award
- Largest network of over 120 IT training centres in 20 countries
- Access to over 150 IT training and education programmes
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- One of the winners of Singapore's "Best Managed Small Company"
- Recipient of International Trade Award from Singapore Trade Development Board in 1996.



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Expert Questions & Answers on CHF!

Heart Failure and sudden death are the common terminal events in patients with cardiovascular disease. Progress in pharmacological and surgical treatment has improved prognosis, but the outlook for patients with heart failure remains gloomy.

In patients over 65 years, congestive heart failure (CHF) is the most common diagnosis. In fact, both the incidence and prevalence of CHF appear to be increasing. The overall prevalence in the UK is around 0.45%, rising to 3% in elderly patients and 10% in people over 75 years. In the US, approximately 0.5 million men and women develop heart failure annually, and the total prevalence is 2.3 to 2.5 million. Clearly, heart failure remains a major public health problem.

What is CHF?

Heart Failure is when the cardiac output fails to meet the metabolic needs of the body. As a result, pulmonary congestion occurs, and when the problem is severe enough, pulmonary edema results. Heart failure is not a diagnosis. A specific etiology should be established if possible.

What causes CHF?

CHF is caused by myocardial disease, which may be primary (cardiomyopathies) or secondary (myocardial infarction due to coronary artery disease). Cardiac volume overload (as in mitral regurgitation) or pressure overload (as in hypertension or aortic stenosis) can also lead to CHF.

a: Coronary artery disease causes 50-70% of cases. It is usually due to damage from prior myocardial infarction. Patients with severe coronary artery disease may have ventricular dysfunction due to diffuse fibrosis or reversible ischemic left ventricular dysfunction (hibernating myocardium).

b: Dilated cardiomyopathy accounts for 20-30% of cases.

c: Hypertension was previously thought as the most common cause of heart failure, but now causes less than 5%.

d: Other causes, e.g. myocarditis, valvular heart disease, restrictive cardiomyopathy, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy are rare (less than 5% in total).

What Does Systolic and Diastolic Heart Failure Mean?

Heart Failure can be classified according to whether it interferes with systolic or diastolic function. While in most patients with heart failure the primary defect is impaired cardiac contractility with a reduction, in cardiac output (systolic heart failure), there is a small number of patients with left ventricular hypertrophy, in whom inadequate ventricular limits and reduces cardiac output (diastolic heart failure).

What Are CHF Symptoms?
The principal symptoms relate to fluid retention with dyspnea (the subjective feeling of difficulty with breathing), orthopnea and ankle swelling. Early in the course of CHF, the patient reports exer-

tional dyspnea; the heart is able to supply enough cardiac output for sedentary activities, but does not have the reserve to increase cardiac output during exercise. As heart failure worsens, even minimal activity may be difficult, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea (sudden onset of dyspnea at night), and nocturia. Symptoms of reduced cardiac output with lethargy, fatigue and mental sluggishness may also be prominent if sought.

What Causes these Symptoms?

When the patient with CHF assumes the supine posture, fluid is redistributed from the abdomen and lower extremities to the pulmonary vasculature, causing increasing pulmonary hydrostatic pressure and increased ventricular filling pressure. The patient has difficulty lying flat and will sleep with several pillows or even sitting in a chair to relieve these symptoms. Redistribution of fluid may also lead to increased urine output and thus nocturia. Finally, in severe CHF, volume redistribution may be sufficient to cause acute pulmonary edema.

How Is CHF Assessed?

Assessment of a patient with heart failure should determine the likely etiology, determine the severity of the problem, rate of progression, identify precipitating factors and any potentially surgically remediable disease; and allow to plan therapy. Other techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging and nuclear ventriculography can now be used to assess left ventricular function but have not yet found a role in routine clinical practice.

How is CHF Treated?

The principal goal in the treatment of CHF is to control symptoms and hence enhance the quality of life and to improve survival. The main principles of therapy in CHF are to reduce circulatory demands, regulate heart rate and rhythm, treat precipitating factors, decrease congestion (preload) and afterload, and improve myocardial contractivity.

Any Advice to CHF Patients?

General advice should include moderate exercise, cessation of smoking and reduction of alcohol and salt intake. All patients with CHF require specific advice concerning physical activities. Walking should be encouraged to a point just short of marked fatigue, breathlessness or chest discomfort. Exercise helps rehabilitation, restores the patient's confidence and should be taken regularly. Smoking should be strongly discouraged as it is an important risk factor for coronary artery disease and increases peripheral and myocardial oxygen requirements, and decreases the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood. Alcohol intake should be restricted to a maximum of two average-sized drinks per day. This is largely because of its well-documented myocardial depressant effect and the pos-

sibility of precipitating arterial flexibility.

What About Drug Therapy?

The goal of treatment of CHF is to enhance cardiac output. This can be accomplished by modifying each of these parameters. Diuretics which can relieve symptoms but have not been shown to have a beneficial effect on prognosis when used as chronic therapy, dietary salt and water restriction decrease preload and improve volume work. Digoxin, a positive inotropic agent, has a marked effect in improving contractility. Vasodilators are helpful in reducing afterload and thus the pressure work required of the heart. Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors such as captopril help to decrease preload by blocking sodium retention and volume expansion, the advantage of which is that they improve and both symptoms and prognosis in most patients with CHF.

What Are the Usual Precipitating Factors of CHF?

There are many factors that can precipitate or aggravate heart failure and they need to be identified and treated. Perhaps, the most common cause of aggravation of heart failure is a change in previously successful treatment program, including drugs, diets and activity. A careful search for these types of changes is required. Infection, especially respiratory tract infection, anemia, pregnancy and delivery, arteriovenous embolism, blood electrolyte disorder, particularly hypokalemia, and thyrotoxicosis of cardiac arrhythmias can all produce decompensation. Drugs that cause salt and water retention and those that cause myocardial depression should be avoided or used with caution. After precipitating factors are identified specific therapy should be initiated.

What Is the Long-term Prognosis for Patients with CHF?

Prognosis depends on the etiology and severity of the heart failure. The prognosis is good when the underlying cause can be controlled with low doses of diuretics or digoxin generally do well. It is considered that left ventricular function and the presence of arrhythmias are the two main predictors of outcome. Patients having symptoms on little exertion or at rest have an annual normality of approximately 30-40% which figure is comparable to many cancers. The majority of patients, however, die suddenly and are assumed to have an arrhythmia as the agonal event. The presence of arrhythmia on ambulatory electrocardiograms correlates with increased risk but suppression of these arrhythmias does not appear to improve prognosis particularly if cardiac failure is the result of myocardial infarction.

by: **Dr. Wang Ancai**
Associate Professor/Cardiologist
Chinese Medical Team.

CHILD ABUSE: It Is the Responsibility of All

Child abuse has been a societal phenomenon for centuries. Although clinical reporting started thirty years ago, the magnitude of the problem is only now beginning to be understood. This, in spite of the fact several national and international journals, international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and national societies have dedicated themselves to the problem. Child abuse and neglect (CAN) includes four distinct conditions: neglect, physical violence, emotional abuse and sexual abuse.

PREVALENCE AND INCIDENCE

It is both difficult and inappropriate to make precise comparisons between countries because of the differences in the completeness and attitude in the reporting of child abuse. However, some conclusions can be reached:

- Child abuse is found in all societies and is almost always a highly guarded secret, wherever it takes place.
- In countries with reliable mortality reporting, it is estimated that as many as one in 5,000 to one in 10,000 children under the age of five die each year from physical violence, although much lower rates are also noted.
- In the same countries, from one in 1,000 to one in 180 children are either brought to a health care facility or are reported to child welfare services as a consequence of abuse every year.
- According to interviews of children or young adults in Finland, the Republic of Korea and the USA, from 5 to 10% of all children experience physical violence during childhood.

CAUSATION AND ASSOCIATED FACTORS

- Physical violence often originates in the lack of parenting skills - particularly in the ability to respond to a young child's needs combined with unrealistic expectations for the stage of a child's development. This can be affected by the cultural acceptance of corporal punishment and violence within a society.
- Other stresses contributing to child abuse and neglect may include: an unwanted child, an unsupported single parent household and the absence of other means of social support, financial pressures and/or unemployment.
- Child abuse can be aggravated by substance abuse on the part of the child's parent or guardian. In substance abusing families, there is a strong association between physical violence, sexual abuse and domestic violence directed at members of the family, particularly women and young children.
- The perpetrators of violence or sexual abuse of children are often "trusted" individuals, usually males, often family members, and in a position of authority.
- Children who are victims of violence or sexual abuse have a high risk of becoming perpetrators of similar forms of abuse towards younger children. In later years, they may be physically violent to children in their care or to their own children.
- Physical violence and sexual abuse in the home is a factor contributing to the phenomenon of "street children" in both developed and developing countries. Further abuse on the street is an everyday reality.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- The susceptibility of children to abuse and its health consequences may be determined by the child's age and stage of development. In general terms, the younger the child, the more devastating the impact of the abuse.
- Two types of effects have been noted among young victims of abuse, namely those that are explicitly developmental and those that are specific to trauma, such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which is often characterized by symptoms of anxiety and avoidance behavior.
- The developmental effects of abuse can be characterized in terms of loss of attachment, reduced self-esteem and fewer interpersonal relationships. There may also be problems of highly sexualized or

highly aggressive behaviour, substance use, dissociation, self-injury, or other dysfunctional ways of dealing with stress and anxiety.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE? WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Each sector of society has an important role to play in preventing the physical violence, sexual and emotional abuse and neglect of children, through:

- the promotion and support of the healthy development of children and adolescents;
- an understanding of the developmental needs of children and adolescents, recognizing their vulnerability; and
- strengthening the capacity and resilience of families.

Prevention of child abuse should be a priority. The levels of child abuse and neglect have decreased in a number of pilot programs that have focused on providing a supportive environment, such as: training in parenting skills to teenage mothers while they remain in schools; improving accessibility to family planning information and services for adolescents; and home visits by public health nurses. There is a need for national programs for the prevention of child abuse, as well as for programs that can provide social support to both the victims of child and their families.

Police, judicial authorities and others involved in investigating child abuse, particularly sexual abuse and exploitation, need to be sensitive to and trained in procedures for collection of information that do not cause more trauma and preserve the dignity of the child. A number of countries have developed guidelines and training materials for these purposes.

WHAT WHO IS DOING?

Several of the programs of the World Health Organization (WHO) have been working together to assess the global situation and to develop monitoring instruments that countries can adapt to measure the extent and nature of the problem. Such monitoring instruments will help evaluate the impact of primary and secondary prevention and will include:

A core standardized protocol for the identification of children requesting help from health services, who are suspected of being victims of child abuse. The protocol will be tested globally with leading international NGOs in this field.

- The development and testing of protocols by WHO and NGOs for the identification of emotional abuse and neglect in young children. This will be accompanied by the compilation of an annotated review of available training materials.

In addition to these monitoring instruments, WHO has undertaken action to develop greater awareness of the issue. A circular letter to all Member States will be prepared and issued by WHO, in cooperation with sister agencies within the UN system, offering and explaining the kind of support which the Organization can provide for national action for the prevention and mitigation of the consequences of the sexual abuse and exploitation of children.

A WHO task Force on Violence and Health has been established. A plan of action developed by the Task Force including activities in the field of prevention of child abuse and neglect, was discussed and approved during the January 1997 meeting of the WHO Executive Board in Geneva. The implementation of this plan of Action will begin during the current year.

The overriding principles on this issue focus on the importance of the personal well-being and health of the child. Whether in the area of the child abuse and neglect, the prevention of substance use among street children or the problem of children and youth in especially difficult circumstances, WHO has a commitment to support and reaffirm the values in the 1989 United Nations Convention on the rights of the child.

The Convention, now ratified by 188 countries, is the strongest bulwark the international community can provide against the abuse and neglect of the world's children.



Vacancy for a Health Educator

ICD (International Cooperation for Development) - a British based non-governmental organization is looking for a **FEMALE HEALTH EDUCATOR** for a primary health care project which offers services to the refugee population of Sana'a.

The Refugee Health Project requires a qualified health educator with experience in community health and MCII, to provide health education to the refugee population as well as staff members.

Candidates should have demonstrated knowledge and commitment to work with marginalized communities and ability to train people from all walks of life in health awareness. Fluency in Somali language as well as command of Arabic and English is required.

For application form and job descriptions please contact **Azza** at:

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Closing date for submission of applications is 27/04/97



Sheraton Sana'a Hotel General Manager Mr. Abdullah Melhem hosted a Dinner for the visiting Spanish Fam

Group which was flown in by Yemenia for the inaugural flight to Madrid and ground handling was hosted by Universal Travel.

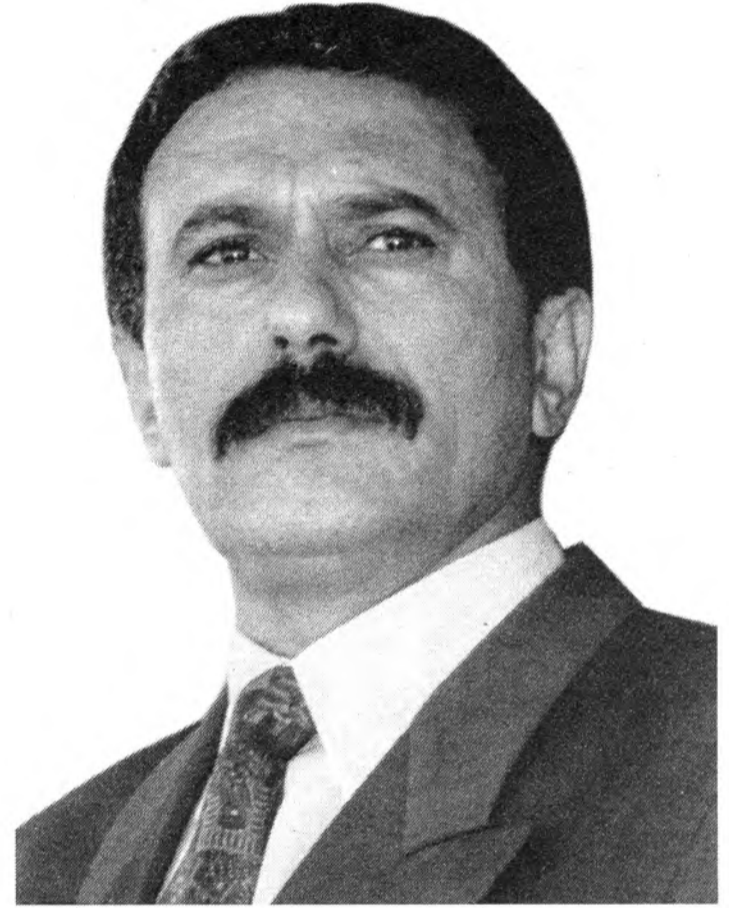
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UNIVERSAL Opens Spanish Market Tourism Industry Gaga on the Visit of Russian Duchess

The number of Spanish tourists coming to Yemen every year is increasing by 10-15%. Today, there are between 2000-2500 tourists from Spain. Industry sources expect the number next year to jump to 3500. It is a good figure if you consider that Spanish tour operators discovered Yemen only very recently.

I was the first promoters (of Yemen as a good tourist destination) to go to Spain nearly 10 years ago. We started promoting the destination. At that time, it was very difficult because there was lack of information on Yemen. But, we planted the seeds, and with lot of patience and hard work, Universal Travel and Tourism is receiving some 2000 Spanish tourists per year.



Duchess Romanoff flanked by the Russian and Polish Ambassadors and wives

Last week, Universal Travel and Tourism, Yemenia and Taj Sheba hosted 25 guests from Spain. The group was composed of several famous journalists, photographers and travel agencies, including the Manager and GSA of Yemenia in Spain, Mr. Pedro D. Oviedo, his wife and assistant Carmen Rossello, famous journalist Angel Gil. There were also guests of the educational group

together with the journalists, photographers and others. A special guest was Maria Romanoff, Helene Bagration representing Contess of Kirby, Carmen Roselo together other visitors. Duchess Romanoff, eagerly pampered by everybody, including the Ambassador of Russia, was delighted with the visit. "You have a lovely country and I am very pleased that I

could come," she said. The group was hosted by Yemen Airways, Universal Travel and Tourism, and Taj Sheba Hotel. They visited many interesting sites and places in Yemen. The program was climaxed by a gala dinner hosted by Taj Sheba to introduce the special guests to the tourist industry people.

By: Marco Livadiotti



In the last ten years, the tourists coming from Spain have been using Royal Jordanian flights, coming via Amman, or using Yemen Airways via Paris. After several meetings between Yemenia and Universal, it has been decided to start operating a flight to Madrid. The first flight from Sanaa to Madrid (via Paris) was on the 31st March, on a two-flight frequency per week. That was achieved especially with the good help and cooperation of Mr. Amin Al-Haimy, Commercial Director of Yemenia. it is a good victory and target for Yemenia, the tourism market and the whole country. The new achievement also reflects good cooperation between the national carrier and the travel agencies in Yemen, especially Universal Travel and Tourism.



شوكولاتة

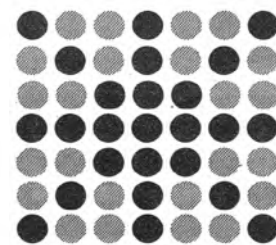
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Algerian Army Raid Kills 14 Militants

Fourteen Islamic extremists were slain by Algerian security forces during a raid in the eastern region of Msila. Algerian newspapers, which reported the incident, did not provide further details or when it took place. The Algerian army since the beginning of February has been carrying out a series of operations, some backed by air raids, against areas in the center and in the east of the country known to be hotbeds of Islamic extremism. Some raids have also taken place in the capital, Algiers, including one last week in which authorities claimed to have killed three Islamic leaders. The crackdown is aimed at wiping out the extremists or at least weakening them, ahead of the June 5th legislative elections.

MEETING TO STRENGTHEN EURO-ARAB TIES

A Euro-Arab conference was held from April 3 to 5 in Dubai to contribute to strengthening and developing relations and establishing the principles of joint cooperation between the two blocs. An official report following the gathering indicated that Euro-Arab cooperation takes several forms, including bilateral and regional cooperation. European-Mediterranean cooperation is another form of cooperation between Europe and the Arab world. All these reflect a European policy to activate economic and social development. Special significance is attached to the Dubai conference which as a link in the chain of meetings between the two blocs in order to strengthen peace, harmony and cooperation.

Good Reponse to Pakistan Debt Scheme

Pakistanis living abroad have contributed more than 1\$ billion in response to prime minister Nawaz Sharif's appeal to pay off the country's debts. "Overseas Pakistanis have so far deposited more than 1\$ billion and more is coming daily," Ijaz Ul-Haq said. The scheme has also generated a tremendous response within the country and the people have deposited more than one billion rupee with the banks. Mr. Haq, a former banker and son of former president Zia-ul-Haq, has just concluded a four-man Gulf tour to seek Pakistani expatriates' support to the scheme. The team visited Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, and Qatar. The country has run up more than 34\$ billion in foreign debts, of which 10\$ billion has to be paid immediately.

Libya Flies in UN's Face

Libya violated the UN air traffic embargo again by flying its pilgrims to Islam's holiest sites in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on board a Libyan Arab Airways plane. A Libyan diplomat in Saudi Arabia said the plane arrived last Friday in Jeddah, in defiance of the embargo. It was the latest in a string of violations since 1995 of the UN ban on foreign air links with Libya, including previous flights for the annual Muslim Haj pilgrimage and visits abroad by Libyan leader Moammar Qaddafi. More Libyan Muslims are to be flown to Mecca during April 10-17, 1997. Libya says that the UN embargo is politically motivated and that it is unjust.

Turkey: Door to EU Membership Opening

Turkey wants to fulfill a decades-old ambition to join the European Union after EU ministers recognized its western credentials at a weekend meeting. "A new door has been opened. Turkey has been put on the track for full membership of the EU for the first time," Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller told a news conference last week. European foreign ministers said Ankara could one day qualify to join the European club, lessening Turkey's fears that its Muslim identity, economic woes and human rights problems would keep it permanently waiting at Europe's door.

The EU has given Turkey no time-table for accession talks. Mrs. Ciller acknowledged that Turkey had a long way to go. "This does not mean that all-out efforts will end, to the contrary they are just beginning," she said. Turkey falls way short of the targets for European Monetary Union that member states have to achieve in 1997. Its budget deficit was estimated to be more than 10% of GDP last year, compared to the maximum 3% needed for EMU.

Western diplomats say Turkey could be up to 25 years short of taking its place in the first division of European nations. But Turkey, a Muslim but secular democracy, is seen by key Western governments as a valuable bulwark against instability in the Balkans, Caucasus and Middle East.

NATO partner Washington has pushed the Europeans to take Turkey on board. Mrs. Ciller said Ankara could consider dropping a threat to block NATO's eastward expansion if the EU continued to strengthen links with Turkey. "We will be able to come to the point of playing a more positive role in the expansion of NATO," she said. Turkey's NATO threat had angered EU leaders who last month had ruled out Turkish EU membership.

Mrs. Ciller vowed to improve relations with neighbor Greece, which has blocked hundreds of millions of dollars of EU aid to Turkey in disputes over Cyprus and territory in the Aegean Sea. Turkey with less than 3% of its soil in Europe proper, has been an associate member of the European Union since 1963. It applied for full membership in 1989, but has seen Eastern Europe and adversary Cyprus jump it in the queue.

Sudan War Footing to be Extended

Sudan's National Defense Council extended the general mobilization President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir called for to counter-fight in the east and south. The state radio reported the council, headed by Bashir, added that the mobilization would continue as long as the "series of plots" against Sudan were in action. Bashir had called for general mobilization in January to face attacks by rebels, and last Thursday he renewed the call.

Sudan says neighboring Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda are fighting with the rebels who want to overthrow the government. All three countries deny the charges.

The military campaign against the Islamist government shifted earlier this month to the far south, where the SPLA captured the town of Yei and began to advance towards Juba, the largest town in the south.

Northern rebels of the National Democratic Alliance attacked the Sudan, crossing from Eritrea in January, but the offensive failed to win much territory.

Encyclopedia With an Islamic Perspective

For the first time in the modern era, the Arab World has a large scale encyclopedia that looks at the world from an Islamic perspective, yielding some definitions at odds with Western views. The global Arabic Encyclopedia, a lavishly printed, 30-volume set financed by Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the defense minister and brother of king Fahd, was introduced at this year's Cairo international Book Fair. Its 16,000-plus pages contain more than 20,800 entries and some 18,000 photographs, maps and charts.

The Saudi who supervised the work, Stanford educated Ahmad Medhadi Al-Shuwaikhi said the encyclopedia is an attempt to meet the intellectual needs of Arabs, meaning it does not simply echo beliefs, which are alien to the Arab World. The aim is make the entries suitable and interesting to our Arab readers. Most entries are similar to those in any standard encyclopedia although scientific sections give emphasis to Arab contributions.

The publishers bought the rights to the World Book Encyclopedia and 1000 experts, translators and editors spent more than six years adapting and reviewing the work for Arabic publication. The Saudi version has six pages on the United States, not the 100 in the regional.

Peace-pals Reach Across the Border

Fifty years after their countries were partitioned, school-children in India and Pakistan are taking matters in their own hands to overcome the wall of hostility.

The "Peace-pals" have been writing to each other since December, but their humble efforts add poignancy to the negotiations that resumed this weekend between their governments after a 3-year suspension. In New Delhi, senior diplomats from the two countries were meeting last week to try and ease relations on the subcontinent strained by their rival claims to the Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

Aman (Peace/Safety) began as a module for a high school social studies class in Bombay and linked up with another school in Karachi by mail. Some letters touch on subjects like religion. Others address Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two wars.

"By the way, do you know why our countries are constantly at war? In every aspect of life there is a tussle: in warfare, nuclear power, Kashmir, cricket and even music (copyright seeking)," writes Mohammed Ali, a teenager from Karachi.

"This may seem a bit personal but I hope you don't mind - what religion do you follow? If you are not a Muslim, could you tell me a little about your religion?" asks Adeel, 14, also from Karachi. He goes on to ask about computer games. "Do you have a Sega or Nintendo?"

Adnoc to Invest More on Oil and Gas

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (Adnoc) will invest \$1 billion every year over the next five years to further develop its oil and gas facilities. Adnoc, which now produces 1.85 m bpd, and has a capacity to go to 2.5 m bpd, seeks to apply new technology to raise its capacity to 3 million bpd.

While most Adnoc oil is exported to the Far East, notably Japan, more will now be destined to its refining interests abroad.

The Secret to Excellent Cooking: Kamariyah Ghee



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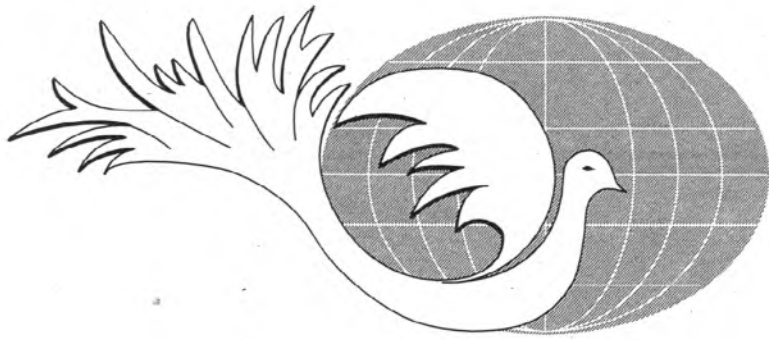
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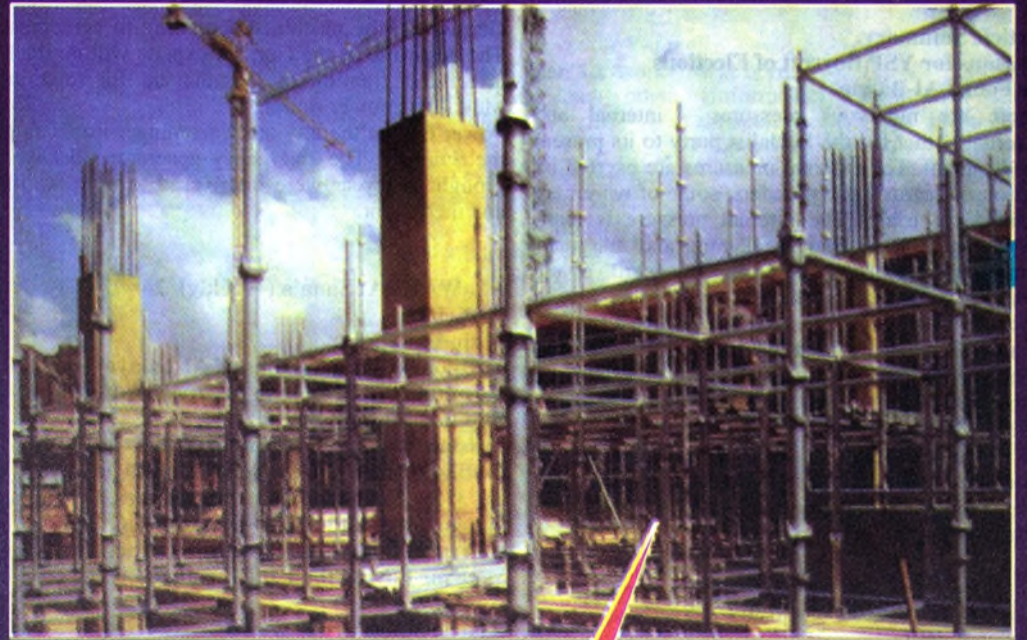


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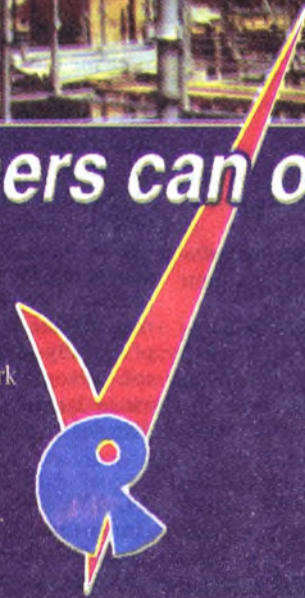
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تلفون: ٢٠٩٢٨٣ فاكس: ٢٠٦٣٨٠
صندوق بريد ١٦٩

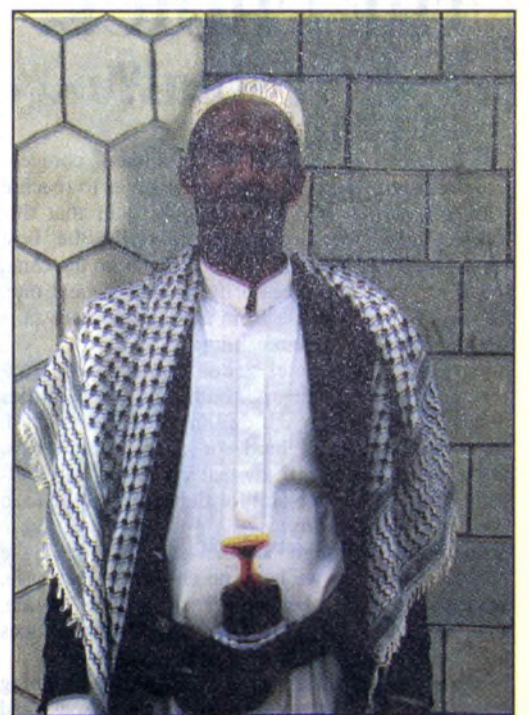
CORRECTION

Following the cautionary notice published in the Yemen Times, issue # 9 dated March 3rd, 1997; we hereby announce that the name of the owner has been changed for the patent:
AN IMPROVED CLOSED LOOP SINGLE MIXED REFRIGERANT
From **PRITCHARD CORPORATION** to the current owner of the said patent
Back & Veatch Pritchard, Inc.
And thereto, this correction is announced.

Chance for Class Dissolution

In the on-going parliamentary elections of the Republic of Yemen, nearly 4,000 candidates are running. That is ordinary. What is not ordinary is that Mr. Kayed Abdo Kassim Al-Rabooyi is running.

Kayed from an underclass, known as 'akhdam'. The akhdam of which the singular is khadim, means servant. This is a persecuted and discriminated against class of black Yemenis who are supposed to be inferior. The other Yemenis, mainly tribesmen, do not inter-marry with them, do not regard them highly, and do not allow them to take prestigious posts in society. Kayed is trying to break that. "I am a citizen, and I want to enjoy my full rights," he said. He went a step further. "Just because I am black does not mean I am inferior. Anyone who calls me khadim will get a black eye," he added.



Mr. Al-Rabooyi is standing in constituency number 40, in Dimnah, in Taiz governorate. He already has the support of many university students and graduates and some of the middle class. They insist that they support not to spite the traditional elders, or even the state. They simply think it is a chance to show citizens are equal. There is another problem. Kayed has little money to finance his campaign. So his friends have chipped in. The Yemen Times is printing his campaign pictures and literature. Some of the supporters have helped him write his program. As he says, he is ready to go. He may, however, run into problems during the elections campaign, as rival candidates may try to invoke traditional class discrimination against him. His electoral symbol is the scythe. "This is relevant because it is my favorite tool in my field work." Oh yes, his work - he is a day-wage earner. "I did various odd jobs," he adds. If Kayed wins, and he stands a good chance, other akhdams may try to break an ugly class stratification which is keeping them down. Yemen's elections offer many blessings. This could be an additional fringe benefit.

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AL-SHOURA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 30-3-97.

(Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Feverish Electioneering Struggle Between Ruling Coalition Partners After Collapse of their Agreement.
- 2) The President Specifies Guidelines for his Advisory Committee.
- 3) Federation of Popular Forces will not Enter Elections as a Party.

Article Summary:

Reasons for YSP Boycott of Elections
by Fouad Al-Banna

There are numerous pressures - internal and external - that led the Socialist party to its present predicament. The external pressures are exerted by a group of former party leaders, some of whom are wanted for trial. The internal pressure is manifested in the fear from weakening and marginalizing the party. They fear losing the "card" of the south. Also, the factors that encouraged the party to boycott the elections include the peoples' general apathy towards the elections, other parties' earlier decisions to boycott the elections, and losing the hope of striking a deal with the ruling coalition. There is also a multitude of pressures being exerted by the ruling authority, such as freezing the party's assets, using the state's huge resources in their electioneering campaign, and the lack of the minimum of guarantees for impartial elections.

AL-TARIQ: Aden (Weekly) 1-4-97.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Supreme Elections Committee has not Resigned Despite Forming a Presidential Advisory Committee for Elections.
- 2) Opposition Coordination Committee in Hadhramaut Organizes Various Activities to Explain Boycott Decision.
- 3) Massive Fire Around Ships' Fuel Pipe in Caltex, Aden.

Article Summary:

Loss of German Aid to Improve Mukallah Electricity

Informed sources in Mukallah indicated that the two German experts who were assigned the task of repairing and maintaining the old German-made electricity generators a few months ago, have angrily left the area. They were allegedly harassed by some officials. The Ministry of Electricity has failed to send the fourth-generator crane to



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

Germany to be machined according to agreement. The departure of the German experts will no doubt affect the granting of German aid for repairing Mukallah's power station. Power cuts in the city are worsening with onset of the Summer. The emergency generators that were brought last year were discovered to be quite old and inefficient.

AL-WAHDA: Sana'a (Weekly) 2-4-97.

(Official)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Upon Visiting Victims of Al-Talaye' School in Hospital, the President Instructs Authorities to Support Martyrs' Families.
- 2) Islah Violates Agreement with PGC by Nominating Some of Its Members as Independents.
- 3) 3789 Parliamentary Candidates, 77% are Independent and 17 are Females.
- 4) Teachers in Tiaz Beseech President to Intervene for Paying their Back Salaries.

Article Summary:

Real Estate Mafia by Ahmed Al-Azaazi.

The recent killing of 18-year-old Khalid Askar has brought wide popular condemnation to the government's apathy towards land disputes and its leniency with young people carrying firearms. Khalid and his little brothers' lawful ownership of a piece of land was contested by a group of young thugs. Some government organs are in the process of illegally granting one piece of land to more than one person with collusion of powerful and greedy estate agents. This led to the widespread of bloody disputes on contested land ownership.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Weekly) 2-4-97.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Minimum Admittance Grades for Aden University Lowered to Let In More Students.
- 2) Governor of Abyan Denies Making Salary

Paying Subject to Acquiring Elections Cards.

3) Heavy Rains and Powerful Torrents Cause Damages in Shabwa.

4) Yemeni-Hungarian Petroleum Deal Signed.

Article Summary:

Yemeni Sailors Taken to Thailand

The director-general of the Yemeni Thai Investment Company was summoned to the Ministry of Civil Service regarding the case of the six Yemeni sailors kidnapped and ill-treated aboard a Thai ship. One of the six later said that "while working on the ship near the Abyan coast on 6th March, the ship started moving to an unknown destination." The sailors were very astonished to be told on the following day that the ship was heading toward Thailand. When the six sailors protested, they were roughed up and beaten by the Thai sailors. On arrival in Singapore, the Yemeni sailors had their passports taken confiscated. In Thailand, they were taken away by police and deported back to Yemen by airplane on 26th March.

AL-WAHDAWI: Sana'a, (Weekly), 1-4-97.

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Nasserite Party will Compete in 86 Constituencies.
- 2) Sana'a Court Overrules Islah's Claim to Using the Crescent as Elections Symbol.
- 3) Intensive Military Presence in Hadhramaut.

Article Summary:

"Massacres"

by Ali Al-Saqqaf.

Massacres and revenge killings have culminated in the Al-Talaye' School horrifying incident in which 8 innocent people died at the hands of a lone maniac. The state as well as all groups in society bear a big responsibility for confronting this phenomenon. The illegal possession of millions of pieces of weapons and the negative change that have befallen the Yemeni psyche are to blame.

Hollow words and optimistic rhetoric by officials about the increase in peace and security are can no longer be accepted. Practical steps are urgently needed to restore the citizens' peace of mind.

All security apparatuses must perform their duties fully and assertively. Psychologists and social scientists also have a duty to study and recommend cures for the growing imbalances in society's values and ethics.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a, (Weekly), 3-4-97.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1) Head of Islah's Supreme Authority, Sheikh Al-Ahmer: "The homelan's interests are above all others."
- 2) Head of Islah's Shoura Council, Al-Zindani: "Shoura (consultation) is a primary Islamic principle."
- 3) Record-Breaking 101 Candidates Compete in 6 Shabwa Constituencies.

Article Summary:

The Docile Tigress

by Somya Al-Sharjabi.

There is a fixed rule applying to every woman: if she wants something, she goes on to get with all her power and resourcefulness. Female assertiveness and potential abilities are mind stunning. But many able women are suppressed by society, and denied many of their basic rights as specified by Islam. While society at large suffers from lack of female teachers, doctors and other professionals; many fathers prohibit their daughters for getting their rightful opportunity in education. Illiterate women become easy preys for evil persons. There are some people who even consider women's participation in the elections as a trivial matter. Islam guarantees the right for all women to take part in public issues concerning all Muslims.

AL-BALAGH: Sana'a, (Weekly), 1-4-97.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1) First Monstrous Incident of its Kind, 4-year-old Girl Raped in Mosque.
- 2) Part of Austerity Measures, 10 Cultural Departments in Yemeni Embassies Abolished.
- 3) American Democratic Institute Calls For Enhancing Trust Between Supreme Elections Committee and Political Parties.

Article Summary:

Exalting Human Interaction

by Nayil Al-Qirshi.

The gradual erosion of good human relationships in Yemeni society has started in the early 90s, and has become quite noticeable lately. Such relationships, if they exist, have become superficial and materialistic.

With the beginning of this decade, levels of income dropped and prices rose sharp; leading to severe social upheavals. This has negatively affected society's principles, values and ethics. Personal, psychological and educational factors, along with the deteriorating economic situation, have compounded the problem. Elevating the level of human behavior requires a lot of patience and many reformative measures. Quid pro quo treatment is one such measure.

AL-THAWRY: Sana'a, (Weekly), 3-4-97.

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Constitutional Violations and Irregularities Continue in Constituencies.
- 2) Opposition Ratifies Action Plan for Boycotting Elections.
- 3) Arbitrary Arrests of YSP Members in Hadhramaut.
- 4) Abductors of Four German Tourists Demand DM. 5 Million Ransom.

Article Summary:

Democracy of Unification: Void Between 2 Dictatorships, by Ali Al-Sarari

Those who call for participation in the elections depend on two points.

First, democracy in Yemen is still in its infancy. It should be nurtured and protected, and violations can be overlooked. The advocates of this opinion consider the guaranteeing of 20% of impartiality enough for them. The second point they rely on is that there must be no discontinuity in the democratic process. They consider an incomplete democracy better than no democracy at all. After the elections of '93, it has become quite clear that the problem of democracy in Yemen is not in the people's ignorance of the process, but in the authority's rejection of its results. Without the constitutional and political guarantees demanded by the opposition, any party program or efforts for competing in the elections become meaningless.

Letters to the Editor, Letters to

THE CHOICE: Is It Real?

Life provides us with the opportunity of choice - that ability to weigh alternatives in order to reach a correct decision. We may discover later that this 'correct' decision was not necessarily the best option we had. An appropriate decision at the time, therefore, may not necessarily be the optimal one. But this right to choose from among alternatives is what gives life its true meaning.

Sometimes, making a choice is very hard. A situation can reveal a multitude of possibilities regarding life's futurity. If our knowledge is limited, the choice becomes hard, or even meaningless. Even then, people will say that you freely and willfully made the choice and for that, you will have to bear full responsibility.

Sometimes, although at the surface, we have choices, in reality we have no choice. In this case, freedom of choice becomes an execution of fate. The subsequent responsibility and consequences are a brutal logic for that apparent choice.

Many people would revolt against this seeming trap. "Since we did not make the choice freely and willfully, we are not responsible for anything" is a phrase one hears often. Who is responsible then? Is it fate? Or the devil? Or no one at all?

In a few days, Yemen is going to have parliamentary elections. Voters will be asked to choose their representatives to parliament. How much choice is there? And if there are alternatives, say a multiple of candidates, are the voters really free to choose? Or are they shackled by social, political and economic obligations? If we can break away from those shackles, the system of private and secret balloting allows us to vote the way we choose. But more to the point, are all voters qualified to make the choice?

By: Ibrahim Al-Murghamy.

EMIRATES INCREASES FLIGHTS TO SANAA

Emirates, the international airline of the UAE, will boost its Middle East regional services from the beginning of April with the addition of a third weekly flight to Sana'a, capital of the Yemen Republic. The new flight, starting on April 2, comes less than one year after Emirates launched services to Yemen.

Adnan Kazim, Manager Yemen, commented: "Sana'a, one of our youngest routes, has been successful with cargo uplift in particular exceeding our expectations. We are pleased to be able to offer passengers and cargo customers the advantage of this third service."

The Yemen offers leisure passengers a unique glimpse of traditional Arabian life with Sana'a's carefully-preserved old city designated a world heritage center, and the country as a whole offering spectacular mountain scenery and a large number of historical sites.

The third flight will operate between Dubai and Sana'a on Wednesdays from April 2, adding to the two existing flights which operate on Fridays and Mondays. All flights will be operated with an Airbus A310-300 in two class configuration with First and Economy cabins.

The new flight will depart from Dubai at 0730 every Wednesday and arrive in Sana'a at 0935. The return flight will depart from Sana'a at 1045 and arrive in Dubai at 1450. The third

flight will increase seat capacity on the route by nearly 50% and cargo capacity by around 30%.

Emirates will also increase the number of flights to Frankfurt from six per week to a daily service from April 1, making The German commercial center the second European destination after London to receive daily operations.



The new flight will be non-stop and operate on Tuesdays, departing from Dubai at 1525 and arriving in Frankfurt at 2025, increasing seat capacity by 30% through the larger wide-bodied Airbus A300-600Rs

instead of A31-300s.

Passengers on both the Sana'a and Frankfurt routes can enjoy Emirates' award-winning facilities including Emirates Television offering six channels of varied in-flight entertainment, nice audio channels of music for all tastes, plus in-flight telephones in all cabins and fax machines available to passengers in all cabins.

For more information, contact:

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April 7th, 1997

By Jamal Al-Awadhi

Abdulkafi Shirian

Body Building: Wide Popularity and Great Ambitions

Abdulkafi Shirian, regarded as the father of body building in Yemen, has been instrumental in training and introducing many young men to this sport. He won the Republic's Championship for seven consecutive years, starting from 1980.

In 1987, he was selected as the person with the most beautiful, athletic body in Yemen by a survey conducted by the Lebanese Nojoom Al-Riyadha newspaper.

Despite all the hard conditions and his work as an army officer, Abdulkafi continued with his training, becoming a renowned sports star and a role model for young sports people. He exhibits exemplary morals and great modesty which goes to show that this sport is not only for inflating one's muscles.

Yemen Times has interviewed Abdulkafi Shirian to shed some light on the current state of sport in Yemen.

Q) Why have you stopped coaching Al-Zuhra club in Sana'a despite the large number of athletes in it?

A) I started coaching in a small and unhealthy training hall. I asked the club's officials to buy a ventilation fan to circulate the stifling air of the hall. My request was met with rejection and derision. It only natural that when you want to do something, you do it as perfectly as possible. The hall was unhealthy, and the club's management was uncooperative. So I quit.

Q) Have you practiced coaching in any other place?

A) Yes, at the Military Sports Association where they have a large and healthy sports hall. Despite being continuously on the move as military personnel, we always return to train in this hall.

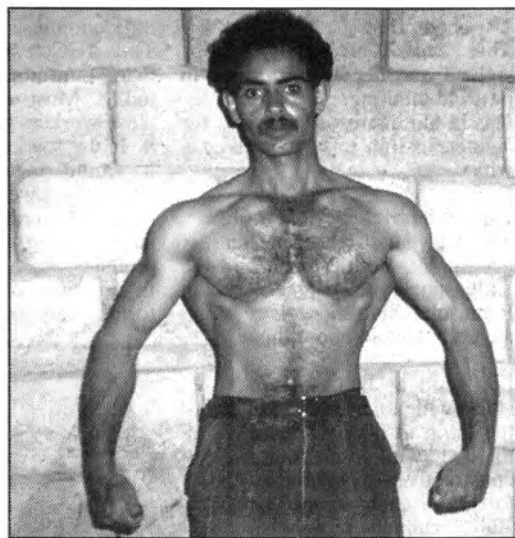
Q) Are the halls attached to sports clubs suitable for training?

A) Most of the halls available now are not suitable at all for proper training. Some of them are not even suitable for being storage rooms. We demand that the Ministry of Youth and Sports should conduct inspection tours to get first-hand knowledge of the bad conditions in these so-called sports halls. Many

halls are small and unhealthily crammed.

Q) Have you, during your long time as a coach, come across young sportsmen who use anabolic steroids? If so, why do they do that?

A) Due to the lack of awareness of the bad effects of these steroids, in addition to the intake of arti-



ficial vitamins and proteins, many young men have started to arbitrarily use these preparations. To conduct normal training, the human body can do nicely with natural food, without any need for artificial products. Using steroids for inflating the body muscles can have negative side effects in the future. Young sportsmen should be made aware of the bad effects of these steroids, and natural, more nutritional food should be advocated.

Q) It often noticed that many body builders concentrate on developing the upper part of their bodies, and neglect the thigh and leg muscles? What do you think about that as a specialist?

A) These people cannot be considered as proper body builders. Their efforts are mainly for showing

off. Also, strengthening the thigh muscles requires hard work and much will power. Body building means training all the parts of the body equally highly. If that is not done, the weak parts will suffer from torn muscles and overworked ligaments. Building the muscles of the upper part of the body only can big pressure on the lower part, especially the knee. This can lead to severe knee injuries. The thigh and leg muscles are like the foundations of a house. They have to be strong for the rest of the body to function well.

Q) Does Yemen possess the highly qualified training cadres for this sport?

A) Most coaches rely more on experience than qualifications. They need to know more about the movement of muscles and what happens during dynamic training. We continuously acquire more knowledge and information by reading specialized magazines, and benefit from the expertise of foreign trainers who had coached us in the past.

We now, however, suffer from lack of training courses and opportunities. This is due mainly to the fact that body building is not an Olympic sport. Most of the next training courses are allocated for Olympic games. Sports officials at the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Body Building Association must realize that body building enjoys great popularity among Yemeni youth. We hope that in the future more opportunities will be available. Highly qualified foreign experts should be invited to help train our people according to modern methods and principles.

Q) What are your ambitions for the future? What do you need to develop this sport?

A) Yemeni youth possess great will powers. They only need some care and direction, moral and material, by the relevant authorities to be able to advance in life. Providing good sports facilities and supporting distinguished sports persons can do wonders. Opening the space for competition will lead to more creativity and more champions. We hope that the present attention granted by sports authorities will increase and sports programs will be on the government's agenda after the elections.

Spotlight

Al-Huseinia Festival A Cultural and Sport Event from Yemen's Past

Al-Huseinia is regarded one of the cultural/athletic heritage festivals in Yemen. It was held in Hodeidah last month as one of the sports festivals being inherited

generation after generation. The festival was held annually in the district where the youth gather to compete on strength basis and toughness. It is a show and a parade of muscles and power with various activities.

Some of the youth compete by jumping on a number of camels being lined on one beside the other. The winner is the one who jumps on a large number of camels.

In addition to this activity, there is a horse and a camel races. There are also some sports activities such as wrestling and power competitions. This is the sports side of the festival. As for the cultural side of the festival, a number of poets gather to recite their verses. To be noted, this festival has been stopped for some time or being organized in intervals.

As a result, there was no readiness or good preparations for it in those days. So it needs some good preparation.

In 1993 president Ali Abdullah Saleh promised to revive the Huseinia festival to take its place among the other sports and cultural events in the Republic. The participation was great and competitive in the festival. All athletes presented some good activities but the 1994 civil war stopped it.

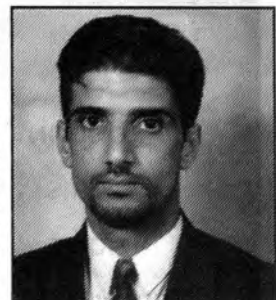
In 1997 the minister of Youth and Sports announced to start these activities once again as part of revival to its past historical values in all Yemeni govern- orates.

As a new step to give it more concern as a public activity (sports or cultural). The concern of the minister was fruitful and thus the festival was held on high level. The youth who participated in the festival presented some successful/ wonderful shows in many of the athletic games.

The most of the distinguished sport was jumping on lined camels and it was the most wonderful of all activities. We also noticed that some of the youth has been jumping on non-scientific basis. Such sort of jumping requires strength, a daring personality and most of all it depends on body strength.

Such an activity is to organize it regularly with more concern. Any neglect to it will have a negative result. We ask for more of such accomplishments in the field of sports.

It is worth mentioning that the festival is inherited historically by the tribes of AlZaraneik. It represents dignity and showing off power and readiness for fighting.



Yemeni Horseman in Qatar

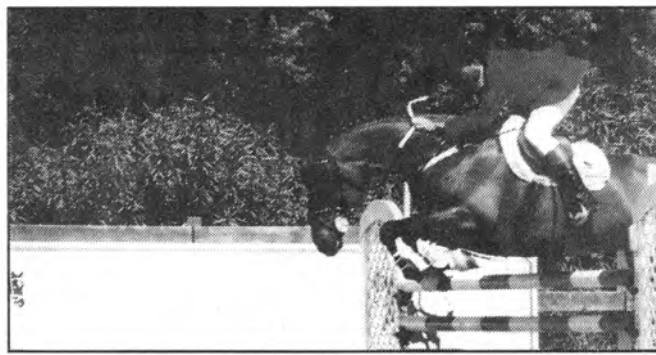
Dr Abdul-wahab Raweh, the Minister of Youth and Sports, received the Yemeni horseman Hassan Saif, who lives in Saudi Arabia, with the other Yemeni horseman Abdul Ghani Al Wajeeh last Wednesday April 2 1997. The two horseman participated in the first Qatari international championship handicap race. They were able to come in the tenth place 19 participating countries. The minister welcomed the horsemen warmly in Yemen. Your participation in the Qatari international cham-

ponship by the name of Yemen is an evidence of your loyalty and love to your country. We are proud of our expatriates who are the best representatives of Yemen," said Dr. Raweh.

The Yemeni horseman, Hassan Saif, has asserted that he will put all his experience and abilities for establishing a horsemanship club so that Yemen can have a prominent place in Arab and international competitions, and give remarkable performances.

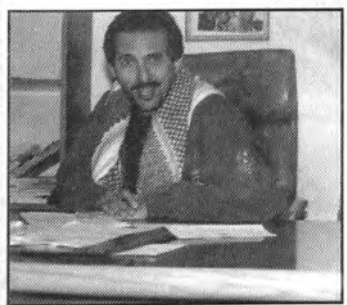
Hassan Saif is considered as one of the best horsemen in Saudi

Arabia and other parts of the Arab World. He has won many competitions in the Gulf region and in particular and other Arab countries in general. Qatar International Championship is his first one carrying the name of his nation, Yemen.



Yemeni Olympic Committee:

Year Full of Activity



The Yemeni Olympic Committee aims, with great efforts, to design a number of various sports and cultural activities appropriate to the qualifying for different sport games. The committee has prepared a special program of activities for this year which is endorsed by the Minister of Youth and Sports and the head of the Olympic Committee. Execution of this program has already started.

According to Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi, the secretary-general of the Olympic Committee, the program aims to boost the status

of sports in Yemen. The intended activities include:

- * Honoring the champions of the 96-97 season.
- * Organizing open chess championship.
- * Organizing beach ball and volleyball competitions which are novel, very enjoyable, and have plenty of naturally available arenas, considering the long stretch of exotic and enchanting Yemeni beaches. This sport was first introduced in Yemen by the Olympic Committee.

- * Inaugurating the activities of the Olympic Day which is a sort of festival in which a number of sports associations will take part. Several qualifying and training courses in different governorates to be supported by the Olympic Committee. A number of courses will also be supported by the International Olympic Solidarity. In addition to that, special support is provided by the Olympic Committee for schools, sports clubs and associations in the form of various types of sports equipment and facilities.

International Athletics Racetrack to Open Soon: The Republic's Fifth Athletics Championship

Preparations are underway at the General Association of Athletics in the Ministry of Youth and Sports to inaugurate the new athletics racetrack in Al-Thawra Sports City in Sana'a during this month. For this occasion, the Athletics Association has prepared a special program for a big sports celebration, to be attended by several Yemeni, Arab, and international sports figures and celebrities.

Also, the Republic's Fifth Athletics Championship will accompany the inau-

guration ceremonies from 10th to 13th April. The program as endorsed by the Athletics Association is as follows:
First day: Qualifier matches for the Republic's Fifth Athletics Championship

will be held among participants from various governorates.

Second day: Second stage of athletics qualifier matches will take place.

Third day: Final athletics competitions and trophy presentations will be held.

The official inauguration program will include musical presentations, parades by the participants teams and school children, folklore dances, and welcoming renditions.



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Yemenia اليمنية

Our Aim Is Your Satisfaction

Why Yemen Should Join the GCC !

The Republic of Yemen has formally applied to join the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (AGCC). It was rebuffed. That was unfortunate, short-sighted and deeply embedded in past/old thinking. It is in the interest of all sides for Yemen to join this club. Here is why.

1. Geography: The very first element here is geography. Both Yemen and the Gulf states are in the Arabian Peninsula, and there is nothing anybody can do about this.

2. Security: The concept of national security is fast giving way to a more regional and even global security. No country can be secure within its borders, while hell is breaking loose around it. In other words, the security of the AGCC states will be directly and enormously affected by conditions in Yemen, and vice versa. Therefore, to say that Yemen has too many difficulties, and thus should be left to rot alone is nonsense. As a matter of fact, much of Yemen's internal problems are instigated and financed by the AGCC, notably Saudi Arabia.

3. Economics: The AGCC states harbor more than 4 million foreign workers, today. Most of the income of these workers gets out, and that is it. If the workers were Yemenis, it would mean a higher purchasing power for the 16-17 million Yemenis, which means a larger market for AGCC products. In addition, Yemen's economic fortunes are fast improving. The economic prospects increasingly look better. At the same time, the consumption-based economies of the AGCC states are faltering. It is not at all clear that these countries will be able to maintain their present standard of living, let alone improve on it. Those are the traditional arguments. Next week, I will share new ones to show that the AGCC needs Yemen, more than the other way around.

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

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