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## A Sign of the New Times: President Saleh. No More Dishes Out Money

President Ali Abdullah Saleh used to authorize money to whoever appealed to him on whatever pretext. Now, he refuses to do that anymore.

"There is a government. People with such requests should go to the Prime Minister or the relevant minister. The President has decided to stay out of it," said Mr. Ali Mohammed Al-Anisi, Director of the President's Office. Presidential generosity used to be employed to win favors and friends. In times of tribulations and uncertainty, that was probably a necessary tool. Today, a president comfortably entrenched in power, no longer needs to curry favors with any one.

"There is a system in place, and people are urged to go by it," Al-Anisi added.



## Consultative Council Completes Internal Structuring

On Sunday, June 15th, the Consultative Council completed its internal structuring with the formation of eight committees and naming their chairmen and rapporteurs. These are as follows:

1. Constitutional and Legal Committee:  
Chairman: Abdul-Wahab Al-Anisi;  
Rapporteur: Mohsen Al-Olufi
2. Political and Foreign Relations Committee:  
Chairman: Yahia Al-Mutawakkil;  
Rapporteur: Mohammed Salim Ba-Sinduwah
3. Defense and Security Committee:  
Chairman: Mujahed Abu Shawarib;  
Rapporteur: Ali Abdullah Al-Sallal
4. Economic and Financial Committee:  
Chairman: Mohammed Anam Ghalib;  
Rapporteur: Dr. Mohammed Al-Afandi.
5. Human Rights, Freedom & NGOs Committee:  
Chairman: Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf;  
Rapporteur: Prof. Abubakar Al-Qirby.

6. Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries Committee:  
Chairman: Abdul-Latif Dhaifallah  
Rapporteur: Mohammed Salim Akkoush
7. Services and Local Government Committee:  
Chairman: Sheikh Sinan Abu Luhum;  
Rapporteur: Mohammed Hassan Dammaj
8. Education, Culture, Information Committee:  
Chairman: Hassan Ahmed Al-Salami  
Rapporteur: Mohammed Hussein Al-Aidarous

At another level, the CC is busy working on the draft laws on local administration and the re-zoning of the country's districts and provinces. The CC is also working on certain arrangements to control the bloodshed resulting from vendetta actions. Finally, the CC is also working on proposals to curb the carrying of arms, especially in the cities.

At a third level, the CC is establishing links with similar organizations and councils in other countries.

## Yemen and Indonesia Tied Again in Football Tournament

The national football teams of Yemen and Indonesia played their second match on Friday June 13th. The result was another tie: 1-1.

Most people expected the Yemeni team to win this match as it was able to come out with a tie in the match played on the Indonesian team's home ground. The fans cheered and jeered, but that had little effect on the outcome.

The Friday match was attended by a number of members of the Consultative Council, ministers, members of parliament, ambassadors,



and other officials. The 35,000 stadium was almost packed. Yemen's next match is with Uzbekistan, to which Yemen had lost an earlier match.

More on page 15

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## Sports and Nation-Building

Sports are an integral and important part of nation-building. In many countries, it is a vital rallying point, even when there are political differences.

Here in Yemen, sports have been ignored. The youth of the country receive marginal attention. There are some 4 million Yemenis between the ages of 12-25 years, and they represent the backbone of the nation's future adult population.

The most popular sport in Yemen is soccer. Strangely enough, no one supports this game, although national and international support exists for many other games. Yet, the most widely spread sport does not have a sponsor.

The youth are grouped within various clubs. One can identify three levels of clubs:

The first-level clubs are those that have a national presence and they incorporate the near-professional athletes. They stand out in the national and regional competitions. There are roughly thirty national-level clubs.

The second-level clubs are those that cater to the needs of the aspiring youth. They engage the kids that show some promise in the games.

The third-level clubs are those in which children enroll as they practice their hobbies.

In every city, there are those levels of clubs which co-exist. The Government has to support these clubs, especially their needs are limited.

Another dimension that needs to be supported is female athletes the number of which is growing. These athletes have no where to go, and in some circles, they do not even accept that women can be athletes.

Nation-building is a long-term process. Sometimes, an idea or an event around which forces can be mobilized is needed. Most Third World countries do not have a driving force that will bring a substantial number of the adult population together. Sports is a real possibility.

In Yemen, democracy, development and the unification of the country have played this role. They will continue to play a mobilizing role. But this needs to be augmented by as much additional gathering power. Sports can serve this purpose.

Paying attention to sports can also be part of the development process. Through this sector, due attention can be given to the youth, including the women. Therefore, it is necessary and worthwhile by its own right.

Over the last few weeks, the country has witnessed an enormous zeal and support for the national football team. This can serve as the beginning of a sustained policy in this sector.

*The Publisher*  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

### Children's Rights on Theater

The Human Rights Information and Rehabilitation Center in Taiz, in coordination with Sam School, will present a musical play on children's rights. The play is intended as a contribution towards raising public awareness about human rights issues. The play will concentrate on children's rights and the necessity for society to provide with more care and attention. The show will take place at 10 PM. on Saturday 21st June in Al-Fadhool Hall at the Taiz Cultural Center.

### Chinese Parliamentary Delegation Visit Yemen

A Chinese parliamentary delegation headed by Zhou Jue, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is presently on an official visit to the Republic of Yemen. Yemen Times will provide a full report on this event next week.

### Yemen Denounces US Congress Decision on Al-Quds

US Congress decided to recognize Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as the unified capital of Israel. The decision, though not binding to the Clinton Administration, triggered the anger of Arab governments and peoples, including Yemen.

### Dr. Faraj's Government Gets Vote of Confidence

On Saturday, June 14th, the Government of Faraj Bin Ghanim was given the vote of confidence by parliament. The near unanimous vote of confidence shows the optimistic mood that prevails in the parliament as well as in the country.

### SONY Shopping Festival 97

Attended by several government and chamber of commerce officials, ambassadors, and members of the media and the general public, the Sony shopping festival was opened on Thursday 12th June. The event took place at the Yemen Exhibition Hall in Sana'a. The exhibition is organized by Al-Haidary for Trading--Sony's sole agent in Yemen.



The most modern state-of-the-art audio-visual and communication equipment were on display at the exhibition. Al-Haidary is a pioneer in organizing such big exhibitions and festivals. Big price reductions are announced by Al-Haidary. The star of the show is the festival's Big Prize. A brand new Daewoo saloon car will be given away in a lucky draw. There will be other valuable prizes and many surprises. The festival is set to continue until 18th June at the Yemen Exhibition Hall in Al-Qasser Al-Jumhory St., near the Chinese Embassy.

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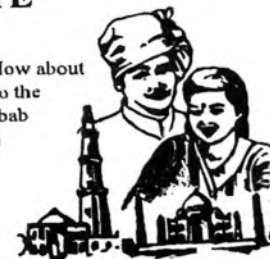


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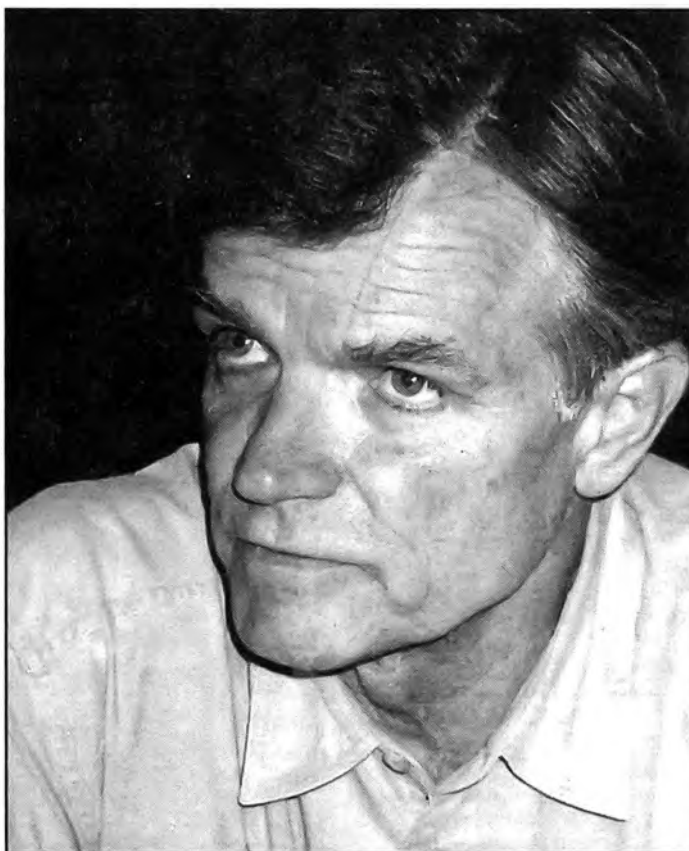
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# "Arab countries suffered from lower rates of growth because of the military burden."

Prof. John Waterbury is Director of the Center for International Studies at Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. He has been studying the Middle East since 1960. During his doctoral work at Columbia University, he lived in Morocco for about 8 years. He resided in Cairo during 1971-77 as the Middle East associate of the American Universities Field Staff. Since then, he visited, for long periods of time, several other countries in the region; including Sudan, Turkey, Tunisia, and Lebanon. Last week, he visited Yemen for the second time. His visit was associated with the Sustainable Development Seminar. But he did manage to stay behind to travel around the country. Among his publications are *The Commander of the Faithful; The Moroccan Monarchy and Its Coming Decade; Egypt: Burdens of the Past and Options for the Future; The Middle East in the Coming Decade; The Egypt of Nasser and Sadat; Exposed to Innumerable Delusions: Public Enterprise and State Power in Egypt, India Mexico and Turkey;* and (with Alan Richards) *A Political Economy of the Middle East.* Dr. Salah Haddash of Yemen Time talked to Mr. Waterbury and filed this interview.



**Q:** Arab countries are developing with a low rate, compared to other countries such as Latin American and Asian countries. What do you think of that?

**A:** There are lots of potential reasons. We may not know for sure. This region experienced a greater boom and bust as a result of the increase in oil prices in the 1970s. The effect of the price increases and then the price decreases had a bigger impact here than perhaps in other developing regions. When the oil economies began to lose momentum, it had huge implications for employment in countries like Yemen, Egypt, Jordan and Palestine which had been sending a lot of labor to the oil-rich countries. In the 1970's, the region was growing at a fairly rapid pace. In the 1980s the rates of growth

began to decline fairly dramatically. But I think there is more to it than just oil. Almost all Middle Eastern countries had adopted a model of development which relied very heavily on state intervention in the economy and state regulation of all economic activity. While this is not unique, the degree of control by the state over economic life was probably more extensive in the Middle East than in other regions. Within that, I have always argued that the place of the military establishment in Middle Eastern economies has been much larger than in virtually any other developing region, including East Asia which has had just as much wars as the Middle East. But the military establishments in places like Korea and Taiwan never captured

as much of the national resources base as several big military establishments in the Middle East. I think Iraq, Egypt, Syria and also Israel see 14-15% of GDP going to the military sector. All these resources have been used for military purposes rather than being invested in the domestic economy. The long-term implications for growth have been fairly negative.

Fortunately, military expenditures are going slowly down just about everywhere in the Middle East. This is a good sign.

**Q:** How successful has the symposium been?

**A:** I came as a consultant for the IMF. But anything I say should not be associated with the IMF. I thought it has some successful points and some disappointing

ones as well. Virtually every Arab country was represented here, except Mauritania. People took the papers quite seriously. I thought, on the whole, they were good papers.

The disappointing thing was that we didn't have more direct discussions. The papers were presented, followed by a fairly formal response from 3 or 4 people. But we didn't get a good exchange going. I think maybe we were able to raise some issues that everyone agreed were important. But we didn't go to the next step and debate them in depth.

**Q:** What were the main issues discussed in the symposium?

**A:** The growth issue was the main one. The IMF and the World Bank have been worried about the long and medium-term implications of the low growth rates in the Arab world. The risk being that as other regions develop more rapidly and become more involved in international trade, the Arab world may be falling behind. The issue of trade was one of the big issues debated at the symposium.

The Arab world, and the Middle East in general, over the last 30 years have actually lost share in the international trade. Its weight in international trade declined, excluding oil exports. This is not a good sign because most of the rest of the world is moving towards pretty aggressive involvement in the world economy.

The risk is that, 5 to 10 years from now, the Arab world may very well find itself in a bad position to compete in markets that are going to be crowded by

countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, etc. These are aggressively pursuing exports.

We had at least 3 papers that looked at slow growth and international trade. We had one paper from the UNDP that looked at issues of income distribution equity, what is happening to the poor as the economies of the Arab world try to encourage the private sector and move in a new direction. There are concerns that a substantial part of population may be left out of their benefits. There was a paper that looked at environmental issues and resources like water. What would the general picture on water resources as they relate to economic restructuring and trade be within the 5-10 next years?

**Q:** You think there is the capacity to tackle those issue?

**A:** Arab countries can achieve much higher rates of growth. All of the basic factors of production are there. One of the positive points of the last 30 years has been the training of a great deal of human resources -- managers skilled workers, a whole range of people in clerical and secretarial positions. There is no obstacle in terms of human resources to moving into a new mode. Some retraining maybe necessary, particularly in the use of computer and software which are absolutely crucial for the next phase.

**Q:** What was your contribution at the symposium?

**A:** I presented a paper with a co-author from the IMF, Ms. Raki Muala Fatini on the growth issue

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*The First of Two Book Reviews on:*

# THE PENETRATION OF ARABIA

**Book Review:**  
**Yemen: Travels in Dictionary Land**  
**John Murray : London, 1997**

Back in 1904 D.G. Hogarth published a book also entitled as the book by John Murray - "YEMEN: Travels in Dictionary Land." I would like to share some thoughts about this book, as well as about another successful book - also on Yemen - published in Germany.

In his prefatory note, Hogarth apologized for not being "among those who have penetrated the Arabian Peninsula, and that his personal acquaintance with its inhabitants and their language is small". He further predicted that, "when the actual political changes and convulsions, which are due in large measure to the constant advance of Ottoman power in the peninsula, have ceased to disturb its society, Europeans will doubtless complete the penetration of Arabia".

Indeed, the withdrawal of the Ottomans after World War I, and the added incentive of the discovery of so much oil, have facilitated the full exploration of the peninsula less than a century later. If one agrees that a place is unknown as long as it has not been penetrated by a Westerner, that is.

Tim Macintosh-Smith has been a resident of Sanaa since 1982. Thus, he need not apologize for any ignorance because his own record of the manners and customs of the Yemenis is not only well-written and mostly fun to read, it also shows a true interest and liking for a place about which he certainly knows a lot. And as fits a man who hikes and bikes around, he has also been to many more places than the average Yemeni will ever be in his entire life. But Tim's contribution to the ever-growing literature of Western books about Yemen is not easy to classify. As he puts it, his book "treads the line between seriousness and frivolity" and more than once verges on the sexually explicit.

Tim did not succeed at avoiding the usual pattern of travelogues that start at one point in place and time, and end sometime later - and a few hundred pages further - back at the same point. But this journey from one point and back to it, through various tribulations are made bearable because of tons of anecdotes and the display of enough good humor to face the expected annoyances of traveling away from home.

Tim's angle to write about his own and previous travellers' experiences in Yemen is the metaphor of the Dictionary Land. As he makes it clear in repeated mentions of his book's subtitle, Yemen is the place where the strange circumvolutions of Arabic morphology and semantics from a single - mostly trilateral root - become understandable due to the love of its inhabitants for poetry, the preservation of so many traditions, the physical presence of the ancient past and the permanent proximity of another world of Jennies, witches, and sea monsters.

This is a well-established feature of Orientalist literature: "Here the past is alive and people's fantasy and imagination are not confined to childhood or artistry" as the worn-out cliché goes. But one must concede that the narrative is always ironic and *naïve* enough to reduce this light irritation. But then how can Tim write on p. 37 "As their Empire expanded, the Romans developed a fascination for the Orient and things oriental that became entrenched in society". Why the past tense? What would we poor Europeans have left if it were not for fantasizing about our closest and most familiar other - the Orient?

There are too many *morceaux de bravoure* in this book. To mention all but one of the best are the pages about qat-chewing and the voluptuousness it induces. One may simply regret that in his vibrant defense of his favorite pastime, Tim entirely overlooked the new issue of *mubavder*, i.e. qat spread with pesticides that are the major cause for the growing number of mouth, throat and stomach cancers among qat-chewers. Gone are the days when the biblical farmers of the hanging gardens of Arabia used to protect their plants by simply spreading them with dust. This probably sounds too trivial to be mentioned in a book like this. But it is this kind of detail that confirms that there is always something rotten, even in the Kingdom of Saba and Himyar.

Some other points require some kind of redress. Tim admits how little he knows about the female half of Yemen's population but that makes the passage about veiling and women's organized social inferiority even less bearable. True, some men are obedient to their wives as soon as

they step into their house and there are many bright and assertive Yemeni women, not simply in the past.

But does that really compensate for all those who are prevented from attending school beyond primary level, who get married at 14 and have to produce as many babies as their husbands' pride calls for, regardless of their health condition and the fact that the malnourished children may end up begging in the streets? The issue here is a little bit more than just accepting another culture or adjusting to different mind-sets as the author tries to make believe.

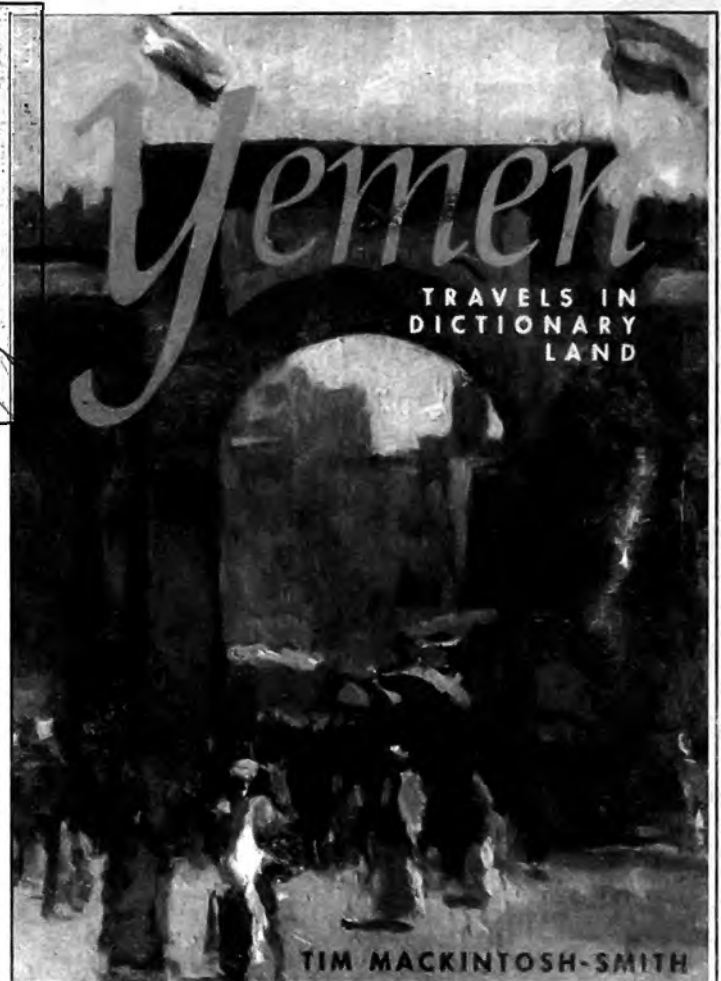
As for politics, the book is careful not to venture too much into that field except for a slightly romanticized vision of super-human Zaydi imams. Yet, putting all the blame for the 1994 war on Ali Salim al-Bedh and his supposed failure at becoming a "statesman" is somewhat exaggerated. Al-Bedh, though definitely not a saint, was at least ready to build a state. Those who defeated him have been speaking about it for years but the search for a Yemeni state still goes on.

The author is right at praising the high degree of civilization achieved by the Rasulid dynasty, but he fails to mention that not all of it was concentrated in Taiz. Zabid also played a major part in the blooming of the thousand "five-petaled rosette" of the Rasulid blazon.

Moving from petty nagging to poetry, one can only approve of Tim's effort to show repeatedly how much it penetrates daily life in Yemen. His translating many verses from the local bards make a welcome change from the more predictable quotes of travellers and gazetteers about geography, genealogy and gynecology. Still, the rendering of the unknown Iraqi visitor's poem about Sanaa (p. 21) takes a lot of freedom from the Arabic, but the original is not itself that great.

The book is built around lengthy narratives of adventurous travels, walking down Wadi Surdud with the intrepid Debbie and visiting Hud and Bir Barhut with Jay before a final chapter takes the reader to Socotra, the island of "true ancient naturals" living in Arcadian felicity. In between, the reader is treated with digression that allow Tim to show he has had many fruitful readings in Yemeni history and mythology as confirmed in the rich bibliography, an unusual feature for this kind of book. It is as if the many aspiring "orientalists" Tim has seen come and go to complete PhD thesis based on much too little fieldwork had enticed him to show he could do better than most of them. His book is also much more pleasant to read than the aforementioned corporation routinely produces.

The chapter devoted to Aden deserves special attention. After all, it is probably the first post-colonial and post-party (YSP of course) rendition of Aden in British literature. Even for a non-Briton indifferent to colonial nostalgia, it reads well. That sentence about Russians escaping on the Britannia royal yacht in the last round of intra-party slaughtering in 1986 is a bitter summary of events for the last century and half. It was in fact about time to get to read better things about Aden than June so-and-so having tea with the sultans. Here, one gets Tim at the Nashwan club between a bottle of the much missed Secra beer and a Fellinian female trying to get him dancing



with her. She might as well have tried to make him believe she was Victoria who had walked all the way from the backyard of the museum.

June 30 will be an eventful day around the world. In Hong Kong the Union Jack will be lowered for good in a final display of imperial grandeur. But halfway to the Mother-country their will be a little victory to enjoy. After inaugurating it four years ago with no less than two ministers of the République, the French will also lower, for good, their tricolore on the Rimbaud house, a French cultural center-cum-agence consulaire in the former factorerie of Monsieur Bardey whose employee list included both Bessepere and Arthur Rimbaud. But the best about this new Waterloo for francophonie is that the new tenant is the British Council which can move into the expensively renovated place, the next day. The Rimbaud house will live on with its name as a courtesy - or is it a *pied-de-nez*? - to the poet. *Noblesse oblige*.

For British nostalgics of the Empire, the Aden chapter will read as a confirmation that they should never have leaved. And for professional defenders of francophonie, the entire book is a relief. Whereas France which prides itself on its egalite and fraternite, has wiped out most local dialects and languages and wastes

millions on a lost war "against" the English language, a true representative of class-conscious UK like Tim makes sure everybody notices how well-educated he was by filling his book with French words and expressions. Not to mention the many Western painters and authors he uses to prove that more than being the unofficial "Shaykh of the Nazarenes" in Sanaa, he is the first Sana'ani Scot.

The point is the way you achieve such a glorious status. Tim has done it for years, without arrogance towards the newcomers and by showing that there will always be a minority of expan-

triate (is he still to be called with that ugly word?) who still like this country after years and years. No one can blame him for taking his luck at making money out of these experiences. And, again, buying and reading the book is not simply about funding his status as one of the "Lords of Ghumdan" for longer. It is a book to read if you like Yemen. And if you did not like it, read it too, you may change your mind.

Next week, Part II will review of Michael Roess' book.

Ready for some Schadenfreude?

By : Renaud Detalle

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6/7	130	10 kg	1300
7/8	164	10 kg	1640
8/9	82	10 kg	820
9/10	73	10 kg	730
10/12	58	10 kg	580
12/16	76	10 kg	760
16/20	11	10 kg	110
<b>Total</b>	<b>3022</b>		<b>30220</b>

**Cooked lobster:**

Volume	No. of Carons	Carton Weight Kg.	Total Weight Kg.
100-150	11	5 kg	55
150-200	5	5 kg	25
200-250	25	5 kg	125
250-300	58	5 kg	290
300-350	95	5 kg	475
350-400	63	5 kg	315
400-450	89	5 kg	445
450-500	45	5 kg	225
500-550	48	5 kg	240
550-600	42	5 kg	210
600-650	90	5 kg	450
650-700	33	5 kg	165
700-750	3	5 kg	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>536</b>		<b>2680</b>

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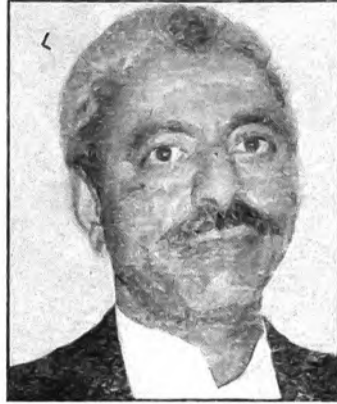
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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## Intolerable Irresponsibility



"Samiha! Where are you going?", Mona asked her next door neighbor, as she was picking up the groceries her son just brought to the door and left after she had answered the door.

Samiha was trying to close the door and trying to get her three youngsters to behave at the same time, with more success with the first task. She responded, "I am going to vaccinate these kids before the health clinic runs out of vaccines, as I hear they only have a limited quantity."

"You are going to do what? Look Samiha, I would not rush if I were you, until the Ministry of Health comes out with a plausible explanation after those tragic deaths in Raimah."

Samiha gave a whack to the back of the head of the biggest of her three kids - two boys and a girl; 3, 5 and 6 years old, with the girl being in the middle of the lot. The eldest one had been pinching the other two kids and getting them to chase him around his mother. She turned back to her neighbor, a bit disturbed by what her neighbor had just said.

"Mona, what are you talking about?" and another whack on the back of her mischievous boy, at the same time.

"Did you not hear? They had the problem reported on television. There were some 30 deaths and a

number of ailing children as a result of a mix-up in the vaccines. The poor kids were erroneously injected with insulin instead of the vaccine for tuberculosis or some other contagious diseases. According to official reports, the injections were stored with a shopkeeper, who was said to be storing the vaccines in his ice box. Because there was something wrong with the cold storage of the Ministry of Health.

In the same ice box, there were also some other medicine stored, which looked quite similar to the vaccine. When the Ministry staff came to pick up the vaccines, they picked up the insulin instead. Because of the absence of controls and the neglect of checking procedures to make sure of the right medicine by all those involved, all those kids needlessly lost their lives. No one is exactly sure what went wrong. In short, instead of having those kids protected against the six deadly diseases, they were released from any worries about any disease altogether!", explained Mona.

Samiha turned to go towards her neighbor Mona, leaving her two younger kids to the mercy of her mischievous six-year old. Her anxiety was obvious. "Oh my God! What kind of nonsense, are you saying. This kind of news is

not exactly easy to believe. Even if you have as wild kids as I have, especially Faris, there - Hey, Faris, you just wait until your dad comes home. This kind of news should raise a lot of eyebrows! Go back in the house, kids I will be right over."

She changed her mind about the vaccinations. Her oldest daughter - 10 years old - had just returned from school. She instructed her, "Go into the house with your brothers and sister and watch that boy Faris. Just keep him out of trouble, until I finish talking to your Aunt Mona". Mona was not really related to the family of Samiha. But it was a polite neighborly gesture of respect to her friend and confidant, Mona. Mona continued talking. "Come on in for a cup of tea and I can hopefully comfort you. I am surprised you did not hear about this. Anyway, we were really concerned. Ali went bananas when he heard of this and called our representative to Parliament, immediately. He had participated in the campaign to get him elected."

"To tell you the truth, Mona, since Adel got this satellite receiver, we have not been watching the local TV station. You know my husband, he gets bored because of the long speeches and endless self-

praising the government blurts out in all of its media channels. He prefers wrestling matches. Anyway, what is going to happen now?" Samiha asked.

Mona continued to explain. "The government is really facing its first test of crisis - although, I am rather surprised that the government response did not seem at all that encouraging. The government ordered an investigation of the matter, froze some small officials here and there in the Ministry of Health and reportedly worked to save some of the others, who were also victims of the mix-up. All indications are that the mix-up was no more than that - a mix-up, but still, a lot of people are really worried, here and abroad. Some people were speculating if there were any political implications behind the incident."

"It is hard to accept such error leading to such fatal and tragic consequences," said Samiha as she entered the yard of her neighbor's house. As the talk became more political, she added, "My husband told me yesterday, that he would rather find a private doctor to inoculate our children, since he no longer trusts the public health service. You know his brother died in a government hospital because the hospital ran out of stock of the medicine he needed, which had been sitting in the airport customs hangars for three months waiting to be cleared."

"My husband always said, "The three most notorious fortresses of corruption and inefficiency in the government are the Ministries of Health, Education, and Construction and Urban Planning. Of course, the Ministry of Justice is on the honor list," said Mona, as she poured tea for her neighbor, as they sat in the courtyard. Her husband always liked to sit there a few minutes prior to lunch to play with the kids and to work on the garden.

"My husband says, the whole government is in shambles. There is no part of it that can be given any plus marks, whether for cleanliness or efficiency. Even the money making government organs could use a lot of clean up. Adel is not even optimistic with the new government. But then you know Adel, he is never optimistic about anything when it comes to his in-laws and the government. He regards them as the worst necessities of life he has to live with."

"Anyway, getting back to the health Ministry, my sister wanted to become a nurse. She applied for the Health Institute. She told of some horrible stories from the minute she applied to the date of graduation. There are literally no criteria for admission. If you have connections or pay the right amount, they take you in, even if you never saw a biology book in your life! When you get in, any entitlements that the student should get are subject to severe delays or cut short of the amounts due. The training is poor by any standard - not enough books, materials or teaching aids. The equipment is outdated and more than half is not working. The teaching is very dry and fails to instill the human side of the work involved, turning medical assistants to followers of boring routines that raise little enthusiasm. Then when the graduates start to work, the ordeal of finding employment is another nightmare. And when you find a job, the pay is so low that there is almost zero motivation and zero concern for the vocation."

"You are just talking about the paramedics, you might mention that the doctors are mostly

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second rate nurses or medical technicians, whose academic credentials have been upgraded to reflect higher pre-qualifications. Adel says that many of the doctors of Yemen graduated from the former Soviet Union with degrees that were either purchased or given away to give the Soviet Union prestige in the country for having trained so many doctors. In this way, many doctors became doctors when they probably won't pass for baby-sitters in a more advanced country!"

Samiha went back to talking about her sister. "My sister says that she went to work for a doctor, in the afternoons to get some extra income. This doctor had a sign outside his clinic that listed a whole list of specializations that it almost seems impossible any man could pick up all those credentials in a lifetime of study. Yet, his patients complain he cannot cure even a simple headache without giving you a 3-page list of prescription. Imagine that. Filling up people with medicines and chemicals like they were guinea pigs."

"She found out that he had made a deal with the pharmacy underneath his clinic to give him 10% of the value of all medicines purchased by his patients. My sister left him after he yelled at her for telling a patients that one of the medicines that the patient had just purchased was already expired! My sister has so many stories about the health services in this country that Solzhenitsyn's Cancer Ward would seem like a vacation resort compared to the situations in our government hospitals. That is what my father once told her. By the way who is Solzhenitsyn?"

"I believe he is a Russian novelist or writer of some kind," said Mona. She continued, "But your sister is right about the problems in the health services. The government has to really take a serious look at the situation there. The problem is now worse because so many sub-standard private hospitals and clinics have been established. There are really no standards established for anything in the health sector, whether in public health care or in the private efforts."

"In the countryside, the problems are even worse. Unqualified people are actively engaged in providing health services or selling medicines without any inspection or regulation from

anyone. The incident at Raimah clearly shows the extent of neglect and carelessness in the health service. Even the sub-standard services we manage to have in the capital city do not exist there.

"The tragedy is that this is the area which requires more government focus, because of the needs of Yemeni citizens who are forced to sell off everything they have and borrow themselves to death in order to obtain some treatment for whatever ailments they have. This is a drain on resources, and a sad part of our national well-being. The government knows all of this, but still the solution is far from being visible."

Samiha started to get herself together to leave. She stated her parting words. "Mona, thank you very much for warning me about the vaccinations. I guess the best thing to do is just leave the kids in God's hands rather than submit them to the negligence of the Ministry of Health. The sad part is that the hope for remedial action is not there, because of the fact that the people who were victims of the negligence are people who have no real pull in government to get quick and effective action that will improve the situation. Besides, when have you ever seen our government rectify its faults and errors in the past? They will do a lot of noise about it in the media and show us how sorry they are for their blunders, but once the heat is off, it is back to the usual, you idiots."

"Wait a minute, Samiha, it isn't really all that bad. We have a lot to look forward to, now that we have a new parliament and a new government in office. The future looks very good for Yemen. Adel says that once parliament okays the proposed program of government, we should start seeing the health of the country come back to its vitality. After all, the political hassles that had paralyzed our government have finally come to an end."

As Samiha parted she added, "I will only get comfortable when the people who are writing those programs and executing them start seeking medical services at government hospitals or private clinics here, rather than treat their colds and the slightest illnesses at the Mayo Clinic or at some expensive hospital in Europe. And that at the expense of the public treasury - of course!"



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## Mirage or Possibility: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By: Ms. Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,  
Yemen Times.

A Seminar on Sustainable Growth in Arab Countries was held in Sana'a during the period 8-9 June. Organized in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Development Program, the seminar attracted many experts from the Middle East and beyond.

The Yemeni Government was heavily represented. Prime Minister Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim kicked off the meeting, while Planning and Development Minister Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal and Finance Minister Alawi Al-Salami attended most sessions.

Many businessmen also attended the meetings.

Yemen Times discussed different aspects of the seminar with some key participants, as follows:

**1. Mr. Muttahar Al-Saedi, Vice Minister of Planning and Development.**

**Q: What are the objectives of this seminar?**

**A:** The participants aimed to discuss several issues such as growth, investment, savings, human resource development, combating poverty in Arab countries and globalization. Other issues discussed included environmental challenges, economic performance and government interference in the economy. Two most important issues considered were water resources and globalization.

**Q: What are the most important recommendations adopted by the meeting?**

**A:** Sustainable economic growth is a basic condition for achieving economic development in the Arab world. For achieving higher growth rates, Arab countries will need more support in the field of human and material resources. Growth must be accompanied by a human dimension that takes into consideration the cultural characteristics of the region. A clear human development strategy must be adopted.

Efficient use of water resources and resolving water disputes - both of which are much relevant to our country - were stressed by the participants.

**2. Mr. Sa'ad Al-Farajji, the UNDP Assistant Director and the Regional Director for the Arab countries.**

**Q: Was the seminar successful?**

**A:** Yes, it was quite successful. This is partly due to the facilities provided by Yemen.

**Q: What sort of plans are in the works to face the challenges of the future?**

**A:** There are several projects concerned with the environment, water resources, floods and other natural disasters. Other important issues addressed included support for the civil service and free trade zones. Economic growth in a more globalized environment is a major challenge of the 21st century. Globalization is inevitable. Our needs are subject to international market trends, which are increasingly

becoming more global.

Human resources are a vital commodity. Better education and vocational training systems are needed. The UNDP is prepared to be a partner in preparing for this.

**Q: What is the scale of your program budget?**

**A:** Our budget is around \$ 2 billion. But we do not rely on this only. There are more funds provided by partner donor countries for specific projects in individual countries. Particular attention is given to the least developing nations such as Yemen, Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan. After them come the middle income countries. Large funds are being provided by the Gulf countries.

**Q: How large is your program in Yemen?**

**A:** We plan to work within the format of the 5-year plan as specified by the Yemeni government earlier this year. An annual amount of \$ 100 million is made available by the UN under the supervision of the resident representative.

The main UN program budget is \$ 70 million. Participation is shared by the Capital Development Fund, the International Environment Bureau.

**Q: How involved are you in the implementation process?**

**A:** There are two parties in this process -- the UN and the beneficiary country. We work together. We also have a system of financial and administrative audit and control.

**Q: What about the women's programs?**

**A:** Our approach regarding women's participation in social and political life is two-fold. First, we have many programs for training and qualifying women in various fields.

Second, women are regarded as immediate beneficiaries. We deal with them directly by a UN Population Activities Fund. These programs are concerned with women only.

Women's programs are provided with very soft loans. The annual amount allocated for this program is \$ 2.5 million. Women's education at all levels is given top priority. Women's programs are advantageous to the whole society, not only to women.

There is a special division to follow up the implementation of the Beijing recommendations. In every bureau, we have a special unit for women's programs.

We organized a seminar for Arab women during June of last year. The seminar's recommendations were referred to all Arab countries to be incorporated in their national programs. We have to give women their rights as specified by Islam.

**3. Ms. Meels Kharimia Ahmed, Minister of Economy and Trade at the Comoros Islands.**

**Q: Is this your first visit to Yemen?**

**A:** Yes. It is in fact the first time I attend an Arab meeting such as this. It is a great opportunity for me to get to know Arab counterparts. Such occasions provide means of communication between the Comoros and Arab countries, with which we hope to enhance our economic and political relations.

**Q: What is your impression of this seminar?**

**A:** The topics discussed were very important, especially the issues of privatization, management and water resources. The big problem in the Comoros is foreign debt, which is estimated at \$100 million. We are unable to pay up the \$30 million which is due at present.

**Q: Do you think your country will open an embassy in Sana'a?**

**A:** I wish we could. We only have one embassy in Cairo which covers all Arab countries.

**Q: Have you found any similarities between Yemen and the Comoros?**

**A:** We keep to our Islamic traditions and beliefs. Our social habits are very much similar to those in Yemen and Oman. We actually have a substantial immigrant populations from the southern part of Arabia.

## "Graduates of NITI have a better chance at the work market."

The Government of Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim has stressed in its program manpower development. An important component of this effort is vocational and technical training.

The National Institute for Technicians & Instructors (NITI) in Aden is one of the leading examples of this endeavor.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Bureau Chief in Aden, visited the institute and met with Mr. Jurgen Peters and Mr. Nadeem Hamid Gurgurah, of NITI.

Mr. Jurgen Peters is the head of the German expert mission at the institute, while Mr. Gurgurah is the NITI General Manager.

He filed the following report. Excerpts:

**1. Mr. Jurgen Peters:**

**Q: What is the role of the German mission?**

**A:** We are specialized experts and our job is to help train the Yemeni trainers and to create efficient teachers. I have four German experts with me. Their fields are:

- Construction and architectural design;
  - General mechanics.
  - Car technology.
  - Electronics and electricity.
- Every expert, has a Yemeni counterpart assisting him in his work.

**Q: How much progress has the institute made with your help?**

**A:** The institute is in continual progress and the number of the Yemeni registered students is increasing. We also have well-qualified Yemeni teachers who have a great deal of practical experience. This makes our job easy.

I hope that the Yemeni-German



cooperation will continue developing, and we will do our best in continuing the German government support for this institute.

**2. Mr. Nadeem Gurgurah:**  
**Q: What kind of facilities exist at the institute?**

- A:** The facilities at the institute are very good. They include:
- Eleven planning workshops with sophisticated equipment provided by the German government.
  - Three laboratories of developed systems for examining minerals.
  - A designing-office for architectural designs with a capacity of 16 students.
  - A laboratory for electric and electronic experiments.
  - A laboratory for examining buildings.
  - A laboratory for examining electronic cars. It is provided with an electronic apparatus with a very modern system to examine new cars.

**Q: What is the study program at the institute?**

**A:** The duration of the study is two years. There is a large number of specializations which we need in our practical life. Some of these are electricity, con-

struction, electronic equipment repair, architecture, car engineering and mechanics, carpentry, latching works, welding. A successful student gets a diploma certificate at the end of the two years.

**Q: Are all trainees Yemeni?**

**A:** Yes. Our graduates are core personnel for training others.

**Q: What are the difficulties that face you?**

**A:** Every walk in life has its obstacles. In the institute we need continuous support in order to do our work.

**Q: How easy is it for your graduates to find suitable work?**

**A:** Honestly we have not closely followed what happened to our graduates once they leave us. But I believe their chances are better than others.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** We thank the friendly German government for its support for Yemen in this big project. We also thank all the people who contribute to the success of this project. Finally, thanks to Yemen Times for this interview.

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# QAT: DISTURBING HEALTH EFFECTS ON THE BODY

By: Dr. Farid Mohamed Saeed,  
ENT Specialist,  
Police Hospital in Sanaa.

## Chemical Composition

Qat is composed of several alkaloids and biologically effective substances. These include:

1- **Cathine** is also known as (+) norpseudoephedrine or phenylpropanolamine. (See Fig. 1)

This substance was extracted from purified qat by the Wolfes in 1930. He believed it to be similar in its chemical composition to alpha-norpseudoephedrine. The latter substance is similar, but 20 times weaker, in its effect to ephedrine. Experiments (in vivo and in vitro) have shown that this substance has only a 10% effect on the central nervous system.



Probably Yemeni qat differs in its chemical composition and biological effects from other types of qat found elsewhere in the world. There are many types of qat in Yemen itself. These differ with the various differences in soil, altitude, region. They also affect the human body differently. There is certainly large need for more research on this as yet mysterious plant.

## Effects of Qat on the Human Body

According to research conducted by Kennedy in 1987, the method of qat intake influences its effects on the human body. Qat can be chewed, drunk as a beverage, or smoked. Stomach secretions, for instance, are affected differently by the method of qat intake. The effects of individual qat alkaloids are also different from its effects as whole. Studies are also lacking in this respect, too.

## \* Physiological Effects

The physiological effects of qat vary widely according to the amount taken. Dry mouth and thirst are usually the first effects to appear. This is presumably because of a stringent local actions, though there may be a central effect to decrease secretions. Other effects include wakefulness, with relief from fatigue and hunger. In large doses or over use, the effect of startle is enhanced. While sex interest is heightened at first, depressed libido and potential sexuality may follow. It is claimed that chronic users may suffer from induced nausea and vomiting. Excessive doses lead to poisoning with neurological symptomatology: loss of articulation, neuromuscular incoordination and collapse, hyperesthesias, twitching, spasticity, convulsion and, in extreme cases, death.

## \* Psychological Effects

The psychological effects of qat may be summarized as an increased rate of intellectual and emotional activity. The user thinks more clearly though his concentration is impaired. He also thinks more quickly and is more alert. Increase in incentive and speed of association may lead to flight of ideas in extreme cases. The user shows impaired judgment, may become argumentative, is easily provoked, has increased tension, and emotional reaction may be quite unstable with quick changes from humor to tearfulness, etc. In the recovery phase, the user may be somewhat depressed and sluggish. As with many drugs, so with qat -- in extreme dosages, toxic psychosis may result.

However, Catha edulis is not hallucinogenic in the same sense as "LSD" i.e., it does not produce hallucinations without confusion. It is not primarily a psychodysleptic or mind-distorting drug. It is a psychoanalgetic, or stimulating drug.

Thus it can be seen that qat can have various effects. It is a stimulant if taken in reasonable amounts. Large quantities, however, can be toxic.

It is very much worth noting here the difference between physiological and psychological dependencies. The first leads to some symptoms upon abandoning a certain habit, while the latter does not. Several studies on qat have shown that it has neither a physiological nor a psychological dependency. Moreover, using qat for a long time does not induce the continuous urge to increase the amount taken. The human body does not crave for qat if it stops getting it anymore.

This can be clearly demonstrated among those who travel to other counties where qat is not available. The cessation of qat intake does not cause any psy-

chological or physiological effects.

Qat has the effect of stimulating the body glands, in sharp contrast to narcotic drugs which depress them centrally. It can be deduced from above that qat is not a narcotic drug. The human body can willingly quit qat. How was it then that qat was classified as a narcotic drug?

## Other Effects of Qat

Lack of sleep, thirst, and constipation are all caused by the tannins in qat. Its stimulating effect on the glands has been mentioned by several studies. It can stimulate the secretion of insulin, increase the ratio of triiodothyronine (T3), thyroxine (T4) and others in the blood. Large quantities of qat can cause damage to the chromosomes. Qat is used in herbal medicine for treating inflammations. Some studies show that it also has effect of stunting ulcers.

Academic work done by myself has clearly shown that qat concentrates can be used to treat inflammations and viral infections. I have, in my research, used certain concentrations of qat to wash the sinuses of patients suffering from inflammations in the upper respiratory system. Very good results were achieved. My study also demonstrated that qat also has some anti-histamine effects in allergy sufferers. I also found that qat stimulates the formation of T-lymphocytes, i.e. it strengthens the immune system.

Other studies have demonstrated that qat has positive effects on the DNA (deoxy ribonucleic acid), RNA (ribonucleic acid), and proto synthesis. AIDS research can be extended to this as yet not fully investigated substance -- qat. International organizations are invited to consider this matter seriously, and fund research in this field.

2- **Cathinone** was discovered by Brilla in 1962 when he was researching the effects of alkaloids and amphetamines on the human body. Cathinone is also called (-) alpha-amino- propiophenone. (See Fig. 2).

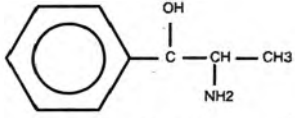


Fig. 1 Cathine

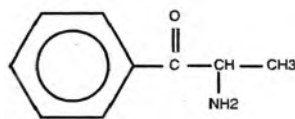


Fig. 2 Cathinone

Steinegger and Schorno confirmed in 1972 that cathinone affects the central nervous system by 7-10 times greater than caffeine. In 1987, Omolo et al. also found that it has similar, but milder effects, to amphet-

amines. Many other alkaloids entering the chemical composition of qat were also discovered. Wolfe in 1976 and Brenner in 1979 discovered the alkaloids myricathine and pseudomyricathine. But Kaliv in 1987 found out that these two qat alkaloids have no major biological effects. Toplis and Grombie discovered in 1976 the alkaloid cathedulin. They found three types of the substance: K17 (C59H62N2O23), K19 (C54H58N2O23), and K20 (C59H62N2O23). The effects of these substances are not fully known yet.

## Qat in the Human Body

Cathinone decomposes rapidly upon entering the liver. Part of it is excreted with urine. This was confirmed by Kaliv and a WHO report of 1985. Compared with cathine, cathinone has quicker effect because it dissolves in quickly in the lipids. Thus, as confirmed by Kelger and the WHO in 1980, it swiftly reaches the central nervous system. Experiments have also shown that cathinone leads to the contraction of the heart muscles, increasing the blood pressure. It also excites the central nervous system increasing the capacity to work. The exchange of substances and the use of oxygen by the cells are also invigorated by cathinone. This leads to a rise in the body temperature, hence reducing the feeling of pain. In other words, it has a mild sedative effect. This was confirmed by Yanagita in 1979, the WHO in 1980 and Nencine et al. in 1984. Qat also contains tannins at 14% of its dry weight, vitamins E and C, 17 amino acids that are only found in qat, and volatile oils. Very few studies have been conducted on qat. So

## 8th Scientific Seminar of Taiz ENT Specialists

The 8th scientific seminar of ear, nose and throat specialists in Taiz was held on 10th June 1997. The seminar was sponsored by Galxo-Wellcom whose representative spoke about new products.

The chairman of the seminar was the honored guest, Dr. Ali Al-Shaibani.

Dr. Hassan H. Al-Udayni spoke about analysis of ten medical case reports regarding foreign bodies in lung that are widespread in Taiz, and which lead to asphaxia and death. He also spoke about a rare medical case 'SHT' (Spontaneous Hemorrhage for the Tonsil) in Taiz. Such a case is not mentioned in medical textbooks.

Dr. Medhat Teba (Egyptian) spoke about endoscopy

of EEDCR (Eendoscopy - Endonasal - Dacryio - Cysto - Rhino - Stomy).

Dr. Laksh-Manan (Indian) spoke about voice disorders. At the end Dr. Hasan Al-Udayni advised parents not to place foreign bodies such as watermelon seeds around playing-grounds of children. He also advised adults to watch out for pins and other similar products fearing from inhalation.

Dr. Al-Udayni also mentioned that many patients complaining of inhalation of F.Bs are coming from southern cities of Yemen such as Aden and Hadhramaut. So he advised the government to supply the southern hospitals with endoscopes to help remove foreign bodies.

## World Health Assembly Adopts a Resolution on The Sale of Medical Products Through the Internet

The 50th World Health Assembly, which met in Geneva, expressed its concern at the advertising, promotion and uncontrolled sale of medical products by electronic communication. This phenomenon, which is developing rapidly, may present a hazard for the public health as well as a risk for individual patients, particularly with regard to misleading or fraudulent product information and lack of individual counseling for consumers.

In a resolution they adopted on the issue, delegates stressed that the effectiveness, safety and quality of medical products must be carefully evaluated. In most Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO), such products require authorization prior to marketing, and are available only on medical prescription. They also maintain that examination and diagnosis of the condition and subsequent counseling and follow-up.

The delegates were particularly concerned that advertising, promotion and sale through the Internet might result in uncontrolled across-the-border trade of medical products or fraudulent imitations that may be unevaluated, unapproved, unsafe or ineffective, or used inappropriately. They asked the Director-General of WHO to collaborate with the

drug regulatory authorities, and national and international enforcement agencies to see that the text was applied, and to work with consumer groups, professional associations, the pharmaceutical industry and other relevant parties, to collect all necessary information on the subject.

The resolution adopted by the World Health Assembly also requests the Director-General to convene a WHO ad hoc working group which would include representatives of the parties mentioned above. The committee is also to include experts in ethics, legal matters, marketing and communications, to consider issues related to advertising, promotion and sale of medical products through the Internet, and to formulate recommendations for action.

The Director-General is also requested to report on progress to the Executive Board of WHO in January 1998 and to the Fifty-first World Health Assembly in May 1998.

The WHO Division of Drug Management and Policies has arranged in cooperation with the Government of Belgium for the first meeting of the ad hoc working group to take place in early September 1997 in Geneva.

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### اصلاح طاوولات البلياردو

شركة ثرستون أفضل الشركات البريطانية في اعادة صناعة وبيع الطاوولات المستخدمة سوف يكون لها خبير في اصلاح الطاوولات في اليمن من يوليو إلى أغسطس ١٩٩٧. الأشخاص الذين لديهم اهتمام باصلاح وتلييس طاوولاتهم عليهم الاتصال بالسيد بيتر كريل  
فاكس: ٤٤ ١٥١ ٢٩٨١١٣٤  
هاتف: ٤٤ ١٥١ ٢٧١٣٣٦



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# PASSION FOR PEOPLE

at

# SHERATON SANA'A

## A NORMAL SUNNY DAY AT SHERATON SANA'A

One lands on the top at Sheraton-we get out of the car and we are already on the 6th floor.

"Far from the madding crowd" of the city, we can start with a leisurely breakfast in the Lobby Lounge where a full Continental, American and Arabic buffet can suit any different need or mood.

We can then go down to the pleasant Recreation Center and just relax in the sun; the more active can play tennis, exercise in the gym or join Barbara in her aerobic classes.

Businessmen are in the lobby/off to work, tourists will be following their guide to discover this ancient land. Staff and managers are busy in their constant duty to serve at best their customers.

The whole world is represented by the clientele of Sheraton. This week the Indonesian football team is preparing for the match. We meet them at lunch in the Al Rawdha All Day Dining Restaurant enjoying a varied and excellent buffet.

Early afternoon, if we look out we see the mountain facing us, flags of the noble Arabian countries wave in the wind, and we can walk on the terraced lawns to the left under the trees and take a view of the city down below. Peace and quiet, one really has the impression of being in a little Kingdom on the top of the hill. Sheraton Sana'a, a Little Kingdom apart.

Sunday 8th and Monday 9th of June were a different story. A most important symposium was hosted in the Al Kawkaban Ballroom - "SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN THE ARAB STATES" sponsored by the Government of Yemen, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations Development Program. Their Excellencies, Ministers of many Arabic countries, Board Directors and Chairmen, Senior Advisors, Economists, Professors, and Journalists were all here to participate.

Vital issues were in the program: the economic development



and growth of the Arab world, the future itself, the social and human development of its people were discussed in these two days.

There was an air of optimism all around. Said Mr. Saad Al Faragi, UN Assistant Secretary General on Monday evening "I am not even tired, a lot has been achieved. The organization was perfect, just what was needed for a conference of this importance."

But coming back to our quiet afternoon. A few guests about. A special sight is Marcos (that's how he wants to be called in spite of his status) who works for hours at his World Bank files, sipping Cappuccinos and glancing around from time to time. He brings about literary remembrances of Les Deux Magots - Paris, St. Germain DèS Près - in the 50s cradle of the most illuminated thoughts of France. We shall miss him when he leaves.

At the other end of the Lobby, there is a feast at Reception. Mr. Souliisa, affectionate guest from Golden Spike has brought chocolates for everybody; Josephine, Mary Jane and Purnima, our always smiling and helpful GSAs are sharing them. Ladies first, we shall mention the boys next time.

Dinner time, we can decide where we will dine over a drink at the Al Mandhar Bar on the 8th floor. We have on the same floor the Nour Al Negoum Supper Club with live entertainment, nowadays the Hanky Panky Polish band. On Wednesdays it's Seafood Night and on Sundays Tex-Mex, but there is surprise which Mr. Sanjay Sharma brilliant, dynamic and farsighted Director of Sales will soon disclose to us.

On the 4th floor we have the choice of a Far Eastern Restaurant with Chinese and Indian specialties and an informal dinner at The All Day Dining.

The day is over. A normal day is always a special one at Sheraton Sana'a.

*it's all happening at Sheraton!*

### BON VOYAGE



After close to 4 years in Sana'a, it is time to bid "AU REVOIR" to Steve Murphy, the Country Manager of Procter and Gamble. Witty and at the same time straight forward, Steve will be remembered by those who moved in his circle as the "Life of the Party". He has this fantastic knack of narrating incidents that would make your sides split with laughter. As far as we know, Steve did a tremendous job at P&G as well. He was the one who set up the office and we are sure that he will be missed by his staff and colleagues. We had the pleasure of formally wishing him Good-bye on the 10th June 1997 and the little interaction we had with him was enough to keep him in our hearts forever.

BON VOYAGE STEVE AND GOOD LUCK . . . !

### LOVE - FIFTEEN



3PM Thursday 12th June 1997-the stage is set for the CCC-Sheraton Sana'a Tennis Tournament, together with the participation of Arab Bank and Emirates Airlines. Enthusiastic participants, from 12 nationalities wait around while the lots are being drawn to pair of the players. With the hot sun relentlessly beating down on the courts, the game went on with a lot of vigor and zest. A neutral referee was chosen from among the waiting players. The matches, singles and doubles, went on through to Saturday evening. Many played so well that they would give players at Wimbledon a run for their money. Through sheer hard work the cup for the singles rightfully went to



From L to R: Mr. Shehadeh, Brian, Igor, Mr. Melhem, Mr. Mahdi Alawi, Stefano and Nejib

Stefano and the runner-up was Igor The doubles winners were Brian and Igor and the runners-up were Stefano and Nejib. Other players have not given up. They are determined that the cup will be theirs at the next tournament. The Sheraton Sana'a hosted a reception at the end of the day to felicitate all the tennis veterans. More tournaments are on the agenda so keep your eyes and ears open for the next announcement. Congratulations Barbara and Mansour for a meticulously planned Tournament!

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## The Grand Mosque of Sanaa Tales from Taiz

### The Grand Mosque

The Grand Mosque was built in the old Sana'a city in the 8th Hijra year corresponding to 630 AD. The Grand Mosque is thus considered as one of the oldest and most important religious buildings in the Islamic World. It is one of the mosques whose construction was ordered by Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) personally.

Some sources report that Mo'athe Ibn Jabal is the one who built it. Other sources say it is Fadwa Bin Museik Al Muradi or Wabr Bin Yahnus Al Ansari or Ibban Bin Saeed Bin Al-Aas who founded it. But All Sources confirm that it was built during the life of the prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

### Location of the Mosque:

The Grand Mosque was built in a place known as Bustan Bathan, between Al-Sakhra Al-Mulamah, which is still there in the south-east of the mosque, and Ghamdan Palace. The Grand Mosque is located in the southern part of old Sana'a, northwest of Bab Al Yemen.

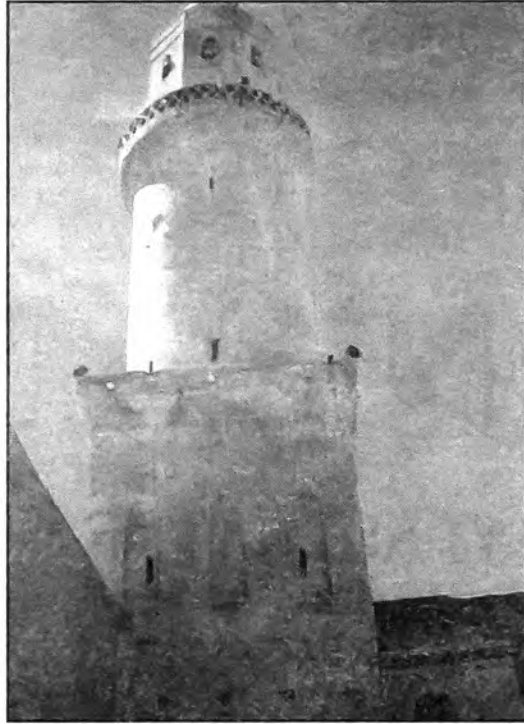
### Importance of the Mosque:

The importance of this mosque lies in the fact that it is the most famous landmark of the Islamic Sana'a. Moreover, it is the second mosque built during the Prophet's time -- after the Mosque in Madinah Al-Monawarah. It is believed that the Grand Mosque of Sanaa is the only mosque in the Islamic World that still preserves ornamental and architectural elements that can be traced back to the first century of Hijra, i.e. the sixth AD century. Cut stones and pillars, which were used for building Ghamdan Palace, were also used in building the mosque.

### The Architectural Design:

The original design of the mosque was simple. It resembled the mosques built in the first century of Hijra. The mosque is square in shape, each side being 12 meters long. This area now occupies part of the southern arcade.

The first enlargement of the mosque occurred during the reign of the third Caliphate Othman Ibn Affan, between 25th and the 35th years of Hijra (657-647AD). It seems that some of the wall-ornaments were carried out during that period. The most important enlargement traces back to the Omayyad Calif Al-Waleed Ibn Abdulmalik (86-96 Hijra, or 705-715 AD). The enlargement involved the area of its Kiblah (altar) which is now in the



southern arcade.

The present design of the mosque makes a rectangle of 67 meters by 65 meters. This area consists of an open yard (38.90 m by 38.30 m). In the middle of this yard locates a brick square building roofed with a dome. At present, this building is used for keeping old scriptures and other documents. This building looks like the Ka'aba that is in the middle of an open yard surrounded by four arcades.

The mosque's yard is surrounded by four arcades, the largest of which is the Al Kibla arcade (the north arcade) whose area is 61.20 m by 18.50 m. This arcade consists of five rows of pillars with semicircular arches that carry the ceiling. There are fifteen pillars in every row.

The east arcade whose construction is attributed to the Solaihi Queen Sayeda bint Ahmed in the fifth hijra century, i.e. the eleventh AD century.

**THE POINT IS THAT THERE IS MUCH DIGGING AROUND THE FOUNDATIONS OF THE MOSQUE. THIS MAY DAMAGE IT.**

"Stories from Taiz" is the title of a collection of 20 short stories written by Hamim Abdulkawi Hamim. Hamim, 41, is a sailor by profession. This selection of short stories is his debut in the world of literature. His stories show an original talent and vivid imagination. He has a keen eye for everyday situations, characters and human experience in general. The sentences are short, expressive, unaffected, and lucid.

The great fondness for Taiz, the town and the people, is the theme that runs through almost all of Hamim's 20 short stories included in this collection.

In "A Bit of Fortune," one of the stories published here, the writer condemns the rather miserable status of women in society. "Who forced females to dress all in black?" Hamim asks indignantly. Women in this society are absent. Just a "perfume and a voice," that is how Hamim feels the presence of women through his taxi-driver character.

Chewing qat, Yemen's national afternoon pastime, is featured in "From the Future". Here, qat chewing is made to be source of shame. The writer makes us all participants in the guilt. Qat is portrayed as a narcotic, whose users are chased by the narcotic squad.

Hamim's first collection certainly points to a prolific literary output that can be described as a distinguished beginning.

The book is published by Al-Jumhuriya Establishment in Taiz. It consists of 82 small-size pages.

### A Bit of Fortune

The life of a taxi driver is an interesting one.

One day, I was on the road on the look-out for passengers. Two taxis were ahead of me on the road. Another taxi was behind.

There was a woman standing by the road. She did not point to the first or second taxis. But once I got near, she held out her hand. I stopped the car, thinking, "What a good fortune."

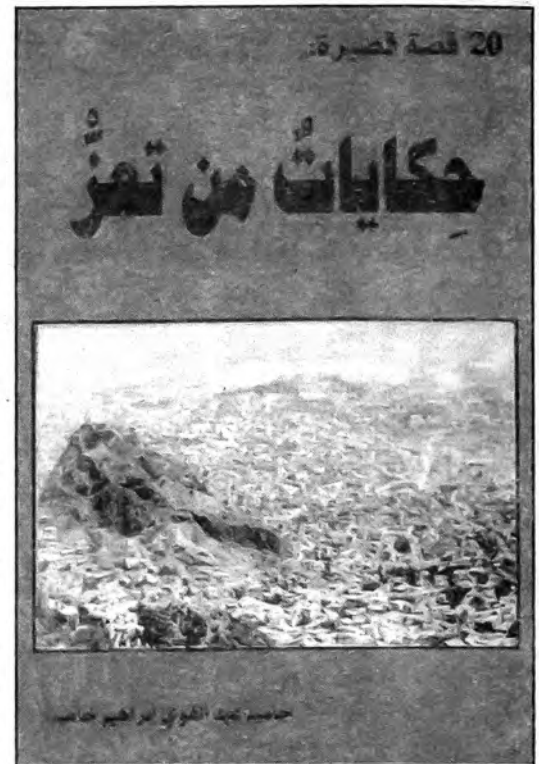
She ordered that I drive her to town . . .

A Sharshaf was covering her in full, with many layers hiding her face. But her strong perfume, refusing to be contained within the sharshaf. It wafted around.

Sharshafs. I remember one dark night, I almost ran over 3 ladies.

Who forced females to dress in black?

She sat silently in the back of my car. As a taxi driver, I am used to strange, call it tense moments, wondering, about what to say or not to say. My thoughts were interrupted.



"Turn here," she ordered sternly. Women. They barely point with their fingertips, and give you little advance notice. I scrambled to look around.

I have another difficulty with female passengers. Often, they use a taxi to drive around town picking up their women friends. Once arrived, they settle the account, as a one person trip. You can do little but curse and drive away.

The worst kind of passengers are women. Like a thief, they cover up completely. Even if she shows a little of her leg, or a glimpse of her breast. It is all done in highly calculated proportions.

It is to throw you off balance. They often succeed. Some talk filthy, or sing lewd songs. Knowing that you can't do much about it.

Busy with my thoughts, we had fast arrived into town, under her full command.

"Right. Left. Stop here, on this side."

She rushed out, ordering, "You wait, I'll be back." I could not refuse. She entered one of the old alleys. Eventually, I started doubting her return. I went looking for her with no clue. Following the scent of a perfume, or may be in search of a voice . . .

One child, who was around, pointed at some doors. I stopped at the gates. Hesitated.

I spat on the ground. Cursed, and drove away. "What a fortune."

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# Successful Elections in the Region

The worldwide trend of democratization is also in full swing in the Middle East. Many countries of this region now scramble to get in line with the world-imposed system of government. Over the last few days, Iran, Algeria, and Morocco have carried out elections. The elections were generally fair and free from violence. Here are some details:

**A: IRAN:**

In spite of the odium heaped on as a 'terrorist' state, Iran has proved it can play by the rule and that it respects peaceful transfer of power based on the ballot box. On May 23rd, Iran witnessed a real and heated contest for the post of President of the Republic. And Iran witnessed the defeat of the candidate of the establishment, Hojjatul-Islam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri. The winner, 54-year old Mohammed Khatami, was backed by women, the youth and generally left-off-center voters. The elections were fair and square. Iran has to be commended for its ability to live by its rules, and to break new grounds in its democratic drive. Among the 240 candidates who had applied, only four qualified for the race, there was a woman. Azam Taleghani is already a deputy in the Majlis (parliament). Actually in the present Majlis of 270 members, 17 are women - a fact which no other parliament in the region can claim. In Iran, voting age is 15 years, and suffrage is universal. Turnout is usually more than 70%. In spite of the US-driven campaign to brand Iran as extremist, the system is very tolerant. Moreover, the participation base in decision-making is far broader in Iran than in some of the best friends of the USA in the region. Finally, the ability to change the leadership of a country is probably the ultimate indicator of a working democracy. Iran has achieved this.

**B: ALGERIA:**

On the 6th of June, Algeria held its parliamentary elections. Almost eleven million cast their ballots, which represents 65/49% of the electoral base. The results are not important, although it is important that the centrist parties made it big. The Tajammu' Al-Watani Ad-Demoqrati (Democratic National Gathering) won 155 seats, Harakat Mujtama' As-Silm (Peace Movement Society) won 69 seats, Hizb Jabhat Tahreer Al-Watani (National

Liberation Front Party) won 64 seats, Harakat An-Nahdhah (Renaissance Movement) won 34 seats, Jabhat Al-Qiwa Al-Ishtrakiyah (Front of Socialist Forces) won 19 seats, At-Tajammu' Min Ajle Athaqafah wal Dimoqratiyah (Gathering for Culture and Democracy) won 19 seats, Hizbul 'Ummal (Labor Party) won 4 seats, Al-Hizb Al-Jumhuri Al-Taqaddumi (The Republic Progressive Party) won 3 seats, Hizb Al-Ittihad min Ajle Ad-Demoqratiyah wal Hurriyat (The Federated Party for Democracy and Liberties) won one seat, Al-Hizb Al-Ijtimayi Al-Liberali (Liberal Social Party) won one seat, and eleven seats went to independents.

The elections mean a lot to Algeria. It means that Algeria, through the ballot box, has found a solution to its bloody political differences. The 7747 candidates for the 380 seats in parliament represented 39 political parties, in addition to the independents. The contests were heated, but peaceful, in spite of a background of much violence and bloodshed.

Algeria went on record for a pioneer decision to offer its immigrant diaspora representation in the parliament. Eight seats were reserved for Algeria's immigrant communities.

It is clear from the results that the elections were clean and fair. Algerians have to be commended and congratulated for this achievement. Now the task of building on it lies ahead.

**C: MOROCCO:**

More than 13 million people have participated in the local council elections to elect 24,253 members in the 1547 rural and urban councils in Morocco. The elected members form 60% of the Consultative Council in the House of Representatives which has been formed according to the amended Constitution. About 102,400 candidates, representing 12 political parties, in addition to independents, competed in the elections.

The National Committee for Elections which supervises the elections, asked all candidates to observe the agreement signed among them, committing to peace, fair play and moral standards so as to create a peaceful, honest and free environment for the process of elections.

In general, the elections were peaceful and created more harmony and social cohesion among the people of Morocco. All sides agreed there was no interference in the choice of the people.

## Hussein Says Fighting 1967 War Was a Major Mistake

King Hussein said that joining Arab nations in the 1967 war with Israel was a major blunder of his reign. "In reality, it was probably our duty to try to prevent this country from being part of that battle," King Hussein said in a nationally broadcast speech on the 30th anniversary of the Six-Day War. Although he has alluded to it in the past, this is the first time he has so candidly admitted his mistake in recent memory. His statements come at a time when tensions are high between Israel and every Arab country except Jordan. King Hussein said Jordan would not revoke tough restrictions on the press imposed lately despite protests from journalists and opposition groups. "Freedom has its limits," the king told a university audience in the Southern Jordanian town of Kerak. The restrictions which were unveiled three weeks ago, include tight curbs on reporting and stiffer fines for offenders. The speech of the king aimed at rallying support among the Jordanians for his efforts to build peace with Israel.

## Iraqis Find There is More to Lift Than Lentils

The flour is finer, there is salt on the dinner tables and meals now include lentils soup. But apart from these luxuries, life has changed little for Iraqis since the United Nations allowed Iraq to sell US\$2 billion worth of oil over the last six months to buy more food for the people. "It is a deal for the UN and to hell with the Iraqis," shouted Hikmat Sadoon, a 42-year old school teacher, who had come to shop at Baghdad's famous Jameela market. The United Nations just extended the oil-for-food deal by another six months. The deal was signed in December, but the benefits did not become apparent. The first thing that came Iraq's way was in April when Iraq received the first 41,050-ton shipment of vital wheat, which makes up much of the diet. After the shipment arrived, Iraq raised the monthly flour ration from 7 kilograms per person to 9 kilograms, and cooking oil from 750 grams to one kilogram. Also lentils and salt were added to the list of the essential items - flour, rice, sugar, tea, cooking oil, baby formula, soap and detergent - that have been rationed in Iraq since the United Nations imposed economic sanctions to punish it for invading Kuwait in 1990. Although the full ration package costs only 105 dinars per person, residents complain they can't live on flour and rice alone. Vegetables, meat and eggs are out of the reach for many. Before the 1990-1991 Gulf war, Iraq earned at least \$16 billion a year from its oil sales. But with the sanctions, the Dinar plummeted to 1,500 a dollar. The UN says the current food basket provides 93% for the calorific needs, 100% of protein and 97% of thiamin needs.

## No One Wants Mobutu

Former Zairian leader Mobutu Sese Seiko rarely leaves his suite at the hotel where he is staying near Rabat and where he arrived on May 23rd for what was then described as a short stay. The former dictator who ruled his country for 32 years before being overthrown appears to realize that there is little likelihood he will be allowed to retire to France, where now a left-wing government including the communists has taken over. The South African president Nelson Mandela and King Hassan of Morocco were in contact with President Jacques Chirac of France to discuss where Mobutu who has prostate cancer could receive treatment. The talks had resulted in no fruitful conclusions for Mobutu which no country has offered to accept him.

## Kenyan Authorities Deny Entry to Dissident Politician

Sheikh Khalid Balala, a radical Muslim preacher and a leading voice of dissident against the government of President Daniel Arap Moi was forced to return to Germany after being turned back at the coastal resort of Mombasa. President Moi, aged 73 and in power since 1978, must call elections in 1997 pitting the ruling party against an opposition fractured mainly along ethnic and personal lines.

Odinga and Matiba, leading opposition figures, announced that opposition groups would hold nine rallies across Kenya on June 21 to press for minimum constitutional reforms before the elections. The National Assembly, a coalition of opposition parties, churches, and human rights groups called for the rally in Mombasa.

Sheikh Khalid Balala was born of a Kenyan mother and a Yemeni father. Odinga said Balala was not allowed to enter the country and the reason is political - his stand against the Arap Moi Government.

## Aid Groups Resume Work in Kabul After Apology

CARE International said that it would resume work in Afghanistan after Taliban leadership apologized for publicly beating five of its female employees. Armed police had stopped a CARE vehicle carrying the five women, abused them over the loudspeaker, and beat them with whips.

CARE International has a feeding program for 10,000 widows in Kabul.

Taliban's anti-women practices include a total ban from working or appearing in public unless accompanied by a male relative. Taliban also took other measures to make women stay at home. Other Taliban's atrocities also include religious sect-based discrimination.

Afghan and foreign groups continue to pressure the UN and the world to take a stand on Taliban's human rights abuses, particularly toward women.

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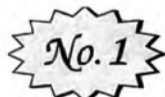
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## Universal Appoints new Business Development Manager for Hertz and Thomas Cook

In relation with its growing number of activities, the Universal Group has recently appointed Michel Miller as Business Development Manager with the mission to oversee the group's new business under the Thomas Cook and Hertz rent a car banners.

"We are delighted to welcome Michel on board to head these new ventures" said Omar M. Omar General Manager of Universal. "We first met Michel in 1995 when he was responsible for the set up of Hertz franchises in the Middle East and negotiated with him Universal's appointment in Yemen. We developed an excellent rapport from that point and when he decided to move on from Hertz, we invited him to join us in Sana'a," added Omar.

Michel comes along with years of tourism and car rental experience after his position as Hertz Middle East regional manager. He also has an old love relationship with Yemen, having worked at Aden University back in 1988-89. A French native, with ties to Britain through his English mother, the 31 year old marketing graduate is married and has 2 small girls Maha aged 4 and Roxane aged 2.



www.hertz.com. Vehicles available for rent include sedans and 4 wheel drives with or without driver. Universal is the first company to offer self drive car rental in Yemen under an internationally recognized brand.

The Hertz office is located at the Universal building on 60 meters road, Sana'a. Hertz is the No. 1 car rental company in the world. It is the largest and longest-established vehicle rental company operating in approximately 140 countries with annual fleet purchases of approximately 5,000 locations worldwide.

On another front, Universal is reviving its long standing relationship with the Thomas Cook group. "We just renewed our license agreement which now has a larger scope than before, allowing us to make an increased use of the Thomas Cook Brand and access a number of new services for both our outbound and inbound activities," commented Omar M. Omar.

"On the one hand, we are fast developing a leisure travel unit (Universal, Holidays) which is offering hotels, sight-seeing, car hire (from Hertz of course) and other services at popular destinations around the world.

Our Universal Holidays Manager, Ibrahim Nalkhande, has secured deals with major service providers in Asia, Europe and the Americas. Universal Holidays will wholesale these competitive products to travel agents in Yemen and retail at our Thomas Cook outlet on 60 m. road. At the other end of the line, Universal is now distributing its Yemen inbound products to the Thomas Cook worldwide network in over 50 key markets. Our products are now available through Thomas Cook's Catalyst Trading Exchange which is a new on line interactive

reservations system. With this state of the art distribution channel, we expect to increase our business and create new opportunities in new source markets for Yemen. Catalyst is also a data base of leisure products for outbound holidays."

Universal is Yemen's No. 1 travel agency network with 17 outlets and 8 airline GSA Agencies including American Airlines, British Airways, Royal Jordanian and Thai. It is one of the fastest growing business houses in the country's tourism industry and the leading inbound tour operator. Investing in Yemen's future, Universal owns and runs 7 three-to-five star hotel properties across the country.

Indeed, Universal is setting the standard of the travel, lodging and tourism industry in the country.



Commenting on his appointment, Michel said, "Universal has an impressive record in bringing about new ventures and I am excited by the challenge to partake in the group's expansion."

Universal signed a franchise agreement with Hertz in 1996 and has started to serve the growing vehicle rental and lease needs of the corporate sector in Yemen. Going forward, the rental unit will cater for tourist transport needs, bringing the Hertz brand's added value to the group's tourism products.

Hertz Yemen services are already available worldwide through the Hertz reservations system which itself is linked to all major global distribution systems (GDS) such as Galileo, Amadeus or Sabre.

Reservations can also be made on the Internet at

## Compaq Eyes Yemeni Market

During 28-30/5/1997, Mr. Mohammed Bahram of Compaq's Middle East visited Yemen. Yemen Times talked to him. Excerpts:

Q: Is this the first time you visit Yemen?  
A: No, I first visited Yemen in 1993.

Q: What developments do you see in the Yemeni Market?

A: There is a visible growth in the Yemeni Market in using computers. This is not limited to only Compaq, but also of other brands.

Q: Will you launch new Compaq Equipment in the Yemeni market in the near future?

A: Definitely. Every six months, Compaq releases new products such as new "Presario Multimedia Computers", computers utilizing the Pentium II processor, and other models. We have a site on the Internet called "http://www.compaq.com." that anyone can access and discover our new products.

Q: Intel has released the Pentium II. What are your products that use this processor?

A: We used this processor in our new range of "Compaq Deskpro 4000" and "Compaq Deskpro 6000". Both these models include a 100 Mbps network card plus many other features that make them one of the best machines in the market.

Q: We know that Compaq is the fifth largest computer company in the world and is No. 1 in sales volume. Could you explain how Compaq managed to reach this level though it is relatively new in the market?

A: In 1992, Compaq changed its sales and service practices and started a price-reduction campaign in the world bringing. It brought its prices down, and soon other companies were forced to follow.

At the same time, Compaq introduced its now-famous "Three years warranty plan". Other companies followed afterwards.

On the equipment development side, Compaq started introducing new and more powerful computers every six months. These computers addressed the users'



needs. From multimedia to networking to normal office operations, we cover the whole range of computers from hand-held and up to servers, all without sacrificing reliability or customer satisfaction.

Those are some of the reasons for our market growth. Q: What is your next plan for the Middle East?  
A: We are planning to release the latest technology and best prices for servers, network equipment and multimedia machines.

Q: Do you have any new releases in the notebook section?

A: A week ago, we released the new family of Armada - the Armada 1500 family. These are designed to support graphics and video. We will also release the Armada 7000 family. This will be comparable to the LTE 5000 family.

Q: Is Compaq made in Europe, USA or somewhere else?

A: Compaq started in Houston, Texas in the USA. The factories there supply North America and Canada. We have another factory in Scotland, UK, which supplies South America, Europe, and the Middle East. Australia and South East Asia are supplied from the factory in Singapore, while China is supplied by a factory in China. All our equipment are subject to Compaq quality control, which is known world-wide. We are proud of the quality of our computers.

Q: Do you have any investment plans for Aden as it is becoming a free zone?

A: This is new and we are working with our dealers here in Yemen to cover Sana'a, Aden, Hodaidah and Taiz in the next year. We are also thinking of opening a professional training center in future to introduce new technology to the public.

## CONDOLENCES

We present our deepest condolences and sympathies to

**Dr. Jacque Veerman**

on the passing away of his mother. May God's mercy be on her soul.

Mohammed Nasser Sanabani, Dr. Nasser Sanabani,

Dr. Jaber Sanabani, Eng. Saleh Sanabani, Saleh Ahmed Sanabani, Saleh Ali Sanabani, Hussain Sanabani, and the whole clan from

Sanaban to one of their own

## تعازينا الحارة

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للدكتور جاك فيرمان

بوفاة والدته، شملها الله بواسع رحمته،

وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون :

محمد ناصر السنباني، الدكتور ناصر السنباني

الدكتور جابر السنباني، المهندس صالح

السنباني صالح احمد السنباني،

صالح علي السنباني، حسين السنباني،

وكافة آل السنباني



# The Lives of These People and their Families Have Been Touched by the 1996 YEMENIZATION PROGRAM at Yemen Hunt Oil Company



Dr. Mukhtar Sallam Ali Awn



Tala' at Ali Mohammed Al-Jabali



Mohammed Mahfoof Al-Kadasi



Ahmed Nasher Muqbil



Abdulhakeem Ahmed Al-Wahash



Abdullah Abdul-Malik Hashim



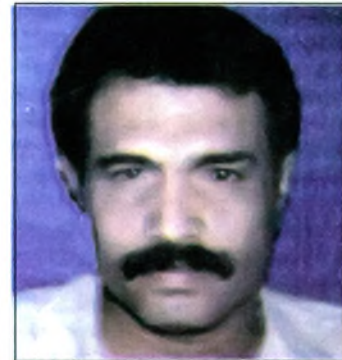
Salem Ahmed Al-Jarawi



Khalid Hussain Jaber



Abdul-Jabbar M. Al-Yousufi



Abdulaziz Mohamed Al-Hakeemi



Abdul-Kadir Ali Awadh



Abubaker Ahmed Al-Marghami



Sabir Abdul-Jabbar Al-Nidhari



Najeeb Abdul-Kadir Aayesh



Nasr Abdullah Ba-Alawi



Mahfoodh Abdo Ahmed



Ahmed Ali Al-Yazeedi



Khalil Saif Al-Adeemi



Ahmed Hassan Nasser



Mansoor Ali Hammam Thabit



Mohammed Ghalib Abdullah



Nabil Naji Saeed Al-Rabati



Alawi Hasan Ba-Hameed



Abdulaziz Hazzaa Al-Absi



Mohammed Abdul-Rahman



Aiman Mohammed Saeed



Mohammed Abdo Yahya



Ahmed Nasser Al-Ansi



Jabr Saleh Mused Al-Adashi



Saeed Abdullah Al-Zikri



Ali Abdul-Wahid Saeed



Murad Ali Taha Salih



Husein Ali Husein Al-Qamri



Saeed Hizam Kaid Dubayi



Dawood Ahmed Al-Absi



AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 10-6-97

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

- 1) Islah-PGC Deal to silence Mosque Speakers
- 2) Government is Committed to Raising Wheat and Energy Prices, Increasing Tax Base, and Raising Salaries by 10%
- 3) Nasserite MPs Warn that New Government Program Violates Constitution
- 4) Sit-In by Taiz University Student in Protest Against Assaults by University Guards

**Article Summary:****Will Islah Join the Opposition**

by Jamal Ahmed Amer

Islah was created and brought up under the authority's protection. To participate in government, Islah had made many compromises in issues that were considered fixed principles.

Contrary to what was expected, Islah does not seek any confrontation with the new PGC government. It now has to strike a difficult balance between protecting its interests and being committed to the people as an active opposition party. It is quite possible that Islah will strike a deal with the ruling authority to preserve some of its privileges such as controlling the Religious Institutes in return for putting up a rather lenient opposition.

AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 11-6-97

(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Parliament Stresses Abolishing of Nationalization Law and Rectifying its Repercussions
- 2) Arab Bank Deputy Manager Kidnapped
- 3) Religious Institutes to be Incorporated within Ministry of Education at Start of Next Academic Year
- 4) Subsidized Petrochemical Products Smuggled Out of Country

**Article Summary:****Anti-Drug Campaign**

Police in Aden arrested 3 marijuana dealers -- a Yemeni and two Africans. Several hubble-bubble cafeterias, fronting for hashish dealing, on Seera beach were also closed by the municipal authorities. Police sources indicated that marijuana is planted in Ibb, the Khamis Saad area, and other regions in the country. Glue sniffing has also become widespread among kids of various ages. Ten children aged 10-15 years were caught by the police in Aden with a large quantity of glue tubes.



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 12-6-97

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah))

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Disputes Among MPs Delay Discussing New Government Program
- 2) Yemeni Students in Sudan Protest for not Receiving Allowances
- 3) Dispute Within Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy Worsens

**Article Summary:****Water Contamination**

by Sabah Al-Kheishani

According to recent research, ground and underground water are being widely contaminated by the sewers. Fecal matter oozes from septic tanks through porous rocks, reaching the underground water basin. Contaminated water causes 75% of illnesses in the population and 50% of infant deaths. Worms, bacterial and viral diarrhea, typhoid, hepatitis are few of the diseases caused by water contamination. The sewage system in Sana'a covers only 23-25% of the city.

Agriculture is not spared the danger, either. Contaminants can be absorbed by the plants, reaching toxicity levels. Contamination can also occur on the plants' surfaces such as the leaves and stems, which is sometimes hard to remove. The quality of grapes produced in Al-Rawdha area of Sana'a, where a sewage treatment plant is situated, has suffered badly.

AL-Mithak: Sana'a (Weekly) 9-6-97

(People's General Congress)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Extensive Changes in all Government Organs within Next Few Days
- 2) The President Calls for Eradicating Acts of Vengeance
- 3) People in Hadhramaut Reject Socialist and League Parties Using Opposition Coordination Council to Cast Doubt on Elections' Fairness.

**Article Summary:****Awaiting Solar Energy**

by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Makalih

Power cuts seem to be worsening, especially during the last few days. Pre-election news indicated that the capital at least will enter the age of lights. Recent information, however, point to increasing periods of electricity blackouts. The people's discontent is aroused by the fact that there is no fixed timetable for these blackouts. Some regions are more affected than others, and some none at all. Is this deliberate?

People in Sana'a just demand that there should be more fairness in distributing darkness, until scientists invent cheaper means for harnessing solar energy. Then, the Ministry of Electricity and all its employees will become a thing of the past.

AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 12-6-97

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Government and Parliament Fail to Agree on New Government Program
- 2) At End of YSP Student Sector Conference, Politburo Member Emphasizes that YSP is Party of Future
- 3) Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate Warns Against Encroachment on Democracy
- 4) International Human Rights Delegations will Look into Case of Prisoner of Conscience, Mansour Rajih

**Article Summary:****Local Administration... is it the Solution?**

by Abdulrahman Saif Ismail

The citizens have been suffering from the corruption-plagued local administrative organs. The responsibility for reforming this system lies now with the PGC, which has won comfortable majority in unequal and unfair elections. But the PGC seems to be going back on its elections promises.

Local administration is one of the prerequisites of a

true democratic system. It is the solution for a tribal country like Yemen. It ranks with other democratic liberties such freedom of expression, partisan and trade union activities. It may lead to the long-awaited national reconciliation.

AL-BALAGH: Sana'a (Weekly) 10-6-97

(Independent)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Guard at Sana'a Governorate Building Shot Dead in Insignificant Dispute with Citizen
- 2) Yemen will Raise its Oil Prices by \$ 0.15 a Barrel During 3rd Quarter of 1997
- 3) World Bank to Provide Yemen with \$ 80 Million Loan
- 4) The President Accuses Israel of not Being Serious Regarding Peace Process

**Article Summary:****Yemeni Economy Under Control**

According to a British economist, economic growth in Yemen is one of the fastest in the Middle East. Yemen will be able to tackle its \$ 10 billion foreign debt problem. Inflation has dropped from 50% in 1995 to only 5% this year. The economic restructuring program is going well, leading to an increase in international financial support. The increase in oil revenue will enable the government to erase the budget deficit during next year. The government hopes to restructure its debts owed to Russia, which constitute 75% of the country's total foreign debt. The British expert has also predicted more international support for Yemen.

### تهانينا الحارة

بمناسبة نجاح الأنسة سلوى عبدالوارث السقاف  
من كلية العلوم بجامعة صنعاء  
بدرجة التفوق مع مرتبة الشرف  
وبمناسبة نجاح الأنسة يسرى عبدالوارث السقاف  
بتفوق من الصف الثاني ثانوي علمي  
نتقدم اليهما بأجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات  
وندعو لهما بمزيد من النجاح والتفوق .  
المهنؤون : عبدالوارث السقاف وأم نبيل السقاف  
ونبيل وخالد وشهاب والدكتور عبدالعزيز السقاف  
وجميع آل السقاف

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

## The Beginning of a New Yemen?

Is this the beginning of a new Yemen of which we have always been dreaming of? Will the new government headed by Faraj Bin Ghanem take Yemen into the world of the 21st century on a sure footing?

Have the decision-makers committed to the establishment of a new unified Yemen which can face the challenges and changes? Many such questions have raised a lot of controversies among people, especially after the new government has taken tangible steps to show it is serious and it means business.

The Bin Ghanem government seems to gain ground and credibility in its launch to push economic recovery and true democracy.

No doubt, with a good and credible government, Yemen is more able to cope up with many changes and challenges, especially in an environment of democracy and political pluralism.

Something important has to be established from the very outset. This government, cannot and should not use the past as an

excuse for everything. Many former governments have told us repeatedly that our problems have been inherited from the Imamate, the British colonial days, the totalitarian regimes, the bands of secessionists, etc. We do not want to hear this any more.

The few utterances of the new prime minister have been free from such references. Actually, it is refreshing that Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanem says little, in general. His speech when presenting his program for the vote of confidence of the parliament, indicated that he aspires to have a serious start by working in a team spirit and without the habit of blame-shifting of responsibility. The new government faces lots of challenges. It inherited a major economic burden. It has many internal and regional political headaches. Yet, the aspiration of the people is high. One of the reasons for that is that Dr. Ghanem is a technician, not a politician.

Yemenis are used to complaining of the authority and the opposition. This reminds me of a

cynical American writer who complains of the weather, "but no one would work to change it!" If there is no interference in the work of the government as there used to be in the past, many issues can be resolved. This will ultimately lead to development and growth.

The honesty of the government and its seriousness in serving economic development will allow it to gain and retain the confidence of the people. The transparency accountability, which are required, will enable public organizations, social institutions, opposition parties, the parliament, consultative council, and other watchdog organizations to play a meaningful role in the evolution of the nation.

The nation has become mature enough to understand and cope with the contradictions. The people can accept to sacrifice and undergo hardships. But this is contingent on a clean, credible and hard-working government.

By: Aneesa Ghanem,  
Sanaa.

### ANNOUNCEMENT

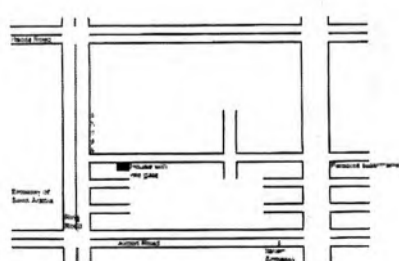
The Royal Netherlands Embassy herewith announces the sale of one lot of used furniture and electrical appliances. Interested parties may view the lots and make a sealed bid at the address off Ring Road, near the Embassy of Saudi Arabia on Saturday, 21 June 1997, from 10.00 AM till 12.00 PM.

Please note that, without exception, all furniture will be sold in one lot only.

The lot will be sold as is, without warranty, and must be collected from the house on the same day before 6.00 PM.

All bids must be in US Dollars only.

There will be no viewing and no bidding at times other than the indicated above.



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## Yemen Times Leads a Donation Campaign for The Yemeni Football Team YR50,000 Each Player



Last Tuesday June 10 was an unprecedented day in the history of Yemeni sports. For the first time, a large group of businessmen agreed to support the Yemeni football team. Yemen Times organized a party for the occasion at Taj Sheba, which was attended by the minister of Youth and Sports Dr Abdulwahab Raweh and many sports officials. All the members of the team including the Iraqi coach Hazem Jasem were present there. The party was initiated by a ward delivered by Dr Abdulaziz Al Saqqaf who hoped that this support of the Yemeni sports would continue in the future. Dr Abdulaziz Al Saqqaf abolished those companies and businessmen who did not respond positively to this noble cause, though they were financially able. After that Mr Abdullah Al Sunaidar gave a word on behalf of the businessmen who contributed in this action. "we started supporting you and we will continue", he said. Dr Abdulwahab Raweh, in his speech, thanked Yemen Times for its appreciative initiation. He also thanked all those who contributed in making this party a success. "Such support will improve the players conditions and promote them for better achievement." The Minister said. After that, every member of the team received YR50,000 as follows:

**The coach and his assistant:**  
 - Hazem Jasem (coach)  
 -Ameen Al Sunaini(coach assistant)  
 -Abdullah Ba Amer(coach assistant)

**The Players:**  
 1- Aref Abdu Rabo 2- Moa'az Abdulkhaleq 3- Fouzi Ba Muheed  
 4- Fadhel Al Matar 5- Jamal Al

Khourabi 6- Abdullah Al Thuraya  
 7- Abdulrahman Saeed 8- Salem Saeed  
 9- Mohammed Hamadh  
 10- Basel Al Juma'i 11- Basel Awad  
 12- Essam Driban.  
 13- Omer Abdulhafeez 14- Ahmed Al Bared  
 15-Hani Abdulrahman  
 16- Jayyab Ba Shafe'i 17- Daif Shayef  
 18- Mohammed AlJuma'i  
 19-Mohammed Qasem 20-Mohammad Dammaj  
 21-Adel Al Tam  
 22-Hussein Jubbari 23-Mohammad Al Azazi  
 24- Assad Mohammad 25-Fathi Jaber.

**Medical Staff:**  
 -Dr Faeed Nasher.  
 -Dr assistant Abdulsalam Al Asbahi.

Yemen Times also honored Sports Media Association for its active role in encouraging the sportsmen through the TV and press media. Abdullah Al Sa'fani, the well-known journalist received the gift.

**The Surprise of the Party:**  
 Few minutes before the conclusion of the party, Mr Abdullah Al Sunaidar declared that the Yemeni businessmen will establish Sport Champ Supporting Fund to help those sportsmen who excel in their games. Later on the systems of this organization will be arranged.

**The Donor Parties:**  
 -Hayel Saeed An'am Group of Companies.  
 -Hameed Al Ahmar Group of Companies.  
 -Universal for Travel and Tourism Group of Companies.  
 -Thabet Brothers Group of Companies.  
 -Mr Abdullah Al Sunaidar.  
 -MR Mohammad Abdullah Qadi.  
 -Adban Group of Companies.  
 -Yemen Times.  
 -Shayef Zuhrah.  
 -Temeni Bank for Construction and Development.  
 -The Yemeni Company for Medicine Trade and Industry.

## EMIRATES CUP 97 ICC defeat ACC in a thrilling match

India Cricket Club (ICC) scored a convincing 5-wicket victory over Arabian Cricket Club (ACC) in the second game of Emirates Cricket tournament. Chasing a commendable 167 ICC blasted the ACC bowlers to make the required runs in 22.4 overs at the Al Thawra Ground. ACC won the toss and elected to bat. In the first spell, Shrini took two quick wickets with accurate, varied bowling and the help of Pradip who held both the dazzling catches. Captain Nadeem and Imran displayed some good drives in a 92 run partnership. Imran, with the help of several lives, was the highest scorer with 73 runs. Both Nadeem & Imran were dropped several times in a poor show of fielding by ICC. Obviously, there is scope for improvement in the fielding of ICC. The opening pair of ICC was sailing quite smoothly, aided by a generous number of wides bowled by Nadeem, when Narendra was declared run out. Raju exhibited excellent shots all round the wicket and was caught in a splendid catch by Jaffery for 32. Upesh Mathur enthralled the crowds with his big shots - a brilliant performance, which included a six. Anthony demolished Tahir's fifth over with a big lofted six over the bowler's head and on to the site screen followed by two consecutive fours. Anthony was declared a well-deserved 'man of the match'. The next match is scheduled on 20/6/97 between PCC & PTC.

Reported By Masroor Alam

ACC	Runs	ICC	Runs
Unni	04	Kudrat	16
Tahir	07	Narendra - Captain	10
Imran	73	Raju	32
Nadeem - Captain	51	Pradeep	01
Fashi	05	Upesh Mathur	35
Reubin	02	Anthony	31 N. O.
Mani	03	Sammar	10 N. O.
Khan	01 N. O.	Shrini - Vice Captain (did not bat)	
ShivKumar	01	Ignatious (did not bat)	
Henry	00 N. O.	Praveen (did not bat)	
		Vyas (did not bat)	
Extras	20	Extras	33
Total	167	Total	168

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### Yemen Club for Touring & Automobile (YCTA) Starts the Motorsporting events first time in Yemen

The long waited motorsporting events to be happened in the Republic of Yemen which is the dream of the energetic Youths and lovers of motorsporting events, becomes true. Yeh!, The Yemen Club for Touring & Automobile, a sister Company of Universal Group of Companies, is organizing "Auto Test Speed Course" which will be held in the Al Sabeen stadium on 27/6/97. Auto Test Speed Course means driving your own car on a paved rack going in between cones, tyres or similar articles in a zigzag and curves whereas the lowest driving time will be registered. A special competition license should be obtained form the YCTA in order to enable the interested to participate in several different events (Rallies, Hill Climb, Desert Challenge & Auto Test Speed Course) during one year. The competition license will cost RY. 400 valid for one year. In addition, an entrance fee of YR. 5000 for each car will be collected form the entrants upon filling the application form in YCTA. Each entrant could participate with one or two cars to achieve six rounds (three for each car). Trophies and money awards will be honored for the winners of the event.

For more details, the interested are requested to contact:  
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