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**INSIDE** French Specialist in Yemeni Music. Page 3. Confidentiality and Bribes in Yemeni Law. Page 5. PM Talks to Yemen Times Page 8-9. Yemeni Female Paiater Luqman Poetry Page 10.

**The First 100 Days of Prime Minister Ghanim:**

## "The main problem is the mentality or approach"

On the occasion of the lapse of the first 100 days of his government, Prime Minister Faraj Bin Ghanim chose the Yemen Times for an exclusive interview. The one-hour conversation touched on almost every important issue. In a summary statement regarding the prospects for change and success, the Prime Minister said that the problem was not ideas or resources or whatever, but rather the attitude, mentality or approach of the people.

The Prime Minister also stressed the role of education as the ticket for successful evolution towards a better future. "I want to especially emphasize vocational education," Dr. Ghanim said. Regarding the recent arrests against opposition politicians and public figures, he stressed that there were real security concerns. "Even then, I expect the security organs to adhere fully to the letter of the law in terms of due process and interrogation practices."



He asked women to extend their hands before asking the government to lend a helping hand. The Prime Minister played down privatization, which he described not so big an issue. He also disclosed that the law governing the Aden Free Zone will be amended to spell out responsibilities and jurisdiction among the various government government institutions more clearly. About a border agreement with Saudi Arabia, he cautioned against over-expectations. "It is an old issue, which could take long to resolve."

Full interview on pages 8-9.

**Conveys Greetings, Congratulations of Yemeni Leaders**

## Saqqaf Meets Indian Leaders

Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Member of the Consultative Council and Chief Editor of the Yemen Times, met on Friday, August 15th, with His Excellency Shri K. R. Narayanan, President of India, to whom he conveyed the greetings and congratulations of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, on the 50th anniversary of India's independence. On Saturday, Dr. Al-Saqqaf was received in audience by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Acting Chairperson of the Indian Upper House, the Rajya Sabha. During the meeting, Dr. Al-Saqqaf hand-delivered a letter from His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council. The talks centered on possible cooperation between the two houses. Earlier, on Thursday, Dr. Saqqaf had met with Shri Lalit Mansingh, Secretary of External Affairs, who was impressively well-informed about Yemen. The Yemeni official

also held talks with many other dignitaries including Mr. Dayarkar, Deputy Secretary of External Affairs, in charge of the Near East region. "Optimism and patriotic feelings fill the air," Said Dr. Al-Saqqaf who is scheduled to return to Sana'a today, Monday, August 18th, at the end of a visit to New Delhi at the invitation of the Indian Government. "India feels it is its fate to play a major role in the civilization of our world during the 21st century. It is a fulfillment of the 'tryst with destiny' of which the late Jawahrlal Nehru spoke," Saqqaf told the Yemen Times. The nation of the Great Mahatma Ghandi still has lots of problems, and Indians themselves are the first to admit it. But India surely looks forward to a steadily brighter future, especially if it stays its present course of democracy and economic development.


**Next Month, YIDD Seminar on:**

## "Winds of Change in the Arabian Peninsula"

The first seminar to be undertaken by the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy (YIDD), since a new team was elected to take charge of the organization, has to do with political change that has been creeping into the Arabian Peninsula countries. "We are looking at the subtle and gradual changes that are taking place in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The seminar, scheduled for mid-September, will also shed light on the more bold moves in Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.


ally, it is also going to document the near-spectacular political transformation in Yemen," said Mr. Hamood Munassar, Secretary-General of the YIDD. Prof. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Chairman of the YIDD, also disclosed that the organization will start to live up to its name. "In the past, the YIDD was managed by a dictator and a self-centered person. Thus it was not credible enough to promote democracy. Slowly, but surely, all that is changing now," Dr. Maitami added.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Yemeni-Saudi Relations: Confidence Building Measures

The Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been engaging in text-book confidence-building measures. The leaderships in both countries have been working hard to bridge any gaps in understanding, and have intensified their efforts to reach out to the other side.

I would like to list some of the confidence-building measures over the last few months:

1. One of the important steps in confidence-buildings measures is to keep in touch. Towards that end, the two regimes have exchanged visits at high levels. A good example of that is the visits of Interior Minister Colonel Hussain Arab and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz, in shuttles back and forth between Sanaa and Jeddah, over the last few weeks.

2. Another important measure has been toning down criticism of the other side, and making optimistic declarations to the media. Senior politicians on both sides have been exceptionally hopeful as the negotiations went on. This has helped enormously, as one observer noted.

3. A third step has to do with the flexibility of the positions of the two countries. The Republic of Yemen has shown enormous flexibility in "understanding" the Saudi needs, and has adjusted its positions many times. On its part, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also shown much flexibility. The changes of the Saudi position attest to that.

4. Discarding unrealistic demands and vengeful rhetoric has been an important factor in the improved climate between the two countries. Take examples. On the Saudi side, there is no more talk of a corridor cutting through Yemeni territory extending to the Arabian Sea. On the Yemeni side, there is no more talk of calling in third parties or going to the International Court of Justice.

His Majesty King Fahd has sorted out his country's border issues with all neighbors of Saudi Arabia, except Yemen. He is most eager to finish this matter as well. His Excellency President Ali Abdullah, given his knowledge of the internal and external complications, is most qualified to conclude this agreement on behalf of Yemen. Therefore, the leaderships in both countries are up to the task. This makes concluding a border agreement a real possibility.

The next few months will witness more intensive negotiations. This is normal, and the process is expected to be prolonged, given the history of the dispute. In fact, there may also be some breakdown in negotiations and exchange of blames. This should be taken as an excuse to get at each other's throat.

What I know and feel is that the Yemeni leadership and people are willing and ready to conclude an agreement, provided it is reasonable and lends itself to a constructive relationship in the future. The border deal by itself does not offer any real intensive, unless it is part of a future-cooperation-oriented package. If Saudi Arabia has the same orientation, then a preliminary deal is feasible in the near future. Let us hope it comes through.

*The Publisher*  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

## YEMEN TIMES

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Yemen Times Contact Address:  
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Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

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

Managing Editor: Dr. Salah Haddash

Aden Bureau Chief: Mr. Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,  
Phone: + 967 (2) 342-843, 347-057  
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### Media & Child's Right Seminar

Last Wednesday August 13th, 1997, a seminar dedicated for the workshop of information and child's rights was held. The



seminar was organized by the Coordinating Board of NGOs under the supervision of both Dr. Muhammad Al-Aadhi and Mr. Abdulrahman Abdulwahab. The UNICEF as well as the Swedish Rada Barnen Organization have

positively participated and discussed numerous topics related to the media as a factor for educating people to recognize the children's human rights. A number of papers were submitted on the crucial topics of children's needs, child labour, abuse, begging, and many other important issues related to children in general. The problems and special needs of handicapped children were also comprehensively discussed.

The seminar has called for inviting all official and popular organizations to support children's education, to arrange with Ministry of Culture to encourage producing informative materials for educating children.

### AIDS in Yemen

The first case of AIDS was discovered in Yemen in 1987. According to statistics released by the National AIDS Combating Project, up to 30th August, 1997, 350 AIDS cases are discovered. Of those, 107, have full blown AIDS, and 243 are HIV positive. Most of the infected are Yemenis who were living abroad. About 64% of the afflicted are males and 36% females. Sana'a alone has 106 cases, followed by Aden with 68, Taiz with 59, and Hodeida with 28 cases. There is only one case discovered in Mahweet. Infected foreigners residing in Yemen are deported when discovered.

### Mr. Hoshi Named Ambassador for Japan

Mr. Akira Hoshi has been nominated by Japan, and accepted by Yemen, as the next ambassador for Japan in Yemen. He is expected to arrive in Sanaa around 10th September. Mr. Hoshi last served as Consul-General for Japan in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

### Assassination Attempt

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry has sent a letter to the President of the Republic. It referred to the recent aggressive assault on the deputy board chief of the Trade Sector, Mr. Mohammed Hassan Al-Zubairi. According to the letter, the severe injuries sustained by Mr. Al-Zubairi indicate that the aggressors intended to actually kill him. The Chamber entreated the President to intervene by directing the security to look of and arrest the assailants.

### Pre-Islamic Archaeological Find

According to Al-Wahdawi newspaper, 36 pieces of archaeological artifacts were discovered in a small village in Taiz. The finds are small statuettes depicting various animals as well as several earthenware pots, mugs and censers. The relics belong to the pre-Islamic era. The exact date is still being investigated. However, the finds are currently in the possession of the local tribal sheikh. He'll hand them to the authorities on condition that the government would undertake to establish a local primary school.

### Book Problems

An extended meeting was held at the Educational Research and Development Center in Sana'a on Monday 11th August. It was attended by all heads of education

bureaus in the republic, the deputy Minister of Education, the director of the School Book Printing Press, and many other concerned figures. The problems of printing and distributing school books were extensively discussed by the participants. A computer unit is established at the center to help in typesetting and printing school books. Other problems such as cheating in exams and pupils' truancy were also discussed by the participants.

### Qatari Boats Leave Aden

After a friendly visit that lasted two days, the two Qatari navy boats left the port of Aden. The 60-member crew made several meetings with Yemeni military and civilian officials in Aden. They also went sight-seeing.

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# A Frenchman explores Yemeni Music

## Jean Lambert: "Humaini poetry originated in Zabid and Taiz."

Mr. Jean Lambert is an expert in ethnic music or ethnomusicology at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris. Hailing from France, Lambert has spent about 7 years in Yemen, studying Yemeni music in general and Sana'ani music in particular. He also studied the saxophone and social sciences.

Expanding and improving his Ph.D. thesis on Sana'ani music, Lambert has this month published an authoritative book entitled *La Médecine de l'âme* (medicine of the soul). He was also instrumental in preparing for, and organizing, the First Seminar on Yemeni Music, which was held in Sana'a late last July.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, has interviewed Mr. Lambert during his recent visit to Yemen. Excerpts:

**Q: What do you think of Yemeni musical heritage?**

**A:** Yemeni heritage is very rich and a lot of it is still very much alive. Bara'a music and dancing are very good examples of that. Other styles are still alive, but limited to certain regions. All this heritage deserves to be extensively studied as a heritage and a live art.

**Q: What other regions in Yemen, besides Sana'a, that still have a live musical heritage?**

**A:** Hadhramaut is very well known for its rich and diverse musical styles. I am primarily interested in urban music; although, there is much musical heritage in rural areas than is in a great need of research by Yemeni or foreign experts.

**Q: What specific characteristics does the Sana'ani and Yemeni music in general have?**

**A:** This subject needs a lot of research. Music is closely related to singing and poetry. Such characteristics were quite widespread in the Arab world, but have now largely disappeared due to the influence of Western music.

**Q: What are the social and cultural dimensions of the Sana'ani music as a live heritage?**

**A:** Ethnic music is the cultural dimension in music in general. The currently used conceptual tools in musicology are based on Western music. Such tools are next to useless in studying the

ethnic music of other nations. For example, Western music has only two modes - major and minor. On the other hand and in Egypt, for example, there are 7 main modes and tens of minor ones. Other methodical tools will have to be devised in order to better study oriental and other ethnic musical styles.

Musical modes in Yemen have no names. So why should we concentrate on naming them if the artists themselves do not use names for their musical modes? Special mode names and concepts will have to be invented for Yemen. They will have to be taken from local Yemeni culture and musical concepts. In Sana'a, for example, there are many terms used in connection with rhythm. I have concentrated on this aspect in my research. The relationships between all these terms must be fully studied and understood.

**Q: Why has the traditional Yemeni ud or "kambous" disappeared?**

**A:** This is due to the influence of modern media during the '50s and '60s. Not having their own radio broadcast, people in Yemen started listening to other Arab radio stations, especially the Egyptian radio. This was at the expense of the traditional local musical culture. Almost all Yemeni artists, for instance, have converted to the oriental ud, and abandoned the Yemeni kamobus. This happened within a period of about 10 years - from the mid-fifties to the mid-sixties.

**Q: Are there any other traditional Yemeni musical instruments that have disappeared?**

**A:** The robaba (traditional Arab, one-stringed violin) was manufactured in Taiz in the 14th century during the reign of King Al-Modhafar of the Rasulid dynasty. This lovely musical instrument have now all but disappeared in Yemen. Some of my fellow researchers have recently conducted a survey of musical instruments in Yemen. They found only 2 or 3 robaba players in Tihama, and none in Taiz. This is a great loss. The Yemeni Ministry of Culture will do good by making concerted effort to preserve and revive these traditional musical instruments.

**Q: What about other instruments, besides the robaba?**

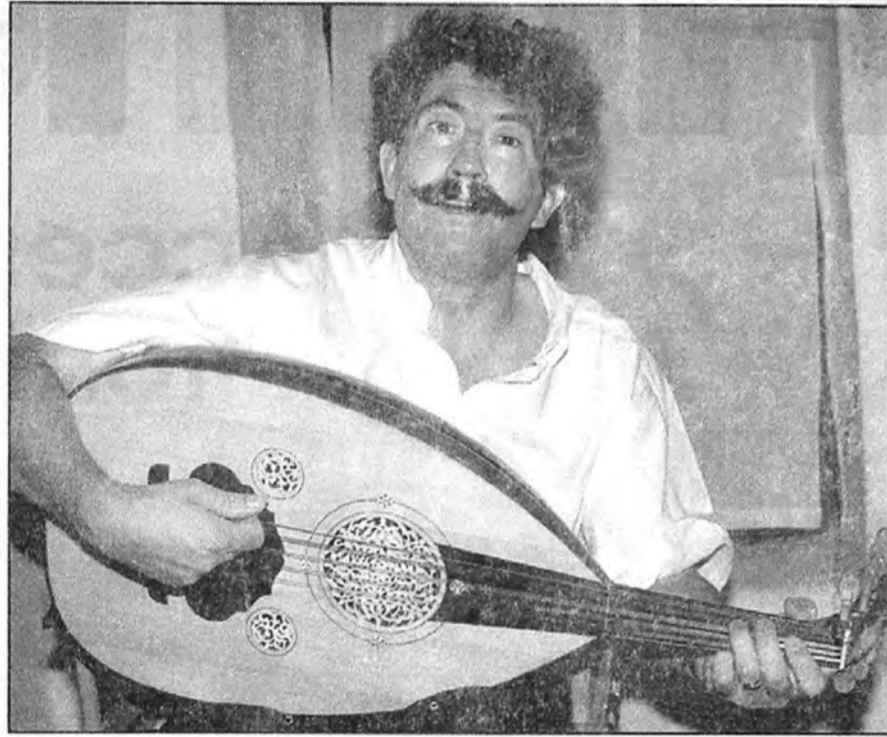
**A:** The samsamia (traditional mini harp) still exists, but limited to coastal areas. Ancient Himyarite inscriptions indicate that the samsamia was very popular at that time. The traditional Arab reed flute is also surviving in the coastal regions.

**Q: Tell us now about your book. How long have you spent writing it?**

**A:** Well, I finished my Ph.D. work in 1990 at the anthropology department in the Sorbonne Paris dix. After graduation, I made a lot of work, revising and expanding the thesis. Now, 7 years on, I have made it into a book.

**Q: What are the main topics discussed in your book?**

**A:** Let me start first with the title of the book. *Medicine of the soul* is a phrase used by medieval Arab scholars to describe music.



accurately responds to the vocals. The dead wooden instrument is given life at the hands of the artist. The ud becomes a companion for the lonely, forlorn and perhaps lovelorn artist. This is similar, in a way, to the poet who holds a spiritual dialogue with nature. Music is then truly the medicine of the soul. This unity or this harmony is symbolized by the musician who embraces his flute, as can be seen in the photograph of the Yahya Al-Nunu on the cover of my book.

**Q: Sana'ani singing relies on the Humaini poetry. When and where**

**was this type of poetry born?**

**A:** This style of poetry was initiated by Abubakr Al-Mazzah and Ibn Fulaita in Zabid in Tihama and Taiz during the reign of the Rasulid dynasty around the 13th and 14th centuries A.D. Humanini poetry was then taken up by the people of the highlands, namely the poet Mohammed Sharafuddin in Kawkaban. His collection of poetry testifies to that.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** I hope the my book *La Médecine de l'âme* will be translated into Arabic. This will hopefully enable Yemeni music scholars and the ordinary people alike to get better acquainted with the Yemeni heritage and culture. A people without a past, is a people without future.

### Medicine of the Soul Sana'ani Songs in the Yemeni Society

*Médecine de l'âme* (p.p. 320 - published by Societé de l'anthropologie, France) consists of 10 chapters. Its introduction is called the Suleimani Hour, which refers to the time of qat chewing and music and singing in Sana'a. This time has many important symbolic connotations related to the aesthetic and artistic experience in Sana'a. The first chapter deals with the concepts and functions of music. Musical events and sessions in Sana'a such as qat chews and weddings in particular are dealt with in the second chapter. The third chapter discusses the poetical styles with special emphasis on the Humaini poetry. Style of Sana'ani singing undergoes deep analysis in the fourth chapter.

The fifth chapter is on the complicated and intertwined relations between poetry and music. The social status of music and musicians in Yemeni society gets a special mention in the book. All through history, music and singing were looked down upon. The Zaidi Imams and even the Rasulid clergy, in their fight against Sufism, had tried to restrict or even ban music and singing. Singers and musicians, in the past and present, are generally regarded as of lowly profession, especially by the tribespeople. Despite all difficulties, artists persevered in their aesthetic cause throughout the ages.

In the tenth chapter, the author endeavors to specify a meaning for the medicine-of-the-soul phrase. This is done largely through the aesthetic philosophy of the unity of the vocals, sound and ud.



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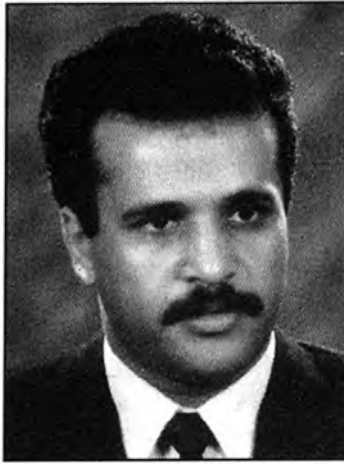
# Scenario Of Yemeni Saudi Future Relations

The Yemeni Saudi relations have, lately, entered a new phase. It is sometimes characterized by coolness, or tension in other times. Nevertheless, the exchanged smiles and official statements as well as the negotiations do not seem to be leading to a mutually satisfying solution. The issue of land and marine borders remains unsolved since the mid-thirtieth. Ambiguity prevailed throughout the years of the revolution, unification, the attempts to achieve democratic plurality, interference in Yemen's internal affairs, and finally Yemen's request to join the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). All these problems have, in one way or another, affected the relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. These links have certainly witnessed a lot of flow and ebb movements since the establishment of the two countries. What is important here is to look for better forms of future relations between the two neighboring countries.

Border problems among Arab countries are the exploding relics of a by-gone colonial era. The Arabs should not let their border disputes with each other become a source of continuous conflict. After all, these borders are artificial creations of colonial conspiracies. Fair and satisfactory settlements have to be reached. No one Arab country should be allowed to impose its will on its neighbor.

Yemeni-Saudi relations are so strategically interlinked to the extent that a complete break off of relations is out of the question. The geographical proximity dictates that the two must sit down to settle their differences. Searching for a new way out must strongly rely on new and rational approach. First and foremost, the language of superiority must be completely abandoned by both sides. Insisting on recalling past hostilities or conspiracies as well as greed, whether real or false, may push both parties toward a conflict of unforeseen consequences. For these reasons, the call for exploring positive and more effective means to solve the suspended problems becomes an urgent need. All official and popular organs should make great efforts so as to avoid entering the dark tunnel looming ahead. Tracing the root cause of the existing problems and the failure of both parties to reach satisfying solutions, points to three major scenarios. The following scenarios define the features of the future Yemeni-Saudi relations.

**First Scenario :** The crisis will remain unresolved, and enter a phase of stagnation. Therefore, a situation full of complications, instability and confusion will prevail, not only on the level of bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries but



In this case, a stalemate situation will persist. The gate will be opened widely for other inter-Arab conflicts to take place. Other hidden and relegated grudges in the Arab Peninsula and elsewhere in the region will probably be unleashed. Hostile neighboring countries will seize the opportunity to stretch their influence or even sovereignty over the Arab lands. The Arab people will them be completely controlled and subjugated.

**Third Scenario :** This is a more rational and logical alternative. It depends on the capabilities and wisdom of the leaders of both countries. National and mutual interests will certainly have to take precedence over personal and selfish outlooks. Sensible and fair solutions in accordance with the principle of "no harm and no indemnity" will have to be adopted. Imposing the will of one side will not be acceptable.

Such a scenario may lead to the possibility of overcoming numerous obstacles for the sake of reaching rational and sensible solutions for both parties. It will either through mutual negotiations or through Arab arbitration within the frame of the Arab League. Both sides are supportive and in favor of a larger and more Arab effective role.

Once bilateral negotiations fail, a more prominent Arab role will be the safest and easiest way towards a just and satisfactory solution. It must be borne in mind that the external solutions previously sought by the Arabs to solve their internal problems resulted in making the richest country borrow to cover deficits in its fiscal budgets. Reaching a fair and comprehensive solution for all pending issues between the two countries will contribute in the stability of the region. It will be able to peacefully proceed with its development programs. The mutual interests and wealth of the two countries as well as the protection of oil resources and marine navigation lines will be strongly served.

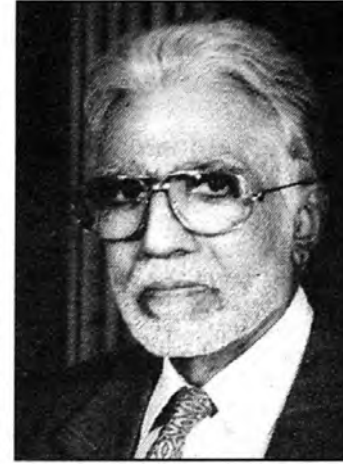
The status of the Yemeni-Saudi relations cannot be separated from the rest of the region. The national and strategic security is closely linked to political, social, economic and cultural aspects, not to mention strong blood and brotherly ties. Pan-Arab nationalism, Islam and the joint interests are all compelling factors for letting logic, and rationality reign supreme. A pan-Arab mechanism must be created for solving inter-Arab disputes, instead of resorting to foreign, and sometime greedy, powers. Peaceful negotiation or Arab-wide arbitration, within the framework of the Arab League, are the best tools for resolving any potential or existing inter-Arab conflicts.

also within the whole region of the Arabian Peninsula. A state of perpetual unrest will be created. The already stumbling programs of development will most likely come to a standstill. This situation will lead to both parties provoking each other. Each side will try to encourage and support the opposition forces working against the other side. Moreover, virulent media campaigns and even instigating and perpetrating acts of sabotage will become the norm rather than then exception. Such an atmosphere of hostilities and enmity between these two Arab neighbors will certainly be a dangerous source of instability in the whole of the Middle East. The 2nd Gulf War and its bitter repercussions are still casting very dark shadows indeed on the whole region - people and regimes alike. This scenario, summarizes the failure of negotiations to reach a fair solution. So the crisis will continue with no solution in sight. The unrest will help and encourage some regional and international forces to interfere in the internal affairs of the two countries.

**Second Scenario :** This is represented by the foreign involvement in the crisis between the two Arab countries, leading to further escalation. A situation similar, in a way, to that of 2nd Gulf War will be created. It will allow foreign powers to utilize the opportunity and impose their own visions and plans. These foreign powers will then completely impose their envisaged political and economic strategies upon the Arab world. And it will be mostly for the benefit of Israel and to exhaust and drain the remaining resources of the Arabs. The way to dominating oil fields and marine navigation lines will be widely open. These matters are within the reach and mentality of the leaderships of both countries. However, when these matters reach the point of no return, war becomes inevitable. This is especially so when the internal political, economic, and social problems become very oppressive in both countries.

# Confidentiality and Improper Payments

By: Sheikh Tariq Abdullah



Regardless of whether or not an employer stresses the importance of confidentiality to his employees, and regardless or not if employees sign a confidentiality agreement with the employer to refrain from divulging sensitive information or otherwise, the Yemeni law is very clear regarding the concept of an employee as implied in the terms of the employment contract.

Labor Law (No. 5) of 1995 clearly states in article (35) and specifically in paragraph (J), that if any employee divulges any information or secrets related to his work, or divulges any information the employee comes across during the course of his employment, such an employee will be subject to immediate termination by his employer without any requirement for notification or legal notice.

As to improper payments, they are regulated by the criminal code No. (12) of 1994. All improper payments are referred to as bribes under the above law.

The law states that a bribe is anything (of any kind), offered to a civil servant, or anything (of any kind) promised to be given to a civil servant, for him/her to carry out a task, or to refrain from carrying out a specific task, in breach of his work regulations, obligation, and job.

The law also clearly describes a person offering to bribe another as "a person who asks a public servant to carry out a specific task which goes against the employees work regulations".

The law also defines that an intermediary is "one who introduces the two parties, or assists them in any manner in the crime of bribery, or had knowledge of it". Such an intermediary will be considered as if he had committed the crime itself, and will be sentenced as such.

An employee, in the private sector, who asks for a bribe for himself or others, or was promised to be given a bribe (or a gift), without the knowledge of his employee, will be considered to have committed the crime of bribery and will be sentenced to a maximum of two years imprisonment, or a maximum fine of 4000 Yemeni Rials.

which is in breach of his duties. c) A maximum of 7 years if a civil servant accepts or asks for a bribe in the form of a gift to be given to him/her at the end of his/her task even if there was no previous arrangement to the same. d) A maximum of 3 years imprisonment for anyone offering to bribe a public servant even if the public servant did not carry out the task.

Although the law focuses more on civil servants, the definitions and details of the crime of bribery (improper payments) also apply to those employees in the private sector.

Besides the criminal rights, employers in the private sector also have a civil right against any employee who, as a result of divulging any information, results in the loss of income, or other quantifiable loss. Hence employers who have suffered loss are entitled to sue the employee/s for damages which resulted from the employee/s breach of trust. Even though the law covers most of the issues and instances relating to confidentiality and improper payments, it is very highly advisable that all companies, as a matter of policy, sign a confidentiality and non-divulgence agreement, with all their employees, or those in sensitive positions, in the form of a separate document, in addition to the employees' work contracts.

Apart from making the employees aware of the importance of confidentiality, the said document can be activated effectively if the employee breaches its contents.

It is anticipated that under the forthcoming administrative and reform program, positively declared by the government, the issue of Confidentiality and Improper Payments has been on the top of the agenda, and the new government intends to implement the existing provisions of the law in this respect.

The sentencing for crimes of bribery are as follows:

- a) A maximum of 10 years imprisonment if a civil servant accepts a bribe, or asks for a bribe.
- b) A maximum of 10 years imprisonment if a civil servant accepts a bribe without knowing that he was carrying out a wrong or that he was carrying out an act

\* Sheikh Tariq Abdullah is one of the leading lawyers of Yemen. His offices in Aden and Sanaa handle many cases for local and international firms.

## Pakistan: Fifty Fruitful Years of Independence



On the golden Jubilee of the independence of Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Amin Jan Naim the Ambassador of Pakistan spoke to Yemen Times.

"Pakistan has faced enormous and unequalled challenges, but has been able to overcome them effectively. Political upheavals, storms and turbulence are surmounted. The implacable determination, ability and sagacity of the Founder of the Nation

Mohammed Ali Jinnah enabled the creation of Pakistan against insuperable opposition.

This was a political achievement unsurpassed in world history. We have had over the last 24 years an enduring constitution. It stipulates that the principles of democracy, freedom, equality, tolerance and social justice should be fully observed.

Just a few months ago, we have had general elections in which the people of Pakistan have given a massive two-thirds parliamentary majority to the present Government.

Pakistan's economy is being increasingly based on free market principles and de-regulation. Health care, education and technology are being rapidly developed.

In its foreign policy, Pakistan endeavors to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries, support the common interests of the

people of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster good will and friendly relations among all nations, and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.

There is a great potential for further improving the existing bilateral relations, for the mutual benefit of the people of Yemen and Pakistan.

Pakistan can provide higher level education in modern science and technology.

It can provide technical assistance in the sectors of agriculture, irrigation, water-shed management, terrace farming, fisheries, etc. Joint ventures can be established in natural gas transmission and distribution.

The Republic of Yemen could also benefit in the fields of road building, infrastructure, and water and sanitation management. Two-way trade could be improved."

### نداء إلى أهل الخير

يعاني الطفل محمود عادل أحمد البنوس - ١٣ شهرا - من تشوه خلقي في القلب (وجود فتحة بين البلطين الأيسر والأيمن) مما أدى إلى قلة الأكسجين في الدم مع ازرقاق عام في الجسم. يحتاج المذكور إلى عملية جراحية في الخارج. من يرغب في المساعدة الاتصال علي الرقم ٢٦٨٦٦١



This is an *OPINION* page.  
Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

## Economic Reform The Outcome



**Dr. Mohammed Al-Maytami\***

to a deficit that had previously reached 17% of the GDP. This outcome has been achieved through lowering public and current expenditures on one the hand, and increasing government revenue on the other. Current public expenditures have been reduced from 88% of the overall state budgetary expenditures in 1994 to 76% in 1996. The proportion of wages and salaries in the government budget has dropped from 56% in 1994 to 41% in 1996.

On the other side, the government's revenue rose by 3.6 times during 1994-1996. The tax revenue has reached YR. 75.3 billion in 1996, compared to YR. 25.3 in 1994. During the same period, the non-tax revenue rose from YR. 17.5 billion to YR. 55.3 billion. The latter increase is largely attributable to the rise in oil revenues by 1.7 times during the period of implementing the reform program. The government's share of oil revenues in 1996 was \$958.4 million, compared to \$ 588.8 million in 1994. A market exchange rate of 125 riyals to the dollar, rather than the old official exchange rate, is taken into account in this respect.

The rate of inflation has also taken a similar nose-dive. It

dropped from 70% in 1994 to 56% in 1995, reaching 29% by the end of 1996. World Bank and IMF sources indicate that the rate of inflation dropped to 10% in 1996. According to the 1997 financial statement of the state's general budget, the rate of inflation was 120% in 1994. This outcome has doubly surpassed the set target.

Compared to 17% of GDP in 1994, the government budget deficit dropped to 6% in 1995, and later reached 4% of GDP in 1996. It is expected to go further down to 1.7% by the end of 1997.

Similarly, the balance-of-payments deficit dropped from 14% in 1994, to 11.9% in 1995, reaching 9.5% in 1996. This has accompanied the relative improvement in the current account balance and, to a larger extent, the improvement in the capital account balance. In addition to that, the Central Bank's overall revenue of foreign currency rose from \$357 million in 1994 to \$825.5 million in 1995, reaching 1,237.4 million in 1996. A surplus of \$295 million has been achieved between the expenditure and the revenue of foreign currency in 1997. This indicates that the government's external assets have increased by

3.4 times during the last two years. Hence, the foreign currency cover of imports has extended over 6 months instead of 2.8 months only.

In accordance with the reform program's set targets, the annual growth of means of payment came down from 35% in 1994 to 17.5% in 1995, and achieved a negative growth of -4.5% in 1996. Also, the rate of growth of the monetary supply in its broad sense dropped to 20.4% in 1995 and 8.7% in 1996, compared to 37.4% in 1994. Therefore, all the achieved rates of monetary and financial indicators are compatible with the program's goals. This gives a strong impression that the program has been largely successful.

Analyzing and evaluating these results shows that they came as a consequence of concentrating on purely monetary and financial measures. The low inflation achieved in 1996 came as a result of reducing the supply and circulation of currency and absorbing the surplus currency held by individuals and establishments. The growth of currency supply was reduced to 8.7% in 1996 by decreasing the rate of growth of domestic credit from about 37% in 1994 to about 2.9% by the end of 1995. A negative growth of about -13% was achieved.

The noticeable drop in the growth of domestic credit is due to several reasons. Most prominent of these causes is the reduction in the rate of growth of the net government borrowing to 15% in 1995 and -5.8% in 1996, compared to 37% in 1994. The monetary measures taken by the government such as raising interest rates to 25-27%, floating the riyal exchange rate to 125-130 to the dollar, and raising the compulsory reserves to 25% have had a large effect in reducing the currency supply, absorbing the currency surplus, and restricting credit.

The general budget is serving as a tool to implement the major policies used to encourage economic stability in accordance with the World Bank and IMF

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- Attractive premises near the French Embassy
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- Curriculum designed for English speaking children, ages 3 & 4 years
- Professional teacher assisted by paraprofessionals
- Enrollment limited to 20 children

recommendations. The Yemeni government drastically lowered the value of the riyal by 88% in a record time of one year.

Issuing treasury bills has played a role, although limited, in making the government refrain from borrowing from the banking system. The purchasing of treasury bills by individuals, however, has been rather low (25% of the last 9 issues). Moreover, the proportion of the individuals' purchases of the estimated YR.4 billion worth of treasury bills account for only 3.35 of the overall out-of-bank currency in 1996. No doubt, this is a very low proportion as compared to the amount of liquidity held by individuals. Commercial banks and major financial establishments have been the major purchasers of treasury bills. Their buying accounted for about 65% thereby denying the private sector from the available resources.

The government's borrowing

through the treasury bills with a high rate of interest (23-27% according to the time period) will raise the future burden of domestic debt servicing. This may eventually lead to more governmental deficit. Also, granting a real and positive rate of interest on borrowing will lead to raising the cost of investment by the private sector. This will lead to increasing the cost of production, and eventually to depressing the economy. The newly adopted mechanism will only encourage banks and individuals to indulge in speculation and short-term investments, steering them away from real investment thereby increasing the economic growth difficulties.

\*Dr. Mohammed Al-Maytami is the acting deputy head of the Yemeni Center for Research in Sana'a. He has a Ph.D. in economics from Moscow



## VACANCY

### Mechanical Technical Yemeni Nationals

Millwright/Diesel Engine Fitters are required for our field Operations, Hadramout Govt. Yemen. This job will be based on a rotational work schedule (28 days on /28 days off).

#### Job Duties / Responsibilities

- Maintain, repairs and installs a wide variety of pumps, valves, compressors, electric motors, diesel and gas engines, lifting equipment, shop machinery, etc.
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- Fits manufacturers' spares and reconditioned replacement parts for all mechanical equipment.
- Troubleshoots equipment malfunctions and recommends effective preventive maintenance programs.

#### Qualification / Experience Required

- Completion of formal training/apprenticeship, preferably in Petro Chemical industry and/or Equipment dealership.
- Have 8 - 10 years experience on overhaul and repair of Refinery rotating equipment including, pumps, compressors, gearboxes, gas turbines etc. and/or Caterpillar engine maintenance and overhaul, particularly, 3406, 3412, 3508 and 3516 series.
- Good English skills (spoken and written).
- Only fully job qualified candidates will be considered.

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

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen,  
P. O. Box 15137,  
Fax: (01) 414 042  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Human Resources

## JOB VACANCY IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

The position assigned to the political section within the Embassy, which produces analytical reports of broad scope and complexity and provides information and data obtained from high level sources.

#### Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Prepare analytical reports in English on major Yemeni political and social developments.
- Advise Embassy officers on Yemeni political history and current development.
- Create and maintain biographic files on prominent personalities.
- Prepare press summaries, as required, on important issue.
- Interpret and translate as necessary.

#### Desired Qualifications:

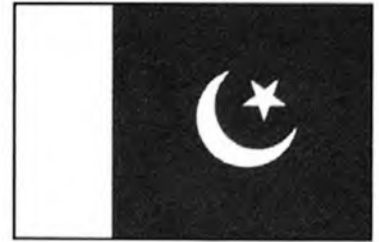
- Should have a College degree.
- Native Arabic speaker, fluent in speaking, and writing English.
- Possess good knowledge of current Yemeni political conditions.
- Interpret and translate as necessary.
- Must be able to type in Arabic and English. Computer and word processing experience is preferable.

Interested applicants should contact the Embassy Personnel Office, for obtaining an application form and attached with a resume.  
No later than August 30, 1997.

American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, P. O. Box 22347, Tel 238-842

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# PAKISTAN



## 50 Years on: Great Leaps Forward

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan emerged as an independent State on 14 August, 1947. It comprises four provinces: Punjab, Sindh, North West Frontier and Balochistan, besides the Federally Administrated Tribal Areas. Islamabad is the federal capital. Over 97 per cent of the country's population is Muslim.

### ADMINISTRATIVE SET-UP

Pakistan is a parliamentary democracy constitutionally composed of President, Chief Executive and judiciary. President is the head of the State and supreme commander of the Armed Forces; Prime Minister is the Chief Executive; while judiciary is headed by Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who enjoys independence in dealing with judicial matters.

The Parliament is the highest law making body of the country. It consists of two Houses. The Upper house is called the Senate and the lower, the National Assembly.

### The Senate

The senate of Pakistan is a permanent legislative body and symbolizes a process of continuity in the national affairs. The constitution lays out the methodology for the election of the Senate. About one half of the members are elected for a six years' term after every three years. Mid-term vacancy in the Senate, caused by the death, incapacitation, disqualification or removal of a member, is filled in through by-election by the respective Provincial Assembly, and the member so elected retains the membership till the expiry of the term of the original member who vacated the seat. The qualifications required for a member to be elected to the Senate are that he should be not less than thirty years of age and should be registered as a voter in an area of the province from where he is seeking election.

The Chairman and the Deputy Chairman hold office for a period of three years. They are elected by the senators through secret ballot by a majority vote, when the vacancy occurs.

### The National Assembly

The national Assembly has a total membership of 217 elected through universal adult suffrage.

The National Assembly of Pakistan is the country's sovereign legislative body. It makes laws for the federation in respect of the powers enumerated in the Federal Legislative List and for subjects given in the Concurrent List. Through its debates, adjournment motions, question hours and standing committees, the national Assembly keeps a check over the Executive and ensures that the government functions within the parameters set out in the constitution and does not violate the fundamental rights of citizens. Only the National Assembly has the power to approve the Federal Budget and all Money Bills. The National Assembly, through its Public Accounts Committee, scrutinizes public spendings and exercises control over expenditure incurred by the government.

The Speaker's is the highest office of the National Assembly of Pakistan. He presides over the chamber composed of the people's representatives elected on the basis of universal franchise. The Speaker occupies number four position in the Warrant of Precedence, after the President, Prime Minister and the Chairman of Senate. He is also second in the line of succession to the President.

### EDUCATION

Educational facilities have been expanding during the past five decades but have not kept pace with the requirements of a modernizing policy. The literacy rate which is estimated at 38.9 per cent (50 per cent male and 27 per cent female) in 1996-7, is still behind other countries of the region. Both public and private sectors are involved in education. Government finances all public facilities, undertakes expansion schemes under its annual development programme while encouraging private sector's role in this field. In 1996-7, the existing network of educational institutions consisted of 150,963 primary schools, 14,595 middle schools, 9,808 high schools, 673 secondary vocational institutions, 798 art and science colleges, 161 professional colleges and 35 universities, including 10 private sector universities which have been granted charter by the Government.



### Social Action programme (SAP) of Education

Basic education, primary education, adult literacy, teachers training etc. are the important components of SAP. Phase-I of SAP (1993-96) has been completed and Phase-II of SAP (1996-2000) is being implemented. The main thrust is to improve access of women particularly of rural girls of primary education.

Primary/elementary education constitutes 64 per cent of the entire SAP allocation with focus on expansion and promotion of girls education.

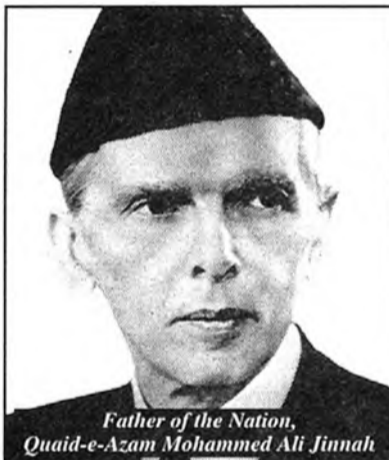
### INDUSTRY

At the time of Independence in 1947, Pakistan had virtually no industrial bases. Only a few small industrial units including three textile mills and one cement plant existed.

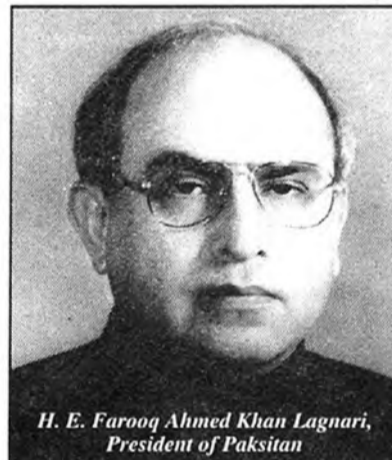
The entrepreneurial class was almost missing and there was hardly any infrastructure in the country. The contribution of large-scale manufacturing sector to GDP stood at a paltry figure of two per cent. Subsequently, to step up the pace of industrialization in the country, different governments formulated different industrial policies.

Pakistan has gone through an interesting journey in the economic system. It started with a thrust for capitalism during 1950s. During 1960s, strong orientation to private sector was pursued. During 1970s, nationalization of banks, insurance, industrial and commercial sector enterprises was made. Later, during 1980s, reversal of the policies of 1970s was undertaken. During 1990s, three terms have been in currency namely de-regulation, disinvestment and denationalisation.

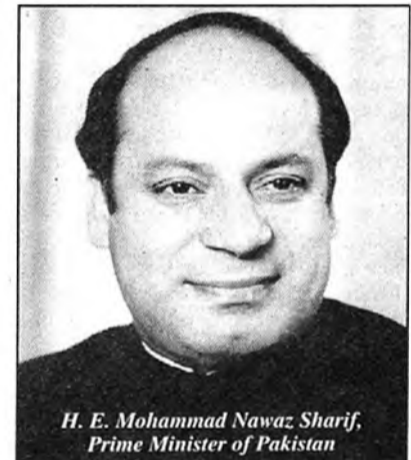
The current trend and policy of industrial growth is based on privatization, deregulation and market friendly environment. It also envisages spread of industries all over the



Father of the Nation,  
Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah



H. E. Farooq Ahmed Khan Lagnari,  
President of Pakistan



H. E. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif,  
Prime Minister of Pakistan

country in order to achieve balanced growth by expanding and extending industrial development facilities to the under-developed areas and all classes of the society.

### Textile Industry

Textile sector represents one of the most important sectors of the economy as its products form almost 60 per cent of Pakistan's total exports, and it has 18 per cent weight in the country's large scale industrial production.

### Public Sector Industries

The public industrial sector is at present comprised of nine holding corporations including Ghee Corporation of Pakistan (GCP). Before privatization, there were 100 operating units under the administrative control of these corporations but after privatization, 45 units are left with the Ministry of Industries and Investment. Out of these 45 units, some are in various stages of privatization while few of them have either been closed down or are partially operational.

### Industrial investment

The industrial investment in manufacturing sector as a whole increased by 9.76 per cent during 1996-97. Public sector contributed an increase of 45.49 per cent over previous year while investment in small scale grew by 7.42 per cent during 1996-97.

### Privatization

So far 91 state Owned Enterprises (SOE's) have been privatized and 46 other are available for privatization including non-industrial units. Privatization of Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL), Habib Bank Limited, Faisalabad Area Electric Board (FAEB) and Jamshoro Thermal Unit of WAPDA are under consideration.

### TRADE AND EXPORTS

Export form a vital aspect of national economy and Pakistan lays special emphasis on increasing her exports both in traditional and non-traditional sectors.

### Export Policy

The main aims of Pakistan's Export Policy are to increase Foreign exchange earnings, to improve the competitiveness of exports, to diversify export items and export markets and to improve the quality of exports. It also aims at improving export infrastructure and strengthening institutional arrangements for the promotion of exports. The Export Policy encourages creation of exportable surpluses and expansion of all primary as well as manufactured goods.

In order to tune itself to global milieu of openness, Pakistan's Export Policy aims at liberalizing trade and investment policies. Maximum facilities are provided to the local exporters in order to encourage them.

The Policy also aims at stimulating exports by facilitating easy access to raw materials and machinery, and by relaxing the rules and regulations.

Instead of following import substitution policy, Pakistan is promoting export led growth.

A comprehensive package for boosting exports was announced under "The Prime Minister's Economic Revival Program" on 28th March, 1997. Under the package, the number of tariff slabs was reduced. It also includes zero-rated raw material import for export industries and reduction of duty on machinery to 10 per cent. The maximum tariff rate has been reduced from 65 per cent to 45 per cent.

### 1996-1997 Import/Export Value (July-April)

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Exports receipts (million \$) | 6,812.75 |
| Imports (million \$)          | 9,707.29 |

### Export Processing Zones

Karachi Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) was the first project of EPZA launched in 1918, with the object to attract foreign capital, technology and modern management skill

for export-oriented industries and to provide new employment opportunities for the country's work force. Karachi Export Processing Zone comprises an area of 300 acres, out of which 200 acres have been fully developed in the first phase at an estimated cost of Rs. 365 million. All infrastructure facilities, like electricity, water, gas, telecommunication services, have been provided to the investors under "One Window" services.

### EPZs in other Cities

With a view to expanding the scheme of Export Processing Zones to other provinces. The Government have decided to setup export processing zones at Lahore and Peshawar. The proposals for setting up EPZs at Multan, Sialkot, Quetta and Gwadar are also under consideration of the EPZA and concerned provincial governments.

### Major Trading Partners.

Western Europe, Middle East, Germany and Japan are out major trading partners and Pakistan enjoys good bilateral trade relations with these regions and countries.

Pakistan is aiming at improving export relations with the newly emerging Central Asian Republics.

### Irrigation Network

The irrigation system of Pakistan is the largest integrated irrigation network in the world serving 34.5 million acres of contiguous cultivated-land. The System is fed by the waters of the Indus River and its tributaries. The salient features of the System are three major storage reservoirs, namely, Tarbela and Chashma on River Indus, and Mangla on River Jhelum; 19 barrages; 12 inter-river link canals and 43 independent irrigation canals. The total length of main canals alone is 58,500 km. Water courses comprise another 1,621,000 km.

The System draws an average of 106 MAF of surface water each year for irrigation. Supplemented by an annual ground water pumpage of some 43 MAF, the average depth of water available at the framgate is 3.07 feet per acre. Approximately three million individual farms with an average size of about 12 acres benefit from this system.





## Dhikra Aspires for Recognition

Dhikra Mohammed Al-Qolai'i represents a new breed of Yemeni females. She is a budding and very promising artist. Her beautiful realist oil paintings depict various aspects of the daily Yemeni life, the architecture, nature, and a whole host of other interesting subjects. Dhikra, 22, is currently doing her final year studies at the history department in Sana'a University.



Not having a proper academic background in art did not hinder Dhikra from developing her avid interest in painting.

She started her much cherished hobby while still at secondary school. "My love for painting is only impeded by my lack of financial resources," said Dhikra, adding that "buying oil colors, canvasses, brushes, etc., put a big burden on my already very stretched budget."



Dhikra has so far taken part in one art exhibition held at the University of Sana'a. She got an appreciation prize. "There is no much official and public encouragement for artists in Yemen," announced Dhikra sadly.

Dhikra's favorite artist is the outstanding Yemeni painter Abduljabbar Noman. She believes that the only way she can support herself and continue with her artistic endeavors is to get a job.



## Contemporary Verses from Arabia Felix

Ali Mohammed Luqman was born in 1918 in Aden. He began writing poetry in his teens. In 1936, he went to Al-Ghira Muslim University in India. Following his graduation from the American University of Cairo in 1947 with a B.A. in journalism, he returned to Aden and became the editor of his father's newspaper, *Fatat Al-Jezira*. His first collection of poetry, the *Overwhelmed Melody*, was published in 1943.

Ali Luqman was the first poet to introduce Arabic poetic plays in the Aden region. Although his productivity in poetry overshadowed all other talents, he wrote all genres of literature. Often political circumstances forced him at times to write anonymously. After 1968, political turmoil developed in southern Yemen, and in February 1972 he moved to Taiz in northern Yemen. He died in December, 1979 among his wife and four sons in the USA.

The following three poems are from his collection entitled *Poetry from the Land of Sheba* (76 pp., Spoon River Poetry Press, USA, 1981).

### EVE - THE TRUTH

As a woman, I do not love you;  
as a fact of life, I do,  
for Truth is more wonderful,  
more meaningful, more powerful  
in Fantasy and Beauty's realm  
than you are as only Eve.

By Truth, I am bewitched.  
And so, sacrifice my soul for love  
feeling for those in frowning nights,  
destined to dive in dreadful depths,  
to greet the Pearl of pearls,  
where fragrant scents, untraced in shades,  
engulf them in their search;  
where the Poet's pleasant ideal time  
and hope for love is too sublime,  
where beauty never fades  
in those bottomless waves.

I wonder when I see in life  
the unconcerned alive  
when hearts with amorous care  
do not survive.

You drove me out of paradise.  
Misguided, I did accept my fate.  
That was unwise,  
and yet your lovable cynical laugh  
at my despair  
delighted me at any rate.

You made me know and like the flowers  
of the evil  
on dark and endless routes  
that I cannot dislike,  
although they are the paths of the Devil.

Because of you, I do repent why I was late  
before I came to know  
how life with you  
could be without ado.

How tears shed and relatives thunder  
because I wail when you are away  
and be aggrieved when you are nearer.  
I do not love you, Eve, as Eve,  
but jealousy shattered my heart,  
when even my own soul  
does aspire to possess you.

Do not come back to me.  
By Love, do not return.  
When I was drowned,  
You left in careless pride.  
Those days are gone.  
That easy man is dead.  
He hates to turn.

You taught me not to pardon  
who tortures me.  
I cannot but rebel, while you do none  
against the starting eyes at you.  
Fatal, Eve, is jealousy.

And, now you come,  
as glamorous as my yesterdays.  
Fascinating are olden days.  
Blame me not, if I forget  
with you my bitter times,  
and if I call with open arms:  
"My permanent dream,"  
come back to me.

### TO THE DAWN

Oh Dawn,  
are you the desirable rising light?  
Darkness is too intense,  
like a Despot's sword who rules by force,  
while refugees are restlessly sleepless.  
Morning is far away and fugitives sigh alone.



Poetry  
from  
the Land of Sheba



by the late  
Ali Luqman, B. A. (Hon.)  
edited by  
Wafiq Luqman, B. Sc., M. B., Ch. B., F. A. C. P.

Light is nowhere seen, and hope has yet no roots  
on black and rugged routes.  
Concealing their bleeding wounds,  
they witness the hidden tragedies  
while comedies are displayed.  
Arrows, Oh Dawn, strike who knows.  
Look, Extravagance in some states,  
while poverty engulfs the globe.  
Barbarism destroys the dignity of man,  
on the sea, the ground and in the air.

Ignorance is universal, driving people to evil-doing.  
Idol worship is gloriously restored  
depicting faith in God as infidelity,  
and hypocrisy is as brutal as it was.  
Behold:  
many a dawn has risen and gone,  
but no light has ever shone.

### WITHOUT ADDRESS

My yesterday's and tomorrow's love,  
and in my ceremonial day,  
do not depart, for life is hell if you are away.  
Your world is the lover's garden,  
with charming guitar,  
in an orchard of fanciful whims.  
Do not keep your address unknown,  
for love is engraved in the heart, and the residence of beauty is  
too well-known.  
Flowers lead to it.  
I follow the perfume to the door,  
while birds sign it on the way.

My love is unlimited,  
but age is short.  
Neither the lover nor his queen forever lives.  
come then while we exist.  
My fate is a love dictate  
I cannot escape fate  
Neither intellect nor caution saves us,  
for fate is always victorious.

The Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Communications

### Cautionary Notice Call Back Services.

The use of Call Back services for international telephone calls from within the national borders of the Republic of Yemen has a serious adverse effect on the efforts of the Ministry of Communications, and its affiliated corporations working within the Republic of Yemen, to modernise and develop the telecommunication networks of the country.

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**COMOROS: SEPARATISTS SEEKING A RETURN TO FRENCH RULE**

Separatists seeking a return to French rule declared the independence of the Comoran island of the Anjouan at a mass rally in Mutsamudu, the main town. A crowd of some 7,000 marched to the government palace and hoisted the flags of France and the sultans who ruled Anjouan before independence. From there led by a handful of masked commandos, they moved on to the gendarmes. The independence declaration signed by the leader of the Anjouan People's Movement, 71-year-old Koranic teacher Abdallah Ibrahim, called on France to listen to the cries of distress of the people of Anjouan and support the hoped-for project to avoid renewed bloodshed.

The Declaration of Independence accused president Mohamad Taki Abdul karim of using veiled language in a Friday broadcast to order the military to kill again. The soldiers and gendarmes withdrew to their barracks, leaving the streets to the rebels who set up barricades and hoisted French flags above the prefecture and mosques. "We prefer to withdraw from the state structure of Comoros and in consequence exercise our full sovereignty in our territory," said the statement. Paris reiterated its opposition to any breakaway. A spokesman for the foreign ministry said France was committed to the territorial integrity of the Comoros. We hope that the spirit of harmony will prevail in this internal Comoran affair and we await with interest to see how Taki's proposal's will be implemented," the spokesman said.

The root causes of the discontent on this overcrowded island are economic, and a widespread feeling that Anjouan is neglected by the central government of this tiny archipelago between Madagascar and mainland Africa. The Independence Declaration accused successive governments of abandoning and humiliating Anjouanians since independence in 1975.

**IRAN REJECTS IRAQI CALL FOR BETTER RELATIONS**

An Iranian newspaper close to the government described Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein as a dictator and rejected his call for Tehran to improve bilateral relations with Baghdad. Observers in Iran surprised to see such a declaration by Saddam who ignores even the most rudimentary international norms, IRAN NEWS said.

Saddam called on Iran's new elected president Khatami to prove Tehran's desire to improve its relations with Baghdad with concrete action. Saddam called on Tehran to exchange its policy of expansion, interference and deceit with one of cooperation with Iraq.

We are not content to hear from present leader words without deeds, Saddam said, promising reciprocal Iraqi action to any Iranian gesture. Khatami said that he wanted to see a detente in Iran's relations with its neighbors. It is to be noted that Iraq and Iran are to sign a peace treaty after the ceasefire in August 1988 brokered by the United Nations that ended their eight-year war. IRAN NEWS said relations between the two countries were at standstill because of the issue of prisoners of war from the conflict and Baghdad's support for Iran's main armed opposition group, the People's Mujahedeen Movement who have their fighting bases on the Iraqi territory. Saddam has accused Tehran of holding 20,000 Iraqi prisoners of war while Iran claims Iraq is still holding 5,000 POW's. Iraq also says it sent 115 warplanes and 33 other aircraft to Iran to escape allied bombing raids

during the Gulf War in 1990, but Iran says it has only 22 Iraqi planes which can be returned if the United Nations so requests.

**PHILIPPINES HIT BY KIDNAPPINGS**

There were 179 kidnappings cases recorded in 1996, or about one abduction every two days, newspapers said. The reports quoted the official National Statistics and Census Board as saying the 179 kidnappings marked a 189 percent increase over the 62 incidents recorded in 1995. The Board added that of the 179 kidnappings, 77 of the victims were held for ransom. Of those 83 percent were released or rescued unharmed. The rest were killed. It did not say why the other victims were abducted or what happened to them. The Statistics Board also reported that victims' families paid a total of 56 million pesos (US\$2.15 million) in ransoms according to a newspaper. The reports added that police had identified 712 suspects involved in the kidnappings and that 19 percent of them had been arrested or killed. The National Census and Statistics Board and national police could not be contacted for comment on the newspaper. The government's failure to curb the continuing spate of kidnappings has been a major embarrassment for president Ramos. Critics have charged government figures do not reflect the full scale of the problem as many victims do not report kidnappings as they suspect rogue police personnel are involved. Then the figures are higher than those mentioned by the Board.

**THOUSANDS OF HUTUS SLAUGHTERED IN FORMER ZAIRE SAY HUMAN RIGHTS**

Aid workers, human rights and UN officials say they are convinced that rebels slaughtered thousands of Hutu refugees in the former Zaire before seizing power in May. They say that rebels of Rawandan Tutsi troops fighting for the rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo, AFDL, took part in and directed some killings of the refugees. Reports of the massacres, denied by the rebels and Rawandan officials, circulated for months as rebels swept westward in a seven-month advance that ended Mobutu Sese Seko's 32-year reign. The United Nations is expected to investigate the reports on the ground following negotiations with the government of Laurent Kabila president of what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The report pointed to genocide and systematic executions of refugees. Aid workers said AFDL troops pursued Rawandan Hutu refugees for more than 1,200 Km and at intervals massacred them because of their ethnic connection with the genocide, in which an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus died. The mass graves were witnesses of those massacres in the region.

**INDIA'S CONGRESS REGRETS FAILURE TO PROTECT BABRI MOSQUE**

The Congress party said it regretted its failure to protect a mosque which was torn down by Hindu zealots in 1992 and blamed Hindu nationalists and their allies for the incident. The demolition of the 16th century Babri Masjid in the northern town of Ayodhya in December 1992 ignited two months of Hindu-Moslem clashes in which more than 3,000 people died in the worst sec-

tarian violence to hit India since the subcontinent's bloody partition in 1947. The mosque incident was widely perceived to have undermined Congress's traditional Moslem support and played a significant role in the party's rout in general elections in May 1996. The Congress has been trying to return to power since it was voted out but it is still struggling to retrieve lost support after ruling India for more than four decades.

"The Congress regrets its inability to carry out the legal responsibility in protecting the Babri Mosque," a party resolution said. "The Congress party once again condemns the act of vandalism perpetrated by the Bharatiya Jana Party, BJP, and its allies in destroying the Babri Masjid by throwing to winds all canons of civilized behavior and ignoring its commitments to the highest judiciary of the land, the parliament, the government and national integration council," the Congress Party said in a resolution.

"We believed certain parties. we should have not done so," senior Congress leader Santosh mohan Deb told reporters.

**SOMALIA: AIDID'S SUPPORTERS SLIP INTO RIVAL AREA**

Three top lieutenants of Somali warlord Hussein Mohamed Aidid slipped across the green line to an arch-rival's stronghold and took a flight out the country to discuss a peace initiative, a witness said. General Elmi Sahal Ali, Aidid's police commander, and two other close aides slipped into north Mogadishu and fled to Djibouti from Aisaley strip, controlled by north Mogadishu strongman Ali Mahdi Mohamed's Somali Salvation Alliance faction, a Somali journalist who was on the scene said. General Ali, along with Aidid's foreign policy chief Mahamad Warsame "Kimiko" and Ali Mohamad Ali "Ugas," a prominent clan elder and deputy governor of Aidid's controlled part of south Mogadishu, were flying to Djibouti for talks with people from Bossasso in northeast Somalia who are opposed to the peace initiative by Ethiopia. These initiatives were due to be concluded in Bossasso next November by 26 Somali factions, including Ali Mahdi who first met and forged a peace accord in the Ethiopian tourist resort of Sodere, 200 Km east of the capital Addis Ababa last January. Ali Mahdi is in Addis Ababa for talks with Ehtiopian leaders and UN special envoy to Somalia, Ismat Kittani, to persuade the international community to give logistic support to the Bossasso conference.

**EGYPT: A FILE SUIT AGAINST NETANYAHU**

An Egyptian lawyer said he filed a lawsuit against Israeli prime minister Netanyahu demanding 10 billion dollars in damage after a Jewish extremist displayed anti-Islamic posters. "I hold Netanyahu responsible for this act," Mustafa Ayub said. "I am asking him to pay 10 billion dollars which will be handed over to the Egyptian government for the construction of synagogues, mosques and churches, and to compensate the families of the victims of the Intifadha," he said. He filed the suit on July 6 and a verdict is expected to be announced on August 31. The decision came as Israeli Supreme Court ordered the far-right extremist Tatiana Susskind, 26, to be transferred to a psychiatric hospital for displaying posters describing prophet Mohammad (P). Meanwhile Sheikh sayyed Al Tantawi of Azhar reaffirmed that Susskind should receive the death penalty. "Respect for phrophets is one of the foundations of religion and the punishment for anyone making fun of them is death," he said.

**INDONESIA PLANS FOR A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**

Indonesia is shelving plans for a nuclear power plant and will instead generate the needed electricity with gas from Natuna fields in the South China Sea, a minister said. "The Natuna project will be used to generate electricity for Java," said Research and Technology Minister Jusuf Habibie after meeting Indonesian president Suharto. Under the project, gas from Natuna field will be piped in some 1,350 km to an area not far from Jakarta and will supply a combined steam and gas power plant, Habibie said. The plant will be built by US energy Company Exxon, which has a 50 percent stake in the Natuna field, Mobil Oil, which holds 26 percent, and an undisclosed number of Indonesian partners, he said. A memorandum of agreement is expected to be signed in November, said Habibie. The plant will be able to generate 4,000 megawatts of electricity by 2004 and double its capacity a few years after. It is known that Natuna has a reserve of 222 trillion cubic feet of gas that has a high content of carbon dioxide. Indonesia, the world's most populous country with more than 200 million people, relies on hydropower, coal and fuel generated electricity. But the rapid growth in energy consumption has required Jakarta to double its electricity production over the past 25 years.

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# Introduction to Manifesto of Idea of Local Government Party

**Sheikh Tariq Abdullah, Advocate,  
on behalf of the coordinators**

The feelings and voice of the nation have been echoed by the people desperately demanding new principles, new procedures and new basis to national administration. Something new must be introduced into the field of present existing administration so that the highly unsatisfactory established systems, procedures and practices of local administration familiar to the people are done away, changed or stopped (as the case may be) so that administration always maintains vitality, comprehensive purposefulness, is just and is always fulfilling to everyone.

Administration should have the ability to always satisfy everyone. In Yemen this can be possible only when local government system which serves the higher interest of the country whereby it is made responsible for local administration; because only this will promote the progress, growth the evolution of everyone and everything and does equal justice to all.

The future party will offer to the people their plans and programs to create such an ideal administration through the introduction of a local government law comprising the principles of justice and offer to the people an ideal efficient administrative system fulfilling the needs of the individual and the community throughout the country.

This will be possible because quality, equal treatment and equal opportunity which are the basis of true justice shall be the main criteria of the local government party. In practice no one will be treated differently irrespective of their status, rank or position. Citizens rights will not be usurped to any person whomsoever. Everyone shall have and enjoy the same rights and will be in par with others in the courts and the administration. This way citizens demolished rights are saved and protected.

Under the local government the powers or jurisdictions shall not be in the hands of one person but shall be distributed to different persons according to the responsibilities placed upon them. When the power and influence is in the hand of one person these contribute/helps in their abuse.

The local government authorities shall have the law which will given them the freedom and opportunity to achieve all this within and according to their ability. This freedom will be only to do good and to act positively and constructively. The law its rules and regulations will be such that there will be no chance for anyone to contravene the law and get away with it. As such the local government party will aggressively as a first step to reform the local courts and local administration to set up the lost justice in the country. This was the main responsibility of the government and yet it failed in this.

The selection and appointment will be done according to specific defined standards and special characteristics for which purpose rules and regulations will be passed and shall not be on the basis of party or territorial affiliations or favoritism but on the basis of the ability, qualification, experience and integrity.

Introduction of local government in the theme of national administration in liaison with the central government will glorify administration on all levels nationals, provincial, city, towns, villages, community, family and thus help in the administration of people's minds in a new stage and in a new era... This will enable in decreasing the intense centralization by delegating powers at all levels up to the lowest one.

As for the Islamic values of life which have so fast disappeared from the community will automatically begin to get revived by efficient, effective, nourishing, vital and evolutionary administration.

The local government law under preparation will create the basis of a perfectly suitable local government

system for Yemen established on sound scientific principles. While doing so they shall not compromise with the principles of Islam and the unity of Yemen. The law will strengthen and consolidate the unity in innumerable ways.

The coordinators and supporters of the idea of local government party come from throughout the nation, from every walk of life, from every field and all opinions of the people and majority of the parties in the country. As such the policy of the local government party will be to consult and discuss all local issues with representatives of all the parties. Particular importance will be given to consultation with all non governmental or sincere talented, experienced persons within the local government area and in the country will be honored. Every resident citizen of the area will have full opportunity to discuss and put his views on the issues that interest or concern him.

The future local government party is the party of everyone who wants to produce a stable, integrated coherent society in Yemen. It will fulfill the desires, wishes and longings not only of the ordinary individuals but also fulfill the local government or local administration goals, plans and programs of every party.

All the political parties so far pathetically failed in achieving it and will not be able to achieve it because of the unmethodical and unscientific manner in which they are going about it. The present system of administration in general and of local administration in particular is a system where the administrators and the executives, in fact the whole machinery of civil service have become slaves of their sick systems, customs, traditions and negative habits.

It is impossible for them to change and which makes it extremely difficult for the central government to succeed in its Judicial and administrative reforms.

The central government can however positively and easily succeed in these two spheres (among so many others) by a local government system where the local government authorities share in the major portion that concerns them. This way the central Government wins in every way.

The coordinators firmly and sincerely believe that politics is a pious profession that should not be muddled by conflict and controversy. They believe in and are determined to keep the path of politics in their respective areas neat, clean, progressive and inspiring to all, nourishing to all and satisfying to all. Towards this end the local government party will ensure that the local government elections are neater and cleaner than the last two general elections by ensuring that the electors registers are neat and clean. New electoral cards only to the genuine residents will be issued or cards issued to non residents are canceled etc. Thereafter democracy becomes real and the citizen begins to enjoy its taste in his everyday life.

In spite of the common religion and the common language one must admit the fact that the United Yemen is a composite of a large number of divergent even conflicting traditions, customs and values which are prevalent and practiced in different areas of Yemen. In addition to this man made laws based on limited knowledge are being fast issued. Such laws under such diversity cannot possibly satisfy all these trends and tendencies and guide all the people alike in an orderly, evolutionary direction. This way the central government will succeed in creating and establishing a satisfying happy, harmonious quality of life as yet not known in Yemen and which will be even far better than in any other part of the Muslim World.

The local government law envisaged will especially cater for the tribal and undeveloped areas with provisions of an administration system in keeping both with the law as well as with the typical conditions existing in such areas. For instance the local authorities in the tribal areas will be able to issue (with the assis-

tance of expertise from the central government) by laws, rules and regulations in parity with the healthy customs and traditions this introducing method and organization in the tribes and tribesmen without any conflict and opposition, in keeping with the law.

Under the local government system everything that is required to be done in respect of regulating the relationship between the tenant and the owner will be carried out in all the districts of the local government in keeping with its facts and peculiarities.

Local government law will adhere to the principles of Rule of Law, Universal Declaration of Human rights and the United Nation conventions on Civil liberties. Each local authority as such will be able to implement these to the extent their conditions customs and circumstances allow and will obviously/certainly receive encouragement and guidance from the central government who is committed to the World Bank and the Western and other donor countries to implement these.

The local government law under preparation is aimed to eliminate eradicate and prevent the root cause of crime in the Yemeni Community.

The local police and local security services will as such be given detailed rules and regulations in respect of their duties and functions as a guarantee to the local citizens that their civil rights are not interfered with and that in the event of a criminal matter the well established principles of the rule of law are followed by the police and security authorities.

Bribery, corruption and abuse of power of all descriptions which are an order of the day will be curbed under the local government system which will thus tremendously help in building a clean Yemen both morally and physically. And this way under the set up of local government system the lost peace and stability in the country will prevail.

The local government law under preparation is in accordance with the base impulse of the heart and mind of the People of Yemen and is aimed to eliminate the present very prevalent antisocial behavior. Negative trends prevalent in abundance will begin to disappear and pure national integrated consciousness among all sectors of people all over Yemen will begin to rise in ever increasing positivity and harmony ... and within a reasonable short period system and method in the governorates will prevail. God Willing!

Under the system of local government there will be no need whatsoever of division of any governorate because the services of local administration will be available to every citizen up to the village ... on the contrary many areas may be added to the present existing governorates which will practically render in the reduction in the number of governorates ... which will increase the strength and consolidation of the Unity of Yemen.

Local government system with a suitable local government law is the only way to satisfy the diverse needs and ever-growing aspirations of all the people in the country.

People of Yemen cannot get all this under the local administration law which is intended to be introduced (in fact being pushed through) by the government, and as such the needs of the people will not be satisfied by it. It is in response to the call of the nation that the coordinators within a reasonable period the governorates will become orderly and without problems.

High standard in jobs, skills, vocations, trades and professions will enable in beautifying their respective areas in every way and remodel the urban areas to create a pollution free Yemen. Yemen will become the Garden of Eden fit for heaven on earth with its rich scenic beauty... its lost historical culture will certainly return.

May Allah inspire us all to support the idea and achieve all this for our own sake. Amen.

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## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 13-8-97.**  
(Independent)

Main headlines:

- 1- The President Informs National Defense Council on Recent Development in Yemeni-Saudi Border Talks
- 2- YR.200 Million to Restore Aden International Airport
- 3- 500 Farmers Attack Illegal Qat Checkpoint in Dhli'
- 4- Peaceful Demonstration in Hawta in Protest Over Recent Arrests of Opposition Figures
- 5- Police in Aden Catch Children with Counterfeit Pounds Sterling

Article Summary:

Islahi Bias

A struggle between Islah and the PGC is taking place behind the scenes in Taiz University. The university's rector is said to be biased towards the Islahi faction. Last week saw the dismissal of four demonstrators, the deans of the Law and Science colleges, three students, and three administrators. All expelled belong to, or associated with, the PGC.

Other measures were taken by the rector regarding some Yemeni and Arab members of the teaching staff. The Deputy Governor of Taiz had to intervene to calm the situation. The rector is still very adamant, however.

**AL-SHOURA: Sana'a (Weekly) 10-8-97.**

(Federation of Popular Forces Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Arrests of Opposition Figures Reminiscent of Totalitarianism
- 2- Armed Conflict in Sabar, Taiz Over Water Spring
- 3- Israel Plans to Occupy 3 Red Sea Islands Under Feeble Excuse of Aiding Eritrea & Ethiopia Against Sudan
- 4- President of Journalists Syndicate Resigns for Failure to Work Within "Narrowing Margin of Democracy"

Article Summary:

Corruption in Fisheries

The Fourth Fisheries Project has cost about \$39.8 million. The overall cost of construction and equipment has reached \$10.53 million - 86.6% more than the initial estimates of the IDA. This increase happened despite the cancelling of about 30% of the original project! It seems that the Yemeni side which approved the tender and the executive Danish company are set to benefit from these irregularities. The First, Second and Third projects were also plagued by such irregularities.

**AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 12-8-97.**

(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Opposition Newspaper Offices Become Information Centers on Arrested Suspects in Aden Explosions
- 2) Memorandum of Understanding with Saudi Arabia Strongly Criticized by Seminar on Border Issue

3) Some Members of Consultative Council Condemn Recent Arrests

4) Strong Pro-American Lobby in Yemeni Government Pushes for Normalization with Israel

Article Summary:

Significant Numbers

\* The Yemeni Freedom Fighters Organization receives YR.556 million a year to support 6,000 beneficiaries. The payments are done, without any receipts or name lists, under the supervision of a number of tribal sheikhs and influential people at the organization.

\* There are 5,810 beneficiary families of martyrs and veteran freedom fighters in the southern governorates. Each family receives YR.520 a month only!

\* There are 528 high-ranking army officers still suspended from work since 1990. They are neither paid their salaries nor compensated.

\* Yemenia Airlines levies \$360 at the airport from each departing foreign passenger. No receipts are given.

**AL-THAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 14-8-97.**

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Opposition Coordination Council: The arrests will harm national unity and weaken the internal front
- 2) Hadhramaut to Remain Undivided in New Administrative Changes
- 3) International Report Casts Doubt on Success of Yemeni 5-Year Plan for 1996-2000
- 4) Eritrea Releases New Batch of Abducted Yemeni Fishermen

Article Summary:

Expired Medicines

According to some sources, a consignment of expired anti-malaria medicines is about to be brought into Yemen from Sudan. The Sudanese health authorities have refused to allow the medicines, imported from Pakistan, to be sold in the country. Part of the original batch was destroyed.

It is alleged that representatives of the Sudanese drug company which imported the consignment have come to Sana'a in order to resell it here. International health reports indicate that about 90% of cancer and kidney failure cases in Yemen are caused by expired medicines.

**26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 14-8-97.**

(Yemen Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1) Council of Ministers to Continue Discussing Structural Reform in Exceptional Session
- 2) Minister of Interior: "Aden explosions aimed to disrupt security and frighten people."
- 3) Investigations Uncover Involvement of Elements from Socialist and League of Sons of Yemen Parties in Aden Explosions
- 4) 3 Million People in Yemen Infected with Hepatitis-B

Article Summary:

Economic Figures

Government revenue has reached, during the first half of this year, YR. 133.9 billion. Expenditures were YR. 132.1 billion. So the budget has gained a surplus of YR. 1.828 billion.

The IMF is expected to ratify a three-year loan of \$550 for Yemen. A loan of \$150 million has already been given to Yemen by the Arab Monetary Fund.

The rural development project in southern Yemen will cost \$43 million. The IMF has agreed to provide \$36 million to support this project. The rest of the amount will be provided by the Yemeni government.

Yemenia Airlines has raised its ticket prices by 30% in order to be able to improve its services. The pilot salaries will be raised by 100%, and clerical employees by 30%. The Yemenia fleet of airplanes is expected to be modernized.

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## What Do You Think of Yemen Times? [ Opinion Survey ]

Yemen Times is conducting this survey to ascertain the opinion of its readers regarding its layout, articles, subject matter, etc. All readers are welcome to offer their opinion, suggestions, and constructive criticism. Kindly, answer the following questions, and send your response to the address below before 1st September, 1997.

### Yemen Times Survey

- 1- Age:
- 2- Nationality:
- 3- Occupation:
- 4- Present Domicile (city or town)
- 5- Sex:
- 6- Which subjects are you more interested in (political, economic, social, cultural, sport, press review, etc.)?

7- Which subjects are you not interested in ?

8- What subjects would you like to be covered more?

9- What are the Yemen Times flaws?

10- Any other suggestions?

Thank you for your enlightening response.

Yemen Times

Yemen Times Survey  
P.O. Box 2579  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

## Dr. Saqqaf, A Man of Substance

DR. AL-Saqqaf was interviewed by Mr. Issam Said Salem of the "Samm Bamm" (deaf & dumb) magazine in Aden.

What he stated to the magazine can be summarized in the following points.

\* When one can organize his or her life, he or she can do a lot. Those who fail do so because of not organizing of their time properly. I usually wake up at about 4 o'clock in the morning, and work until 7.30 in the evening.

\* If I were a minister of Information, I grant the people more freedom so as develop the official media. There is one more thing which I would like to do and that is to offer licenses for establishing private radio stations for this will expand the base of public contribution.

\* I don't desire to have any sort of official post for I don't want to be tied down by officialdom

\* I don't consider myself a politician. I have no affiliations with any political party. I formulate my own independent opinions.

\* Journalism is a noble profession, though it is a hard one. Who wants to get into public life should work hard

\* Unfortunately, most of the Yemeni journalists base their articles on rumors picked up and formulated at qat chewing sessions or the street.

\* I am pleased that the state is gradually becoming tolerant towards the non-governmental and opposition press.

\* We offer annual grants to students at the University of Sana'a to train in our office so as to learn how to be professional journalists.

\* The Consultative Council is a trust which I am proud of, and it is a platform from where I contribute something for the homeland.

\* The Yemeni society is a consumer society. It consumes more than it produces and more than its natural resources.

\* I call on all Yemeni intellectuals to work as hard as possible to gain the trust of the people.

\* It is important for the intellectuals who seek change and modernization to try to approach the authority and the president himself to try to work with him for in the future of the nation.

\* I sometimes face some embarrassing or critical situations, especially when I write articles about rectifying the country's conditions.



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- Collect, registers and maintains information on project activities by reviewing reports and through first-hand sources;
- Contribute in the preparation of status and progress reports by providing information, prepares tables and drafts selected of it, prepares background materials for use in discussion and briefing sections;
- Arrange for the recording and administrative processing of government requests for assistance;
- Participates in the identification and formulation of development cooperation projects and participates in the preparation of the draft documents;
- Monitors UNCDF program activities by receiving a variety of records, including control plans, progress reports, project inputs, budgets and final expenditures;
- Maintains processes and analysis information on subject matters relevant to the organization and on external assistance provided to the country by main sectors;
- Carries out specific administrative operation/control tasks for the program activities, when needed. This may include field visits to project sites;
- Provides support to the Gender in Development Task Force Team;
- Performs other duties as required.

### Qualification requirements

#### Knowledge & Skills:

First University Degree in Social Sciences. Proven Knowledge on project management, construction industry and environmental issues. Previous knowledge of UN organization desirable. Computer skills (Word, Excel and drawing program) required.

#### Experience:

Five years responsible for development work, of which at least one year was closely related to support of the international donor support programs in Yemen.

#### Language:

Good Knowledge of Arabic and English.

#### Work relationship:

Regular contacts inside and outside the organization and at times outside the duty station involving the exchange of a wide range of information.

#### Application of guidelines

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All Applications to be submitted to Deputy Resident Representative  
before 10 September 1997.

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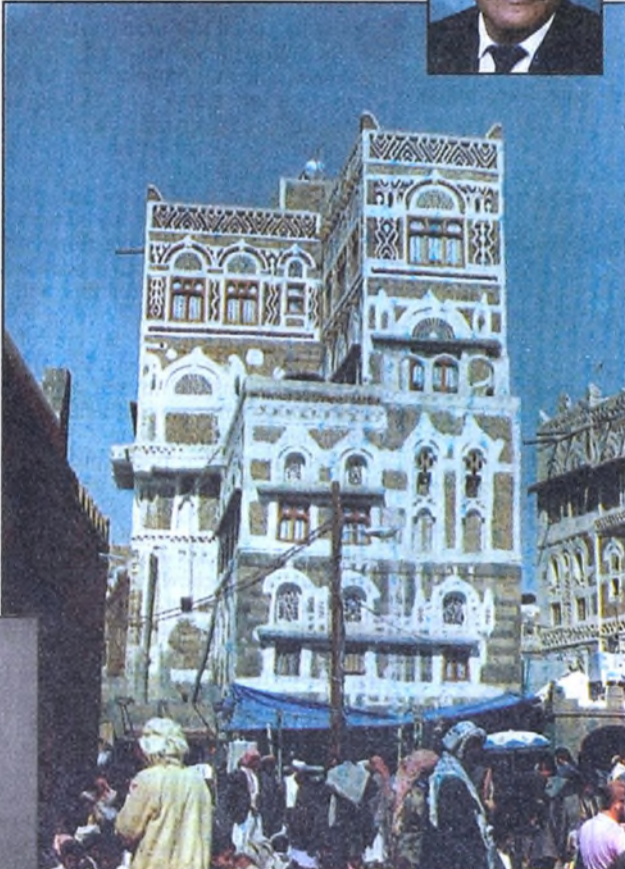
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## Yemen Times Gets a Professional Photographer

Yemen Times introduces a professional photographer who started his hobby during his early teens. He has a Diploma in photography from the Ray-Vogue College of Design in Chicago, Illinois. His great enthusiasm for photography made him pay his own study fees in the USA. Mr. Matook A. Ghaleb was born in Aden in 1952. As a reward for his success at the elementary school, his father bought him a Roliflex camera. So the bug hit at an early age. He started taking photographs of people and nature. Besides photography, he is an accomplished painter of portraits with pencil and charcoal. "I have drawn the portraits of former south Yemeni presidents Salem Rubaye Ali and Ali Nasser Mohammad," said Matook. He has one personal wish that is very dear to his heart. Organizing his own photographic exposition, is Matook's most cherished dream.



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