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# YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA • September 1st thru 7th, 1997

Vol. VII, Issue No. 35 • Price 30 Riyals



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## Streamlining the Customs System

The Yemeni Government, in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is busy putting the final touches on a new customs system. "We hope to unveil and implement the new system in less than one month," said Mohammed Al-Haboob, Chairman of the Customs Authority. What does the new system entail? It calls for simplification of the customs declaration form to two signatures. Coming down from some 78 signatures a few years back, this is quite an achievement.

The tariff structure will be simplified. All goods will be classified in four categories - the highest category is subject to a 25% duty, and the lowest to 5%. There will be built-in mechanisms to fight smuggling, including re-alignment of the goods and their tariffs.

Full text of interview on page 3

## Yemen Takes a Risk for Peace Yemen to Attend Doha Conference

The Republic of Yemen has decided to participate in the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit to be held in Doha, Qatar, in November. By taking this step, which has not been made public yet, "Yemen is taking a risk for the sake of peace" as one senior official told the Yemen Times. It will be noted that many Arab countries have announced that they intend to boycott the meeting. It is expected, however, that these governments will reverse themselves, especially if US Foreign Secretary Madeleine Albright is able to make the Netanyahu government see light and achieve some progress towards peace. She is scheduled to arrive in the region next week. One of the reasons for Yemen's positive decision is its excellent relations with Qatar.

## Confusion in the FX Market: The US Dollar Fetches 137 Riyals

The Yemeni Riyal has been losing ground steadily against the dollar. The US dollar exchange rate, in Riyals, has been increasing by one riyal a day. The rate, which has been stable around YR 128 per US dollar for over eight months, suddenly began to give way. On Saturday, August 30th, the rate was already YR 137 per dollar. The immediate result has been a run on the Riyal. Many business circles, which have commitments in dollars, scrambled to buy dollars, thus further weakening the national currency. The confusion became worse as the Central Bank of Yemen offered no real assurances as to the reasons behind the recent run on the riyal, or what it was planning to do to bolster it.

## 132 Persons with the President to Germany

On September 8th, President Ali Abdullah Saleh will leave for Germany on a 5-day state visit. Accompanying the President on this trip is a delegation of 132 persons. This large entourage includes ministers; members of the Consultative Council and House of Representatives; sheikhs; businessmen; journalists; military and security personnel; and many others.

## PGC Opens Dialogue with Opposition Parties

The People's General Congress (PGC) has invited opposition political parties to renewed talks. The aim of the talks is to find ways to cooperate and coordinate on issues of national concern. Dialogue between the PGC and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) is scheduled to start next week. A similar dialogue will start soon with the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), Tanzeem Al-Wahdawi Al-Sha'abi An-Nasseri and other opposition parties. "The purpose of the talks is twofold: First, although the PGC has a clear mandate to run the country for a 4-year term as a result of the April 1997 elections, there are issues that require a national effort. Second, as part of the political evolution of this country, we do need a code of honor which will govern the interaction of political parties," said Dr. Abdul-Hadi Al-Hadi, senior PGC member and Deputy Director of the President's Office. Among the key national issues to be covered are the on-going negotiations with Saudi Arabia regarding an agreement to define the border, and the progress of the economic reform package.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Question of Hadhramaut in Yemen's Administrative Divisions

The question of whether Hadhramaut will be divided into two governorates or remain intact was an issue of dispute and heated debate in the Consultative Council. On Sunday, August 31st, it finally voted to have two governorates in Hadhramaut. There is a lot of politics behind the position of the two sides. Let me explain.

#### Position 1: Unified Hadhramaut:

The first position is the one calling for a unified Hadhramaut. The reason given is simply that this is a historic entity and should remain intact.

Behind this facade, however, lies another and real reason. Those who want Hadhramaut as a unified single entity want to tell others that this governorate is special, almost to the extent of having its own distinct identity. If you accept this logic, then the next step is that Hadhramaut, may in the future, negotiate certain privileges within the country and even with neighboring countries. In other words, the possibility of breaking away, or threat of it, looms in the air.

#### Position 2: Dividing Hadhramaut:

The second position is the one calling for dividing Hadhramaut into at least two governorates. The reason given is that this is a geographically large governorate. As the capital of the governorate, Mukallah, is some 300-400 kilometers away from the hinterland, there is a lot of burden on the people. Behind this facade, however, lies the real reason. Those who want Hadhramaut divided worry about break-away sentiments. Hence they want to divide and rule. By breaking up the region, there is less chance of a unified break-away decision. If the people want to retain the name Hadhramaut, the solution is to use Hadhramaut Al-Sahel (Coastal Hadhramaut) and Hadhramaut Al-Dakhel or Hadhramaut Al-Wadi (Interior or Wadi Hadhramaut) as names for the two governorates.

To further complicate things, Yemeni opposition in exile, MOWJ, has just created The Committee for the Defence of a Unified Hadhramaut.

The rhetoric has been overwhelming, almost to the extent of intimidation. Any one who calls for dividing Hadhramaut is immediately branded as an agent of the regime, a traitor, or whatever. This form of blackmail comes from newspapers and writers of Hadhrami origin, but who do not live in Hadhramaut. Some of them may even have never set foot in Hadhramaut. Their position is that the rest of Yemenis have no business in deciding the fate of Hadhramaut. They actually say that. They see the zoning of Hadhramaut as a purely Hadhrami business. This, of course, is erroneous.

The zoning of Hadhramaut may concern the people in that governorate more than it concerns the rest of Yemenis, but it is certainly of concern to the whole country, especially given the political complications. By the same logic, the zoning of Taiz, Sa'adah or any other governorates is of concern, again to all Yemenis, although the people of the governorate may have more say in it.

In today's Yemen, many things are over-politicized, including this one. The vision is too blurred. The only way we can arrive at optimal and long-lasting solutions is by analyzing issues calmly and objectively.

*The Publisher*  


## YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



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## Civil Defense Course at Aden Mövenpick Hotel

A course in civil defense, including first aid and fire-fighting drills, was concluded at the Aden Mövenpick Hotel. The 2-week course in August, was conducted in coordination with the Civil Defense Directorate in Aden in order to train the hotel's employees and raise their awareness regarding civil defense procedures. 32 persons took part in the course.

The inauguration session of the course was attended by the Assistant Deputy Governor of Aden, Mr. Abdulkarim Shayif; the governorate's Director of Security, Mr. Mohammed Saleh Turaig; the General Director of Tourism in Aden, Mr. Ali Al-Imad; the Director of Civil Defense, Col. Ali Salim Azab; and the General Manager of the Aden Hotel, Mr. John Vouillamoz.

"The civil defense course at the Aden Mövenpick was very successful," said Col. Azab. The trainees were given practical, hands-on instructions on many aspects of civil defense. This is the 3rd such training course to be conducted after issuing the Civil Defense Law No. 4 for 1997. "Other courses are also planned in coordination with public and private sector organizations." Vouillamoz said, "There are 3 objectives behind this course: providing a reliable safety system for the hotel, assuring the guests of the efficiency of the safety procedures, and providing the essential precautions to minimize losses." He added, "Mövenpick is highly interested in providing the optimum of safety and security for its guests."



### Yemeni Private Sector Eyes Oil Investments

To encourage businessmen and entrepreneurs invest in the oil sector, the Deputy Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, Mr. Rashid Saleh Ba Rabba'a, met last week with the Mr. Jamal Mohammed Al-Mutarreb, Leading Member of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry. They discussed possible ways and means to attract and widen businessmen participation in the oil and natural gas sector. They also touched on establishing public-share investment companies for this purpose.

"The petroleum sector is ready and has all the necessary infrastructure for lucrative private investments," Mutarreb said.

### Artists' Syndicate to be Formed

A group of Yemen's leading artists and well-known painters met on Sunday 24th August to discuss forming a syndicate of plastic artists. A preparatory committee was formed for the purpose. The committee is headed by Hakim Al-Aqil and Dr. Abduljalil Al-Sorouri.

### Yemeni Novel in French Film

Mohammed Abdulwali's famous novel, "Sana'a: an Open City," is to appear as a movie by the French director Marc Hubert, who recently visited Yemen, scouting for filming locations. Abdulwali died in the infamous diplomats' airplane explosion in southern Yemen in the early '70s. He is considered to be a leading Yemeni novelist who also excelled in writing short stories. His Swedish wife and youngest daughter Fatima have recently visited Yemen.

### Birds of Yemen

*The Birds of Yemen* is the fruit of a joint effort of the Environment Protection Council and the International Birds Protection Organization. There are more than 370 species of birds in Yemen. Of these, 13 species are non-migrant. The book gives colored details of the features, habitat, feeding and mating habits of these birds. Limited quantities of the book will be available for schools.

### Royalist Yemeni Stamps on Auction in London

According to Andrew Condoez of Canada, the Phillips Auction House in London will be auctioning off 13,500,000 stamps in early October. The stamps had been ordered by the Royalists during the late 1960s.

### Consultative Council Briefed on Hunaish

The Consultative Council (CC) received a report on the country's position on Hunaish. The National Task Force on Hunaish, headed by Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, briefed the CC on the position presented by the country to the Court of Arbitration.

The 11-chapter presentation, which includes over 100 maps, is to be hand-delivered to the Arbitration Court today, Monday, September 1st, 1997.

In three months, the two countries will have to respond to the presentation of the other side.

In mid-March, 1998, face-to-face meetings will be held by the two sides for verbal consultation.

The Court is expected to issue its verdict, which is binding to the two countries, during July-August, 1998.

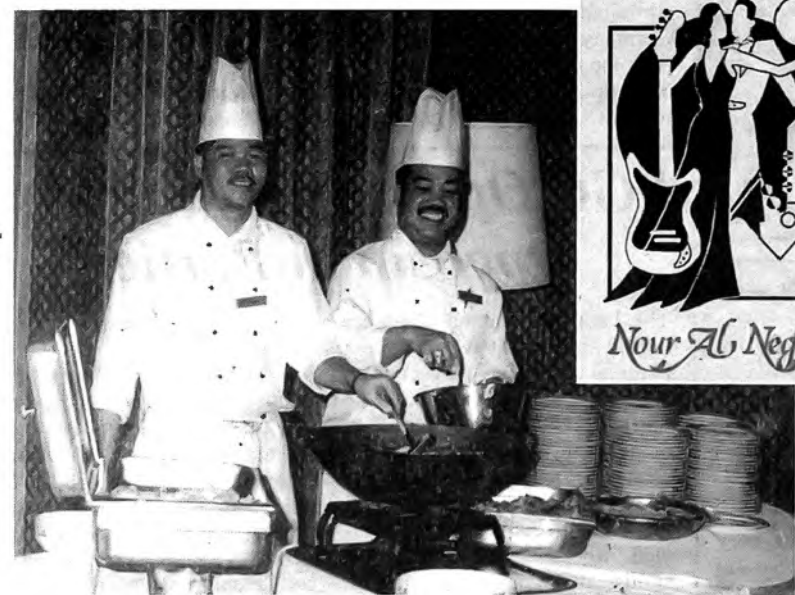
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## Mohammed Al-Haboob:

# “There will be a tariff differential between customs duty on raw materials and finished products to encourage local manufacturing.”

The on-going economic reforms are expected to set the course for a more vigorous development process. But different aspects of the reform package have made varying levels of progress.

The fiscal and monetary dimensions have probably made the greatest stride forward. One aspect of this dimension is the reforms of the customs system. Customs have invariably created inefficiencies. They were a tool to block trade, they created price distortion - at least in comparison between local and imported products thus leading to smuggling, they were responsible for a lot of corruption - given the licensing mechanism and other administrative and bureaucratic requirements, etc.

Recent tax/customs measures have led to an uproar in the local industrial and manufacturing community.

Now the government is working to change all that. A new customs system has been developed in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund. This will go into effect starting from October, 1997.

What is the new system like? What are the main changes and how will they affect trade and manufacturing? How will these changes affect consumers?

These and other questions were on the mind of the Yemen Times reporter, Al-Izzy As-Selwi, when he interviewed Mr. Mohammed Al-Haboob, Chairman of the Customs Authority.

Mr. Al-Haboob is an old hand in the field. He first joined the Ministry of Finance in 1968, possibly at the age of 15. A graduate of economics from Kuwait University, Mohammed has both the experience and skill to lead the Customs Authority.

Excerpts:

**Q: Could you tell us the background to the reforms in the Customs Authority?**

**A:** Like many government organizations, we in the Customs Authority (CA) needed a bold stand in order to face up to our problems, difficulties, and corruption. This is related to the laws, regulations and the behavior of individuals working here. The approach and efforts of the CA were not in line with the government's drive to introduce measures conducive to growth and efficiency.

So, there was need that the CA shape up. And that we have been doing vigorously. Next month, we shall announce drastic new measures. You can really say we will have a new system.

**Q: Before we go into the new system, we need some basic data. For example, how many people work for the CA? What are the customs revenues? etc.**

**A:** We have about 3,200 persons working for the CA. We actually need about half this number. So, part of the reform package is to downsize the manpower.

In terms of revenue, we collected some YR 17 billion in customs revenue in 1995. The figure for 1996 was YR 26 billion. In the first half of this year (1997), we collected YR 14-15 billion.

**Q: Let us now go to the reform measures. What are the main highlights?**

**A:** In accordance with state's general policy of economic, financial and administrative reforms, we have reviewed many of the customs statutes and regulations. The overall trend is to reduce the tariff bands, reduce the tariff rates, and reduce the bureaucracy.

As you may know, we had already decreased the bands of customs tariffs from 21, then to 15 and finally to 7 only. Next month, there will only be four bands. That means that all commodities will be grouped within these bands for tariff purposes.

The rates have also been decreased. You remember we used to have rates of 200%. The maximum tariff rate levied on any commodity was then reduced to 70%. Next month, the maximum tariff to be levied will only be 25%.

The paperwork required for customs clearance will be enormously reduced. First of all, the importer or citizen will fill up the customs declaration form him/herself. Then, he/she requires only two signatures to get on his/her way.

Of course, the law stipulates strict penalties if the importer/citizen fills in wrong information. We are also re-aligning some of the contradictions and shortcomings in the tariff rates.

**Q: Could you give us examples of these shortcomings?**

**A:** For example, if you import medicine (tablets) in a plastic container it would be subject to a 5% tariff. If the same medicine is brought in liquid form to be filled in plastic containers locally, then it would fall under the 30% tariff! Such flaws in the system must be addressed. Another example has to do with the duties imposed on raw materials and on the finished products from which they are made. They are both subject to the same tariff, which is detrimental to local manufacturing.

**Q: What do you intend to do in this respect?**

**A:** Raw materials must be placed in a different tariff band, which is at least 5% lower than the tariff on finished goods.

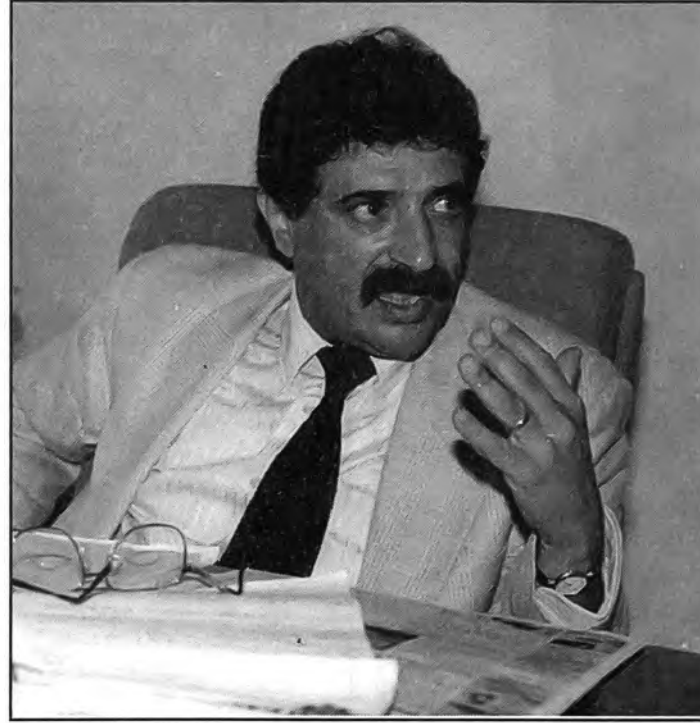
**Q: There is another major problem in Yemen. Local products are subject to a production tax which is more than the consumption tax levied on competitive imports. This has hurt value added in Yemen. What do you say?**

**A:** I am aware of this issue. It is one of the problems we plan to correct. We are working to replace the two taxes with a unified sales tax. I think local products, if the value added is higher than a certain percentage, may even benefit from a 5-10% edge or advantage.

**Q: Smuggling of goods is a real headache. What is being done in this regard?**

**A:** You are right, smuggling is a big problem. In the new system, several steps have been taken to address this matter.

1. First, the maximum tariff rate



has been reduced to a ceiling of 25%. This makes it less attractive for smugglers.

2. The procedures for clearance have been drastically reduced.

3. We have taken the 20 goods that are mostly smuggled, and have subjected them to much lower customs rates.

We also aim to limit smuggling by reducing the margin of cost between smuggled goods and goods imported through official inlets. We are taking several measures in this regard. First, we aim to simplify procedures. People often complain of long-winded bureaucracy. We are doing this in cooperation with the IMF, but with our full and free will. We express our opinions. If the IMF suggestions are better, we follow them, otherwise we follow our own. There is no imposition of ideas or opinions. We are also reducing the number of officials concerned with customs procedures. The new customs declaration carries the signatures of two officials only. We are proceeding forth with reform. We'll never give up.

**Q: Let us dwell a bit on smuggling. Influential people are able to bring in goods without paying customs duty?**

**A:** No, no way. Absolutely not. The law is fully implemented on all citizens without any partiality or favoritism.

**Q: Allow me to give you a recent example. Reports say that Sheikh Naji Abdulaziz Al-Shayif brought in lots of goodies without paying customs duty?**

**A:** Those reports are false. He fully paid the duties.

**Q: What are the main inlets for smugglers?**

**A:** The most infamous inlet is the Buga'a area along the Saudi border. Other entry points for smuggled goods are Al-Mokha seaport and the shoreline extending from Bab al-Mandab all the way to Shuqra.

**Q: What about the airports?**

**A:** Smuggling can and does take place through airports, but the volumes are small.

**Q: What commodities are mostly smuggled?**

**Q: We heard tobacco is a major problem?**

**A:** Yes, I remember we used to collect a lot of revenue on raw tobacco imports. Unfortunately, most of it is now smuggled.

**Q: Corruption is a major issue in the CA. Can you give us some insight?**

**A:** As a revenue body, we suffer from this problem. Corruption exists for many reasons. It could be attributed to individuals or to flaws in the laws and statutes. But, I can tell you frankly that we have been able to severely limit this phenomenon. We have at least stopped its growth.

**Q: Have you taken action against any corrupt individual?**

**A:** Yes, some of our employees were sacked, others were frozen, and several were transferred to other duties.

**Q: Can you be specific? How many? What ranks?**

**A:** About 50 employees were sacked. These are at all levels of responsibility.

Another 15-20 have been referred to the attorney-general's office to account for irregularities.

The whole department of controls, including the general manager, have been penalized.

**Q: Have you personally been approached for bribery?**

**A:** Yes, many times. Of course, the approach starts timidly. If you respond positively, it becomes more open. If you brush the offer aside quietly, it is as if it never happened.

**Q: Have you been subjected to any form of blackmail or pressure to break the law?**

**A:** Yes. I work myself out of such situations peacefully, especially if the person is influential, aggressive or a senior member of the regime. But I never give-in. I

often ask them to get me explicit orders from superior officials.

**Q: There was talk about establishing a customs police force under the orders of the CA?**

**A:** Yes, I know, and I am dead set against it. Many times, such forces would run out of control. They would themselves then guide smuggling efforts.

I am in favor of training our civilian personnel in enforcement efforts, in collaboration with the relevant forces in the Ministry of Interior.

**Q: We have observed in our cities Gulf car plate numbers in the summer. Presumably they are tourists or Yemenis who live there. This is a new customs arrangement?**

**A:** We have embarked on a very bold and enterprising step. We have signed agreements with the Gulf countries for using the international traffic line. This summer, around 12,000 cars have come to Yemen. The benefit is not only in terms of taxes, but also in their expenditures on accommodation and other services. It is a good business for the country.

**Q: Would you like to add anything else?**

**A:** I am very proud of being at the helm of an organization where reform and modernization are taking place. The customs organ was regarded by many as a den of corruption. Because they relied on ill-gotten money, some customs employees used to neglect their official salaries. We are working hard to eliminate this bad reputation.

Many things have been achieved. Tax levying has been introduced at Sana'a Airport. Those with the right contacts used to be able to pass through without any questions. People without backing used to have their goods held, and sometimes lost at the airport.

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**UK Ambassador Highlights Strong Association:**

**Another Milestone in Yemeni-British Relations**

UK Ambassador in Yemen, Douglas Scrafton, spoke about the strong past association between Yemen and his country. He then used that platform to highlight the growing relations between the two countries.

There were two major occasions that prompted the ambassador's remarks who was speaking in a press conference on Wednesday 27 August 1997. The forthcoming visit of HRH the Duke of Gloucester at the head of a business delegation representing 29 companies; and the coming inauguration of the Yemen Festival in the UK.

"Our bilateral relationship is a long and historic one. And this has developed very satisfactorily in the last few years," he said. The ambassador then noted that there were 70,000 British nationals of Yemeni origin, making them the largest Arab community in the UK. "They play an important role in the life of Britain, today," he added. He then described the Yemeni Festival, which will be inaugurated on September 17th, as an opportunity to teach the British people a little more about Yemen. The exhibition showing aspects of life of the Yemeni community in Britain, which the British Council has put together, will be

an important element in the festival. Part of the exhibition will be brought to Yemen.

Then shifting to the more practical nature of the cooperation, Ambassador Scrafton disclosed that 29 British businessmen representing major British companies led by the Duke of Gloucester, the cousin of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, will visit Yemen shortly.

"The purpose is to explore oppor-



tunities for cooperation in the economic and commercial life of Yemen."

The Ambassador then disclosed another event which will take place early next year. "A group of British businessmen from the tourism sector will visit Yemen. This is a step toward helping develop the tourism sector."



Then spoke Mr. Ahmed Suleiman, Senior Export Promoter at the Department of Trade and Industry in Britain. He was on a short visit to Yemen.

"The size of British exports to Yemen is estimated to be 75 million Pounds Sterling; while, UK

imports from Yemen are valued at nearly 11 million Pounds Sterling. Mr. Ahmed Suleiman added that DTI is eager to enhance commercial relations with Yemen. He indicated that many activities will be held in London on investment finance in oil, gas, tourism and developing the Port of Aden.

Then, Dr. Muhammad Al-Qubati spoke on behalf of the Yemeni British Friendship Association

pointing out that the last four years have witnessed tremendous development in the relationship and cooperation between the two countries. "I would like to pay tribute to H.E. Douglas Scrafton for his contribution in this turn-around of events." He also pointed to the active cultural role of the British Council, and thanked the director, Mr. Brendan McSharry.

On that note, Mr. McSharry announced that the British Council's branch in Khormaksar, Aden, shall be opened by HRH the Duke of Gloucester on the 2nd of October 1997. "It will provide educational and cultural services," he said.

By: *Matook Ghaleb, Yemen Times*

**New World Orientation Gives Private Sector More Role in Business**

The legal framework for Yemen's privatization drive has been completed. Now it is implementation time.

That was the message and mood that prevailed in the 3-day conference organized by the Ministry of Planning and Development. Participants in the conference were many Yemeni business, academic and government circles, as well as international organizations, such as the Adam Smith Institute in London, in addition to international organizations, such as the UNIDO, UNDP, and others.

In the first day, the topics discussed were purely of general and theoretical nature - the meaning of privatization, why and how it is done, and other conceptual issues.

On the second and third days, more practical applications were discussed, especially with reference to Yemen. One of the key points raised on this matter was the structure of company/corporate ownership. "If Yemen were to introduce a financial market in which shares can be exchanged - a stock market - then open, public share-holding companies can emerge. This facilitates privatization of large government enterprises," explained Dr. Saleem Al-Tamimi, Advisor at the Ministry of Planning and Development.

Dr. Yahia Al-Mutawakkil, Head of the Technical Office of the Ministry of Industry, emphasized the need for tailor-made approaches for each country, or even for each sector or project. "There is no single answer to all cases. We should address the peculiarities of each case."

Another key issue discussed was the fate of the workers and employees of privatized companies. "In most cases, the new owner does not want to be saddled with excessive labor, and the pension and other rights that have been accumulated over the years. Firing them is a problem, especially in a country that already has a major unemployment problem," said one of the businessmen.

"The way government assets are sold to the private sector has raised many eye-brows in our short experiment in Yemen," said Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Saedi, Director of the Technical Office at the Ministry of Trade and Supply. He was referring to the media reports on corruption and insider trading. "We are now completing studies on all the government companies and corporations to assess their values," he added.



The Republic of Yemen plans to sell off some 19 large government corporation in the beginning of 1998. The government is looking at various approaches to the sale process.

One alternative is to establish shares for the total estimated value, and sell them off to buyers. No single buyer can buy more than a certain maximum number of shares, for example 10% of the total value of the company.

Another alternative calls for selling off part of the company to the employees and workers. This way they will have a stake in the profitability of the company.

Yet another alternative would be to sell the assets through open public bids. Whatever the approach, it will definitely be scrutinized by the parties.

By: *Ahlam Al-Mutawakkil, Yemen Times.*

**American Airlines Agents' Seminar & Dinner - '97**

American Airlines (AA) seeking to enhance its market share and promote greater awareness in the Yemeni market, held its annual agents seminar and dinner, at the Taj Sheba Hotel, on the 20th August 1997.

Top selling agents and some airline representatives participated in the seminar, which started

with short video shows featuring different service enhancements on AA.

This was followed by a slide presentation by the AA manager, Mr. M. Wasiull Azeem, which emphasized the unique features and services available on AA, particularly to passengers from the Middle East, connecting through AA European points,



trans-Atlantically to its vast network in the Western hemisphere.

AA currently has more than 250 non-stop flights a week, across the Atlantic, from 13 European airports to 6 gateways in the USA. Its vast operations from the UK includes 6 daily flights from Heathrow airport to JFK in New York alone, besides flights to other destinations such as Chicago, Dallas, Miami, etc.

The very popular Visit USA (VUSA) fares, were also emphasized for the audience, as they provide for a very economic way to see and visit a lot of places in the US, including Hawaii, besides the Caribbean, Mexico and Canada. This is interesting for tourists and businessmen alike.

Earlier Mr. Omar M. Omar, GM, had welcomed the guests and thanked them for their support. He also urged

them to sell more on AA, given the added selling opportunities, which are available now.

The highlight of the evening were two free tickets to the US, which were drawn in a lucky draw, and won by Mr. Hani Albeidh of Ilias Travel and Mr. Mohammed Abdul Aziz of Emirates.

The evening came to end with a delicious dinner for all participants.



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

## Seven Years After the Mass Return of Yemeni Workers in the Gulf



By: Aneesa Ghanim

The 1973 hike in oil prices, triggered an enormous economic activity in the oil-exporting countries thus inviting immigrant labor. Yemen provided a significant part of the needed workforce to implement development projects in the Gulf region. At one stage, there were some 2.5 million Yemenis working in the Gulf states, the majority were in Saudi Arabia.

According to a Saudi government circular, the total number of Yemeni workers in the Kingdom reached to 1.5 million in 1988. Immigration during that time and up to 1990 was random and in great numbers. They migrated from both urban and rural areas seeking job opportunities to eke out a good living. We can say that the 17-year period (1974-1990) were the golden years for Yemeni immigrant labor. Although this same period had its cyclical ups and downs, Yemeni laborers were able to find good-paying jobs thus enabling them to save enough to make personal and business investments in Yemen.

### THE TRAGEDY:

Then came the tragic blow. Saddam decided to take over Kuwait. That led to a tremendous exodus. A total of some one million Yemeni workers suddenly found themselves

pushed out. They hurriedly packed whatever they could and made the dash to Yemen. Seven years passed on the second Gulf War and its consequences. In August, 1990, from Kuwait alone some 20,000 Yemeni workers were forced to return to their country.

In the first month since Saddam's adventure in Kuwait, some 100,000 to 120,000 Yemenis were forced out. In the next three months, the average daily exit of Yemeni fell to 40,000 expatriates and their families.

Two factors in Yemen enticed the Yemenis to leave rather than put up with the new difficulties. First, in those days Yemen was living its festivals of unification. The air was filled with optimism with the grand deed of May 22nd, 1990. Second, the discovery of oil in Yemen was reported extensively in the local, regional and international media. The workers wrongly concluded that work opportunities must have improved in Yemen.

Thus the tragedy was consummated. The Gulf officials pushed out the Yemeni workers in retaliation to the position taken by the politicians ruling over Sanaa. Nearly one million immigrant workers started arriving in Yemen during last

week, seven years ago. The Yemeni economy immediately plunged into a crisis. The negative economic, social, educational impact was felt all over the country.

### SOCIAL IMPACTS:

The outcome of this mass return of laborers was severe and immediate on the returnees as well as the general population of the country. All of a sudden, the nation was forced to cope with people, some of whom were not Yemenis, in terms of social values. Some of the returnees talked and acted like Saudis, to say the least. Those who were part of large tribes were quickly taken in and assimilated. Those who were either from marginal tribes, or who were cut off for a long time, were stuck in camps. The world donor community tried to help, by providing minimal assistance, on which they survived.

Thus were born the large returnee camps along the Tihama, notably in the outskirts of Haradh, Hodeidah, Bajil, etc. It was estimated that some 200,000 people were in those camps. One of the camps, the Salakhahah in Hodeidah, was packed with 45,000 persons. With time the numbers dwindled, and the temporary huts and shacks became of a more permanent nature. There were additional complications.

For one thing, the returnees who were stuck were of darker skin. In a society that is still beholden to class distinction, the social problems of a large number of 'inferior-class' did not command priority in government action and decision.

At another level, the majority of these people were illiterate and had no skills. Thus, the market did not make room for them. Only 7% of these people were technically qualified. Finally, nearly half of the returnees were either children or women. These are dependents who required bread-winners. These factors led to enormous social problems.

### ECONOMIC IMPACT:

During the oil boom in the seventies and eighties, the former Yemen Arab Republic used to

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received annual remittances of around US\$ 1.5 - 2 billion. The former PDRY received less transfers, but still sizeable. The nation was thus able to build up reserves. At one stage, the former YAR's reserves exceeded US\$ 1.3 billion with the IMF alone. That income was gone, with the return of the workers.

Yemen used to receive generous bilateral and multilateral aid from the Gulf countries. The total annual aid package was around US\$ 650 million. This was lost. Yemen also lost some of the aid it used to get from the West, notably the USA. American assistance which had grown to some US\$ 26 million annually, was cut back to about \$2 million. Other countries also cut back their assistance.

The economic difficulties increased, and further complicated the demands of reunification.

Unemployment rose to a phenomenal 35%. Poverty increased and vulnerable groups - children and women - were the first to

suffer. The nation witnessed malnutrition eat away its young. The infrastructure was being eroded. The utilities were decaying. The services, especially education and health, fell to unworkable levels. Economic growth was negative. IN other words, the per capita income of Yemenis was falling. The Riyal, our national currency, tumbled, and tumbled.

Rather than come to grips with the issues, the politicians decided to print more money, leading to even more complications and hardships.

That is why the country today has to bite the bullet and accept hard reform measures.

### THE FUTURE:

We are a nation of emigrants. History shows the constant outflow of human-power from Yemen to other lands, mostly in search of better opportunities.

In the foreseeable future, a mass exodus is not possible. Therefore, we have a reprieve. There is time to coordinate this phenomenon. One way of doing this is through exchanged agreements between our government and others.

The purpose should be to reduce the risks which the emigrants face. To some extent, expatriate workers who come to Yemen can also benefit from these agreements. The agreements will simply outline the rights and duties, and offer some sort of commitment to protect the professional, economic, financial rights of the expatriates in the framework of laws governing our world today.

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Mr. Zaid presents his deep thanks and gratitude to Prof. Dr. M. J. Lentze for his kindness and extensive help offered to his son Ali who suffers from insufficient Growth Hormons.

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## A Case Study of Development in Marib:

# AGRICULTURE IN SARWAH

By: Hassan Al-Zayidi

Agriculture is considered the basic livelihood of the inhabitants of Sarwah. Sarwah is in Mareb governorate, about 40 km west of the city of Mareb.

While we were driving west to Sirwah, we passed by a deserted area. There were some tents scattered here and there. These are the "beduins" or nomads. They are herdsmen moving from one place to another, always in search of pasture land and water where they camp. They put up their tents and settle for a while, and then move on again.

The land occupied by these herdsmen is so vast and very suitable for agriculture. They are near the Mareb Dam which reserves large quantities of water to irrigate the lands. Here and there, many cultivating lands, as well as remains of floods, can be seen.

We stopped by a farmer named Saleh Bin Saleh Shuweel. He has summarized the following points to us:

I inherited these lands from my father and the rest I purchased from our folks. Those lands you passed by near the Dam are fertile and owned by the tribes. The land is jointly owned and not divided among the tribesmen. If these lands are divided, there is no way to cultivate them. We do farming according to our capability.

The land is controlled by three clans, namely: Aal Tuaiman, Aal Duhairij and Aal Ali Bin Falah. Each clan distributes the yield as per the number of each family and its contribution in time of any disaster. My farm is irrigated from the well using water pumps.

The water passes through plastic pipes from which it goes to the plantation. We used plastic hoses because we cannot afford to buy galvanized pipes.

We don't earn much; just enough to support our families with basic needs. Sometimes, we borrow money if a water-pump breaks down.

Saleh Bin Saleh grows coffee and citrus. He used to plant vegetables such as tomatoes. But this sometimes gets destroyed by the cold weather. He also has apple and orange orchards, which generate some income.

Concerning the tools he uses Saleh said that hand shovel, scythe and plough are used during irrigation, seed-planting and ploughing. Sometimes, a tractor is used but the harvest never turns out good.

When Saleh was asked about the problems he encounters as a farmer, he answered, "Cold weather and floods are a farmer's worst enemies in these regions." He indicated that farmers gather the soil for years, only to be wiped off by floods. "For almost ten years we carried the soil, and then when the floods came, the soil was carried-off." Then, come insects, pests, and earthworms which destroy the small plants.

We drove on, and met another farmer working on a farm located in Sarwah.

His name is Hassan Salem Al-Abd who said that he has been working on the farm with Uncle Yahya for almost seven years. The farm grows oranges, apples, and qat. A part of the land was reserved to grow tomatoes and

wheat in its season. Hassan said that apples, oranges, qat and tomatoes provide good income if they are protected from diseases. He added that the land suffers from many diseases; the oranges from honey-dews, tomatoes from grasshoppers and worms, and apples from white ants (termites). Hassan said that they have used all kinds of insecticides, pesticides, vermicides and parasiticides. But no results except that these chemicals have destroyed the plants, while the diseases continue to spread.

"After repeated failures, we quit using those pesticides. They had no effect, except the tremendous costs. Each bottle of these chemicals costs five thousands riyals." Hassan said that the Ministry of Agriculture has built a branch-office to provide agricultural advice, but that the office was never operational since the construction was completed.

"On one occasion, my Uncle brought two guys from Marib with their pick-up equipped with spray machine. He bought some chemicals in the amount of 25,000. The two men sprayed the plantation all day. They were hosted by us lavishly. The result was disappointing as the honey dews doubled as if in defiance. The orange trees were destroyed totally."

Asked why they do not grow potatoes, Hassan replied that they tried to plant watermelon, but the melons decayed on the farm, as no one would purchase them given inferior quality. The melons were given to the goats and we decided not to repeat the experience of growing such crops anymore as they require excellent soil and seeds.



We drove on still further. We met another farmer named Ali Hassan Al-Zayidi who is no longer a farmer. We found that he had drilled a water well on a land he had purchased eight years ago. His comments were that he drilled the well to the depth of fifty meters and procured a water pump of 24 horse power for the amount of 150,000 riyals. But the water was salty.

Ali had another problem. He found a strange smell coming out from his farm. It smelled like diesel. He observed some dark stains and spots on the soil. Later, the plants became stiff and died. Ali decided to quit farming and sold his water pump.

Our last interview was with Hassan Ahmed Al-Zaidi who owns a farm. He is an educated person, as well. He gladly answered our questions and provided us the following information.

Generally I grow citrus items such as apples, oranges, pomegranates and some vegetables as tomatoes wheat and qat. 30% of the lands is occupied, at present. Generally, farmers are sustaining loss at the end of each harvest time because buying materials for farming are expensive in the market such as fertilizers and insecticides. When we calculate

no profit is discovered. Moreover, continued breakdowns of the water-pump due to rust require maintenance and repair. The price of each galvanized pipe costs (20,000.-) while the spare parts are costly because of dollar rate. Hasan stated that they knew the Ministry of Agriculture has built an agricultural advisory office in the directorate but no services whatsoever were extended to the farmers. The center is locked since the year 1993. Regarding the methods used to fight all insects and worms, Hasan says that all traditional and modern ways were used but nothing was achieved.

The chemicals sold in the markets are of expired date and the natives in the district are illiterates. Husain commented about the Bank of Credit, that he had never and ever heard that a native has been awarded a loan. Hasan addressed a message to the Ministry of Agriculture to deploy experts

and Advisors of agriculture to the directorate and to establish a project of an artesian well and to provide farmers with substances and materials they need and the amounts be refunded later installments so that the situation of plantations be developed and enhanced. I have thought, Hasan said, of establishing a cooperative association but this project needed capabilities and the financial status of the farmers does not allow to execute this project. Nothing was seen in this district of Sarwah that can help promoting agricultural activities.

By:  
Hassan Saeed Al-Zayidi



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The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF/UNDP) and is implemented by the Environment Protection Council (EPC) and the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The main objective of the project is to prepare a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, with the wide participation of government non-government institutions, and stockholders. The project will enable the Government of Yemen to fulfill parts of its obligations under the International Convention on Biological Diversity.

#### Tasks of the Coordinator:

- \* Ensure the timely and effective implementation of all components of the projects;
- \* Assist and coordinate with EPC and IUCN in all aspects of the project activities at the national and local levels, in close cooperation with concerned Ministries, UNDP and NGOs.
- \* Facilitate and act as rapporteur of the Project Steering Committee meetings. Prepare monthly, quarterly and bi-annual and final technical reports for UNDP, EPC and IUCN.

#### Qualifications:

- \* A minimum of MSc. degree in Biology, Wildlife Conservation, or any Environmental Science, with ten years of experience in the management of conservation of biodiversity;
- \* Proven track record in management as well as the ability to work with experts, multi-government institutions, NGOs, and international organizations;
- \* Ability to deliver (some times under pressure) reports, both finance and management, of high quality standards;
- \* Fluent in English and Arabic. Excellent writing and communication skills in both languages. Familiarity with computer applications.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with detailed curriculum vitae to:  
Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sanaa.

Applications should be received no later than 10th September, 1997.

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

Abuse of the System of Referral Letters:**Rural Health Center Lose their Role as Service Points**

Dr. Ahmed Abdulaziz Noman\*

**BACKGROUND:**

In the Republic of Yemen, there are several levels at which medical services are provided to the public. The most basic service is provided at the level of medical units. Here some emergency, deliveries, family planning, nutrition, and vaccination services are dispensed. These units are located in villages in the countryside. Villagers, however, often by-pass them to go to health centers, because the units are often manned (or womanned) by a nurse.

The health centers are often located in small towns and secondary cities, which are gateways to the countryside. Here, there are usually general practitioners or physicians who offer various kinds of services. Except for major surgeries and operations, the health centers are supposed to cater to the needs of the public.

Unfortunately, over the last several years, the health centers have been simply passing on the job to the major hospitals, which are in the major cities. They have developed what is now known as the letter referral system. This is exactly what the name implies - the patient is given a letter by the health center to go to the hospital.

Unfortunately, there has been a dramatic deterioration in the role and service of health centers. The health centers' excuse is that they do not have the equipment, facilities, drugs, and even skilled personnel. The solution, thus, has been to pass on the job.

**THE PROBLEM:**

I have gone on short visits to some of the health centers in trying to understand why is it the general practitioners have difficulty in arriving at correct



diagnosis and treatment of illnesses. Why do they make mistakes, even in the service they provide - writing referral letters.

Basically, the factors that lead to poor quality referral letters are, in my mind, the following:-

- 1- Bad handwriting and grammar.
- 2- Incomplete information.
- 3- The physician's ignorance of the importance of mentioning negative as well as positive findings.
- 4- Poor medical knowledge and skills on part of the physicians.
- 5- Weak interpretation of laboratory tests due to the weak skills and qualifications of laboratory technicians.
6. Absence of records of the environmental and medical conditions of the area.
7. Absence of records of the patients.

environmental and medical conditions of the area.

**THE CONSEQUENCES:**

The result of poor quality referral letters are:

1. The over-crowding of hospitals.
2. The expected benefits of referrals from public health care centers to hospitals are negligible, as hospitals are over loaded with cases that could have been managed at the health centers.
3. The health center physicians gradually lose their medical knowledge and skills as they refer almost all cases to the hospitals.
4. Patients lose confidence in and refuse to go to health care centers, seeking services directly at the hospitals. In some cases, the patients pack up and go abroad rather than the city hospitals.
5. Referral letters lose their value as an important means for communication between physicians at centers and hospitals. The hospital specialist end up not taking into consideration referral letters and

does not answer them.

6. Of course, the cost to the patients, and to society at large, are enormous.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. The health center general physician is the starting point of any corrective measures. First, referral letters must be used only in cases where the service cannot be locally provided. In this case, the referral letter must be a complete file.

That means patients must carry ideal referral letters which include the following information:

- a- General information
- b- PMH
- c- Vital Signs
- d- Complaints of Patient
- e- Examination Findings
- f- Investigations
- g- Diagnosis
- h- Treatment, if any
- i- Place and need for referral
- j- Request for Feedback.

2. Programs must be introduced for continuous medical education and training of the physicians at public health centers to update and refresh their information.

3. Whatever new equipment and maintenance for them must be provided for. Adequate allocations are important for the centers to do their job.

4. Proper use of the centers' laboratory and pharmacy facilities must be made before referral letters are written.

5. The medical profession must introduce good data

base compilation and documentation.

6. The Ministry of Health must introduce a good system of checks and balances to control the level and quality of service.

7. Enabling private medical services to function side by side, especially in the countryside.

8. Introducing consumer protection efforts among the citizens through better legal awareness.

\* Dr. Ahmed A. Noman is a general practitioner at the Police General Hospital, Sana'a.

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**PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE****Republic of Yemen****Ministry of Water and Electricity****National Water and Sanitation Authority****Water Loss Reduction Program in Al-Mukalla and Taiz**

The National Water & Sanitation Authority (NWSA) of the Republic of Yemen; Sana'a, requests prequalification data for the Water Rehabilitation Projects from locally registered firms which can qualify through experience with projects of similar type and magnitude. Such experience must have been gained by firms over the past 5 years and should preferably include substantial work in Yemen and/or Middle Eastern countries. Tender document including instruction to bidders, general and special conditions of contract, schedules and bill of quantities are expected to be available in October 1997.

The site of the work are the cities of Taiz and Al-Mukalla, as follows:

**Al-Mukalla city:**

- Laying of about 13 kilometers of water pipelines in district Al Omal - pipe diameter DN80 to DN200.
- Construction of 10 No of water-tight manholes.
- Repair of detected leaks.
- Construction of 2 tanker filling stations.
- 1 pipe bridge with length of 72 meters.
- The renovation of administration building, cleaning and fencing of NWSA yard.

**Taiz city:**

- Rehabilitation of about 34 kilometers of the existing water distribution network including the replacement of above 24 km pipes with a diameter DN80 to DN300.
- Installation of valves, air valves and water meters.
- Repair of detected leaks

The anticipated construction period is for 5 months commencing from the 1st quarter of 1998. The works will be divided into small contracts.

Companies interested in participating in these tenders and with suitable experience in this field of work may obtain the tender documents starting from 16-8-97 through 2 weeks, at the cost of YR 2600, non-refundable fees from the following address:

**NATIONAL WATER AND SANITATION AUTHORITY**

**HEAD OFFICE, AMRAN ROAD, SANA'A**

**P. O. BOX: 104; TELFAX: 25 15 36**

**CES CONSULTANT OFFICE P.O.Box 55724**

**REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TELFAX: 04 - 22 85 35**

**or CES CONSULTANT AL MUKALLA OFFICE P.O.Box: 8684**

**REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TELFAX : 05 - 303948**

**VACANCIES**

NWSA is preparing Sana'a Water and Sanitation Project and has requested the World Bank (International Development Association) for obtaining a credit to partly finance this project. NWSA now seeks applications by qualified and experienced candidates, of Yemeni nationality, for the positions of:

- a) Project Manager, who will head the [Project Implementation Unit (PIU)].
- b) Core staff for (PIU) for the above mentioned project.

**Minimum Qualifications for Project Manager:**

- i) Bachelor's degree.
- ii) Minimum 10 years experience in water and sanitation sector.
- iii) Minimum 5 years experience as project Manager with/or similar assignment.
- iv) Good working knowledge of English Language.
- v) Familiarity with IDA financed projects.
- vi) Capability to provide leadership to Project Implementation Unit (PIU)
- vii) Good interpersonal skills.

Others staff of (PIU) include the following:

- I) Project Engineer.
- II) Project Accountants.
- III) Procurement/Officer.
- IV) Executive Secretary.

**Project Engineers:**

Minimum Qualification:

- i) Bachelor's Degree in engineering.
- ii) 5 years practical project experience.
- iii) Good working knowledge in English and report writing.
- iv) Good interpersonal skills.

**Procurement Officer:**

- i) Graduate degree in Eng./Science.
- ii) 5 years experience in IDA financed projects procurement actions.
- iii) Good working knowledge in English.
- iv) Familiarity with computer skills.

**Accountants:**

Minimum Qualifications:

- i) Degree/Diploma in Finance/Accounting.
- ii) 5 years experience in International Project Finance preferably IDA project.
- iii) Good knowledge of International project finance procedures.
- iv) Good working knowledge in English and report writing.
- v) Familiarity with computer skills in Accounting and Finance
- vi) Good interpersonal skills.

**Secretary:**

- i) Degree or Diploma from a university.
- ii) 3 years experience in latest computer skills for office Technology.
- iii) Good working knowledge in English.

Applications are to be submitted within one week of this announcement.



## "Baboons are not mean. If you respect them, they'll respect you."

Derek Wildman is doing part of his Ph.D. thesis in anthropology in Yemen. The purpose is to better understand the historical biogeography of Yemeni mammals, and in particular, the hamadryas baboon. Derek, 30, is a graduate fellow of the New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology. Adel J. Moqbil of Yemen Times met Mr. Wildman to talk about his research. Excerpts:



**Q: Why are you doing research in Yemen?**

**A:** Yemen is a biological crossroads. Besides the species of life that are unique to Yemen such as some birds, Yemen hosts species that are also known from the Mediterranean, Asia, and Africa. Therefore, biologically speaking, Yemen is like a bus station, with animals and plants from all the different continents coming and going in different directions.

I am particularly interested in how and when mammal species migrated from Africa into Asia and Europe. It seems that many of these animals have migrated from Africa through Yemen on their way to the rest of Asia. The first question that needs to be answered is when did these migrations occur?

**Q: How can you decide when these migrations occurred?**

**A:** It's possible to make a reasonable estimate based on genetic divergence. What I mean by that is by sequencing genetic material (DNA) from animals

that today are found on both sides of the Red Sea, and by comparing the genetic similarities and differences between African and Arabian mammals, we can get an idea of how genetically distinct the Arabian mammals are, and therefore, how long they've been here. This is because large portions of the mammal's DNA mutates, or changes, at a regular rate. In this sense DNA acts like a clock. It's actually an amazing technique because before scientists had to rely on old things like fossils or archaeological sites in order to understand the past.

Today we can use things (like baboons) that are alive to answer some of the same questions that were the province of archaeology and paleontology.

**Q: Why are you studying baboons?**

**A:** The hamadryas baboon is the only non-human primate that exists in the wild on the Arabian peninsula. Also, it is the only baboon (a kind of monkey) that is found outside of Africa. For these reasons, hamadryas baboons are one of Yemen's most distinctive mammals. Furthermore, their migration from Africa to Yemen poses an interesting question of time.

We know that Pharonic Egyptians used these same baboons as "watchdogs", and we know they traded them with other peoples; thus the Egyptians, or maybe the Ethiopians at a later time could have imported baboons in the Yemen. The other possibility is that the baboons came to Yemen

without any help from humans. Baboons are pretty bad swimmers so they would have walked. The question is how? In the more remote past there were two possible routes they (the baboons) could have taken: North across the Sinai or South across what today are the straits of Bab el Mandeb. It's my job as a genetic detective to figure out which of these possibilities is most probable.

**Q: Who are you working with in Yemen?**

**A:** In Yemen I'm affiliated with the American Institute of Yemeni Studies. My research is being conducted with the help of colleagues at the Yemeni Center for Research and Science, and my work is being supervised by Dr. Abdulwali Al-Aghbari of the Animal Sciences Department in the Agricultural College of Sana'a University. I've also worked with a number of people from the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Forestry.

**Q: How long have you been working in Yemen?**

**A:** I have been working for about two months, and I'll be doing my research here for two more months.

**Q: Where do you do your research?**

**A:** Because I need genetic samples, I go to where the animals are. This means I camp a lot. Two major sites I've already visited are Jebal Bura'a in the Tihama foothills and Jabal Iraf in Lahaj Governorate. Once I'm in the field I collect samples from a variety of mammals either by trapping them or non-invasively from tissues like hair and feces. I also collect samples from captive animals.

I'm sure all of your readers have seen baboons in the suqs - when I see one I ask the owner if I can have a few hairs from the animal. Indeed, if anyone has baboons or other wild animals and is reading this, I'd love to talk with them.

**Q: Do you have any estimates**



**of the baboon population in Yemen?**

**A:** Well, I'd say that at Jabal Bura'a there are hundreds of them. Within Yemen, there are thousands of baboons. Many areas have distinct populations separate from each other, but they are pretty large and healthy.

**Q: How are they different from their African relatives?**

**A:** In Yemen, baboons seem to be a bit smaller. There are also some coloration differences in the hair covering their bodies. In Africa, each male maintains a very strict harem of 4 or 5 females. This phenomenon is present in the Lahaj population of baboons, but not in other areas. The baboons go in groups of 30 or 40 individuals. There don't seem to be any strict harems.

**Q: What happens if baboons were to become extinct in Yemen?**

**A:** This will be very detrimental for a number of trees such as the acacia and other fruit trees. Baboons feed on the fruits of these trees and disperse their seeds in their feces. It is all part of a balanced eco-system. Even when a species seems to have no particular use, it serves some good purpose in nature.

**Q: How long would you estimate the baboons stay in Yemen?**

**A:** I would say about 100,000 years. The non-existence of baboon fossils in Yemen rules out a longer time period.

**Q: How do you find Yemen?**

**A:** It's a great place for biological research. Besides being incredibly beautiful, and possessing a great variety of life. I've found the people very helpful. I'm actually somewhat surprised that so little ecological research is being conducted here, because the wildlife is one of Yemen's greatest natural resources and it needs to be better understood.

**Q: Is there a particular species that is in danger of extinction, and in need of protection?**

**A:** There are some mammals that need protection like the Civet cat. These are small cats that have spots - a bit like small leopards. I have not seen any of them. There should be a few hundred left.

**Q: How about the Yemeni leopard?**

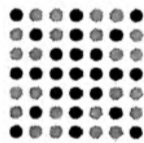
**A:** The leopard and cheetah are both in need of protection. I saw some signs of leopards in Jabal Bura'a such as tracks and feces. So there are still a few left. They can be a great attraction for tourists to come and see them. The problem is they don't have much to feed on, except people's life stock. So it may be wise to re-introduce the ibex and other deer species. These of course must be protected from hunters. They could also be placed in special areas where hunting licenses can be issued. This would generate added revenue.

**Q: Anything to add?**

**A:** Baboons are not mean. People in Yemen think that baboons will attack you. If you treat them with respect, they'll respond.

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CalValley is an International oil and gas exploration and development Company. CalValley has acquired the concession to drill for oil and gas in Block 9 (Malik), in the Shabwa/Hadhramaut region. For our Head office in Sana'a are the following position open:

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Human Resources

Mohammed Al-Saiqal:

## "Spectators look for more entertaining and less lecturing."

In case of insomnia, watch the national television program and you will fast fall asleep. That is one of dozens of jokes about the quality of the programs transmitted by the national television channels. This in spite of the fact that more than 70% of the airtime is filled with imported material. The other 30% is filled mainly with a lot of political commentaries and programs glorifying the regime. "When one of those commentaries comes up, I usually take the opportunity to go to the bathroom, fetch me something to drink, etc.," one citizen told us.

On this issue, Yemen Times went to speak to Mr. Mohammed Maqbool Al-Saiqal, one of the leading program directors at Channel One, Sanaa. Mr. Al-Saiqal started his career at the Jodeidh Radio Station in 1966. Ten years later, he was sent off for training in Baghdad to make the shift to television. A year later, he was back at the Sanaa Television Station, where he has remained put since.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Managing Editor of Yemen Times, talked to him and filed the following interview.

**Q: Could you briefly tell us about the early days of Sana'a TV?**

**A:** When the Sana'a TV station opened in 1976, most of its staff were Egyptian, Sudanese and Jordanians. To expand the rather limited Yemeni cadre, people were sent abroad for training. The first group was trained in Iraq. I was among them. Others were later sent to Syria, Egypt, Iran and Qatar.

By the way, it is a fact that the chief editor of the Yemen Times, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, was one of the first few Yemeni television announcers.

**Q: What was the first program you directed?**

**A:** I worked within a team of 6 Yemenis in the Direction Department with the Syrian director

Aladdin Kawkash. He was very experienced. I started applying what I had learned in the fields of lighting, decor, filming, etc. A director has to have wide knowledge of the ins and outs of TV production.

So, the first big work I worked on was the 13-episode series entitled "Waddah Al-Yaman". You can say I was an apprentice director at the time.

**Q: When did you start directing on your own?**

**A:** There was another stepping stone. Along with other Yemeni directors, I took part in producing a TV series called "1001 Nights". It was a very demanding 15-part work, but it provided us with a lot of very good experience.

It was not the classic 1001 Nights



folk tales. It was a Yemeni version in which Yemeni folk tales were presented.

From there on, I directed a lot of jobs. But remember, we do a lot of directing for the standard news casts and other regulars.

**Q: Why is there a paucity in Yemeni programs?**

**A:** I think the main reason is the paucity of good texts. Where are the script writers? Most Yemenis who write anything at all, write poetry.

Then, there is the problem of

financial allocations. The Ministry of Information has a lot of money for the purchase of foreign products, but there is no money in the budget for local artists and actors. They do not have confidence in local cadres.

**Q: To what extent are Yemenis abroad or other Arabs interested in following Yemeni TV transmission?**

**A:** I do not know. I don't think anybody knows. There are no surveys or accurate reports.

But, I would think many people abroad would be very interested in knowing what is going on in Yemen. I would also think the Yemeni immigrant communities would follow our transmissions.

**Q: Yemenis who have the option clearly prefer to watch other Arab satellite TV channels than the Yemeni one. What does that mean?**

**A:** There are actually few surveys done in this respect. The Yemeni public, in general, is more interested in watching entertainment programs; something visibly lacking in our transmissions. Yemeni television has a heavy dose of lecturing and commentaries glorifying the achievements of the regime. If I understand local preferences, films and soap operas are very popular among Yemeni audiences. Such material is not produced locally, and the price of imports is exorbitant. Yemeni TV needs more variety in its programs. About 75% of the programs are rather superficial political pieces. There should be more emphasis on entertainment.

**Q: What do you suggest to improve the Yemeni TV?**

**A:** There must be more qualified and experienced script writers, producers, directors, and technicians to be able to produce better quality programs. Any TV production must be done in a complete manner. Specialized cadres or teams must be assigned

the programs that they can do better. A program on Yemeni heritage, for example, requires specialists in the field. It should be based on a thorough study, not just a superficial piece.

Adequate funding and budgetary allocations are very important.

**Q: Will the participation of the private sector improve television production?**

**A:** Yes, but the private sector needs assurances in the form of marketing potential, which is not always there. It also requires a highly organized production process, which is not very easy to achieve.

Some people have hit upon the idea of establishing a private TV channel in Yemen. Their project will entail producing and broadcasting TV dramas and documentaries as well as buying or renting other programs from the official TV station. I don't know to what stage this private project has reached.

Let me add here that private investors usually want quick and big returns on their capital. I worry the message of media products will be lost, again.

**Q: How do you compare the Aden and Sana'a TV broadcasts?**

**A:** Sana'a TV station was established in 1976, while Aden TV was established in 1965. They both need a lot of investments and upgrading in order to compete regionally.

نحن نوفر لك فرصة شراء أرض مسورة مضمونة ونوفر لك التصميمات وفرص البناء على مراحل

تعلن شركة الشروق للإستثمار والتنمية العقارية - عدن

للإخوة الأوائل من الحاجزين لدى الشركة في:

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للحضور الى مقر الشركة لإستلام عقود البيع وكذا قطع الأرض محددة على الطبيعة ابتداءً من 97/8/20م. وسوف تقوم الشركة بأعمال التسوير لمن يرغب حسب التصميمات المعدة من قبل الشركة ..

بشركى سارة

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بعد ان تم اعتماد المخططات من الجهات الرسمية ومباشرة الشركة تنفيذ الاعمال على الطبيعة من شق الشوارع وربطها بالشوارع المسفلته فالشركة تبشر وتؤكد لكل الاخوة الراغبين في الشراء والحجز بأنها سوف تقوم مباشرة بتسليم قطعة الأرض المتفق عليها داخل موقع المشروع وكذا تسليم عقد البيع مباشرة.

وتدعوا الشركة الاخوة الراغبين في امتلاك مساحات استثماريه متميزه بالحضور الى مقر الشركة وكون شركتنا الرائدة في مجال: التطوير العقاري / السكني / التجاري / الزراعي فإن نظرتها لم تكن قاصره على فنه وإنما شامله لكل أبناء الوطن اليمني وتقدم فرصة الامتلاك لجميع افراد المجتمع ومن هذه القناعه لم تنس الشركة ذوي الدخل المحدود وتقدم لهم الفرصة لامتلاك بالتقسيم الربح في مدن المستقبل في عدن .



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ASHOROOK



### KUWAIT AND SOUTH AFRICA SIGN A BIG ARMS DEAL

South Africa's defense minister Joe Modise held talks with senior Kuwaiti officials on the possible sale of self-propelled howitzers to the Arab Gulf states. "The sale was the main topic on the agenda of the South African minister program of visit, last week. Modise, met Kuwaiti's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and numerous other senior officials.

The South African official convinced Kuwait to drop a long-standing Chinese offer in favor of his country's guns. It is to be noted that the Chinese had offered a possible deal on 155 mm tracked howitzers guns. South Africa's offer is for LIW 155 mm G6 self-propelled howitzers. Other competitors for the Kuwaiti market include the United States, which has offered the M109 A6 Paladin, and Britain, which wants to sell its Desert AS90.

The deal is worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Kuwait's main ally, the United States has urged Kuwait to buy American weapons. A US embassy official reminded his host nation of his country's leadership in the 1991 war to liberate Kuwait from a 7-month occupation by Iraqi military forces. Kuwaiti coffers, regularly replenished with proceeds from oil sales, will adequately satiate the greed of all the countries courting it.

### AFGHANISTAN FORBIDS HEROIN & HASHISH

The Taliban militia have outlawed the production and consumption of cannabis and heroin. The use of drugs like hashish and heroin are forbidden in Islam. A statesman said all countrymen should refrain from the cultivation, use and trade of hashish and heroin, threatening all violators with a full Islamic punishment.

It is worth mentioning that opium is Afghanistan's largest crops and from which heroin is derived in the border laboratories with Pakistan and Central Asian countries. UN anti-drug officials operating in Kabul remain unconvinced the ruling gives an exact and clear position on Taliban's anti-drugs stance. "The statement is vague. We have to wait and see if a crackdown on continued large-scale opium production is actually set in motion," commented the UN official.

Warring factions, have in the past, used proceeds from opium poppy production in areas under their control to finance their 17 year civil war.

The 2 major areas of opium growing are the eastern Nangahar province which lies beside Pakistan, and Helmand, a dusty province in the deep south.

### TUNISIAN INTEREST OFFICE IN ISRAEL CLOSED

Tunisia has ordered Mr. Khamis Ginawi, the head of its 15-month-old interest office in Israel to leave quietly and return home. The decision signaled a further deterioration between Israel and the Arab World since the collapse of the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, triggered by the hardline policies of the Netanyahu government.

Since the historic accords between Israel and the PLO in 1993, Israel had developed ties to several Arab countries. Morocco, Tunisia, Qatar, and Oman set up low-level diplomatic offices. They have all packed up and left.

The relative optimism which had prevailed only a few years ago, is now replaced by drum-beats of full-scale war and daily air-raids and shelling between Israel and its neighbors.

### MOROCCO WELCOMES UPPER & LOWER HOUSES

Morocco welcomed the adoption of two new laws shaping the future bicameral parliament ahead of elections expected to be held next month. Parliament unanimously adopted laws setting the number of PM's at 325 in the lower house and 270 in a new upper house. It is to be noted that the voters in a referendum approved to create two houses to replace the single 333-seat existing parliament.

The lower house, to be called the chamber of representatives, will be elected directly, while the new upper house, the chamber of counselors, will be indirectly elected. Local councils will elect 60% of the seats in the upper house. Professional bodies such as the chambers of agriculture, commerce and industry, will fill the remainder. The upper house will have the power to force a non-confidence vote in the government.

### SAUDI ARABIA'S NEW LAW ON PUBLIC COMPANY LISTINGS

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has set official rules for private companies wanting to offer shares to the public as part of efforts to encourage more firms to list on the Gulf's biggest bourse. The regulations cover everything from capital and profit requirements to the need to issue a comprehensive prospectus before listing.

A firm should be at least 10 years old, offer no less than 51% of its shares to the public and have a minimum capital of 75 million Riyals (20 US\$ million).

### JORDAN'S ELECTIONS FACE SERIOUS BOYCOTT THREAT

A rising number of Jordanian figures joined ranks with those supporting an election boycott call made by the Islamists to protest government policies.

Eighty independent public figures representing a broad spectrum of opinion endorsed July's move by the Muslim Brotherhood movement, which has widespread grass-roots support, to boycott the November elections. Among them are two former prime ministers, Ahmad Obeidat and Taher Al Masri, along with lawyers and former deputies and businessmen.

A statement issued by them in Amman last week said, "There has been a coup against democracy." It also accused the government of adopting policies which curb public freedoms, limit political and party activity and apply repression in dealing with civic institutions. The Brotherhood's boycott move has galvanized the local political scene. It forced its political arm, the Islamic Action Front, the largest political party which held 16 of the 80 parliamentary seats, to make a similar move. The November elections would be the first since Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel, itself a bone of contention between the government and the Islamicists.

### KHATAMI'S CABINET MEETS AMID HIGH HOPES

The government of the 54-year old president Mohammed Khatami will hold its first meeting on September 7th. Khatami, who owed his victory in May to the votes of youth, women and the middle class, proved himself to be an able leader who injected fresh freedoms into the strict Islamic state. His success in securing Ataollah Mohajerani as minister of culture and Islamic guidance was seen by analysts as a major fillip for his attempt to allow greater domestic freedoms. He has also succeeded in appointing a woman to the post of Vice President, thus delivering on some of the promises he had made. The new trend will at least curb the hard-liner groups from attacking shops or university lecturers who are seen as liberal.

There are many challenges facing the new leader to carry out his reform mandate. The first order of the day for the new cabinet is expected to be the 1998 budget. As for foreign policy, he shares this with the country's supreme spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who has a paramount power over all state institutions. It seems that there is a trend towards a real change for the better in Iran.

### PHILIPPINES SEEN AS ASIA'S FOOD BASKET

The Philippines will become the food basket of Asia by the year 2000.

This is one of the highlights of the 9-point program set forth under the country's pole-vaulting strategy for the 21st century that aims to accelerate the pace of the government's reforms and development program. The first stage has generated solid achievements in political stability and growth. The second stage of reforms and programs, which will cover agriculture and industry, financial services, bureaucracy, administration of justice, and political system, should result in faster, stronger and higher development for the Philippines.

Through the right mix of liberalization policies, a well developed capital market and information infrastructure, the Philippines can be a competitive financial center and haven in the region. Its open society and high-quality human resources make the country a viable headquarters for multinational companies in information technology and knowledge-based industries. Its strategic location and high quality manpower make the country ideal for becoming a trade/transport, telecommunications and tourism hub of the region. The country's culture is a blend of east and west, Muslims and Christians. All these advantages give the country a privilege to become the centre of culture and arts in Asia.

Yet, the country will have to compete with other countries in the region, notably Malaysia, for such a strategic role.

### UAE STARTS THE EXPORT OF USED CARS

Used cars, which is quickly discarded by fashion-fond Emirates people, are finding new markets in Africa after being reconditioned and repaired. The re-export of used and re-conditioned cars from Sharjah and Dubai is on the upswing, according to sources in cargo and freight business.

The cars are being re-exported to East African ports such as Dar-Es-salam, Mombasa and Pemba and from these ports the cars are driven to interior African cities. New markets such as Zambia and Malawi have also enabled an increase in export of used cars. "The African market is growing and at least 1000 cars are shipped every month from Sharjah alone," according to sources.

The price is reasonable. The re-sale of used cars from the rich Gulf State to Africa offers a good opportunity to both sides, as long as the political situation in Africa remains stable.

## The Chairman of the Board of Directors of National Cigarettes & Matches Industry

## Sheikh Saleh Salim Ba-Thawab and Sons

present  
their heartfelt felicitations & congratulations  
to the honorable friend

**Dr. Mohammed Saleh Gara'ah**  
on his recent appointment as  
Governor of Shabwah.

We take the occasion  
of the confidence of  
the leadership in him,  
and his assumption  
of his new post, to  
wish him all the best.



رئيس مجلس ادارة

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

**الشيخ صالح سالم باثواب - وأولاده**

يتقدمون

بأحر التهاني والتبريكات القلبية إلى الاستاذ العزيز

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بمناسبة نيئه ثقة القيادة السياسية

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نتمنى للاستاذ العزيز التوفيق والنجاح

في مهام عمله الجديد، والف مبروك

## Some Wives endure their husbands' harsh treatment to avoid the stigma of divorce !

By: Athena Al-Absy\*

Divorce is a prevalent problem in many societies. Yemen is not excluded. Divorce has negative consequences not only on the couple concerned, but also on their children. In more liberal societies, divorced women suffer less than in strict or religious societies. In the following three interviews, divorced Yemeni women, who preferred to remain anonymous, spoke frankly and passionately. The names have been changed.



With only a secondary-school level of education, Ahlam was 24 years old when she married an electronic engineer with a Ph.D. He is 6 years her senior. Their marriage lasted for 3 months only. She has been a divorcee for 4 years now.

Basma's marriage to her 40-year-old, uneducated contractor husband lasted two whole years. Basma, a housewife, was 26 years old when she got married. After her divorce, she continued her studies and succeeded in getting the secondary school certificate. Basma is now a third-year university student. After three and a half of a marriage on the rocks, Karima got divorced from her husband. When she married her 36-year-old, government employee, husband, Karima was still a student at 22 years of age. She has been divorced for a year now. The following stories of the three women are as related by them personally.

Q1: Did you get to meet/know the would-be husband before your marriage?

Ahlam: No, the marriage was consummated by our families.

Basma: No, I never saw him before the wedding night.

Karima: Yes, we knew each other for two years.

Q2: Is your former husband one of your relatives?

Ahlam: No, he isn't.

Basma: No, he isn't.

Carima: No, he isn't.

Q3: Was marriage imposed on you, or did you consent to it?

Ahlam: My father and brother imposed their will on me.

Basma: I actually agreed to get married.

Karima: No one forced me to get married. It was my choice.

Q4: Were you the first wife?

Ahlam: I was the first wife in this marriage.

Basma: I was the second wife in this marriage.

Karima: I was the fourth wife in this marriage.

Q5: What were the reasons behind the divorce?

Ahlam: The main reason was that my husband was a drunkard, and he used to beat me. In addition, his family interfered a lot in our life.

Basma: He was very excessive in his religious rituals. He asked me to pray more than was actually stipulated by Islam.

Karima: His womanizing fancies, financial problems and interference of his friends and family led to our divorce.

Q6: Do you have children?

Ahlam: No, children.

Basma: One boy, two years old.

Carima: Two boys, the elder is more than two years old; and the younger is one year.

Q7: Who is responsible for the divorce?

Ahlam: The husband and his family

Basma: The husband and his first wife.

Karima: On the one hand, part of the responsibility for the divorce lies with me, the other part is due to the interference of his friends and family and his womanizing nature.

Q8: Did your husband abuse you?

Ahlam: Yes, he abused me, and threatened to "return" me to my family with shame.

Basma: There was no abuse after the divorce. He continues to pay the expenses of his child.

Karima: He didn't behave as a



caring and responsible husband. He was selfish.

Q9: Did you ask for divorce?

Ahlam: Yes, I asked for divorce.

Basma: No, I didn't.

Karima: No, I didn't. I tried hard to get him to stop dallying with other women. I failed.

Q10: Was there any encouragement from your family to get divorced?

Ahlam: No, there wasn't.

Basma: No, there wasn't.

Karima: No, there wasn't.

Q11: How does society treat you now that you are a divorcee?

Ahlam: Society treats me as if something is wrong with me. My family treats me as a servant.

Basma: I don't feel any sort of negative treatment by my family, but when I attend public occasions or parties such as wedding ceremonies, I feel a little isolated given the attitude of my relatives and friends.

Karima: There is some sort of stigma for being divorced. I also sense of uneasiness in associating with me on the part of some of my female friends.

Q12: Has your family become more strict with you now. Do they interfere more in your life and your personal freedom and choices?

Ahlam: I don't go out at all, and I spend most of my time in the kitchen, slaving for the whole family.

Basma: I rarely go out, and when



I do, I have to take my sister with me as a chaperon.

Karima: My family trusts me. They respect my freedom of choice and action, within limits.

Q13: Would you like to return to your husband?

Ahlam: No, never.

Basma: Yes, I do because my life would be easier.

Karima: Yes, I do.

Q14: Would you like to get married to another man?

Ahlam: Yes, if he is different from my first husband. There has to be some mutual understanding between us. I like to get married once again. This is the only way a woman can lead a normal life. Society frowns on a single woman, even if it is not her fault.

Basma: No, I don't like to get engaged to another man. I like to go back to my husband.

Karima: Yes, if I am lucky, why not. I like to get married once again to silence the social gossips that haunt my life.

Q15: Have you suffered physically or psychologically because of the divorce?

Ahlam: Yes, I got ill, not because of the divorce per se, but because of the beating I endured.

Basma: Yes, I got ill and remained isolated for a while.

Karima: Yes, I got ill because of his awful treatment and the constant blame of society on me.

Q16: Has another man asked you to marry him after divorce?

Ahlam: Yes, but he changed his mind when I asked him to let me finish my university education.

Basma: Yes, and I am in waiting. Karima: Yes, there have been many suitors. But I need to be more careful.

Q17: What advice do you have for other women?

Ahlam: Parents should try to be more understanding of their daughter's wishes. A girl should think carefully and consider her options regarding her suitor. She must refuse to marry a man if she believes that he is not suitable for her. This creates problems with her family in the short-term, but it is better in the long-run.

Basma: A women should not get married to a married man even if his financial fortunes were good.

Karima: If you know that the man is not suitable, just say NO. Few women have the courage to say this, but they should.

The above three women and their children are victims of archaic traditional values and irresponsible and uncaring partners (husbands). Their marital miseries ended. However, although divorce was a way out of a hellish marriage, it was also the beginning of another hellish life. Divorced women are shunned and stigmatized by society. That is why many wives prefer to endure their husbands' harsh treatment, rather than suffer the stigma of divorce.

\* Athena Al-Absy is a graduate of the Faculty of Education, Sana'a U. She is doing an internship at the Yemen Times.



### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNDP

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)  
invites applications for the following posts in its office in Sana'a.

*This position is open to Yemeni national only!*

#### ASSISTANT RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE (ARR)

##### Duties and Responsibilities:

Manage all human resources matters related to nationally recruited staff, including training, career development, promotions and advise on the application of rules and regulations pertaining to personnel administration; manage the accounts and financial transactions of the UNDP office and field office budget; manage the management information function of the field office; manage office premises and other assets (e.g., UN vehicle pools); establish and maintain liaison in assigned areas of responsibility with the Government of Yemen, United Nations Participating and Executing Agencies not part of the United Nations system.

##### Qualification/Experience/Skills requirement:

Minimum Master's Degree preferably in Business Administration with at least 10 years proven experience, including progressively responsible work in general administration (preferable with the UN System or International Organizations). Very good knowledge of computer, English and Arabic is essential.

##### Remuneration:

The net base salary will be within the range of YR. 1,284,587.00 per annum.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with detailed curriculum vitae to:

Operations Manager, UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received no later than 4, September 1997.

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply, and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

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**AL-WAHDAMI: Sana'a (Weekly) 26-8-97.**  
(Nasserite Unitarist Party)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Head of Court of Appeal Asks the President to Provide Republican Guards to Protect Courts
- 2) Prime Minister, "Corruption threatens economic reform with complete failure."
- 3) Armed Tribal Groups Threaten General Prosecutor in Ibb for Failing to be on their Side in Tribal Conflict

**Article Summary:**

**Assailant has 3 Citizenships**

Police are still questioning a Syrian man who has, last week, shot an Italian tourist and a Yemeni man. The incident took place at Bustan al-Sultan hotel in Sana'a. The Italian tourist surprised her attacker while he was rummaging through her belongings in her hotel room. He shot her in the arm with a silenced pistol, and escaped. Answering her cries for help, the hotel staff tried to apprehend the assailant. He shot one Yemeni tourist guide in the stomach.

Upon his arrest, the police searched the assailant's house. Various weapons and passports were found. One of them is Spanish. The man is married to a Spanish woman, and works with a French telecommunications company.

**AL-SAHWA: Sana'a (Weekly) 28-8-97.**

**(Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah))**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Islah Secretary-General at PGC Conference: "The national interest dictates protecting the democratic process, civil liberties and human rights."
- 2) Rise in Dollar Exchange Rate Leads to Rises in Basic Commodity Prices.
- 3) Electricity Supply Deteriorates in Mukalla - Old



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

Swedish Electric Generators on their Last Leg  
4) Parliamentary Committee to Investigate Manipulation of Water Bills

**Article Summary:**

**Grave Indicators in Aden**

The General Director of the Ministry of Education bureau in Aden, Mr. Ali Al-Wareeth, has pointed out that a new school, to be opened soon in Crater, Aden, is to adopt a co-educational system. Built through private donations, the school will have all the grades from elementary through secondary education. Al-Wareeth said, "There are no reasons why we shouldn't have co-education, which had existed in Aden before." Many educationalists and other decent citizens have intervened, trying to stop this dangerous development.

**AL-AYYAM: Aden (Bi-Weekly) 27-8-97.**

**(Independent)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President: "Members of the government will have to face the people with facts and figures."
- 2) Opposition to PGC: We ask you as partners in the homeland to hold a real dialogue with the people.
- 3) Socialist Party Condemns Being Implicated in Aden Explosions

4) One-Hour Public Sit-In Outside Lahej Prosecutor's Office in Protest Against Unlawful Arrests

**Article Summary:**

**Prosecutors Question Suspects**

Prosecutors in Seiyoun and Mukalla have concluded interrogation of 10 members of the League of the Sons of Yemen in Hadhramaut. Two jailed men were released earlier for lack of evidence. The suspects were arrested late last July, and thrown-in in the infamous Al-Bakrin PSO internment camp. Upon the prosecutors' orders, the prisoners were transferred to the governorate's central prison under precautionary detention. The Seiyoun prisoners are still to be transferred from the PSO detention camp.

**ALTHAWRI: Sana'a (Weekly) 28-8-97.**

**(Yemeni Socialist Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) 25,000 Government Employees to be Laid Off, Basic Commodities' Subsidy to be Removed, and 16 Public Enterprises to be Privatized
- 2) Yemen Human Rights Organization (based in Switzerland) Sends Out Messages, Calling for Questioning Yemeni Government
- 3) More than 150 Yemenis & Foreigners Unlawfully Imprisoned & Tortured by PSO

**Article Summary:**

**Policeman Commits Suicide**

A police sergeant in Lahaj committed suicide by taking poison. Father of 13, Abdullah Al-Shawki had been paralyzed and bed-ridden for more than a year after a car accident, while on duty. He was completely neglected by his police department, which made him depressed and unable to support his large family.

**26 SEPTEMBER: Sana'a (Weekly) 28-8-97.**

**(Yemen Armed Forces)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President in PGC Conference: "Administrative division is dictated by developmental needs

to alleviate the citizens' burdens."

- 2) Cabinet Emphasizes Need to Provide Adequate Health Care Services in Hadhramaut
- 3) Foreign Minister: "Yemen to submit memorandum on Hunaish arbitration on 1st September."
- 4) World Bank to Provide \$400 Million within Next 3 Years to Support Structural Reform
- 5) Central Bank Official: Rise in dollar exchange rate is due to unfounded rumors.

**Article Summary:**

**Jewish Woman Reunited with Mother**

After 48 years of separation, an American Jewish woman of Yemeni origin got reunited with her mother in Jerusalem, reported Agence France Presse. The reunion took place after a series of advertisements placed by the daughter in the US press. Tizella Levine disappeared in mysterious circumstances a few weeks after her birth in Israel. Her family immigrated from Yemen to the Jewish state in 1949 with 43,000 others, as part of the so-called "Flying Carpet" operation, during the reign of Imam Ahmed. Tens of Yemeni Jewish children disappeared in similar circumstances during the same period in Israel.

**AL-TAJAMMU': Aden (Weekly) 25-8-97.**

**(Yemeni Unitary Congregation Party)**

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Hyundai Buys 6% of Government Share in Gas Liquefaction Project
- 2) Recently Introduced 10-12% Consumption Tax is Arbitrary
- 3) The President Instructs Officials to Evict Property Usurpers in Southern Governorates

**Article Summary:**

**Why Did They Congregate? by Omar Al-Jawi**

About 8,000 members have attended the PGC conference held last week. They returned without achieving anything, except for taking their huge travel allowances. It was in their capacity to ask their leaders to address several crucial issues:

- \* stopping the game of explosions and crushing people in detention centers;
- \* putting an end to law violations;
- \* stopping price increases;
- \* instituting local authority to give the people more opportunity to govern themselves;
- \* eliminating the persisting civil war consequences;
- \* putting an end to tribal and military rule; and, most importantly,
- \* combating corruption.

### Invitation for Prequalification

- 1) **The Government of the Republic of Yemen** ( herein referred to as GOY ) has received a Credit from the International Development Association, hereinafter referred to as the IDA, in various currencies towards the cost of **Transport Rehabilitation Project** and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contracts for which this Invitation for Prequalification is issued .
- 2) **The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority , CAMA ,** hereinafter "the Employer" intends to prequalify contractors for the following contracts:  
**Construction of the New Control Tower , Technical Building and Related Facilities and Rehabilitation of the Terminal Building** at the Aden International Airport will be issued in November 1997.
- 3) It is expected that the Invitation to Bid will be issued in November, 1997 . The construction period is 21 months , commencing February , 1998.
- 4) Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily formed joint ventures from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
- 5) Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents by calling, writing, or faxing the Employer:

Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority (CAMA),  
Zubairi Street , Sana'a,  
Republic of Yemen.  
Tel. (967) 1 272645 (967) 1 274718, (967) 1 274716  
Fax. (967) 1 272645  
Contact: Mr. Hussein H. Al- Sayaghi

Or The Consultant :  
Netherlands Airport Consultant s  
115 Jan van Nassautraat  
2596 B.S. The Hague,  
PO Box 85919  
2508 CP, The Hague, The Netherlands  
Tel: (31) 70 3264 131 Fax: (31) 70 324 5 302  
Contact: Mr. M. R. Hill

- 6) The request must clearly state "Request for Prequalification Documents for Construction of Control Tower, Technical Building and related Facilities , and Reconstruction of Aden International Airport Terminal Building" . The documents are available for a non-refundable fee of US \$200. The Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, CAMA will promptly dispatch the documents by registered airmail, but under no circumstances will be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents so mailed.
- 7) A minimum requirement for qualification of firms will be to have successfully carried out five similar Airport projects in the life of the contracting firm, at least two of which have been in the Middle East.
- 8) Submission for Applications for Prequalification must be received in sealed envelopes, which must be either delivered by hand or by registered mail to:

Transport Rehabilitation Project,  
Civil Aviation Component,  
The Project Implementing Unit,  
Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority, CAMA  
Zubairi Street, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

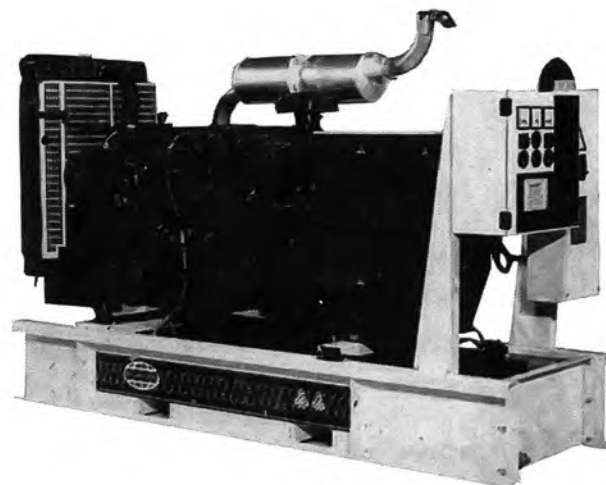
Not later than 18 October , 1997

and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for Construction of New Control Tower and related Facilities and Rehabilitation of the Terminal Building at Aden International Airport". Applicants will be required to submit one original and three copies of the application for prequalification.

- 9) The CAMA reserves the right to accept or reject any applications.
- 10) Applicants will be advised, in due course, the results of their applications. Only firms and joint ventures prequalified under this procedure will be invited to bid.



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**Al-Saeedi:**

**“Yemeni sports clubs need more funds and encouragement.”**

Sports clubs are the means for training enthusiastic Yemeni youth, and putting them on the right track to a brighter future. Mr. Abdulhameed Al-Saeedi is the General Director of Sports Clubs and Associations at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. He is a good footballer, having been playing since 1963. He has a diploma in sports and physical training from Algeria.



He has assumed many posts, notably in Aden. He was a coach, a member of the executive committee of sports clubs, head of sports activities at Aden University, and many other positions. To get to know the real conditions of sports clubs in this country, Anwar Moghram, a Yemen Times summer intern, met Al-Saeedi, and filed this interview.

**Q: Could you give us an idea about sports clubs in Yemen?**

**A:** There are 224 sports clubs in Yemen, spread all over the governorates. In order to be licensed, sports clubs in urban areas must have at least 200 members, and practise no less than 6 games. In rural areas, on the other hand, such clubs must have a minimum of 100 members, and practise at least 4 games.

**Q: What is the oldest sports club in Yemen?**

**A:** The first club, Al-Mohammedi, was established in Aden in 1905. Several teams and sports groups originated from this club. Many groups joined together to form Al-Tilal Club in 1975, which represents the "lawful" inheritor of Al-Mohammedi. In those days, they mainly played football, tennis, cricket, and table-tennis.

**Q: How are sports clubs financed?**

**A:** The government provides these clubs with financial allowances. Sports clubs in Aden and other southern governorates are given YR. 125,000 per month. Their northern counterparts, however, are paid YR. 80,000 a month only. First-league clubs receive a monthly allowance of YR. 50,000. Other provincial clubs get YR. 20,000 a month. The government also signs-up trainers and sports instructors to work in some of these clubs. From the beginning of 1997, the Sports and Youth Fund has been supporting sports clubs, according to specified criteria. Excellent-league clubs get YR. 500,000 a month, first-league clubs YR. 250,000, and provincial clubs YR. 100,000. Sports associations also receive their share of support. The Football Association receives YR. 500,000 a month. The Basketball, Table-tennis, Athletics, Sport for All, and Sports Information associations get YR. 300,000 a month each. The Judo & Karate, Boxing, Weight Lifting, Swimming, Body-Building, Horse-Riding and Cyclists associations get YR. 100,000 a month each. Of course, some of these clubs also generate income from the members and donations.

**Q: Do sports clubs incur any financial difficulties at all?**

**A:** The gap between revenues and the expenditures is always a problem. Most of the clubs have ambitious plans for their activities. But there is no way to meet all the needs. That is why there is an eternal budgetary crunch. In our country, companies do not provide support.

**Q: What obstacles impede the development of a strong athletic movement in the country?**

**A:** Most of the obstacles are financial. For example, when you

submit a budget to the Ministry of Finance of, say, YR 37 million to hold a sports season, the allocation will not be more than YR 12 million. A football tournament, on the other hand, costs in excess of YR 8 million.

**Q: What projects are currently being implemented by the ministry?**

**A:** There are many projects, including:  
- Establishing the High Institute for Sports and Physical Training.  
- Establishing a track for field sports in the stadium.  
- Enacting a legislation to give more attention to the athletes' needs.  
- Ensuring the health, social, employment, and retirement needs for professional athletes playing in the national teams.

**Q: How about female participation?**

**A:** Membership in sports clubs are open for women membership. Certain days in the week are usually designated for females only. Table-tennis and chess competitions for females are now held by Al-Ahli club in Sana'a. In Taiz volley ball and tennis games and championships are held for women. Female sports activities need a lot of support by the government and the media.

**Q: In what competitions had Yemen recently participated?**

**A:** Our country participated in the athletics, tekwando, wrestling, and judo competitions in Lebanon. Only one silver medal in wrestling was gained by Abdullah Al-Azzani.

**Q: Why didn't our football team participate in the matches in Lebanon?**

**A:** The main reason is financial. We haven't got a spending coverage for such a participation. It also coincided with our matches within the Asian group.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** We demand and ask earnestly for government's support for the youth and sport activities. This should be included in the government's programs. From this platform, I ask the minister of Youth and Sports to boost our clubs by 400 percent. This is essential to develop the sports movement in our country.

**Uzbekistan Defeats Yemen 5-1**

**Football Association: "It's Because Of Exhaustion."**

In a statement to the Yemen Times, the Secretary-General of the Football Association, Mujahed Al-Saraha, said the "main reason for our defeat was because of the fatigue and exhaustion felt by five players of the national football team. They played the game on the same day of their arrival of 24 August 1997 to Tashkand as they were participating with their club in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia."

The Secretary-General added that "spectators could easily observe that players were tired in the second half of the match, which allowed the team of Uzbekistan to invade the defense of our national team to score 4 goals in addition to the one they secured in the first half."

By this result, Uzbekistan is qualified to be on top of the list of the Asian Group for the World Cup Finals of 1998.

But, does this excuse justify the defeat of our team? The Association would do better to search for other convincing reasons.



**A New Coach For The Ahli Club Of Sana'a**

The Ahli Club of Sana'a has encountered, for the first time of its history, a difficult situation during the last football tournament. The team appeared in an unadequate level, reflecting the disharmony facing the management of the club. This is attributed to the non-availability of a qualified coach, in addition to the recurrent absenteeism of the footballers from training sessions. Another reason was due to differences existing among the management and training staff.

But, it seems the club of Ahli insists to enter the coming tournament to compete strongly as usual. The Management of the club decided to hire a new Iraqi coach named Tha'er Jassam to train the team. The new coach revealed his optimism in leading the Ahli team to victory during the coming season. He said that "the team lives nowadays a phase of revival and this matter will not require a long period." The team now involves a new group of young players. He also mentioned that the "irregular schedule of the Football Association hinders any training program for any team. This reflects a bad image for the teams during the general tournament."

**Conclusion of Boxing Championship in Aden.**

Last Tuesday 26 August 1997, the Republic's championship of boxing, which was conducted in the sport club of Shamsan in the Aden, was concluded where teams from the governorates of Sana'a, Aden and Lahej have participated in the matches. Twenty-six boxers have competed for five weights: Fly Weight, Bantam Weight, Feather Weight, Light Weight and Light Welter.

A large crowd of spectators from the governorate of Aden and sport officials have attended the matches which ended by distributing Gold, Silver and Bronze medals for the winners by officials from the Ministry of Sports and Youths. This championship is considered as preparation for the Arab Boxing Championship that will be held in Jordan next October.



**Sponsored by the Minister of Youths and Sport, Summer Camp for Juniors Concludes at Ahli Club**

On Monday 1st September, 1997, the Ahli Club in Sana'a has concluded its activities for the juniors summer camp, which was meant for kids of 6-16 years old. It was held under the theme of "Best Utilization of Summer Vacation." It began from 25 June till 25 August, 1997, and financed by the Bank of Indosuez, an amount of YR 500,000 were donated. A large number of officials and citizen attended this ceremony, including the Minister of Sports and Youths, Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh as well as some Foreign and Arab Diplomats.

This camp is considered the fourth successful one of its kind to be held by the Ahli Club. It aims at introducing suitable ideas for spending the summer vacations in a useful manner through programs of culture, arts and sports. The participants learn computer skills, music, drawing and other sport games. There are also other programs of picnics and visits to industrial firms and old historical locations in some governorates which are not known to the kids. It is for the first time we find male and female kids participating together. This would create a foundation for Yemeni women to explore the future toward the plans of development and construction in the country. The amount contributed by the Bank of Indosuez is considered a good initiative to support activities of juniors during summer vacations.



**Bye Di**

**Yes, folks. She is gone, and in the saddest of ways.**

**This is a cruel world, and media has been excessively bad.**

**Yemen Times uses this sad moment to express**

**its condolences to all the people out there**

**who loved and admired the young princess.**

**The sorrow is overwhelming.**

**Now you are in God's hands Di.**

**You will finally find some comfort and relaxation!**

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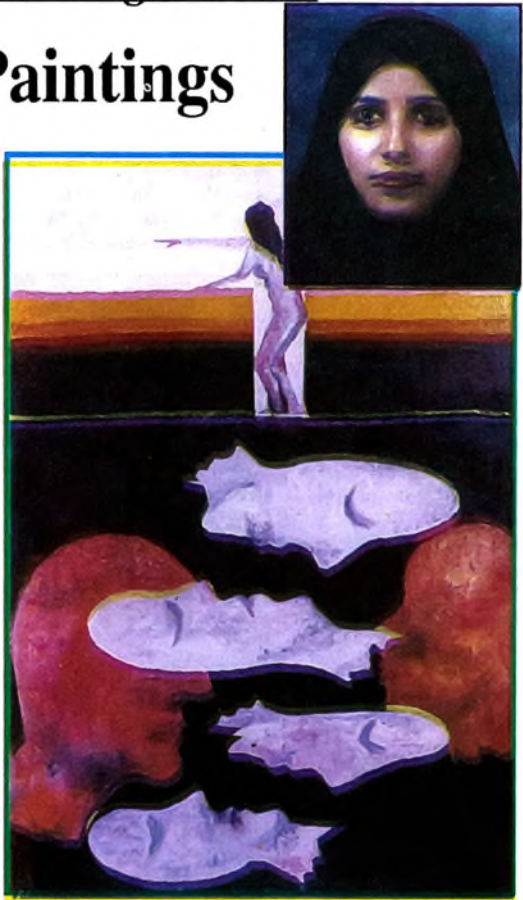
**Rema Qassem's Paintings**

Ms. Rema Qassem is one of Yemen's gifted artists. Her output is plentiful. During 11-17 March 1996, she displayed 56 paintings at Al-Afif Foundation. "That was the first time that an exhibition was fully devoted to my work. I had earlier co-exhibited many of my paintings in the National Center for Fine Arts, the Spring Exhibition of the US Embassy (1995), the Red Crescent Exhibition (1994), and the Public Libraries Exhibition of 1993," she said.

The fiercely independent Rema goes for the abstract. "It is not fun when a picture is too clear. The idea behind an art-work is to make people think, and deeply," she said.

Ms. Qassem, 28, is a graduate of the Fine Arts College at King Saud University in Saudi Arabia. She then worked as a teacher of drawing. "That was a bitter experience. The culture in this country is such that painters and artists are despised and their work downgraded," she added. That is why she joined the Ministry of Culture, though the pay is small.

"I first started drawing a long time ago. From my childhood, I had a way with the brush." But her oldest painting on exhibition dates



back to 1988. That is the time her skills began to take shape. "You can say my hobby was then transformed into a profession."

Her plans for the future are ambitious, although local conditions do not encourage artists in general, and female artists in particular. "I have been sending my works to Samsarat Al-Mansourah in Sanaa. Unfortunately, the place has been transformed into a qat chew."

Rema also plans to participate in regional exhibitions. "I have been invited to exhibit my work in India. It will happen later this year," she added.

What does she hope for?  
 "I hope that Yemeni universities will establish sections or departments for fine arts, especially drawing and painting. It would be a wonderful growth in our educational system."

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