

Hertz

The world's #1 car rental company now in Yemen
NEW CARS (SEDANS, LAND CRUISERS)
Self drive - Chauffeur drive

Tel: (01) 268 748
Universal Building, 60 M. Road - Sana'a

YEMEN TIMES

• SANAA •, December 22nd thru 28th, 1997

Vol. VII, Issue No. 51 • Price 30 Riyals



Sheikh Ali Al-Rassas on Al-Baidha Governorate. Page 3.

Belgian Vessel Visits Aden Harbor. Page 5.

IFAD's New \$24 Million Agricultural Loans. Page 7.

Malaria's Increasing Menace of Yemen. Page 8.



We keep your promises

Sanaa: (01) 268551, 249878
Aden: (02) 221223; Taiz (04) 225383
Hodeidah (03) 217490; Mukalla (05) 354844
Seiyoun: (05) 404288; Ibb: (04) 407418

Always new products at

mutarreb

01-269303/ 01-278222

First Class BUSINESS CARDS

HADHRAMAUT HOTEL ALMUKALLA
For reservation please call
Tel: 05-303441/2 Fax: 303134

UNITED INSURANCE
حمايتكم هي سر نجاحنا
Your SAFETY is our Success
Tel: Sana'a: 214232 Taiz: 215012
Hodeidah: 217292 Aden: 240971

maj
MOHAMMED AHMED JUM'AN CORP.
Tel: 272232/4 Fax: 274185
DAEWOO DIESEL GENERATING SET
- Sound Proof
- Auto Change over panel

AZ. ABM
Ali Abdulmugni St., P. O. Box 1870
Tel: 280235 Fax: 272 510
Europe Office (Italy)
Tel: 0445-575046 Fax: 0445-575755

ALSAEED TRADING Co.
Tel: 00967 - 4 - 232727 Fax: 00967 - 4 - 223851
P.O. Box 5351
Taiz, Yemen

COMPAQ SHOWS THE WAY
Al-Salam Establishment
Tel: 274851 - 274852
274855 - 271506
Fax: 273990

مرکز شهاب لطب وتقويم الأسنان
SHEHAB ORTHODONTIC CENTER
Sana'a 218824

شركة الشريف للتجارة والتأهيلات المحيطة
Tel: 416072 Fax: 416071
AL SHAREEF Trading & Contracting Co. Ltd.
GEN. PETROLEUM SERVICES
P.O.Box 19663, Sanaa, Rep. of Yemen

Super Moon SAMSUNG
NEW PALMA
SERIES
PICTURE BOOKS
ROOM FUNCTION
S.M.
ELECTRONICS LTD.
TEL: 271189 24266
FAX: 26991

KLM YEMEN TRAVEL & TOURS
TO AMSTERDAM SUN. & WED.
GSA
Tel: (01)278747 Fax: (01) 278737

President Saleh Goes to See for Himself

They say, "Seeing is believing". That is exactly what President Ali Abdullah Saleh is doing, these days. The top man has been receiving conflicting reports on conditions in the southern and eastern governorates. His "assistants" have been telling him that things are fine, and that the trouble is caused by anarchists, traitors, secessionists, etc. Other sources, probably people who care more about

Yemen and its stability, have been reporting otherwise. So the President is in search of first-hand experience in Aden, Abyan, Hadhramaut, and Shabwah. Even as "his" men try to "protect" him from discovering too much, he has seen enough. He has already ordered the release of a lot of people, including some so-called "bad" guys. **More on page 5**



CC Study Reveals Horrors in Government Bureaucracy:

Non-Functioning Personnel = 40%; Absence = 49-63%; Daily Loss = 2-3 Hours

The Consultative Council commissioned a field study on the performance of government bureaucracy. The work was done over the last four months by professionals from the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform and the National Institute for Administrative Sciences. The results of the study were presented to the Consultative Council in three days of hearings last week, 15-17, December. "Of the total manpower employed by the state, and for which a monthly salary is

paid, a solid 40% is not working," the study showed. Most of these employees are kept away from work for political reasons. The number of ghost workers on government payroll is shocking. Of the remaining 60%, the prevailing absentee rate ranges between 49 and 63%. In other words, of those who are asked to come to work, only around half actually do show up. This means that of the total manpower on government payrolls, only 30% actually come to work on a regular basis.

Even of those who do come to work, the study showed that many leave their work-place for an extended time to execute personal errands. The daily loss is estimated at 2-3 hours. Government employees are at their workplace only for 2.5-3.5 hours of the total 5.5 working hours. In summation, only 16.36% of the workforce of the government bureaucracy is at work all the time. Even this does not mean that they are actually productive, it means they are physically there! **Full report on page 13**

Yemeni Oil Output Tops 400,000 bpd

TOTAL Starts Production

On Thursday, 18th December, President Ali Abdullah Saleh turned on the taps for oil production to start from Block 10, East Shabwah. The Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Mr. Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh, Mr. Claude Brice, Total's Senior Vice President for Africa and Mediterranean, and other officials, attended.

The Hareer field, which is connected to Canadian Occidental's pipeline by a newly built 20 kilometer pipeline, starts with an output of 20,000 bpd. With the Hareer oil, the total oil production of Yemen will now top the 400,000 bpd mark. The larger producers are Canadian-Oxy, Yemen Hunt Oil Co., and Jannah Hunt Oil Company.

How Many ?

The following conversation with Dr. Yahia Al-Shu'aibi, Minister of Education, was overheard over a lunch table recently. "By the way, how many pupils are there?" The minister answered, "I don't know exactly, but they are in the millions." More talk. "By the way, how many teachers does your ministry employ?" Again, "I don't know exactly, but they are in the hundreds of thousands." More talk. And how many schools are in the public educa-

tion system? "I don't know, but they are in the thousands." The minister did not have many answers. But soon, he will. A comprehensive 10-day census of the educational system is now underway. Teams of young people are all over the country counting students, teachers, administrators, desks, chairs, blackboards, and anything that has to do with education. For the first time, the Republic of Yemen will have a reliable educational data base.

OSAN CO.
GENERAL OIL FIELD SERVICES
شركة اوسان للخدمات النفطية العمومية
Sana'a Republic of Yemen
Damascus St. Tel: 413 145 Fax: 410273 P. O. Box: 20416

Al-Watania Insurance (YSC)
الوطنية للتأمين
الثقة، الوفاء، الضمان
Sanaa: Al-Qasr St., Nasser Ziad Bldg.
Tel: 272713, 272874; Fax: 272924
Hodeidah: Tel: 240583; Fax: 240624
Aden: Tel: 243490; Fax: 241012

ZAMIL STEEL
The Largest Manufacturer of Pre-Engineered Steel Buildings in Asia
OVER 20,000 BUILDINGS SOLD SINCE 1977
Factories, Warehouses, Sports Halls, Aircraft Hangars, Supermarkets
ALMOST any ONE, TWO or THREE STOREY BUILDING
Mr. Ali Hussain, Resident Sales Executive
• Phone 23-6635, 23-6636 • Fax 23-5901
E-Mail: ZSYemen@ZamilSteel.com

ORGANZA
أورجانزا
چيفنشي
GIVENCHY

OUR VIEWPOINT

Has Yemen Times Changed? Of Course, It Has!

Many friends have been calling in and writing to say that they have noticed a change in the critical position of the Yemen Times vis-a-vis the state. Some of them say that since I have joined the Consultative Council, I have softened up on the regime. Some have concluded I have been co-opted.

I am writing to answer those and other allegations at the suggestion of a colleague from London.

1. Changed? Yes:

Yes, the Yemen Times has changed a lot. The basic premise here is that change is a normal part of life, and those who do not change get fossilized. When you interact with such a dynamic process like politics, change is inevitable. So, if some friends want the Yemen Times to remain stagnant and fossilized, I say I am sorry. It is not in the books.

2. Softened Up? Yes.

Yes, the Yemen Times has softened up on the regime. The basic premise here is that the opposition parties which take "holier than thou" positions are more rotten than the ruling clique. I want to point out that people like Ali Abdullah Saleh and Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, just to name two, work a lot harder and longer hours than any opposition politician I know. If anything, at least for that, they have earned some respect. Moreover, change is taking place, albeit at a much slower pace than I would have loved. But THERE IS CHANGE AND THERE IS IMPROVEMENT. Needless to say there continue to be mistakes; and Yemen Times is pointing to them with the purpose of correcting them. A quick reference to the last 10 issues of Yemen Times, as examples, will show that there have been many articles critical of the system's shortcomings.

3. Co-opted? NO:

Those who claim the Yemen Times is co-opted are either stupid or simply carry a grudge. The paper is INDEPENDENT. Some opposition politicians want the Yemen Times to attack the regime all the time and on every issue. That we will not do. We are not out to get the regime or to seek replacement of those in power. It is this stand that differentiates the Yemen Times from opposition papers. Opposition newspapers, being mouthpieces of their patrons, seek to replace those in power with the people who sponsor them, by discrediting the rulers in the eyes of the public. This is called politics. But, Yemen Times is not part of it. To the contrary, Yemen Times will give credit to those in power when they do their work well. And it is because we give such credit that opposition politicians and newspapers say that we have been co-opted. NONSENSE!

IN A NUT-SHELL

To put the position of the Yemen Times in a nut-shell, I want to state that we do not care who rules Yemen, provided two things:

- That those who rule have come to power through legal and constitutional means;
- That those who rule do a good job in governing this country and in serving the immediate and long-term interests of the Yemeni people.

Honestly speaking, I do not see among the opposition political leaders of today any individual who can be termed as possessing leadership qualities.

The Publisher


YEMEN TIMES

An Independent Economic & Political Weekly



Yemen Times Contact Address:
Telephones: + 967 (1) 268-661/2/3
Facsimile: + 967 (1) 268-276
Advertisements/Classifieds: 264-253
Post Office Box: 2579,
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

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

Managing Editor: Dr. Salah Haddash

Aden Bureau Chief: Mr. Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Phone: + 967 (2) 342-843, 347-057
Fax: + 967 (2) 347-056

Website: <http://www.y.net.ye/yementimes>
Email yementimes@y.net.ye

Mine Clearance in Yemen

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has allocated \$25 million for mine clearance in Chad and Yemen. In Yemen, the United Nations' Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) and (UNDP) have provided assistance to destroy some 30,000 landmines out of an estimated 100,000. The UNDP resident representative in Yemen, Onder Yucer, said that UNDP planned to continue the work in 1998 by providing training and technical assistance.

Businessmen meet in Aden

Under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the second conference of Yemen Businessmen and Financiers, sponsored by the Hayel Saeed Ana'am Group of companies, is being held from 22 until 23 of December. Sheikh Abdullah Salem Al-Ramah, Vice President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Aden, indicated that the conference will discuss several issues, including the Aden Free Zone, with the Prime Minister and ministers of economy and development.

Yemen & EU

The cooperation between Yemen and the European Union is growing stronger. A series of discussions took place between officials from both sides to improve the cooperation in the fisheries, finance and technical fields. The European Union has already financed the Fourth Fisheries project in Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara.

MoU on Seismic Survey

A memorandum of understanding was signed on December 17th between the Ministry of Oil and Mineral resources and Mool Hungarian company. According to this MoU, the Hungarian company is to carry out a 1000 km seismic survey, and to dig 4 exploratory wells with a total expense of \$10 million. The period of exploration will be 5 years through 2 stages, 3 years for the first and 2 years for the second.

8th Traffic Week

Several seminar and exhibitions and other activities are being held all over the country as part of the 8th Traffic Week. The aim is to raise public awareness of the importance of adhering to the traffic rules and regulations. The total number of traffic-related accidents during this year in Yemen is 7418 resulting in 1128 deaths and 7352 injuries. There were 137,660 traffic violations. Speed, overloading and bad vehicle maintenance are blamed.

Health Evaluation Week Concluded

The conference to evaluate the governorates' health authorities, organized by the Ministry of Health and the (WHO), was held from 13 to 17 of December. The conference reviewed the national campaign to vaccinate children against polio. It concluded with several recommendations for improving the health sector in Yemen. It asserted the necessity of health training, and the supply of transportation, giving priority to the governorates which need more services.

Campaign to Save Iraqi Children Gathers Momentum

The campaign initiated by Yemen Times to save the children of Iraq has received an enthusiastic welcome by Yemenis. Around 32,000 people have signed the Yemen Times appeal. The sig-

natures will be sent to the UN Secretary-General.

It is to be noted that the people of Iraq are the victims of a national bully and an international bully - Saddam and the US administration.

Jordanian Health Delegation Arrives

The Jordanian Minister of Health, Dr. Ashraf Al-Kurdi arrived in Sanaa on Friday, December 19th on an official that will last for several days. The aim of the visit is to enhance the cooperation in health matters between Yemen and Jordan. A protocol of medical cooperation is signed during the visit. On another level, the Jordanian Director of the Military Medical Services, Dr. Yousuf Al-Qosoos is also visiting Yemen at the head of a delegation to sign a another cooperation protocol.

International Book Fair Launched

Organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the 14th Sanaa International Book Fair was opened on Thursday, December 18th at the Sharia College in Sanaa University. Books from more than 170 Yemen, Arab, and foreign publishing houses are displayed at the fair, which is set to go on for ten days.

Accompanying the book fair, are several cultural activities activities and seminars. Several well-known Yemeni and Arab poets and writers will take part.

20 Tons of Lobster Exported

The General Establishment of Coastal Fishing has started the 1997/98 season by exporting 20 tons of rock lobster worth \$490,000 to France. The director of the establishment announced

that there are now 60 tons of rock lobsters stored at the establishment's coldstores in Hadhramaut and Mahara, ready to be exported. The lobster fishing season started in October, and will last until the end of May, 1998.

FAO Warns Against Locusts

Surveys are being conducted to uncover the areas where desert locusts multiply during winter. Efforts are concentrated in the area extending from Midi in Hajja to the Abyan shores. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has already warned countries in the Middle East, especially those overlooking the Red Sea. Surveys

indicate that locusts are already multiplying fast on the coastal region between Sudan and Eritrea. The swarm can very well cross the Red Sea into Yemen and Saudi Arabia, FAO sources said.

Women Man Embassy

The most senior positions in the US Embassy in Sanaa are now occupied by women. There is the newly arrived ambassador, Ms. Barbara Bodeine. The Deputy Chief of Mission is Ms. Margaret Scobey. The Political Officer as well as the Economic Officer are both women. The Consul's Deputy is a woman. Men at that embassy must feel a bit threatened. It is time they got a taste of what women have been enduring for so long.



كندا

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA
WE HAVE THE KEY TO YOUR FUTURE
MAKE YOUR MOVE TODAY!



Mr. John A. Garufi

International Entrepreneurs I. E. C. Canada Ltd
3680, Du Musee, Suite 100,
Montreal, Quebec H3G 2C9, Canada
Tel: 514-288-7825, Fax: 514-845-1472

We are pleased to announce that there will be a great changes at the beginning of 1998.

Candidates wishing to apply for immigration as business investments, professional category (accountants, engineers, executives pharmacist, technicians, etc) and have the requirements:

- 1- University degree
- 2- Work experience for 4 years
- 3- Fluent in English or French
- 4- Good financial assets.

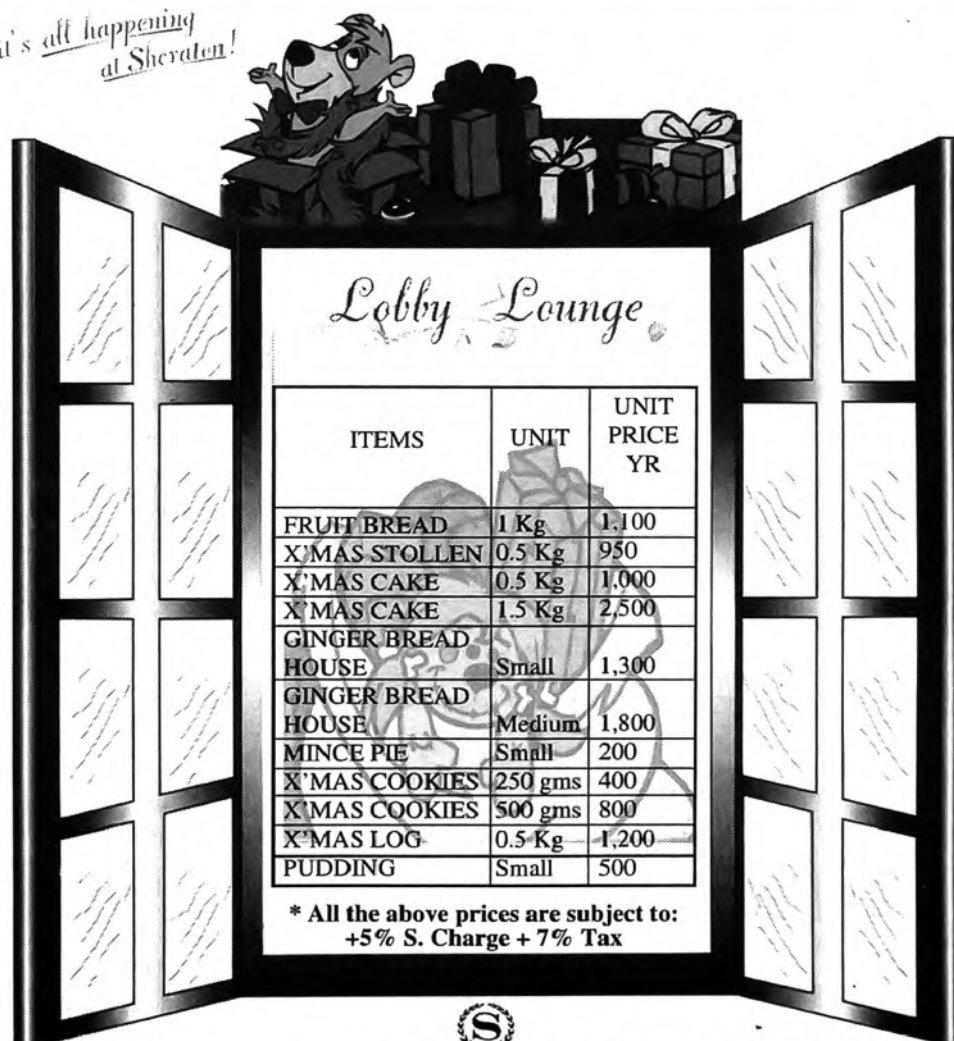
Hurry to apply before end of 1997.

We are not an employment recruiting agency.

For further information please contact:
Sana'a telefax #(01) 278163.

Sheraton opens the Christmas Window for you!

it's all happening at Sheraton!



Lobby Lounge

ITEMS	UNIT	UNIT PRICE YR
FRUIT BREAD	1 Kg	1,100
X'MAS STOLLEN	0.5 Kg	950
X'MAS CAKE	0.5 Kg	1,000
X'MAS CAKE	1.5 Kg	2,500
GINGER BREAD HOUSE	Small	1,300
GINGER BREAD HOUSE	Medium	1,800
MINCE PIE	Small	200
X'MAS COOKIES	250 gms	400
X'MAS COOKIES	500 gms	800
X'MAS LOG	0.5 Kg	1,200
PUDDING	Small	500

* All the above prices are subject to:
+5% S. Charge + 7% Tax

فندق شيراتون صنعاء
Sheraton Sana'a
HOTEL

OUR WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU

Tel. (967) (1) 237500 - Fax (967) (1) 251521 - Telex: 2644 SHSANYE

it's all happening at Sheraton!

Keep Sana'a city clean

Sheikh Ali Mohammed Al-Rassas

Solving Problem Issues in Al-Beida

Sheikh Ali Mohammed Al-Rassas is currently a member of the Local Administration Committee at the Consultative Council. Hailing from Al-Beidha, Sheikh Al-Rassas, 53, became a director of the Markha region after the revolution, then a member of the Shoura Council in 1972, a member of the People's Founding Council, and later a member of parliament after unification.

Due to the fighting with the Imam, he had to do his schooling in various areas such as Miswarah and Beihan.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor,

talked to Sheikh Al-Rassas and filed the following interview. Excerpts:

Q: What are the general circumstances in Al-Beidha governorate now?

A: The situation in Al-Beidha was quite bad during the rule of the Socialist Party, despite it being a strategic border region. Public services were far from adequate. Many left Al-Beidha, especially the businessmen and the educated elite. However, the development projects currently taking place in the area are enticing some people to come back to their homeland. So generally speaking, the situation is now better than it used to be in the past.

Q: What has been done regarding the problem of water scarcity in Al-Beidha?

A: The study conducted by the Consultative Council covers all Yemen, not only Al-Beidha. Water in Al-Beidha is mainly on the surface, there is little underground. This problem should really be solved, considering that the area is quite fertile. In the fertile valleys of Beihan and Markha the rich soil is sometimes 15 to 30 m deep. If certain areas in Al-Beidha are properly and fully farmed, they can cover the needs of most other governorates in Yemen.

Lack of water for irrigation has driven many people out of their farms. Recently, however, the General Water Authority has started implementing several water projects in the area, a task for which we are very grateful.

Q: Are there any major agricultural projects in Al-Beidha?

A: I am afraid that there no such big projects. It is mostly done through individual efforts. Farmers successfully grow onions, garlic, and citrus fruits. But this season farmers had to sell the sack of onions for YR

200 only due to their inability to market their products in other areas of Yemen. The recent increase in diesel prices is not helping, either. The government's support of agriculture in Al-Beidha is still not sufficient.

Q: Can't the Agricultural Bank help out?

A: Farmers in general are unable to meet the conditions of borrowing as stipulated by the Agricultural Bank. Even if they can meet these conditions, some people refrain from borrowing and paying back with interest out of religious observance. Agriculture is becoming expensive. For instance, it costs around YR 1,200 to hire a tractor for one hour, not to speak of the required fertilizers, pesticides, the water pump, etc. These have surpassed the means of many people. What the income farmers get for their produce is just not sufficient any more.

Q: Are there any NGOs and agricultural cooperatives?

A: No, I am afraid not. There are only charities for helping the poor and the destitute.

Q: Do the emigrants from Al-Beidha help their relatives who are still at home?

A: Very little. Most of the emigrants from Al-Beidha went to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries. They were deported during the Gulf crisis in 1990.

Q: It is rumored that some MP and members of the Consultative Council take money in return for helping their constituents. How true is this?

A: I have solved many problems and provided many services for my area without a single riyal in



return. I sometimes have to spend a long time in Sanaa to work on my people's behalf, and only see my family for two days a week. Some citizens, out of ignorance or mistaken belief, try to trust money onto their MP. It is just in their blood, despite being poor. So you see people follow and admire the person who takes money from them in return for favors. I don't do that.

Q: Let's now talk about health care and education. How adequate are these services in Al-Beidha?

A: There is the Al-Bawa general hospital in the center of the governorate and a few public and private health centers scattered around the region. Generally speaking, the health services in Al-Beidha are still not sufficient. Most areas in Al-Beidha have adequate schools, compared to the 1980s.

Q: Is there any environmental pollution in Al-Beidha?

A: Although there are no major industries in the region, pollution does exist. It is mainly in the form of garbage and sewer pollution due to the negligence of some of the municipal authorities.

Q: Is there an adequate road network within Al-Beidha?

A: Most villages are connected with the major urban centers in the governorate by decent roads. Work is now underway to construct a major road to connect Al-Beidha with Shabwa, passing through Sawmaa and Miswara.

Q: Do people in Al-Beidha experience electricity shortages?

A: Yes, this issue has been a source of headache for some time. Lately, however, a power station has been installed in Al-Khazan area.

Q: So what are the governorate's major needs?

A: Al-Beidha's top priority now is to build dams in order to provide sufficient water for irrigation.

Q: Could you tell us a little about the traditional handicrafts in Al-Beidha?

A: Many of the traditional handicrafts have all but disappeared. Other more practical crafts and traditional professions such as carpenters and blacksmiths still flourish. Weavers, for example,

are now very few.

Q: Is the natural life in Al-Beidha endangered in any way?

A: There used to be many kinds of animals which people hunted for their meat, rather than for pleasure or trade. Some of the animals are quite rare now such as the deer and a few species of birds.

Q: Being a border region, is there any smuggling into and out of Al-Beidha?

A: No, there is none. Smuggling may exist in other parts of the country, but not in Al-Beidha. Laxity in the administration is to blame for that.

Q: Is there any problem regarding the proposed administrative divisions?

A: We don't have a particular problem in this area. However, I can understand the objections made by people in other parts of the country. Tribal and regional allegiances are still very much strong.

Q: How do you evaluate the performance of the Consultative Council so far?

A: The Consultative Council consists of very prominent and wise people, but their powers are limited. The President is a good man who cares about the well-being of all people. But we ask God to guide the President's men to what is good for the nation. I don't mean the members of the

Consultative Council, most of whom have still not had the chance to meet the President since their appointment. They only see him on TV. This is the truth. Without undo flattery, the President is a good man, and wants good for all Yemen.

The Consultative Council is facing many obstacles. It has no legislative power, but can only provide advice and opinion to the President. Despite all that and despite many members absent themselves for some reason or another, the Consultative Council is quite active.

Q: Could you briefly tell us about the issue of blood feuds and the carrying of firearms that was recently discussed by the Consultative Council?

A: Blood feuds in Yemen represent an age-old problem. The solution is not easy. I believe that a republican decree will have to be issued licensing the killing of anyone who commits a blood revenge murder within the capital and other major town and cities. Tribal traditions dictated that a murderer must be banished from society. People used to feel safe when they entered town and cities. Now the opposite is true - people are afraid to leave their little villages to go into town. If such a decree is enforced properly, it will become a strong deterrent for anyone who contemplates executing a blood revenge murder inside a town or a city. Of course, the law must be impartially applied on all citizens irrespective of their status in society. A blood revenge murderer must simply have his

own blood shed with impunity. Secondly, a general state of reconciliation must be declared, and must remain in force for at least two or three years. During this period of good will, the state should carry out an intensive media campaign to raise public awareness. It should be made quite clear that blood feuds are simply unacceptable. Also, meetings should be held in all governorates where the governor, the security people, the tribal sheikhs and elders can get together in order to reach comprehensive reconciliation among the feuding factions. The relevant republican decree can be properly formulated during this period of respite.

The other important matter which is closely associated with, and is often the cause of blood feuds is land disputes. Land disputes, very prevalent nowadays, must be tackled, fairly and squarely. So it is really a matter of addressing the cause first, and the effect second. Again the state must intervene in solving land disputes, rather than leaving the tribes to their own devices. Blood feuds in Al-Beidha are not that widespread as is the case in Sanaa or Mareb.

Q: How about the problem of carrying firearms?

A: It could prove to be quite difficult to persuade people, especially in the countryside, to put their weapons away while everybody in other parts of the country insist on carrying theirs. However, this problem is less pronounced in urban centers within Al-Beidha.

Yemenia Al-Sunidar Travel & Tours MAM Adhban Group American Airlines HASCO

How many ways are there to say 'Merry Christmas'?
The TAJ SHEBA gives you

24th DECEMBER: ABUNAWAS
"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas...." Stop dreaming, come along to the Taj, and make this a Christmas to remember. Airline Tickets, Gift Hampers, Prizes to be won!!!
Rate \$ 100 + 7% for Couple.

25th DECEMBER: BILQUIS
Christmas Brunch 12:30 PM - 3:30pm
Feast off a delicious buffet of traditional Yuletide favourites. In a colourful Christmas ambience along with Santa.
Rate YR 2750 + 7% per head.

25th DECEMBER: GOLDENPEACOCK
Candle lit dinner 8pm - until midnight
Get your partners to this Romantic Christmas evening and enjoy the CD music with all time favourite
Our Chefs are preparing something very special....
Rate \$ 40 + 7% per head.

26th DECEMBER: POOLSIDE
Children Christmas Party 12:30 noon onwards. (Below Ten years old)
* Carol Songs
* Fun Games
* Fashion Show
* 'Pic your pic.' with Santa
* Film The Jurassic Park on A Giant Screen Courtesy 'SONY'
* Santa Christmas baskets
Rate YR 1500 + 7% adult 2750 + 7%
CHRISTMAS FAVORITES at La Patisserie our Cake Shop
Available Christmas puddings, Turkey, Yule Logs and many more

Almagd Trading Agency فندق تاج سبأ TAJ SHEBA HOTEL SANAA YEMEN UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON

Black & Decker ToLLYjoy Al-Haidary (Sony) Emirates Airline Taj Group of Hotels

Think BUTLER
Pre-engineered Steel Building Systems

World's No. 1 for High Quality, Low Cost and Speedy Construction

Our steel buildings are ideal for:

- Offices
- Factories
- Farm Buildings
- Service Centers
- Car Sheds
- Grain Storage
- Aircraft Hangars
- Power Plants
- Commercial Centers
- Recreation Centers
- Showrooms
- Warehouses

الشركة السعودية للصناعات الحديدية
Saudi Building Systems

HEAD OFFICE / JEDDAH TEL. 637 0036 (8 LINES) FAX. 635 2173
RIYADH TEL. 464 7695 465 9212 FAX. 464 7695
DAMMAM TEL. 827 5306 827 5324 FAX. 827 5324

Agent: Yemen Trading Corp., Sana'a P.O.Box 71 - Tel. 275 336 - Fax 271 638



Stars
and
stripes
all
the way
home

Fly KLM/Northwest Airlines when you next return home and enjoy the full benefits of this global alliance: through seat reservations, through baggage check, minimal transfer times and over 200 destinations in the US. Plus the feeling of being at home from the moment you board.



Seamless travel: if you hold a KLM ticket you may fly on a Northwest aircraft, and vice versa.

KL 536 NW 8536	Sun Wed
Dep. Sana'a	22:45 Next day
Arr. Amsterdam	06:10
Same day throughconnections to over 200 US destinations via 10 major US gateway	
Sana'a-USA. Like clockwork.	



Yemen Travel & Tours
Tel: (01) 278747, Fax: 278757

A beast of a blender,
that let's you clean its teeth.



Detachable blades!
That's the beauty of this
new **Easy Clean**
Blender from Philips.



And that means, you can take it apart and clean it out in seconds. Which not only saves time, it's great for hygiene too. Now add a powerful 400 watt motor and a massive 2.0 litre jar, and you too will get a buzz out of this unique Philips Blender. Quick!



<http://www.dap.philips.com>

Let's make things better



PHILIPS

Authorised Distributor: Universal Trading & Investment Co. Ltd., (Near Hadda Cinema), Tel: 248089 Fax: 268236

**MERRY CRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR
A GIFT TO REMEMBER**



Cartier
Van Cleef & Arpels
Baccarat
CHANEL

Dior
BERNARDAUD
HERMES
Dam

LACOSTE
DELSEY
PHILIPPE CHARRIOL
BOUCHERON
GUEBLAIN
YVES SAINT LAURENT
JEAN PATOU
S.T. Dupont
PARFUMS GRÉS
LONGINES
MAJORICA
CELNE
Christofle

At: MAN SHOWROOM
SAIF BIN THIYAZAN STREET,
SANA'A. TEL: 275145 / 286390

Belgian Battleship on Friendly Visit

On the evening of December 16th, the command ship Godetia (name of a flower) docked at the Port of Aden on a friendly visit to the Yemeni shores. The reception held on board the ship was attended by the Deputy Governor of Aden, Mr. Abdulakrim Shayif; the 1st SDeputy at the Belgian Embassy in Riyadh, the Belgian Consular Representative in Sanaa, Mr. Zaghlool Ba-Zara'a and a number of Yemeni military (naval) commanders and civilian officials. The ship's captain, Commander Edwin van den Haute conducted the Yemeni guests to a guided tour on board the ship.

"This visit will further consolidate the cooperation between Yemen and Belgium," said Mr. Shayif who was later presented the 'Ship's Shield' by the Godetia's captain.

Mr. Zaghlool Ba-Zara'a said, "This is the first time a Belgian command ship visits Yemen," adding, "it is a 32-year old defense ship with only a few arms."

The Godetia command ship (91.8 m long and 14m wide) was first launched into sea on December 7th, 1965 to be mainly used for mine counter-measures operations. It carries the required equipment to conduct and coordinate all such operations. The Godetia also provides administrative, technical, and logistic support and enhances the combat readiness of the troops engaged in battle by improving the



mobility and efficiency of the ships. On board, there are 8 officers and 85 crew members. Moreover, this ship is equipped with a medical and dental surgery and a helicopter platform. It had undergone a major renovation and up-grading during 1990 to 1992, when new engines and new radio equipment were installed.

By: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Aden Office, Yemen Times.



Working to Enhance Understanding between Arab and American Peoples

Mr. Craig Findley has for the past several months been working closely with his father in trying to develop TV, print and radio advertising in the USA in an attempt to portray some simple truths about Islam and to overcome as, Mr. Findley Sr. says, the negative stereotype that many Americans hold about Muslims and about Islam.

Q: Do you have an idea about the Yemeni community in USA.

A: In fact I know nothing. All I know about Yemen is reading the Yemen Times web site in my computer.

Q: Is it your first visit to Yemen?

A: I hope it could be the first of many visits I have waited for a long time to make this trip.

Q: Why do most Americans have a negative idea about Islam?

A: Americans only know about Yemen and other Arab and Muslim countries from the press. For instance, they hear that tourists are kidnapped in Yemen. Of course that is a very small matter in this country, but if the American press will print only one item a week or one item a month about Yemen then that is all Americans will know. The same applies to Islam in the USA.

The press in my country portray Arabs in a very negative manner. There is very little in the press that attempts to bridge the cultural and religious commonalities between Muslims and Christians. I think the possible



way to do that effectively is through advertising and doing it in a very simple and subtle way.

Q: Does the bad image of Islam within the American mentality affect the foreign policy of the USA?

A: I can hardly think otherwise. We seem to get only one view of what is offered to find a just peace. My father is trying to engage American Muslims and become them involved in political process. My focus is strictly education. We call the project Understanding Islam. I want people to feel more comfortable with their Muslim neighbors, and to realize that Christians, Muslims and Jews as well people from all other religions worship the same God. They must appreciate that Muslims respect the teachings of Jesus and that there is even a 'sora' in the Quran which speaks of Mary. Most Christians have no idea of the things they have in common with Muslims. Few Christians realize

anything about the contributions the Islamic world made to mathematics, science, art, literature and medicine. Those things will not be known unless those stories can be told in the very simple way. I think Americans will open wider and we will begin to get along much better together.

Q: Does the Muslim community in America play any role in explaining Islam to people?

A: Every time there is an incident around the world in which terrorism is involved or which is associated with Muslims, American Muslims simply go inside and keep to themselves. It is easier just to say nothing and to do nothing. I don't criticize American Muslims. They are leaders in business, science, engineering and medicine. They are not leaders in politics and until they become leaders in politics I think it will be difficult for them to speak out.

Q: Do you have any other people working for "Understanding Islam" from America or other countries?

A: We have many friends working closely with religious organizations around the country to try and develop these messages but it is mostly a labor of mine and a labor of my father.

Q: Do you want to add anything?

A: I hope that my American friends will have the chance to see Yemen as we have seen it this week. It is a very long trip from the USA to Yemen but it is worthwhile.

Assessing Progress of Yemen's Democratization Process

By: Sameer Al-Abdali*

May 22nd, 1990 is considered an important milestone in the Yemeni people's strive towards a better future for two important events:

- 1) The reunification of the country; and
- 2) Yemen's democratic reforms as stated in the new unified constitution.

With the reforms, Yemen saw the establishment of a plethora of political parties and organizations, as well as private and partisan newspapers, and many civic institutions. The Yemeni people realized new rights and freedoms which they hadn't known for many years during colonial and Imami rule, and during earlier republican regimes.

Some have considered Yemen's entry into democracy and unification an important phase despite the lack of a democratic culture or any practical experience within the ruling political elite and the Yemeni society. Yemen was characterized by



authoritarian cultures and ideologies in both parts, to a degree that party pluralism was criminalized.

An important dialogue took place between the rulers of both Yemens before unification

regarding the democratic reforms. They were both faced by two realities that threatened their existence. The first is internal which was manifested in a legitimacy crisis due to social, political, and economic crises that were the result of their failure to realize the required development. And the other was external due to the democratic changes in the world as described by Samuel Huntington.

These and other factors had the two requires to accept democracy as the basis for the unified Republic of Yemen.

Despite the transformation of Yemeni society to a New era, the last few years have shown many positive and negative results that were clear in the crises that almost lead to the crumbling of democracy and unity. There were directly due to many

factors like the dominant political culture and the difficulty in the society accepting democracy as a complete system, as well as the political elite's lack of understanding the tolerance, participation, and peaceful transfer of power.

We also should not disregard the effect of regional effects that played a negative role on the democratic experience in the Republic of Yemen that represents a unique case in the Arabic Peninsula.

Democratic reforms in Yemen have made giant strides through two electoral experiments in April 93 and April 97. There have shown the Yemeni society's acceptance of democracy despite it being a traditional religious society ruled by tribal custom and plagued by illiteracy, in hope of better experiencing democratic expertise for the society and political elite.

A quick look at political reform can be shown as follows:

- 1) Constitutional laws stressed the importance of political reforms, and were more developed than any others in the Arabian Peninsula and the Middle East.
- 2) More than 40 parties and political organizations were founded after May 1990. The number decreased after the 1994 war, due to internal weakness and fear of the future.
- 3) Over 140 newspapers, magazines, and periodicals were established. The number then declined due to market dictates and mistakes in managing them. Other reasons include low investments in journalism, weakness of

professional cadres, and the exit of the Yemeni Socialist Party from the coalition running the country.

4) NGO criteria began to appear, although they lacked the institutional depth in the way they were applied and were dependent on tribal leaders. The fact was that they were not specialized enough to have a serious role in society and gov't.

5) The most important point in the democratic reforms in Yemen is manifested in the electoral competition, in the two periods of 93 and 97. After unity, the two parties split power, and allowed political parties and organizations to express themselves as a democratic front that was taken when necessary. The major coalition partner (GPC) was able to create a tribal-religion party (Islah) to face the minor coalition partner that had vision of a modern state but lacked the methodology to implement its plans, and a common language to deal with the Yemeni tribal realities, and despite its more democratic programs, practiced non-democratic ways in dealing with its membership.

During the 1993 election period, the coalition party were successful in filling the majority of the parliamentary seats, opposite parties had few seats, and the GPC successfully allowed Islah to obtain over 55 seats (out of 301) to become the third member of the governing coalition, in an attempt on part of GPC to become the power broker between the socialist left and the religious right.

However, the YSP considered the seats given for Islah, as coming from its own seats, which lead to deep differences among the ruling trio. In turn this lead to the resolution of the conflict in a traditional Yemeni way of military confrontation in the summer of '94. The YSP, as a result, was out of the political picture. Democratic

reforms took steps backward. But the most important result was the salvaging and strengthening of the country's unity.

The following era saw attempts by Islah to fill the vacuum created by the departure of the YSP. The Yemeni Constitution was amended to include laws to deepen religious orientation. This in turn lead to a struggle between the new partners. This did not measure up due to the deep relations between the two leaderships, but lead to differences within Islah's leadership, between the fundamentalist wing that did not get international or local support because of fears of turning Yemen into an Iran or Sudan. The GPC took advantage of this rift and used the 1997 elections to become the undisputed power player in Yemen. The

GPC also solicited the participation of other political leaders in a belief that the democratic experiment in Yemen would face the challenges which if dealt with correctly could lead to better results such as

- 1- solving the economic difficulties through proper planning;
- 2- the abatement of fiscal and civil corruption;
- 3- political normalization, and the creation of strong civil society institutions; and
- 4- the building of a balanced relationship with the opposition parties based on mutual respect and tolerance.

* Mr. Sameer Al-Abdali works at the Political Department of the Yemeni Center for Studies and Research.

Rothmans-Hayel Saeed Partnership Seeks World Recognition

Yemen based Rothmans, which manufactures cigarettes in partnership with Hayel Saeed Anam, expect to be awarded ISO 9002 Certification, a measure of the world's highest quality standards. The factory which is located in Taiz employs high-speed technology and is among Yemen's most advanced industrial facilities.

AVAILABLE FOR LEASING

A 3-floor building, four apartments in each floor - all de luxe finishing, is available for immediate leasing. The flats are fully furnished with first-class furniture, air-conditioned and have utilities (electricity, water, telephone lines) and a big compound for car parking.

The building can be used as a hospital, clinic, hotel or office/residential apartments.

The building is a nice neighborhood.

Foreign companies are preferred as tenants.

For more information/inquiries, please call:
Phone: (05) 353-864 (Ask for Saleh),
Pager: 5825510 (Ask for Ahmed)

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

Restoring Old Monuments Means Facing Ignorance

By Martin Danksy / Yemen Times



The foreigner, in this case myself, has been to other lands where monuments have not only proven the test of history is has also been kept up as a landmark of the country's cultural past and window onto the future. How could I possibly teach that to a trader who just thinks of his daily needs? Probably by teaching him that those daily needs are linked to a cultural heritage and that if he loses that heritage he might not know which road to take for the future. He could also end up as his brothers have in Kuwait and other modern Arab states where there is no clue left to the early market places and old entrances to ancient towns. Well the present structure of the gate restored after the turn of the century construction by a German architect, stands as a model of strength. The local is not only unaware of the cost involved, he hasn't a clue as to its vastness: he only wants a sure place to sell and the door has to remain open! Little does he know about the space set aside inside, exhibition space in each turret has been worked on while he has been shouting down the next trader for a business sale. But what's more of a problem than the commoner who at least has had a taste of western values and sees the restoration of monuments as superfluous, better to live well and forget the past, he thinks.

Space is set aside for exhibiting photos and models of 'suqs' or old markets, mosques, the doors of Yemen, the "Samsaras" and Caravansaries, the gardens and the types of houses of Sanaa. And the trader keeps working making his

such tasks.

I'm referring to the ordinary man who has carried his wares to the door for decades vying for a toe hold within the entrance itself; does he really care about the thousands of dollars it takes to restore a monument like that? Given the slightest possibility of interest wouldn't that interest just be commercial? Not so, the door also figures important symbolically as well as commercially. Bab Yemen has survived the centuries, and even if the trader wouldn't admit it; there are those funeral processions out of the gate from the south side which wouldn't occur if the door were left to fall to ruin.

مبروك

اجمل الاماني والتبريكات نتقدم
بها إلى الأخ
نبيل علي الأزرق
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولوده البكر
والتي اسمها
غيداء

المهزون
بيت الأهدل وبيت السقاف
وبيت الحمادي، وبيت العثلي

daily bread while the foreigner is thinking that the struggle between the educated and uneducated masses will continue without end. Who will win this struggle? Since the masses greatly outnumber the educated, and the tendency today is for immediate benefits from the workplace, fewer people will ever become sensitized as to the importance of keeping up a country's heritage. More university graduates will opt for work in foreign countries especially when they see that change is slow, efficiency is missing and the future here holds little promise for them. Then there are those who after being educated abroad like Abdullah, come back to his country with a message: "if you show concern for your national monuments then you'll have something to teach the next generation", he comments. But he wants people to be aware of the fact that only if you teach your children to regard monuments with a certain respect will they be proud of their past. Otherwise restoration of the other gates and monuments will be futile.

Fortunately, however restoration goes on and GOPHCY, the organization that started the rebuilding of the southern gate is the gem in the crown. Citizen groups could

take up the cause by private funding, Dr. Abdullah suggests. The state doesn't have to forward a penny.

And it has every reason to benefit: there is the tourist value of the Bab. No foreigner comes to the city without looking at these major gates as reference points. That means jobs for the people standing by the archway of the main gate, from the women squatting near there baskets of green henna to the garment dealers with their racks of clothes inside the gate and to the back of the square there.

So the Bab isn't just a wall broken up into turrets, with a metal clad door that was found to be copper, it is the people who unconsciously make the door a vibrant meeting place for the tourist and the local looking for a good deal. It is a symbol of the revolution and a marker for the people who defended the old city and ousted the Imam. A canon blast scar remains on a copper section of the door as proof of the struggle. Would it have the same effect if it were bulldozed to the ground with a fake entrance in its place? Why not then invite the McDonald's group to build a nice M archway across? This is where the country is headed unless more concern will be shown.

Leaving the turreted structure to ruin you lose the ability to explain how and why there was such an important structure for the city. The impressive thickness of the structure, the narrow ventilation windows and diagonally placed, rifles shot holes would all disappear. People would have the least understanding as to how defenses were kept before their grandfathers were born and why care? Why care about the ability for carts to be pushed along the wall between the turrets; people drive the expensive Mercedes and there are a good number of four wheel drives wherever you go!

Why because its too easy to import and slap on a new technology and call it your own and its more difficult to wipe out a past and then try to recreate a new identity and at the same time try to convince the youth of what their heritage was. Cultural landmarks will be lost unless people act now. that is exactly what the country will be faced with unless they involve themselves in edu-

that is still useful. And if kept up it will still be useful, rather than tearing it down to build a modern skyscraper or a parking lot with no historical reference. Buildings like these can be kept functional by modernizing the inside while keeping the outside facade and at the same time the Yemeni will be reminded that the Turks played a role in introducing institutions into the region, even though they became unpopular with the advent of the first world war the building is evidence of that contribution.

Besides technology is not culture but the means to transform culture into something modern. The paradox is that technology has been likened to culture, there is really never a moment when man can sit back and say that he

the gate protected the entrance of the city.

And the Bab was part of eight babs that surrounded the old There was Bab Al-Balakah, and the Bab Yehud which enter into the Jewish quarter of the city. Bab Shu'b which once guarded the north and the Bab Yemen were the oldest.

Some suggest that these could be built on the idea executed in Rabat, from old diagrams. This would show the limits of the ancient city as it once was.

Critics will shout you can't prevent wars, look at what happened at the Bab at Tahreer square where the canon which fired the first shot of the revolution is proudly exhibited. These monuments will be blown to bits, they argues. Unfortunately



ating the public about the importance of cultural, historical landmarks. Most likely, children will be taught only from some imprecise foreign drawn map of what the Bab "used to be," when they could benefit from what they have.

And people will complain about the upkeep of restorations and the number of other monuments that also have to be restored. Well, some structures like the Turkish government building on the road to Taiz looking south from the gate is testimony to a structure

technology cannot influence his future. So what has this got to do with a structure originally built in the 9th to 10th century for defense purposes and to protect a city's inhabitants? The roof of the turrets or "nobahs" being guarded by soldiers who fought for the dwellers within the walls. Maybe just to say that in spite of all the technological change there are symbolic values that remain ingrained. Its something to illustrate, at least figuratively that the modern Yemeni state should protect the rights of its citizens as

history teaches that wars cannot be prevented at best they are delayed. All man can do is to be optimistic, positive that what restoration he does will carry onto the future. Least of all, should he work under the atmosphere that his fight to maintain a cultural heritage is futile because there will be a war in fifty years. At that point one might just as well debate on the meaning of life and the reason why its important to plan for the future even though we all know that our lives on this earth are all temporary.



Fernandez Travel

Consolidators For

YEMENIA



Yemen Airways

Fly With Us To

Abu Dhabi • Addis Ababa • Aden • D'Jibouti • Hodeidah • Jeddah
Khartoum • Mumbai • Nairobi • Riyan • Sana'a • Seiyun • Taiz

Fernandez International (Travel) Ltd

Mezzanine Office Berkeley Court Glentworth Street London NW1 5PH

Tel: + 44 171 935 6633 Fax: + 44 171 724 3498 Email: Fernandez_uk@msn.com



Sheikh Saif Bin Hashem Al-Miskari:

“Lots of opportunities for business.”

Sheikh Saif Bin Hashem Al-Miskari is a prominent businessman in Oman. He is also an important public figure, having occupied several official and diplomatic positions including the post of deputy secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

During his recent visit to Yemen, Sheikh Al-Miskari talked to Bin Sallam of Yemen Times who filed the following interview.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: I came upon an invitation by my friend Mr. Ghalib Ali Jameel, Deputy Foreign Minister, to get first-hand knowledge of Yemen. I am quite surprised by the rapid development that has taken place in this country. I really hope that ties between Yemen and Oman will grow further.

I am also here to investigate business possibilities.

Q: You were, until recently, the Deputy Secretary-General of the GCC. What was your experience?

A: I was appointed as the GCC's deputy secretary-general for political affairs in 1987. Much international and Arab efforts were made at the time to try to put an end to the Iran-Iraq war. The GCC's involvement in this issue immensely enriched my experience.

Then came the tension between Iraq and Kuwait in the summer of 1990, leading to the shocking Iraqi invasion of its southern neighbor. The whole region is still suffering from the painful repercussions of that dreadful experience. It was the first time in modern history that Arab armies face each other in battle. I left my post at the GCC in 1993.

Q: How has the GCC benefited its member countries?

A: Such regional blocs are good in enhancing overall solidarity and understanding. The world is now moving towards bigger blocs and alliances. One of the biggest successes of the GCC was keeping its six member countries from becoming directly involved in the military conflict between Iraq and Iran.

It has also been instrumental during the last 17 years of its existence in achieving a lot of coordination in political and



security matters among the Gulf countries. The GCC should now have a more active economic cooperation, especially given the globalization of trade and other rapid world developments.

Q: Yemen applied to join the GCC, but was rejected. What is the Omani position regarding this issue? And what do you think of it?

A: As far as I know, Yemen has not submitted an official application to join the GCC. It was only a proposal. With its big population and strategic position, Yemen is a very important country in the region. It can provide a strategic and economic depth to other Gulf countries. However, there are some circumstances that may impede Yemen's immediate entry into the GCC. These include economic and political differences. Yemen shares many social aspects with other Arab countries in the region.

An immediate impediment is the charter of the GCC, which limits membership to the present six member countries only.

Yemen can still enter into bilateral agreements with individual members of the GCC. This could actually be more beneficial for Yemen, and it could a gradual mechanism for integrating it with the GCC. From an economic point of view, Yemen must be given priority, especially in private-sector investments.

Other differences are to Yemen's

advantage such as political pluralism and free press, which may not be so developed in other countries.

Q: This brings us to the issue of Arab investments in Yemen. How do you see this aspect developing?

A: The problem is that many of the people in the Gulf do not know enough about Yemen, especially its economic potential. The main reason for this is lack of communication.

Due to the rising level of the country's peace and stability, investing in Yemen is now more rewarding. I hope that there will be more economic cooperation, and most important of all, opening proper communication channels.

Q: How do you see the future of Omani-Yemeni relations?

A: There is still a missing link in the ties between our two countries business. I believe that the high level of close political understanding are not matched by economic ties.

I believe that an exchange of visits by trade delegations and private-sector representatives is a must in order to form the basis for future cooperation. Both Yemen and Oman need each other.

The private sectors in both countries must start to get together for the mutual benefit of both peoples. There are a lot of opportunities for business cooperation.

Marine & Coastal Pollution Studied

The Regional Training Workshop for Marine Environment Surveying and Monitoring was held during 7-11 December in Hodeida. The workshop was jointly organized by the Regional Authority for the Protection of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Environments and the Environment-Protection Council, and was financed by the international GEF.

Participants from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Djibouti, Yemen attended the discussion sessions.

surveyed the Araj area.

On the fourth day, a lecture was delivered by Dr. Omar Sabeeh on the physical characteristics and their effects on the Red Sea environment. This topic is quite relevant to the marine environment protection project currently underway in Hodeida and other similar regional projects in the future.

Special emphasis was given to the various parameters ruling in the southern region of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The

form Sanaa University delivered a lecture on the goals of monitoring programs and the activities to be monitored. The Dean of the College of Marine Sciences at Hodeida University, Dr. Hassan Ali Hibah emphasized the wholeness of the marine environment and that it cannot be treated as a group of smaller parts.

The main results or benefits of this workshop were as follows:

- 1- identifying vulnerable marine environments in Yemen;
- 2- identifying the problems



This workshop is the third of its kind, the first and second were held in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, respectively.

Several lectures covering various topics related to the marine environment and the necessary means of protecting it were delivered by experts in this field. Some lectures addressed the methods of identifying marine pollution, determining its sources, specifying the vulnerable marine environments and the monitoring methods. Theory was applied by the participants during a two-day field work. The participants also reviewed the results marine surveys conducted on the Egyptian and Yemeni Red Sea coasts.

A lecture delivered by Dr. William Gladstone of Australia covered the following points:

- 1 the basic principles of marine surveying;
- 2 the essential information to be collected;
- 3 the factors affecting marine resources;
- 4 the proportion of fishing - above or below the allowed maximum;
- 5 the obstacles facing coastal management; and
- 6 the required period of monitoring.

A paper submitted by Dr. Khalid Al-Hareeri covered:

- means of identifying the appropriate fishing seasons;
- the hatching of fish eggs;
- how to take and examine specimens to know the seasons of mating, fertility and hatching;
- fishing areas;
- problems facing fishermen; and other relevant topics.

Dr. Esam from the University of Hodeida talked about the various kinds of oil pollution, chronic and acute, and its effects on the marine environment.

All these lectures were applied in practice during the 2nd and 3rd days of the workshop. A coastal survey was conducted on the mangroves in the Lihya area where various marine creatures and migrant and endemic birds lay their. The participants also

participants studied the phenomenon where nutrient-carrying water currents flow from the depths of the sea to the surface, attracting marine creatures and forming fishing areas. Such areas exist near the coasts of Hadhramaut, south of the Gulf of Aden, and the southern coast of Socotra.

Dr. Mohammed Mahdi Abubakar

plaguing these environments; 3- agreeing on the scientific and practical solutions for these problems;

4- training on the basic methods of measuring coastal pollutants; and

5- agreeing to unify the surveying methods in the region in order to unify the collected and disseminated data.

Phone: 267644 Fax: 264187 P. O. Box: 18148 E-mail: hareer@y.net.ye

العنوان: الحي السياسي شارع ٢٢ مبنى ٤٧ صنعاء الجمهورية اليمنية

H A R E E R

تحو افاق جديدة

COMPUTER & LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

معهد الحرير التركي للغات والكمبيوتر

P r e s e n t s

COMPUTER & LANGUAGE COURSES

A- Computer Courses

NORTON COMMANDER
MS DOS
WINDOWS 95
WORD 97
EXCEL 97
ACCESS 97

B- Language Courses

English
Turkish

- **NOTE: THE ENGLISH COURSE WILL START AT THE 27th OF DECEMBER**
- Computer course will be in English

For more information call us

WANTED

Two Technicians

- 1- Installing and maintaining split-unit and window-type air-conditioners
- 2- Maintenance of electric home appliances (cookers, refrigerators, etc.)

Applicants with good long experience please call tel: 275842, or fax to: 270222, Sana'a
Att: Hamid

IFAD Signs New Loan Agreements

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is investing about \$ 134 million in 14 rural and agricultural development as well as poverty-combating projects worth \$ 480 million in Yemen. More than a quarter of a million families living in living in rural areas in Tihama and the southern and eastern governorates are set to benefit from these projects. Prior to the unification of Yemen in 1990, around \$ 100 million had been provided by IFAD.

After unification, five projects have been initiated by IFAD: the Borrowing project, the 4th Fisheries project, the Tihama project, and two more projects this year. IFAD provides financial assistance to all sorts of rural and agricultural development schemes, including agricultural research, livestock, fisheries, and investment in infrastructure projects.

During his recent visit to Yemen, Mr. Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan, the President of IFAD, signed an

agreement with the Yemeni government to finance two new projects worth \$ 24 million for rural and agricultural development in the Jabal Reima area and the southern and eastern governorates.

"IFAD started its cooperation with Yemen in 1979 with much emphasis on small farmers and rural women," said Mr. Al-Sultan. He stressed the importance of female participation in rural and agricultural projects. "Rural women need to be trained and educated to be able to actively participate in the process of development," Dr. Al-Sultan pointed out.

As for obstacles, Mr. Al-Sultan referred to the lack of proper basic services and infrastructures as the main factors impeding the implementation of many rural development projects in Yemen. Again, he stressed the need for a "more meaningful public participation to make such projects successful."



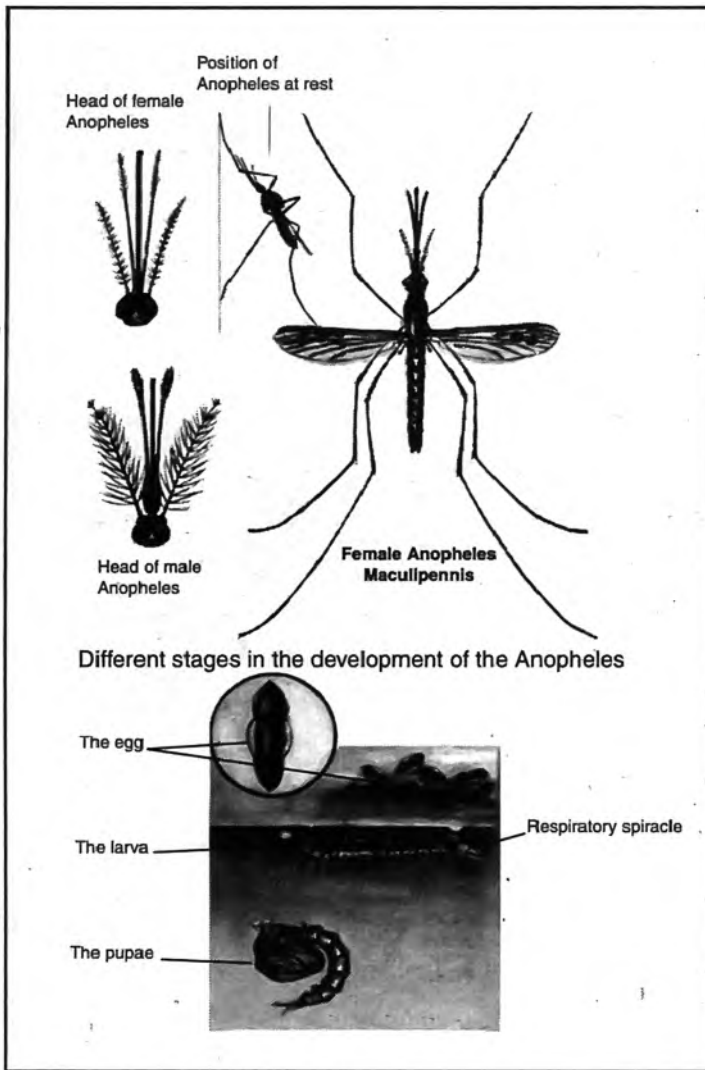
Farmers who had their lands nationalized by the former regime in southern Yemen will be given the chance to benefit from lands that will be cultivated in a project jointly run by the Yemeni government, IFAD, and the World bank. "We just don't encourage the drilling of new wells at the moment in order to decrease, as much as possible, the depletion in Yemen's precious water resources."

Malaria in Yemen on the Rise

Another parasitic disease which is on the rise again is carried by protozoans is transmitted by the Anopheles mosquito. Current forms of treatment have become insecure because of drug resistance developed by the micro-organism. It is endemic in the tropics and coastal areas of countries having similar climatic or subtropical conditions. The entire Red Sea and Hadramaut coasts are fertile areas for this disease because of the climate. Mosquito larva need the coastal areas to develop and become adults. The parasite has different varieties, each capable of reproducing asexually in man and sexually in the mosquito; reproduction occurs in the blood cells and liver cells of man which break open and in the lining of the insect's gut. The disease is transmitted as the insect bites a person who was previously infected or if it already harbours the protozoan, by biting a healthy subject.

Clearly the process of eradicating the disease has two alternatives; either by treating the subject so as to reduce the liability that he will harbor the protozoan or by eliminating the vector, in this case the mosquito. Risks of spreading are magnified as infected subjects travel to and from countries where the mosquito is still present and where they can act as new sources of protozoans for the mosquito. The symptoms arise when the plasmodium present in the blood cells, multiply causing the cell to burst open. The lysis is synchronous and this causes shivering, feeling cold, having fits of high temperature and sweating. The fever cycle varies according to the plasmodium; 48 hours for *P. vivax*, 72 hours for *P. malariae*. *P. falciparum* causes bursts of fever at smaller time intervals.

Prevention begins by knowing the culprit illustrated to the right: its resting position is classical, with the hind legs held up. The egg, larva and pupae representing the different stages in the development of the adult have characteristic shapes. The egg is not evenly surfaced as in the *Culex* mosquito and the larva lies relatively parallel to the water surface unlike the *Culex* variety which is suspended vertically. Most people don't know that for the parasite to get into the blood



it is not only introduced directly by the mosquito but travels directly from the liver where it is stored in the parenchymal cells and completes a sub-cycle of invading other cells there, under the merozoite form (see diagram). Today with the advent of resistance to chloroquine therapy people are taking drugs like Fansidar distributed in Britain after having followed a quinine course. The prophylactic to take is Paladrin, twice weekly if there is the threat of an attack, but that is not advised for people who have already had malaria and have build up some antibodies against the disease. The disease has its rarer forms like that entering the brain tissue in children causing cerebral malaria that is fatal and flash malaria in adults where

symptoms reach their climax in ten to fifteen minutes as the person collapses, goes through the tremors and sweating and then quickly comes back to himself looking slightly pale. There is the malignant form which carries on in waves of fever for several months and is usually lethal and Blackwater fever common in tropical Africa which manifests itself by the presence of blood exuding from the urethra and shooting pains in the marrow of the long bones. Until recently many western doctors hadn't heard of this latter form. Malaria is for the most part chronic with onsets of flu like symptoms once every few years depending on the stress level of that individual.

Statistics taken from the Yemen 1996 year book shows a higher percentage of cases at coastal centers like Hodeidah and Hajjah and smaller figures for the interior regions of Dhamar and Taiz, a sign that the occurrence of the ailment is on the increase due to the above mentioned factors. Last year Hodeidah had 75,410 cases, much more than the statistics for other infectious diseases of the area, like dysentery and infectious hepatitis with only 830 cases. Sanaa, although in the interior also has had a comparable amount of cases; 72,654 were reported. This may be due to the migration of infected workers from the coast to the city, untreated sewage dumps, rainfall accumulating as puddles in the city and the lack of awareness among carriers who do not treat themselves completely. Many patients, as soon as they feel better abandon the treatment course. These people do not follow up on the treatment by doing blood tests. This is why the percentage of malaria, 47% is the highest among the transmissible diseases in Yemen.

Martin Dansky,
Yemen Times

It Does Not Have to be Fish

Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD)

As is well known, the primary and most visible iodine deficiency disorder is the enlargement of the thyroid gland, which can lead to difficulty in breathing and various psychological problems. Iodine deficiency during pregnancy can damage the embryo's brain or even lead to miscarriage. It can stunt a child's growth, impair his senses and speech, or lead to mental retardation.

Iodine deficiency often occurs among people living in mountainous regions the top, iodine-rich soil is often eroded by rain torrents. It also occurs among poor people who are unable to buy iodine-rich food such as fish. Around 5 to 10 mg of a daily iodine intake is sufficient for protecting the human body from IDDs. Six grams of Potassium iodide added to 100 kg of table salt is enough to cover the daily iodine needs of 10,000 persons, assuming that a person needs on average 10g of salt per day.

Sources of Iodine

Iodine intake can come from the following sources:

- 1- seafood and fruits and vegetables grown in iodine-rich soil;
- 2- drinking water - small amounts;
- 3- milk coming from animals feeding on grass growing in iodine-rich soil;
- 4- breathing iodine-saturated air in coastal regions; and
- 5- iodized table salt.

How to Tackle Iodine Deficiency

- 1- People should eat seafood at least twice weekly.
- 2- More vegetables, grown in the plains, should be introduced into the daily diet.
- 3- Iodized table salt should be used after the food is cooked. Natural salt has no iodine in it, but must be added in the form of Potassium iodide salt.
- 4- Iodine-rich fertilizers should be used by farmers.
- 5- Iodized oil can be administered in the form of injections, providing protection for 3 to 5 years, or in the form of a concentrated syrup which can remain effective for 1 to 2 years.
- 6- Special health inspection team should be empowered to investigate the adherence to selling and using iodized table salt by salt manufacturers, shops, restaurants, etc.

The Extent of the Problem

A recent field study in Yemeni has concluded that more than 60% of school children suffer from thyroid enlargement due to iodine deficiency. This results to the inability to concentrate among the students.

The frightening results of this study have spurred the Yemeni health authorities to act quickly. A decision was taken to iodize table salt, and special law was enacted for this purpose. Law No. 32 of 1996 came into being obliging salt producers to iodize their product. Packs of iodized salt will be distinguished by the logo of the National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control program (NIDD). Technical and financial assistance was provided by the UNICEF and the WHO.

Iodine Workshop

The National Day for the Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control on December 11th was marked by a special workshop held by the Ministry of Health in Sanaa. It was announced during the workshop that the Ministry of Construction, Housing, and Urban Planning has formed a technical and consultative committee consisting of members from relevant bodies the health, industry agriculture sectors as well as the University of Sanaa. The committee's task will be to ensure food hygiene by inspecting and monitoring food factories and restaurants.



P&O Nedlloyd

WORLD WIDE SHIPPING SERVICES TO AND FROM YEMEN

P&O Nedlloyd is one of World's leading door-to-door Containerized Transport Specialists, Providing quality, reliability and fast transport services.

P&O Nedlloyd provides twice weekly services from Europe, weekly services from the far East and North America, fortnightly services from Australia and New Zealand and East Africa and intra Red Sea ports.

P&O Nedlloyd serves the full range of Yemen ports. Dedicated Feeders call weekly at Hodeidah and fortnightly at Aden and Mukalla for both import and export cargoes.

P&O Nedlloyd are represented in the Yemen by Shebani Shipping and Clearing Corporation. For more details of **P&O Nedlloyd** services or arrange a sale representative to your office please contact your Local Office, as follow:-

Taiz:

P. O. Box: 5726, Tel: (04) 230439/ 219292/ 230478
Fax: (04) 212308, Tlx: 8947 SHBANI YE

Aden:

P. O. Box: 4333 Crater, Aden, Tel: (02) 243319
Fax: (02) 240813, Tlx: 6387

Hodeidah:

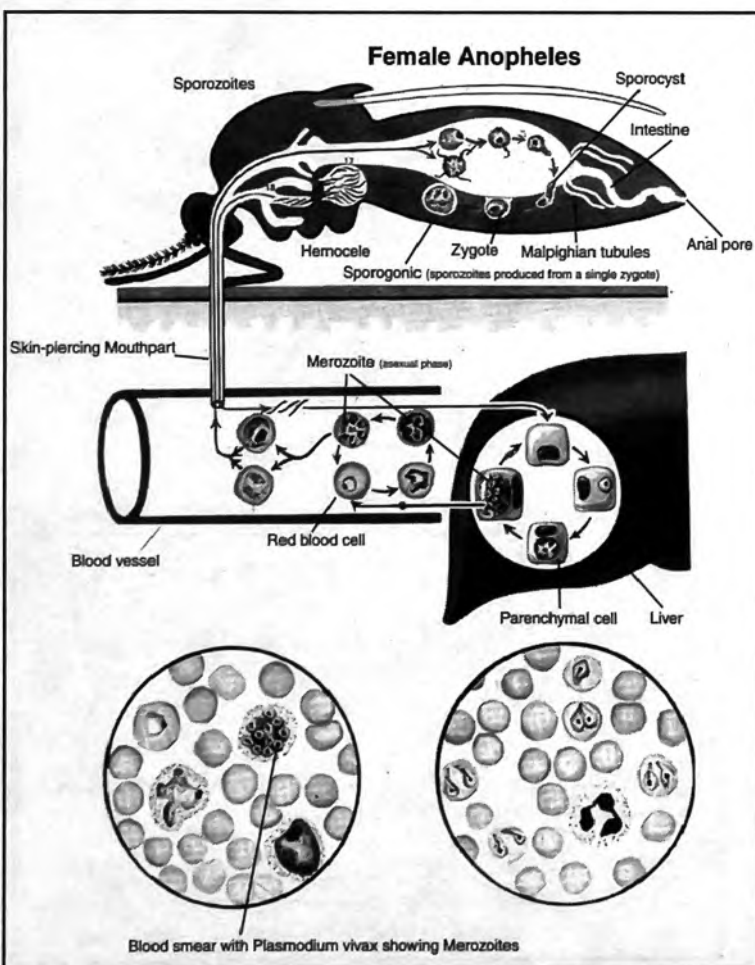
P. O. Box: 4063, Tel: (03) 234090/ 234095, Fax: (03) 211780,
Tlx: 5620/5622 SHEHOD YE

Sana'a:

P. O. Box: 15147, Tel: (01) 207028, Fax: (01) 219895,
Tlx: 4050 SHBANIYE YE

Mukalla:

P. O. Box: 50261, Tel: (05) 303913, Fax: (05) 303503,
Tlx: to Aden Branch.



PASSION FOR PEOPLE

"All I Want for Christmas is My Two Front Teeth"

*Starring
Adonna, and
the Dibi & Mike Band*

*Nour Al Negoum
Restaurant*

24th December

*Christmas Eve
Dinner & Dance
with an Exotic Menu
Night of Dreams*

* * *

Santa's Potion

* * *

Christmas Spell

* * *

Desire of the Angels

* * *

Chimney Sweep

Price - Per/Person YR 4500

25th December

*Christmas Day Lunch
Exotic Christmas Fare
A Gala Buffet with Pates,
Terrines, Seafood, Turkey with
all the Trimmings, Roast Duck
and Christmas Pudding,
Minces Pies & with
Santa and Toys for Your Children*

Price - Per/Person

Santa's Favorite 'Tiny Tots below

6 are Guests of Santa

Little Ones between 6 and 12 YR 1800

Grown ups Above 12 years YR 3600

All Prices are Subject to

Tax and Service Charge

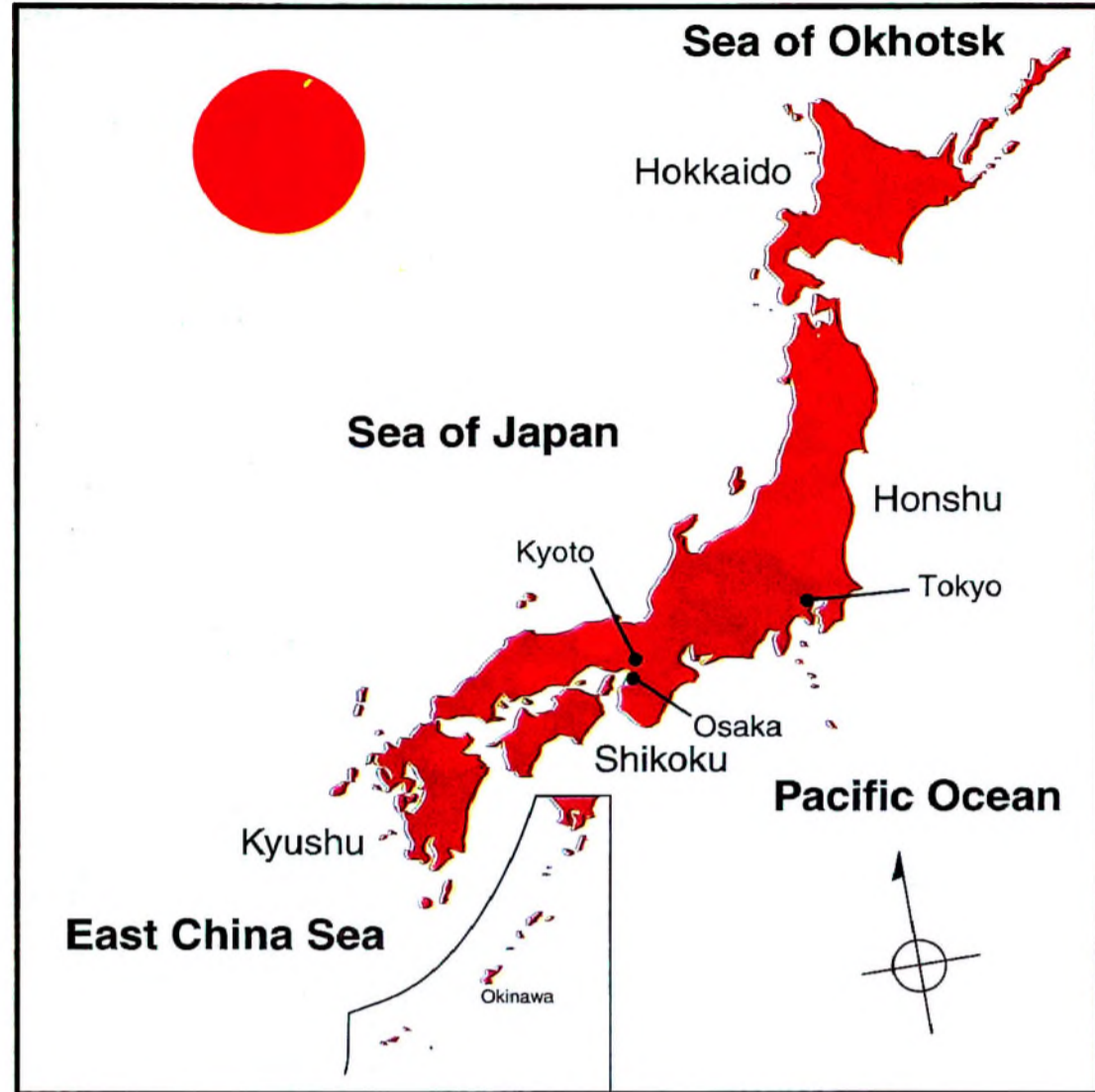
See You There !



For Reservations Call:
Tel: 237500
Ext. 136

*it's all happening
at Sheraton!*





Geography
More than 6,800 islands together make up the nation of Japan. Most of these islands are very small: only 340 are over 1 sq. km. Four islands make up 98% of the country. These are Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. The land area of the whole country is almost 378,000 sq. km - about the size of Finland. The land mass is stretched along a thin curve over 3,500 km long.

Much of Japan consists of mountains with narrow valleys in between where most people prefer to live because farming and the transport of goods are much easier. The best known mountain in Japan is undoubtedly Fuji, the highest in the country at 3,776 m. One tenth of all the volcanoes in the world are in Japan.

History
The Japanese archipelago was first inhabited more than 100,000 years ago, when it was still part of the continental Asian land mass. Agriculture, primarily rice planting, and metal working techniques were introduced from the Asian continent around 300 B.C. The country's first permanent capital was established in Nara at the beginning of the 8th century. For more than 70 years, from 710 to 784, Japan's imperial family resided there. A new capital modeled on the Chinese capital of the time was built in Kyoto in 794. It remained the seat of the throne for more than 1,000 years.

The Meiji era (1868-1912) represents one of the most remarkable periods in the history of nations. Under Emperor Meiji, Japan set out to achieve in only a few decades what had taken centuries to develop in the West - the creation of a modern nation with modern industries, modern political



institutions, and a modern pattern of society. The capital was transferred to from Kyoto to Edo and was renamed Tokyo, meaning "eastern capital."

Population
Japan has the seventh largest population in the world, with 124.8 million people. This makes Japan one of the most densely populated countries of the world. Most Japanese live on the heavily developed

east coast or in the southern region, where most of Japan's largest cities are located.

The greater Tokyo metropolitan area, which includes the surrounding prefectures most closely linked to Tokyo, is now home to 32% of the Japanese.

Government & Political Life
In Japan's Constitution which was promulgated on November 3rd, 1946, and took effect on May 3rd the following year, the Japanese people pledged to uphold the high ideals of peace and democratic rule.

The national Diet is the highest organ of state power and the sole law-making body in Japan. It consists of the House of Representatives with 511 seats and the House of Councillors with 252 seats. The members of the House of Representatives are elected for a term of four years. Members of the House of Councillors are elected for a term of six years. Half are elected every three years. Japan's first political party, the Public Party of Patriots (Aikoku Koto), was formed in 1874. There are now five major political parties in Japan - the Liberal Democratic Party, the New Frontier Party, the Social Democratic Party, New Party Sakigake, and the Japanese Communist Party.

Foreign Relations & Aid
In 1992, Japan enacted the Law Concerning Cooperation for UN Peacekeeping operations. Since then Japan has participated in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, and El Salvador. In addition to these operations, in 1994, contingents of the Self-Defense Forces were dispatched to Zaire and Kenya to provide humanitarian assistance to Rwandan refugees. Japan considers its active engagement in peace keeping operations as a means to contribute positively to peace in the international community.

Japan's official development assistance (ODA) began in the form of technical cooperation when Japan joined the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Development in 1954. Japanese aid is now provided to more than 150 developing countries and areas spanning every continent. In 1994 Japan's ODA reached \$13.4 billion.

Economy & Development
The economy of Japan is a thriving complex of industry, commerce, finance, agriculture, and all the other elements of a modern economic structure. The nation's economy is in an advanced stage of industrialization, served by a massive flow of information and highly developed transportation networks.

For some years following Japan's defeat in the 2nd World War, the nation's economy was almost totally paralyzed. But the Japanese people set about rebuilding their war-devastated economy. Initially assisted by rehabilitation aid from the US. By 1951, the GNP had recovered to the 1934-36 level. Various social reforms carried out after the war helped shape a basic framework for subsequent economic development.

It is generally agreed that the rapid expansion of Japan's economy from the mid-1950s through the

1960s was powered by the vigorous investment of private industry in new plant and equipment. Another factor behind Japan's economic growth during this period was the availability of an abundant labor force with a high level of education.

NIPPON

Prosperity Through Tradition & Modernity

1960s was powered by the vigorous investment of private industry in new plant and equipment. Another factor behind Japan's economic growth during this period was the availability of an abundant labor force with a high level of education.

The Imperial Family
Under the Constitution of Japan, the Emperor is the symbol of the State and of the unity of the people. He has no powers related to the government. The Japanese Imperial Family dates back many centuries. It is the oldest unbroken dynasty in the world. Emperor Akihito, the present Emperor, came to the throne in 1989. He and his wife, Empress Michiko, have three children. The Emperor and Empress live in the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

The National Flag and Anthem
The Japanese flag, which heralds a large red circle on a white background, is called the Hinomaru. The sun flag has been used as a national symbol since at the 17th century.

Japan's national anthem, the Kimigayo, was set to music about a century ago, but the words are about 1,000 years old.

Family
The Japanese family is traditionally very close. Even today, children, parents and grandparents sometimes live together. Such three-generation families still make up over 12% of Japanese households. Divorce is also less common than in many Western countries, at a rate of only 1.52 divorces for every 1,000 people, compared to 4.8 in the United States or 2.9 in the United Kingdom.

There are now 20.67 million children under the age of 15, but there are also 17.17 million people over the age of 64. More elderly people are living alone, and young people are getting married later, with the average age of marriage now 29.7 years old for men and 27.1 years old for women.

Japan is changing its health and welfare programs to accommodate older people, and it is learning to help them remain active and involved in their communities through work, study and volunteering.

Performing Arts
There are three main traditional forms of Japanese theater. The oldest, Oh, developed in the 14th century. The stage setting is plain. Actors wear masks and old-style costumes. They chant their lines and move very slowly.

Kabuki developed in the 17th century. Kabuki is full of dramatic scenes and lots of action. The costumes are elaborate and colorful. Kabuki uses complex stage settings, including a runway that brings the action closer to the audience.

Bunraku is a kind of puppet theater. It was first performed in the 16th century. The puppets are about half of human size, and look very real. Each puppet

is operated by three people, who are visible on the stage. Performances can be very emotionally intense. Modern theater is also popular in Japan. Philharmonic orchestras perform a wide variety of classical music throughout Japan. Many forms of Western music are popular.

Japan's film industry has a distinguished history. The first big stars of Japanese films were solitary, sword-fighting heroes.

Japan also has a thriving folk tradition. Folk songs, instrumental music and dance are all popular today. Instrumental folk music-particularly enormous, booming drums (wadaiko) -and folk dances draw crowds at festivals.



Kabuki has lots of action, and the costumes and sets are very elaborate

is operated by three people, who are visible on the stage. Performances can be very emotionally intense. Modern theater is also popular in Japan. Philharmonic orchestras perform a wide variety of classical music throughout Japan. Many forms of Western music are popular.

Japan's film industry has a distinguished history. The first big stars of Japanese films were solitary, sword-fighting heroes.

Japan also has a thriving folk tradition. Folk songs, instrumental music and dance are all popular today. Instrumental folk music-particularly enormous, booming drums (wadaiko) -and folk dances draw crowds at festivals.

Food and Drink
Fresh ingredients are very important in traditional Japanese cooking. If you visit a home for a typical dinner, you would be served rice, perhaps a soup made from soybean paste (miso), pickles, and either fish or meat. Popular seasonings include soy sauce (shoyu), green horseradish (wasabi) and toasted seaweed (nori).

Although rice is the main staple of the Japanese diet, fish is also an important food source. A favorite dish, deep-fried seafood and vegetables (tempura), was introduced to Japan by 16th century Portuguese traders. Sashimi, thin strips of raw fish, and sushi, slices of raw fish on top of small portions of rice flavored with vinegar, are Japanese foods that are well-known throughout the world. This form of cuisine may sound simple, but it takes many years of study to become an accomplished chef.

Buckwheat (soba) and wheat (udon) noodles are



The Imperial Family (Seated, from left) Crown Princess Masako, Emperor Akihito, Princess Mako, Empress Michiko, Crown Prince Naruhito. (Standing, from left) Princess Sayako, Prince Akishino, Princess Kako

favorably substitutes for rice. These noodles are commonly served in a deep bowl of hot soup stock, topped with vegetables, fried bean curd, or tempura. Cold noodles dipped in sauce make a refreshing summer lunch.

Tea Ceremony
The tea ceremony (chanoyu) in Japan goes back some 800 years. Buddhist monks used tea to help them concentrate during meditation. Rituals were developed around the sharing of tea. In the tea ceremony today, the host prepares and serves tea and food to guests. Both host and guests follow precise rules designed to keep the ceremony simple and attractive, free of wasted movement. The host decorates the tearoom with great care; the guests admire and comment on the preparations. Masters of the tea ceremony have studied architecture, horticulture, ceramics, calligraphy, history and religion.



A hostess preparing tea (Tea Ceremony)

Education System
The public education system was established in Japan more than a century ago and has existed for longer than in most other countries. Learning has always been considered a virtue. Today, 99% of elementary school children are taught in public schools, and even at the high school level only 30% attend private schools.

Flower Arrangement
Japanese flower arrangement (ikebana) dates from the 15th century. There are many styles of ikebana, with different philosophies behind each. The arrangements follow strict rules for representing heaven, earth and people. Some styles are extremely simple, others are extravagant. Today, there are over 3,000 ikebana schools in Japan, with more than 15 million students.



In Ikebana (flowers arrangement) the way the flowers are arranged has special meaning

Farming & Forestry
Japan is one of the largest importing countries of agricultural products in the world, as only about 14% of Japan's land is suitable for farming. The average farm covers 1.4 hectares.

Using intensive planting, fertilizers, sophisticated machinery, and highly refined techniques, Japanese farmers are able to produce over two thirds of the fruit and vegetables consumed in Japan, and to devote some farm space to raising livestock.

Some of Japan's crops are grown hydroponically - without soil, in water. Genetic engineering is also making Japan's crops larger, safer, and healthier.

Manufacturing
Much of Japan's economic strength is based on its manufacturing. Cars are one of Japan's best-known products. In 1993, Japan produced about 11.2 million cars, buses, and trucks - more than any other country in the world. Many of these cars are handled by robots.

Japan is just as famous for the strength of its electrical equipment and electronic industries. Precision electronic instruments used in manufacturing all over the world are another important Japanese export.

Japan is also a world leader in tele-communications. Akihabara, a district of Tokyo, is known as 'electric town,' with equipment sales outlets stretching as far as the eye can see.

Learning from the past, Japan is now developing new ways to keep pollution from manufacturing down. Advanced technology for environmental protection is now being developed by all sorts of industries. Responsible attitudes to the long-term and sustainable interaction with nature has become a hallmark of Japanese manufacturing.



A hostess preparing tea (Tea Ceremony)

Every Japanese child must attend school from age 6 to 15. However, many children attend school for longer. Every student attends elementary school from 6 to 12 years old and junior high school until age 15. About 97% of students attend senior high school, which end when they are 18.

Almost all private junior and senior high schools and universities decide which applicants to accept by giving an entrance examination.



Preparing:
Adel Moqbil, Anwar Sayyadi, M. Bin Sallam.

H. E. Mr. Akira Hoshi:

"I hope bilateral relations will develop further in 1998 by strengthening mutual understanding."

On the occasion of Japan's National Day, 23rd December, the Japanese Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Akira Hoshi, a veteran diplomat who served as the Japanese Consul General in Jeddah until August this year, talked to Bin Sallam of Yemen times, who filed this interview.



Q: How do you assess the Yemeni-Japanese relations?
A: The relations between Yemen and Japan go back as far as the thirties when a high level Yemeni delegation visited Japan on the occasion of the inauguration of Tokyo Islamic Center which was opened in May 1938. The delegation was received by His Majesty Emperor Hirohito and conducted discussions with some Japanese officials. But for World War II and the consequences that followed, those discussions could have materialized in the form of a number of cooperation agreements in many fields.

While Japan was focusing on a huge reconstruction process and was able to overcome the aftereffects of that devastating war, Yemen was also able to embark on a new era in September 1962. Since Japan established official relations with North Yemen in 1963 and South Yemen in 1967, cooperation between our countries has been developing steadily in more areas. Such cooperation, I am glad to say, had tangible effects in assisting Yemen in its challenge to underdevelopment. Now, Japan is one of the major donors to Yemen with total grant aids of approximately 4.3 billion yen in the fiscal year 1996, including a non-project grant aid of 2.5 billion yen. It is worth mentioning that we extended this non-project grant aid for the first time in fiscal year 1996 as a support to the serious efforts of Yemen to promote economic structural adjustment and to mitigate the economic difficulties.

Meanwhile, Japan appreciates Yemen's position towards the UN Secretary Council reform. Yemen is supporting Japan's permanent membership. All these give clear evidence that relations between the two countries are getting consolidated steadily for the benefit of the peoples in both countries. While I am happy with the level of the existing economic cooperation, at the same time I sincerely hope that the overall relationship will develop further.

Q: Japan contributes to the development of Yemen. Can you give us some detailed description of this in terms of volume, fields of support, etc.?

A: Japan has been extending its Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Yemen for many years. The fields of support vary and are diversified. Speaking sector-wise, Japan has long been engaged in supporting rural water supply projects, initially in the North, then currently in the South of the country.

Besides, our Grant Aid for the Increase of Food Production has been making substantial contributions to developing agricultural sector in Yemen since the fiscal year 1979. Considering the underdeveloped hygienic and health situation of the country, Japan has been cooperating with the National Tuberculosis Control Project for more than a decade through various schemes of Japan's ODA (dispatch of Japanese experts, acceptance of Yemeni trainees and construction of National Tuberculosis Centers). This cooperation is achieving a tangible outcome in an attempt to eradicate this fatal disease.

Japan has also been extending debt relief grant aids to Yemen since fiscal year 1979, grants in amount equal to the total interest and principal repaid by the country. It was unfortunate that Japan's ODA to Yemen was reduced because of its concern of instability and insecurity in Yemen during and after the Civil War in 1994. However, it started again normally in the fiscal year 1996. I believe that the fiscal year 1997 will not be far different from the previous fiscal year as I am going to sign Exchange of Notes concerning the extension of grant aids to three projects, namely, "Rural Water Supplying the Southern and Eastern Governorates", "Upgrading of Aden TV Station" and "Increase of Food Production"; in addition to a second thrust of a non-project grant aid of 1.5 billion yen.

Q: Japan and Yemen recently signed a debt-rescheduling agreement based on the Paris Club format. Could you give us more information?

A: I have signed the agreements on rescheduling of the Yemeni debts to Japan, based on what was agreed in Paris Club meeting in September 24, 1996. In fact, these were the first agreements that I signed since my assignment to this post. The agreements stipulate the amount of the rescheduled debt, both yen loan debts and commercial debts, and the terms and conditions of the rescheduling. I hope that this measure could help Yemen mitigate the financial burdens.

Q: How do you see bilateral relations moving in 1998?

A: I hope bilateral relations will develop further in 1998 by strengthening mutual understanding between the two peoples through exchange of visits in various levels and other means. I will personally do my best.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I have the impression that Yemen is right now going through a rapid social change, a process comparable to Japan's Meiji Revolution, by which my country started overall modernization. I think that we have lots of things in common, and I hope that our historical experience will be of some help to Yemen in different ways.

designed to meet the diverse needs of developing countries. Known as Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects, this scheme supports projects proposed by various bodies such as non-governmental organizations and local government authorities. Under this scheme, Japan can take up relatively small-scale projects through the quick and appropriate handling by Japanese embassies and consulate-generals which are well acquainted with the economic and social conditions in each country, meeting the diverse needs of developing countries. As for its implementation in Yemen 3 months ago, although I have not been involved in these small-scale projects since I assumed my position in Yemen, I think this scheme has been implemented effectively and successfully. Since 1989, we supported 27 projects in the health, water and education fields.

Q: How active is the Japanese volunteers program in Yemen?

A: This is a form of technical cooperation under which young Japanese aged 20 to 39 are sent to developing countries for the purpose of transferring their skills to the local inhabitants of these countries. JOCV projects not only have the effect of technology transfer to developing countries, but also broaden the international perspectives of Japanese youth through living in local communities. Unfortunately, this program stopped in Yemen as a result of the civil war as all the Japanese volunteers had to be evacuated. My Government is prepared to resume this program once the security situation has been improved.

Q: What do you think of Yemen's political evolution; i.e. democratization?

A: After unification in 1990, Yemen is making great efforts and visible progress toward democracy and a market economy. Japan welcomes the country's efforts in promoting democratization and market-oriented economic policies on the belief that successful democratization and economic reform are complimentary to each other for sound nation building. It is thus essential that the international community should support such a country in its reform process. Japan supported, and will support, Yemen within this broader context.

Q: Yemen's economic reform package is described as successful. Do you agree?

A: Yes, I agree. Yemen launched its economic and administrative reform program in early 1995, supported by the IMF and World Bank. So far, I think that the country's economy has been stabilized to a considerable extent, which is highly appreciated. I hope that the structural adjustment phase of this reform program presently underway will achieve a similar success. Japan is ready to support Yemen in this direction through economic cooperation.

Q: Japan and Yemen recently signed a debt-rescheduling agreement based on the Paris Club format. Could you give us more information?

A: I have signed the agreements on rescheduling of the Yemeni debts to Japan, based on what was agreed in Paris Club meeting in September 24, 1996. In fact, these were the first agreements that I signed since my assignment to this post. The agreements stipulate the amount of the rescheduled debt, both yen loan debts and commercial debts, and the terms and conditions of the rescheduling. I hope that this measure could help Yemen mitigate the financial burdens.

Q: How do you see bilateral relations moving in 1998?

A: I hope bilateral relations will develop further in 1998 by strengthening mutual understanding between the two peoples through exchange of visits in various levels and other means. I will personally do my best.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I have the impression that Yemen is right now going through a rapid social change, a process comparable to Japan's Meiji Revolution, by which my country started overall modernization. I think that we have lots of things in common, and I hope that our historical experience will be of some help to Yemen in different ways.

SONY®

How to have your fun... and keep it too!



**Double the fun of shooting with the new TRV10EP
Featuring an LCD screen for all to see and enjoy!**



Sony opens up a whole new lifestyle of fun shooting with new Handycam Vision. Now your family or friends can watch what you're shooting on the Vision's color LCD screen and also enjoy on-the-spot playback of what you've shot with hi-fi sound. You can shoot from any angle because the 2.5" LCD screen

rotates a full 270°. That's not all – you won't run out of batteries in the middle of shooting, because Sony's new Worry-Free Recording System incorporates the new Stamina Battery that allows you to record at a stretch for up to 5 hours! This Handycam is so easy to use, it will please both beginners and video enthusiasts! Sony also gives you a head start



The Most Affordable Handycam Vision!

with a ready-to-use Video8 tape and carrying case!

- 13x Variable Zoom with Full Range Auto Focus
- Low Light Shooting – 0.5 lux
- Stamina Battery Life of up to 5 Hours
- Program AE
- Preset Titles Insert
- Digital Noise Reduction for Better Color Reproduction
- Wireless Remote

Handycam Vision New TRV10EP

The world's favorite camcorder



Carrying Case



Video8 Tape

TD&A/DDB



Al-Haidary for Trading, P. O. Box 2942, Gamal St., Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, Tel: 271893/272337/280495, Fax: 280496/271892; Al-Qaser St., Sana'a, Tel: 272382; Sheikh Abdulla St., Crater, Aden, Tel: 252914. **Service Centers:** Gamal St., Sana'a, Tel: 280496, Sheikh Abdulla St., Aden, Tel: 252914

Managing Earthquake Disasters in Yemen

Ismail Al-Ghabiri,
Yemen Times

Seminar on Natural Disasters

The National Seminar on Disaster Preparedness and Management was held on December 13, in Dhamar with the participation of several experts in this field. The seminar was organized by the Seismological Observatory Center (SOC) in cooperation with Civil Defense and the General Establishment of Mineral Resources and Geological Survey.

More than 60 people took part, and 15 papers were presented, covering diverse topics related to disaster management and preparedness, civil defense, landslides, floods, earthquake precursors and expectations, and several other topics.

A paper presented by Eng. Jamal Mohammed Shaalan, SOC director, dealt with examples of local and international disasters. The paper indicated that earthquakes constituted more than 60% of natural disasters during the last 75 years.

The Significance of Disaster Preparedness by Mr. Abdulhakim Ahmed outlined the basic require-

ments for disaster preparedness, which plays an important role in proposing measures to minimize disaster risk and anticipate the future development of cities. The author proposed organizing a database by using available information on a physical hazard with information on vulnerability to determine the likely impacts of a hazardous disaster. This way "we can get estimates of casualties, property damage, and the economic losses that are likely to result."

A paper by Mr. Nageeb Abdul Galil indicated that "Since the establishment of the National Seismological Network in November, 1994 in Yemen, micro-moderate earthquakes were recorded showing seismic activity concentrated in some regions, especially around the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden, and the Gulf of Tagoura."

A paper on the diseases that accompany natural disasters was presented by Dr. Abdulhakim Al-Kahlani, Director of Prevalent Diseases Department at the Ministry of Health. There are two types of diseases that can accompany natural disasters - direct injuries and burns and indirect such as the

diseases resulting from the displacement of people and their overcrowding in unhygienic places. The latter category includes such diseases as T.B., measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningitis, and even the plague. Diseases that can be caused by the contamination of food and water include cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A, etc.

Floods, for example, lead to the accumulation of stagnant water which is suitable breeding place for malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The malaria epidemic of 1996 is a case in point.

Another paper on the Tawila cisterns in Aden and their role in alleviating flood risk was presented by Eng. Marouf Ibraheem. The paper showed Aden as a volcanic peninsula the shape of a horseshoe. Despite the lack of rain in Aden, the area also had its share of floods and torrents. The Tawila cisterns still function in protecting the city from floods.

Earthquake Sequence

Because of the volcanic origin of the region major earthquakes occur regularly in Yemen; at least once every 20 years. Smaller earthquakes occur more often, so there is an ever present risk. The first documented earthquake in Yemen occurred in the area between Shabwa and Mareb in 742 A.D.

The major earthquakes that took place in Yemen during the last 15 years include the following.

Dhamar

At 12:10 Yemen local time (09:10 GMT) on December 13, 1982 Yemen was struck by an earthquake of 5.8 on the Richter-scale. Its epicenter was in the province of Dhamar. This was the first instrumentally recorded major earthquake for Dhamar since the major earthquakes in Sa'ada of the '50s and '60s. The Dhamar earthquake was followed by an intensive series of aftershocks that continued until mid-March in 1983. Two thousand people were killed, and another 2,000 injured. Forty thousand houses were damaged, of which approximately 15,000 beyond repair. Water supply, community facilities, and roads were destroyed.

Al-Udayn

On November 22, 1991, Al-Udayn - an area located 40 km southwest of the Ibb governorate - was struck by an M 4.6 earthquake. Eleven persons in two totally collapsed houses were killed. Aftershocks caused the death of a woman and child due to a rock avalanche that swept their house.

Heidan

By 09:00 PM (06:00GMT) on January 9, 1993, an M 4.6 earthquake struck the directorate of Heidan, southwest of Sa'ada. It was followed by an intensive sequence of shocks similar to that observed during Al-Udayn earthquake sequence. This earthquake caused minor damages and no deaths.

Cont'd from page 1:

TIME LOSS IN GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY

Background: Sample & Mechanism:

At the request of the Consultative Council, a joint team from the National Institute of Administrative Sciences and the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform has conducted a field survey on the working hours and lost time in government bureaucracy. The team used two major methods of data collection: reviewing the data available at the Ministry of Civil Service collected during January-September, 1997, and an actual three-day field survey of nine organs (3 ministries, 3 corporations, and 3 mixed companies) conducted in September 1997.

The samples were chosen with a view of representing the whole category in terms of size, importance and resemblance of other similar organizations.

The mechanism used to judge lost time was presence at work. Therefore, the information collected is related to whether employees show up for work or not, absenteeism, and leaving the workplace during work-hours. Performance in terms of productivity was not used as a measurement as it would require more stringent yardsticks.

The data was collected three times each day during three consecutive days - at 09:00 o'clock, at 11:00 o'clock, and at 13:00 o'clock. Employees are supposed to show up for work at 08:00 and remain there till 14:00.

Results & Conclusions:

1. It is clear that the lost time of junior officials is directly related to the lost time of senior officials. In other words, junior personnel are less keen to waste government time, if their seniors show interest in setting a good model.
2. Government ministries are the least punctual in attendance. Total loss of time reaches a phenomenal 45% in government ministries, falls to 39% in public corporations, and to 28% in mixed ownership companies.
3. On average some 2.5-3.0% of the workforce is legally released from work duties for political reasons. These individuals are asked at the end of the month to come and collect their salaries, but they are also asked not to report for work.
4. Of those individuals who are supposed to report for work, an average of 22-27% are absent without notification.
5. Of those individuals who do come to work, an average of 8-21% leave their workplace early and do not remain for the full 5.5 hours of workday. They do not sign the exit slip of the attendance sheet. Some times they try to sign it the next day, if they can.
6. On average, 2.15-3.15 hours are wasted every day by employees who leave their work place and return to it to sign the exit slip, thus technically showing a full day's work. The most frequent excuses used are to have breakfast, to buy qat, to go for noon prayers, to visit a (sick) friend, etc.

Specific Examples:

The surveying team's report cited the Ministry of Education's performance during December of 1996. By reviewing the monthly salary payroll, it was found that 2.5% of the ministry's workforce is redundant. Breaking down this proportion, it was found that 1,520 current employees had already reached the legal retirement age, 925 were without real work or on leave, 145 were given time off to take part in their political party's activity, and 192 were registered for two jobs in two different places.

The following results were found among the senior executive employees in ministry A during the first day of the survey:

Disguised unemployment in Ministry A was found to be as follows:

- employees staying at home	3
- employees belonging to political parties	62
- employees at retirement age	20
- employees with chronic illness	4
Total	89

The research team concluded the following:

- 1- There is a 22-27% ratio of continuous absenteeism in almost all surveyed units. These percentages do not include those employees who were on leave or were assigned a task out of their work place. In a few other administrative units, the employees kept a steady high rate of absenteeism of 35-40%. This ratio rises to about 51% during the working days following public holidays.
- 2- The rate of absenteeism among top administrators and executives is almost similar to that among their subordinates, the relation is directly proportional.
- 3- There are 12,400 completely inactive employees, forming about 3% of the total manpower in administrative units, who can be classified as access manpower employed in poorly performing establishments that were previously reformed.
- 4- There is an additional proportion of absenteeism (4-8%) that takes place towards the end of the daily working hours. In some cases, this proportion reaches 21%.
- 5- All surveyed establishments included some sort of disguised unemployment. There is a marked difference between the actual workforce in each of these establishments and the number of registered employees.
- 6- The amount of time wasted daily due to the employees being engaged in various activities unrelated to their actual tasks is about 2.15 to 3.15 hours.
- 7- The average time wasted was as follows:
 - a- 45% in ministries;
 - b- 39% in public establishments; and
 - c- 28% in mixed-sector companies.
 It should be mentioned here that this survey did not include the executives who do sign their names in the morning.
- 8- The inspection body in the Ministry of Civil Service found that the percentage distribution by level of discipline among the senior administrative and executive staff of the ministry itself was as follows:
 - highly disciplined = 28%
 - averagely disciplined = 22%
 - low level of discipline = 27%
 - totally lacking in discipline = 23%

This means that roughly 50% of all the senior administration of the Ministry of Civil Service, which is supposed to play a role model, is itself poorly disciplined or has no discipline at all.

Causes of Time Wasting:

The average 2.15 hours of time wasted in Ministry A can be broken down as follows:

Minutes	Time-wasting activity
15	Arriving at work, signing, etc.
30	Eating and drinking (breakfast).
30	Lounging in others' offices or running errands for friends.
45	Leaving early.
15	Using (noon) prayers as an excuse.
Total	2.15 hours (minimum)

The research team attributed the causes of time wasted during working hours to the following:

- Low wage structures: The improvement in attendance in mixed-sector companies may be ascribed to the better wages paid.
- Lack of employment stability: Changes in the top management often lead to changes in the lower echelons.
- Lack of employment classification and job description.
- Inflated number of clerks and employees.
- Lack of performance assessment system.
- Defects in legislation leading many administrative units to lack in comprehensive legal systems.

- Absence of an objective system of incentives and rewards.
- Shortage of systematic and regular training leading to low performance and productivity levels.

Recommendations:

- 1- The necessary measures must be taken to tackle the causes of absenteeism and time wasting.
- 2- The relevant rules and regulations must be regularly reviewed and strictly enforced and adhered to.
- 3- The problem of overstaffing and surplus manpower must be tackled. In this regard, the workshop organized during 3-4 December to review downsizing measures taken by other countries made the following recommendations:

A comprehensive strategy for administrative reform must be adopted to guarantee coordination among the various state organs along with their economic, financial, educational, administrative, and information policies.

To achieve this end, the following steps should be taken:

- a- reviewing the administrative structures of the various state organs in order to downsize them according to objective criteria;
- b- classifying the various posts of the state's administrative apparatus and its other establishments;
- c- determining the workforce necessary for each administrative unit in order to determine the extent of the need or surplus in manpower;
- d- objectively evaluating the job performance of individual employees by adopting the carrot-and-stick method;
- e- developing the workforce's skills and abilities;
- f- re-distributing the surplus workforce so as to achieve balance among the various administrative units in urban and rural areas;
- g- making the necessary preparations to complete the general job survey and census so as to establish a comprehensive data-base on the workforce;
- h- adopting an effective policy to limit overstaffing and disguised unemployment, which can be done in the following ways:
 - limiting the recruitment of new employees to essential posts in vital sectors such as health, education, and the judiciary;
 - rationalizing the employment of non-Yemenis and instituting a policy of gradual Yemenization; and
 - putting an end to dual employment in public and defense establishments.
- j- appropriately amending the civil service law to facilitate the processes of employee transfers, secondments, furloughs, resignations, etc.;
- k- strictly enforcing those articles of the civil service law that are related to pensioning off the employees who reach the legal retirement age or the legal limit of employment duration;
- l- developing the appropriate techniques for inspecting and monitoring administrative performance and using modern methods to analyze the likely factors affecting it;
- m- adopting a policy of incentives to downsize economic establishments scheduled for liquidation or privatization by:
 - encouraging early retirement;
 - enticing some employees to leave their jobs voluntarily by providing them with reasonable compensations to enable them to start their own small private projects; and
 - distributing reclaimed arable lands to laid off employees and young agricultural engineers who are willing to cultivate these lands.
- n- establishing a special fund to compensated surplus employees when they are laid off;
- o- reviewing educational policies and modifying them to serve the country's development needs;
- p- protecting the public administration from political and social interferences and pressures;
- q- adopting a transparent way of dealing between the public and private sectors, and removing any legal or procedural obstacles that are likely to impede private investments in Yemen; and
- r- reviewing the wage structure.

The Consultative Council has now set up a special committee to further study the situation and discuss realistic practical measures that the Government can adopt in order to overcome this bureaucratic mess. Yemen Times will publish the CC proposals in due time.

Sector	No. of Employees	Absent	On leave	On Assignment	% of absence (with excuse)	% of Non-presence
A	53	16	1	1	30%	34%
B	107	33	6	1	31%	37%
Seniors	41	13	1	2	32%	39%

Date	No. Registered	Present	Absent	On leave or assignment	% of absence	% of Non-presence
13-9-97	446	294	128	24	29%	34%
16-9-97	446	276	140	30	31%	38%
21-9-97	446	307	113	26	25%	31%

How Fast Are Yemeni Women Becoming Westernized?

Athina Al-Absi,
Yemen Times

Sources of influence

Before the introduction of satellite TV to Yemen, Yemeni women were trying to follow the latest fashions by travelling abroad and, sometimes, imitating Western women. A Yemeni woman may know more about, and be influenced by, fashion from magazines, films, videos and cinema. Today, since the satellite TV brings to us all that is going on around the world, Yemeni women started to follow Western fashion in a much more immediate manner.

Aspects of Influence

Clothings

Yemeni women are greatly influenced by the way Western women dress. They started to wear Western trousers, shirts, and shoes. Girls as young as 9 also started to imitate their mothers and older sisters. The veil has started to disappear even among school girls as old as 17 or 18. Girls used to be made to cover up their faces as soon as they reached puberty.

Hairdressing

Just a few years ago in Sanaa, say, a Yemeni woman was not allowed to go to a hairdresser unless she was a bride, and after she got married. Those who were not married were not allowed to do so. As soon as a woman became a mother she would think that she is too old to dye her hair or even to have it cut or stylized. It was only allowed for the newly married. Now women have started to be more aware of using the suitable kind of make-up. They have become more skillful in using many kinds of creams and lotions

for skin protection. A woman would practice what she learns from designers hairdressers she watches on satellite TV. Married women started doing what was only the prerogative of the young and unmarried females. Moreover, they are allowing their own daughters to do the same. It has become a very familiar thing to see young girls and women with their hair cut or dyed.

Smoking

Smoking is very common in Yemen. Men, old or married women simply smoke the hubble bubble and cigarettes. Chewing qat and smoking was not allowed for single women. Now, smoking has become normal regardless sex. It has become a kind of social activity that even young girls organize some special gatherings in order to chew qat and smoke the hubble bubble. However, some families still maintain the old customs, restricting their female folk.

Language influence

Few years ago, girls, women and men were only influenced by the Egyptian dialect because it is the language of most of the films and serials broadcasted in the TV screen or sold in the video clubs. Today, with satellite TV, Lebanese, Syrian, Sudanese and Moroccan dialects have been brought in. English is also having a felt presence because most of the satellite TV channel screen English films and serials. In addition, we notice that there are now a lot of institutes to teach English. This has been largely reflected in the behaviors of most of girls and women here. They, for example, greet each other with "Hi, Hello, Good morning", and part with "bye, see you, or so long."

European Dance

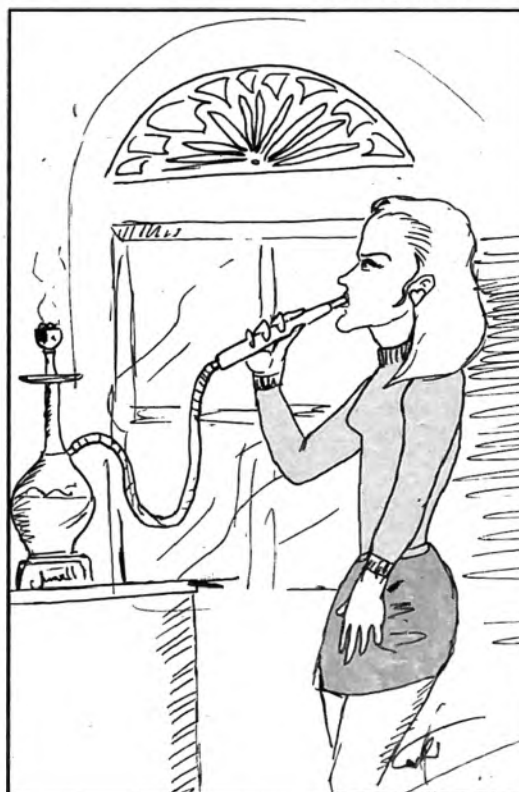
It is so common nowadays that we see girls perform some European dances in parties, especially wedding parties. Sometimes, they prepare special gatherings for the purpose of dancing. They dance lambada, Macarina, etc. They listen to loud music and



favor singers like Michael Jackson, Madonna and George Michael. They try their best to imitate women singers and actors by dressing just like them.

Eating

Eating with forks, knives, and spoons has now become the norm among young women. They eat, for example, corn flakes and jam, butter for breakfast. Moreover, they mock those who eat with their hands and consider them to be backward women. If they do not say it to their faces, they keep on backbiting them when they leave.



Yemeni Fulbright Association Created

A number of Yemenis who had studied on Fulbright scholarships in the USA met on December 15th and established the Yemeni Fulbright Association (YFA). The basic objective is to increase the opportunity for Yemeni graduate students and researchers to do studies in the USA. During the meeting, which was supervised by a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the formation of the association was announced. In the same meeting, the charter was approved, and an administrative board and supervisory and control organ were elected, as called for by the law.

The administrative board consists of:

1. Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani: Chairman
2. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf: Secretary-General;
3. Dr. Mohammed Sharafuddin: Financial Officer;
4. Dr. Abdulrahman Abdo Rabbo: Research Officer;
5. Dr. Ahmed Al-Kibsi: Public Relations Officer.

Reserve Members:

1. Dr. Mohammed Lutf Al-Iryani;
2. Dr. Abdul-Raheem Al-Selwi.

The Supervisory and Control Organ is made up of:

1. Dr. Mansoor Yassin: Chairman;
2. Mr. Ibrahim Al-Haifi: Member;
3. Ms. Ilham Fadhel: Member;
4. Mr. Abdullah Mubariz: Member;
5. Mr. Aziz Al-Haddi: Member.

The first joint meeting of the two bodies was held on Wednesday, 17th.

The administrative board is expected to hold its first substantive meeting soon during the next few days in order to complete procedural matters and to start fund-raising and other work.

"We are going to work closely with two American associations - Amideast and USIS," said Dr. Al-Saqqaf, the Secretary-General. The two have been very instrumental in the birth of YFA.

According to a survey in 1996 carried out by the Yemeni-American Friendship Association, another organization working for closer understanding and cooperation between Yemen and the USA, there are some 2,000 Yemenis who have studied in the USA. The majority of these have been self-financed. There are about 60 Fulbrighters on the record.

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, one of Yemen's early Fulbrighters, indicated that US education is one of the best things we can give our young folks. Towards that end, he is going to lead a major fund-raising effort in Yemen. The association hopes to present the American Government and companies a challenge. "Given that US Government resources available for Fulbright have been dwindling, we are going to raise money to finance more scholarships. We are working on a matching basis," added Mr. Al-Saqqaf.

The matching system is such that for every YR 10 Riyals raised by Yemenis, the American side will put in one US dollar. "We are hoping to raise some US\$ 100,000 to finance scholarships for the year 1998/99," explained Mr. Aziz Al-Haddi. Mr. Adam Earli, USIS Director and Cultural Officer at the US Embassy has already pledged financial and other support for the organization. "For every YR 10 Riyals you raise in subscription fees, we will put in one US dollar," he announced.

Abdullah Mubariz, a senior officer at Yemen Airlines, was able to secure a 50% reduction for Fulbright scholars who travel on Yemenia sectors. At the same time, Amideast is working hard to secure a tuition waiver from US universities for students financed by the program.

At the moment, US Government scholarships are no more than a maximum of three per year, sometimes falling to only two. Thus, Yemeni individuals have seen it necessary to supplement these scholarships with four or five more every year in order to increase the number of Yemenis going to the USA for higher or specialized studies.

Sanaa: "MY GARBAGE IS OUT OF CONTROL."

Everybody knows that Sana'a is located at 2000 meters above sea level. Did anybody ever try to find out how this area has come? The answer might be in garbage. Each person within the city produces about 0.5 kg of garbage per day. This means that a family easily produces over one ton of solid waste per year. For the whole city it means approximately 500 tons of solid waste per day. At the Faculty of Engineering of Sana'a University a post-graduate short course Solid Waste Management was held with experts from Yemen, The Netherlands and Germany. Within its masters program the course aimed to transfer to and share with participants from all over Yemen basic knowledge on related matters. During this course, calculations showed that at present just 25 - 30% of the solid waste generated in Sana'a is actually collected and (hopefully) received at the landfill along Amran road. It also means that the remaining waste just raises the altitude of Sana'a. Each year Sana'a may rise approximately one cm due to the accumulation solid waste within the city. Of course this is not fully realistic, but it shows that still a lot needs to be done to improve the living environment of its one million inhabitants. The dignity of Yemeni life is at risk; people living within solid waste do gradually get used to it, and may forget to take up hygiene as a high moral and religious life style.

The recent privatization of the solid waste collection services, transferring the duties of collection and disposal to contractors, needs to be monitored with a great care by the municipal authorities. They have to bear their responsibility very seriously to prevent the failure of the present set-up which would endanger public health.

Examples from abroad show that this is not always a sustainable solution as garbage vehicles are not always duly replaced due to lack of financial discipline and responsibility on part of the contractors. If the presently running compactor trucks are not duly replaced, the collection efficiency may rapidly drop further to values below the present 25%.

Last but not least the participants of the course expressed the need for awareness-raising campaigns to mobilize community support for municipal solid waste collection. If the people of Sana'a do cooperate by disposing their wastes properly into the street containers, it might be of great help to raise the efficiency of solid waste collection and disposal within Sana'a and thus contribute to a healthy and cleaner environment. This might raise the standards of living for all of us with time. Public awareness

however, can only be raised if also the government takes its responsibility to guarantee that, with or without contractors, a good and regular service is provided to the public.

Mohammed Al-Hamdi
& Siemen Veenstra
Sana'a University, Faculty of Engineering



HELP-U-LEASE
REAL ESTATE
SANA'A
Tel: 416084

To all my friends, clients and
Christian Expats working in Yemen

Merry Christmas
Now Christmas time is here, so have a very
happy season and a marvelous new Year
Merry Xmas

Best Wishes
Ahmed Muraisi
Broker



GCC Summit

The Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) leaders gathered in Kuwait last week for their 18th annual summit. The deliberations were termed as having marked a significant turning point for the organization.

Observers described a new tone in the Gulf leaders' pronouncements on Iran, following conciliatory moves by recently elected President Mohamed Khatami and a thaw in relations between Tehran and the Gulf states. Unlike the case in previous GCC summits, discussion in last week's meeting centered on ways to respond to the Iranian overtures.

From the communique, it was clear that the Iranian diplomatic offensive aimed at improving ties with GCC states, has won the day with its neighbors.

The success of President Khatami's policy of trying to improve Iran's foreign relations has already given dividends. Bahrain had stated that the two countries would upgrade their diplomatic relations to ambassadorial level and that both sides have agreed to boost bilateral co-operation. In the past, Manama had accused Tehran of supporting subversive acts in Bahrain.

The long-running effort to establish a customs union within the GCC looked close to becoming a reality following the summit. The organization's Secretary General Jamil al-Hujailan announced that agreement on the tariff classification of 1,000 commodities had already been reached and a deal on the remaining 300 under discussion is imminent.

Bhutto's Overseas Accounts Investigated

The Lahore High Court barred former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and her family from operating their overseas bank accounts.

The court issued orders last week after the Accountability Cell, established by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government to probe into corruption charges against the Bhutto family, provided documents of all the accounts of Bhutto, her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari, and mother Nusrat Bhutto, maintained in the United Kingdom and Switzerland.

In September, the Swiss government ordered the Union Bank of Switzerland, Barclays Bank, S A Citibank and Cantrade Ormond Burris Bank to freeze all accounts of the former premier and her family at the request of the Sharif government, which claimed the deposits were "ill-gotten wealth." Bhutto denies the allegations. Bhutto's three-year-old government was dismissed

in November last year by then president Farooq Leghari on charges of corruption, economic mismanagement and committing "extra-judicial" killings. Zardari was later arrested on murder charges but is still awaiting trial.

EU Funds to Turkey Suspended

The European Union (EU) has once more allotted funds to Turkey in its 1998 budget and these have once more been suspended. After voting in the European Parliament (EP), the budget put the EU's revenues as ECU 91 billion and its spending as ECU 89 billion.

According to the European Commission's "special activity plan" for Turkey, ECU 375 million, previously awarded to Turkey, and ECU 53 million for the year 1998 has been suspended. The European Parliament has also decided that funds should be extended to Turkey from the Mediterranean Development and Cooperation Fund under certain conditions for certain projects.

Jerusalem to be Palestinian Capital

A prominent Palestinian leader has voiced support for King Hussein's views concerning the establishment of a Palestinian state with its capital to be located in Jerusalem. Faisal Hussein who is in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority made the statement to the Jerusalem-based Arabic language daily Al Quds in which he cited recent remarks by King Hussein demanding that the Palestinian state should have its capital in Jerusalem proper.

"By this remark, the King meant that the capital of the Palestinian independent state should be inside the city of Jerusalem which embodies the old city and not anywhere else around the area and I strongly back this view," said Mr. Hussein. This is according to the UN security council Resolutions 242 and 338 which provide for Israel's withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied since 1967.

India's exports to Abu Dhabi up 56%

India's exports to Abu Dhabi rose by 56% to reach \$62.19 million in the first nine months of 1997. India's ranking in the list of top exporters to Abu Dhabi had improved from 16th in 1994 to tenth at present. Abu Dhabi is the largest of the seven emirates in the UAE federation but it accounts for only about 22% of the country's total imports.

Dubai, the main trading point in the region and the second-largest emirate in the UAE, accounts for about 70% of the country's imports. But most of the goods are re-exported.

Abu Dhabi accounted for only 5% of India's total exports to the UAE and there was tremendous scope for Indian businessmen to improve on this.

India had, for the first time, participated in the Abu Dhabi International Trade Fair in April this year. As many as 21 Indian companies took part at the fair, he said.

According to figures compiled by the Indian Trade Center, India's exports to Abu Dhabi in the first nine months of this are up 56% in the corresponding period of last year.

Over 280 Die in Algeria

More than 280 Algerians, mostly suspected Muslim rebels, have been killed in clashes and attacks in the past few days in four areas of Algeria.

Among the dead were four members of one family, including a seven-year-old boy, who had their throats cut last week when gunmen stormed their home south of the Algerian capital.

Le Matin newspaper, widely known for its staunch support for the government security forces, said 250 rebels died in the past weeks in clashes between main guerrilla rivals, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) and the Armed Islamic Group (GIA). The battles pitting members of the AIS against the GIA took place in the Mitidja farming area, south of Algiers.

They followed the AIS declaration of a 1 October cease-fire in operations against Algerian security forces, which the GIA dismissed as sell-out of the Islamic struggle.

More than 65,000 people have died in Algeria's violence since early 1992, when the authorities canceled a general election in which radical Islamists had taken a huge lead.

Arafat Accepts Albright's Plan

After signing an agreement to crack down on Islamists Thursday, December 18, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat insisted Israel comply with the Oslo interim peace accords and begin West Bank troop withdrawals.

Speaking outside British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Downing Street office, Mr. Arafat blamed Israel for the current deadlock in the peace process. "In spite of the endeavours of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and President Bill Clinton, unfortunately we are still suffering from an impasse because so far we have not witnessed a scrupulous,

honest implementation of the agreements," said the Palestinian president.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat accused Israel of using stalling tactics in implementing the Oslo agreement which calls for Israeli troops to withdraw from the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "playing delaying tactics," said Mr. Erakat on the sidelines of a meeting between Mr. Arafat and the EU presidency in Luxembourg.

China Calls for Pullout

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said he backed an Israeli pullout from south Lebanon as a way of advancing the Middle East peace process.

"If United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 is implemented, the peace process will progress," Qian told reporters after meeting his Lebanese counterpart Fares Boweiz, last week.

The UN resolution, adopted in 1978, calls for an unconditional and complete Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

The Jewish state occupies a border strip as a self-declared "security zone" to protect its northern territories from guerrilla attacks.

Qian said that his 10-day tour of the Middle East was aimed at asserting China's interest in the Arab-Israeli peace process and "an expression of the high concern of the international community over the present stalemate."

Arab Potash GDR Listings Success

The listing of the Arab Potash Company's (APC's) Global Depository Receipts (GDRs) in the London and Amman stock exchanges has closed successfully.

This represents a strong vote of confidence in Jordan, in its national currency and in the APC shares.

The offering was for 3,622,500 GDRs, each representing one of the APCs shares which were made available to global investors. The offering carried a price \$9.03 or JD6.4 per GDR. The total offering generated \$32.7 million.

The majority of investors in the APC shares were investment managers and pension funds which represent an approximately 80 per cent of total demand.

The APC, a major foreign currency earner to the Kingdom, is owned by Jordan and several Arab governments. Fifty-one per cent of its shares are owned by the government.

Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit Weekly Programs Orbit Orbit

<p>23 December 1997 1000 NBC News Channel Nightside Live 1700 News Hour with Jim Lehrer 2200 Documentary - World at War episode 6</p> <p>24 December 1997 1230 ABC World News Now Live 1800 CBS This Morning 2230 NBC Meet the Press</p> <p>25 December 1997 1130 CBS Up to the Minute Live 1500 NBC The Today Show Live 2300 CBS 60 Minutes</p> <p>26 December 1997 1130 CBS Up to the Minute Live 1500 NBC The Today Show Live 0000 CBS 48 Hours</p> <p>27 December 1997 0930 ABC Nightline 1500 NBC Weekend Today Show Live 2100 CBS 48 Hours</p> <p>28 December 1997 1300 China: The Wild East 1830 CBS Face the Nation Live 2300 Wall Street Week</p> <p>23 December 1997 1300 Musabaqa 2200 Cosmix 0000 Retro</p> <p>24 December 1997 1400 In Motion 1900 Vital Soul 2100 Awtar</p> <p>25 December 1997 1300 Musabaqa 2200 Cosmix 0000 Retro</p> <p>24 December 1997 1300 R.s.v.p. 1700 The Rush Hour 2100 Awtar</p>	<p>25 December 1997 1300 Indimage 1530 Chain Reaction #1 1600 Freeze Frame Moby/nu Yorican Soul</p> <p>26 December 1997 0600 Saba Ho 1200 Vital Soul "Soul Shack" 1400 Conversation with... Khaled Al Sheik /Earth Wind & Fire</p> <p>27 December 1997 1100 The Rush Hour 1500 Cosmix 1900 Vital Soul Music Now Schedule</p> <p>28 December 1997 1100 The Rush Hour 1500 Cosmix 1700 The Rush Hour</p> <p>23 December 1997 1100 E! In Focus: Coolest Bachelors 1530 Media TV 2000 E! Model</p> <p>24 December 1997 1100 E! Gossip Show 1600 Globetrotter 2130 E! News Week in Review</p> <p>25 December 1997 0930 Slim Cooking 1300 E! The Gossip Show 1400 Talk Soup</p> <p>26 December 1997 1030 Ooh La La 1630 Main Floor 2000 Candid Camera/Reality Shows TV Greatest Performances</p>	<p>27 December 1997 0900 Crook and Chase 1400 Arthel and Fred 1930 Wheel of Fortune</p> <p>28 December 1997 1200 Globetrotter 1630 Crook & Chase 1730 Oh La la</p> <p>22 December 1997 0945 Leo and Popi 1145 Snagglepuss 1500 M.Y.C.</p> <p>23 December 1997 1030 Ankar Al Koala 1525 Yo Yogi 1900 The Jetsons</p> <p>24 December 1997 1145 Snagglepuss 1550 Bump in the Night 2115 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest</p> <p>25 December 1997 1200 Pee Wee's Playhouse 1830 The Tomorrow People 2300 Mr Bean</p> <p>26 December 1997 1300 Paw Paws 2025 Movies, Games and Videos 0230 Too close for Comfort</p> <p>27 December 1997 0920 Adv of Little Prince 1405 The Fun Channel Movie : Gnomes Adventures 1830 Top Cat</p> <p>28 December 1997 1000 Ahlann Anbar 1550 Bump in the Night 2050 Space Ghost and Dino Boy</p>	<p>1800 1997 Hawaiian Swimming Challenge 0130 America's Horse</p> <p>22 December 1997 1600 Sports Center International 1930 NFL Football: San Francisco 49ers at Seattle Seahawks 2230 Beach Soccer Tour</p> <p>23 December 1997 1000 SportsCenter Live 1930 Gole' 2000 NFL Prime Monday</p> <p>24 December 1997 0900 Boxing Superbouts 1400 National Hockey Night: Los Angeles Kings at Colorado Avalanche 2000 NBA Basketball: Charlotte Hornets at Boston Celtics</p> <p>25 December 1997 0830 Football Defenders 1800 Nascar Winter Heat Tucson, Arizona 2000 SportsCenter</p> <p>26 December 1997 1330 NBA Basketball: Miami Heat at Chicago Bulls 1950 FA Premier League: Aston Villa v Spurs Live 2200 NBA Action</p> <p>27 December 1997 0700 ESPNNews Evening Live 1230 NBA Action 2030 NFL Football: AFC or NFC Wild Card Playoffs Live</p> <p>28 December 1997 1030 NFL Football: AFC or NFC Wild Card Playoffs</p>	<p>21 December 1997 1030 Spin City 1600 Life Goes On 1930 It's A Man's World</p> <p>22 December 1997 1100 All My Children 1400 Hardball 1730 Hangin' With Mr. Cooper</p> <p>23 December 1997 1300 Sunset Beach 1900 Married with Children 2100 Dark Skies</p> <p>24 December 1997 1200 General Hospital 1800 Step By Step 2100 It's A Man's World</p> <p>25 December 1997 1600 Starman 1900 Friends 2100 Seinfeld</p> <p>26 December 1997 1500 Buck James 1800 Roc 2030 John Larroquette</p> <p>27 December 1997 0830 Family Matters 1200 General Hospital 2000 Everything's Relative</p> <p>28 December 1997 1200 General Hospital 2100 Babylon 5 2300 Hardball</p>
--	--	---	--	--

CONNECT TO YOUR AUTHORIZED ORBIT DEALER:

APOLLO

P. O. BOX 11309 SANA'A
Tel: (967) 1 273992, 280280
Fax: (967) 1 274850

SONY & Al-Haidary: Great Opening in Aden



The partnership between Sony of Japan and their sole distributor in Yemen AL-Haidary for Trading has been going from strength to strength during the last 20 years or more. To better serve its esteemed clients and customers, AL-Haidary for Trading decided to open their new Sony Showroom and Service Center in Yemen's flourishing economic and trade capital - Aden.

The Showroom

This newly opened branch includes a showroom stocked with the latest, top-of-the-range Sony products:

- HiFi Audio-visual equipment;
- Top-quality stereos and MIDI sound systems;
- TVs of all shapes and sizes;
- Multi-band, high-sensitivity digital radios;
- Multi-feature video cameras and much more.

Al-Haidary provides its customers with a one-year guarantee with free maintenance for all Sony products.

The Inauguration

The Deputy Governor of Aden, Mr. Waheed Ali Rasheed inaugurated the Sony Showroom and Service Center in a celebration ceremony held on December 21st. It was attended by a number of AL-Haidary staff, the Japanese Sony delegation which has come to Yemen specially for the occasion, a number of public officials, businessmen and representatives of the media. The Japanese delegation included the Managing Director of Sony-Gulf, Mr. Nagai; the Marketing Manager, Mr. Nakajima; and Mr. Degaduchi.

The opening ceremony was also attended by the Area Sales Manager, Mr. Adnan Ayed and Al-Haidary Board Chief, Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Haidary.

"I am very happy for the opening of the Sony Showroom and Service Center in Aden, which is part of Al-Haidary for Trading," said Mr. Waheed Ali Rasheed delightedly. He added, "I saw very modern and sophisticated equipment in this new Sony showroom."

The Managing Director, Mr. Nagai said, "I thank all people responsible for this center and who participated in this great opening ceremony."

He announced that "Sony provides its agents and distributors in the Middle East, North Africa, Iran, and Pakistan, with the most modern and state-of-the-art Sony products."

"Not only that," says Mr. Nagai, "Sony also provides extensive post-sale services."

Sony-Gulf has a multi-national staff of 267 employees "all of whom are highly qualified and have good experience." Sony-Gulf has opened eight branches and offices spread in Iran,



Mr. Waheed Ali Rasheed, the Deputy Governor of Aden, officially inaugurates Sony Showroom and Service Center



Mr. Mohammad Al-Haidary (left) and Mr. Nagai, Managing Director of Sony-Gulf



During press conference



Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al Haidary, Board Chief of Al-Haidary for Trading



"Thank Allah for the opening of the Sony Service Center, which consists of a showroom displaying the most modern of Sony products and a maintenance and spare parts department. The Sony Service Center is stocked with all kinds of original Sony spare parts for all

Sony products, and is staffed with competent, highly qualified, and experienced engineers. They took part in special technical and training courses abroad to be ready for the job at hand.

Our free post-sale services extend for one year. And on this happy occasion, I announce that the Sony Service Center is providing free maintenance services for ten days, starting from today.

The opening of this center is a big step forward in the strong partnership between Sony and Al-Haidary.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank Mr. Waheed Ali Rasheed for honoring us by attending the inauguration celebration. I'd also like to thank the Sony delegation who honored us with their presence in Aden specially for this happy occasion."



Pakistan, North Africa, Jordan, Kuwait, Tunisia, Lebanon, and several other countries, totaling 22.

"Al-Haidary, Sony's sole agent in Yemen, has made big efforts to advertise and market Sony's products in this country," explained Mr. Al-Haidary, adding, "Al-Haidary is certainly very important for Sony-Gulf."

A meeting was held by Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Haidary and the Japanese delegation to discuss various aspects of the Sony - Al-Haidary partnership. They answered some queries put forward by some businessmen regarding post-sale maintenance services offered by Sony through their agent in Yemen - Al-Haidary.

All those who attended the inauguration ceremony expressed their delight and satisfaction with high level of Sony products and services offered by AL-Haidary.



Al Haidary for Trading

Sana'a: Gamal Street Tel: 271893 / 272337 / 280495 Fax: 272892 / 280432
Aden: Sheikh Abdulla Street, Crater Tel: 252914

بمناسبة حلول شهر رمضان المبارك وبداية السنة الميلادية الجديد

تتقدم

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

بخالص التهاني والتبريكات للقيادة السياسية بزعامة إبن اليمن البار
الفريق علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية
وللحكومة الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم وكافة أفراد شعبنا اليمني
أعاد الله هاتين المناسبتين على بلادنا بمزيد من الإستقرار والرخاء
وكل عام وأنتم بخير



ASGA



On the occasion of the Holy Month of Ramadhan
and on the New Year,

THE HAYEL SAEED GROUP OF COMPANIES

presents

its best wishes and felicitations to
General Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic,
Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim and All Members of His Cabinet,
and the Yemeni People.

We pray that these occasions will return to our country
with more stability and prosperity.

Many Happy Returns to All.



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 16-12-97.
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemen & Oman take a unified stance towards Saudi demand to have a corridor passing through Yemeni territory to the Arabian Sea.
- 2- Slogans on Abyan walls led to several arrests without formal charges.
- 3- Aden court trying men accused of bomb explosions is adjourned awaiting forensic report.
- 4- World Bank submitted draft NGO law to Council of Ministers to replace the one submitted by the Ministry of Social Affairs!

Article Summary:

Scenes from Parliament

By Mahmood Sharafuldeen

- * Journalists were barred from covering the parliamentary session in which the parliament's annual budget was discussed.
- * Contrary what is known about the lofty morals of the President's eldest son who is an MP for a Sanaa constituency, his bodyguards are quite rude and abrasive in treating ordinary citizens. They turned the parliament's courtyard into an off-limits zone.
- * A number of MPs have consistently kept silent. All they do is ask photographers to take their photos in the most awe-inspiring poses.

AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 18-12-97.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1- Parliamentary Speaker & Islah leader, Sheikh Al-Ahmer convalesces after heart surgery at Cleveland Hospital, USA.
- 2- The President returns home following successful visit to Oman.
- 3- International Association of Muslim Women concluded its second meeting on December 15th in Sanaa.
- 4- Prominent Islah figure, Sheikh Al-Zindani conducts a series of religious ceremonies in Hadhramaut, and donates YR100,000 to Aqsa Mosque Committee.

Article Summary:

More Burdens on Citizens

The 1998 budget figures show that prices of basic commodities will increase. Electricity is no longer subsidized. The YR 24 billion difference will be borne by the citizens, not the state's treasury. Independent economists have cast doubt on the declared budget deficit of YR 13 billion. The improvement in the deficit has come as a result of including borrowings in the state's general revenue, they explained. The real budget deficit is estimated at YR 41 billion.

AL-TAREEQ: Aden fortnightly, 16-12-97.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Ali Salim Al-Beedh is still in Socialist Party leadership, his dismissal was illegal.
- 2- Opposition Coordination Council in Hadhramaut emphasizes adherence to unity & reconciliation, but rejects government's conditions to release prisoners.
- 3- Out of 200 certificates issued by Teachers High Institute in Aden, 39 were discovered to be falsified.

Article Summary:

The Arab Afghans

By Ibraheem Al-Ashmawi

The record of violence in Yemen is full of many incidents perpetrated by the Arab Afghans, starting with the Aden Movenpick bomb explosion in 1993 which led to the death of 3 US citizens. Tarek Al-Fadhli, the current member of the People's General Congress was implicated. That incident was followed by a group of fundamentalist students throwing vitriolic material on unveiled female students in Sanaa University in 1994. Other incidents took place, including the explosions at the Queen Arwa and Al-Aidroos mausoleums. The group responsible for these and may other incidents is led by Sheikh Moqbil Al-Wadi' who has a long-standing ideological dispute with the Sufi movement in Hadhramaut. Most of the groups involved in these violent incidents are composed of Yemeni and Arab veterans of the Afghan war against the former Soviet Union.

AL-SHOORA: Sanaa weekly, 14-12-97.

(Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Leadership of Opposition Coordination Council in Lahaj, who were arrested during a protest demonstration, had been released.
- 2- Aden Refinery workers go on strike demanding better wages & bonuses.
- 3- Opposition Coordination Council in Mukalla staged a sit-in protesting against continuing imprisonment of opposition figures.
- 4- Ten people died in tribal confrontation in Ibb.

Article Summary:

Unhealthy Pens

Police in Abyan have conducted a campaign to collect large numbers of biros discovered to contain a harmful substance in their ink. Political Security sources indicated that there are more than 18 types of unmarked biros with perfumed ink being in circulation in Abyan. Several students fainted upon inhaling the pens' perfume. More than 3000 pens had already been collected in the city of Lauder alone.

26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 18-12-97.

(Yemeni Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

- 1- The President & Sultan Qaboos of Oman emphasized the need to consolidate bilateral ties.
- 2- The President received a message from Saddam Hussein.
- 3- New power station in Seioun, Hajja & Ibb connected to national electricity grid.
- 4- Military leaders to hold annual conference this week.
- 5- 18 oil companies are currently prospecting in 22 blocks in Yemen.

Article Summary:

2,000 km of Fiber optics

The Minister of Communications has announced that a project to lay down a network of fiber optics has already started. The 2,000-km network, connecting northern with southern governorates, is to be financed by the Ministry of Communication. The Jawf part of the network will be finished by the end of 1998 to connect the governorate with the national grid. Telephone and digital TV signals will be transmitted by this modern network. The first stage of the project has already been completed and has entered service. The Aden fiber optics network is expected to cost \$38 million with a capacity of 50,000 telephone lines.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للاخ
طارق البراق
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولوده البكر والتي اسمها
«إيمان»
المهتؤون:
د. عبدالعزيز السقاف، جمال العواضي،
عقيل العامري، ناصر الطويلي،
وجميع موظفي المجلس الاستشاري

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للاخ
أمين الغفاري
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولوده البكر والتي اسمها
«أميرة»
المهتؤون:
جمال العواضي عادل الغفاري، عادل الراعي،
ليبيب السراجي، وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

Al Hayatt International Trading Office



Al Hayatt

Insulated Panels for

Hangars, Coldstores,
Warehouses, Factories,
Power Plants, Housing Units,
Cabins, . . . etc.

P. O. Box 4534 (Creator)

TelFAX: 00 967 2 243751

Aden Republic of Yemen

SONY®

SEE IT !! HEAR IT !! EXPERIENCE IT !!

BIG SALE!!!



FREE SERVICE!!!

21 DECEMBER 1997 TO 28 DECEMBER, 1997

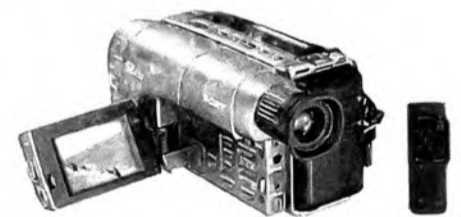
ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF

SONY

SHOWROOM & SERVICE CENTRE

AT SHEIKH ABDULLA STREET, CRATER, ADEN

TEL: 252914



ONE YEAR
GUARANTEE

Don't miss this golden opportunity to get your favorite Sony products at a very Discounted Price.

Bring your Sony products for a FREE SERVICE (Free Labor Charges)

offer valid only at Aden



SOLE DISTRIBUTOR:

AL-HAIDARY FOR TRADING

GAMAL STREET, SANA'A. TEL: 271893 / 272337 / 280495 FAX: 271892 / 280432

The Legend Grows

K.O.!!!

Naz Goes American



Before the match, the American boxer announced that he would defeat Naseem who "should find another job such as a taxi driver or a supermarket attendant." Just hot air. Under Naseem's steel fists, which came as a rude "awakening," Kelly fell unconscious inside the ring much to the chagrin of his fans. Prince Naseem Hamid, the world featherweight boxing champion, defeated the American boxer Keven Kelly with a knockout at the 4th round at their fight on Friday December 19th in the Madison Square Gardens in New

York.

Kelly had previously lost only one match out of the 50 he played. In addition to IBF and WBO, Naseem achieved another featherweight boxing title, the WBC.

Tantalizing sponsorship offers, amounting to \$2 million, have already poured in from American companies for every match played by Naseem.

Thus, Naseem is on his way to snatch all featherweight boxing titles

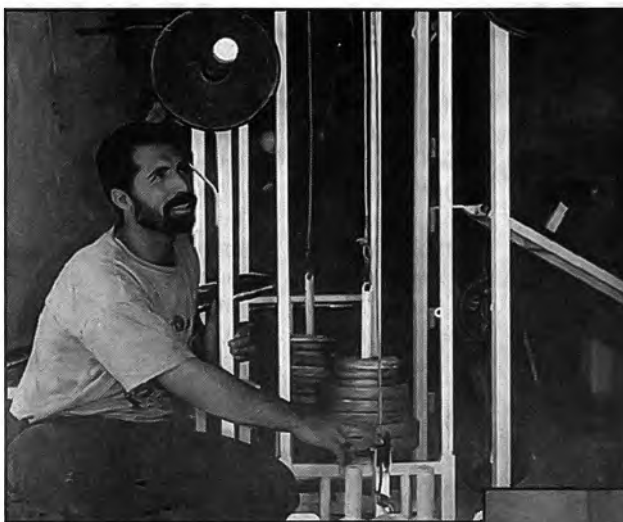
Only one title, W.B.A, is left for Naseem to pick like a ripe fruit.

Zaid Al-Qasbi, vice-president of Yemeni Body Building Association and the sole referee of this game, suffered a lot during his training due to lack of training facilities and equipment. But he could make sports equipment, a thing that has become his means of living.

Yemen Times met him and filed the following interview.

Q: How did the idea of making training equipment start?

A: Body building needs several equipment and fitness halls. But most of the equipment I found were old or were gifts. Importing such equipment costs a lot of money and the country could not afford that. The Body Building Association faced big problem because a large number of players rushed to start body building and



workshop for cutting and transforming them as the equipment requires.

Q: Have you made equipment for other games?

A: Yes, since I saw the high prices of some training equipment such as table tennis, billiards and snooker, I made some designs



the equipment was very limited. So I started to make some equipment locally. The idea developed and I managed to design any specific piece of equipment according to international standards and at low prices.

Q: Where from do you get the material to construct this equipment?

A: These materials are available and I established a small

myself. You cannot compare between the locally manufactured and the imported equipment.

Q: Have you proposed to the Ministry of Youth and Sports to buy the equipment you make?

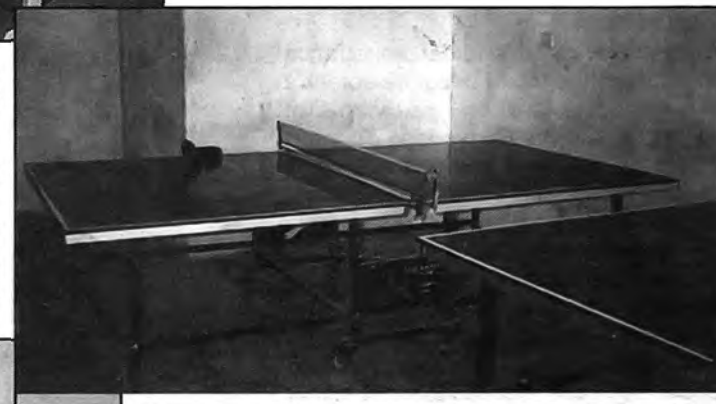
A: I offered to sell my equipment at low

building?

A: Yes, attention is only paid to football. If the officials pay field visits, they will know a lot of facts about sports. Some young men opened halls at their own expense and could receive many youths to alleviate the pressure on clubs.

Q: Have you established a training hall for fitness?

A: Yes, I have opened some halls at the beginning of December entitled "Hawaii Recreation Center" which includes fitness halls and body building halls as well as billiards, snooker and



prices to the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Because I personally suffered during training, I don't want others to suffer. But there was no positive reply.

Q: Do you think the Ministry is neglecting body

table tennis halls.

Q: As vice-president of Yemeni body building association, do you see any positive changes in 1998?

A: There is progress in the association activities, but if there is no attention paid to these games by the Ministry of Youth and Sports many sports activities will cease to exist.

معا من اجل انقاذ أطفال العراق

استجابة لمبادرة قام بها عدد من المثقفين المصريين وتبنتها عدة منظمات غير حكومية بهدف جمع مليون توقيع من اجل المطالبة بانقاذ أطفال العراق، تتبنى صحيفة «يمن تايمز» هذه الحملة حتى نهاية شهر ديسمبر الحالي. نحن في «يمن تايمز» لانستطيع ان نفهم ناهيك عن تبرير عدم الاكتراث الواضح من دول وشعوب العالم - وبالذات تلك التي تدعي رفع راية حقوق الانسان - حيال الوفاة اليومية لأطفال العراق. يرجى من الراغبين في المساهمة في هذه الحملة تعبئة الكوبون المرفق ادناه (ونسخه لمزيد من التوقيعات) ثم اعادته إلى الصحيفة ص.ب.: ٢٥٧٩، صنعاء، الجمهورية اليمنية.

Campaign to Save Iraqi Children

In response to an initiative by Egyptian intellectuals which calls for saving Iraqi children from their current predicament, and which was adopted by a number of NGOs, the Yemen Times is happy to start a campaign in Yemen. The campaign is to collect signatures for individuals who want to support the effort to save the children of Iraq. We in Yemen Times do not understand, let alone justify, the lack of concern among peoples and nations of the world, especially those who champion human rights, regarding the daily mass death of children in Iraq. If you are interested in supporting the campaign, please sign the coupon below and send it back to the Yemen Times, P. O. Box: 2579, Sana'a, Yemen.

التوقيع Name	الاسم Signature	التوقيع Name	الاسم Profession
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

AB

Dott. ANDREA BERTOLDI

address:

CALLE GENERALE CHINOTTO NO. 16
1 30132 S'ELENA VENEZIA - ITALY
Phone 0039 335 6147134
Fax 0039 41 5211274 / 41 2774847

GLOBAL WHOLE SALES

THE LOWEST PRICES ON THE MARKET

■ ALL KINDS OF INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL PRODUCTS:

Pipes, Bearings, Tires Mobile Generators, Safety Clothes, Etc.

■ ALL KINDS OF HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND FOOD INDUSTRY:

Washing Machines, Freezers, Gas & Electric Cookers, Etc.
Juices, Sweets, Dessert, Cake, Honey, Chocolate, Italian Pasta, Etc.

Terms of Business:

Payment : Letter of Credit from 30 to 90 days

We will quote for any wholesale inquiries

المركز التخصصي لطب الأسنان
THE FIRST DENTAL CENTER
Dr. M. Radman & Dr. A. Al-Sharabi
M. S. C. London M. S. C. England
Our center offers a comprehensive range of dental treatments
Zubairi-Hadda Intersection
Tel: 279326/ 283879
Sanaa

VIRKON
فيركون
القاهر للجراثيم (فيروسات، بكتيريا، فطريات) ولجميع عائلات الفيروسات التي في كل مكان
جرس فيه أن تحمي نفسك ومن حولك من الأمراض
Killer of virus, bacteria, fungus, proved its affect against all 17 types of virus. Wherever you care to protect yourself and other from diseases
AL HIKMA Corp.
Sana'a: 270228, Aden: 245819, Taiz: 230250

ALAMERY
العامري
BASF Plant Protection Products
MAIN DISTRIBUTOR in Yemen
Fax: 03 234860
Showroom phone: 03 246526
Office phone: 03 253311

Yemensoft Ltd.
يمن سوت
Software Development & consultancy
For First Time In Yemen
The Financial Accounting System Under MS Windows 95.
An integrated package necessary for every Business and Organization
Tel: 247892, Fax: 269218
P. O. B: 11126, Hadda Street, Sana'a, ROY

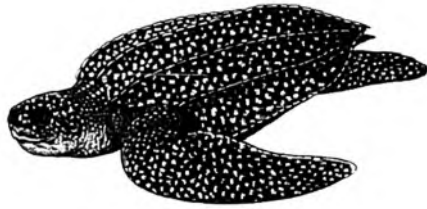
SKY NET
WORLDWIDE EXPRESS
Sana'a: Hadda Road Tel: 206949
Aden: Madram Road Tel: 242620
Taiz: Gubat Al Muaswar Tel: 210784
Quality, On Time Delivery

EL SOFFARY
السفاري
Mercedes Automobile Maintenance
Phone: (01) 230162
صيانة سيارات المرسيدس
تلفون ٢٣٠١٦٢ (٠١)

المؤسسة الاقتصادية اليمنية
Yemen Economic Corporation
For Trade, Agencies & Contracting
Our goals is always to meet your NEED!

Yemeni Turtles & Tortoises

Turtles are considered to be the biggest kind of reptiles. They are well-known for their slow motion due to the abdominal and dorsal shells containing their bodies.

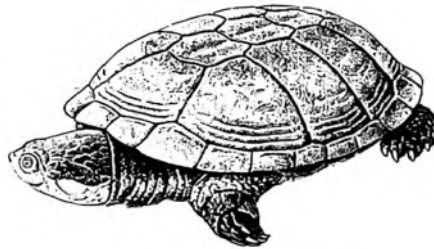
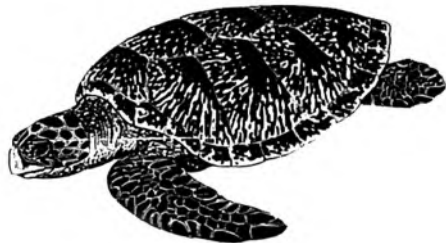
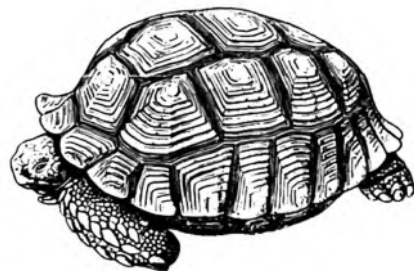


They get adapted to living on land and in fresh and salty waters. Turtles and tortoises can be divided into 12 families, including 222 species. Four of these families, including 7 species, exist in Yemen.

Turtles are given a great importance throughout the world because some of their species are on the verge of extinction. So the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) came into existence.

While there are different species of turtles that are about to die out, many species can be found in Yemen and vice versa. Unfortunately, there are no real studies about turtles in Yemen to show their numbers and to what extent they are being hunted for some of their parts or for their eggs.

There is no marked trade in Yemeni turtles, so it is possible to create suitable conditions in which they can live peacefully. People should be made aware of the need to leave the harmless turtles live freely in their environment. Turtles feed on seaweed, and plankton. Those which live on land feed on grasses, while the fresh water turtles feed on insects, frogs and small fish.



Much efforts were made by Dr. Al Safadi and others to document the various species of turtle and tortoises living Yemen. Specimens of live and dead turtles and tortoises or even part of their bodies were collected by the researchers. There are 5 species of turtles in Yemen, which fall into two families. The first is the Cheloniidae family. The recorded species of this family are:

1- Chelonia mydas or green turtle;
2- Eretmochelys imbricata or Hawks

Bill turtle;
3- Lepidochelys olivacea or Olive Ridely turtle; and
4- Caretta caretta or loggerhead turtle. The second family - Family Dermochelyidae - includes the species Dermochelys Coriacea or the leatherhead turtle.

The first and second families are the most common families to be found in Yemen. Other families are less common.

The second family of turtles includes the biggest kind of sea turtles. It is rarely found and it is said that they are used for some medical purposes.

The third family, Family Pelomedusidae which includes the following species:

1. Palomedusa suburfa of Helmeted Terrapin: It is a kind of fresh water turtle which exists in rivers and springs.

Fourth, Family Testudinidae which includes Geochelone sulcata, or the African Spurred tortoise. It is the kind of a turtle which live on land. It different from other turtle families in that it is herbivorous.

DIRECT, NON-STOP FLIGHTS

YEMENIA now flies you **NONSTOP** with its new wide-body A310-300

from Sanaa to:

FRANKFURT:
Saturdays & Tuesdays;

ROME:
Sundays & Wednesdays;

PARIS:
Fridays & Mondays.



Yemenia
Yemen Airways
اليمنية
الخطوط الجوية اليمنية



CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS
INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - SAL

CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL
AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS

- ⊕ Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- ⊕ Heavy, light industrial plants.
- ⊕ Power and desalination plants.
- ⊕ Fuel and water storage tanks.
- ⊕ Oil fields ancillary installations.
- ⊕ Air purification for industry.
- ⊕ Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- ⊕ Offshore structures and underwater works.
- ⊕ Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- ⊕ Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities.
- ⊕ Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- ⊕ Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs.
- ⊕ High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- ⊕ Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution systems.

Sanaa
Tel: (967-1) 247852
Fax: (967-1) 263043
E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye

Aden
Tel: (967-2) 377328
Fax: (967-2) 377716
E-Mail: cccadenl@y.net.ye

Rothmans
KING SIZE
WORLD LEADER
THE WORLD'S FIRST KING SIZE FILTER CIGARETTE



طبع بمطابع الشركة اليمنية للأدوية
Printed at Yemen Drug Company Printing House