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# YEMEN TIMES

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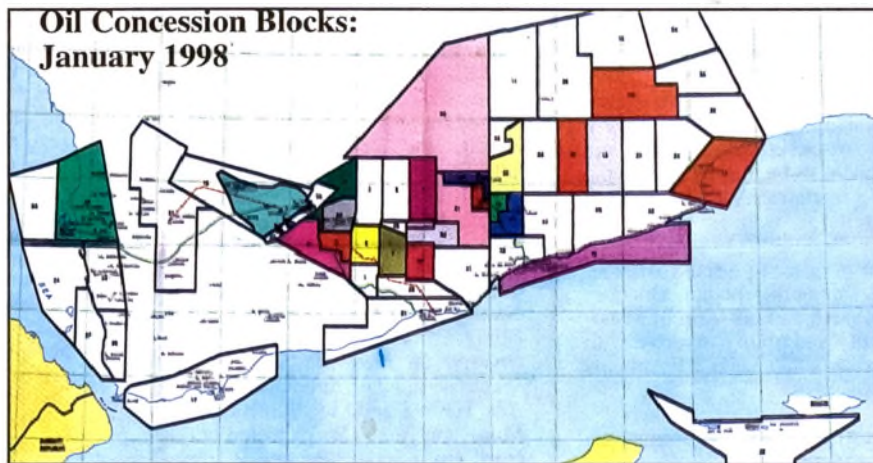
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## Major Energy Conference in September

The Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources is planning for a major media event, come September 1998. According to Mr. Abdullah Bishre, Director-General of Media and Information at the Ministry. Dubbed as the First Oil and Gas International Conference in Yemen, the event will bring together a large number of international companies. "We plan to prepare packages about pros-

pects in Yemen in the hope of interesting investors in this field," Mr. Bishre said. The Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources, Mr. Mohammed Al-Khadim Al-Wajeeh, has established a preparatory committee for this purpose. "The Ministry is going about this event in a professional and thorough way," he indicated. A consultant firm, MEDIC, has been contracted to help out.

Oil Concession Blocks:  
January 1998



## International Community Responds to Yemen's Environmental Needs & Concerns

Bilateral and multilateral donors responded positively to the environmental needs and concerns of the Republic of Yemen, as formulated in a number of proposed projects. The case for Yemen was made by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, member of the Consultative Council, in Vancouver, Canada. Last week, a gathering of senior government officials and representatives of several businesses and environmental NGOs held successive meetings to start plans for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, which calls for environmentally responsible

policies. The project in Yemen, although urban focused, touches on many issues such as garbage management, sewer treatment, pollution control, preservation of architectural heritage, and efforts to control desertification, deforestation, and terrace destruction. In a statement made to Yemen Times, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf indicated that "Yemen, as home to certain types of unique fauna and flora, should also consider the establishment of sanctuaries for its endemic wildlife."

According to arrangements recently concluded in Vancouver, a number of representatives of NGOs, businesses, and senior government officials will pay visits to Yemen in order to assess the prospects for partnership projects. The environment in Yemen is plagued by a number of serious problems. Lack of funds and public awareness have compounded the threat to the country's environment. Help by the international community to alleviate these problems is more than welcome by the Yemeni government and public alike.

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## Yemen and Vatican to Establish Diplomatic Relations

Monsignor Jean Louis Tauran, Foreign Affairs Minister of the Holy See, plans a formal visit to Yemen during 27-29 March. The Vatican official will meet senior Yemeni officials, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The purpose of the visit, according to Yemen Times sources, is to discuss steps to establish diplomatic relations between Yemen and the Holy See. Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates are among the Arab countries who already have diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

The Catholic Church has around 230 followers in Yemen, all foreigners. There is a church in Aden serving the community.

In addition, the Mother Theresa Sisters, a Catholic charity, has been assisting mentally retarded Yemeni children for years now. They have 'homes' in Sanaa, Aden, Hodeidah and Taiz.

Monsignor Bernardo Gremoli, regional Vatican representative based in the UAE, will accompany Mons. Tauran to Sanaa.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Survival Depends on Ability of a System to Correct Itself

One of the basic requirements for the continuation or even the survival of any system (whether it is a government, a company, an institution, an organization, etc.) is its ability to overcome its shortcomings by itself. If a system is fossilized, it risks falling apart or withering away. This was the problem of the former USSR, as it failed to discover, acknowledge and correct its mistakes. This also happens to be the strength of the American system, which, in spite of its many problems, has the ability to constantly correct itself.

I am using the above introduction in order to discuss whether the present system in Yemen has this ability or not. One key quality of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his team of assistants has been their visible flexibility and ability to move with the times. The point is, however, whether such adjustments are for real and deep enough.

In my opinion, three major adjustments will determine the future of the system headed by President Saleh.

#### 1. Generational Transition:

One of the key factors in the future success of the regime will be its ability to instill a smooth and peaceful generational transition. Many key assistants of the President - in the civilian as well as in the military - are people whose ages are now over 60 years. This means new blood is badly needed for the regime to move into the 21st century. Unfortunately, the old guard continues to hold on to the reigns of power, and the younger people are still waiting in the wings. The ability of the system to correct this problem is going to be a key factor in its future.

#### 2. Transparency & Accountability:

Corruption and mismanagement are two problems associated with the present regime. Its ability to show that it has the courage and will to address these issues is an important step. That will require ensuring a certain degree of transparency in the workings of the state. More importantly, accountability, based on a system of reward and punishment should be applied vis-a-vis individuals, whether those who perform their duties properly or those who abuse their authority. The credibility and legitimacy of the system could depend on this, especially at this time of economic austerity.

#### 3. A Sense of Fair Play:

One of the key problems associated with our system today is that there are some people who are above the law. They do whatever they like with visible impunity. The system must project a sense of fair play among the citizens of this country. If there are individuals who break the law, the state should not be seen as appeasing them. Law and order and full equality among citizens, irrespective of their military, tribal, social, financial, etc., background is imperative. The general public must believe in the even-handed dispensation of justice by the state and in its fair play.

Those are key issues that the President and his men need to ponder over as the country prepares to move into the 21st century. I believe they are very critical, not only for the prosperity and strength of the regime, but for its very survival.

*The Publisher*  


### Desert Locusts Hit Yemen

According to sources at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, a huge swarm of adult desert locusts entered Yemen on 17 March and landed in the areas of Bani Hattan, Bani Fayid, and Hawiya in Meedi Directorate, Hajja. Covering an area of more than 50 sq. km, the locusts started to mate and the females started to lay their eggs, already.

This is the biggest swarm to come from the western shores of the Red Sea this year, the sources indicated. Surveying teams, belonging to the Center for Monitoring and Controlling Desert Locusts, are currently surveying the affected region to ascertain the best way to combat this menace.

Yemeni locust fighters were able, during February 10 - March 4, to eradicate swarms of flying and newly born locusts, which covered an area of 17,000 sq. hectares in the directorates of Abs, Hairan, and Meedi in Hajja. More swarms are expected to come from Sudan, Eritrea, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. A swarm of locusts includes on average 400 million insects, and devours an amount of food enough to feed 400,000 people for an entire year.

### At Last, an Arts Journal

The first issue of 'Tashkeel' has just hit the newsstands in Sanaa and the rest of Yemen. Tashkeel is the new monthly journal of the Yemeni Plastic Artists Syndicate, established towards the end of 1997.

The eight, tabloid-sized pages of Tashkeel are full of interesting articles on the now more momentous art movement in Yemen and interviews with Yemeni and Arab artists. Headed by Yemen's outstanding female artist, Amna Al-Naseeri, the board of editors includes Abdullah Al-Mojahid as the managing editor and Abdulaziz Al-Zobairi as the editorial secretary.

### Death in a Supermarket

City Center on Hadda road was probably Yemen's first 24-hour supermarket. Very early one morning during last week, a shifty-looking character with a load of goods hidden on his person sailed through one of the checkpoints without paying. When confronted by the store's security, the man refused to pay and was quite aggressive in his attitude, pulling out his janbia. A security man just pulled his pistol and fired at point-blank range, fatally wounding the man.

The tribe of the deceased man received blood money from the store owners for their "lost son," and the supermarket started closing at midnight.

### Traffic & Environment

The first national symposium on traffic and the environment started yesterday, March 22 in Sanaa. Organized by the Environment Protection Council, the symposium is set to go until March 25.

Participants in this symposium are to discuss the negative effects of uncontrolled traffic on the environment, health, and the economy. Other topics to be discussed include traffic congestions and accidents.

The symposium aims to come up with a planning strategy to make some changes in the performance of the traffic police.

In general, car owners in Yemen do not observe the safety and road worthiness measures recognized worldwide.

### Vacancy Announcement for Deputy Program Manager for the Program Management unit of Sustainable Environmental Management Program - YEM/97/100

UNDP-funded Program on sustainable Environment Management - YEM/97/100 - seeks a highly qualified national expert to work for the above-mentioned position in Sanaa for a renewable duration of 12 months. The position is open for Yemeni nationals only.

#### Tasks

For the initial period, the de jure of the Sustainable Environmental Management Program will be an international Program Manager. He/She will provide on-the-job training to a national program manager, who will be his/her deputy. The Deputy will take over as Program Manager after the completion of the one year assignment of the international Program Manager.

Under the overall supervision of the International Program manager and in close collaboration and in consultation with the Chairman of EPC and the leaders of all implementing agencies the Program Manager Unit will:

- Lead and manage the Program Management Unit (PMU); applying administrative duties as instructed by the International Program Manager & in accordance with EPC and UNDP regulations;
- Give close and regular backstopping to all sub-programs;
- Coordinate the sub-program;
- Prepare and update regular workplans for PMU;
- Prepare job description for support staff for PMU;
- Assist implementing agencies in preparing and regularly updating detailed workplans;
- Assist implementing agencies in preparing job description and Terms of Reference for international and national staff and consultants;
- Assist implementing agencies in identifying national and international consultants, but final acceptance of candidates lies within the implementing agencies;
- Assist implementing agencies to arrange training, including Study tours;
- Purchase equipment as indicated in the program support document in accordance with UNDP regulations;
- Disburse money to sub-programs according to financial management plans to be worked out by EPC and UNDP;
- Run of reporting systems for all sub-programs to the PMU;
- Prepare regular progress and financial reports of the whole program;
- Act as a liaison with national and international agencies involved in activities similar to or complementing those of the program; and
- Carry out any other duties and communication with the position of Program Manager.

#### Reporting

The Deputy Program Manager will report to the International Program Manager during the initial period and to the Chairman of EPC, with copies of communication to the relevant implementing agencies, UNDP and other donor agencies during the subsequent years.

#### Qualifications

The deputy Program Manager will be one nationally recruited expert in environmental program management, with a minimum degree of B. Sc. in a relevant subject and 15 years of relevant experience and with fluency in Arabic and English.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their application with CV to  
**PMU office**

**P. O. Box 19655, Sanaa**

Located behind Supreme Election Committee in the 60th Street southern part. Applications should be received not later than 25/3/98. Only those who strictly meet the requirements should apply and only short-listed applicants will be invited for interview.

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Eng. Saeed Abdu Ahmed:

## “Pupils in rural areas have to travel 8-10 km to get to the nearest school.”

Eng. Saeed Abdu Ahmed is the General Director of the Urban Development Directorate at the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning, and is also now the Director of the Public Works Project. Eng. Ahmed, 42, graduated from the Civil Engineering Department in the College of Engineering, Basra University, Iraq, in 1979. He worked in the former Ministry of Housing, and joined this project two years ago. Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, met Eng. Saeed Abdu Ahmed and filed the following interview.

**Q: When was the Public Works Project started?**

**A:** The project's administration was established in June, 1996. It is one of the elements constituting the social safety network, which is implemented by the government in cooperation with the World Bank. It is a remedy for some of the negative effects of implementing the reform package. These negative effects include the rise in unemployment and increase in poverty. The project's first goal is finding job opportunities for people with limited income in order to lessen, as much as possible, the impact of poverty.

The Public Works Project is worth \$28 million, \$25 million of which is provided by the World Bank and \$3 million by the Yemeni government. Instead of executing two or three large projects which need a lot of funds and equipment, the idea is to employ as many people as possible in several small projects spread in both rural and urban parts of the country.

**Q: In what sectors do you mainly work?**

**A:** We work in construction, education, health and road building in ancient towns by using hand-honed stones, water cistern construction, laying water pipes, sewage disposal, etc. The citizens buy the necessary building materials and we do the work.

**Q: What criteria do you follow in your work?**

**A:** First, work has to be systematized. The main agreement between the government and the World Bank stipulates the main guidelines. We have to choose the projects, implementation conditions, geographical distribution, and other basic points.

The charter of procedures regulates the process of receiving project applications, seeing how compatible they are with the conditions specified by the loan agreement, and specifying the steps to be taken from receiving

the project application up to its completion.

We also drew a general strategy to distribute the loan's money on the national level. About 10% of the total sum is used to cover consultative and administrative expenses. The remaining 90% is used to finance civil works.

In August of 1996, a memorandum explaining the goals of the projects was sent to all governors in Yemen, asking them to submit their individual governorate's needs and demands. Applications started to pour in from the governors themselves, from NGOs, community leaders, MPs, etc. These applications are then vetted and classified by a special committee in accordance with the project's conditions.

**Q: How many projects have been endorsed up to now?**

**A:** There are around 500 projects distributed over various parts of the country.

**Q: How are these tenders carried out?**

**A:** These public tenders are executed in accordance with the World Bank agreement. When submitted tenders are opened and fully studied, agreements are signed with the winning contractors when the cost of the project is not over \$200,000. If the cost of an individual project is above that figure, we have to refer back to a steering committee, which reviews the proposals and authorizes us to sign the contract.

**Q: What are the biggest and smallest projects you have endorsed?**

**A:** The biggest project has taken more than a year to finish, while, the smallest one took only three months. The costs also vary from \$7,000 to \$260,000.

**Q: How many people are employed in these projects?**

**A:** The number of people employed in each project is about 30% of the actual value, in dollars, of the project. Some projects employ workers at a ratio



of 40 or even 50% of their cost. About 20,000 workers a month are currently employed by about a third of the allocated sum. This number is expected to rise to 60,000 workers a month

**Q: Could you give more details on how the loan money was distributed?**

**A:** Half of the money was distributed according to the population. One-third of the remaining half was given according to the poverty ratio to areas such as Mahweet and Dhamar. The remaining two-thirds of the second half were distributed according to the remoteness of each governorate. Saada, as a remote and deprived mountainous region, received a large share of the money. Hadhramaut, Mareb, Al-Jawf, Al-Mahara, and the islands such as Socotra and Kamaran also received a good proportion of the money.

**Q: Are some projects given priority above others?**

**A:** This is subject to the people's needs. Governors, NGOs and local councils come up with their applications which really indicate their own priorities.

**Q: What are the most common projects you are implementing?**

**A:** Most of the projects are in the education sector and most of applications we receive are in this field. This is contrary to the initial expectations. The people who started this project expected that only 10% of the proposed projects would be in the education sector.

The country in general does not have the capacity to build schools. The few schools that exist are overcrowded. Pupils in rural areas have to travel 8-10 km to get to the nearest school.

**Q: What projects come after schools?**

**A:** The second most common projects are in the health-care sector such as health centers, clinics, etc. This is followed by road building and water and sewage projects.

**Q: How large are the schools you build?**

**A:** We built three large schools consisting of 12 classrooms, each. Most of the other schools, however, consist of between 3 and 6 classrooms. Most of these schools are in rural areas. Some people apply for a school to be built for girls, others may apply for a boy's school, each according to their needs.

**Q: What about water cisterns?**

**A:** Many of the water cisterns are built with stones because of their availability, otherwise, the cistern

is built with concrete. These water cisterns vary in size from 50 cubic m. to 5,000 cubic m. for collecting flood water.

We have not yet been involved in building dams, except maybe for two small projects. Dam building needs a lot of engineering, economic, environmental, geological, hydrological, and other complicated studies. Also, such projects tend to be quite costly. The average project cost we are willing to implement is around \$50,000. There are only four projects costing more than \$200,000 each.

**Q: When will the Public Works Project be over?**

**A:** It was scheduled to end by 2001, when the loan money is used up. But this project will be completed sooner than that, at least one year earlier than scheduled. Civil works will be completed during the first quarter of next year.

Due to this success, the World Bank offered to extend the project by providing another loan. The Ministry of Planning and Development submitted an application for a new loan. There is already a provisional agreement, and the loan will probably be ratified by April. We are expecting to start using the new loan by the end of this year.

**Q: What kind of problems do you face in your work?**

**A:** We try as much as possible to coordinate our efforts with the bodies concerned. However, we face some difficulties in getting money out of the \$3 million provided by the government. The main difficulty emanates from the long-winded bureaucracy. We start by submitting an application to the Ministry of Planning, which refers it to the Ministry of Finance. The latter refers the application back to the former, which finally cashes the check. Last year, the government and the World Bank agreed that the application for funds will no longer be referred to the Ministry of Finance. It now goes directly from the Ministry of Planning to the Central Bank.

A completed project needs a lot of following-up. It simply cannot be abandoned. So we still have to deal with more than 300 projects, some of which are completed but others are not. Procedures really have to be considerably simplified.

We opened a credit at the Central Bank, and applications for funds are submitted in one go. We

withdraw the money we need from our account. But change of senior ministerial staff towards the end of last year put an end to this simple procedure. Now we cannot easily withdraw money from local funds. We will face many problems if this continues, and contractors will start to lose heart.

**Q: How many permanent staff do you have?**

**A:** We now have about 29 permanent employees; including engineers, administrators, accountants, etc. We divided the country into two main regions and six sub-regions. The first region includes Aden, Lahaj, Abyan, Hadhramaut, Al-Mahara, Mareb, Shabwa, and Al-Jawf. The second region includes the rest of the governorates. We have offices in Aden, Hadhramaut, Mareb, Sanaa, Hajja, and Ibb.

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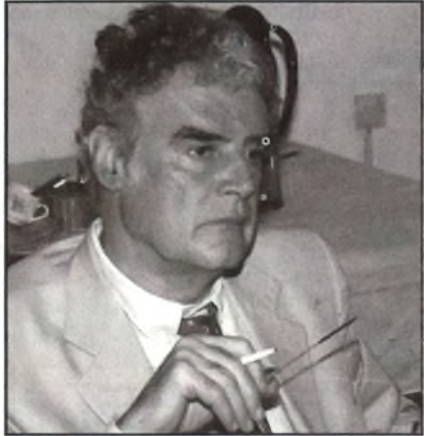
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# Co-Financing NGO Projects in Yemen



were met within the time allotted, which was too short.

**Q: How does the co-financing process work?**

**A:** The European Commission has two parallel lines of policy. One is the development policy, which is coordinated here in Sanaa by Mr. Freund. Parallel to that, there is a non governmental policy for which there has been a considerable amount of funds earmarked.

NGOs in Yemen represent a relatively new phenomenon. Their numbers increased following the unification of Yemen because of the freer political climate that prevailed since then.

However, NGOs in Yemen are facing serious difficulties. There is no law to regulate their activities. They are governed by an inadequate law, Law No. 11 of 1963. This law was first enacted in the former Yemen Arab Republic (Northern Yemen). The draft of the new law has not yet been adopted by parliament.

Another problem is that some of these NGOs are plagued by the corruption, especially financial, of their administrators. This corruption has created many conflicts and disputes within some of these NGOs, resulting in their division or

The non-governmental line has been going on for more than 20 years. It works in more than 100 countries worldwide. The funds earmarked for the European Commission Budget for cooperation with NGOs are 800 million ECU annually, which is 15% of the Commission's development budget. Of that, 200 million ECU are earmarked for 1998 for the co-financing of projects with European NGOs in developing countries.

This budget is the one that I am responsible for in Brussels. We use this money to co-finance annually some 800 projects in more than 100 developing countries.

Projects co-financed by the EC must meet two criteria. As a first priority, they must provide the basic needs of the poor such as food, security, water, health, training, etc. The second is that they must have an active local partner in the benefiting country

project applications from European NGOs for projects in Yemen for 2 million ECU. In the last five months, we have spent almost as much as we have in the last five years.

Moreover, during my visit to Yemen, I was contacted by at least 4 new European NGOs that are known to us in Brussels, but have never worked in Yemen.

**Q: Do you finance local NGOs only or those that cover all of Yemen as well?**

**A:** We think that an NGO should not try to do too much, but they must do all that they can. If they have a good project, which is in a particular governorate rather than in another one, we are not going to influence them otherwise. We respect an autonomy and we are concerned that they have a good partner.

**Q: How many projects are you financing?**

**A:** I should first make a difference between those which we have co-financed already and those that we are examining now. We have already co-financed about 3 million ECU worth of projects. There is a project in Sanaa co-financed by Oxfam. It is a clinic in Bab Al Sabah. It's a small project, but it is a beginning.

The total number of projects is 39, big and small. We have co-financed with a British organization called ICD for health activities in Reima and Hodeida. We also co-financed a project for Somali refugees in Sanaa.

**Q: How do you evaluate the cooperation between European NGOs and their Yemeni partners?**

**A:** I could say that my meetings were extremely constructive, an ideal opportunity to meet European NGOs, some of which have much experience in Yemen and others who are thinking of coming in and came to the meeting to see what it's all about.

The Yemeni NGOs are quite numerous and are keen to know the possibilities of co-financing. Some Yemeni NGOs pointed out that it would be nice to have direct financing rather than having to go through European NGOs. This is a very legitimate desire, but as I explained to them, I am managing only one of many budget lines, of which there are more than 40 open to NGOs. Some of the others may be open for the local NGOs.

**Q: How are the European NGOs selected to operate in Yemen?**

**A:** A European NGO brings a certain amount of value to a project because it contributes up to 50% of the funds. Then, it must also be a good NGO. My job is to select a European NGO that has been operating for years. A good NGO follows good principles and thinks of the welfare of the poor.

We do not employ expatriates only. In our rules for co-financing, we stress that local capabilities be used. If that is impossible, expatriates are allowed, but it must be justified. If the expatriates take too much of the budget, they are sent back to Europe. I am not here to plead the cause of the European NGOs, but it is my duty to explain that there is a certain value added by the European NGOs.

working in cooperation with the European NGO. It must be an equal partnership. We get literally thousands of applications from different countries and NGOs and we judge them by their merit, the quality of the project and the correspondence of the project to the criteria I mentioned before.

**Q: How do you see the NGO situation in Yemen?**

**A:** I got the impression that there is a certain interest in the NGO dimension to intensify cooperation between Yemeni and European organizations with EC backing.

**Q: When did the cooperation between European and Yemeni NGOs start and how is it developing?**

**A:** Cooperation with European NGOs for projects in Yemen started about five years ago. In the last five years, we have co-financed 7 projects with a total of 3 million ECU in contributions from the EC. The Yemen-EU joint venture has been worth some 6 million ECU.

I want to stress that in the last five months, we have added

even suspension of activities.

Mr. Amadeo Brusasco, the EC Coordinator for the Co-financing of NGO Projects, visited Yemen during 11-18 March. He met several Yemeni officials. His job is to coordinate the management of the budget, which co-finances development projects, with the European managing office.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, met Mr. Brusasco, and filed the following interview.

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

**A:** I am here to visit projects that we have already co-financed through the budget line, to evaluate the environment in which the Yemeni and European NGOs work, to inform the relevant government ministers of our activities and discuss a series of new proposals that have been presented by NGOs for future co-financing. Another objective of my mission is to meet Yemeni NGOs.

European NGOs are all interested in establishing themselves in Yemen. I think these objectives



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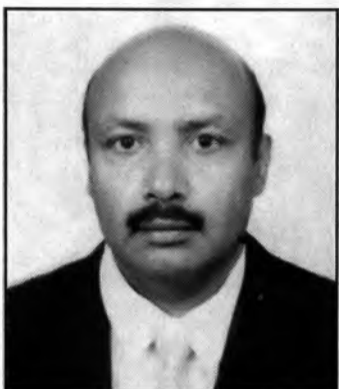


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This is an *OPINION* page.  
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## Social Service Development



**Dr. Adel Salem,**  
Consultant,  
Ministry of Labor & Vocational  
Training

However, considering that Yemen is one of the least developing countries in the world with an acute conflict between a rapid population growth of 3.7% per annum and limited economic development, what has been achieved so far raises optimism. The impediments that led to greatly slowing down the social development process were mainly due to almost insurmountable causes:

Social services of all types are needed by a large proportion of society. The annual per capita income (\$95 in 1995) is below the poverty line, illiteracy rates are high, purchasing power is weak, the real wage value is decreasing, and the local currency is weak against major hard currencies. All these factors have led to large increases in poverty and unemployment. All efforts made until now to tackle these problems have not been able to satisfactorily contain them.

- 1- The concentration of most population centers in mountainous areas has impeded providing basic services to the majority of the people in Yemen for the last 20 years.
- 2- About 70% of the people live in small populations as farmers living in little villages of no more than 500 inhabitants.
- 3- The proportion of people under 15 years old forms 50.3% of the total population. This is one of

the biggest population problems because this age group heavily relies on others for livelihood and is in need of various services.

4- Deficiency in water resources and a low individual share of water has continuously led to neglecting arable land and letting them be claimed by the desert. This in turn also leads to the deterioration of pastures and an increase in internal immigration. Data indicates that underground aquifers are depleted at a rate far exceeding the rate of replenishment. It is expected that 20% of the population will suffer from lack of drinking water by the year 2000.

5- The high ratio of illiteracy - 56% - reflects the general low living and cultural standards of the population and their deteriorating economic activity. Illiteracy will continue to negatively affect social development plans for the next 30 years, unless it is tackled by far-reaching practical measures.

6- Despite the high population growth rate of 3.7% and a 9.3% real domestic product growth retained in 1995, the standard of living during 1990-1995 had dropped by an annual rate of 20%. This means a real drop in the population's living standard, reaching \$95 per capita in 1995. The proportion of poverty has, accordingly, risen from 21.3% to 34% of the population.

7- Tackling social development issues has in the past relied mainly on the government's efforts. It did not expand to include wider popular participation such as NGOs and the private sector.

NGOs are able to assume a larger, more important role in the process of social development through improving women's conditions, family care, family planning, eradication of illiteracy, child care, implementing reproduction health programs, vocational training for women, etc. The number of cooperative associations established up to the end of 1995 reached 596, while, the number of charities, social organizations, and trade unions reached 611 during the same period.

The private sector can also make a valuable and effective contribution to the process of social development through employing and developing the skills of the workforce and supporting the Vocational Training Fund and the Poverty Combating Fund. The private sector has been able to absorb 39.78% of the total workforce through its 9 universities, 66 schools, 350 hospitals and health centers, 364 factories, 12 navigation companies, 100 poultry farms, and many other establishments. The government is now promoting the private sector and understanding its important role in development. It has been keen on providing a suitable economic climate to induce the private sector to invest more capital. The following steps are being taken by the government:

- 1- Reducing the rate of interest on bank loans and removing the ceiling on private sector credit.
- 2- Reviewing financial and taxation laws and reducing taxes on non-luxury and non-consumer goods as well as raw materials for the manufacturing industries.
- 3- Reducing customs tariff rates, simplifying the levying procedures, implementing comprehensive reforms in tax and customs levying organs.
- 4- Delegating more financial and administrative powers to ministries and governorates in order

to speed up the execution of service, developmental and environmental projects.

Gauging the extent of the government's success in its social development policies is closely associated with the improvement in the people's living standards. So the government is primarily responsible to successfully implementing the process of social development through short and long-term measures. It must support social projects and programs, assist charities, cooperatives and women, implement illiteracy-eradication programs tackle poverty, improve public works, security, education, health care, transport, water, care for minors, the handicapped and the elderly, combat unemployment; protect the environment, develop the judicial system and modernize public services and the infrastructure.

The progress of social develop-

ment has been able to gather momentum since 1995. During the first and second stages of economic, financial and administrative reform in 1995 and 1996, the government had been able to achieve tangible results. These achievements include reducing inflation to 10%, absorbing surplus cash, reducing the budgetary deficit of 1996 to 4%, stabilizing the rate of exchange of the local currency against the dollar between 125 and 135 riyals to the dollar, and halting the increase in the prices of consumer goods. The improvement in the financial sector was reflected in the increase and development of social services provided to the people. The following was achieved:

- 1- Establishing the Social Development Fund, working with World Bank support, to reduce unemployment and develop the workforce.
- 2- Establishing the Social Care Fund, which studied 50,000 cases.
- 3- Alleviating the hardships

experienced by public and mixed-sector employees and pensioners by providing them with a 10% salary increase.

4- The number of cases benefiting from the Social Care Law rose to 100,000.

5- Allocating YR200 million for assisting youth and sport activities.

6- Increasing social service allocations in the general budget, especially for the health and education sectors, in order to improve the quality of the service they provide.

7- Completing infrastructure projects, especially those connected to water resource development, roads, ports and airports.

The following table shows budgetary allocations for various social development sectors during 1996 and 1997.

Sector	1996 Budget	1997 Budget	Growth Rate %
Public Services	7136	13411	87.9
Defense	4433	4503	1.6
Education	5670	13323	135.0
Health	2680	3315	23.7
Social Services	1908	2950	54.6
Economic Services	17602	24717	40.4
Loan Installments	4740	3000	36.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>44169</b>	<b>65219</b>	<b>47.7</b>

### UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)



### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

**These positions are open to Yemeni Nationals Only**

#### 1) Sustainable Development Advisor.

##### Duties and Responsibilities

The successful candidate shall advise the UNDP Resident Representative on methods to integrate environment and sustainable development into all aspects of the development process.

At the national level the SDA would contribute technical and environmental inputs to Programme and project reviews and monitor and assist in the implementation of UNDP's environmental management guidelines. The SDA would pro-actively support national capacity building programs related to the national agenda 21, which calls on UNDP to act as a lead agency in organizing UN system efforts towards capacity building at local, national and original levels; and other UN initiatives in this area. A key task would be to liaise with and promote the role of women, youth, national NGO's the private sector and other key communities in sustainable development activities.

At the global level the SDA would promote the implementation of UNCED-related activities, including the conventions/protocols on Ozone Layer Depletion, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Desertification, etc. He/She would assist in the preparation of potential national projects under the Global Environment Facility.

##### Qualification/Experience/Skills requirements:

Advance degree, preferably at the Ph.D. level, in environmental studies with 10 to 15 years of practical experience in the field of natural resource management and related aspect of economic and social development, (preferable with the UN System or International Organizations), very good knowledge of computer, English and Arabic is essential.

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

#### 2) Operations officer,

##### Duties and Responsibilities

Provide logistical support for UNDP assistance to Government projects; may liaise with the government and Executing Agencies to this effect; supervise accounts and financial transaction of UNDP; prepares or assists in preparation of office budgets; organizes the administration and training of General Service staff; assists Headquarters in the administration of international recruited staff; participates in local salary survey, cost-of-living survey; manages office supplies and equipment; maintains administrative records; organizes local and international transportation; arranges custom clearance of project supplies and equipment; provides advises on a continuous basis to project and office personnel.

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

Post-graduate academic background in economics, business or public administration with up to one year of practical experience in the field of administrative management including progressively responsible work in general administration (preferable with the UN System or International Organizations), very good knowledge of computer, English and Arabic is essential.

**Remuneration:** The net base salary will be with the range of YR 1,061,637.00 per annum.

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

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

Applications should be received no later than 05, April 1998.

Applicant who applied for on of above mentioned posts before are not to apply again.

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

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### LE FIGARO AT SHERATON SANA'A



The people who bring out the most renowned publication in France "Le Figaro", were in Sana'a recently and at the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel. Present among the group was the President of the company Mr. Duval.

It was five full days of excitement with them having meals at exotic locations like Wadi Dhar, Bakhour, Hotaib with catering done by the Sheraton. All in all, for them it was a wonderful experience and they carried back fond memories.

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# Documentation & Information: A Training Course

Ahlam Al-Mutawakkil,  
Yemen Times

In cooperation with the Yemeni National Committee and UNESCO, the Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Sciences (AOECS) organized a training course during March 7-21 on using the equipment and systems of documentation and information.

The Deputy Minister of Education attended the opening ceremony. He stressed the need for such courses to improve the education system in Yemen. "We are preparing a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan, through which we will focus upon important educational utilities, such as libraries. The plans, I hope, will be ready to be executed in September," said the Deputy Minister.

The course aims to develop the abilities of the employees to use information and documentation utilities for the sake of establishing the ArabNet as a part of the AOECS. The equipment and systems the organization prepares will be Arabized and put to use. In addition, the terms and phrases used in the field of documentation and information will be unified.

Other similar courses are arranged in many Arab countries. These courses come as a preliminary step for holding a national course for all Arab countries. Unfortunately, only six countries, Yemen, Jordan, Syria, Algeria, UAE and Mauritania responded to the organization's plans.

People from ministries and public bodies participated in this course.

The next step that the AOECS plans is to make the ArabNet, besides the Internet, to make getting information easier and faster.

The course included many lectures that focused on mapping out libraries by using the modern methods of documentation. The participants visited the National Center for Documentation as well as the American Institute to learn more about communication through the Internet.

There are many theories and methods concerning arranging information by certain techniques, especially through the use of computers. In the AOECS,

there is a special demonstration for documentation and information. The organization has arranged many similar courses in different Arab countries, besides having its own magazine and information experts.

The importance of this course lies in opening the way for other Arab countries who need to develop their human resources. Yemen is not the only country that needs such training courses. The AOECS plans to prepare similar courses for UAE, Algeria, Mauritania, Jordan and Syria during this year.

The information and documentation system witnessed a great development during the 1990s. A special law for the National Center for Documentation and the National Center for Information was issued.



Like the developing countries, Yemen started setting solutions for the problems of the information and documentation sectors. Sanaa University established a section for Information and Libraries. The National Committee, as part of the UNESCO, prepares special courses in the field of information and doc-

umentation. Moreover, there are scholarships available for Yemeni students to learn and gain more knowledge in this field. All these are serious steps toward a total change for the better in documentation and information during the next 5 years. This only needs more support and responsibility.

# FAO Chief Visits Yemen

The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations arrived in Yemen on an official visit from 20 to 22 March. He met high level ministers and officials to discuss matters of common interest.

FAO's association with Yemen goes back to 1960s. Since then it has helped to provide technical assistance in almost every aspect of the food and agricultural sector from policy issues to marketing.

Assisting Yemen in mobilizing external investment resources has been an important feature of FAO's cooperation. Since 1985, the projects prepared by the FAO Investment Center, Rome attracted an amount of \$282 million for regional development, agricultural credit, environment protection and fisheries.

FAO currently handles a technical assistance program of 25 projects with a budget of about \$33 million, with new program of \$4 million expected in 1998.

Thus, the FAO-Yemen technical assistance program is perhaps the largest in the world.

Some of the highlights of past and current FAO-Yemen technical assistance cooperation are: FAO has assisted in the preparation of the First Five-Year Plan, the formulation of Food Security policy, and in the preparation of a national water-resources policy that, together with efforts from UNDP and the Dutch Government led to the establishment of the National Water Resources Authority (NWRA).

FAO has helped in building-up the institutional capacity of the agricultural research and extension, by training its cadre, establishing research and extension centers, developing extension curricula, providing extension training materials, text books and audio visual aids, and establishing a documentation center in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Together with production, emphasis has been put on crop protection; FAO has assisted the country in controlling crop pests and diseases and strengthened plant quarantine capabilities. Recently, FAO has assisted in effective control of the Brown Peach Aphid in fruit trees through biological agents, resulting in enormous savings on pesticides and the prevention of pollution.

Yemen is a locust prone country. FAO has been assisting in controlling and combating this threat to agriculture production. The

work has been further systemized and strengthened by a special Program, EMPRES (Emergency Prevention System for Trans-boundary Animals and Plant Pests and Diseases).

FAO has helped increase the production of small domestic livestock by assisting an UNCDF funded center for animal research in Mujahed Farm, Lahej. FAO has also assisted in controlling major animal diseases and enhancing the fish production by improving the extension, assessment and management of fish resources, organizing better credit facilities and emphasizing the role of women in fishing communities.

FAO has helped establish marketing information systems, that will provide farmers with better marketing possibilities, thus increasing their income. FAO will assist in the institutional aspects of establishment the UNCDF funded Al-Husayniah Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market.

Yemen has given much attention to regional development as an important dimension of agricultural development. FAO has provided technical assistance to several projects such as in Hadramaut and Shabwa funded from credit from IDA and IFAD. The projects' objectives were improving production and productivity, irrigation systems, farming techniques, extension services, animal production and marketing facilities.

Until now about 1,000 Yemeni officials have been sent by FAO for long-term and short-term training fellowships in different agricultural disciplines.

FAO has helped to preserve the country's natural resources. Its main objectives are: to strengthen the institutions, provide technical assistance in the water resources sector, initiate a program of water use monitoring and regulation in the agricultural sector and improve the efficiency of water management in controlled and small scale spate irrigated agriculture. In the field of forestry; to enhance the capacity building so that it has adequate planning, monitoring and evaluation capabilities in the field of forestry and range and to improve the integration of trees into agriculture land use systems and to improve natural forest management.

FAO has helped clean up 262 tons of obsolete pesticides from more than 20 different sites in the country, which were accumulated during the past 30 years.

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# Volkswagen & Audi: Biggest Launch in Yemen

In cooperation with their sole agent in Yemen, Al-Ahwal Group, Volkswagen and Audi made the biggest launch of their new products in this country. A press conference was held on the evening of Tuesday, 17 March to introduce the new cars to the media and the general public.

The next morning, the citizens of Sanaa were enthralled by the sight of the Audi hot-air balloon flying in their skies. The improving Yemeni economy has certainly encouraged the Volkswagen-Audi group to introduce their other products, in addition to Skoda which is also part of Al-Ahwal dealership.

The press conference, held at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa, was attended by a large number of media representatives, car enthusiasts and interested people.



**The German Ambassador to Sanaa, H.E. Helga von Strachwitz:** It is an honor and pleasure to be here today on this occasion of launching the Volkswagen and Audi agency here in Yemen under Al-Ahwal Group, who is the new agent for this very German product.

Volkswagen Golf is a beautiful car. We all love it. It is the favorite car of the Germans, in addition to so many other models which have recently been developed by Volkswagen. I have always been driving Volkswagens and just bought a new model after being fed up with other cars I have been driving.

German-Yemeni relations are excellent politically, culturally, in cooperation and development and many other fields. There is really room for improvement in the field of real business. The new agents of Volkswagen, Mr. Al-Ahwal are working perfectly. I am really very happy that for this excellent German product we do have such an excellent Yemeni representative.

The fact that more German firms are now taking interest in the lucrative Yemeni market is proof that the bilateral relations are really reaching the top. It was just the business which was lacking.

A delegation of 40 German business people has visited Yemen, the first in a very long time. I am very happy and very proud that it was finally possible to raise the German business community's interest in Yemen. Yemen is very brave in implementing its structural adjustment program to improve the economy. There is more room now for German firms to operate here, whether as sales people or investors. I hope we will see more Golfs besides my own in Yemeni streets in the near future.

**Mr. Peter Goerlitz, Audi Managing Director, Regional Office Dubai**

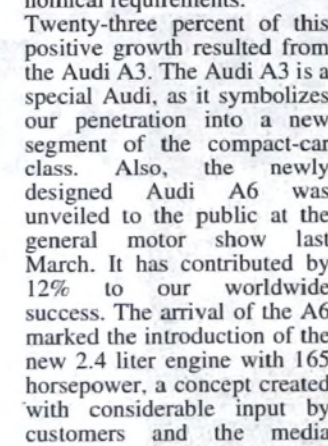


Shaping the future, this is our guideline for 1998. The Middle East has become a very special market for Audi and an ideal platform for introducing new products from abroad, especially Germany. This has been proven through Audi's worldwide process.

For Audi, 1997 was the most successful year. The demand for Audi cars has remained high. The worldwide sales reached a total of 546,436 units last year, an increase of 11.1% over 1996.

We have made so much progress that the market as a whole in Western Europe grew by 4.9%. A number of Audi models contributed to this success. Fifty-five percent of this growth is the result of the Audi A4, which is the one of the most popular Audi models in the upper price bracket, the leading position in its class. The Audi A4 is an excellent medium-sized car, built to satisfy both the demanding technological standards and modern economic requirements.

Twenty-three percent of this positive growth resulted from the Audi A3. The Audi A3 is a special Audi, as it symbolizes our penetration into a new segment of the compact-car class. Also, the newly designed Audi A6 was unveiled to the public at the general motor show last March. It has contributed by 12% to our worldwide success. The arrival of the A6 marked the introduction of the new 2.4 liter engine with 165 horsepower, a concept created with considerable input by customers and the media alike.



**Mr. Al-Ahwal presented with a special present from Audi HQ in Germany**

The Audi A8 has also received

a worldwide outstanding response with a 38.3% increase from last year. It is the only luxury car in the world with an aluminum body and quattro 4-wheel drive. This growth is contrary to the general trend, as the sales by other car manufacturers fell slightly over the same period. The Audi group estimated sales revenue was just over \$13 million, an increase of 18% from last year. In terms of GCC sales forecast, we are optimistic in targeting an ambitious growth and deliveries to customers for the next three years.

Additionally, sales in 1997 went up by almost 64% from 1996. This success is the result of the customers' voice. Therefore, we are committed in delivering a fantastic, fascinating brand to all our customers. Model ranges that will be available in Yemen are the A4, A6, and later the A3 and A8. Our task is to send the message of the Audi as a top-of-the-line, ambitious German premium car maker. Our goal is to continue achieving a sound growth rate in Audi success that is based on pioneering products, a stronger market position and a systematic customer attitude forecast in the service we provide.

**Mr. Guenter Behringer, Sales Manager, Regional Office Dubai.**



Our first meeting with our Yemeni partner, Al-Ahwal Group, was in late 1996 with the Chairman, Mr. Abdu Sarhan Al-Ahwal and the Commercial Manager, Mr. Nabeel Yaseen Al-Saeed. I am happy to say that the result of that meeting was very successful and its the reason we are here today. I would like to thank Al-Ahwal for their support, efforts and investment in making the Audi presence in Yemen a more permanent one. Audi is a well-known brand name and with the help of Al-Ahwal, we plan to reinforce that concept in Yemen.

Audi is one of the top three German car manufacturers for the premium classic. By next year we plan to be the number one German brand in Yemen. This is a task which our partners at Al-Ahwal will undertake with Audi's continuous support. A number of factors will contribute to realizing this objective. Namely, marketing, communication activities and after-sale services. Additionally, Al-Ahwal investment, in establishing the Audi showroom at the premium level with trained professional staff, will definitely promote the variety of Audi's exceptional products.

Audi is known worldwide for its technological innovations. In fact, our motto - "Forsprung durch Technik" - means "Advancement through Technology" and reflects our belief in breaking traditional boundaries to create superior automobiles.

Over the last few years, Audi has made a number of technological breakthroughs, which have made significant contributions to the automotive industry. Our biggest breakthrough occurred in the Audi A8. Audi pioneered the development of the aluminum space-frame technology. The Audi A8 is the first luxury saloon in the world to be made entirely of aluminum.

Another example is our permanent 4-wheel drive technology, known as quattro. Quattro allows for the best possible traction in all roads conditions and an outstanding directional stability. Audi was also the first company to introduce tiptronic transmission in saloon cars. Tiptronic technology allows drivers to enhance the driving experience with the best of both automatic and manual gear with a simple shift of the lever.

All Audi cars have fully galvanized bodies that have a guarantee of 10 years against corrosion. Audi was also the first to introduce Turbo Diesel Injection (TDI) to the public. TDI technology allows for economic fuel consumption. With such a strong platform to stand on, Audi's goal is to be the number one German brand in Yemen by 1999. We are starting today our work in building a market in Yemen and creating a network of distributors in all parts of the country for our brand, Audi and for the future prosperity of our dealings in your country.

**Mr. Lutz Spranger, Volkswagen Area Service and Parts Manager, Mediterranean/Middle East.**



Volkswagen AG, Audi's mother company, has retained the number one position in Europe for the last 10 years by steadily increasing the market share.

With a worldwide sales volume of more than 4.3 million units, Volkswagen is among the four biggest car producers in the world. Sales revenues rose during the last 12 months to about DM115 billion. The Volkswagen group is moving in the right direction to achieve the goal of being the most successful auto manufacturer on the planet. Providing value for money, the achievement of top quality in all our

products is a key factor in terms of gaining and holding a competitive lead and remaining attractive to buyers of our products. By this strategy, we intend to sell 6 million units by the year 2002. This is one of the reasons that a big potential of the smaller markets is very important for Volkswagen.

The five company world strategy involved Volkswagen, Audi, Seat, Skoda, and Volkswagen Commercial for the different market segments which will give the best sales opportunities in each country. So Volkswagen as a brand was able to double its sales volume in the neighboring countries of the Arabian Gulf Countries Council during the past 12 months.

The Al-Ahwal group, chosen as our importer for Yemen is already quite successful operating with the Skoda. We are sure that a new division for Volkswagen and Audi will have a great future in the traditional Volkswagen-minded market of Yemen. The older generation in the country will remember the Volkswagen beetle being among the first imported and most reliable cars in the country.

Today we are able to offer a wide range of models starting with the Volkswagen Polo, the new Volkswagen Golf 4, the multi-purpose vehicle Sharan and our top model the Volkswagen Passat. We think the Volkswagen Polo Classic with its characteristic spacious and compact body, is the most suitable car for people in Yemen. We wish the Al-Ahwal group and its managers great success with our products.

**Mr. Andreas Berhmann, Commercial Attaché at the German Embassy in Sanaa**



When I arrived here in 1994, I wondered where the German products and German cars were. I could only see few in the streets. I wondered whether the German private sector could enter this market. This question was firstly answered by Volkswagen and Audi. Their colleagues arrived here in early 1995 in order to make an assessment of the car market.

We agreed on one point: German products should be better represented in Yemen. So Volkswagen and Audi have taken the first necessary steps. Today you have reached the first target. There is an Audi agency in Yemen, which is distributing and will care for a powerful German machinery. With German cars in service, Yemen will reach a new level of transportation.



**Mr. Abdu Sarhan Al-Ahwal, Chairman of Al-Ahwal Group.**

First of all I would like to thank the Ambassador of Germany for her tremendous efforts to develop the Yemen-German business relations. I also thank our guests from Volkswagen and Audi for attending this happy occasion.

Al-Ahwal group has done all the necessary things for the high level of Volkswagen and Audi such as maintenance services, spare parts, showrooms and other customer service facilities.

We have big ambitions in terms of sales and introducing the latest technological developments in the Volkswagen-Audi that we will provide the best services and we will keep this promise.

**Yemen Times asked the guests a few questions:**

**Mr. Lutz Spranger:**

**Q: What measures have been taken by Volkswagen to protect the environment?**

A: We are very concerned with protecting the environment. Volkswagen is completely transparent in what they are doing in conserving

the environment.

Everything is open to the public, you can go in there and check everything. We are recycling water and have our own places for waste disposal. We are the only car company in Germany which offers our customers the chance to recycle their cars after 10 years.

Each customer in Germany and in Europe has a right to return the car to the dealer free of charge, which is then completely recycled. This will actually be a law in Germany, so all car producers will have to do the same. We hope to be the leader in environmental protection.

Volkswagen environmental policy is a clear statement of the company's conception of environmental management approved by the board of Volkswagen in September, 1995. Set in a preamble in 7 environmental principles, this policy is a clear expression of the company's self-imposed obligations and responsibilities.

**Mr. Abdu Sarhan Al-Ahwal:**

**Q: What is the price range of these new cars?**

A: Regarding sales, we did the necessary arrangements to launch the cars with lower prices. The other important facility is the after-sale services, in which we provide spare parts and highly qualified staff.

**Q: Could you tell us more about the hire-purchase system you intend to introduce?**

A: The customer pays the first installment, which is determined according to the price of the commodity itself because the prices of various models vary. The rest of the amount is paid in the form of installments over a period of 12-24 months, depending on the price of the car itself.

A guarantor must be provided who has the financial capabilities to cover the cost of the car or the customer must provide a bank guarantee.

**Mr. Guenter Behringer:**

**Q: What are the most important safety features that enable Audi to cope with Yemen's rough terrain?**

A: Our Audi A8 is made completely of aluminum. We received an award in the US for special safety features. We have a special body frame that allows the highest safety standard of all competitors such as BMW and Mercedes. We provide each car with six air-bags. There is also a new head air-bag coming up. Thus, passengers are protected in the best way.

**Volkswagen and Audi formally launched their new products at a big gathering at the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa on the evening of Wednesday, 18 March.**

**It was attended by members of diplomatic corps in Sanaa, car dealers, auto enthusiasts, and representatives of the media.**

**Welcoming speeches were delivered by the German Ambassador and Mr. Abdu Sarhan Al-Ahwal, Chairman of Al-Ahwal Group.**

**Mr. Lutz Spranger, Volkswagen Area Service and Parts Manager, Mediterranean/Middle East.**

It is always a great pleasure when a new business partner takes pride to market Volkswagen products. Thanks are due to those who made this launch a big success.

Volkswagen gained the major part of its success through excellent service given to customers by people behind the scenes in work-shops and parts stores.

At the same time I applaud the sales people who successfully employ their detailed product knowledge and convince customers of the advantages of the Volkswagen products. I am proud to present our group of companies and the mark of Volkswagen today at the opportunity of the inauguration of the new Al-Ahwal facilities in Sanaa. This a very important new business outlet. We need

**Mr. Peter Goerlitz, Managing Director, Regional Office, Dubai:**

The Middle East has become a very special market for us at Audi, and has become an ideal platform for introducing new products from abroad, especially from Germany. This has been proven through Audi's worldwide success. The high technology and standards of quality, safety and design are the perceived objectives of Audi AG. Audi is unique in combining economy with driving pleasure. We have always put a high value on uniting these apparently conflicting factors.

Today, instead of the old, middle-of-the-road, uninteresting products, new models top the popularity list in the premium segment in many markets, as is the case in Europe when the Audi A3 was voted the best European car in 1997 in its class, the A4 voted the best European car in 1995 and 1996, and the Audi A8 voted the best European car in 1997 and the best car in Germany in 1998 in luxury segment.

Together with Mr. Al-Ahwal, a new era of collaboration and understanding has started today. To overcome the difficult market conditions we are facing the job of building a strong and dynamic base for your business and for the future prosperity of our dealer network in your country.

**Mr. Abdu Sarhan Al-Ahwal, Chairman of Al-Ahwal Group:**

First, I would like to thank all our guests for attending this gathering, which comes as a crowning event of the economic open-ness



your business and we shall work hard to achieve our common goal.

Here are some figures to show how serious we take the smaller markets.

Our sales in the small markets of our region totaled from 45,000 units in 1995 to the latest figure of 120,000 units. This has given us a good balance when business might be unstable in the bigger markets. In 1997, the Volkswagen group with its brands - Volkswagen, Audi, Seat, Skoda and Volkswagen commercial vehicles - sold a total of 4.32 million

units, of which Volkswagen sold 2.675 million, Audi with 548,000, Seat with 403,000, Skoda with 336,000 units and our commercial division totaled at 342,000. That was an increase of 7.3% from 1996. In the year 2002, we aim to sell approximately 6 million vehicles through our group of companies.

We are as proud of the excellent quality of our merchandise, its durability and built-in safety as we are of our partners in the different parts of the globe. It gives us great pleasure to work with different nationalities, mentalities and market demands. We think it is exciting to meet the requirements of the Yemeni customers. Al-Ahwal group will incorporate the different brands of our products from now on.

Congratulations and a good start for you.



adopted by the government under the auspices of the faithful son of Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Yemeni-German relationship is based on a strong and sound foundation. This comes as another step forward towards stronger economic ties between the two countries.

We would like to remind our esteemed guests that the Volkswagen-Audi group has a wide variety of modern cars built according to very high technological standards. The group provides a wide range of car sizes to satisfy all tastes and purposes.

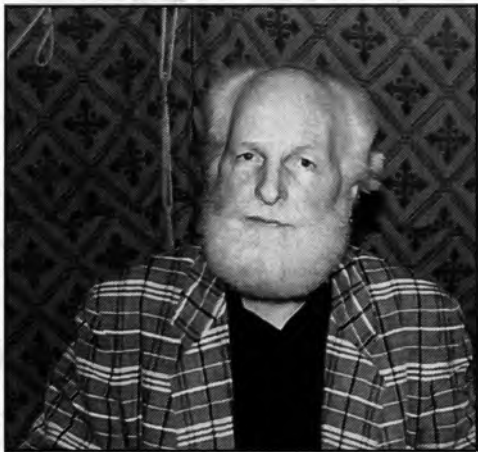
Since Al-Ahwal group is the sole agent for the Volkswagen and Audi products in Yemen, it has worked hard on importing the most modern cars with the highest international standards. It also aims to provide the best services at the lowest prices.





# Mokha: 17 & 18 Century Profile

Prof. Kees Brouwer is a professor at the University of Amsterdam, specializing in the history of the marine economy of Yemen in general and the history of the Mokha port in



particular. The period of the 17th and 18th century is of particular interest for Prof. Brouwer, who wrote several articles and authored three books about this subject. This article is based on a lecture delivered by Prof. Brouwer on Sunday, March 15 at the Yemeni Writers Union.

The first book is about the Dutch-Yemeni relations from a Dutch as well as a Yemeni perspective. The second book is compilation of Dutch documents related to Yemen and dating back to the 17th Century. Translated into Arabic, the documents are about various Yemeni towns and cities, both coastal and in the hinterland, such as Shihr, Aden, Hodeida, Aden, Sanaa, Taiz, etc. Covered with more detail and greater interest, is the Mokha port because it had an office of the Dutch East India Company.

The third book, *Al-Mokha: Profile of the Yemeni Seaport as Sketched by Servants of the Dutch East India company V.O.C. 1614 until 1640*, was published in English last year. It deals extensively with the history of the Mokha port and Yemen's ties - via this port - with India, Palestine, Egypt, North Africa and other more remote regions such as Bengal, Indonesia, etc.

This 25-year period of the Mokha port's history is quite important because it covers the end of the first Ottoman occupation of Yemen and the beginning of the reign of the Qasemite dynasty in 1635. During the 16th Century, Mokha was just a little and unim-

portant fishing village. The real history of the place was between 1600 and 1850, following which Mokha lost its previous international importance as a major port for exporting the famous Yemeni coffee and reverted back to being a little fishing town.

The trade through Mokha during the whole period of its flourishing has not only been coffee, but also included many other products such as chinaware, textiles from India, metals and even black slaves from east Africa. So it is a whole group of products and at the beginning of the 17th century, coffee was only a very small part of the trade passing through Mokha.

Approaching Mokha from the sea during that period, ship passengers would see from afar the mountains and the white-washed city of Mokha. It was a fantastic city with its high Minarets of the Al-Shadli mosque. This was not only an ordinary minaret, but was also a sort of lighthouse for the ships coming into the Mokha harbor, which received only small ships. Large ships had to dock at least two kilometers away from the harbor, and unload their cargoes onto smaller boats.

In addition to the small white-washed houses in Mokha, there was also a castle, the palace of the Turkish governor, and the customs house just behind the harbor platform. Buildings in the city center were nicely built with the best stones in several floors. However, these nice houses were empty for half of the year because they were homes for traders who came from different countries. So ship captains and other traders came from India and different regions and settled for half a year during the trading season in Mokha. They rented a house and paid the Arab owner a sum for the whole year. So the house owner closed the house during winter time.

At the beginning of the 17th century, the Mokha population grew fast within two decades to become a big city with about 23,000 inhabitants - as big as some Dutch or English ports at that time. So it was a big city, but most of the inhabitants were men

and a small part were women and children. The population consisted of Yemenis, Yemeni Jews, Somalis and Indians who lived there for a very long time. There were also those who came to trade, who, despite being a very small minority - 1,500-2,000 people - were the men that played important roles. They brought their goods and merchandise and the necessary capital.

Having been a real international port with so many different people in the city, there had to be a common language that could be understood by nearly everyone. So Arabic and Turkish were very important languages in Mokha that were used in dealing with the port authorities.

Sometimes, traders also used Portuguese because it was spread all over the Indian Ocean as Portugal was a great power in that part of the world. Persian was also an important language in the city, but of course not understood by everyone but some traders who could make their contacts with other traders using Persian. English, Dutch and Malayan were also used in Mokha. So Mokha was really a very important international port.

Despite Mokha's importance as an international port, it was not very well defended. Its castle had only 20 guns, of which only five or six functioned well with a range of 600-800 meters. These guns were directed towards the sea, making the land-side of the city vulnerable to attacks from the mountains by the Imam's

army. There were only three small navy boats with one gun each patrolling the port's coast. They certainly could not confront an attack by large navy ships.

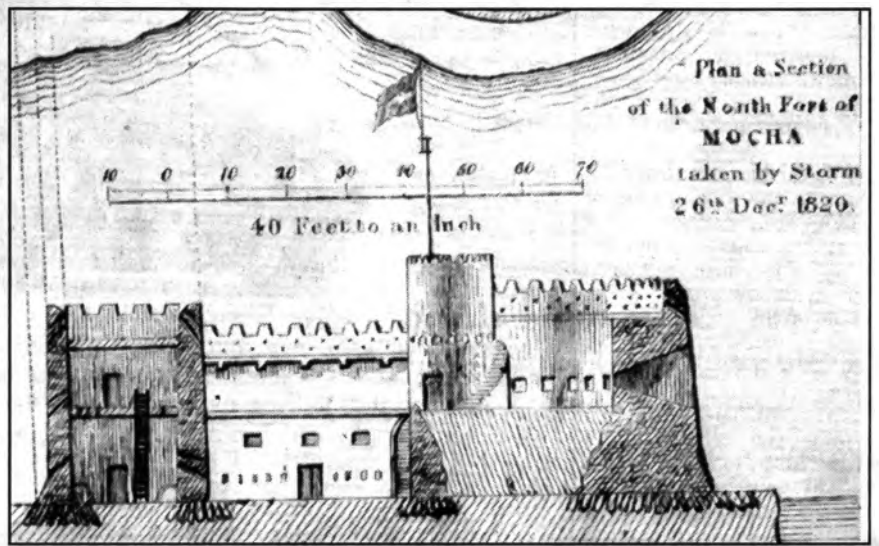
The port was defended by the Turkish sultan and the Mogul emperor whose revenue depended on trade between their countries. So if there ever was any attack on the port of Mokha the Turkish sultan and the Mogul emperor would immediately end all trading with the European nations. Only European ships presented any danger to Mokha because Indian ships were unarmed.

A small three-masted Dutch sailing ship, for example, had at least 30 heavy guns. So one small ship could destroy the whole of Mokha in one day. But they never had the courage to do this because if they bombed Mokha, there would be a lot of conflict. There was the Turkish governor of the city, there was the immediate real reaction by Mogul emperor or the Turkish sultan. Then the Dutch would not be allowed to trade again. There are many aspects con-



nected with the shipping activities in Mokha. Most of the ships came from India and East Africa in March, docking at the port of the city and leaving in September. When the ships of India went back home from Mokha, they would arrive in October. Before October, unfavorable winds would wreck these ships on the rocks at the shores of India. So

when they came one day late, the wind would be blowing in the direction of Mokha, driving the ships back wrecking them at the coast of India. The famous Arab seafarer, Ibn Majid, described exactly the dates and the times of arriving and departing. This is what all ships coming from India or Persia had to observe very carefully.



## Yemeni Singing Heritage: From Dark to Light

One of the most popular Yemeni singing styles is called 'Yemeni Mouashah.' This old traditional way of singing, known also as Sanaani singing, is considered to be one of the oldest arts in the Arabian Peninsula, as mentioned in many books and researches.

There are many factors that led to the widespread of Sanaani songs. Outstanding Sanaani singers laid down the foundations for the



Yemeni artistic modernizing movement before the outbreak of the September 26, 1962 revolution. The northern part of Yemen went through social and intellectual deterioration because the backward monarchy forbade performing any form of art on the grounds

of spreading anti-religious ideas. Therefore, some artists like Sheikh Qassem Al-Akhfash did not have the courage to sing openly for fear of the Imam's persecution.

Because of this singing taboo, many Sanaani songs found their way down to Aden where they became very popular. Many people would sing these songs at qat chewing sessions along with master singers such as Sheikh Ali Abubaker, Sheikh Ibraheem Al-Mass and Sheikh Ahmed Qaatabi.

Ibraheem Al-Mass excelled in singing these songs so much that a record company recorded his songs, which became famous in Yemen and all over the Arabian Peninsula.

Yemeni Mouashah spread all across Aden and gained much popularity among its people. Master singers would often start

with Sanaani songs at weddings or at qat chewing sessions, because they were characterized by original and creative elements. Then, they would sing a few songs from Lahaj or Yafi'. The spreading of Sanaani songs prompted a record company to record many of them on gramophone discs. Masters of the old Yemeni songs contributed greatly to the spread of this creative singing. The Aden broadcasting

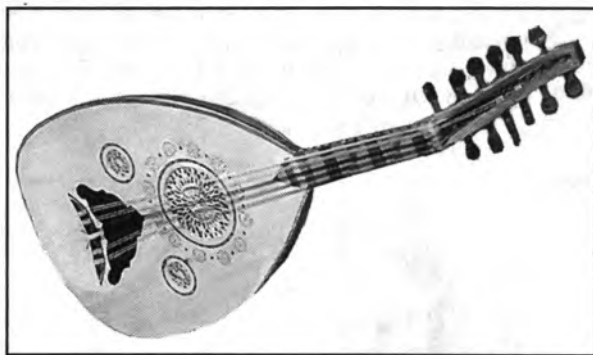
and Mohammed Qassem Al-Akhfash excelled in Yemeni Mouashah. The artistic tone of the Yemeni heritage spread throughout the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. The Saudi artist, Mohammed Abdu, sang 'Qal Al-Munna Samaat Al-Teer Yetranam,' or 'the tormented said I heard the bird singing.' This song is based on Yemeni heritage.

It was a surprise when the singer Abubaker Balfaqih performed 'Wa Mughharred,' or 'O warbler.' This artist is one of the great figures of Yemeni song and is endowed with a melodious voice. The great poet, Al-Baradooni once said, 'Abubaker Balfaqih presented three different types of Arabian Peninsula singing and that he was smart to keep its originality.'

Abubaker Balfaqih played a big role in adopting Sanaani songs and making them famous in other Arab countries. Through this transition, Sanaani songs took on a new and beautiful musical arrangement.

It should be mentioned here that the Ministry of Culture is playing a positive role in promoting the Yemeni Mouashah by holding art symposiums and seminar. Also, a Yemeni heritage center has been established to conserve our culture and draw a new cultural map.

Saleh Abdulbaqi, musician



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45 Killed in Afghan Plane Crash

All 45 people on board an Afghan airlines Boeing 727 were killed when the aged plane crashed in bad weather south of the capital Kabul.

An Ariana Afghan airlines official said the plane crashed on Thursday afternoon as it hit the side of a mountain.

The plane - which was one of Ariana's four functioning Boeing 727's - was on its way back to Kabul from Makka to pick up more Muslim pilgrims for the annual Hajj.

Inspections in Iraq 'may end in a year'

UNSCOM Chief Richard Butler said last Friday that disarmament work in Iraq could be finished in less than a year, but only if Baghdad keeps the commitments it made to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan last month.

"I cannot give a precise date. It is impossible when you don't know the size of the job," Butler said in Vienna where he was to meet UN and Iraqi officials while en route to Baghdad.

The Iraqi-UN deal calls for Baghdad to grant immediate and unconditional access to eight presidential sites previously declared out of bounds to arms inspectors.

BJP Pledges to Produce Nuclear Arms

The incoming right-wing Hindu nationalist government pledged last Friday to build nuclear weapons and champion an "India ... built by Indians."

BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee was sworn in as prime minister at the head of a loose alliance including a dozen regional parties, following indecisive national elections completed this month.

The BJP is accused by its rivals of being a threat to India's secular character. The agenda said the gov-

ernment would take steps "to ensure the security, territorial integrity and unity of India."

The BJP's main political opponents, the Congress party, said the promise to exercise the nuclear option was a "wrong and dangerous step."

Vajpayee, whose party said before the elections it favored going nuclear, stressed at a press conference there was no "time frame" for nuclear weapons.

OIC Calls for Closing Israel Offices

The foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) last week called on Islamic states to reconsider their relations with Israel, including closing diplomatic missions and offices.

In a final draft communiqué issued at the end of the 25th session of the OIC foreign ministers in Doha, the conference, chaired by the foreign minister of Qatar, called on the international community to avoid any action that might recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The conference affirmed the following: - Full support for the peace process in the Middle East

- Sympathy with the Iraqi people
- Commitment of the OIC member states for the preservation of the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Welcoming the ICJ ruling deciding on its competence and jurisdiction over the Lokerbie case
- Total rejection of the arbitrary use of military force against civilians in Kosovo
- Hoping that the states of Eastern and Western Europe would respect the Islamic identity of the Muslim communities and minorities living in their countries and their right to practice freely their language, religion and culture.

Syria Calls for Unified Arab Tourism Strategy

Syria last week called for cooperation in the Arab world to unify the efforts of Gulf countries to promote the Middle East as a premier tourism spot.

Arab countries must adopt an open-door policy to face the challenges of the tourism sector within the context of international blocs, Syrian Minister of Tourism Danho Daoud said.

Dapud said the Arab countries could take advantage of the huge tourism potential of the region, the cradle of most of the world's oldest civilizations:

Annan Seeks Israeli Pullout from Lebanon

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said last week he would raise a Security Council resolution urging Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon in both countries, stressing that all UN resolutions should be fulfilled.

Sudan: Reshuffle Follows Constitutional Debate

Following a limited but nevertheless critical cabinet reshuffle, Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said that a draft constitution, which is currently being debated, would have to be ratified by the Sudanese masses before its implementation.

Bashir told Sudan's National Assembly, "after you people have ratified it, it will be presented to all the people in a general referendum."

The National Assembly, recalled for an emergency session, is due to debate the draft constitution until early next month, ahead of a general referendum. The content of the draft has not been made public, but it is widely believed to include a package offering greater freedoms of movement, speech, religion and association, while falling short of allowing the formation of political parties, one of the most contested issues in Sudanese politics today.

Washington Supports Turkey's EU Membership

In another confirmation of its support for Turkey's European Union (EU) membership, Washington has said that the EU bloc should have very high-level relations with Ankara, and that factors based on religion and race should not be obstacles in achieving improved relations.

In an interview with Europe magazine, US Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs, Marc Grossman, said that the US administration believed that "Turkey should be very strongly a part of Europe and that the EU should establish very high-quality relations with Turkey."

Grossman, who is also the former US ambassador to Ankara, underlined Turkey's European identity and said that the US genuinely believed that Turkey should become an EU member. He also said that the United States unquestionably supported Turkey's territorial integrity.

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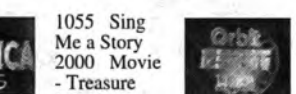
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24/03/98 0500 Bound - 3SVL 0925 The Curse of the Dragon - 2V 1100 Mr & Mrs Bridge - 2
25/03/98 1100 Neverending Story 2 - 1 2300 Pretty Woman - 2SL 2200 Romancing Sara
26/03/98 1700 Funny Farm - 2 1900 The Quest - 2V 2100 Guilty By Suspicion - 3L
27/03/98 0500 Dead Ringers 1900 Flirting - 2L 2100 Goodfellas - 3VL
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29/03/98 1500 Dennis the Menace - 1 2100 Love Affair Double Exposure - 2 0300 The Lost Boys - 3VL

25/03/98 0730 ABC Nightline Live 1000 NBC News Channel Night-side Live 2200 CBS Face the Nation

27/03/98 0600 Saba Ho 1100 In Motion 1200 Music For Monserrat Special

29/03/98 1100 Haven 1330 Garden Variety 2100 Elizabeth Taylor



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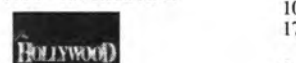
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27/03/98 1000 Sportscenter Live 1630 WCW Wrestling 1800 Motoworld
28/03/98 0400 NBA Basketball Live 1900 1998 Dubai World Cup Horse Race 2100 Argentine Open 2200 90 Minutes Spanish Football Live 0130 1998 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships
29/03/98 1330 National Hockey Night 1630 Dutch Football Live

26/03/98 1000 NBC News Channel Night-side Live 1130 CBS Up to the Minute Live 2300 ABC 20/20

28/03/98 1100 In Motion 1300 Rock Raiq 0300 Music Now Jukebox

23/03/98 0535 The Mask 1000 Ahlann Anbar 1705 Superman



HOLLYWOOD

- 23/03/98 0530 E! Model 0800 Jeopardy 1800 The Price is Right
24/03/98 0500 The Academy Awards 1998 1300 Slim Cooking 1930 Wheel of Fortune
25/03/98 0900 Pictionary 1500 Movie Show 2330 Late Show With David Letterman
26/03/98 0500 Travel Update 1100 Sally Jessy Raphael 0330 Comedy Central 0400 Clive Anderson: All Talk
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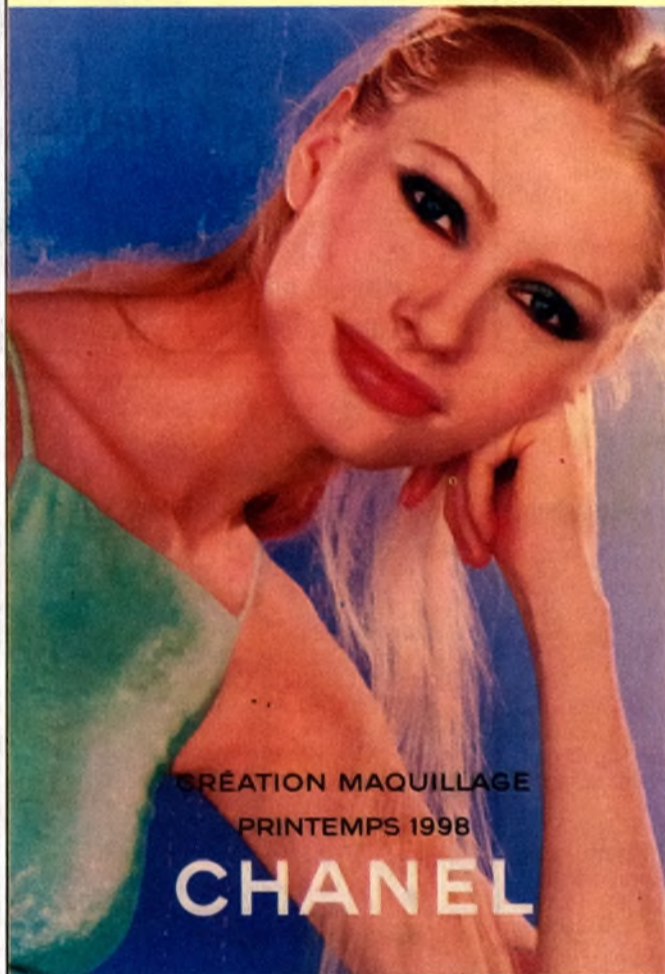
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## First Francophonic Week in Yemen



The first Francophonic week in Yemen was launched on Friday 20 March at the French Cultural Center in Sanaa. Activities during the week, which is really ten days include songs by the Quebec singer and poet Jean-Pierre Berubé, who will perform in Sanaa, Aden and Taiz.

"Mr. Berubé will visit the universities of Sanaa and Aden to hold singing ateliers with the students," said Denis Meunier, a teacher of French at the French Language Center, Faculty of Arts, Sanaa University. Mr. Meunier is also the principal organizer of the Francophonic activities. Berubé, 54, recorded his first album in 1975 in Paris. He has written the lyrics and music for about 250 songs. In 1993, Berubé's first book of songs and poetry, 'Mon Clown', was published. Two years later, Berubé published his second book, 'Avante de Recommencer a Vivre.'

"Since 1994, Berubé performed in 135 shows in France and toured other countries with his art.

"These activities aim to introduce the Francophonic culture to the Yemeni public, French language students, and intellectuals," announced Mr. Meunier.

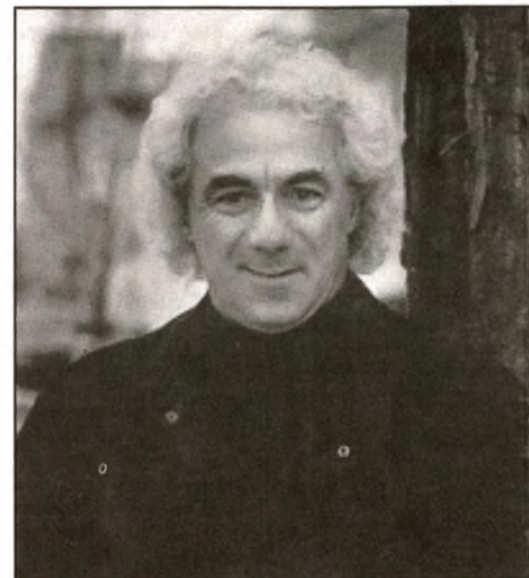
French is spoken both as a first and second language in more than 65 countries around the world.

"The French language is increasing in popularity, especially among university students," he indicated.

"French is taught in a few secondary schools in Sanaa, Aden, and Taiz as well as in six university language departments: Sanaa, Taiz, Aden, Hodeida, Dhahran, Ibb, and Hadhramaut."

These events are supported by governmental bodies and several foreign private companies operating in Yemen.

"The Yemeni public will have something different to enjoy," said an exuberant Meunier.



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Soutout  
Pour ceux qui tiennent

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Pour les gents qui donnent  
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Ceux qui pardonnent

Qu'il pleuve des étoiles  
Pour que la sagesse étincelle  
Que brille le soleil  
Qui fait la jeunesse éternelle.

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1st APRIL JASS BAND, 7PM ESPACE LIBRE QUARTET, AT YEMENI CULTURAL CENTRE

2nd TO 6TH APRIL PHOTO GRAPHIC EXHIBITION BY ERIC BOURRET, AT OMAR KHAYAM, TAJ SHEBA

2ND TO 6TH APRIL GASTRONOMIC FRENCH WEEK 8PM AT THE GOLDEN PEACOCK  
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## Barbara & Worku Goshu: Creating Bridges Across Civilizations

Adel J. Moqbil,  
Yemen Times

Barbara is Polish, Worku is Ethiopian. They met and married in Poland while Worku was studying art there. The two artists toured the world with their artistic creations. Now they are in Yemen, the first Arab country in which they hold an exhibition. This is not, however, their first encounter with the country. Almost 28 years ago, they visited Aden with their little daughter on their way back from Poland to Ethiopia. Their second visit was 4 years ago, just to get the feel and the atmosphere of the place.

Invited by the Polish Embassy and hosted by the Halaqa group of artists to hold a joint exhibition in Yemen, Barbara and Worku expressed their appreciation for both bodies. "We are here to exhibit



Solomon & Saba

Ethiopian art, which is very much

other cultures and traditions." For Barbara, Ethiopia and Yemen represent a great source of inspiration not only artistically, but also in terms of religious harmony and tolerance. "In my art, I follow the orthodox line, both traditional and religious, in order to bridge the gap between the past greatness of ancient civilizations and the aspirations of the new generations," explained Barbara. One of



similar to Yemen's," said Barbara. Their other sponsors include the travel agents Falcon, Universal, Wings, and Yemenia Airlines.

"We came here to share our experiences with Yemeni artists, to give and to learn from them," announced Worku, who taught art at the Institute of Fine Arts, Addis Ababa, and has his own arts gallery in the Ethiopian capital.

They are both impressed by the "fascinating architecture, the majestic landscape, and the people's generosity and hospitality."

Coming from Cracow - the seat of Polish culture, art, tradition, music, poetry and architecture - has prepared Barbara's "mentality and spirit to associate freely with



Sun, Earth & Moon

Worku's good students at the Fine Arts Institute was a Yemeni girl living in Ethiopia, so really "the ties between the two countries never ceased during the past few millennia." As a child, Worku learned to paint with naturally colored substances and was very much influenced by the country's diverse topography. After graduating an open invitation to Yemeni artists to exhibit there. It is part of their continuous efforts to



he later studied and met his wife Barbara. Barbara and Worku first opened their private gallery two years ago in Addis Ababa to which they extended

"promote the work of young artists, including Yemenis."

On his part, the Polish Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Krzysztof Suprowicz expressed his delight in the big response of Yemeni travel agents and tour operators who are extremely helpful and more than willing to help with the organization of this event.

"I have no doubt that the Islamic civilization not only influenced our knowledge in Europe, but also our art and culture," he pointed out.

Highly influenced by Christian culture, Worku's paintings and Barbara's icons on wood with their angelic, big-eyed, forlorn, and almost alien faces are the dominant feature that runs through the couple's artistic creations, whether they depict Adam and Eve, King Solomon and Queen Bilquis or Jesus Christ and other Christian saints.

All in all, the exhibition, set to go until 28 March at Halaqa,

includes 25 oil paintings by Worku, 28 wood carvings and 24 paintings on stone by Barbara.

On another level, the First Secretary at the Polish Embassy, Mr. Kazimierz Romanski indicated that the upcoming 2nd European Film Festival, which will be held from 26 May to 1 June in Sanaa, will include films from France, Germany, Britain, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, and Poland. As a member of the festival's organizing committee who is responsible for contacts with the media, Mr. Romanski also indicated that mistakes made in the last festival such as making Yemeni people stand in long queues at the festival's gate; while, non-Yemenis were let in without a question, will be "avoided in this event."

In last year's festival, only the French film was shown with Arabic subtitles. Let's hope that other participant countries will follow suit this time.

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## الحدود

**AL-WAHDAMI:** Sanaa weekly, 17-3-98. (Nasserite Unionist Party)

### Main Headlines:

1- With the news of granting the US, military facilities, government officials and economists express astonishment at declaring the Island of Socotra a free-trade zone.

2- A special committee is formed to investigate chemical waste discovered at former Population Council HQ.

3- Insiders are suspected in the biggest armed robbery of its kind in Yemen, the equivalent of \$4 million in various currencies were stolen while on their way to the airport to be deposited in Bahrain.

4- A bomb went off in a water well disputed by two tribes in Sabar, Taiz.

### Article Summary: Diseases in Taiz Prison

By: Jamal Amer

There are 1,458 inmates in the Taiz Central Prison, which has enough space for 540 persons only. To feed and clothe these people, the prison wardens rely on outside donations. About 80% of the prisoners are afflicted by scabies. There are 4 cases of leprosy and 4 of TB. There 430 Somali and Ethiopian prisoners, six of whom are infected with AIDS and are under quarantine. Many Ethiopian dissidents from the Ormo Front come to Yemen through its long, unmanned border with Saudi Arabia.

With only 183 inmates, the women's prison is less crowded.



**RAY:** Sanaa weekly, 17-3-98.

[published for 1st time since 1994 war]

(League of the Sons of Yemen)

### Main Headlines:

1- Yemeni people embrace the President's call for 'closing the dossiers of the past.'

2- European MPs call for stopping the trial of the 16 secessionist leaders and starting a process of national reconciliation.

3- British House of Commons considers the response of the exiled opposition figure, Al-Jifri, a good step to start national reconciliation.

### Article Summary: Untouchables in Yemen

By: Khalid Al-Soofi

They are Yemenis and Muslims that are cruelly ostracized by society because they are poor and black. They live in abject poverty in settlements of tin shacks at the outskirts of major cities. The Akhdam are completely neglected by the government and society in general. Some of them live in the open desert, away from urban centers and the mercy of the soaring heat, shifting sand dunes, snakes and scorpions, and a full gamut of diseases. They do simple menial jobs and live on the handouts of some charitable people.

Neglecting these people is completely un-Islamic. Calling them Akhdam or servants is humiliating. They live amongst us like a time-bomb ready to go off under the increasing pressure of poverty and blatant discrimination.

## الطريق

**AL-TAREEQ:** Aden fortnightly, 17-3-98.



# Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

### (Independent) Main Headlines:

1- Former MP, Dr. Yaseen Noman: 'The ruling authority must institute a comprehensive plan for a general national dialogue.'

2- Increase in Yemeni and foreign fishing ships leads to diminishing fish reserves in Yemeni territorial waters.

3- 860 plots of land in Hadhramaut are handed out to senior military officers.

4- Yemeni Organization for Defending Human Rights and Liberties call for an immediate investigation of the death Wadi' Sheibani while in detention.

### Article Summary:

#### Farmers in Lahaj Complain

A number of farmers in Lahaj have complained of the huge taxes levied by the agents of Sultan Ali Abdulkareem Fadhil. The agricultural lands, given to the farmers years ago by the former regime in the south, are now considered part of the former pre-independence Abdali Sultanate. The farmers are also being coerced into signing over these lands to the Sultan.

Following the war of 1994, a special agricultural committee surveyed the lands and recognized the ownership of the Sultanate. The farmers were allowed to stay permanently on their farms and pay a specified ration of the produce to the Sultan. The governor of Lahaj promised to put an end to the harassment by the Sultan's agent.

**AL-THAWRI:** Sanaa weekly, 19-3-98.

(Yemeni Socialist Party - YSP)

### Main Headlines:

1- YSP Politburo source: 'The caution by the Political Party Affairs Committee is a flagrant interference with the YSP's internal affairs.'

2- YSP committee preparing for the party's general conference continues its activities.

3- The President orders the release of one of the suspects being tried for the Aden explosions, after meeting his brothers in Indonesia.

4- Two journalists working at 14 October newspaper in Aden were detained for 8 hours without any legal justification.

5- Ministry of Oil is criticized by security chiefs for not provided enough protection for its oil tankers, which are being hijacked in remote areas.

### Article Summary:

**Cotton Crop Falls**  
By: Ali Dahmas  
Cotton farmers in Abyan have blamed official agricultural bodies for the failing of the cotton crop this season. Despite notifying the Ministry of Agriculture's office in the governorate and other plant protection organs of the prevalence of plant diseases and pests, the farmers did not get any help. The

average yield of a single hectare this season is about 20% of last year's. The returns will not be enough to cover the losses, the farmers explained.

**AL-SAHWA:** Sanaa weekly, 19-3-98.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

### Main Headlines:

1- Arab parliamentarians conference stresses the importance of Arab solidarity to face new challenges.

2- A reverence-inspiring funeral procession was held for the late Qadhi Abdulrahman Al-Irayni, former head of the Republican Council.

3- Islah MP: 'We rejected the new loan proposal to avoid further burdening the country.'

4- The Prime Minister orders an end to the monopoly on navigational activities at the Aden port.

### Article Summary:

#### Seera Court Reviews Statement

The Seera Primary Courts is continuing its public sessions of the case 243 concerning the suspects in the Aden bomb explosions during last July and October. One of the suspects, Ahmed Ba-Zaraa who is an engineer at TeleYemen, indicated that his relationship with the other suspects is totally non-political.

The defendant's lawyer said that Ba-Zaraa's confessions were elicited under duress. Following much heated debate between the defense counsel and the prosecutor, the court decided to review Ba-Zaraa's statement, who alleged that he was subjected to daily torture sessions lasting 5 to 7 hours.

26 SEPTEMBER:

Sanaa weekly, 19-3-98.

### (Yemeni Armed Force) Main Headlines:

1- In his address to Arab parliamentarians, the President said: 'We have to forget the past and learn from our mistakes.'

2- The President receives representatives of Djibouti, Palestine,

Jordan, and Iraq.

3- The President headed a ministerial meeting to discuss swift measures to turn Socotra island into a free-trade zone.

4- Arab parliamentarians in Sanaa call for halting normalization of relations with Israel and for lifting sanctions off Iraq.

### Article Summary:

#### Ancient Dam Discovered

A statement made by the Director of Antiquities in Yemen indicated that an ancient dam dating back to the 8th century BC was discovered when a farmer in Ardh Al-Janatayn, Mareb, was preparing his land for planting. The dam is in the form of a high wall of honed rocks. It is part of a series of other dams that used to divert the course of torrential floods in order to store the water for the dry season.

## Mother's Day



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All that we may say and all that we might do for you will never reward you a bit. Not words nor songs, not presents nor gifts can ever express how much we adore you. Since it is your day, yet every day is your day, all that we can say is that we love you and cannot live without you.

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and its branches

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[Trade Register No. 7064, Date: 25-November-1993, Aden]

Al-Rehab Factory for Perfumes and Cosmetics  
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الرحاب للعطور

now belong to us, according to the certificate no. 7420 dated 1-December-1997, and certificate no. 7421 dated 21-December-1997, and are classified into Category No. 3, which includes the perfumes and cosmetics registered in the Property Protection Directorate at the Ministry of Trade and Supplies, Sanaa.

Therefore we caution all traders and owners of printing presses that we reserve the legal right against anyone who uses pirates, or imitates by any way the above name or trade mark.

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## End of 17th Week of Excellent-League Football Tournament: Struggle to Win

In a match characterized by tension and caution, the Wahda of Sanaa and Ahli of Sanaa reached a no-score draw; concluding the 17th week of the Excellent-League Football Tournament. Expectations were that this match was going to be very exciting, considering that the winning team

participant teams presented their best plans and players. In Sanaa, Hassan of Abyan defeated Zohra of Sanaa 2-1. As a result, Hassan's credit rose to 28 points, whereas Zohra's credit stayed at 20 points. In Hodeida, Ahli of Hodeida tied with Sha'ab of Mukallah 1-1.



would have been able to assert its lead in the tournament.

However, fear of losing has made both teams unable to strike and come near each others goals. The whole match was characterized by the players taking defensive positions. With the nil-nil draw, the two teams have shared the match's points. The Wahda of Sanaa now has 38 points, while, Ahli of Sanaa has 37 points.

Opening the 17th week on Friday March 21, 4 matches were held in 4 governorates. All the par-

This made Sha'ab's credit 24 points and Ahli of Hodeida's credit only 12 points.

In Taiz, Sha'ab of Ibb defeated Talea'a of Taiz 1-3. By this win, Sha'ab of Ibb is qualified to take the third place in the Excellent Tournament with 34 points leaving Talea'a of Taiz in the back with 8 points only.

In Aden, Tilal defeated Ibb 3-1. As a result, Tilal got the 6th place with its 24 points, whereas Ittihad stayed with its 19 points in the 9th place.

Team	Result			Goals		Points
	Won	Tie	Lost	For	Against	
Wahda of Sanaa	12	2	3	39	16	38
Ahli of Sanaa	11	4	2	31	9	37
Shaab Ibb	10	4	3	33	16	34
Hassan	9	4	4	32	18	31
Shullah of Aden	9	4	4	29	20	31
Tilal of Aden	7	3	7	28	28	24
Shaab of Mukalla	6	6	5	29	33	24
Zohra of Sanaa	6	2	9	17	19	20
Ittihad of Ibb	5	4	8	24	21	19
Ahli of Hodeidah	2	6	9	26	12	12
Taleah of Taiz	2	2	13	51	22	8
Shamsan of Aden	2	1	14	51	18	7

## NOTICE

With extreme pleasure, the Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Aden notifies all businessmen of the availability of the *Trade Directory of Aden Governorate*. It is the first Trade Directory at the level of governorate that covers all trade activities in both languages, *Arabic and English*.

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## ISA Honors Deputy of the Physical Education Institute



Dr. Risan Khalifa, the deputy head of the Physical Education Institute was honored and awarded an academic certificate in Physical Education by the International Sciences Academy (ISA) in a ceremony held last Thursday at the Ministry of Youth and Sports. During the ceremony, the Minister of Youth and Sports indicated that this award is an honor for the Institute because it is the first time that an Arab researcher has joined this Institute. Mr. Alexander, the Vice-President of the International Sciences Academy, talked about the efforts made by Dr. Risan Khalifa to achieve this distinguished scientific position. At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Risan was awarded the Academic Certificate and a membership to the International Sciences Academy.

## Yemen will not participate in qualifiers of 7th Arab Football Cup A chance they

got, but lost



The Yemen Football Federation decided not to participate in the qualifier matches for the 7th Arab Football Cup. The matches are scheduled for September 22-30 in Qatar. Yemen was chosen by a draw to be in the second group that includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Sudan. Given that Saudi Arabia has qualified for the 1998 World Cup finals in France, it automatically becomes qualified for the finals of the Arab championship, as stipulated in the regulations of such championships.

Therefore, only Yemen, Egypt and Sudan remained in this group. As the Egyptian team is the former winner of the Arab Cup Championship, it has also been qualified for the finals of the championship. Thus, only two teams are left in the group, Yemen and Sudan.

The Arab Football Federation agreed to hold two matches between Yemen and Sudan. The first match is to be held on June 15, 1998 in Khartoum and the second on July 29, 1998 in Sanaa. These matches will determine the qualifying team. The decision of the Federation not to participate in the qualifying matches made the Yemeni national team lose a valuable chance, especially since the second group consists only of Yemen and Sudan.

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## Advertisement for Recruitment of an Expatriate International Consultant

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) represented by the Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) is intend to apply part of the proceeds of a credit received by the Government from Interim Trust Fund (ITF) administrated by the International Development Association (IDA) for recruiting an Expatriate International Consultant whose TOR is stipulated hereunder. Candidates who strictly meet with the condition and are origin of the countries eligible to participate in works and services financed under ITF Credit Agreements will be short listed for evaluation and selection.

### TOR

- Preparation (in collaboration with the Vegetable Seeds Company, Seeds Multiplication Corporation and Project Support Unit) of terms of reference and invitation for proposals for the provision of management and technical assistance services to:
  - (a) Vegetable Seeds Company (VSCo) at Seiyun.
  - (b) Seeds Multiplication Corporation (SMC) at Dhamar.

### Qualification and Experience Required:

- Ph. D or MSc in Agronomy.
- Diploma or Equivalent in Agriculture Management and Marketing.
- At least 10 years in the field of Seed Production, market, development, design and supervision of Institutional/Commercial Development plans and restructuring of state holding into private sectors.
- Wide knowledge and experience in procurement procedures for selection of Consultants under International Agencies.

### Language:

- Fluency in English.
- Points will be given to candidates acquiring working knowledge or Arabic.

Applications are required to send their applications and detailed Curriculum Vitae within 4 weeks from the date of this advertisement to:

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## AMNA'S SYMBOLIC ART

Amna Al-Noseiri is a graduate from Sana'a University, the Faculty of Philosophy. She got a Masters in Art Aesthetics from Moscow, and is now a specialist in aesthetics in the Department of Philosophy, Sanaa University. She also writes several reports and critiques about the arts in some Arabic and national

journals. Her master's thesis discussed the symbolic features in all of the traditional plastic arts present in Yemen and in the Arab world.

I met the artist at her second exhibition held at Al-Afif cultural centre. The artist does not follow any particular school but always concentrates upon symbolism in the plastic arts, and especially likes to incorporate traditional elements. "In my opinion, symbolism is an embodiment of many ideas and beliefs that man holds", she has said.

On the other hand, she tries to present Yemeni tradition differently. She sees that many artists today think that folkloric art is old-fashioned. On the contrary, she believes that tradition is the real source of today's art. In the artist's opinion, all of what is being expressed, in Yemeni art is that artists continue to apply their own past philosophical and theoretical beliefs. For this reason she feels that she has to improve the way people think of tradition in Yemen and in

the Arab world. "People", she says "should have a more modern approach to the expression of traditional art forms."

It is not for the purpose of symbolizing particular ideas that she uses white and black backgrounds in some of her paintings. They are just natural opposites and she believes that an artist must be totally free in painting. She feels that the artist should be free of rules. "I like to incorporate one style and then change over to another without a set plan", she has said.

Through her paintings, she makes an attempt to represent the material world with a subliminal symbolism; she thinks that man is so integrated with the material world that he and the things he lives with are a part of it. So she often employs animals and other things to represent the reality of living. Therefore, the artist is assured that man is not the only center

of interest in this universe. There are many things, animate and inanimate, that make up the universe. Man alone, of course, cannot exist.

Everything that appears in her paintings represents the elements belonging to our daily lives. She likes to unify these elements to symbolize the solidarity of everything that was created and the sense of oneness or unity of this universe. And yet there is a great deal of obscurity concerning how living things on this earth are related to certain symbols. "Some traditional items may be

represented aesthetically, but you cannot really understand their symbolic and ideological origin", the artist admits. Besides using these traditional symbols, the artist also reckons that they have some great aesthetic values which cannot be denied.

Martin Dansky/  
Yemen Times



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