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President Saleh in Canada in September

In a new milestone in Yemeni-Canadian relationship, President Ali Abdullah Saleh is planning a visit to Canada before this year is out. In response to an official invitation, the visit is planned to take place, most probably during the first half of September, 1998. "We are going to witness new highs in our bilateral relations," an elated Yemeni official said.

This is due to the fact that a large business group usually accompanies the president in his overseas trips. Similarly, the President of the Consultative Council, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, in response to an invitation from the President of the Canadian Senate, is planning a visit to Canada. No time has been set.

At the economic level, the Canadian International Development Agency, is planning to up its aid cooperation with Yemen. Towards that end, a CIDA delegation will visit the country during June 1998. CIDA has already granted four graduate scholarships for five years, starting next year.

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TORTURE

In a confused and misplaced sense of solidarity, the security apparatus embarked on a frenzied cover-up effort last week. The Hodeidah Investigation Office had manhandled a young man - Suhail A. Luqman, who is accused of armed robbery of the Commercial Bank of Yemen, Hodeidah Branch.

Acting on descriptions by witnesses of the one-man heist, and given the subsequent pressure to find the robber, investigations officers 'needed' a suspect. They did better than that. They got a written confession from Suhail.

But the case backfired. The boy belongs to an well-known family, the Luqmans of Aden, who are well-connected. The family raised hell.

It was soon uncovered that the confession was obtained following three days of brutal torture. "I was willing to sign anything to make them stop the pain," he told Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee of the Consultative Council (CC), who led a team on a field investigation of the case. Suhail was released on the absis of a firm guarantee to present him to court.

The strange development in all of this is that the attorney-general's office was playing a meek role. The Hodeidah attorney office played second fiddle to the security men.



"In this case, the family was able to mobilize people to act on the problem. I shiver to think what happens to victims who are unable to get such attention," Saqqaf said. The Government and parliament have also shown interest in the case. Many Hodeidah based member of parliament was actively involved, especially Abdul-Wahab Thabit, Abdul-Galil Radman, Abdullah Al-Dhahwi, Abdullah Khairan and others. The Hodeidah Investigations Office is also responsible for other atrocities. The officers there routinely torture suspects, with no fear of accountability. There is now the will to bring an end to this shame.

Citizens Brace for More Hardships

New Price Hikes

The Government is planning a new phase of subsidy removal. This is part of the economic reform program, which calls for correcting price distortions in factor costs and the prices of goods and services. On April 1st, 1998, the price of air travel was increased by 60%. The fares of Yemen Airways are now more reflective of its costs. But that is not a source of much worry, as the poor hardly ever travel, and when they do so, they don't travel by air.

The more ominous rise will be in the price of wheat and flour. The prices will rise by 40%. This would have gone into effect on April 1st, but the authorities decided to "let the people have a decent eid holidays". The changes in prices will take effect starting from after the eid. The new cost of living burden will hurt more the vulnerable members of society. Efforts within the social safety net program are underway to help in this regard.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

A Dreadful Moment in a Traveller's Journey

I am quite a traveller, having visited more than 130 countries. I enjoy travelling, which has enabled me to establish extensive contacts and relations, worldwide. Over the years, I have learned to adjust to the changes in time zones, in cuisines, and above all, changes in lifestyles and values. I have also picked up a few sentences in a dozen or so languages.

But there is something I am still unable to adjust to - going through immigration. I get a strange feeling - a sense of anger, helplessness, worry, and a certain degree of resentment - as I hand over my passport to be inspected.

The starting point is a passport that reads from the 'wrong' direction. The immigration officer would often start from the left. When he/she finds blank pages, he/she would work his/her fingers through the pages.

The officer would leaf through the many stamped pages in the passport. That is a re-assuring sign, as it means I have been able to pop in and out of countries without having been stopped.

Then comes the country, Yemen, which often triggers nothing. That is actually good news. Imagine what happens to holders of passports from Libya, Iran, Iraq, etc. But somehow, even with a 'good' passport, things have to be checked.

"So what brings you here?"

"I am going to participate in a conference," is my usual answer.

The conversation continues, as his/her fingers move away from the passport to the computer - to look me up.

"How many days will you be staying with us?"

"It is a 3-day visit. But I could stay up to 5 days or even a week."

There is a 'Welcome' grin as I get back my stamped passport.

I have yet to be taken away, and this is what I sometimes anticipate, given the profession listed in my passport - journalist. In many quarters, that is not a popular business.

In some airports, the busy nature of the traffic flow leads to long lines in front of immigration counters. Some passports take seconds to process. Mine takes a bit longer. I sometimes get overcome by a sense of guilt for the people I hold up behind me. I myself, have learned a few tricks as to which lines to choose to stand in. I look at, not only the number of people on the various lines, but also to the nationalities of the people. I avoid lines which have people who, I judge, are 'would-be' immigrants, or trouble cases. Of course, you can never really tell, but my travels have given a decidedly correct instinct.

Population flows is a rising phenomenon of our world. With it we have seen the rise of the efforts to control them.

For all its preaching about the right for freedom of movement, the West is basically interested in movement of goods and money. People it does not want.

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Call for Interviews

The Steering Committee of the Canadian Oxy Scholarships invites the following candidates to come for personal interviews which will start on Monday April 13, 1998, at the Consultative Council's office in Sanaa.

For candidates who will have to come from out of Sanaa, the Committee will pay travel and living allowance for the duration of the interview. The group named below has been screened and selected by a technical team of experts from AMIDEAST and the Ministry of Education, from a list of over 760 applicants,

The list below is subject to a further screening and selection.

The names below are not final candidates for the scholarship. They are a short list.

Marwan Ahmed Mohammed Abdulgafar
Badr Ali Ahmed Morshed
Rexkullah Abdul-Kafi Sufian
Samy Mohammed Ali Moqbel
Hani A. Hamid Azzadeen
Hashim Khalid Saleh
Ahmed Mustafa Moh'd Al-Absi
Rashid Abbas Mokbil Al-Maktari
Mohammed Saleh Awadh Abbad
Tariq Mubarak Bamahmoud
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Osama Wahab Mohammed Shawa'a
Tarik Abdullah Al-Sharafi
Marwan Fadl Shaif Mokbel
Ali Yahya Khonina
Mohammed Salem Banajah
Yasser Mahmood Mohammed
Abdulkareem Abdullah Seif Galeb
Abdulrahman Moh'd Suleiman Kassim
Khalid Salim Al-Mashjari
Tarek Abdulwahab Abtulab
Ali Mohsin Ali Al-Akwa'a
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Samah A. Fatah Salem Mohammed
Adeeb Abdul-Rahman Sallam

Marwan Moh'd Abdullah Hamood
Waddah Ali Mohammed Al-Ashwal
Waheed Yasin Mohammed Amin
Radwan Dawood Abdullah Hassan
Abdul-Rahman Abbas Ali
Abdulkhakim Saeed Moqbil
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Najeeb Mosad Naji
Zakreya Ahmed Saif Taresh
Zakaria Nagi Saeed Al-Gadi
Mahdi Abdul-Rahman Abdullah Mahmood
Hisham Abdulkarim Al-Atnah
Ahmed Zaki Sharaf Fara
Majid Esmaeel Abdullah
Haron Ahmed
Abdulmalik Mohsen Hezam
Yasser Ali Abdu Mohammed Abdulrahman
Waleed Ahmed Abdulkalil Hassan
Abdulwahed Ibrahim Assafany
Qassem Ahmed Ali
Ali Abdu Alsalam Al-Shoaiby
Mohammed Mohammed Ali Al-Awsh
Asrar Abdulgaleel Ahmed
Khalid Saleh Ali Al-Suraimi
Samar Ahmed Mohammed Said
Ali Mohammed Salem Azazi
Rafeq Abdullah Ali Kassem
Shafiq Abdu Moqbil Mohammed
Nashwan Ahmed Ali Al-Dofri

PM Left the Country for 'Medical Check-up'

The Prime Minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, left the country last week for Geneva, where his last posting was before his appointment as head of the government. Dr. Faraj left ostensibly for medical check-up and treatment. No plans have been made for the return portion of his ticket.

France Finances Dam Construction

The Ambassador of France in Yemen, Mr. Andre Janier, and the Minister of Planning and Development, Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal signed on 29/3/1998 an agreement according to which France will provide YR 61.8 million. The money is proceeds from sale of French grain shipments supplied on a grant basis to Yemen. The money will go to finance a number of dams in Sanaa, Lahaj, Taiz and Shabwah governorates. A fishing project in Hodeidah is also included.

Trade Financing Seminar in Sanaa

A one-day seminar was held in Sanaa on "Financing Inter-Arab Trade". Four papers - "The Trade Financing Program", "Mechanisms and Procedures in Credit Financing", "Information on Arab Trade Network", and "The Yemeni Capital Market" - were presented.

Ahmed Al-Salami, Minister of Finance, and Ahmed Al-Samawi, Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen, actively participated. The seminar was organized in conjunction with the Arab Trade Financing Program, whose managing director, Dr. Jassim Al-Mannaee, also participated.

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Mr. Awadh Mahfoodh:

“Yemeni coast guards need more modern and fully equipped boats to be able to stop violations of Yemen’s territorial waters.”

Mr. Awadh Mahfoodh is the General Director of Planning, Statistics, and Follow-up at the Ministry of Fish Wealth. He talked to Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, who filed the following interview.

Q: What are the major plans of the Ministry of Fish Wealth?

A: The third stage of the first five-year plan covers several projects. This includes the completion of the fisheries sector infrastructure, which consists of constructing 6 fishing facilities at as many fishing sites on eastern coastal strip in Hadhramaut and Al-Mahara. At a cost of \$39.8 million, this project is the biggest in the fisheries sector within the five-year plan. It is jointly financed by the World Bank, the European Union, and the International Agricultural Development Fund. About 80% of this project has been completed now.

Q: Could you give us a brief idea on the Yemeni territorial waters?

A: The Yemeni territorial waters extend to 200 miles off the shoreline. Conventional fishing takes place within 3 miles from the shore. Larger fishing boats are allowed to fish up to within 6 miles.

Fish is caught with nets, brought to special facilities on the shore where there are cold stores. The fish is then transported to the main storage facilities to be sold.

Q: How important is transportation in the fish production process?

A: Transportation plays a major part. Coastal areas are still in need of good roads and transport facilities. Fishermen usually complain of the rugged roads between the coastal areas and the inland fish markets.

Fishermen also rely on costly fishing boats and equipment, which are usually imported from abroad. Although there are new boat manufacturing plants in Aden and Hadhramaut, the number of manufactured boats is limited and their cost is still rather high.

Q: Foreign fishing boats enter the Yemeni territorial waters to fish illegally there. They usually have no agreements with Yemen. How do you tackle this problem?

A: Violations of the Yemeni territorial waters sometimes take place. This is due to the weakness of monitoring and coast-guard activities. The boats available at the coast guard disposal are not sufficient to do the job. The Ministry of Fish Wealth aims to obtain modern boats in order to protect the Yemeni coasts. Moreover, the Ministry is in need of communication equipment so that the relevant directorate can get in regular daily contact with fishing sites. We are still waiting for the government to provide us with our needs.

Q: What are the nationalities of boats illegally fishing in the Yemeni territorial waters?

A: The violating boats that are caught in the Red Sea are usually Egyptian. Legal measures have been taken to put an end to these violations. A number of boats were confiscated and some such cases are currently being reviewed by the prosecutor's office. The Yemeni coast guards certainly need more modern and fully equipped boats. Violations

taking place in the Arabian Sea are now more under control.

Q: Do these ships look for particular types of fish?

A: They mainly fish for squids, rock lobsters.

Q: Do these fishing boats damage the environment?

A: There is no doubt that the fishing boats which illegally enter Yemen would want to catch as much fish as possible, damaging the environment in the process.

Q: Has there been a major environmental disaster in Yemen? How do you plan to avert such disasters?

A: Up to now there are no big environmental damages. We aim to protect the marine environment. The Marine Environment Protection Center, established in 1990, closely follows any environmental changes or damage. We also started in 1993 the marine environment protection project in Hodeida, in cooperation with the UN. This project is scheduled to be completed in 1999. It will monitor merchant ships, oil tankers, environmental damage, etc.

Q: What is the extent of private-sector participation in the fisheries sector?

A: Private-sector participation is increasing. There are about 15 private companies working in the fishing sector. There is a tax equivalent to 20% of the fish catch and 30% of the crustaceans and mollusks catch which must be paid to the state. Moreover, a private investor pays 2% as marketing commission to the state, and once pays a fee for the development of the Ministry. All these taxes are paid after the fishing activity and before marketing or exporting the catch.

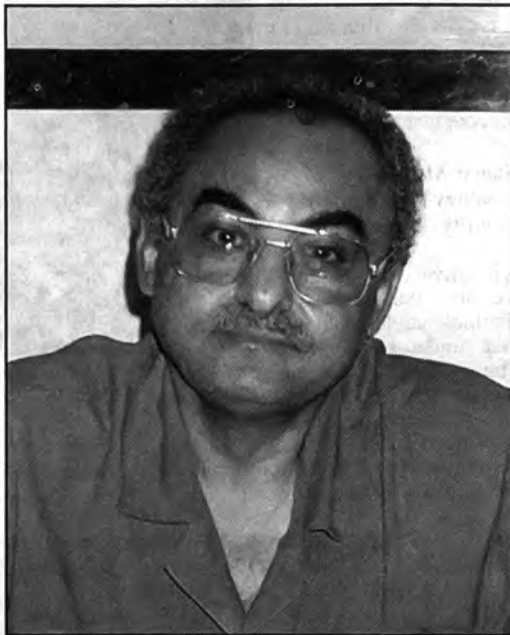
Q: Are the fishing companies, whether Yemeni or foreign, obliged to market a proportion of their catch inside Yemen?

A: Most of the proportion of catch levied by the state goes to the local market. Also, fishing companies are obliged to sell 50% of the catch in the local market.

Q: Does the amount of fish and other marine life caught increase from year to year?

A: There is no doubt the amount of fish caught annually increases. The total catch was 79,893 tons in 1992, 82,365 tons in 1993, 81,884 in 1994, 108,603 in 1995, and 105,052 in 1996. Due to some difficulties encountered in some of these years, the fishing process was hindered. The Ministry has been able to overcome these problems. Consequently the fish catch rose to 123,000 tons during 1997.

Q: What are the conditions imposed on people who wish to



obtain fishing licenses?

A: An investment company applying to the Ministry of Fish Wealth must have enough experience in fishing. A deposit of YR 2 million must be paid by the fishing company for every fishing boat during one year.

Q: Are individual Yemeni fishermen also obliged to obtain fishing licenses?

A: Individual fishermen do not have to pay a license fee, but only to obtain a profession card from the Ministry of Fish Wealth. This card is valid for 3 years at a token fee that does not exceed YR500 per year.

Q: Are individual fishermen obliged to pay taxes, monetary or in kind, to the government?

A: No, they do not have to pay such taxes.

Q: Are the licenses issued by the Ministry usually valid for fishing in all Yemeni waters, or are they restricted to certain areas or seasons?

A: The license are issued to include several regions such as the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden or the Arabian Sea.

Q: How many areas are designated for fishing in Yemen?

A: All in all, there are 5 fishing regions: the Red Sea, the western part of the Gulf of Aden (from Bab Al-Mandab to Arqa), the middle region of the Gulf of Aden (from Arqa to Ras Ba-Ghashwa), the eastern part of the Gulf of Aden (from Ras Ba-Ghashwa to Gorbat Ali), and the Socotra Island.

Q: What are the favorite regions for the fishing companies?

A: This depends on the type of fish they want to catch. There is now a lot of activity in the Red Sea to catch all sorts of fish and marine life, especially crabs.

Q: What do these fishing companies do out of season? Do they stop or are they allowed to fish in other regions?

A: Every company granted the right to fish in Yemen's territorial waters is allocated specific amounts of catch, according to the type of fish. For commercial marine creatures such as squids, specific fishing seasons are allocated. Fishing companies are obliged to stick to these seasons.

Q: Is the Ministry the body

which grants licenses to form fishing cooperatives?

A: The Ministry plays a certain role in the formation of fishing cooperatives, but licensing is done by the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs.

The Ministry of fish Wealth supports fishing cooperatives and individual fishermen alike. We provide them with boats, fishing equipment, nets, and other facilities at prices at least 20% lower than the market prices. This is done to encourage fishermen and allow them to cover their expenses and make profits. Fishermen may pay for these equipment in installments or in cash.

Q: Is there a fund set up to help fishermen?

A: The Agricultural Bank of Borrowing does this task. It gets loans from Arab and international funds. An agreement was made with the Agricultural Bank of Borrowing to provide the Ministry with a loan of \$3 million in order to assist fishermen.

Q: What are the countries from which fishing companies come to legally fish in Yemeni territorial waters?

A: Many fishing companies come from China, South Korea, Thailand, and Egypt.

Q: Do Yemeni fishermen tend to work individually or within cooperatives?

A: They set up their own associations, which are increasing in

number. In the eastern and southern regions, there were about 13 fishermen cooperatives. Now there are about 20 such associations. The Ministry now aims to establish a general federation for these fishermen associations.

Q: Are there any estimates of the number of Yemeni fishermen?

A: According to the last survey, there are about 140,000 fishermen. Individual fishermen or those within associations contribute about 75% of the total fish production in Yemen. The remaining 25% is produced by the large companies.

Q: What countries and organizations provide assistance to the Ministry?

A: They are Japan, EU countries, the World Bank, and the International Agricultural Development Fund. We started cooperating with the World Bank in 1974.

Q: How large is Yemen's fish reserve?

A: The annual fish reserve is about 400,000 tons.

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The Plight of Taiz University Students

Taiz University is one of the newly established universities in Yemen. In the beginning, it was just a branch of Sanaa University. Then, the government issued Republican Decree No. 44 in 1993 concerning the founding of Taiz University and it was officially opened in 1995 according to Republican Decree No. 151.

Mohammed Abdul-Kareem Saeed
Chemistry Department
Faculty of Education

We face many too many problems, the non-existing reference libraries is the most dominant issue. It is really sad to say that we have a university without libraries. I think that even the poorest universities in Africa have better libraries than ours. I think that in every university there must be a central library beside the libraries of its college and department. We are just students



sell them to the students. The techniques of this business are diverse. In fact, our problems are unspeakable. We need libraries, labs and sincere teachers.

Saeed Al-Bahery
Geology Department
Faculty of Science

As university students, we do have many difficulties and problems that hinder our studies. The dilemma is that our studies are theoretical rather than practical.

This means that we get nothing except the handouts that are reproduced in the exams. The nature of our studies, especially in



The whole and sole library of the English Department in the faculty of Education and Arts

the department of Geology, entails the availability of laboratories and trips to different places to verify what is written in the handouts in an actual context. Our university without books is a mere skeleton. Every now and then we hear about-trips of university officials to Cairo and Bombay for the purpose of getting books. Instead of

wasting money on useless trips for people in charge, I think that letters should be sent to authentic publications. I believe that they would save much money and produce concrete results.

Ramzy Qassem Hasan
Faculty of Commerce

In the beginning I would like to express my thanks to Yemen Times for its concerns with our problems. We, in the Faculty of Commerce, face many problems. It is always said that education and development should go hand in hand. That is, education should serve development and lead to prosperity and progress. For us it seems that the glove is on the wrong hand. What kind of development do we expect from a fragile educational system where a student's learning is based on hand-outs? To add insult to injury, some doctors dishonor their academic profession by considering these hand-outs as an easy means of material gain. Some doctors make a deal with a photocopier and split the profits with them. Therefore, the result is a great deal of hand-outs. The students are the only ones who suffer because if they don't buy them they will fail. This is the main problem that we have.

Tawfeek Mohammed Al-Shara'aby
English Department
Faculty of Arts

I think that universities are the center of illumination and enlightenment, where minds are better built for the advancement and development of societies. Students, being the leading pioneers of this torch, should be given top priority. But, in our society the case is far from satisfactory. The students are the powerhouse of energy that needs to be channeled for general good. But, being short on books unfortunately leads doctors to write or copy hand-outs for students, which limits their ability to create or show their merit. Just imagine, we the students of English don't even have a language laboratory. Therefore, with the unavailability of books and a language lab, we don't study the language, rather our study becomes meta-linguistic. You may not believe that some people graduate with a BA or a BED in English without having the ability to handle a situation in the acquired medium for ten minutes. Some can't even express themselves in English. How did they move from one level to another? Of course memorization was their way out. Parts of the hand-outs are reproduced in the exams and on this basis the student's performance is evaluated. This is because our studies are exam-oriented. What we are producing is not scholars, but parrots. Students are not given the opportunity to develop their merits.

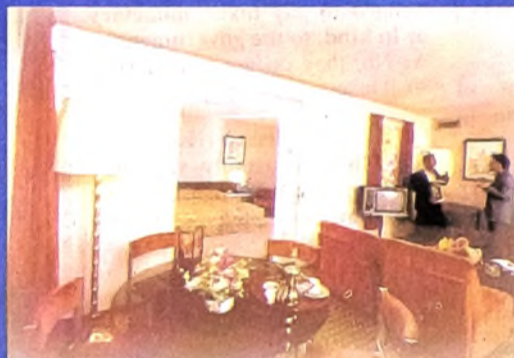
Bushra Fadhl Al-Maktary
History Department
Faculty of Arts

The role of universities is very significant in the uplifting in the condition of a society. They should have a pioneering role in preparing people for a more glorious future and a better tomorrow, but we have many problems. Some doctors are insincere and careless in their jobs. We are shocked to find some doctors selling questions and evaluating students' performances on the basis of their relation with them. The result is the loss of bright and creative students. Our studies should depend on researches. But how?! Books are very rare. After four years, students graduate with certificates, but their minds are empty of knowledge. We are very frustrated seeing our seniors jobless. We need books and sincere teachers who honor their academic profession.

by Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi
Taiz



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Legal Dimensions Influencing Yemeni Women

Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,
Yemen Times

To mark Woman's International Day and Mother's Day, the Yemeni Family Care Society organized an extensive seminar during which several research papers on reproductive health were discussed. A special study was presented by Dr. Nooreya Homad and Asma Al-Basha, on the effect of the legal dimension on Yemeni women and their role in politics, economy and society. The opening session was attended by the Minister of Health, Dr. Abdulla Abdulwali Nasher as well as 150 participants from the public, private, and NGO sectors. Dr. Nasher stressed the importance of women's role in society, saying that the ministry is working to give women leading positions in the ministerial offices, public hospitals and health centers. Ms. Amal Al-

Homad collecting the information and details that are mentioned in this book," said Asma. The book includes an introduction followed by 4 chapters. The first chapter deals with the legal dimensions concerning politics, parties, judicial authority, economy, Yemeni Constitution, general elections, civil service and enacted laws. The second chapter presents the legal dimension of the social field. It concentrates on the law of public education, the law of social security and pensions, the law of arbitration, penal law, as well as the citizenship law. In the third chapter, the personal status law is discussed, focusing more upon women's roles and their position in society. It deals with the family relations and issues like engagement, marriage, divorce, nursing, alimony and inheritance. The fourth chapter deals with Yemen's ratification of

according to individual circumstances. The penal law indicates that blood money for a woman is suppose to be half of the blood money for a man. The labor law and the law of civil service gives a pregnant woman a two-month maternity leave and 20 more days in case her delivery is complicated or she delivers twins. This leave is not enough because a woman has to look after her baby and take care of him more than the time appointed by the law. And in this respect, the book discusses a very common custom in Yemen, women getting married at early ages, bringing out the serious results of such marriages on health and society.



Basha delivered a speech by Mr. Kofi Anan, Secretary-General of the UN, celebrating the Woman's International Day: "Marking Women's International Day holds a special meaning, because it coincides with the 50th anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights. Supporting women's rights means supporting freedom, justice and peace, as well as supporting development and prosperity in society. On this day, we call on all the factions that are in conflict with each other in Afghanistan and other countries to give women their rights and freedom in work and education." After the opening session, a paper on reproductive health and its importance was presented by Dr. Najeeba Abdulghani. Then, Ms. Asma Al-Basha presented her special study on the legal dimension and its relevance to the women's position in the society. "I shared with Dr. Nooreya

the general international agreements and conventions (the International Declaration for Human Rights, the International Agreement for Civil and Political Rights, and the International Agreement for Social and Cultural Rights) and the special international agreements (Child Rights Agreement, the Judicial Authority Agreement, etc). Miss Jameela Al-Shara'ee, the person responsible for the programs of the Famil Car Society, has prepared the introduction of the book. Asma Al-Basha sees that there are many laws (like the citizenship law, labor law and law of civil service) that need discussion and reviewing. The citizenship law, for example, does not give a foreign husband of a Yemeni woman the right of being a Yemeni citizen, nor does it give this right to their children. The husband is given residence for two years which is renewed

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

Yemeni Character & Traits

Yemeni Character

Character is a collection of attitudes. A human being thinks, reacts, and changes with time, according to the work he/she does or the society in which he/she lives.

The Yemeni character is changing rather rapidly. It used to be inclined simplicity and pacifism. Life was a lot simpler, in terms of food, clothes, and habitat as well as the rules and regulations. Tribal customs reigned supreme then. But changes and developments are accelerating around the world. The great technology and communication revolution has given precise specification to the attitudes of human beings. The choice of food, clothes, habitat, and behavior are being increasingly dictated by international norms and standards. All these new criteria are limiting the human freedom and distancing human beings from their past simplicity.

All this has made human beings more careful in how they behave. This extra care led to humans making more mistakes. Time has become far more limited than before. During the few hours left of the day, a person needs to finish all the necessary tasks in a hurry.

So one trait of the Yemeni personality is haphazard alacrity which is not harmonious with the nature of the work people do or even with their present social life.

Dr. Ali Al-Tareq
Assistant Professor of
Psychological Health,
College of Arts, Sanaa University

People now need to act faster in order to better earn their living. This rashness has resulted in more aggression. Even simple problems are now being solved with force or the threat of force. The absence of law enforcement has encouraged people to take the law into their own hands, or, worse, still violate the rules through sheer power and influence.

Qat Compounds the Problem

The most prevalent social phenomenon in Yemen is chewing qat. A typical Yemeni man goes to work at 8 am, but by noon he starts to think about where to get qat. In the remaining 3 or 4 hours of work, an employee tries to finish his task as quickly as possible in order to go to his regular qat-chewing "majlis," in which a normal session would last until 8 pm or even later.

Economy

When a person has a monthly salary of 5,000-6,000 riyals and has to buy a certain, highly priced commodity, he would haggle with the shopkeeper - a process that sometimes leads to flaring of nerves or the drawing of a jambia or even a gun. Such an illogical behavior is the result of both dete-

riorating economic conditions and the need to quickly finish the daily tasks.

Culture

The cultural structure of the Yemeni society is mainly based on deeply ingrained tribalism and religious beliefs. Trying to hold an objective dialogue on religion, say, with a person with such a cultural structure quickly ends up with you being accused of secularism, heresy, apostasy or worse accusations. Many people here do not have a logical means to deal with differing opinions.

Social Factors

The Yemeni family is usually an extended one, as opposed to a nuclear family. A typical Yemeni household would have a large number of children with lots of demands, creating almost constant anxiety and apprehension. The state does not even provide the most basic of social services, increasing the heavy burden on the family's breadwinner.

Geography

Yemen consists of desert, mountainous, and coastal areas. People living in mountainous regions are usually characterized by extremism, sternness, and even aggressiveness. People living in the plains are more balanced, easy-going, flexible, and tolerant. These differences are likely to remain for a long time to come

until more universal values and morals are established.

Psychology

The state with all its health establishments always look at a human being as a mere body with physical needs only. They forget that a human has a body and a soul. The media in all its forms does not give the psychological aspect of life its due importance. In other words, there is a general lack of psychological awareness. Sometimes the slightest personal problem leads to a break down and wrong decisions. This phenomenon is grossly exacerbated with the increase in economic pressures that are gradually leading to the diminishing of the spirit of tolerance that once characterized the Yemeni people. So family, social, economic, and officialdom pressures all combine and come crashing down on the helpless citizen.

Women Also Affected

In addition to the traditional social repression, Yemeni women are also affected by the bad economic situation; even if they are not their families' breadwinners. If the husband is more educated and has become wealthier, the wife, especially if she is not educated, would start to worry that he will marry another woman.

Kidnapping

Lack of respect for the law and the absence of law enforcement have led people to use various means and methods to gain their rights or infringe upon the rights of others. The kidnappings of foreign tourists and expatriates in Yemen is one such method. Kidnapping diverts the route through which a citizen demands his rights, and makes helpless foreign visitors go away.

Blood Revenge

The absence of law enforcement has also given rise to acts of blood revenge. A citizen would rather take the law into his own hands by killing the man who killed his relative, than wait for years for a court to reach a verdict that may not be the one he is expecting or willing to accept.

Social Maladies

Several socially unacceptable phenomena such as forgery, embezzlement, bribery, and confidence tricks started to appear by the early 1980s. Economic hardships have a lot to do with the spread of such maladies. If an average public employee in Yemen starts to think about his future, and compares his aspirations with what he gets by way of salary, then he would find the situation utterly hopeless. Out of sheer desperation, some people resort to devious means to get what they want.

Lethargy

Society in Yemen has become plagued with consumerism, and the Yemeni people have been branded as lazy. The majority of the people spend the time from 2 pm to 8 pm chewing qat. They produce virtually nothing. The hours of actual work per day do not exceed 3 - from 9 am to 12 noon. These 3 hours include having breakfast, chatting with colleagues, and other things. By noon, a public employee would start to think about getting the money needed to buy qat. If unable to buy qat, some men usually vent their anger on their wives or children.

Rural & Urban Character

There are certain character differences between people in the countryside and town dwellers. However, with the increase in migration from rural areas to major towns and cities, the line between the two personalities has become quite blurred. In actual fact, most of the people living in Yemen's urban centers have their roots in the countryside. Just one look at a deserted Sanaa during Eid, say, gives some indication of the majority of people's origins. Many people leave the cities and go to visit their relatives in the countryside during Eid. It is inevitable the rural people settling in towns and cities should lose some of their parochial traits, and start to acquire those of the big city.

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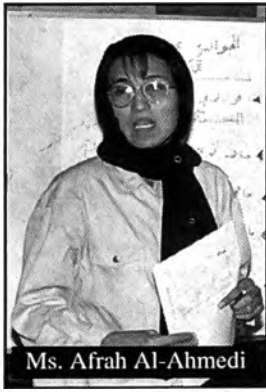
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Explaining Gender in Yemen

Organized and funded by Oxfam, a seminar was held to introduce the concept of gender to female trainees from various Yemeni NGOs. Throughout the seminar's duration (30 March to 1 April), participants from all governorates in Yemen discussed various relevant topics such as development, the roles played by men and women, the evolving of the gender concept, the conditions of Yemeni women, and several other important subjects. Nayif Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times met Ms. Afrah Al-Ahmedi, the director of Oxfam Yemen and filed the following interview.



Ms. Afrah Al-Ahmedi

future. The second goal is to bring these NGOs together, an event that seldom takes place. This is specially important since a large number of the NGOs represented at this seminar are situated in rural areas, where they do not always have the chance to meet with Sanaa NGOs. In order to exchange knowledge and experience, it is vital that different NGOs should meet each other.

Q: Where do these NGOs operate and what are their main fields of activity?

A: They are mainly NGOs from Sanaa, Hodeida, Mahweet, Hajja, Taiz, Ibb, and Shabwa - both urban and rural. Their activities range from working with women to caring for the handicapped, to the association of female scouts

the seminar?

A: The main topic of lectures and debate was of course the concept of gender and its link with the development process. Different people have different conceptions about gender. Despite the gender idea being a global one at present, it is still somewhat ambiguous in Yemen. We had to first define this concept and then go on to exchanging our views and experiences. This seminar and workshop is the first one of series of similar future events.

Q: Could you briefly tell us what gender means?

A: It means that social differences imposed by society, which change with time and social conditions, and the differences between men and women are not really based on biological differences. There are many differences between men and women that were created by society, not biological. Therefore, these differences vary from one society to another, from one age to another, and from one set of traditions to another.

Q: Do you have any last comment?

A: This event and similar ones in the future are excellent opportunities for NGO representatives to

meet to exchange notes and find the best possible means to surmount the obstacles that they face. This is especially important for women NGOs to coordinate

Q: What have you discussed in

Q: What is the purpose of this seminar?

A: The main goal of this event is to introduce the concept of gender and its relationship to the process of development. The participants at the seminar are representatives of a number of Yemeni NGOs in various governorates, most of which are partners of Oxfam and the others will become our partners in the near



and guides. There are also participants working in public health centers and hospitals and private charities.

Preserving Old Yemeni Towns: Art & Public Awareness

Organized by the General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities in Yemen (GOPHCY) and funded by the Dutch Embassy in Sanaa, The National Workshop for the Preservation of Historic Cities was held during 29-31 March at Sheraton Sanaa. The opening session was attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr. Abdulmalik Mansoor; the director of GOPHCY; the Dutch Ambassador to Sanaa; and a large number of Yemeni and international architects, city planners, civil engineers, and other experts on the preservation of historical towns and cities.

Lectures delivered and topics discussed by the participants covered such diverse issues as the strategy of historic cities planning, the strategy of preservation and restoration of historic cities, problems and challenges of historic sites, NGO contributions for the process, violations in old Sanaa, etc.

In Yemen, there are three preserved historical towns: old Sanaa, Shibam Hadhramaut and Zabeed.

One of the important topics also discussed by the participants was the role of legislations and regulations to prevent the vandalizing of historical towns and ancient sites. The participants agreed that the existing

laws should be reviewed and enforced in order to preserve the country's heritage for posterity. Tourism, it was agreed, is acting in

for both men and women. The re-construction of the southern wall of Sanaa was completed, and the main Bab Al-Yemen



such a way as to damage the very tourist attractions that were created by the tourism industry in the first place.

The director of GOPHCY said: "Several preservation project were executed in old Sanaa. Almost 70% of the town's infrastructure is now complete. The old market places are known as "smasaras" they are known in Yemeni dialect. Some of these markets are now converted into handicraft centers

gate was renovated. The old town street were paved with cobble stones."

Similar renovation work was also conducted in Zabeed and Shibam Hadhramaut.

"As far as Aden is concerned, an historical project is now being studied to renovate the Taweela conduits and cisterns, in cooperation with the UNISCO."

The workshop's goals can be summarized as follows:

- 1- Finding a practical policy for the preservation of historical towns in Yemen.
- 2- Raising public awareness of the importance of preserving historical towns.
- 3- Activating the people's participation in the preservation process.
- 4- Drawing the attention of the relevant government organs to the importance of coordinating efforts in order to better preserve historical towns.



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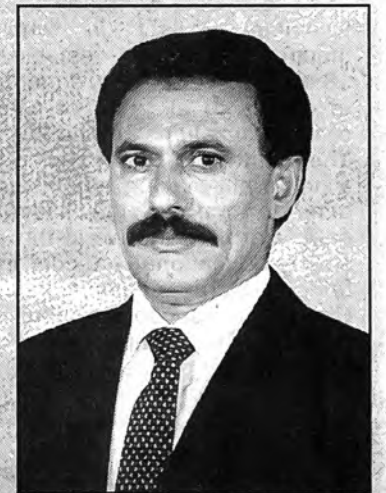
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Coca-Cola Conquers Yemen And Yemenis Love It!

Coca-Cola Deep in History

Coca-Cola started in 1886 as a one-nickel soda-water drink. Today, 111 years later, it is a \$126 billion business. More than 7.5 million Coca-Cola drinks are served every day in more than 195 countries around the world. In other words, more than 6000 bottles full of Coca-Cola are consumed every second around the world.

The drink was first concocted by a pharmacist in Atlanta, Georgia, US and was sold in brass containers. The Coca-Cola patent was later sold to a shrewd businessman, who established the Coca-Cola company in 1892.

The drink was first put in glass bottles in 1894 by a Missouri shop owner. The Coca-Cola distinctive and shapely glass bottle was designed in 1915 in a way that makes it recognizable even by touch in the dark.

And the rest is history.

Coca-Cola & Society

The Coca-Cola company is committed to help society in whole-hearted manner. Since its establishment in 1886, Coca-Cola has donated millions of dollars to all sorts of charities and civil organizations around the world. The Coca-Cola Benevolence Society is a non-profit making organization, which aims to improve the lives of young people around the world through sponsoring educational projects in order to bridge cultural and social gaps. Coca-Cola sponsors football cup competitions, the Olympic games as well as engaging in programs to develop the



performance of the athletes who take part in such competitions. More than 100 countries around the world have benefited from the Coca-Cola program to develop football, which was started in 1975.

Coca-Cola expects to be an active player positively influencing local and international societies for a long time to come.

Coca-Cola Leads in Middle East

Supported by strategic investments and huge sales, Coca-Cola has been able to conquer the Middle East market. At a cost of \$20 million, work has already started to construct a new bottling factory in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. During the next three years, Coca-Cola intends to invest \$400 million in the region extending from North Africa to Oman. Coca-Cola sales in this region constitute 38% of the total sales of other competitor products.

Coca-Cola has already introduced \$160 million and 80,000 coolers in Saudi Arabia, \$60 million in Jordan and Lebanon, \$180 million and 30,000 coolers in Egypt.

Yemen Welcomes Coca-Cola

On 2 April, 1998, Coca-Cola has forged a new alliance in the region. In an important step to consolidate the development of its business and strengthen its position in the Middle East, Coca-Cola announced a new agreement with the Sanaa Beverages & Industrial Co.

Board Chief of the Sanaa Beverages & Industrial Co., Mr. Bishr Abdulhaq said: "Coca-Cola has invested \$2 million in modernizing and upgrading the infrastructure and equipment at the Sanaa Beverages plant. This step has tremendously increased the factory's production capacity to 10,000 cases per day. There are now about 300 employees working at the factory. "The Coca-Cola products include Fanta and Sprite sold in 350 ml bottles at YR20 only, i.e., a customer gets 40% extra free as compared to similar products.

"We are very keen on playing an active role in making millions of people in Yemen enjoy high-quality refreshment product - Coca-Cola. We are very glad to be Coca-Cola's partners in con-

solidating its position in this region.

"The Sanaa Beverages plant will witness more capital investments later this year in order to develop its infrastructure and train its cadres."

The new partnership was inaugurated at the bottling factory on 2 April in Sanaa in a ceremony that was attended the Chairman of the Consultative Council, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, who expressed his delight at this new step "which will consolidate the country's move towards free-market economy."

Also at the Coca-Cola Yemen-launch ceremony, Mr. Philip Georgio, the Coca-Cola Middle East Regional Manager, said: "For the Coca-Cola Company, this Modernized facility in Sanaa represents the latest episode in our growing soft-drink leadership in the Middle East and North Africa. This leadership has been achieved through the dedicated efforts of our bottling partners and the enthusiastic of consumers to our products.

"Here in Yemen, we will be bringing the kind of vigor and determination that has allowed us to reach the one billion savings of Coca-Cola products a day, to ensure that Yemeni consumers will also be able to enjoy our market-leading brands: Coca-Cola, Fanta, and Sprite.

"We began our operation here by making these brands available in 350 ml glass returnable bottles - this is 100 ml more, or 40% more soft drinks than in bottles normally available in the market. We have already seen in the market that this value proposition, with no extra cost to the consumer, has been very well received and our sales since we launched on the 10 March are extremely encouraging.

"At Coca-Cola, we always aim at bringing our products as close as possible to our consumers and we want everyone to enjoy a cold Coca-Cola product. In Yemen, we have started a cooler placement program and 500 coolers are being placed in various outlets. This is a first for Yemen.

"I would like to extend our appreciation to the management team of the Sanaa Beverages & Industrial Co. for their tremendous and relentless efforts over the past few months, to make the launch possible. The phenomenal success of our products in the market place is definitely an indication that all those efforts have been rewarded," Georgio concluded.



On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak
Dr. Waleed Jazrawi - President / General Manager,
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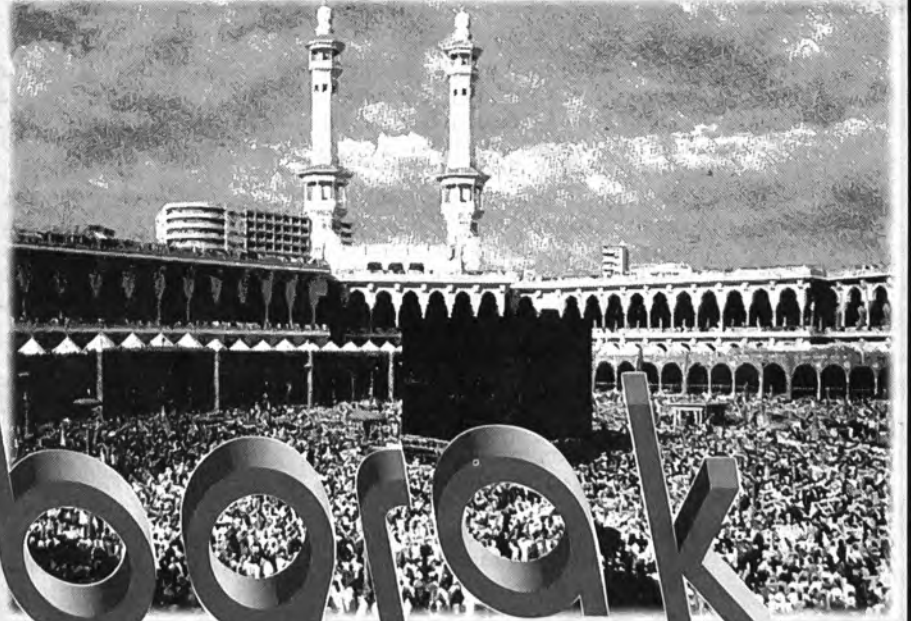
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Eid Mubarak

Ahmed Jaber:

“Yemenis who studied music outside Yemen are not given a chance to develop music here.”

Jaber Ali Ahmed is a musician and a singer. Having studied philosophy in Syria and music in Cairo, Jaber Ahmed is also well versed with the academic side of the music. He has written several books on Yemeni music and singing, and currently works at the Ministry of Culture.



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

Q: May you tell us about the history of music in Yemen?

A: There are two forms of music in Yemen - folk music and traditional music. Folk music is very common among rural people. It has its own songs and musical instruments and is associated with different social occasions. For example, there are special songs for work, seed-sowing, seafaring, funerals, weddings... etc. Like folk songs in other parts of the world, the Yemen folk song is part of its socio-cultural environment.

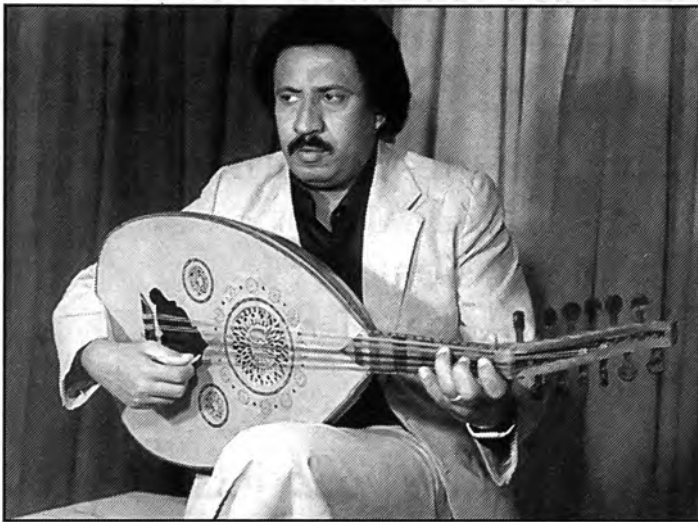
The traditional song, on the other hand is the well-prepared song. Its origin dates back to the Rasoulid state in Yemen, about 5 centuries ago. During that period of time, a widespread movement of manufacturing musical instruments thrived in Taiz. A very popular musical instrument used in the old traditional songs, *Qanbous*, appeared then.

The old traditional song or *Muashah*, mainly written in the local dialect, accompanied the movement of reviving the traditional art during the early 1950s. *Basharaheel*, *Al-Akhfash*, *Al-Qa'atabi*, *Al-Mass*, and others were the ones who established this movement then.

Q: Can you just give us an idea about the book you are going to publish?

A: In my book "Singing and Music Trends in Yemen," I discuss many issues related to music in the past and present. This book is not yet complete, but

I hope it will be published in the near future. I am trying to present all the Yemeni musical trends and the modernization process some artists follow. Modernization trends first appeared in Aden and other southern governorates. Aden's geographical location and the high cultural level of its people paved the way for the modernizing movement. It is not nec-



essary that a singer should follow a musical style of the area to which he belongs. Almost every artist develops a different style in music which is surely affected by the environment of his area, though.

Q: How do you evaluate music today in Yemen?

A: Things are going from bad to worse. Yemeni music was better in the 50s than in the 60s. In the 60s, it was better than in the 70s, and in the 70s it was good. Unlike now, there were serious attempts to present new musical creations. New ensembles and singers appeared. *Al-Hodeida* ensemble tried to re-present some of Jaber Rizq's songs.

Today, we find that the musical movement in Yemen is somehow sterile or dull. This is due to some socio-economic and polit-

ical conditions, let alone the authorities giving no attention to this field. Some people studied music outside Yemen, but they are not given a chance to do something for music here. In the whole country, there are only two or three music institutes. There must be an independent department of music at Sanaa University. From this department teachers graduate to teach music in schools, and so people may acquire knowledge about music. This is, in my opinion, the way to

make a musical recovery.

Q: How far do you think TV and other media affect musical trends?

A: TV has a direct influence on music. Unfortunately, this influence is negative. What is shown on the Yemeni satellite TV channel is merely a blind imitation of the other channels. The new fashion of music which they call *video clip* is a rash step towards the horrible downfall of music. Journalism also played the same role, though not in such direct a way. It is a two-edged blade. On the one hand, it pushes artists to run after fame, regardless of who is worth of becoming a star. On the other hand, journalism is associated with the movement of criticism which is basically good.

Female Drivers in Yemen: No Guts, No Glory

Nearly 98% of the women who drive cars in Yemen are working women. Since taking public transportation is annoying, these women learned to drive cars. Yemen Times has met some of these women to ask them about the kind of difficulties they face while driving on our cities' dangerous roads:

Mrs. Kamla Al-Khayat, 44, is married and works at the National Institute for Administration Sciences. She said: "I've been driving my car since 1984. Nobody in my family was against my wish to drive. It took my husband two weeks to teach me before I was able to do that. When I started to go to work driving my car, some drivers teased me and tried to frighten me by blocking my way with their cars.

"I never exceed 40 kph when I drive, so I've never been in an accident and I was never fined. I always observe the traffic rules and regulations.

"It happened once that I parked my car and someone then smashed into it and I had to go with him to the police station. There, he was obliged to pay me the whole expense necessary to repair my car.

"I encourage women to drive because driving is better than taking taxis or going by public transportation. For that, I taught my daughter to drive. By experience, I learned by myself to do things like changing spark plugs, changing oil, checking the filter and the battery, etc. I have no problem with the mechanics for I take my car to only one mechanic. I drive any time all day long. But, I don't drive in the evening unless it is necessary such as taking a patient to the hospital, etc."

Mrs. Om Akram, 24, works in a foreign company operating in Yemen. She said: "I began to drive when I was 18 years old. My friend encouraged me to do so. Nobody was against me when I decided to drive. Like any other driving woman, I'm teased by some drivers who sometimes cut me off suddenly. It happened

only once that I smashed into a shop window in *Al-Tahreer*. I went to the police station with the shop owner, and had to pay him a penalty of YR6000. Repairing the car cost me YR10,000.

"I encourage all women to drive because it is much easier, better and safer.

"I am a do-it-yourself person when it is necessary. I can change the wheels and the car oil and I can also check the battery. If my car needs a check, I ask my husband to take it to a mechanic. I don't like to do that myself because mechanics often exploit women and ask them to pay more money.

"I go alone in my car during the whole day until 9 PM. I might be late until 10 or 11 o'clock if I have a wedding party or if I receive someone at the airport."

Mrs. Om Adel, 32, a housewife and mother of 5 children, said: "I've been driving a car for 3 years. My sisters encouraged me to do that and my 18-year-old son

and troubles of the public transportation. "Most of the problems that I face are because some people do not obey the traffic rules. Still people do not accept the idea of women driving cars. They always try to tease them and cause problems for them. I've had three accidents and I was taken to the police station after each of them. I paid fines twice."

"I encourage all women to drive if they have cars. It is better for them to save time and to avoid the problems in the public transportation. I can check simple things in my car but if it needs it, I take it to the mechanic. I drive my car any time of the day, in the morning and in the afternoon."

Ms. Nada Ahmed, 26, single professional woman, said: "I have been driving for nearly 11 months. Since I have to work in several places, I decided to have my own car. Thereby, I can save time and avoid public transportation troubles. "Until now, I've been involved in



is the one who taught me how to drive. No one from the family had an objection to that.

"People in the streets tease me both by words and acts. They sometimes hit the car with their hands to frighten me. I've never gone to a police station. Because I drive very carefully, I have never had a traffic accident. I once made a simple traffic mistake but the traffic policeman was very nice and let me go. "I drive mainly for my daughters' sake. Since their father is dead, I take the responsibility of taking them to school or to any other place they want to go to."

"If there is something wrong with the car, I can change the oil and the water, and I can check the battery and the windshield wipers. I don't have any problems with the mechanic because my son takes the car there. I drive the car any time from the morning until 10 o'clock in the evening. When I have to be late (wedding, sickness, traveling), I accompany my daughters and my son."

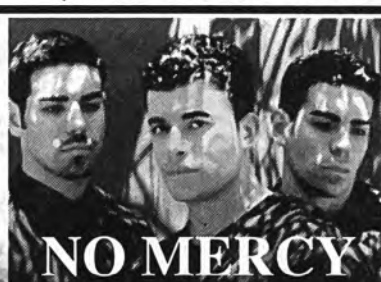
Ms. Najeeba, 34, a single professional woman, said: "I've been driving for 12 years. I feel more comfortable when I go in my own car. It is much better than the crowd

three accidents and the last one was serious. I was driving when the driver of the car in front of me stopped suddenly and I smashed into his car. My car is now in the mechanic workshop and it will cost me at least YR50,000 to repair it. I've never been to a police station or had to pay a fine.

"I face problems because people always try to tease me. Till now, I do not know much about car equipment. I can just check the water and the oil filters of the car."

"I encourage all women to drive if they can. Driving makes you more confident and independent and, despite everything, helps to overcome many obstacles."

By: Khairiya Al-Shibeebi



Where Do You Go?

Where do you go my lovely
Where do you go.. I wanna know my lovely
I wanna know where do you go.. oh oh
I wanna know where do you go.. oh oh
You leave without a word no message from you
And I'm heading lovely like we go stronger
You left me with a hurt deep inside
You don't see me crying all night & wonder
Everybody says what a shame.. what's wrong
Hurt like crying every night and to know
And waiting for you night and day
Where do you go my lovely
Where do you go.. I wanna know my lovely
I wanna know where do you go.. oh oh
I wanna know where do you go.. oh oh
You had a friend in silence lonely I'll be waiting
Despite the river flowing into deep
You'll never be the hero I'm seeking

I'm back for liberty.. I cry for you baby
You got to stop this heartache deep inside
You gotta help me through this evening
Come back and save me
Where do you go my lovely
Where do you go.. I wanna know my lovely
I wanna know where do you go.. oh oh
I wanna know where do you go.. oh oh

أين ذهبت يا حبيبتي
أين ذهبت.. أريد أن أعرف يا حبيبتي
أريد أن أعرف أين ذهبت؟
أريد أن أعرف أين ذهبت؟
لقد رحلت بدون كلام أو رسالة
وأنتي مازلت زحيك نفس الحب القوي
لقد تركت جرحا كبيرا بداخلي
لم تتريني أبكي طوال الليل وأتعب
الكل يقول أنه أمر مخجل.. ماذا حدث
إن البكاء ليلا شيء مؤلم
وكذلك انتظارك ليلا ونهارا
أين ذهبت يا حبيبتي
أين ذهبت.. أريد أن أعرف
أريد أن أعرف أين ذهبت
أريد أن أعرف أين ذهبت
إن لديك صديقا ينتظرك في صمت ووحدة
بالرغم من عمق النهر الذي ساعبره
فإنني لن اختارك لتكوني منقذتي

إنني عائد من أجل الحرية اني ابكي لاجلك يا حبيبتي
يجب أن توقفي الألام الذي أشعر به في قلبي
يجب أن تساعديني
تعالني.. أنقذيني
أين ذهبت يا حبيبتي
أين ذهبت.. أريد أن أعرف
أريد أن أعرف أين ذهبت
أريد أن أعرف أين ذهبت

أين ذهبت يا حبيبتي

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Israel Refuses to Help Peace Process

Rebuffing U.S. efforts to win an Israeli troop withdrawal from the West Bank, a defiant Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Jewish settlers last week that Israel won't be taken advantage of.

Economic Integration

While the European Union (EU) was meeting with the Greek Cypriot Administration in Brussels on Tuesday 31 March, the first meeting of the Association Council of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), which aims at economic integration between the two countries, was being held in Ankara. A declaration following the Association Council gave a message to the EU and Greek Cypriots that a historical mistake was being made. In the declaration, measures to be taken for the realization of economic integration between Turkey and the TRNC were outlined. The declaration also noted that the integration process already established in military and economic areas between the Greek Cypriot Administration and Greece was now completed at the political level with full membership negotiations initiated between the EU and Greek Cyprus. The declaration said: "It is seen that it is not possible to achieve an improvement in finding a solution to the Cyprus problem unless it is accepted that there are two separate and equal states on the island".

Shoura Council Elections Ahead

The Egyptian Shoura Council is likely to hold its last meeting next week in preparation for the upcoming elections. Although a date has not been set by the Interior Ministry, the elections are expected to be held in mid-April, approximately two months before the yearly term of the Shoura Council ends on 24 June.

This year, voters will elect and the president will appoint half of the 264 members of the Shoura Council, the upper house of Egypt's parliament. According to the constitution, the president appoints a third of the Shoura Council, compared to only 10 members of the People's Assembly, parliament's more powerful lower house.

Traditionally, the president appoints former ministers, the heads of political parties, and judges to the Shoura Council. Like the People's Assembly, at least 50 of those elected must represent the interests of "labor and farmers," a controversial subject during election time.

According to the Council's by-laws, half of its members must stand for election or re-appointment every three years. Shoura Council members' terms, however, last six years, a problem overcome by a lottery.

A lottery was initially held when the Shura was formed in 1980 and half of the appointed members and half of the remaining two-thirds drew lots that indicated which members would have to rerun or be re-appointed. The other half had to defend their positions when their terms expired after six years.

Ethiopia Urges Sudan to Extradite 'Terrorists'

Ethiopian Foreign Minister, Seyoum Mesfin said that Sudan must extradite "terrorists" wanted by Addis Ababa as a prelude to good relations between the two neighbors. "Sudan's refusal to comply with demands of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity [OAU] to extradite terrorists, who attempted to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa has strained relations with Sudan," Seyoum said. Mubarak escaped unhurt when his entourage was ambushed shortly after arriving in Addis Ababa in June 1995 to attend an OAU summit. Two of the would-be assassins were killed during the attack. Three others died in a shootout five days later and three were arrested.

Qatar and Egypt Mend Ties

A visiting Egyptian official said last week that relations between his country and Qatar are on the mend. Assistant Under-secretary of the Egyptian foreign ministry Mustafa Abdul Aziz said that he had sensed a sincere desire on the part of the two countries to clear the atmosphere between the two. "Both countries are keen to boost bilateral ties and to initiate concerted efforts in countering challenges threatening the region," the report said. He said the joint Qatari-Egyptian committee would meet soon to discuss issues of common interest.

India Nuclear Policy

A senior opposition leader warned that the new nationalist-led government's nuclear policy was in danger of trig-

gering an "arms race." Pranab Mukherjee of the Congress, speaking in the Rajya Sabha (upper house of parliament) warned the coalition's decision to review the country's defence policy could have "serious implications." The government, which came to power following February-March elections, said in its agenda it would "exercise the option to induct nuclear weapons." The policy created an uproar, particularly in Pakistan. Defence Minister George Fernandes responded by saying no decision had yet been taken over production of nuclear weapons, although he added India would "not fight shy" of acquiring nuclear weapons if needed.

Drug Abuse on the Rise

More than 3 million Pakistanis are addicted to heroin, says a report released last week by a non-governmental organisation. About 3.2 million addicts in Pakistan consume nearly \$800 million worth of heroin every year, the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) said. "These addicts are indirectly affecting 32 million people by way of passive inhalation of the noxious fumes, resulting in an increase in crime rate. They are also promoting a drug sub-culture, which is resulting in the spread of chronic diseases like AIDS," the reports said. Pakistan is on one of the main transit routes for heroin on the way from Afghanistan to the West. This is thought to be the main reason for the huge rise in the number of addicts.

Sudan Plans constitutional Vote

Sudan's foreign minister announced last week that the country's first permanent constitution for more than a decade would be submitted to a popular vote in May after next month's peace talks with southern rebels. Sudan's parliament is now debating the constitution, its first since 1984. Peace talks with the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels are due to resume in April. Sudan's parliament this month started debating the draft constitution, which says Islamic law and custom are the sources of legislation, and confirms Sudan's status as a federation of 26 states. Both are issues of contention between Khartoum and the SPLA, which wants Islamic law ended and a north-south confederation to be introduced. The Islamist government has been fighting rebels since 1984 in the current phase of a civil war.

Court Dismisses Libyan Dissident Case

A Cairo court on 21 March threw out the case of an American woman seeking compensation after her husband, a Libyan dissident, who disappeared in Egypt and was later reported to have been turned over to Libya and executed. "There was no evidence the interior minister was involved in the disappearance of Mansour Kikhia and no evidence any crime was committed against him in Cairo," a court statement said. It was referring to a case brought by Baha Al-Emary, the wife of Mansour Kikhia, a former Libyan foreign minister and head of a Libyan opposition alliance, who disappeared while attending a human rights conference in Cairo in December 1993.

8% Growth Rate

Turkey's Gross National Product (GNP) amounted to TL 29.7 quadrillion in 1997 according to current rates. In a report by the State Institute of Statistics, the per capita GNP in 1997 totaled \$3,048. Turkey's growth rate was 8% in fixed prices in 1997.

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1430 E! Behind The Scenes
2300 Johnny Handsome - 3VL

07/04/98
1100 The Secret Garden - 1
2300 My Blue Heaven R2
0100 Turtle Beach - 3SV

08/04/98
1700 Singles - 2L
1900 The Curse Of The Dragon - 2V
2300 The Man With Two Brains R3S
0100 The Bodyguard R3VL

09/04/98
0910 Funny Farm - 2
2100 Earth Girls Are Easy - 2S
2300 Dolores Claiborne - 3SVL

10/04/98
1500 Metropolitan - 2
2100 Deceived - tba
0300 City Of Joy - 3V

11/04/98
1700 Mr & Mrs Bridge - 2
2100 Killing Dad - 2S
0140 Evil Dead II - 3VL

12/04/98
1700 Bill And Ted's Excellent Adventure - 1
1900 Born To Be Wild - 1
2100 Fearless Double Exposure - 2L
2310 Heartbreak Ridge

ORBIT NEWS

06/04/98
0300 CBS 60 Minutes
0100 American Journal
0130 ABC World News LIVE

07/04/98
0400 NBC Dateline LIVE
1230 ABC World News this Morning LIVE
0200 CBS Evening News LIVE

08/04/98
0630 ABC Nightline LIVE
1030 CBS Up to the Minute LIVE
1400 NBC The Today Show LIVE

09/04/98
0500 ABC Primetime LIVE
1400 NBC The Today Show LIVE
1600 CBS This Morning

10/04/98
0500 CBS 48 Hours LIVE
1330 NBC News at Sunrise LIVE
0130 ABC World News LIVE

11/04/98
0400 NBC Dateline LIVE
0500 ABC 20/20 LIVE
0130 CBS Evening News LIVE

12/04/98
0500 ABC News Saturday Night LIVE
1730 CBS Face the Nation LIVE
1900 NBC Meet the Press

MUSIC NOW

06/04/98
1200 Ultra Violet
1500 Cosmix
2300 Arabic R.s.v.p.

07/04/98
0600 Saba Ho
1200 In Motion
1900 Mediterranean

08/04/98
1100 "360" Degrees Celine Dion
1900 Mediterranean
0400 Min Aghanihum

09/04/98
0800 The Rush Hour
1600 American Chart Show

1700 Musabaqa
2300 Sahretna

10/04/98
1200 Indimage
1300 American Chart Show
1600 Bob Marley & The Wailers Concert
1700 Dandana

11/04/98
1500 Cosmix
2100 Awtar
0400 Min Aghanihum

12/04/98
1200 Rock Raiq
1900 Mediterranean
0300 Music Now Jukebox

THE HOLLYWOOD CHANNEL

06/04/98
1330 The Pet Department
1730 Model TV
1800 The Price is Right
1900 Jeopardy

07/04/98
0900 Crook and Chase
1230 Sunshine Cuisine
1300 Slim Cooking
1930 Wheel of Fortune

08/04/98
0900 Pictionary
1500 Movie Show
1730 E! Model
2330 Late Show With David Letterman

09/04/98
0500 Travel Update
2100 Infatuation
2130 Clive Anderson: All Talk
0330 Comedy Central

10/04/98
0930 Judge Judy
1300 Lifestyles
2000 Pictionary

11/04/98
0930 First Whistle

11/04/98
0500 Hollywood Profiles
1200 Alive! The picture of Health
2100 Saturday Night Live
0130 America's Dumbest Criminals 2

12/04/98
1100 Haven
1330 Garden Variety
0030 Jerry Springer

ORBIT-ESPN SPORTS

06/04/98
0600 SportsCenter Live
2100 Boxing Superbouts
0130 1998 National Aerobics Champs

07/04/98
1500 Brazilian Paulista Futebol
1700 Football 1998 Dallas Cup Dallas, Texas
2230 UEFA Highlights
0000 WCW Wrestling

08/04/98
0530 ESPN News Evening
2100 Gillette Sports Special
2155 FA Premier League Leeds Utd. Chelsea Live

09/04/98
0700 SportsCenter International
1230 ESPN's Major League Baseball
2100 Football 1998 Dallas Cup
0300 Hockey Night Phoenix at Detroit Live

10/04/98
1855 FA Premier League Manchester Utd. Liverpool Live
2100 NBA Action
2300 1998 Masters Golf Tournament Augusta, Georgia 2nd Round Live

11/04/98
0930 First Whistle

1653 FA Premier League Live
0300 ATP Magazine

12/04/98
0900 Firestone Indy Lights Championship
2300 1998 Masters Golf Tournament Augusta, Georgia Final Round Live
0300 ESPN's Major League Baseball, HA-Los Angeles Dodgers Live

06/04/98
1900 Flipper
2000 Caroline in the City
2200 Pacific Palisades

07/04/98
1030 227
1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood
2130 It's a Man's World

08/04/98
2200 Melrose Place Year 6
0115 ER
0210 La Femme Nikita

09/04/98
0530 NewsRadio
2030 Drew Carey
2300 La Femme Nikita

10/04/98
0600 Single Guy
1300 4th Rock From the Sun
2030 Cosby
2300 Beverly Hills 90210 Year 8

11/04/98
1900 Due South
2000 Pearl
0115 Babylon 5

12/04/98
1100 All My Children
1200 General Hospital
0115 Pacific Palisades

THE DISNEY

06/04/98
0805 Goof Troop
1700 Ducktales
0100 Boy Meets World

07/04/98
1100 Sing Me a Story
1130 Wonderful World of Disney - Nature's Strangest Oddball
0200 Timon & Pumbaa

08/04/98
1000 Adventures in Wonderland
2300 Dinosaurs
0430 Darkwing Duck

09/04/98
0800 Little Mermaid
1905 Gargoyles
2330 Wonderful World of Disney - The Boy Who Flew With the Condos

10/04/98
1055 Ducktales
2230 Timon & Pumbaa
0430 Empty Nest

11/04/98
0500 Sidekicks
1600 Mickey Mouse & Friends
0230 Home Improvement

12/04/98
0805 Goof Troop
1530 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh
2330 Honey, I Shrank the Kids

THE FUN CHANNEL

06/04/98
0535 The Mask
0855 Barney
1000 Ahlann Anbar
1705 Superman

07/04/98
0800 Tom & Jerry
1055 Loughz al Jazira
1200 The Jetsons
1340 Merry Melodies

08/04/98
0855 Barney
1250 Free Willy
2000 Love Boat

09/04/98
0950 Alf Tales
1500 HAYA NAMRAH
1700 The Fantastic Voyages of Sinbad

10/04/98
1135 Police Academy
1500 The FUN CLUB
2050 Doris Day

11/04/98
0830 New Scooby Doo Mysteries
1500 Pinky and The Brain
2210 Mary Tyler Moore

12/04/98
1405 The Flintstones Comedy Show
1930 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters
2300 WKRP in Cincinnati
0330 Men Behaving Badly

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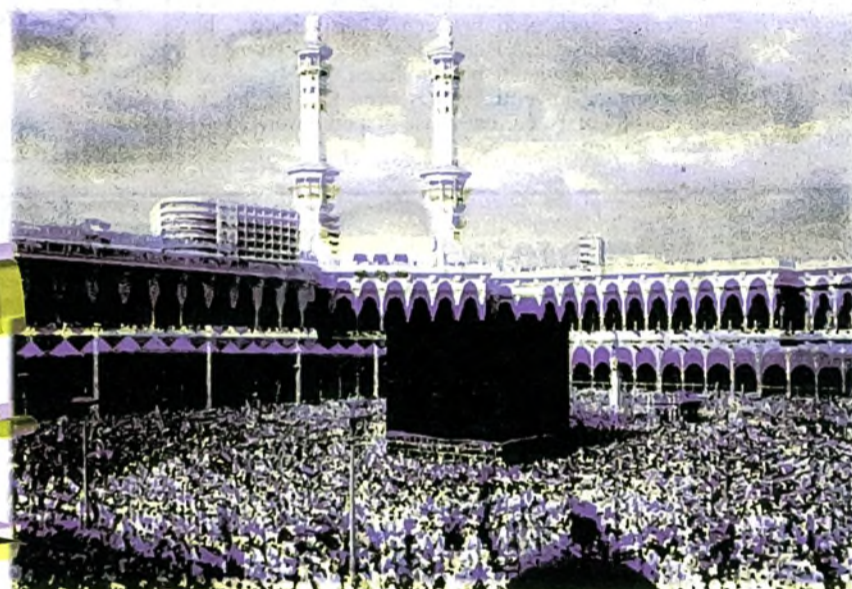
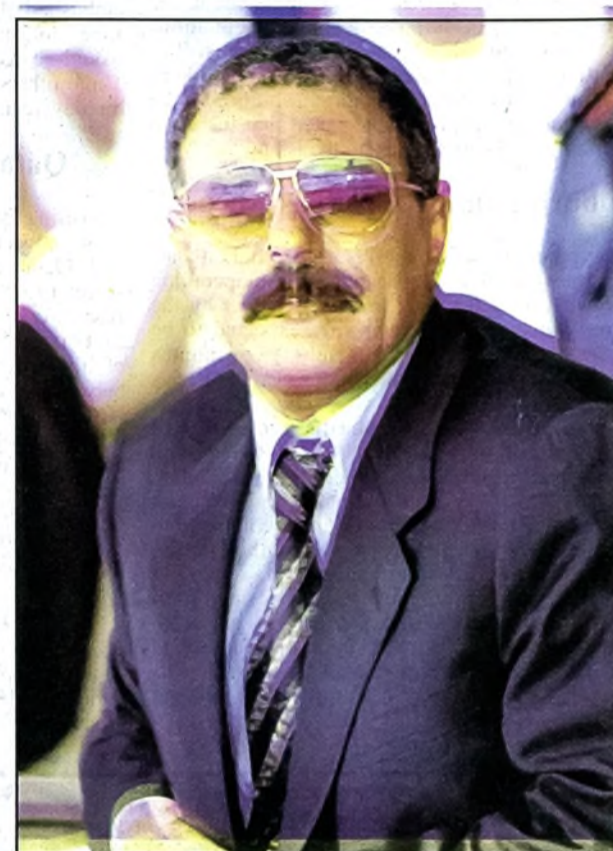
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FUCHS Celebrates First Anniversary in Yemen



The United Enterprises Co. - Fuchs Yemen - held an inaugural ceremony celebrating the 1st anniversary. United Enterprises is a pioneering company in Yemen, which is owned by the Bassam Shawlaq Co. and the businessman Tawfeeq Mohammed Saif Thabet and is under the management of Mr. Saeed Numan.

A press conference was held on Saturday 28 March at the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa. The event was attended by Mr. Tawfeeq M. Saif; Mr. Saeed Noman Al-Adeemi, the General Manager; Mr. Saraj Al-Hamrani, the Executive Director of Al-Hamrani Group; Mr. Ahsan Rasheed, the President of Fuchs Petroleum Saudi Arabia Ltd; Mr. Wolfgang Kramer, Member of Fuchs Executive Committee in Germany; and Mr. Asif Rasheed, the Fuchs Middle East Director in Dubai.



Mr. Ahsan Rasheed, the President of Fuchs Petroleum Saudi Arabia Ltd., said:

Fuchs has been famous in its field since 1931. It participated in many projects around the world. In the beginning, the company specialized in lubricants and oils, and was based in Germany and Switzerland.

Al-Hamrani Co. of Saudi Arabia made a partnership with Fuchs, and Al-Hamrani-Fuchs was established. Al-Hamrani is a pioneer company, and is one of the 100 largest companies in Saudi Arabia. It was the Nissan agent/owner since many years ago, in the Kingdom. Moreover, Al-Hamrani owns 3 drum and barrel factories in Riyadh, Jiddah and Jubail and red-brick factory in Jiddah. The most recent addition to Al-Hamrani Group is a fiberglass factory, which cost a quarter of a billion Saudi riyal.

Fuchs has many agents in the Arab world and other regions. We also own the largest factory for mixing lubricants in Yanbu', Saudi Arabia, which is considered the first industrial establishment in the Middle East to be awarded the ISO 9002 international quality certificate. This factory now mixes 120,000 tons of lubricants a year. Most engine-oil and auto companies such as Toyota, Nissan, and Honda buys our lubricants. All in all, there are about 12 to 13 different companies.

Our sole agent in Yemen is United Enterprises Ltd., which has worked hard and has become an example to be followed in this field. Fuchs advertising billboards are almost everywhere in Yemen. Most auto companies deal with us. We

year, we brought in lubricants of the highest quality in the world. We are very glad with the progress made during the last year, in terms of sales and consumer trust.

We must not forget that the Yemeni economy is making big leaps forward, and is expected to achieve more growth in the future.

Fuchs has also sponsored sports activities, inside and outside Saudi Arabia. We sponsored the international boxer Naseem Hamid in four of his fights, which were shown on the ART and later on the Yemen TV. Al-Shabab football team in Riyadh plays under the Fuchs banner.

Fuchs is considered the only company in the world to manufacture environment-friendly lubricants and oils, which produce no fumes that may damage the environment.



Sheikh Saraj Al-Hamrani, the Executive Director of Al-Hamrani Group, said:

I am very happy to be in Yemen, which has historical and brotherly ties with Saudi Arabia. It is quite important and necessary that we have a appreciable presence in

this country. Our agents in Yemen are, like us, very much concerned with their answering customers' interests.

Our visit today, along with Mr. Kramer from Germany, is to celebrate the first anniversary of our partnership with United Enterprises Ltd. This shows our big interest in the Yemeni market. This is our first visit to a market outside Yemen in the region covered by the Masolik Masoliker Co. We expect a lot from the Yemeni market, which is a very lucrative one.



Mr. Wolfgang Kramer, Member of the Fuchs Executive Committee in Germany, said:

About Fuchs

Fuchs manufactures a wide variety of lubricants and oils such as car lubricants, industrial lubricants as well as some special types of

pure oils that are made to order. Fuchs manufactures more than 9,000 different types of lubricants and oils.

With plants in Eastern Europe, America, and the Middle East, Fuchs presently has 4,500 employees. About 75% of the 9,000 different

of the highest quality products. To win the market, you have to provide high-quality products at competitive prices. People around the world have a lot of confidence in German products. That is why Fuchs is very keen on manufacturing the best-quality lubricants and oils. We always try very hard to preserve our excellent worldwide reputation.

Partners

The other important thing for Fuchs is to find the best partners and representatives in various parts of the world. We have achieved great successes with partners such as Al-Hamrani in Saudi Arabia. Fuchs is also very fortunate in its partnership with United Enterprises of Yemen, which has achieved a lot in a record time. The people who are managing United Enterprises are all highly motivated and well-qualified to of the job.

Fuchs in Yemen

Yemen is considered a new ground for Fuchs products with a big scope for expansion in the future. With industrialization, Yemen will become an advanced market. We will be here to "water the great plants" of industry. Fuchs lubricants are the best for keeping Yemen's present and future machinery turning.

Obstacles

The main obstacle Fuchs faces in this region in general is that many customers look for low-priced products, without any consideration of the quality. People must realize that in order to efficiently operate an expensive piece of machinery and make it last long, spending a little extra on a good-quality lubricant is an important matter. To create excellent, environment-friendly lubricants a lot of money is needed for scientific research. This is sometimes reflected on the price of the products.

Another obstacle that sometimes faces us is the difficulty in finding a suitable partner outside Germany. However, we have been fortunate in finding a very good agent and partner in Yemen.

Sports Activities

Fuchs has sponsored boxing matches by the international champion Naseem Hamid, car rallies, bicycle rallies, and other activities. Fuchs has organized a table-tennis championship for ladies in Taiz.



Mr. Tawfeeq Saif, Executive Director in United Enterprises Ltd., said:

Great Reception

By virtue of their excellent reputation, Fuchs products have been well received by Yemeni consumers. We started by launching the top-quality Super GT brand. This product is characterized by

its excellence and relatively low price, which is only a little bit higher than other brands in the market. This will help Fuchs products gain more ground in Yemen.

Big Success

Every firm or business starts small, and, with ambition, it can grow to become a giant. The ambition of United Enterprises is to open more outlets and branches around the country, and introduce a new range of products. There are always new and positive developments at United Enterprises.



Mr. Bassa Showlaq, owner of United Enterprises

Advertising

We made our main task raising the consumers' awareness of the excellence of all Fuchs products. Fuchs posters and adverts appeared everywhere in the

country. We also enlisted agents and distributors in Taiz, Hodeida, Ibb, and Aden. The results are immensely encouraging. Yemeni consumers flocked to buy Fuchs products. Now most auto companies have business dealings with us. We still aim for more in the future.

Expanding Distribution

We have numerous marketing and advertising plans, which will transcend the conventional means of publicity. We will sponsor several sports and social events. We aim to make all consumers aware of the excellence of the Fuchs products. The message we aim to convey is that Fuchs products are simply the best in the world.

The important matter is not how much you pay, but the quality return you get. Fuchs lubricants are the best for your car or machine. It is very important to consider how long will the lubricant last, how efficient it is, etc. All such questions are answered by Fuchs. So paying a little extra for a Fuchs product will go a long way.



Mr. Saeed Noman Al-Adeemi, the General Manager of United Enterprises, said:

Outcome

It is only natural that a new project would face a lot of obstacles. From day-one of the establishment of our company, we have been fully aware of the situation in the Yemeni market and the extent of the competition we are going to face. But we have faith in the Yemeni consumer's ability to distinguish between the various types of lubricants available in the market.



have gained the trust and confidence of the Yemeni consumer.

We have come from Jiddah to discuss with our agents in Yemen a number of business issues, and formulate marketing plans for the future. When we started our operations in Yemen last

types of lubricants produced by Fuchs can withstand more than five years of operation. Every year there are new developments and technological advances made to our products.

Fuchs sales reached about \$900 million last year, and we hope to increase our sales of even more





Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 31-3-98.
(Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Upon a US "advice," Yemen accepts Saudi conditions to resolve border dispute.
- 2- Islah & People's General Congress withdrew from a debate on Qatari TV with former Socialist Party members in exile.
- 3- Conflicting reports circulate on the sudden departure of the Prime Minister to Geneva, purportedly for medical examination.
- 4- On the behest of the Yemen Embassy in Jordan, Jordanian security closes down the Yemeni students club in Amman.

Article Summary:

Homeless in Sanaa

By: Jalal Al-Sharaabi

Solving the problem of the homeless and mentally retarded people who roam the streets of Sanaa is still being impeded by routine and official wrangling among several ministries. Despite the fact that the Ministry of Social Insurance is supposed to be responsible for homeless people, the minister chooses to ignore their plight. The Presidential Office had early in March issued a directive to the Minister of Social Insurance to take the necessary measures to tackle the problem of homelessness in Sanaa and other major towns and cities in Yemen. The minister referred the presidential directive to the Ministry of Health.

AL-SAHWAH: Sanaa weekly, 2-4-98.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1- The Prime Minister left Sanaa after submitting his resignation, which was rejected.
- 2- Some MPs defend ratifying the "suspicious" \$80 million loan, despite a voting procedure to ratify it that went contrary to parliamentary charter.
- 3- Defense counsel in Aden bomb explosions case concentrates on the illegality of the arrest and inter-

rogation procedures.

- 4- Islah Charitable Society successfully completed the treatment of 600 cases in its 1st health campaign in remote villages outside Aden.

Article Summary:

Ministry of Oil Refuses Employment

More than 250 petroleum and mineral resources graduates of Russian and Yemeni universities have submitted a petition to the President, protesting the rejection of their job applications by the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources. The graduates applied more than 10 months ago, and a presidential memorandum issued on 7 March directed the Prime Minister to address their grievances. What happened to the government's program to Yemenize the oil sector?

AL-TAREEQ: Aden weekly, 31-3-98.

(Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Tribal leaders in Hadhramaut demand a swift tracking and arrest of Sheikh Bin Habreesh's assassins in order to avoid a bloody tribal war.
- 2- Recently sentenced to death for high treason, former Socialist Party leader Ali Salim Al-Beehdh: 'The real court of justice to look into the blow to Yemen's unity is that of the people and history.'
- 3- Number of Yemeni pilgrims to Mecca has dropped this year due to high fees demanded by the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Guidance.
- 4- Opposition Coordination Council in Hadhramaut demands the annulling of recent sentences on "secessionist" leaders and starting a process of national reconciliation.

Article Summary:

Fisheries Staff Complain

A number of sea captains, naval engineers, and sailors have complained that companies working in the fisheries sector do not adhere to the agreement made with the Ministry of Fisheries to have at least

50% of their employees from the Ministry's cadres. Fishing companies employ mainly foreign workers, complained the Yemeni staff. Some of the Yemeni has been employed as ship inspectors, upon and a directive by the Minister of Fisheries.

AL-BALAGH: Sanaa weekly, 31-3-98.

[Islamic Action Movement (being formed)]

Main Headlines:

- 1- Minister of Civil Services praises the success of the training and qualification program for the heads of personnel department in various ministries.
- 2- Vatican foreign minister meets a number of senior Yemeni officials.
- 3- Yemen signs 5 agreements with oil companies from Britain, Brazil, Hungary, and Canada.

Article Summary:

Most Dangerous Criminal Arrested

By: Hussein Al-Sayaghi

Truth is stranger than fiction. This story began on 6 December in Mareb when a person tricked Sheriff Saleh Al-Ameer and Mohsin Aqood of his entourage. The two were lured into a cave, killed and robbed. A team of six Mareb Sheriffs from the family of the murdered two decided to track the killer, who escaped without a trace.

The assassin's trail led the group to Damascus, Syria, where they found out that he fled with his Russian girlfriend to Turkey then to Russia. The trail then went cold. Four months later, information indicated that the killer was hiding in Bukharah, Uzbekistan, where he was finally caught on 26 March and brought back to Yemen. He is in custody, awaiting trial in Mareb.

AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 1-4-98.

(Official)

Main Headlines:

1- Meeting deputy speaker of Iraqi parliament, the President stresses Yemen's solidarity with the Iraqi people.

2- Chairman of the Consultative Council received the president of the Arab Monetary Fund to discuss cooperation with Yemen.

3- Attended by Yemeni and international researchers, a conference on Yemen is held in Exeter, Britain.

4- A study is conducted to restructure the Industrial Bank.

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Abstract of the Disclosure

A process for treating unsaturated hydrocarbons comprises subjecting an unsaturated hydrocarbon component to metathesis in the presence of catalyst system. The catalyst system comprises silica, alumina and alkyl tin compound. One or more different hydrocarbons in thus formed.

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Al-Qimma Foods Co. Opens The Third Pizza Hut Restaurant In Yemen

Following the great success of their restaurants in Sanaa and Aden, Al-Qimma Foods Co. & Pizza Hut International have just opened their second restaurant and take-away, outlet at Zubeiri Street in Sanaa. The grand opening was attended by a large number of food connoisseurs and member of the general public.

Yemen Times was there to record this happy occasion and meet some of the people responsible for the Pizza Hut's big achievement.

Mr. Hussein Al-Saggaf, the General Manager, said:

It is quite remarkable that within one year we have been able to open two Pizza Hut restaurants in Sanaa, in addition to the one in Aden. We hope to open more Pizza Hut outlets in the very near future to better serve this beautiful country. This Pizza outlet is



opened after an extensive feasibility study of the Yemen Market, which showed that the prospect are extremely favourable. This encouraged us to go ahead with our plans. "Pizza Hut will certainly contribute to expanding and diversifying the food market in Yemen. The country is witnessing and a large-scale development

process and is opening up to the outside world.

"The new Pizza Hut restaurant is situated on Zubeiri Street, the heart of the Sanaa Commercial Center. It serves the tourists who visit the airline offices in the area, the families who take an evening stroll, and the employees of the several government and private businesses and are around the place.

"The new Pizza Hut outlet is ideal for having lunch after concluding a successful business deal in one of the companies of Zubeiri Street or Hadda Road. It is also excellent for having a family dinner after going shopping in Sana'a.

"In addition to the in-home service and take-away, we'll start providing a pizza-delivery service. The new restaurant on Zubeiri street will be the central

kitchen for the service."

Mr. Tarek Zarkawi, Director of Pizza Hut Operations, in the Middle East said:

"I visit Yemen whenever there is an inauguration of a new place, the launch of a new product or other more mundane procedures. I am very happy to be here today to attend the big opening of the new Pizza Hut restaurant in Sana'a. The new site on Zubeiri Street was chosen after a comprehensive feasibility study by Al-Qimma food Co. they made their recommendation, we visited the site, and agreed to their proposal.

"The most important thing is easy accessibility and customer satisfaction. Then comes the advertising campaign, Al-Qimma Foods Co. has made great efforts to bring this project to fruition. It is really a big civilized step forward.

"I'd like to emphasize here that the Pizza Hut in Yemen is not just another investment scheme, but a real national project. It can be a model of good quality, food, excellent service, hygiene, employment of local labor, and good business management."

Mr. Saeed Ali Maiteb, Food Services Manager, Al-Qimma Food Co. Said:



"Pizza served by Pizza Hut is a wholesome meal, certainly not fast food. A medical study on the special Pick'n'mix Pizza Hut salad has shown that it is very healthy.

"Pizza Hut is a place where one can relax, forget about the pressures of work and see and be seen. It is also a great place for children to enjoy their meals with their Parents. We always stick to our motto 'Experience made for sharing'.

"We attend to open another Pizza Hut branches on other governorates in Yemen such as Taiz by the end of this year, and Hadramout and Hodeidah in the near future. "We started our enterprise almost from zero, and had to overcome many obstacles with the help of friends and officials who want to see more development in this country.

"This Pizza Hut project is not merely an ordinary business, but also reflects a bright image of Yemen to the outside world.

"In Addition to Pizza Hut, Al-Qimma Foods Co. is planning to introduce a number of international food Chain into Yemen. The future for food business certainly seems very promising for Yemen."



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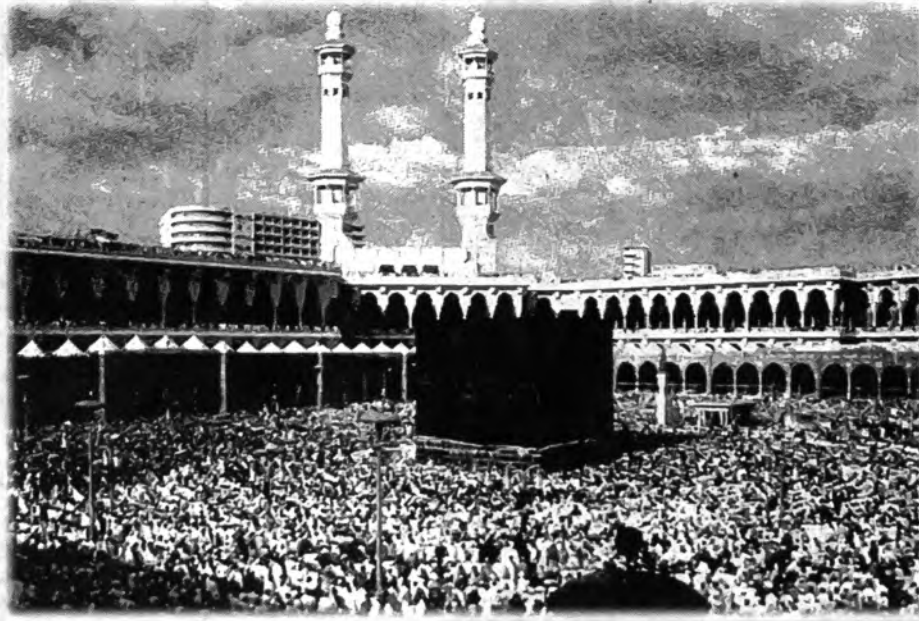
The Government headed by Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim,

the Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husain Al-Ahmer,

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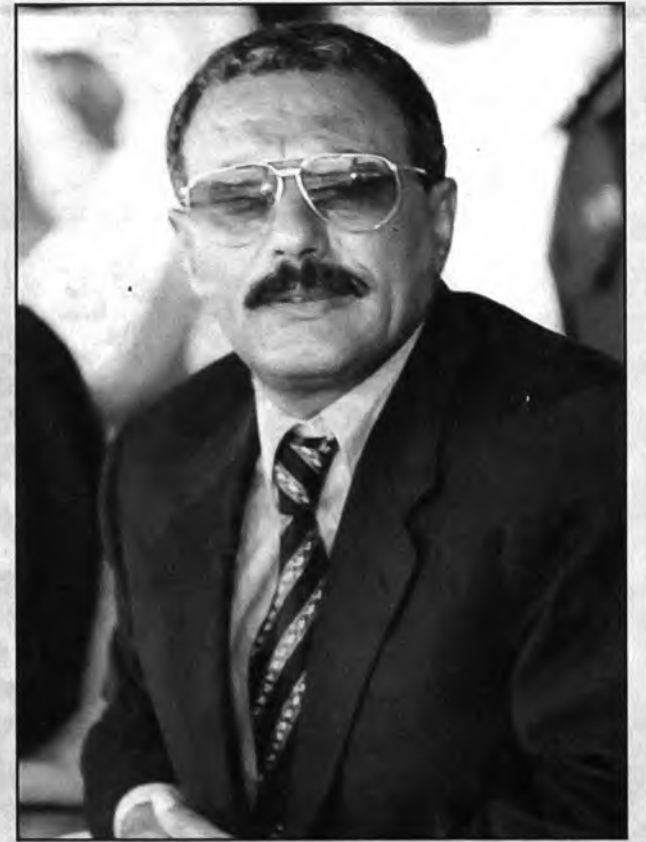
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Palm Tree in Danger: Can Yemen Save It?

Antoog

The Bankauale palm, or "antoog" as it is known in Yemen, exists in only 3 countries in the entire world: Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia. It has very small yellow flowers and produces tiny pea-like black seeds, and is thought to have been left behind from a period several million years ago when all continents were joined up. When these continents broke up, all Bankauale relatives went to Australia or Asia and one species was left behind in this region of the world. Ms. Hilary Welch who had recently visited Yemen to monitor the migration routes of birds of prey is also interested in the conservation of wildlife in all its forms, and the Bankauale in particular. "This palm's closest relative, from the same family but of different species, occurs in the region extending from the Himalayas to Australia," she explained.

Dwindling Numbers

A graphic designer by profession, Hilary and her husband Geoff have studied the trees in Djibouti, counted and mapped them. "We found about 300 in Djibouti and only 50 in Somalia, so it is declining in these countries. The Bankauale is a very important tree because it grows with a long and straight trunk, over 20 m tall when it is fully grown. It is very good for building



Hilary Welch

because it provides a long, straight log. But it is being misused at the moment.

"We counted here 1,400 trees in Wadi Hajar, just west of Mukallah. So Yemen has the most important Bankauale population in the world," said Hilary, adding, "but the thing

that worries us is that there are about 2,000 stumps of the same tree that were cut.

"It is almost considered extinct in Somalia. In Djibouti, the trees are very old and there are very few young ones. So when the old trees die the population will disappear.

"This is the first time that we have information on all 3 sites and can see how very important Yemen is for saving the palm for future generations."

Healthier in Yemen

"In Yemen, there is a lot of young growth and the trees look very healthy, and are growing in damp areas which is

exactly what they need," explained Hilary. The Bankauale needs a damp area because the seeds drop to the ground and where it is moist. There they would germinate and grow. "In Djibouti, for example, the moist areas where the palm grows are also areas that have been developed as gardens for growing vegetables and fruit trees. So the water is

being diverted from the wadi where the palm trees grow and into the gardens. The trees are still growing seeds but there is no moisture in the ground to let them germinate."

However, all the trees Hilary and Geoff had counted in Yemen were about the same age - 10 m tall, which is also the same age as those that are cut. "We'll be writing up what we have found and passing it on to the Environment Protection Council, in the hope that some conservation measures can be made to continue to utilize the palm for building material in a sustainable way. We feel at the moment that in 10 years time all the trees will be gone."

Public Awareness

"There needs to be an awareness of what the Bankauale needs are," announced Hilary. "There needs to be some restriction on how tall the trees are when they are cut down. So that the young ones are not removed." That could be a problem in Yemen where their areas are being rapidly developed. "It is very important to ensure that there are areas



where the palm is allowed to grow and where its wet." Some trees must be left to provide seeds and that they are allowed to grow to maturity. "There also must be some use

of the palm because if people are not allowed to use it they will have no respect for them."

Adel J. Moqbil,
 Yemen Times



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