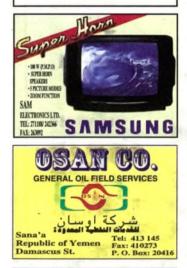


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"There is a visible setback in our democratization effort," a frustrated opposition politician said. He gave examples which he said pointed to a return to 'the old ways'. The Security Apparatus regularly rings up political activists, journalists

Combat TORTURE

Last week, the Human Rights and NGOs Committee of the Consultative Council presented a report on torture at the Hodeidah Investigations Office that shocked the community. It triggered the steps to establish the NCCT, the seed money for which is provided by the



to discuss torture in Yemen. They will launch the National Committee to Combat Torture (NCCT).

and newspapers to harass them

But the main worry is in the fact

that citizens are subjected to

numerous forms of physical and

On April 16th, a number of

intellectuals will meet in Sanaa

psychological abuse.

and there is far less tolerance.

Yemen Times. Members of the legislature and public figures involved in human rights, are founders of the NCCT.



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Israel recently made a number of overtures to Yemen. "Even though the peace talks are stuck, Israel is making these overtures," said a ranking Yemeni official in disbelief. In the past, Yemen had responded positively to Israeli overtures as peace talks made progress. Israel now asks Yemen to ease up on visits (to Yemen) by Jews and Israelis, especially for religious reasons. They also asked the Yemeni authorities to grant the right of automatic over-pass through Yemen's air space. Finally, it asked Yemen to allow telephone calls to Israel to go through. At the moment, one can receive calls from Israel, but can not make them. The Israeli requests were simply ignored. Moreover, Yemen decided to stop any contact that

had existed between Yemeni

and Israeli officials.

Week end Burberrys Burberrys Burberrys Burberrys Burberrys Burberrys

Neekend





Page 2

One of the difficult moments in the life of any person is when he/she comes face to face with an evil person. Some people are so sadistic they are an incarnation of the devil. Indeed, some human beings are more evil than the devil himself. Some of us have met these people, and last week, I came face to face with some of these guys.

Along with two colleagues from the Consultative Council -Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirbi and Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlafi - I went to Hodeidah to investigate reports about torture at the Hodeidah Investigations Office. Although we did not see everything, what we saw was enough to shock us all.

In one case, a person who was brutally beaten up will lose his leg. The doctors concluded that the injuries inflicted during the torture have resulted in gangrene, a disease which will kill the young man if the leg is not amputated.

In another case, the chest of a young man carried the marks of a knife that has been used to draw lines on his body.

In still another case, marks on the ankles and wrists show that a suspect was left hanging from the ceiling for hours.

In this day and age, it is not possible to remain silent when people are exposed to torture. It is against Yemeni law. It is against international law. It is immoral and unethical. It is not acceptable in any religion. YET IT CONTINUES.

The system in Sanaa should not remain aloof on this matter. I don't think that the torture is politically motivated. I also don't believe that President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the senior members of this government are fully aware of what is going on. But that does not relieve them of responsibility.

To torture another human being is probably the worst kind of crime in our modern age. To know that such affliction continues, and to look the other way is also a crime. This is the crime our political leaders commit. They must take immediate

steps to bring an end to such horrendous practices. That is why many of this country's intellectuals and opinion makers are being mobilized. On Thursday April 16th, they will be shown the extent of the crime. They plan to launch the National Committee to Combat Torture.

The donor community and friends of Yemen can help. On the one hand, they can strengthen the investigative and documentation abilities of the National Committee to Combat Torture. At the same time, they can help by training our security officers on how to do interrogation without breaking the law.

Unless the Republic of Yemen takes decisive measures to stop this kind of abuse, its international image and position are bound to suffer. No country in the world would like to be seen as a friend of a regime that condones torture.

On this matter, the whole world is united. The world sees torture is a heinous evil. It should be shunned. Combatting torture requires a clear commitment from our political leadership. Does it have the will to do it?



German Minister to Visit Yemen

The Minister of State in the German Federal Foreign Ministry, Helmut Schäfer, MP, will visit the Republic of Yemen during April 14-17, 1998. The visit of Mr. Schäfer is intended to foster and extraorthan the high foster and strengthen the highpolitical dialogue Yemen and Germany. dialogue ranking between Mr. Schäfer will also visit Aden in order to hold talks there.

During his stay in Yemen, Mr. Schäfer will sign a cultural agreement, which is intended to further consolidate the already excellent bilateral relations.

For Mr. Schäfer, who holds his post as Minister of State since 1987, Yemen is not an unknown territory. He personally met with leading Yemeni personalities. His coming visit is to be seen in the context of a continuing high level dialogue between the two countries, which was highlighted by President Saleh's very successful state visit to Germany in September, 1997.

Plight of Somali Refugees

A group of Somali refugees working under the Taiz Somali Refugee Committee (TSRC) announced in a statement sent to Yemen Times, their intention to sue the UNHCR representative in Yemen. The TSRC claims the UNHCR is 'deliberately 'deliberately neglecting the refugees under the pretext of not having sufficient funds.

The statement also claimed that the TSRC has 'documented evidence of the suffering of Somali refugees in Sanaa, Taiz, Hodeida, Aden and Al-Jaheen camp.' There are around 3,500 Somali refugees in Taiz alone. The statement accused the local UNHCR office in Taiz of failing to perform its duties,' and reiterated its intention to file a law suit against this United Nations organization.

Journalists Interrogated Three of Al-Thawri's (mouthpiece of the Yemen Socialist Party) top journalists were interrogated by the Press and Publications Prosecutor Office because of a number of articles they had written. The chief editor, Abdulbari Taher, and two columnists-Mansoor Hayil and Abdulraheem Mohsin - were questioned by the prosecutor for many hours on several consecutive days at the end of March. "We were accused of 'spreading sectarianism and for being against the basic national principles," one of the journalists told Yemen Times.

The case will be later referred to court.

Many observers are worried that the regime is now penalizing journalists for their ideas and for what they write. "This is a serious deterioration in press freedom," said Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee in the Consultative Council, who case on behalf of the journalists. The Journalists' Syndicate, which is in a state of dormancy, has yet to announce its position.

Thawabit's 2nd Economic Conference:

Experts Say Yemen's Economic Reforms Are on the Right Track

Thawabit Magazine sponsors a conference 3-day economic which promises to bring out exciting details. Yemeni and foreign experts will present 36 studies on various aspects of the Yemeni economy.

Thawabit is a quarterly journal devoted to culture, development, and politics. It is edited by a number of Yemen's leading economists, political analysts, and intellectuals.

This is the second economic conference to be organized by the Thawabit quarterly. The first was successfully held in May, 1995. The list of Yemeni and international participants in the upcoming conference is formidable.

The first session will be mainly on the experiences of economic reform in the developing countries. The governor of the Central Bank of Egypt and the former governor of the Central Bank of Jordan will share with the other participants, the experiences of the respective countries.

Also among the participants, will be Mr. Onder Sud, the head of the Middle East department at the World Bank. The Yemeni experience will be presented by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council and former prime minister.

The second session of the conference will be chaired by Dr. Qais Ghanim Noman. The papers will cover such diverse topics as structural adaptation, World

Starting on the 18th of April, Bank and IMF conditions, economic reform and the media, and population indicators with respect to the economic reform program. Chaired by the Foreign Minister,

Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, the third session will cover the issues of economic development in Yemen, the effects of liberalizing the prices of goods and services, and the effects of lifting subsidies off petroleum products.

On the second day and during the fourth session, the topic to be discussed by the participants will include economic reform and restructuring, the lack of local resources, food security, and planning and market economy.

The relationship between the economic reform inside Yemen and the outside world is the theme of the fifth session. Chaired by former prime minister Mohsin Al-Aini, this session will include the topics of international support of the economic reform program in Yemen, globalization, economic reform trends in Yemen, foreign trade, and foreign debt rescheduling and settlement.

Later on in the evening of the second day of the conference, the sixth session will revolve around financial and monetary policies. The first paper during this session will be presented by Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf on evaluating the monetary and financial aspects of the economic reform program. Other papers will cover such subjects as the economic and social effect of Yemeni currency flotation, the role of the banking in financial and administrative reforms, the dynamics of economic reform,

and controlling inflation. The third day will only see one evening session, in which the participants wil discuss com'ating poverty, soci l security olicies, the effect of public eppenditure on social services, and the best possible means to activate the role of women in in plementing the economic reform program.

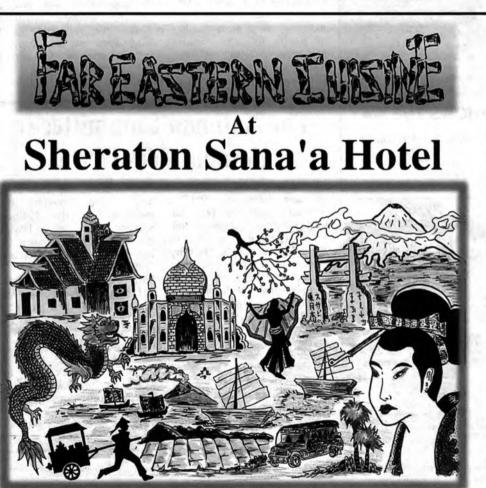
On the last day, Monday 20 April, the eighth session will be chaired by the Minister of Planning, Mr. Abdulkader Ba-Jammal. Discussion topics will include the effects of economic reform on investments in Yemen, the future of investments, the privatization program, and the role of the private sector in the economic reform program.

Under the theme of politics and administration, the ninth session will witness the presentation of papers on legislative reform, administrative reform, the role of the political will in the administrative reform, the political dimensions of economic reform, and the policy of managing the rate of exchange mechanism in Yemen.

Last but not least, there will be a mini book fair accompanying the Second Economic Conference, which will include a large number of the Thawabit publications. There will also be Internet and e-mail services.

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Four New Oil Agreements The Council of Ministers recently ratified four new concessions with international oil companies: 1- Trans-South Canada in the S1 Block (4480 sq.km) in Damas, Shabwa:

2- Mol of Hungary in Block 48 north of Mukallah, Hadhramaut; 3- Petro-Teos International Inc. in Block 15 (13,040 sq.km), in Mukallah, Hadhramaut; and 4- British Oil, Gas, and Mining Co. in Block 41 (7,342 sq.km) west of Mukallah, Hadhramaut. The Council of Ministers also reviewed a draft agreement with the British company to prospect for oil in Block 47 (7,606 sq.km) in Hadhramaut.

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Nada Ahmed:

"The outdated view of society towards the nursing profession will have to change."

The profession of nursing, somehow, refuses to take off. In spite of the early start of Yemeni women in this field, the number of Yemeni nurses has not grown in an adequate way.

Part of the reason is the worldwide reputation of nurses as easygoing. This, in part, is based on the direct contact of nurses with their patients and the odd hours of their work. Such a reputation, generally, unjustified, has hurt the growth potential of careers in this field.

Another reason is that nurses are not adequately paid. A nurse would receive less than US\$ 100 per month. Although the Yemeni Government is willing to pay foreign nurses three or four times that much, it continues to be stingy in paying local nurses. As a result, supply dwindled.

Today, there is a serious effort being made to train and qualify Yemeni nurses - both males and females. Ms. Nada Ahmed, a demonstrator at the Nursing Department, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Sanaa, is one of the people who eagerly promote this profession.

Nada studied nursing for 4 years. After she graduated, she had six months of training at various departments of the Jumhooria Hospital in Sanaa. She now supervises the work of other nurses at local hospitals.

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

about the Nursing Department at the College of Medicine?

A: The Department of Nursing was established six years ago. The annual number of graduates rose from about 15 students to 95 over 4 batches.

The nursing curricula are a carryover from those of Alexandria University. Most of the teaching staff are Sudanese. There are also Iraqi and Egyptian teachers. Few are Yemeni.

O: What problems do female nurses face working in Yemeni hospitals?

A: They are not well paid, to start with. There are no incentives to speak of, despite the fact that their work is very hard. The pay is just not equal to the amount of effort we make. Upon graduating, a nurse would get YR. 8,200 per month. In private hospitals, the minimum salary is around YR. 10.000.

There are also some problems with the hospital's administration, which differ from one hospital to another.

Doctors usually do not give nurses their due respect and authority. They do not recognize them as qualified colleagues to cooperate with. Health work should be an integrated, bringing the efforts and participation of

Q: Could you briefly tell us doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, etc. The Ministry of Health does not

provide a job description to specify the exact roles of nurses. As a result, graduates of the nursing institute and those from the College of Medicine have different roles.

Q: Is every new nursing graduate guaranteed a job in the public sector?

A: The government is not obliged to offer jobs to the new graduates, nor are the graduates compelled to work for the government. It is a free market.

Q: What is the difference between the Nursing Depart-ment at the College of Medicine and the Nursing Institute?

A: Secondary graduates join the institute to study for two years, raised now to 3. They study in Arabic. At the Department of Nursing, we are talking about a full college program of four years, and education is mainly in English.

Graduates of the institute sometimes resent the fact that college graduates are above them, and immediately get a higher post.

Some patients refuse to give information about their health conditions to the students. They resent being a teaching aid. They say that they come to the hospital there any problems in this regard?

A: Admission policy is made by the College of Medicine and Health Sciences. Enrollment into the Nursing Department was suspended for two years because of lack of teaching staff. Yemeni staff are not given the chance to train or get scholarships. Reliance on foreign staff costs a lot in terms of hard currency. But, the college has failed to attract even the foreign staff.

The Nursing Department is not mentioned in the college's prospectus. So would-be students do not know there is actually a

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Q: Do nursing students have the chance to do postgraduate studies?

A: There are no scholarships to study abroad and no postgraduate program for nursing in Yemen.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I hope that the backward view of society towards the nursing profession would change. The stigma attached to the our profession must be eradicated. Many people in Yemen and the Middle East in general view nursing as a lowly profession - the exact opposite of what it actually is. Nurses in the West are regarded with high esteem. Remember Florence Florence Nightingale, who entered history through her humanitarian deeds.

Nursing is one of few professions open to women. It must be encouraged.

Juffali

6

nursing department.

suspension of enrollment consisted of 30 students, much below the target number of 75. Sometimes, lectures are irregular or

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Q: What is admission policy of the Nursing Department? Are

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Page 3

O: What difficulties do you face in dealing with patients? A: Informed patients are gener-**World Bank Supports**



uneducated or rural patients are Some patients are right because somewhat difficult. They somegroups of students come to times refuse certain types of medexamine them too often. ication. They often do not fully adhere to the doctors' instruc-

Q: Do nursing students do practical training?

tions.

A: Yes, but the Kuwait Educational Hospital where medical and nursing students do their internships is not well equipped to be an educational hospital. It has few departments and small wards, which are not sufficient for receiving medical and nursing students. There is always overcrowding. Students just do not have ample chance to practice what they have learned at the college.

Some hospital administrators and doctors do not fully cooperate with intern students. In fact, some of them deal roughly with the students. They just see them as a nuisance.

Preparations for

Water & Sanitation Projects

The Minister of Electricity and Water, Mr. Ali Hameed Sharaf has been successful in securing a \$350 million from the World Bank. The money will be used to finance water and sewage projects in Sanaa and in other areas in urgent need of such projects

The World Bank has agreed to announce the tenders before completing the usual offer procedures. This will save 5 to 7 months off the set implementation period of 2 years, said a statement issued by the National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWSA).

An agreement was signed on 16 March to start work on designs for the Western Akma sewage system, water grid in Hasaba, and finding a solution for the Al-Joraf water system. The tender will for these projects will be announced within a month. The \$35 million soft loan will be given over a period of 3 or 4 stages up to the year 2020.

Complementary **Elections**

A special two-day course was started on Saturday 11 March to train the chiefs and members of elections sub-committees in constituencies number 93. 204, 238, and 283.

Lectures given to the 453 participants at the course concentrated on explaining the way to fill in elec-tions forms, in accordance with Law No. 27 of 1996, and the executive guide to the polling regulatory charter.

Parliamentary seats at these four constituencies are currently vacant either because of the death of the MPs concerned or because of problems surrounding the original polling process in April, 1997. Complementary elections will soon be held.

Observers noted that candidates at all the above consistencies are either members of the ruling People's General Congress or people affiliated with it, who registered as independent candidates. Opposition parties did not bother to nominate any of their members.



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"Yemen is a viable destination for international tourism. But a good promotion campaign is necessary."

Yemen participated during 6-11 March in the ITB international exhibition on tourism in Berlin and in the BIT exhibition in Milan, Italy, during 25 March - 1 April. A number of Yemeni tourist companies, tour operators, travel agents, airlines representatives, and promoters of tourism took part in the two exhibitions. Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief, Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, met Mr. John Vouillamoz, General Manager of Aden Movenpick Hotel, and talked about the prospects of tourism in Yemen.

Page 4

Q: In your opinion, how effective is it to use international fairs to promote tourism? A: According to my experience, the participation in international tourism fairs is an excellent way to promote a country; a destination as well as tourism program. Most important travel agents, airlines and tourism-related organizations attend these fairs. During the last decade, many countries realized the benefits generated by tourism.



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The investments to create attractive tourist destinations, and the efforts that have been made to promote markets have made the competition global and fierce. Countries that neglect to invest in marketing or that do not participate in inter-national fairs are generally relegated to second rank, and lose their shares in the world market.

Q: How do you evaluate the effort made to promote Yemen at the BIT Milan and the ITB Berlin?

A: I do believe that the efforts put together by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the Public Authority for Tourism, Yemenia and the main hotels and tour operators in Yemen (13 in Milan and 16 in Berlin) were good, though some points would have to be considered for the next fairs. These include the following:

a) Better preparation and pre-fair marketing;

b) Active participation and involvement of tourist destinations such as Ibb, Hodeida, Hadhramaut and others;

c) The creation of cultural events parallel to the international fairs.

Yemen has a lot of interesting aspects that attract tourists. There is the history and ancient sites for those who love the past. There are the mountains, valleys and other terrain for hiking. There are the shores and islands for swimming, diving and snorkeling. There are the deserts for adventure travellers. There are the traditional customs and folklore for those who enjoy different social values. There are many attractions on which we can capitalize,

Q: How did your hotel promote Yemen?

A: Being one of the main participants under the Yemeni flag, we made many contacts prior to the fairs. Most interested were the Italians, Germans and travel agents from other European countries. Active promotion of the cultural aspects of Yemen were made. We discussed tourist programs and itineraries, emphasizing Aden which had been pre-viously neglected. Folklore events and beach activities were highlighted.

Q: What are the difficulties that you confront? A: After one and a half years in Yemen, and based on my past experiences in other countries, I must say that so far I haven't encountered any major problems that I could not overcome. I have experienced good relations with officials at Aden Governorate, the Tourism Authorities and other government bodies. Even then, I would like to raise two points, as follows:

a) The difficulties in adapting to frequent changes and amendments to the laws;

b) The difficulties in meeting the needs of an increasing number of visitors to Aden (business and leisure guests).

Q: What do you advise to promote Yemen as a tourist destination?

A: In my opinion, different points must be considered in order to develop the tourism sector. a) Security and safety of tourists is a first priority. Security problems should be addressed immediately, in order to avoid bad media coverage. b) Infrastructure for tourists should be developed, and product quality control should be implemented for all tourist-related service companies. This has to do with hotels, restaurants, resorts, museums, etc.

c) International flight connections either with Yemenia or other airlines to Sanaa and Aden should be increased.

d) Finally, as Yemen is considered a cultural destination, further effort should be made to promote it as such. Resort development should be reinforced in order to offer combined programs and increase the length of stay of tourists.

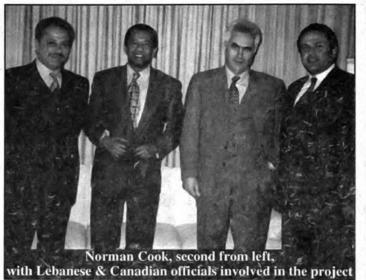


CIDA Brings Parliamentarians and NGOs Together

It is based on a model the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) success fully implemented in Lebanon. In collaboration with a local Lebanese NGO - the Forum, CIDA has carried out a major awareness package on the workings of parliament and NGOs. "The project aims to increase the level of understanding as to the role and functions of these two critical institutions in a democratic system, said Dr. Norman Cook, Director of NGOs and Special Initiatives at CIDA.

The project also calls for learning from other democratic experiences. "That is why we brought in a number of Canadian members of parliament who are of Lebanese extract," Mr. Cook added.

The project takes into account the various religious and geographic affiliations and sensitivities in Lebanon, and tries to bring harmony and synergy to the interrelationship. Over the last two years since its inception, the project has done very well.



We hope to be able to replicate this project in Yemen," an enthu-siastic Cook said. He has his eyes set on ways and means for CIDA to help in Yemen's democratization process.

We will visit Sanaa during mid-June, 1998, in order to find projects and partners.

CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

Page 5

The Inter-University Committee of Yemen invites interested candidates to apply for master's level studies in Canada. Applicants must have a B.A. with a "Very Good" graduation score, good command of English or French languages, and must pass the test and interview organized by the Committee. The scholarships are financed by CIDA. Applicants must submit all relevant documents to: Mr. Jamal Al-Awadhi, The Consultative Council, Sanaa, Phone: (01) 276-722

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Continued from page 1:

Yemen & Saudi Arabia...

But, as the political roller coaster between Yemen and Saudi Arabia continues, and as the trip gets close to its final destination, many Yemeni politicians are gripped with fear. "How much has the political leadership of Yemen given away?" is a question that many ask. In fact, some opposition figures have openly and repeatedly stated that they will refuse any agreement between Yemen and Saudi Arabia that does not satisfy the basic requirements of the country.

The important milestones in the border talks were achieved in 1997. During the final quarter of 1997, many observers saw that the Yemen and the Republic of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have finally reached a solution for their border dispute. Senior officials from the two sides told the media that a solution was in the works actually in its final stages, and that an announcement on this matter was imminent. The high point to the positive developments was the tete-a-tete meetings in Italy between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and HRH Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense

The Yemeni authorities are considering the matter. "We are interested in building trust and good neighborly relations with Saudi Arabia. For Yemen, that is far more valuable than a few kilometers," said Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, Speaker of parliament, Head of the Islah Party, and Paramount Leader of the powerful Hashed Tribal Confederation. "It is not a matter of how much one can wring out of a neighbor. It is a matter of learning to be good neighbors and to interact productively for the mutual benefit of the two sides," a source in the Foreign Ministry echoed. "That is new language out of the Foreign Ministry. You can read how much close they have come to an agreement from that language," is how an opposition politician reacted.

Indeed, most Yemenis will agree it is not a matter of a few kilometers. But, at the end of the day. the citizens of Yemen will assess the agreement in terms of what is in it for them. All the political talk is secondary. Yemenis are interested in an economic break

If President Ali Abdullah Saleh does not deliver on this point, he is asking for trouble by signing the agreement with Saudi Arabia. As one citizen in a gat chew put it. We and the Saudis are brothers. But the Saudis should understand by now, it is not enough to pay off the politicians. They should consider economic arrangements that will create good will among the Yemeni public." At another level, time is running out. If an agreement is not concluded between Yemen and Saudi Arabia before the middle of 1998. the Yemenis will be pushed to follow other recourses to resolve the border problem with Saudi Arabia. International arbitration has been mentioned as one alternative. There are two more alternatives, according to informed sources, who would not say, what they are.

Then something went wrong and the talks hit a snag. Not only did the two sides fail to make the final move, they started accusing each other.

Up to date, no one can tell what happened. Nobody knows exactly what went wrong, but the reading on the Yemeni side is that HRH Prince Nayif Bin Abdulaziz, Minister of Interior, took an extreme position. He thus pushed the talks to the back burner, for some time

Six months down the road, it is now clear that the two sides have finally worked out the small differences that persisted here and there. There is now agreement even in the eastern frontiers along the Empty Quarter.

There is still a little problem around the Al-Thar mountain. The Saudis, wary of the uncomfortable proximity of Najran city to the border, are pushing the border another five kilometers south.

At the end of it all, however, the majority of Yemenis are hopeful and keen on a peaceful and productive solution. Keep your fingers crossed.

Because you deserve the best





This is an **OPINION** page.

Page D

Every week, a different intellectual writes a FOCUS on a pertinent issue!

Role of State in a Traditional Society



The role of the state is a dynamic process. It is directly linked to social traditions, economic changes and technological innovations. To take the history of Europe as an example, the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution brought about radical changes in the role of the state. Before that, the role of the state was essentially simple, whether it was a city state or an empire.

By the end of World War I, the role of the state began to take on what might be called an international character. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the Ottoman Empire, and Imperial China and Japan were trying to adjust to the new role of the state which originated

in 19th century Europe. After World War I, the Russian revolution created a new role for the state under the ideological thesis of scientific socialism, democratic centralism and centrally planned economies. This was in sharp contrast to democratic liberalism, freedom of the By: Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Minister of Foreign Affairs

press, free and fair elections and a free market economic system. The great struggle between these two roles began in earnest after World War II and lasted from 1950 to 1991 when the great failure predicted by Zbigniew Brzezniski (in his book The Grand Failure: The Birth and Death of Communism in the 20th Century) occurred earlier than he had predicted. The USSR began to disintegrate in 1992.

It is worth noting that most of the states in the so-called Third World which emerged during the 1950s and 1970s, had adopted the Russian style in various degrees, particularly the one-party system and centrally planned economy. In today's world, the role of the state is steadily becoming almost universal. The socio-economic goals are dominated by liberalization, privatization, global-ization and freely floating ization and freely floating national currencies. The political role of the state is now dominated by democratization, free and fair elections, good governance and the protection of human rights. So the universal role of the state at the advent of the 21st century can be summarized as follows:

1. Fostering the rule of law and individual as well as collective security of its citizens. 2. Maintaining an independent judiciary.

3. Adopting a stable economic policy, freeing the economy from distortions and combating corruption.

Enhancing democracy or democratization and popular participation in free and fair elections.

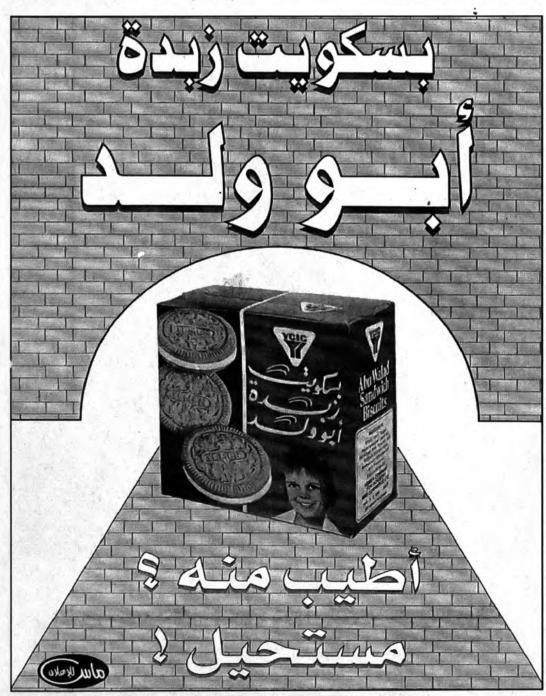
5. Judicious use of national wealth with special attention to disadvantaged groups in society. 6. Directing state resources to investment in social services (health, education and welfare) and infrastructure projects.

7. Protection of the environment. 8. Protection of human rights.

Of course, we all know that these functions will not be applied in a vacuum nor are they applied with the same yardstick in all our societies. The nature of the society, its heritage, demographic constitution, level of economic development and prevalence of state institutions all greatly affect the role of the state, assuming that such a state wishes to adhere to the above principles.

Now let us look at the most important aspects of Yemeni society which make up the milieu in which economic, social and developments political take place.

First, we can all agree that Yemen has a traditional society. We may not agree on the aspects traditionalism and their of



relative impact on economic and political developments. In my view, the most important aspects of Yemeni society are:

1. Legacies 2. Statehood

- Settlement Religious values
- Tribalism
- 6. Demographic homogeneity 7. Minimal social stratification

and general social mobility.

These aspects all effect development. Let me dwell on each characteristic, as follows:

1. Legacies:

The legacy of Yemen's ancient civilization has its influence in Yemeni society even today. The earliest records of Yemeni civilization date back to the second millennium B.C. Meanwhile, extensive records of prehistoric human activities are being discovered at several historic sites. These records may prove that ancient Yemeni civilization represents a continuum of human existence of the same ethnic origin until today. It is now well established that Yemeni civilization flourished in parallel with those of the Nile Valley and Mesopotamia. However, the advent of Islam in Yemen did not lead to lingual and cultural substitution as it did in the Nile Valley and Mesopotamia. Therefore traditional continuity is a hallmark of Yemeni society.

2. Nationhood:

This aspect of Yemeni tradition is very important in maintaining territorial Yemeni integrity during the weakness of central authority. The traditional feeling of nationhood or statehood has protected Yemen from disintegration during periods of internal conflict. One hundred and thirty years of British colonialism did not lead to diversion among Yemeni social and tribal links or to the evolution of two distinct states. The institution of statehood is deeply rooted in Yemeni history. Pre-Islamic states of Saba, Qataban, Hadhramaut and Himyar created a deep-rooted tradition of statehood. Yemen was the first country to regain its statehood during the early Abbasyd period of Islamic caliphs who ruled the entire Islamic world, except

Andalusia. 3. Sedentary Population:

The settled nature of Yemeni society plays an important role in all aspects of Yemeni development. Unlike the situation which existed in Northern Arabia or even in the neighboring African states, Yemenis are neither nomadic nor pastoral. Ninety percent of the population live in permanent dwellings and the majority are still subsistence farmers.

4. Religious Values:

Like most developing Muslim societies, religious values are extremely important in the state's efforts toward modernization. The impact of religious values is

dants of Qahtan, while people of requisite for the evolution of a north Arabia are claimed to be civil society. descendants of Adnan. Uncertain as these divisions may be, demographic homogeneity remains a notable fact of Yemeni society. 7. Minimal Stratification and High Social Mobility:

Many ancient societies are characterized by a high degree of stratification (India is the strongest example). It is my view that despite its long history of human settlement that dates back to at least the Bronze Age, the Yemeni society did not evolve the institution of social strat-

ification. One can say that tribalism is the antithesis of social stratification. Similarly, Yemeni society is char-

acterized by unimpeded social mobility compared with ancient Asian societies. Perhaps, the dominant role of trade and migration in Yemen's history is the reason for this phenomenon.

I shall summarize very briefly my own assessment of the impact of the traditional aspects of Yemeni society on economic and political development. Traditional as it is, Yemeni society is characterized by openness, i.e., it is an extroverted society, if that is the right phrase. I think the mercantile heritage and migration have fostered this character. Therefore, modern development and modern means of production are readily accepted and quickly learned and adopted. I hope that those of you who have dealt with rural development in Yemen would agree.

Nevertheless, one can't easily dismiss the constraints that these traditional aspects put on economic development. It is clear that religious values and tribalism have affected the role of women. Women are the most deprived group in our society. However, my general conclusion is that traditionalism has not really been a serious barrier to economic development.

Now, let me go to the second topic of this important symposium, namely democracy. Yemen is a country committed to democracy and is undergoing a democratization process, i.e. it is a nascent democracy. This com-mitment to democracy was a very important catalyst in realizing Yemen's unity. It was also a unifying factor in fighting the

secessionist effort of 1994. Despite Yemen's commitment to democracy, Yemen, like all emerging democratic states, is faced with real challenges that must be overcome in order to become a fully fledged constitutional democracy. These challenges are :

1. A low standard of living. The per capita income of less than US \$400.

is now undergoing a radical restructuring. 3. Weak constitutionality. Education is going to be an important

2. A weak economic system. This

5. Weak parliamentary traditions. Parliament has not yet established its own traditions of being a regulatory and inspecting institution. This role is still very weak. 6. Lack of continued voter

interest. This is especially visible following an enthusiastic participation in voting.

7. Lack of participatory tradition in public life. One can see this from the weak interest in protection of shared (public) property.

Sparse existence of state institutions relative to t e size of the population. Yemen nas one of the lowest numbers of law enforce ment officers and upporting jud' ciary in the world. 'n a dictato al regime, these instrutions are a means of oppression. However in an emerging democracy, they are needed for fostering huma rights and creating a civil society.

With regard to constraints that may be imposed by various aspects of Yemeni traditions on democratization, I may surprise you by claiming that at this stage of democratic development, these traditional aspects have not constrained either men's or women's participation during elections. However, there are only two women in the 301 members of parliament. But, such a result is not unique to traditional societies. We all know the limited role of women in European democracies up until the fourth quarter of this century.

My final comment about the above listed challenges Yemen's democratization is that we all know that this is an evolutionary process. The most important factor is continuity of commitment to democratization. An emerging democracy may be plagued with many shortcomings, it may not be fully free and fair and it may even be corrupt. However, democracy is endowed with a self-repair system.

We must admit that several democratization processes were abolished in the Arab World under the pretext of corrupt practices. Some have come back and some are still absent.

To cite an example, I asked a Jor-danian friend in 1989 how the parliamentary elections were going after more than 20 years of absence. He expressed surprise that the candidates didn't seem to change any of their improper campaign practices. They are doing the same as they did before. My comment is that this proves that only continuity will correct these shortcomings.

The above lecture was the opening speech at the conference on "Yemen: The Challenge of Social, Economic and Democratic Development" organized by the Center for 4. The conflict between tradi- Arab Gulf Studies at the Unitional and modern legal systems. versity of Exeter, Exeter, UK,

most stark regarding the role of women. The woman's share in education, employment and public life is one of the lowest in the world.

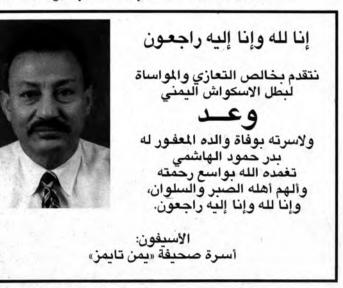
5. Tribalism:

Tribalism in Yemen is as old as Yemeni civilization. It is, in fact, an institution with its rules and regulations. Tribes are divided on a genealogical basis. Yemen's modern history has been dominated by the activity of northern tribes, whether during resistance to the Ottoman rule or the war between the Republicans and the Royalists. However, it is my view that tribalism is a rural institution. It is being weakened by education, modernization and urbanization.

6. Demographic Homogeneity: Yemeni society, ancient as it is, demographically homois geneous. There are no ethnic divisions. In fact, the people in Yemen are claimed to be descen-

factor in this regard.

A modern legal system is a pre- during 1-4 April, 1998.



BUSINESS ECONOMY

"Rural women's products have no markets."

Ahlam Al-Mutawakil, Yemen Times

Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in collaboration with the Dutch project to support the Directorate of Rural Women Development at the Ministry, a training course was held in Sanaa from 31 March to 2 April.

An exhibition of handicrafts by rural women also accompanied the course, which was attended by representatives of rural women directorates in the republic.

In the discussions and debates, the participants stressed the importance of planning special projects for rural women. They demanded that the relevant official and NGO bodies provide the necessary backing. The participants then proceeded to specify the types of projects made. "This causes a lot of frus-required, their goals, and the tration and disappointment for possible outcomes.

Ms. Fat'hya Arshed, the head of the Directorate of Rural Women Development in Lahaj, later told the Yemen Times, "This course has been too short to cover all the relevant topics. I hope that similar courses will be held in the near future, and the recommendations will be implemented in all villages." Indeed, it was learned that the Ministry and the Dutch planning other similar are endeavors.

The participants noted that the activities of rural women are alike in most parts of the country. They also noted that the obstacles facing the development of rural women are also similar. Key among these obstacles is the difficulty to market their products, whether agricultural or hand-

tration and disappointment for the women. They need marketing outlets and credit facilities, insisted a Taiz participant.

That is why most of the discussion soon focussed on the need to start small projects and to provide them with agricultural and marketing facilities. Many projects for women that are operational, already have a lot of products piled up awaiting to be marketed.

Some women have abandoned their activities of traditional handicrafts for lack of markets. One problem is transportation, another is inventory, a third, is credit facility, and a fourth, is book-keeping. In addition, there is the need to coordinate the products sent to the market, because these projects tend to produce the same goods for a



limited market demand. Women complained about the

lack of transportation facilities to their produce to town take markets.

There must be more encourcoordination and agement through the Directorate of Rural Women Development at the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant bodies," said Ms. said Ms. Fat'hya Arshed.

After the deliberations, the following recommendations were made:

- The Ministry of Agriculture should exert efforts for the return of the properties and assets that were taken from the Directorate

of Rural Women Development by other governmental bodies.

Page 7

The Directorate of Rural Women Development will further prepare the projects discussed and suggested by the participants and submit them to the Ministry of Agriculture.

3- Rural women are to be encouraged to join agricultural cooperatives.

More opportunities (and authority) must be given to the rural development offices in the governorates to practice their activities independently from the agricultural offices.

Calgary Kids Get a Glimpse of Yemen

"Yemen is located in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula."

"Enjoying qat and smoking a water pipe are Yemeni tradi-tions."

Extraordinary old houses and buildings still remain."

National heroes and heroines such as the Queen of Sheba played an important role in emen's history."

Those are some quotes from the project of the young Graydon Glans. With such creative description of Yemen, 10-year Graydon presented his country report last February to his classmates at Marion Carson Elementary School in Calgary.

The report was based on his trip to Yemen, which gave the young lad an almost insider look of Yemen. Most children in the West don't know much about Yemen. Reports like these help to dispel inaccurate myths about Arabs in general and humanize them to Western societies. Children are very impressionable, they believe what adults tell them. Many adults are ignorant and see all Arabs as terrorists. They do not see them as generous and loving or even as people like themselves. It is important that children learn that Arabs are people just like them, because they are the future. If the children grow up knowing the truth about Arabs, many of the inaccurate myths and wrong perceptions will slowly disappear and relations of Arabs with the rest of the world will improve. That is why the report of Graydon, in its little way, is a helpful instrument for better understanding. The children of Grade 5 were absorbed as Graydon gave details of many aspects of Yemeni life, customs and culture. He noticed that Yemenis eat only with their right hands. He says, "This is because Islamic tradition considers the left By Beshara Taher, YT.



hand unclean."

Graydon especially liked going to the spice markets. He calls it a "big thrill." He was amazed at all the different goodies such as myrrh, frankincense, cinnamon, coriander, coffee, curry, nutmeg and much more. He described the traders as they haggle over prices. He advises shoppers, "Do try to negotiate a price, as prices are not set in the Old City." He then goes to the old days, when spices and silk were transported through Yemen by following the trail of the wise men, the Spice and Silk Routes. He also described the Yemeni flag, telling what each stripe means. "The red, white and black stripes on the flag symbolize courage, generosity and historic Islamic conquests. The emblem of the Republic of Yemen is the eagle, which symbolizes the strength and liberty of the

First General Conference of Yemeni NGOs

Organized by: The Inter-NGO Committee Т Sponsored by: The Consultative Council's NGOs Committee, CIDA, EU, UNDP Sanaa: 16-18 June, 1998

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:

Tuesday June 16th: 1998:

08:00 -Registration 09:30 - 10:30 **Inauguration Session** Welcome Address by: - Patron of the Conference Representatives of the Sponsors, - Representatives of the Organizing Committee 10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee Break** 11:00 - 13:00 Reading & Commenting on the Draft of the NGO Law Chairperson: Dr. Tareq Sinan Abu Luhum: Chairman, Reform Society for Charitable Welfare

Panelists:

- Ali Saleh Abdullah, Deputy Minister of Social Affairs,

- Dr. Rashad Al-Rassas, Deputy Minister of Legal Affairs

- Representatives of the Inter-NGO Committee for Drafting the NGO Law.

General Discussion and Approval of the Final Draft of the NGO Law 16:00 - 18:30

Wednesday June 17th: 1998:

09:00 - 10:30 The Changing Role of NGOs: Challenges and Opportunities: Chairperson: Dr. Wahiba Ghalib Fare', President, Arwa University Panelists:

- Dr. Omar Sagheer, Chairman, Yemeni Ornithological Society: "Raising Environmental Awareness"

- Mr. Hamood Munassar, Secretary-General, YIDD, "The Right of the Public to Know"

- Ms. Amatal-Aleem Al-Susuwah, Chairperson, National Women's Committee, "Empowering Women in Politics" 10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 - 13:00 Partners from Overseas: Case Studies Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirbi, Chairman of the People's Welfare Society Chairperson: Panelists:

- Dr. Norman Cook, Director-General for NGOs and Special Initiatives, CIDA

- Dr. Amadeo Brusasco, Coordinator of NGO Projects, European Commission

- Representatives of International NGOs Working in Yemen.

16:00 - 18:30 The Role of Grass-Roots NGOs in Yemen's Coming Local (Municipal) Elections Chairperson: Dr. Abdullah Barakat, Chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee,

Panelists:

- Head of the Political Division, People's General Congress Party - Head of the Political Division, Islah Party,

- Head of the Political Division, Yemeni Socialist Party,

- Head of the Political Division, Nasserite Unionist Party

Thursday June 18th: 1998:

09:00 - 11:00 **Transparency and Accountability in NGOs** Chairperson: Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saggaf, Hadharem Welfare Association Panelists:

Fares A. Sanabani: "Step-by-step Guidelines in Report Writing for NGO Projects."
Mohammed Zohdi Mejanni; "Proper Book-keeping Procedures in NGO Activities."
11:00 - 12:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS:

Notes:

- Some 250 Yemeni NGOs and about 50 international NGOs are expected to attend this conference.

- Arrangements for side meetings and bilateral/multilateral project discussions may be made.
- Languages of Conference: Arabic and English

- Some of the sponsors and panelists have yet to be confirmed.

For more information, please contact: Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee, Consultative Council, Phone: (01) 276-772

nation." What Graydon remembers most are "The bulging cheeked men chewing the tender green qat leaves every afternoon, old men with weathered faces proudly displaying their traditional jambiyas and intricately designed 400-year old houses in the Old City. That's what Yemen is!"

The report is full of pictures. maps and other illustrations.



Dieting & the Media: AN ASSOCIATION THAT CREATES A UNIFORM LIVING STYLE WORLDWIDE

If people in Yemen are generally thin and slim, a good question would be why talk about dieting. But the public should already be aware of the fact that there are plenty of fat, 'healthy' people as well as thin undernourished bodies which have lent them-selves to stereotypes that we always keep in mind. A good food diet also means

Page 8

keeping a balanced nutritional level of carbohydrates, fats and proteins as well as vitamins. This means not to indulge in high fat foods like steaks or plates rich in cholesterol like cooked shrimp, both of which might be very appealing taste-wise but dangerous in the long run for thin and fat people alike.

The primary reason why the romance between diet centers around the world and the media began is to keep the people informed of a good nutritional intake regardless of their weight and with an accent on particular culprits like low fiber and high fat diets.

Low fat diets were popular in the 80s and 90s. The tendency to



keep slim by reducing fat and carbohydrate intakes has become the norm now for many years. Is this a fad or will this trend continue into the next century? Not only will consumers become more aware of the hazards of eating the 'wrong' foods but will also be exposed to an ever increasing health food consciousness which pushes more fiber and vitamins into the diet and even reintroduces certain natural food diets which are low in cholesterol, culprit number one in the health watcher's diet.

In the past couple of decades. have people been concentrating on cholesterol because of the media, but if thinks one carefully, it is easy

remember

food programs pushing unsaturated fat diets, the introduction of margarine based products on the market and the increased use of

vegetable shortening in baking. Has butter died out because of the media's play on alternatives? Hardly! Traditional food experts advocate that a regular but nonexcessive use of butter is hardly dangerous to the organism which needs a certain amount of fat for body insulation and as an energy storage source. This explains why the Danish are doing so well as they introduce butter into the Yemeni market shelves just as

margarine was introduced as a source of unsaturated fatty acids in Canada years ago.

For the success of dieting to perpetuate itself, readers will not only be more informed as to the origins of poor food habits, but of the biochemistry of cho-lesterol and related steroids which create an ever increasing consciousness especially for the heart patient. Our bodies synthesize a certain amount for the production of cell membranes, the cover of our cells especially in the nervous system where the chemical goes into the man-ufacture of the more complex sphingolipids that are used to protect brain tissue.

This new age food consciousness has interplayed with the media which will then further influence dietitians and other health experts to continue to promote health schemes especially for developing countries like Yemen where the educated will demand more information on improved food products. In other words, as the Yemeni people become more educated they will be exposed

infectious diseases.

Qat and Addiction:

and

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German

Yemeni

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citizens

enjoying

B. Psychological effects:

more to certain health schemes that are normally avail-

able as dietitian tables in many diet clinics of developed countries. And there will naturally be

backlash from Yemenis who are still conscious of their ancestral food habits and

with stifling atmosphere, which help the spread of chewing qat for good.

mination and will power, any qat chewer can stop during the next few days.

Qat has a similar function to that of amphetamines

in relieving exhaustion. Moreover, it provides its

chewers with good energy and better concentration.

Getting used to chewing gat is a kind of psycho-

logical, not physiological, addiction. With deter-

might argue why so much emphasis is placed on all these new food products. They got along well with what they ate for centuries when there was no mention of cholesterol hazards and the like.

This is probably why the media will succeed. As the world changes, people want to be more informed. Besides, there is the tendency in developing countries is to emulate the progress of food dieting which runs parallel to the progress of reform in the quality

More German Assistance to

Health Care in Yemen

As part of the great friendship and therapy facilities and equip-and cooperation This valuable German assis-



of life in developing countries. Since the quality of life and living standards are improving here in Yemen, it is most likely that people will be ever more conscious of new food trends. Besides, as technology makes the world smaller and smaller, unique features in small countries will be eroded as a unified culture grips the world and creates uniform living styles.

By: Martin Dansky, Vemen Times.

Unlike stronger drugs, qat does not cause any

destructive addiction. Therefore, qat chewers who

want to stop this habit can achieve that by gradually

reducing the hours in which they chew qat, and by consuming less amounts of qat than they are used

to. Even though, those who intensively chew qat can get addicted. As an advanced effect, a qat

chewer may suffer from fantasy nightmares and a

feeling of debilitation which completely disappears

Medical Problems Associated with OAT

By Abdulhakeem Hashem Nasr

Extent of Problem

Qat has become a feature by which outsiders know and identify Yemen. Chewing qat is becoming more of a catastrophe than a just a mere social problem, especially with the economic crisis in the country.

Studies indicate that between 50% and 90% of Yemeni males over 18 years old, and between 30% and 50% of adult women chew qat. Even more serious is the fact that between 15% and 20% of Yemeni children under 12 years old are qat chewers. Official estimates say that qat is planted in 48.7% of Yemen's agricultural land.

What does Qat Consist of?

Chemical analyses of qat show that it consists of: A. Alkaline compounds:

- Cathine (active material in the plant),
- Cathedine.
- Cathinine,
- 4. Ephedrine, and
- 5. Edioline
- B. Amino acids;

Hour" among qat chewers. Third Stage:

It is when the physical power

Positive Effects of Qat:

1. It can be used as a costive medicine. 2. Qat causes hypoglycemia. This

is because the tannin compound in qat interrupts sugar absorption in the stomach and the intestines.

3. Because it consists of alkaline compounds, qat is used to relieve ulcer pains.

4. Because qat is a way to avoid obesity, it is noticed that qat chewers do not get hypertension that develops as a result of it.

Negative Effects of Qat:

A. Physical effects

Second Stage:

Perception and mental powers become numbed or dulled. This stage is known as the "time of quietness" or the "Suleimania

comes down accompanied by loss of alertness. The gat chewer falls into sort of a depression. This is due to a chemical compound in gat. which reduces the activity of the mono-amino oxide enzyme.

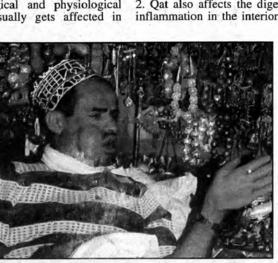
C. Choline: D. Tannin; and E. Vitamins and Minerals.

Stages of Qat's Effects:

Qat has some psychological and physiological effects. A qat chewer usually gets affected in several stages:

First Stage:

It is a process of stimulation. During the first two or three hours of the qat chewing process, the qat chewer begins to feel extremely happy and pleasant, the perceptions are heightened. His/Her mind becomes very clear and he/she can put 'suitable' solutions to all problems. This can be seen from the rise in blood pressure which speeds blood circulation in the brain.



1. Qat badly affects blood circulation since it contains ephedrine that causes hypertension, palpitation, and hyperventilation. The cathine compound vivifies and then weakens the heart muscle.

2. Qat also affects the digestive system. It causes inflammation in the interior mucosa of the mouth,

ovorrhea. intestinal disorders joined with an indigestion. And because qat remnants ferment in the mouth. it causes dental caries. 3. Qat reduces milk flow in mothers who are breast-feeding their babies. 4. Some qat chewers

suffer from an uncontrolled overflow of sperms without being under any sexual stimulation.

Qat-chewing sessions are usually held in closed places

active parbe

to see

cooperation

the military hos-pitals in Yemen

have received a lot

of assistance and

attention from the

German side. Their

humanitarian assis-

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process.

The General Military Hospital in Sanaa is considered the a place for advanced medical care. It has received a lot of assistance from Germany, in terms of diagnostic



ticipants in the development ment as well as the training of doctors and other medical staff in

Germany. This well-equipped hospital has saved many Yemeni patients a lot of expenses that are normally incurred when traveling abroad

for medical treatment. For example, the General

Military Hospital in Sanaa now has a CT Scanner, an MSR, breast cancer diagnosis equip-ment, and other important very medical equipment.

The German side also equipped the Ba-Sohaib Military Hospital with surgery facilities and the almost fully

exchange of visits by medical delegations from both sides to discuss the best possible means to utilize the aids and facilities provided by Germany. The German side also contributed to establishing a nucleus for a medical workshop at the Military Hospital in Sanaa to provide maintenance for the medical equipment.

tance has enabled these military

hospitals to provide better

health care, considering that

75% of their patients are

The constant cooperation and

coordination with the German

Ambassador in Sanaa has made

many projects come to full

fruition, reflected in the

medical care provided by these

Other forms of coordination are

conducted through

development

in

the

actually civilians.

military hospitals.

positive

Patients visiting the Military Hospital always come out with a great impression of the extent of the help provided by Germany. The doctors are also ever so grateful for the modern and superior medical equipment provided by Germany. They feel that this assistance was taken from the German people's savings to be given to the Yemeni people as a token of friendship.

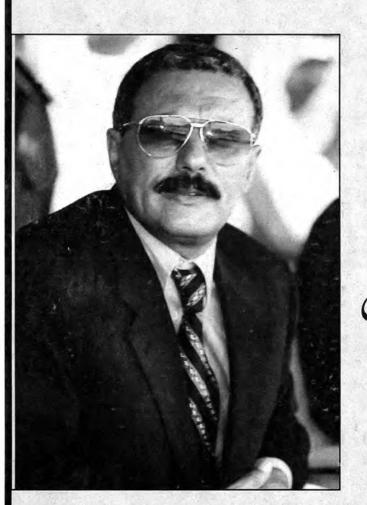
Staff Brigadier Ali M. N. Nassr, Deputy Director of Medical Services, **General Military Hospital**



On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak Mr. Abdul-Jaleel Radman and the staff of

United Food & Dairy Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

present their congratulations and felicitations to President Ali Abdullah Saleh,



The Government headed by Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, the Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmer, the Consultative Council headed by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and the People of Yemen on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak Many Happy Returns

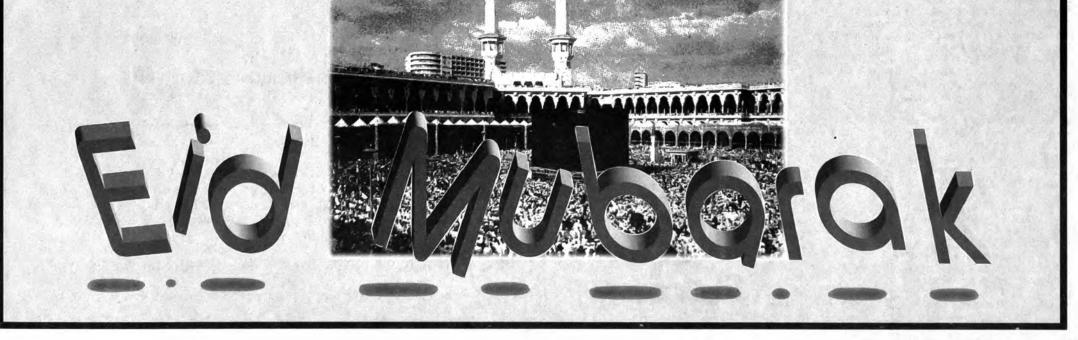
بمناسبة عيد الأضحى المبارك يتقدم الأستاذ عبد الجليل ردمان ومنتسبو شركة الشركة المتحدة لصناعة الإلبان

والاغذية المحدودة

يتقدمون بالتهاني العطرة والتبريكات الحارة إلى الرئيس

على عبدالله صالح

والحكومة برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم، ومجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر والمجلس الإستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني وإلى كافة أفراد الشعب اليمني بمناسبة عبد الأضحي المبارك أعاده الله على الجميع باليمن والبركات وكل عام والجميع بخير





The Relationship Parliament Government

Samer Mohammed Abdo Saeed is only 21. Yet, he has made his mark on the world of cartoons and satire in the local media. He is a caricaturist at Al-Belagh newspaper and a teacher of art at Al-Ola private school. Samer began his artistic life by trying to convince a number of Yemeni newspapers. He hopped from one to another as he could not get full appreciation. He worked for Al-Wahda, Al-Naqid Al-Arabi, Al-Ayyam, Al-Ra'ia, and the Osama children's comic magazine, for which he still works.

Samer's cartoons combine political, social and economic issues. He gets his ideas from the agonies of the people, as he said.

Dr. Salah Haddash of Yemen Times interviewed Samer and filed the following:



Q: Have you gained financially from this book? A: My main purpose was to prove myself as a serious caricaturist in the Yemen scene. I did not get any money from this book. But making profit is not a priority for me at this moment.



Q: How did you start drawing cartoons?

A: At first, the cartoonist Ahmed Al-Hamed encouraged me to draw cartoons for newspapers. I was first influenced by an Egyptian caricaturist Mustafa Hussein who works for Al-Hayat newspaper. I was also influenced by the caricaturist of Al-Sharq Al-Awsat newspaper, Ahmed Hussein.

Q: On what issues do you focus in drawing cartoons?

A: My focus is in political caricatures. I mainly criticize the widespread corruption in Yemen. But I also address social and economic issues. I draw my ideas from the agonies of the people.

Q: How widespread is this art in Yemen?

A: This art began to spread in Yemen after the unification. In the past, there were few cartoonists. Today, many cartoonists began to command good presence in the newspapers.

Q: Have you participated in any exhibitions or

Q: Are there any other books devoted to cartoons published by Yemeni writers? A: Yes, there are. There is a very wonderful book

by a Yemeni writer. In this book, the writer talked about all Yemeni and Arabic caricaturists.

Q. What was the theme of your last cartoon?

A: My last cartoon is a contrast between people who try their best to build the economy of our country on one hand, and people who play a parasitic role and destroy it on the other hand.

Q. How do you evaluate the government attention to this art?

A: Unlike many Arab countries, the authorities in this country do not pay any attention to art in general, and cartoons in particular. Yemeni artists are not given any support to express themselves. either here or abroad. Even a chance to establish an association for Yemeni cartoonists is not available. In short, there is little support for this art in Yemen. The problem is doubly difficult because the market for this service is not yet developed.



paper, they told me that there was no vacancy for me. I told them that I just want to make a name for myself through the newspaper even if they do not pay me. But, they did not respond. So, I decided to work for other newspapers. I produced some cartoons published in opposition newspapers, thus giving me some presence in the mind of readers.

Q: Do you work or coordinate with other young Yemeni cartoonists?

A: Yes, I try. During Al-Ola school's exhibition, there was a 12-year old student who made really good cartoons. I tried to help him. I would like to work more with other cartoonists.

Q: Any last word?

A: I would like to call on the government to pay more attention to art, especially cartoons. Second, I hope that Yemeni cartoonists will establish their own association.

•••• The B

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Shoot the corruption Mirror on the Wall!

April 13th, 1998



Yemeni politician, "I will get there. I will find a solution. You just wait and see."





Loud Laughs

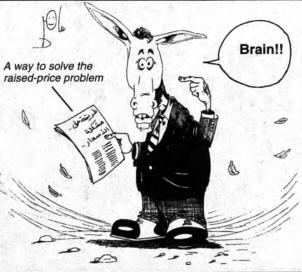
competitions:

A: No. But, I corresponded with some Arabic newspapers. There was a festival for caricaturists in Lebanon, but I could not participate. I really hope that a special exhibition for cartoons will be held in the future.

Q: You published a book of your cartoons. Can you tell us about this book?

A: My book "Loud Laughs" was published at the end of 1997. 52 of my 500 major cartoons are included. The book deals with various issues; corruption, the crisis of the Middle East, and problems of students in Yemen. Yemen radio and local newspapers talked about my book, not the TV though. This is mainly because they think that poetry of praise to the politicians are more important that caricatures. This is a mistake. Cartoons do play a significant role in life. Sometimes, you can embody many great ideas in one cartoon.

Q: Have you worked for official newspapers? A: When I applied to work for Al-Thawra news-



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Compiled by Anwar Al-Sayyadi

Iranian Spiritual Leader Sounds Clarion Call

Imam Ali Khamenai, the spiritual leader of Iran has issued a call for all Muslims performing the annual pilgrimage or Hajj to Mecca. The 10-page document first enumerated the spiritual advantages of Hajj and its equality among people, irrespective of their sex, race, social status or color.

"The purpose of Hajj is to know oneself, which is part of the universal truth," indicated the Khamenai statement. "With the sight of the Holy Ka'aba, lost souls revert to the path of righteousness." Satan also got a mention in the statement, which Imam Khamenai says, is now reincarnated in the form of the powers of great political arrogance that try to instill hopelessness in the souls of Muslims.

Again Khamenai referred to the great Satan, without naming names, and its 'continued hostility towards the Islamic Republic of Iran just because seeing a huge and wealthy country ruled by the tenets of Islam gives other Muslims the light of hope.

The Iranian leader also cited the experiences of the Muslims in Palestine, Bosnia, Turkey, Algeria, and Sudan which succeeded in establishing an Islamic regime despite all the external hostility.

No Need for An Urgent General Election

Following a government coalition leaders' summit in Ankara last Thursday, Prime Minister Mesoud Yilmaz told a news conference that the coalition partners had agreed to tell Parliament that an early general election was not in the works, and that elections will be held in 1999. Yilmaz said that Turkey was in no urgent need of an election.

Yilmaz said that the government had tackled major domestic problems for nine months and had submitted many draft reforms to Parliament. The Turkish Prime Minister added that an elections target date of autumn 1999 was feasible, and that many economic objectives would well have been reached by then.

Fires Destroy Forests in Indonesia

Fires have razed more than 180,000 hectares (444,600 acres) of forest since the beginning of this year in the drought-stricken Indonesian province of East Kalimantan. Over 180,000 hectares had been devastated by fires in Borneo. The fires had caused estimated losses of \$365.4 million, excluding losses related to the environment, health and ecological change

Fires continue to burn in different parts of Indonesia. The fire damage was caused by enormous environmental problems in the whole region. Relief does not look to be in sight.

King Hassan II of Morocco, in a cautious political Since the end of January, 1998, several thousand opening, appointed a new government last week, led by Socialist opposition veteran Abdulrahman Al-Youssoufi, 74, but with close palace aides in key

New Cabinet in Morocco

positions In a coalition of 30 ministers and 10 secretaries of state, the foreign, interior, justice and religious affairs ministers and two other key men were reappointed. None has any political party affiliation and all are seen as close to the palace.

King Hassan, for the first time in his 37-year-long reign, asked an opposition leader to form a government.

Stampede to Stone the Devil

At least 150 pilgrims were killed in a stampede last week in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, during the 'Stoning of Satan' ritual, which is part of the Hajj pilgrimage. Many were trampled. Witnesses said other pilgrims fell to their death from a raised walkway.

Saudi police and doctors said the victims were from Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Pakistan and the Arab countries. Some were elderly men and women. The security forces on the scene made extraordinary efforts to save the pilgrims. "If security forces had not intervened to stop the rush, thousands of pilgrims would have died," one source said.

The stampede was almost a replay of a 1994 stampede that killed 270 people. Saudi Arabia has invested millions to improve security for the everincreasing number of Muslims who make the pilgrimage and some 2.3 million were in Mecca last years of conflict. week.

Arab Free Zone

Lebanon is resolute in accelerating the implementation of the Arab Free Trade Zone agreement, which went into effect this year. Arab countries will lift all trade barriers between each other, mainly customs duties at 10% a year, leading to a free trade zone in 10 years. Lebanon has one of the most liberal trade policies in the Middle East, and is surrounded by protectionist economies, consequently resulting in its standing as the largest per capita importer in the region. But Beirut is pushing to change that unfavorable situation.

Last month, Lebanon signed an agreement with Syria that would phase out customs duties on local products over a four-year period, beginning January 1999

Lebanon expects to benefit from a region wide free trade zone.

The 21 other Arab League countries can expect similar positive results once a large free trade zone is established.

Assistance for Displaced Persons in Sudan

people have been displaced by artillery attacks on their villages in the Kassala region of eastern Sudan, along the Eritrean border. At the end of March, the number of the displaced was estimated at more than 4,750 families, comprising some 24,000 people. The region where they took refuge is particularly arid, offering no possibilities for agricultural activity. It is rendered even more hostile by the presence of landmines hidden underground, which have a devastating effect on the displaced population.

The Sudanese Red Crescent, with support from the ICRC, regularly evacuates people wounded by artillery fire or landmines to the civilian and military hospitals in the towns of Kassala and Khartoum. More than 50 causalities have been treated to date. The hospitals have been given emergency medical assistance and dispensaries have been set up in the sites where the displaced families have settled.

More than 100 Red Crescent volunteers have been mobilized to register the displaced people and to distribute blankets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, mosquito nets and soap. The United Nations WFP distributes food, while Oxfam supplies clean water.

The ICRC has been in Sudan since 1978 and is currently preparing to resume operations in the south of the country, which were suspended in November 1996. Providing support for the Sudanese Red Crescent is one of the ICRC's traditional activities in a country suffering the effects of more than 14

More Detainees Released

On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha, which marks the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca, last Sunday the Taliban authorities in charge of Kabul, Afghanistan, released 118 detainees in Kandahar, most of them of Hazara origin. ICRC delegates talked with every newly released detainee in private and then gave all of them financial assistance so that they could return to their provinces of origin. To make it easier for them to cross check-points, the head of security in Kandahar issued travel permits.

The newly released group follows another group of 65 persons released on 30 March, by the forces of Commander Massoud in Panjshir, again in the presence of the ICRC, which also supplied fuel for the trucks that took the former detainees as far as the front line north-east of Kabul.

The parties to the Afghan conflict had already freed 600 detainees in January this year to mark the end of Ramadhan. In 1997 the ICRC registered over 7,000 detainees in 81 places of detention throughout the country.

Cyprus Missiles Hamper Peace Efforts

Page

US President Bill Clinton said that the S-300 missiles which Greek Cyprus is buying from Russia will be "serious obstacles" to a solution on the island. In a report on Cyprus, covering the December 1997 to January 1998 period, Clinton also said that the result of the Luxembourg Summit regarding Turkey had been a "step backward" within the framework of European Union integration targets.

Pakistan Tests Missile

Pakistan last week carried out a "successful" flight test of its new surface-to-surface missile with a range of 1,500 kilometers and capable of hitting targets in neighboring India. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called the test an event of national pride that confers on Pakistan a credible indigenous missile capability."India's Defense Minister George Fernandes brushed aside any surprise over the Pakistani missile test, saying that "India had information that Pakistan was thinking of testing some of its medium range missiles."





SUPER MOVIES

ALL TIMES IN GMT

MONDAY 13/4/98 17:30 E! Behind the Scenes 18:00 Pure Country 20:00 Red Heat

TUESDAY 14/4/98 18:00 Savate 20:00 Police Academy 2 22:00 Angel Heart

WEDNESDAY 15/4/98 18:00 Presumed Innocent [Starts at 20:10] 20:00 Swing Shift 22:00 The Corporate Ladder

THURSDAY 16/04/98

17:00 CBS News Time Magazine: One Hundred People of the Century 19:00 World at War

14/4/98 00:00 ABC World News 17:00 NBC Dateline 22:30 ABC World News Live

15/4/98 01:00 CBS : Public Eye w/B. Gumbel LIVE 09:30 ABC World News this Morning Live 22:00 American Journal

16/4/98 02:00 ABC Primetime LIVE 11:00 NBC The Today Show Live 20:00 Mysteries of Deep Space

08:00 ABC World News Now Live 18:00 Secret History: Unquiet 21:00 CBS 48 Hours

13:00 Euro Rock 22:00 Music Now Jukebox 18/4/98 01:00 Min Aghanihum 09:00 In Motion

08:000 Vital Soul

03:00 Saba Ho 10:00 "360" Degrees Janet

15:30 Arabic Conversation

With....Najwa Karam (PREMIERE)

Jackson

17/4/98

Musabaqa 20:00

HOLLYWOOD

HOLLYWOOD CHANNEL

13/4/98 The Price is Right rpl



ORBIT-ESPN SPORTS

13/4/98 08:30 Football 1998 Dallas Cup Semifinal # 2

13:30 English Horse Racing - Ch. 4 Kempton / Fairyhouse Live 22:00 Running & Racing

14/4/98 04:00 FA Premier League Blackburn Arsenal

ESPN ews Day WCW Wrestling 17:00 21:00

15/4/98 04:00 AMA Supercross Series 10:30 NBA Basketball Wash-Wizards at New York ington Knick

The Nanny 18:30 Pacific Palisades 19:00 20:00 Homicide: Life on the Street

Tuesday 14 04 98 16:00 The New Adventures of Robin Hood 20:00 Renegade Early Edition 21:25

Wednesday 15 04 98 19:00 Melrose Place Year 6 21:25 Friends 22:15 ER

Melrose Place

22:15

23:10 La Femme Nikita Thursday 16 04 98 17:30 Drew Carey

18:00 Seinfeld Suddenly Susan 21:25 21:50 Cosby

Friday 17 04 98 16:00 Malibu Shores 17:30 Cosby 05:05 Goof Troop 22:30 Gargoyles

14/4/98

23:00 Quack Pack

15:15 Aladdin

17/4/98 00:00 Five Mile Creek

Kids 18/4/98

18/4/98 20:30 Stick With Me Kid

17/4/98

00:00 Mr Bean

01:45 New Adv of Superman 13:15 The Jetsons 22:40 Mary Tyler Moore

01:30 Darkwing Duck

15/4/98 15:15 Aladdin 18:30 Home Improvement

16/4/98

19:00 Empty Nest 22:00 Boy Meets World

07:00 Raw Toonage 22:00 Honey, I Shrunk the

00:30 Torkelsons

04:40 Darkwing Duck 17:00 Movie - Blue Yonder

02:35 The Mask 17:00 Love Boat 19:10 Mary Tyler Moore 23:10 Rhoda

14/4/98

15/4/98

01:20 Beatlejuice 05:00 T & J HannaBarbera 10:15 Superfriends 16:20 Flipper II series

16/4/98

10:30 Merry Melodies 18:40 The Jeffersons 23:10 Sanford and Son

05:05 Dumb & Dumber

22:40 The Jeffersons

16:00 Singles 18:00 Bearskin 22:00 Lawnmower Man

FRIDAY 17/4/98

16:00 With Honors 18:00 Before Sunrise 20:00 Terminator 2 22:00 [Starts at 22:20] Swearing Allegiance

SATURDAY 18/4/98

16:00 Jane Eyre 18:00 The Witches 20:00 The Color Purple 22:00 Dark Summer

SUNDAY 19/4/98 18:00 Deceived 20:00 Dolores Claiborne 22:30 Lethal Ninja



ORBIT NEWS

13/4/98 05:00 CBS Face the Nation

18/4/98 01:00 NBC Dateline LIVE 11:00 NBC Weekend Today Show Live 16:30 Wall Street Week



MUSIC NOW

17/4/98

Graves

13/4/98 09:00 Ultra Violet 12:00 Cosmix 20:00 Arabic R.s.v.p.

14/4/98 00:00 Music Now Jukebox 05:00 The Rush Hour 18:00 Awtar

15/4/98

01:00 Min Aghanihum 06:00 Retro 14:00 Dandana

16/4/98

08:00 Haven 18:00 E! Behind The Scenes 22:00 E! In Focu

14/4/98

15:00 The Price is Right 18:30 True Hollywood Stories 20:00 Model TV 97 15/4/98

01:30 Jerry Springer 08:00 Haven 22:30 Blue Note Specials

16/4/98

03:30 Body Moves 17:30 Judge Judy 21:30 E! Special: Academy Awards Nominations

> 17/4/98 02:00 Talk Soup 09:00 E! Coming Attractions 20:00 E! Gossip Week-End

18/4/98



16/4/98 00:00 League Baseball Teams Tba Live 15:00 UEFA Champions Teams Tba 20:30 European Football Weekly

23:00 Gillette World Cup

17/4/98

04:00 Brazilian Paulista Futebol 15:30 Motorsport Asia 21:00 Boxing ESPN Boxing Ser

18/4/98

05:00 MLS Colorado Rapids D.C. United 20:30 NBA Basketball Houston Rockets Minnesota Timberwolves 23:00 ASA World Tour



AMERICAN PLUS

Monday 13 04 98 17:00 Caroline in the City

8:30 The John Larroquette Show 19:00 Beverly Hills 90210

Saturday 18 04 98 18:00 Party of Five 19:00 Mini-Series Homer: The Odyssey Part 2 21:25 Mad About You

Sunday 19 04 98 18:00 Forever Knight 19:00 Dark Skies 21:25 The Nanny



DISNEY CHANNEL

13/4/98 03:25 Ducktales 15:15 Aladdin 20:00 Dinosaurs 22:30 Gargoyles



FUN CHANNEL

13/4/98 00:30 Men Behaving Badly 03:30 Imagineland 14:05 Superman



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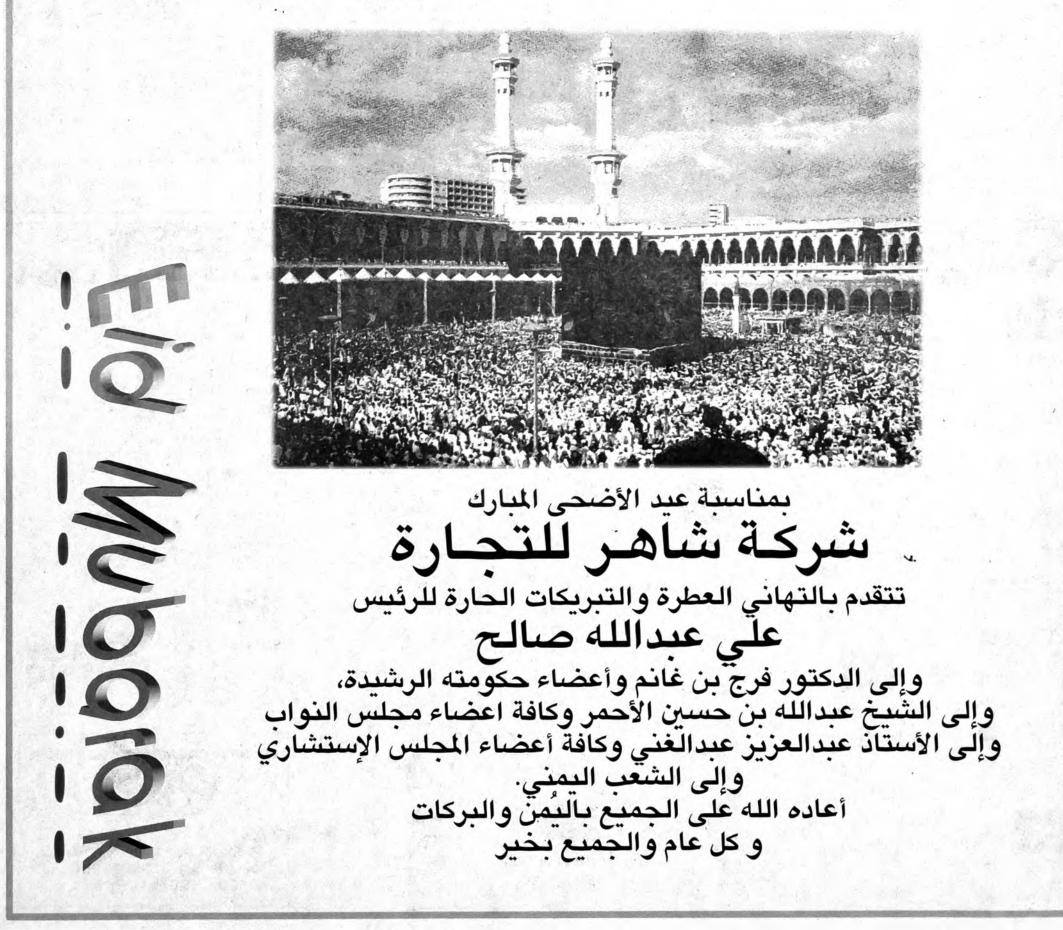
On the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak; Shaher Trading Co

presents its congratulations and felicitations to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim and his Cabinet, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer and Members of Parliament Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani and Members of the Consultative Council, and the People of Yemen. Many Happy Returns





April 13th, 1998



OPPORTUNITIES for Arab-Turkish Relations

Aneesa Ghanim, Yemen Times Based on a visit to Turkey during March 1998.

Turkey occupies an important and strategic location as a link between Asia and the Middle East, on the one hand, and the former Soviet Union and the rest of Europe, on the other. This unique position has played a vital role in Turkey's history, in general and in its foreign policies, in particular. With respect to the Arab World, Turkey represents

somewhat of an enigma. While Turkish-Israeli links Arabs, there are many who realize the need to come to terms with such an important neighbor.

Turkey today remains a source of confusion and frustration to the Arab world.

Deterioration in Arab-Turkish relations date back to the last centuries of the Ottoman empire. European powers, interested in further weakening the ottoman empire, fueled Arab nationalism and the call for independence. Arabs thus sided with the Allies in the First World War, which the Turks saw as a etrayal.

The rise of the Young Turks, the replacement of Arabic scripts and adoption of secularism to replace Islamic doctrines, and many other policies added to the distance between the two sides.

But the Republic of Mustafa Kemal Attaturk has done a lot better than any of the Arab states, in terms of socio-economic development. The grip of irrational clergies on the affairs of the nation were replaced by more down-to-earth policies, leading to a society that has enabled its females to contribute fully to nation-building.

But there are two problems with the Turkish





military establishment's interaction with Islamic teachings. As one Iranian intellectual once noted, "While the Turkish military wants to water-down the binding sanctity of Islamic teachings, it insists on the sanctity of the teachings of Kemal Attaturk. It is a contradiction.'

The second problem has to do with the fact that the military establishment has not embraced secularism in full. It has done so on a selective basis. The transformation to secularism is not yet complete, as is evidenced from the recent rise of Islamic politics. The Turkish military establishment, which sees itself as the guardian of secularism, is fighting the return of religion in state affairs. But the weakness in the military establishment in its fight against religious politics, is its inability to fully embrace secularism. For example, the military in Turkey are not at all impressed with such basic secular values as minority rights (read, Kurdish rights), freedom of the press, meaningful political pluralism, and other aspects of a truly free system. This is the true weakness of secularist Turkey. What it needs is more secularism with full belief in the values of a modern society, rather than a selective imple-mentation of certain elements. That is also why Europe has repeatedly refused Turkey's overtures because the country's power brokers have yet to fully embrace the Western ways.

That is also why the short-lived Refah government of Nejmeddeen Erbakan made important headways to reverse the secular trend. It allowed female public employees and university students to wear headscarves, it called for transforming the Aya Sofia back to a mosque, it proposed building a mosque in the Taqseem Square at the heart of Istanbul, and took several other measures that were construed to be against Turkey's secularism. Refah also made headways in the economy through the establishment of 10,000 Islamic companies. It also set up thousands of religious schools. But most of all, it recruited an increasing number of military and police officers in its ranks.

In other words, the matter is a long way from being settled. The internal politics of Turkey and the structure of government are bound to see major ups and downs in the forseeable future.

Going back to the relations of Ankara with the Arab World, the confusion also exists on the Turkish side. The director of foreign affairs in parliament, Mr, Edi Alaishin told me, "Turkey has ties with both Israel and the Arab world. Our ties with Israel do not disturb the balance in the Middle East and are not meant to damage the excellent relations with Arab countries. I know there is a lot of criticism directed at Turkey because of its ties with Israel, but it must be better understood. Turkey cannot claim to be a wholly European nor a completely Asian country. It is both. So some sort of balance must be struck, otherwise untold harm may occur. When former prime minister Erbakan tried to improve Turkey's relations with Libya and Iran, he almost ruined the ties with Israel, which could have disturbed our fine balance."

Unfortunately that fine balance does not really exist. The country's relations with Syria and Iraq, for example, are often characterized by conflict over water rights and the Kurdish population dispersed in these three countries. Turkey's military cooperation with Israel, a country at war with the Arab World, does not put its policies in fine balance. Relations between Turkey and Israel are not new. Turkey was the first Muslim country to recognize Israel and to establish diplomatic ties with it.

By the same token, all Arab countries failed to support Turkey's efforts to ensure the rights of the Turkish minority in Cyprus, let alone recognize the establishment of a new state in north Cyprus.

Turkey and its Arabs neighbors are going to have more problems in the future due to differences over water rights. The director of electricity-generation projects, Mr. Doghan Altinblik said, "We promised our neighbors 500 m³ per second, but in fact we provide them with more because we cannot keep all that water. So they now get 800 m³ of water per second every day. It must be noted here that most of the Tigris and Euphrates water goes unexploited into the Gulf. The countries which these rivers pass through must really know how to better exploit this water.

Some politicians in Turkey blame the army for the agreement with Israel. Mr. Messoud Yilmaz, the Prime Minister, publicly said that the agreement was forged by the military establishment in Turkey, referring to the army's control over the reins of political power in Turkey. The Turkish-Israeli cooperation agreement allows Turkey to benefit from certain Israeli military and technical assistance. That was vital following 1995, when Germany stopped its military aid to Turkey after the latter's use of German-made armored vehicles to quell Kurdish unrest in the south-eastern part of Turkey. The army chief of staff, Mr. Ismail Qadri said, "The army plays a major role in combating terrorist movements, which always makes its presence on the political scene. Our problems with some Arab countries emanate from their support for terrorism directed at Turkey. Terrorism in Turkey is mainly supported by two Arab countries. So our cooperation with Israel started because our technological capabilities were not enough. Israel is the only country that can help us understand and develop that technology. We gave Israel the chance to train,

its pilots in Turkish. airspace, and we got the necessary technological expertise in return. If Turkey has made one agreement with Israel, it has several stronger agreements with Arab countries.

Page

3

He went on to explain the strong Turkish relations with Arafat. He added, "Our position regarding the status of Jerusalem is quite clear and compatible with that of Arab and Muslim states. Turkey always tries to push the Middle East peace process forward, using its good ties with Israel as leverage. Islam, historical relations, membership in the Organization of Islamic Countries, and many other common grounds bring Turkey and the Arab world together. We tried very hard to make our Arab neighbors understand the importance of cooperation in order to stem terrorism from the region. We gave them suspected terrorist names, photos, telephone numbers, car number plates, and other information, but all to no avail."

Many Turks also resent what they term as "hazy Arab ideas of Turkey". Both Turkey and the Arabs will have to work jointly to rectify the erroneous image and reach common understanding. That is it.

The Turks and Arabs need each other. There are some basic points they have to agree on. In my mind, these include the following:

1) Both sides must allow some room for the other



side to act differently than themselves. This means that the Arabs must understand why Turkey may want stronger ties with Israel, or any other party. By the same token, Turkey must understand why the Arabs may want special relations with Greece, a country which has supported Arab rights much more than the Turks.

2) Islam is a shared legacy. It is nothing to be ashamed of. But each side can understand and asharned of. But each side can understand and interact with this legacy in the best way it sees fit. Neither side should feel responsible for the way the other side handles itself. If Turkey wants to go secular, it is its business, and the Arabs should not brand such effort as anti-Islam. If some Arab soci-eties enact strict Islamic laws. Turkey should not eties enact strict Islamic laws, Turkey should not brand that as fundamentalist or terrorist.

3) The two sides can better work together if they internalize some of the modern values of the world. These include respect for minority rights, press freedom, political pluralism, human rights, And many other similar values.

4) Most important of all, the two sides have been stuck too much in politics. Economic cooperation can yield more visible results at a faster pace. The Arabs and Turks stand to gain a lot from a clear business orientation. If you add to that cultural cooperation, you definitely have a winner.

'Our geography makes our history," one Arab intellectual once said. This is especially true in our relations with such an important country as Turkey. One of the best approaches would be to focus on the things we share, rather than on the issues in which we have differences. I believe that we now have lots of opportunities to make or break Arab-Turkish relations. Lets make them, not break them.

A. YEMEN.

Yemeni Students Encouraged to Study in Britain

Dr. Richard Long works in the the third of its kind in the whole International Office of New- country. We also have a very castle University, Britain. He good language center where teaches Middle Eastern history. translation abilities can be devel-Dr. Long visits the Middle East oped. two or three times a year. This So, I have come to look into the time he decided to visit Yemen. possibility of reaching an agree-His visit program took him to 3 ment with Yemeni universities to

do some form of joint work and

were two students who came back to teach in Yemen. So the research shows

different schools, the Science and Technology University, and Sanaa university.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit?

A: I visit schools where I talk to people who may be interested in coming to Britain because in Newcastle we have dozens of students from various places in the world. Most of them are post graduate people. I am looking for the possibility of post graduate agreements and cooperation between Newcastle University and Yemen.

Q: Are you trying to encourage them to study in Newcastle University?

A: That is one of the things. There is a possibility for us to offer many facilities to Yemeni students. We have a famous archeology department and our department was architecture voted in a national assessment as

split Ph.D. degrees. We have a degree that seems to be of special interest to part time M.Ed. for the teaching of English to speakers of other languages. For teachers in schools, it takes two years to get the degree and our staff come four times a year for two years to teach the students research.

Q: Do you intend to visit any of Yemen's 7 other universities?

A: I had no idea that are seven universities in Yemen. I would like to visit some other places and of course the place I like most, the Mareb dam, to see the famous historical spot.

Q: Are there any Yemeni students at New Castle University?

A: I am not sure, but I think they are mostly in engineering particularly in water and dam construction. We had medical students too. At the Science and Technology University, there

that there are a lot of activities between Yemen and our university. We get a lot of Arab students particularly from Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman and Egypt.

Q: Have you visited other parts of the Arab world?

A: Well, my degree is in Arabic and Persian so I have worked extensively in the Arab world, starting in Baghdad which I left in 1966. Then worked for the British Council for 20 years. Among other things, I opened the British Council office in Abu Dhabi. I was also in Jordan and several other Arab countries.



Lufthansa

CONTACT RESERVATIONS Tel: 2134001 219252

all ouis a





Eid Mubarak

Due to the Edi Al-Adha vacation, no weeklies and very few dailies have been published. Therefore, we apologize for the small number of Yemeni newspapers reviewed this week.



AL-AYYAM: Aden bi-weekly, 5-4-98. (Independent) Main Headlines:

1- Yemen Socialist Party rejects accusations by security sources of its involvement in the recent bomb explosions in Sanaa.

2- World Bank allocates \$20 million for renovating the Aden airport.

3- Bodies of 34 drowned Somali refugees (24 women, 9 men, & 1 child) were recovered and buried.

4- Armed confrontation in Al-Sitteen Road, Sanaa, in a dispute between tribesmen over an office block.

5- Delegation from the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce to visit Sanaa late in April.

6- Ministry of Education centrally transfers teachers without informing the local education offices concerned.

7- Aden municipality starts a campaign to prevent sheep and goat herds from roaming in the city.

Article Summary: UNICEF Aid at Private Home By Mansoor Abdullah

Acting upon information related by the security organ in Hodeida, representatives of the Central Audit and Control Organization and the prosecutor's office searched the house of an employee at the education office. They found a quantity of food stuffs (150 cartons of cooking oil, & 4 50-kg sacks of beans) supplied by the UNICEF to be distributed free of charge to students in the countryside.

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Mogbil

Two more padlocks were used by the investigation committee to lock the place where the food is stored, awaiting the arrival of the absent culprit other alternatives in the Yemeni market? Why employee for further investigations. However, the stored food was later taken away without questioning the man.



AL-UMMA: Sanaa weekly, 2-4-98. (Al-Haqq Party)

Main Headlines:

1- Secret Saudi mission visited Yemen to discuss border issues - Yemen stipulates economic normalization with Saudi in return for territorial compromises.

- Airplane load of food and medicine provided by Yemeni opposition parties is to fly to Iraq on 12 April.

3- Several opposition journalists express resentment towards comments by Ms. Angela Diki of the US Embassy in Sanaa. She reportedly said that opposition journalists do not fully appreciate the responsibility they have to bear, or words to that effect.

Article Summary:

Coca-Cola & Normalization with Israel

All of a sudden and without prior warning, the Zionist-owned Coca-Cola company has invaded Yemen. This step has heralded a new age of "globalization" and an undeclared abandonment of the boycott of all products made in Israel or by com-

panies dealing with the Jewish state.

Why Coca-Coal in particular when there so many should the Yemeni people be deceived in this manner. Coca-Cola products should be boycotted by all Yemeni citizens.



AL-JAMAHEER: Sanaa weekly, 2-4-98. (Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party) **Main Headlines:**

- Following the departure of PM Faraj Bir Ghanim, a 1000-riyal banknote is to be printed and

flour and wheat prices are to be raised. 2- The President meets the deputy speaker of the Iraqi parliament and the accompanying delegation. 3- Baath leadership in Yemen calls for purging gov ernment organs of corruption.

4- Animal plague threatens cattle in Tihama.

5- Former bodyguard of former Ethiopian president Mengistou is charged with illegally pushing drugs in Aden.

Article Summary: Alternative to 'Mowj'

A number of Yemeni exiles - from 1994 war - held a meeting with former president Ali Nasser Mohammed in Beirut. They discussed the possibility of forming an alternative opposition front to the failed Mowj (reversed Arabic abbreviation of the National Opposition Front). The participants at the meeting tried to adopt a unified position towards the President's call to 'close the dossiers of the past' and the recent court sentences on the secessionist leaders.

Mowj has recently experienced a number of unofficial breakaways by some political parties such as the League of the Sons of Yemen and the Unitary Congregation.

Political analysts have expressed their surprise at the involvement of Ali Nasser Mohammed, in view of his declared refrain from working in politics.

مع افراع عد الاضح الميارى اقيمت حفلات زفاف الشباب عبد الله قاسم غالب العرنوط منصر قاسم العرنوط عبد القوى عبد الله الميني نبارك لهم افراحهم و نتمنى لهم حياة سعيدة المهنؤون: عبد الكريم العرنوط

محمد سلام عبد الله و جميع الاهل و الاصدقاء

"When Two Tribes Go to War"

A shoot-out took place between two groups belonging to the Hadaa and Khowlan tribes last week in Sanaa. The two groups occupied two opposite buildings, one of which is disputed by the two tribes.

For several hours on two consecutive days, the Taiz roundabout on the Sitteen Road in Sanaa became a battle field. One of the groups - Al-Ghonaimi of the Hadaa - took over the disputed office block, which is situated on the main road. Al-Soofi of Khowlan the other, two-storey higher building to better shoot at their rivals.

On the first day, the heavy exchange of fire lasted from 2pm to 8pm when a police force consisting of 30 patrols (almost 120 men) was able to control the situation and evacuate the two buildings. The warring tribesmen used light and medium firearms in the shoot-out.

The disputed 4-storey office block was leased by the Yemen Bank for Construction and Development, and jointly owned by the two erstwhile friendly families - Al-Ghonaimi and Al-Soofi. The dispute erupted when the ground floor was to be partitioned into small shops. One of the partner families refused the plan, and resorted to its larger tribe for succor. Armed groups were sent by the families two tribes into Sanaa to solve the dispute the "tribal way."

Land disputes have become a common thing, lately. And the use of firearms to solve such disputes is even more common. The fact that the Yemeni populace possess more than 56 million pieces of firearms does not help matters, either.

Ismail Al-Ghabiri



NATIONAL TRADING COMPANY invites applications for

Rothmans Lion & Jambia Cricket Club Tastes First Victory

Yemen Cricket Tournament on 27 March and the first match was scheduled between Lion & Jambia Cricket Club (LJCC) vs Indian Apex Cricket Club (IAC).



LJCC playing this year in new striped blue Rothmans shirts were confident from the very start of the match. LJCC won the toss and decided to bat first with change in the opening pair with Dominic & Nafees. Both batsmen scored quickly taking the score to 34 when Nafees was bowled by Prakesh.

Yemen Cricket Association (YCA) started the 1998 mammoth total of 204 runs in 25 overs and set a target for IACC for 8.2 runs per over.

> APCC opening batsman found difficulty in playing a superb attack from Sudhesh & Moben and at the end of 5 overs the team was at 27 runs for the loss of 1 wicket. On loss of the second wicket at 44 runs, the team was taken back on track by Mathur & Kudarath and later joined by Shahid, who kept the hopes of the team alive till his departure with 45 runs to his account. LJCC then started trying out their new bowling strength allowing APCC to score a total of 171 all out. Ajay was the most successful bowler with averages of 5 overs, 41 runs and 4 wickets.

Caspar for his overall performance was awarded the Man of the Match title with 76 runs scored, 1



until 51 when both were bowled in consecutive overs. LJCC captain Caspar & Ajay then gave their LJCC will play their next match against Arabian team a foundation partnership of 72 runs to take Cricket Club (ACC) on 24 April. team at a comfortable score by drinks break. Caspar then contineed thrashing each bowler to Rothmans - Official Sponsor of LJCC 1998 make his individual score to 76 runs, which included 9 fours and 2' sixes. The team put a

Dominic joined by Moben could only hold the fort wicket and a well-judged catch to his account.

Reported by Ajay Tandon

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR GENERAL MANAGER

Candidate Profile: Male or Female, University Graduate or Secondary School Certificate holder with a high rank. Fluent in both English and Arabic with good oral and written communication abilities.

Age: between 25 and 35 years.

Experience: Minimum 5 years secretarial experience with a medium/large private sector organization of which at least 2 years should have been in the capacity of Executive Secretary to a top Manager.

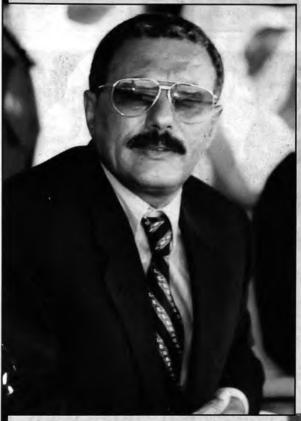
Job Requirements: Handling matters related to the General Manager's Office, following-up on subjects up to a stage for General Manager's decision, co-ordinating with personnel in other functionary areas. High level computer literacy is a must.

Salary & Benefits: Attractive salary with benefits will be offered to a deserving candidate.

All applications with copies of certificates and testimonials should be sent within ten days from the date of this advertisement to:

Administration Manager, National Trading Company, Republic of Yemen, Sana'a P. O. Box: 1108, (Telephone: 272983)



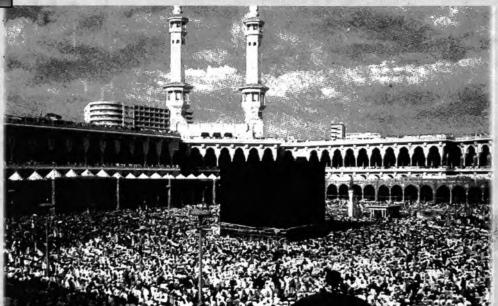


Hayel Saeed Group of Companies

present their congratulations and felicitations to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

The Government of Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, the Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmer, the Consultative Council headed by Abdulaziz Abdulghani, and the People of Yemen on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha Al-Mubarak. Many Happy Returns to All



مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

تتقدم بالتهاني العطرة والتبريكات الحارة للرئيس علي عبدالله صالح والحكومة برئاسة الدكتور فرج بن غانم، ومجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر والمجلس الإستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني وإلى الشعب اليمني الأبي بمناسبة عبد الأضحى المبارك



Page



أعاده الله على الجميع باليُمن والبركات و كل عام والجميع بخير









Mareb: Today's Bedouins & Civilization of Yore

By Hassan Sa'ad Al-Zaydi

Then

The most famous ancient civilization in Yemen is that of Sabaa, which was established in Mareb and had Sarwah as its capital city. The people of



Sabaa built palaces, constructed dams and erected other monumental edifices, the remains of which are still standing today. The civilization of Sabaa was mainly based on agriculture, hence the extensive and rather advanced building of dams to harness flood waters. More than 1,500 dams and weirs were constructed, most famous of which was the Mareb dam.

Advancement in agriculture was reflected on other aspects of life, creating an allencompassing civilization. That was yesteryear.

Now

Today, the situation is completely different. Life now in Mareb has nothing to do with the past glory, despite the available factors for a renaissance. People in Mareb today live a simple nomadic, almost primitive life. The bedouins or nomads constitute about 50% of Mareb's population. They live in small and scattered communities, according to the tribal social structure. Every tribe has its own ter-

ritory, designated since time immemorial, through wars and the exercise of power and influence.

Tribal Affiliations People in Mareb belong to a number of

tribes, which originally descended from the tribes of Bakeel and Madhaj: 1- Bani Jabr or Jahm,

- 2- Morad, 3- Obeida, and
- 4- Al-Jidaan.

Each one of the above tribes

has its own area and territory within which its members live. Even within this traditional territory, families belonging to one tribe do not usually live in close proximity with each other. They live in scattered abodes, instead.

Tribal territories have their own recognized borders that must not be infringed upon by other tribes. Individuals are not allowed to live or own property within the boundaries of another tribe, unless they get an exceptional permission for the tribal elders.

Nomadic Existence & Strife People in Mareb are mainly nomads who are constantly on the move in search of water and pasture. This unsettled life has precluded most of the features of urbanization and development. Even those who settle in small communities still lead a somewhat primitive life that is usually characterized by turmoil and tribal conflict. Since the early 1980s, tribal conflicts, blood revenge, land disputes and other forms of civil strife have been raging in Mareb. People in the area still sadly remember the bloody conflict between Bani Jabr and Morad in 1981, the war between Morad and Obeida which is still raging, and the 1984-86 war between Bani Jabr and Obeida. More recent was the war between Jahm and Al-Jidaan immediately following the 1997 general elections.

These wars and bloody conflicts have negatively influenced the tribal and social ties in the region, not to speak of their enormously bad

influence on the process of development and stability in the area.

Disaster & Pollution

The recent relative peace in Mareb has helped people to settle and start to build more stable communities. They rely on a primitive sort of agriculture to obtain their livelihood. However, natural disaster and environmental pollution brought about by oil production in Mareb has not helped matters. The strong torrential

The strong torrential floods of 1995-96 have destroyed what little the people have been able to construct. This made many people revert back to their past nomadic and pastoral existence, living in tents and tending their herds of sheep. Health and education are



the first to suffer. With a nomadic life, children are simply unable to go to school. Not much help and assistance have been extended to the people, leading to more conflict between the tribes and the central authority. Urgent measures are needed to assist these people to settle down and start cultivating their lands in order to institute a comprehensive process of development in the area.

