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Yemenis Queue in front of Saudi Embassy in Search of Visas!

The queue is long. The lines crawl. The files turn around, over and over in long chains. Sometimes it is a double column. Sometimes it is just bulges of people crowding together. They are Yemenis in search of visas to get to Saudi Arabia. They are in the thousands - arguing, bickering or simply staring deep into space. They are unemployed. They are penniless. They are tired. They just want to get out of here! "I don't think I will find a job in Saudi



Arabia, at least not for a long time. But it is better than rotting here," said Mohammed a laborer from Ibb. He summed it up. Conditions in Saudi Arabia are not exactly inviting. But they are evidently better than in Yemen.

NASEEM CONQUERS THE WORLD!

It was a fight between near equals. On Saturday night, April 18th, the Prince, Naseem Hamed, was pitched against Wilfredo Vazquez of Puerto Rico, USA. The Prince, 23 years old, had successfully contested 30 matches before, and won them all, Vazquez, 28 years old, had contested 22 matches and won them all. On Saturday, the Prince proved one more time he is the real champ. Dancing in a whirlwind and constantly on the move, Naseem finally knocked out his opponent on the 7th round. Now the Prince holds the WBA, IBF, and WBO titles for featherweight boxing.

More on page 15



Naseem knocks down Vazquez

Source: Sporting Life website

Establishment of the C100 to Combat TORTURE

On Thursday, April 16th, about 100 leading intellectuals, public figures and key opinion makers met to listen to a presentation by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf on torture in Yemen. "Although torture is not politically driven in Yemen, it is nevertheless prevalent due to a backward police force and lack of training among law-enforcement bodies in this country. It is vital to address this ugly and beastly phenomenon if we are to join the civilized world," he said. The group then discussed a proposed charter for an NGO in this field. At the end of their deliberations, they established the Committee of 100 to Combat Torture, now tagged as

the C100 to Combat Torture. Qadhi Ahmed Abdul-Razzaq Al-Ruqaihi, Imam of the Grand Mosque in Sanaa and Member of Parliament, was elected President. A woman, Dr. Oras Sultan Naji, Member of Parliament, was elected Vice President. Mr. Ali Saif Hassan, a businessman and key opposition political activist, was elected Secretary-General. The C100 to Combat Torture will hold another meeting on May 15th to chart out its course of action and take decisions on administrative matters. The C100 shares premises with the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy to reduce overhead expenditures.

Yemen Bids Farewell to a Clean Politician

On the occasion of the 40th day since the passing away of Mr. Ahmed Tarboush, the political society of Yemen will observe a day of mourning on April 25th. The Nasserite leader was an exceptional man. For a political structure so plagued with corruption, Tarboush stood out. He

lived a life of austerity, and died poor, but clean. The record of his achievements puts him in the rank of leading political figures of Yemen. But, that was mainly as an opinion maker. Indeed, he was known for his capacity to galvanize and mobilize the public.

Read more on p. 7

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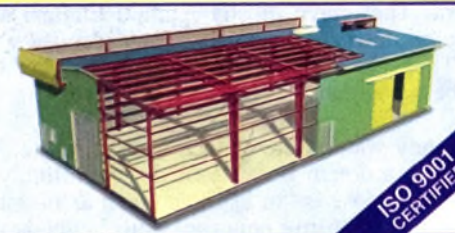
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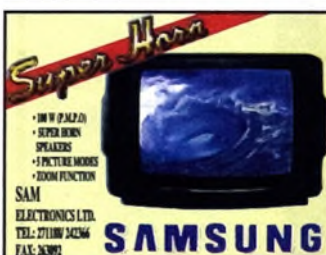
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THE NEW MEN'S FRAGRANCE

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Our Young Folks: Hope for a Better Future

Over the last few days, I was part of a three-person team that has been conducting interviews with 62 potential candidates for the Canadian Occidental scholarships. The majority of the applicants - boys and girls - were 19-20 years old. They have recently graduated from high school.

I was struck with their decidedly positive and optimistic outlook on life. Most of the time, except for the time I lectured at Sanaa University, my contact is with older folks. In fact, at the Consultative Council, it is often with average people. The mood with the older people is definitely pessimistic, and often frustrated. It is indeed refreshing to meet these young people.

In the interviews, we talked about the hopes, plans, and aspirations of the high school graduates. To them, the world is a good place. It offers much hope.

But, it was not just the hope or what some may call a naive attitude. These young people in general have been working hard. They have mostly learned English and some computer skills on their own. They identify with the future. They are eager to put in their share of the effort for a better Yemen.

It was clear they wanted the chance to learn more. To go to Canada is a dream because of the opportunity it offers. But the purpose is "to learn as much as possible and come back to help my country". Still better is the good feeling these kids have for Yemen. They love their country, which is far more gratifying than the feeling of the highly politicized older folks who are looking for a way to "leave a sinking ship" as they call it.

My country has great possibilities. That is how I always felt. And I am happy that a broad sector of young Yemenis agree with me. This country will work and can offer its people a good life. And as our system evolves, it will offer countries a good partner and a positive contributor in creating a peaceful and harmonious world.

It was a delightful and pleasant experience to meet and talk to our young secondary graduates. I am happy I volunteered to go through what I had originally perceived as a tedious series of extended interviews. If I were to suggest a dose of realism to our politicians who are full of grudges and complaints, it is to hold meetings with the younger folks. I ask them to listen to the plans and hopes of the younger Yemenis. I ask them to appreciate the love for Yemen and the optimism the young people have in the country's future.

The Publisher
عبد العزيز

Yemeni-Djibouti Talks

A Yemeni delegation headed by Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, Foreign Minister, returned from a two-day visit to Djibouti on Sunday, April 19th. The official bilateral talks resulted in a number of cooperation protocols and agreements. Yemen and Djibouti enjoy good neighborly relations.

Seminar on Human Rights & Criminology

The USIS, in conjunction with the Yemeni Human Rights Organization, the Yemeni Red Crescent, the Human Rights Information and Training Center, is sponsoring a three-day seminar (May 19-21) on human rights and criminology. Various speakers will present papers on different issues related to the subject. In addition, an American expert is being flown in to participate in the seminar.

PGC Wins

The Supreme Elections Committee (EMC) has announced the final results of vote counting at the four constituencies where complementary elections were held. Candidates from the ruling People's General Congress (PGC) have won the four vacant parliamentary seats in Constituency # 93 in Ibb, 204 in Dhamar, 238 in Sanaa, and 283 in Hajja. Voters cast their ballots in 151 ballot boxes in 22 voting centers. Out of 53,405 registered eligible voters, 27,023 actually cast their votes on election day. It is to be noted that all the candidates who stood for these elections were either members of the PGC or independents affiliated with the ruling party.

Social Studies Curtailed at Sanaa University

The Council of the College of Education at Sanaa University intends to stop courses in social studies, said a statement issued by a number of concerned professors and staff members. The college plans to limit the courses in these studies to a diploma program. Already, courses in philosophy have been suspended. The departments of history, geography, and sociology are to follow suit, claimed the statement. The professors called in their statement for developing these studies. They objected to their imminent closure. The professors who signed the statement belong to those specializations.

The Prime Minister Is on His Way Back

Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim, the Prime Minister, left Geneva on Wednesday 15th April on his way back to Yemen. On his return travel, the Prime Minister stopped over in Paris for some additional medical check-ups. Initially, the Prime Minister had been scheduled to arrive in Sanaa on April 16th, the 10th day after Eid Al-Adha, based on understanding with President Ali Abdullah Saleh, prior to his departure. Yemen Times was told that the Prime Minister had called the President to explain that he will be a few days late, given the additional check-ups. The Prime Minister is scheduled to arrive in Sanaa this week. Asked about media reports speculating that he is sulking, Dr. Bin Ghanim brushed such stories aside and called them inaccurate. "There is full understanding between the President and myself," he stressed. The President and Prime Minister are working on a plan to change some 100 key officials in government including ministers.

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Nabeel Hameem:

"The post office commands an increasingly central place in our lives and businesses."

An increasing number of Yemenis and expatriates are using the services provided by the public post offices and the private companies dealing with this business. Problems are bound to arise. Some people complain their letters are getting lost and others want to see swifter services provided. Still, a minority of people do not trust the post office altogether; they would rather rely on relatives and friends to hand-deliver their letters and parcels for them.

The postal service has also been increasingly involved in financial transactions, transfers, and savings.

To learn more about this very important service, Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, met Mr. Nabeel Hameem, who has been the chief of the Old University Post Office in Sanaa for the last six years. He filed the following interview and compiled the necessary data to show the efficiency of the Yemeni postal services.

Q: Could you give us an idea about the services provided by your office?

A: There are the usual postal services such as sending and receiving letters, savings accounts, remittances, the express post, payment of pensions and the receiving and transmitting of fax messages.

Q: What are the major problems you face in doing your work?

A: The main problem we face is the ignorance of some people of the nature of the postal service. They do not know how to write a full address, thinking that by just writing the name of the addressee and his home town, the letter will get there.

Q: How can this situation be rectified?

A: The post-office administration

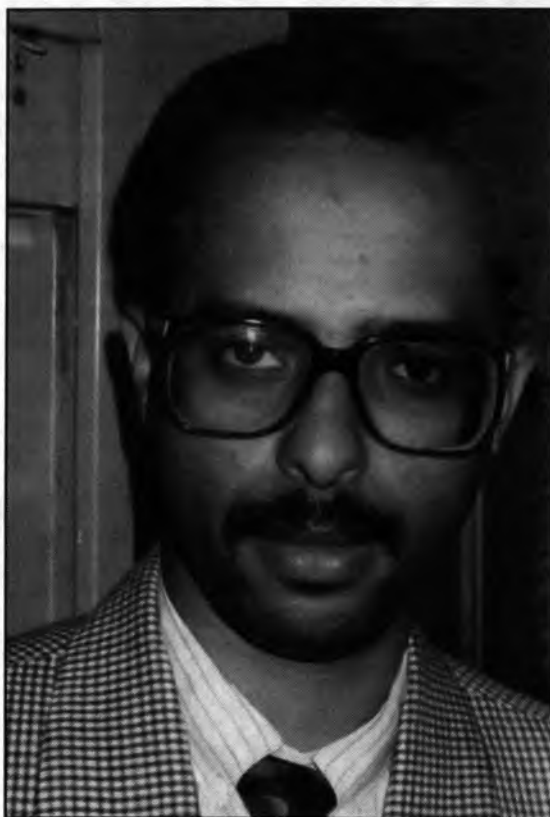
should conduct a comprehensive media campaign to raise public awareness of the best possible way to efficiently use postal services. Only educated people currently deal with the post office, while, illiterate people just don't know how.

Q: Do the users of post-office boxes face any problems?

A: There are no problems to speak of in this regard. A few post-office box subscribers are not honest enough to hand back other people's letters when they are mistakenly placed in their boxes.

Q: How is sending a money remittance done?

A: Sending money remittances is presently confined to within



Yemen. Foreign remittances will be introduced in the future. A total fee of YR 70 is levied on each remittance sent. It consists of a 2% tax on each YR 1,000 sent and YR 55. Only 1% is levied on remittances of more than YR 20,000.

Q: How swift is the express mail? And how large is its cost?

A: Although it costs more, the express mail is faster than the ordinary service. It takes two days for a letter sent by the express mail to reach its destination within Yemen, as opposed to 3 or 4 days by ordinary mail. In some remote regions, mail deliveries take place once or twice a week only. It costs YR 250 to send a letter locally by express mail and only YR 20 by the ordinary mail. The difference is more marked when it comes to sending mail abroad - YR 1,250 by express mail to an Arab country, for example, compared to only YR 50 by ordinary mail. So only those people who need to send something urgent use the express mail service. Post is delivered to Taiz and Hodeida by land and air; while, to Hadhramaut and Mukallah, for instance, by air only.

Q: What about the fax service?

A: We provide regular fax service, within Yemen and abroad. To send a single sheet of paper by fax, it costs YR 35 within Yemen, YR 320 to Arab countries, and YR 400 to the rest of the world.

Q: The monthly pensions are paid to retired people through the post office. How organized is this process?

A: The post office facilitates the payment of pensions to retired people, the handicapped, the families of dead civil servants and army martyrs. In the past pensioners had to receive their money from particular post offices. Nowadays, a new system has been introduced. With the issuance of special coupons, a pensioner can now

receive his or her money from any post office in the country. These coupons have been introduced in about 8 governorates so far, more areas will follow suit soon.

Q: What sort of problems arise in dealing with old-age pensioners?

A: We have to be very careful while dealing with these old people. Some of them resort to using bad language or brandishing their weapons when the payment of their pensions is delayed. It is not because they are aggressive or hostile, but because their old age makes them grumpy and impatient. Also, they are not used to obeying a particular order or system such as standing in a queue or being served according to their

numbers, etc.

Q: Could you briefly tell us about the saving accounts that can be opened at the post

office?

A: This is a free service, and the account books issued by the post office can be used anywhere in the country. The annual interest rate varies between 1% to 2%. The minimum amount of money required to open a saving account at the post office is YR 130. You open such an account in your name or in the name of your child to encourage him or her to save some his/her daily allowance. A child, of course, can only deposit money in such an account, but cannot withdraw if he or she is under 18 years old.

Q: What difficulties do you face in your work, in general?

A: The major problem is lack of incentives. Our salaries are rather small. I myself, for example, work from 8 am to 1.30 pm and from 3 pm to 7.30 pm everyday,

and only get YR 9,000 a month. Post-office employees are also not given enough chance to train and develop their skills. Some of us enter different courses, paying from our private resources. Post-office workers need to learn English so that they are able to better deal with foreigners and need to learn computer skills.

Q: Any last word?

A: I hope that there will better cooperation and coordination between the post office and the media to raise public awareness of how to benefit from the services provided by this very important establishment. There should also be more training courses for post office employees so that they perform their duties as best as can be.

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Volume of Mail

International Mail	1997	1996	1995
Outgoing	1870572	1977593	2121859
Incoming	3379683	3704754	3487324
International Parcels:			
Outgoing	2527	3339	6558
Incoming	6325	6796	10420
Local Mail	1291979	866754	765992
Local Parcels	8650	4477	2664

1. The continued fall in the volume of international mail and parcels handled by the government postal system shows the nibbling effect of private courier service.
2. Courier service does not exist for local mail and parcel service.

Source: The Ministry of Telecommunications, Directorate-General of Postal Services, Sanaa.

Postal Financial Transactions

Local Money Transfers:	1997	1996	1995
Amount in Riyals	460775117	79215207	12057606
Number of Transactions	28085	7548	2192
Postal Savings Accounts:			
Deposits in Y. Rials	446698519	283083804	144199205
Withdrawals in Y. Rials	402607756	243866123	112642851
Revenue from:			
Sale of stamps, POB charges	105518452	97767579	68532112
Commissions, Services	59936416	42175176	3438326

Source: The Ministry of Telecommunications, Directorate-General of Postal Services, Sanaa.

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Germany & Yemen: Partnership for the 21st Century

Dr. Peter Schmidt is the director of the Middle East and Maghreb Countries Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Germany. Ismail Al-Ghabri of Yemen Times visited Dr. Schmidt at his office in Germany, and filed the following interview.

Q: How do you assess the Yemen-German relations

A: I'm very glad to state that especially after the visit of H.E. the President of Yemen, relations between our two countries are very excellent. A state visit like the one we had is a good step to further a long and successful tradition of relations. After the political change in Yemen, we realize that Yemen is a country that we should turn our attention to. We started an extensive cooperation program which has been funded by the Ministry of Cooperation. We have a lot of projects going on in the water sector and in technical and vocational training.

We are very glad that the former two parts of Yemen could merge and unite. Germany was also a divided country but with patience and hard work we managed to get our countries re-united. We are glad that Yemen could do this too. We will always support Yemen if it comes to defending its unity. Of course there are many differences between our democratic experience and yours. We will be more than glad to offer our assistance to help the two former states to grow together even if this costs a lot of work and money.

Q: What kind of assistance did you offer Yemen in 1998?

A: As far as the government program is concerned, I already mentioned that we implement certain programs in which we think that we can make a significant contribution.

Since Yemen is a country that relies on water and is in short supply, we decided to do something in agriculture. We help to execute projects through agencies like The German Development Service. We wish to make use of the technical talent which is so abundant in Yemen by creating jobs in small trade projects. Yemen is a good place for such things because it is a country of agriculture and

because it is famous in the whole Arab Peninsula for its skill in trading.

To a large extent, Yemen is a country of settled people. We are making good progress at having agriculture flourish in Yemen. It is a lot of work but Yemen can successfully manage it. It will be better for Yemen to acquire some degree of self-sufficiency.

Q: What do you offer private endeavors?

A: As far as private investments are concerned, the German federal government will not intervene. What we can and will do is create a framework of legal and political conditions in which this investment can flourish. We will try to get agreements on mutual investment projects, as well as getting something under the agreement of double taxation in order to avoid paying taxes in both countries. We will also try to give potential investors political assurances that Yemen is a stable country which is worthy to invest in.

We hope that the delegation of the German-Arab Society headed by our Minister of Economic Affairs, which has been active in Arab affairs for many decades now, will actually lead to closer cooperation and a better understanding of the Yemeni business sector.

Q: Does tourism in Yemen help people understand the country better?

A: In spite of a lot of tourism going on in Yemen, Germans like to come to Yemen - this does not lead automatically to investment and to closer knowledge of Yemen. You see the Yemeni places such as its deserts, beaches, etc, but you don't see how the people work and what the necessities are. Yemen is on its way to achieving great prosperity. Good steps have already been taken towards the establishment of a working parliamentary democracy. We are very much encouraged and we can only convey this message to our business community in the hope that they will take part in Yemen's development.

Q: How do you evaluate the progress of democracy in Yemen?

A: Although Yemen has become a modern state, the society is still mixed. The traditions of the south

have developed in a way different from the north. There are people who went to Saudi Arabia or to other places in order to earn money, people from Aden are different from Hadhramaut people, etc. There are a lot of traditional differences, so one cannot expect too much too soon.

In the last elections, we and other countries sent observers. We were quite pleased with the organization, the counting of votes and the general correctness of balloting. The elections were good and we are convinced that the government and the people generally did their best. We are very much pleased that apparently political pluralism has been achieved in Yemen.

On other hand, Yemen is a country which has just began its first steps in practicing democracy. It is true that the consultation among the big powers in society, the big sheikhs, and other the influential people are still as important as parliament itself. Of course, we have full faith in the Yemeni government and President to manage the system and eventually in 20 years or so, come to the democracy we have in Germany. But for the moment, I think that here the sheiks are more important than the elected people.

Q: What are the current faults of the democratic system in Yemen?

A: Generally speaking, we are quite satisfied with the situation in Yemen. Of course, we have some points of criticism, which were put to President Saleh when he visited Germany.

We would like Yemen to move from a more authoritarian model into a more democratic, more liberal one where more freedom is granted. The administration should not interfere with the press journalism and the authorities must accept criticism even if it sometimes unjustified.

We hope that the private press and private media would also develop. Another problem is the handling of prisoners in police custody. But this problem has not been recognized. It is a question of people who are in the police service who must be re-educated and re-trained. We are convinced that the government and the President are committed to improving the situation. If they proceed this way, they will have great success.

Q: About 3 months ago, our President called on all parties to 'close the dossiers of the past and start reconciliation.' What is your opinion concerning this call?

A: We welcome all the efforts made for a national reconciliation. This is an excellent thing. National reconciliation in Yemen is not easy. You must not forget that you had an orthodox Marxist government in Aden, and in Sanaa you had a completely different system.

Women in the south were quite emancipated. In the end women have had their rights and began to play their role. You have people in exile, who are criticizing the government for human rights violations.

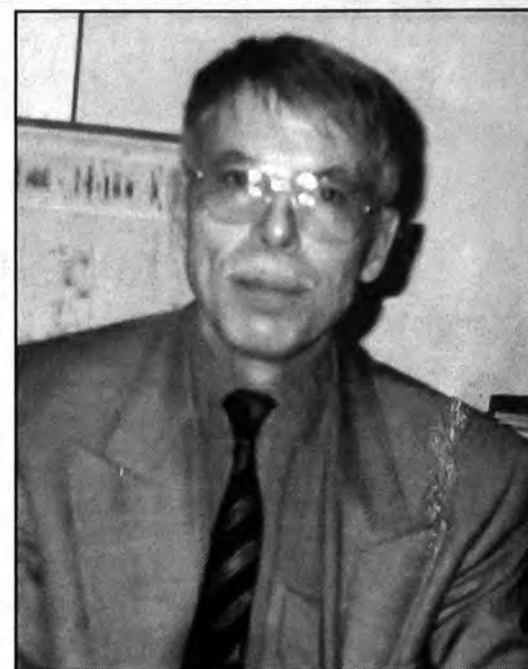
All Yemenis should work to achieve national reconciliation, despite all difficulties they face. Confidence must be rebuilt. So, we hope that the people will come together, with the efforts of the President and the government to achieve national conciliation.

The opposition movement does not mean to really overthrow the republican form of the state. They are airing their criticism of measures taken by individuals. The gaps that exist between the political parties are not so deep that they can not be bridged with patience and efforts. You must work hard to do the right thing.

Concerning national reconciliation, we would not like to interfere because we lack the details which are necessary. You know better yourself and it's always a bit of presumption if an outsider gives you some advice. We welcome the move, but at last it is your country. If you are successful, we will congratulate you and if not, we will just tell you to try again or you must work harder. In the end, the people of Yemen must find the solution themselves.

Q: In your personal view, how does the German public view the kidnapping incidents of foreign tourists in Yemen?

A: We feel obliged to inform our people quite frankly by giving them hints. But we definitely do not ask them not to go to Yemen. We tell just them that 'when you



go from Sanaa to Wadi Hadhramaut, for example, through the desert you need armed escorts.' We just tell our people who come to Yemen to be aware of the risks.

It is the problem of the government to convince the Bedouins not to kidnap. It is a problem of two different mentalities in Yemen and is not something bad. They just do what they have been used to doing for the last 1000, 2000 years, this is how we explain it.

A lot of convincing must be done from the side of the government and sheikhs. We cannot tell them what to do. But we are quite convinced that the government will try to change the situation.



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

A Yemeni-American's Life: The Struggle to Belong!



Beshara Taher

5 years old, so I've made many trips back and forth since and have spent a good deal of time here. But basically, it was my mother and California that gave me my personality.

Americans are quite ignorant when it comes to Arabs. Many Americans don't know that Yemen exists, let alone know where it is. Sometimes, people are amazed when they learn that I am from Yemen, the land of Queen Sheba.

At school, being teased about being Yemeni was quite common, but it never bothered me because I usually teased them back. I have always been very proud of my heritage and enjoyed being unique since there aren't many Yemenis on the American West Coast.

I am always glad to say that I am Yemeni because it changes people's ideas and stereotypes of Arabs. When many Americans think of Arabs, they generally think of terrorists, but when they meet me they see a different picture. They learn and understand more about Arabs once they open their minds and get past the stereotypes.

The people of Yemen and the US are complete opposites. Americans don't generally care about you unless they know you. They don't usually interact with strangers.

On the other hand, I have seen Yemenis to be most loving,

generous and caring. They are always willing to help anyone in need, stranger or not. They always go out of their way to help.

There is a good side and a bad side to having family on both sides of the world. It means I am always far away from half of my close relatives, but I am never without them. American families are very small compared to the large Yemeni ones. Would you believe that I have close contact with almost every relative on my mother's side, but I don't even know the names of all the so many relatives on my father's. There are so many people in his family that it is hard to keep track of their names and there are still many of his relatives that I haven't met. I am sure, I will never be able to meet all my relatives from my father's side.

My father has remarried and has 5 more children and I am not very fond of that part of the family. My youngest brother is very lovable. I don't get along very well with my step-mother. We used to be close, but not any more.

Having lived here for a while, I think that Yemeni women, in general, never really get a chance to grow up and mature on their own. They are treated as children, and are expected to act that way. To me, these things are a source of frustration and I see Yemen wasting the energy, resources and

abilities of the womenfolk.

My father's side of the family is wonderful, I am very fond of them. They have always stuck by my side and treated me nicely. If I need anything, my aunts, uncles and cousins are always there for me. I feel very lucky to have them in my life.

My husband, an American, and I moved to Sanaa 6 months ago and he has become a Muslim since coming here. We have run into many problems due to the prejudice of many people thinking of him as only American. They stare at us strangely and wonder, "What is this Yemeni woman doing with this American?"

The most frustrating thing I have experienced so far is that I can do nothing on my own. It is impossible to get anything done without a man's help. In the US, I grew up to be a very independent person, doing my things without the help of anyone. I took care of myself for many years, paid my bills and went where I wanted. Basically, I was the ruler of my life.

In Yemen, I need my father's or my husband's consent for a job, even though I'm a grown woman. Women play a very small role in Yemen, usually only as mothers or wives. Although, there are a few exceptions. I also have very few rights since women's lives are ruled by men. That is one aspect that I have never been able to accept or adjust to.

I have found that Yemeni men can be extremely rude. When in public, they always stare at women, especially if they are not veiled. It doesn't matter if my face is covered or not. Harassment is slightly less if my face is covered, but it is still too much. They call themselves Muslims, but the Quran says that men are not supposed to stare at women. Once is okay, but after that it is *haram*; wrong and shameful. If I speak English, men immediately

attempt conversation with me.

Many assume that because I am American, I am easy and they might get a chance with me. I get very offended by these misconceptions. One man asked me for my phone number and said he wanted to be my 'friend'. Even after telling him I was married and asking him to leave me alone, he continued to try to converse with me. I finally lost my temper, yelled at him and told him to get lost. I told him that he was wrong to treat me that way.

Being raised in California, I grew up with all the modern conveniences. It is sometimes difficult to adjust to living without them. Life in Yemen can be a bit primitive sometimes, compared to California. If I could combine the best of both countries in one place, I would have paradise.

Making the transition from one society to another can be difficult and overwhelming at times.

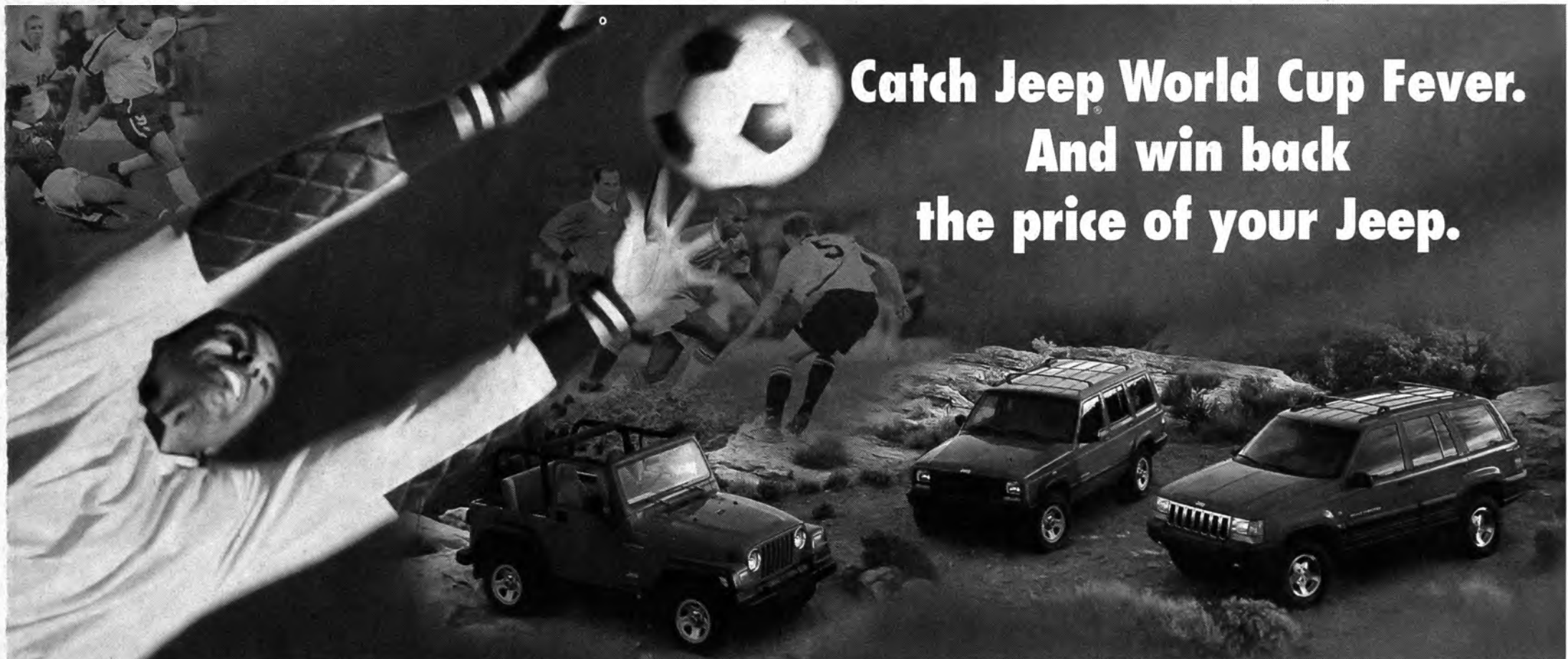
When I am in Yemen, I am constantly covered with my *balto*. There is no choice but to wear the damn thing, because if I don't, I will invite much harassment from men. It sometimes feels like I am in jail, because it is so confining and restrictive. After getting used to it, I go back to the US and I feel strange not to be completely covered up. When I go to the States, I have to adjust to the style of clothing there and after getting back here I have to readjust to the Yemeni ways. Life is like that when you live between two cultures.

To sum my opinion about having two cultures, I will always be proud of my heritage and continue to be a strong and independent woman. I love both of my countries and wouldn't trade either for anywhere else. Yemen will always be in my heart, but I want to spend the better part of my life in the good old USA.

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Ahmed Tarboosh: APPRECIATED POSTHUMOUSLY

Ahmed Tarboosh was a gallant pan-Arabist, who believed in his cause and fought for it. He was a leading member of the Nasserite Unionist Organization. At the time of his death, he was a member of the General Secretariat and the Deputy President of the Organizing Committee of the 9th National Congress of the party. He died on the evening of February 28th following a massive heart attack.

Ahmed Tarboosh was born into a poor family in 1957 in the Al-Akama village in Al-Hujariya, Taiz. He finished his secondary schooling in 1975 at Al-Thawra Secondary School in Taiz, and later got a B.A. in management from Cairo University. Joining the Nasserite organization in 1976, Ahmed displayed extraordinary talents, in terms of organization, ideology, politics and trade union activity. In a relatively short time, the populist Ahmed rose to become a well-known political activist and leader of people. His devotion and talent for gathering people around a worthy cause enabled him to occupy top trade union positions.

Following a successful tenure for a number of sessions, in 1980

Tarboosh was elected President of the Yemen Student's League in Egypt, representing both north and south. He later became head of Yemen's Nasserite organization branch in Egypt.

Upon his return to Yemen, Tarboosh became a member of the supreme executive leadership of the Nasserite organization and head of Al-Wahdawi newspaper, the mouthpiece of the party.

Ahmed Tarboosh's steadfastness to his beliefs was put to the test during the period when the Nasserites in Yemen were targeted and ruthlessly persecuted. He stood tall in the many confrontations and played a major role in keeping the organization's unity intact. Dr. Abdul-Quddos Al-Midhwah, a long-time colleague of Ahmed, said "We always looked to him for inspiration, courage and perseverance. He had clear vision and his eyes were always on the ball."

He also worked hard on rebuilding the organization and preparing it for the period of political plurality that enveloped Yemen following the 1990 unification of the southern and northern parts of the country.

In spite of his leadership role for a long time, Ahmed Tarboosh,

nevertheless, chose to stay out of the limelight. His concern was for achieving what he set out to achieve, not gaining social status or political influence. It was a kind of Sufism and sheer purity of character in him. The poor and the rejected were his bed-fellows. He identified with them, and fought for them. "It is this bias he had. He always sided with the underdog, the vulnerable, and inevitably, the poor," recalls Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaifi, Secretary-General of the Party today, and a long time friend of Tarboosh.

He always had a great talent for instilling optimism and confidence in the hearts of his colleagues, especially in those dark hours and moments of soul-searching and tribulations.

The last political statement he wrote in the morning of that sad February day of his passing away condemned racism as "anti-humanity." Lying on his death bed, as he was examined by a female doctor, a glint of hope sparkled in his eyes. "A Yemeni female doctor! A Yemeni female doctor," he weakly uttered. This is what he fought for throughout his short but full life - to see Yemenis, men and women, attain

their best.

Abdulrazzaq Shaif, one of Ahmed's school teachers described him as follows: "Ahmed was one of my best students 30 years ago. His mental abilities far exceeded his tender age."

One of his fellow freedom fighters, Abdulsalam Al-Hakeemi said, "Since his student days in Egypt, Ahmed Tarboosh was fueled by Jamal Abdul-Nasser's sheer will power and charisma." Ahmed lived in poverty. He lived in want throughout his life. He bore the brunt of material need and never complained, never took advantage of his influence. He was a modern day sufist.

But it is the fond memories of his wife, Amal Al-Basha, and their two kids that bring out the best qualities in the man.

"He was a tender man. He was in such desperate need, yet his pride and self-esteem never allowed



him to bow down at any time to any one," she said. "In spite of that, he was a man who cared." Indeed, with the passing away of Ahmed Tarboosh, Yemen lost

one of its great sons.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor, Yemen Times

CORRECTION

An interview was made by Yemen Times with Mr. John Vouillamoz, Aden Hotel Movenpick General Manager on page 4 of issue no. 15 Vol. VIII.

An error was made in reporting the answer to one of the questions: 'What are the difficulties that you confront?'

The correct answer should read: "The difficulty is to increase the number of visitors to Aden, business and leisure guests."

The 2nd Economic Conference

The Second Yemeni Conference on Economic Reforms in the Republic of Yemen was held for 3 days in Sanaa, starting on 18 April. Organized by Al-Thawabit Quarterly magazine, the conference included the presentation of several research papers covering major economic topics crucial to the economic development and reform program in Yemen.

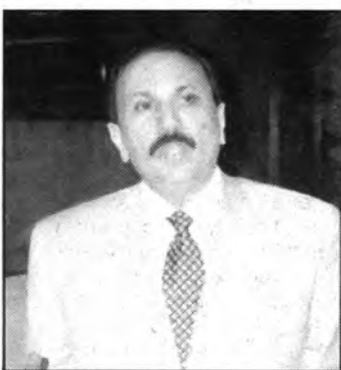
In the opening session, a speech was delivered by Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari, the chairman of the conference preparatory committee. Also present at the opening session were Mr. Abdu Rabbu Hadi Mansoor, the Vice-President; Mr. Abdulmalik Mansoor, the Minister of Culture and Tourism; and Mr. Onder Ucer, the Resident Representative of the UNDP. The participants at the conference included a large number of top economists, both from Yemen and abroad.

A paper on the 'Egyptian Experience' was presented by Mr. Ismail Mohammed, the Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt, another paper on the 'Jordanian Experience' was presented by Dr.

Mohammed Al-Nabulsi, the former Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan.

The overall experience of developing countries was addressed by a research paper presented by Mr. Inder K. Sud, Director of the Middle East Department in the World Bank.

The Yemeni experience was presented by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, the Chairman of the Consultative Council, who also chaired the first session. A total of 36 papers were presented.



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Yemen & Germany: Prospects for Future Economic Cooperation

In order to strengthen the high-level political dialogue between Germany and Yemen, the Minister of State in the German Federal Foreign Ministry, Mr. Helmut Schafer, MP, made a three-day visit to Yemen, starting on 14 April.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief met Mr. Schafer and filed the following interview. Excerpts:

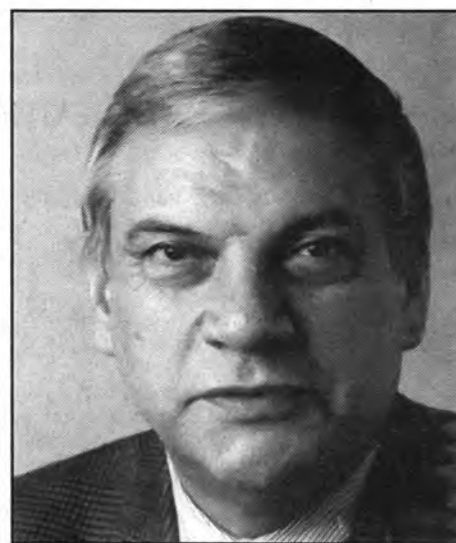
Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: The main purpose of this visit is to sign a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement. During my meeting with the President, I also exchanged views on the political situation in the region concerning such issues as the Middle East peace process and the conflict in Sudan. I visited Sudan before coming to Yemen in order to get better acquainted with the situation there.

I met with Foreign Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani to sign an agreement for cultural and tourism cooperation.

Q: What impressions have you come up with during your visit to Aden?

A: I have come to witness the most important developments in Aden, which is a very important port and commercial center. I met Governor Taha Ahmed Ghanim and we visited the port to see the most recent developments there. We also discussed ideas on how to improve this port and revive its past glory.



Q: What is your overall impression of your visit to Yemen?

A: I am 100% optimistic that many things in Yemen are progressing in an excellent way. The Aden port is gradually turning into an international port. I hope that the Aden Free Zone will be fully realized soon so that the port will become a place where huge tankers and cargo ships dock.

Q: Did you express any ideas to further develop the Aden port?

A: I just gave a few suggestions for the future. We are mainly concerned with the implementation of the Aden sewage project.

Q: Have you discussed the participation of German firms in the Aden Free Zone?

A: We are very keen on the active participation of German capital in investments in the Aden Free Zone. A German delegation has come to Yemen to gauge the opportunities for doing just that. More delegations are to follow. On my return to Germany, I'll make it quite clear to the German government how important it is to invest in the Free Zone.

Q: How do you view the future of Yemeni-German relations?

A: These relations are very good, and are getting better. This high-level visit has further strengthened our bilateral ties. A delegation of experts has arrived in Yemen to discuss future projects with officials at the Ministry of Planning.

Q: What projects does Germany intend to jointly implement with Yemen?

A: We have not discussed specific projects. But there is the Aden sewage project, the agreement for which was signed two years ago. We are now in the stage of receiving tender offers. This project is expected to cost DM 75 million.

Overcrowding in our Schools: Social & Health Risks

By Nadya Al-Dhafari

There are many things written on the subject of the never-ending education problems. Overcrowding is one such pressing problem. However, hearing about the problem is different from observing it on the ground. There is a great deal of similarity among the state-owned schools, most common of which is overcrowding in the classroom. Some classrooms are clogged with as many as 150 students. On average, a classroom in a state-owned school has about 120-130 students, with a minimum of 90. Ministry of Education regulations stipulate that their numbers should be between 40-50 in a primary school classroom and between 45 and 50 in secondary schools.

To ascertain the extent of this problem, a number of teachers, principals and students were interviewed.

Ms. Aisha, Deputy Headmistress of a state-owned school in Sanaa, said: "Overcrowding frustrates teachers since it is hard to control so many students at one time, especially from the first year primary level to the sixth year. This has led to a deterioration in the students' general ability to learn. Underachievers don't get the attention they need, especially when they sit at the back of the classroom."

"Lazy students don't do their homework or participate in class activities. So they rely on cheating when exam time comes, the only way they know to succeed."

Ms. Amira, a teacher responsible for extra-curricular activities, said:

"Most of the activities such as sports, sewing and drawing are practiced inside the classroom because of the unavailability of an appropriate place and organizing the tremendous number of students takes too much time. If the students are allowed to practice sports outside, they will cause much noise, disturbing everyone. Thus, the class period ends without any benefit to the students."

Ms. Jameela, a science teacher, said: "Most science teachers do not conduct any laboratory experiments because of the large number of students. They might break the lab equipment, some of which are combustible. Therefore, a teacher might bring a lab set to the classroom if it is easy to carry and simple to use. This can work for other things, such as chemical experiments."

Reem Mansoor, a fourth-grade primary-school pupil, said: "I prefer sitting on the ground because it is not comfortable to share four chairs with six other students. I also do not like to sit by the windows because of the cold."

Hanan Abdullah, a third-grade preparatory-school student, said: "The large number of students represents a big problem for me and other female students. I can't concentrate because of the many distractions. Some students sit in the back of the classroom to avoid showing their homework and to eat peanuts since the teacher cannot reach them."

Another student, Sahar, said: "Women teachers only pay attention to the students in the front."



The problem gets worse when the teacher explains to a large number of students because we cannot understand the lessons."

We find that overcrowding in the classroom causes serious problems such as:

1. The spread of contagious disease among students, as well as rheumatism and backache due to awkward sitting postures.

2. Some students force others to sit on chairs in the back of the classroom or on the ground.

Mixed together, older students try to dominate younger ones.

3. Overcrowding obstructs teachers from classifying students according to their ages or conditions such as near-sightedness.

4. Some students sit on different chairs from the standard school desks. This could cause envy

among students. Some parents are asked by the school management to bring chairs and tables for their children.

5. Overcrowding, particularly in the primary level, makes it difficult for teachers to do their job properly. In the first years of education, pupils need a lot of help to learn to read and write. This demands patience, effort and

wisdom from the teacher. How can a teacher properly teach so many children to read and write at one time?

Solution: Construction of new, larger classrooms to help reduce overcrowding is a must. Bazaars must be organized for selling chairs and desks.

Physicians for Peace Launches Burn Care Team in Yemen

Norfolk, VA, April 10, 1998 - In a joint effort between the Ministry of Health and Physicians For Peace, an international team of physicians, nurses and physical therapists begins PFP's seventh volunteer medical mission in the Republic of Yemen on April 10. The primary objective of this 2 1/2 month humanitarian activity is to share highly specialized burn care treatment with host colleagues. At the invitation of Yemen's Minister of Health, Dr. Abdulla A Wali Nasher, this will be the 7th PFP team of medical specialists to provide both medical education and teaching since the first mission in 1994.

Under the leadership of Dr. Victor H. Davis, assistant professor of surgery/burn and trauma specialist at the University of New Mexico, School of Medicine in Albuquerque, the primary objective of this mission is to foster the valuable exchange of medical education and technique between the PFP team and Yemeni doctors and nurses in order to provide the best patient care for their patients.

On a schedule of overlapping visits ranging from two to four weeks during the 2 1/2 months, the PFP team of four physicians, two physical therapists and four critical care nurses will work closely with their Yemeni colleagues at the Al-Ghamoory Teaching Hospital, a 16-bed facility in the capital city of Sanaa. The physicians will begin early grafting, splinting of smaller burns and then initiate early physical therapy. This should help prevent some of the severe scarring and contractures that seem so common. The nurses will help with dressing changes, management of grafted wounds and mobilization of patients. The physical therapists will demonstrate the importance of early splinting, early active and passive range of motion in the patients and stress the importance of long-term post operative vigorous therapy to get the maximum results. In early May, plastic surgeons will join the team to surgically help treat patients suffering from burn contractures.

Because of the highly successful "Yemeni-PFP Symposium for Continuing Medical Education" hosted by the Minister of Health in Sanaa in October 1997, planning is underway for the Ministry to repeat another success during the burn care medical mission. The day-long conference will

feature lecture presentations by the PFP team and Yemeni counterparts with an emphasis on understanding the complexities of burn/trauma care. PHYSICIANS FOR PEACE was founded by renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Charles E. Horton, as a non-government, non-denominational, non-profit organization dedicated to improving international health care through continuing medical and nursing education. Based in Norfolk, Virginia, USA, since 1984, almost 150 medical missions, from ten days to six weeks in length, have been conducted by teams of physicians, dentists, nurses and technicians in countries in the Middle East, Central America, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Caribbean and parts of Asia. Areas of pressing need are under continual review for possible future missions. This camaraderie creates a bond of mutual respect and professionalism.

Physicians For Peace Team Members

Jane Bentley, P.T. - Physical Therapist, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Victor H. Davis, M.D. - PFP Team Leader, Burn/Trauma Specialist, Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of New Mexico Medical School, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Paula Drever, R.N. - Plastic Surgery/Critical Care Nurse, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Michele Fratrack, R.N. - Burn Care Nurse, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Rick Murdoch, P.T. - Physical Therapist, Albuquerque, New Mexico
J.D. Sharick, R.N. - Burn Care Nurse, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Linda Sylvester, R.N. - Trauma/Surgical ICU Nurse, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Jon Wagner, M.D. - Plastic Surgeon, University of New Mexico Medical School, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Daniel Westbury, M.D. - General Surgery Resident, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Gerald Yospur, M.D. - Plastic Surgery Resident, University of New Mexico Medical School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Bearing into consideration that the above named company is also holding at the present time some existing projects which is still running in Yemen, some of them are under achievement, and some others are still under development with the concerned governmental authorities, therefore, and in accordance with the prevailing REGULATIONS OF AGENCY Rep. Of Yemen, which, as standards rules, always protect the rights of any Local Authorized Sole Agent, we, hereby announce our strictly WARNING & NOTICE FOR ANY LOCAL YEMENI COMPANY or any other Yemeni-Party from taking any step to contact or try to make any deal by direct or indirect way with the aforesaid German company whose names are clearly stated. In case that anyone not comply with this notification and try to contact illegally our above mentioned principals, we will be forced to take the necessary legal action against him, starting by submit our complaint to the Governmental Authorities, as well as to sue him in the commercial court, for the sake of protection of our INTEREST & RIGHTS.

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DEUTSCHE POST AG TO ACQUIRE 22.5% STAKE IN DHL INTERNATIONAL

Frankfurt, Germany, 1100 hrs, March 25, 1998. DHL International Ltd, the leading air express company, announced today that the German postal service Deutsche Post AG intends to acquire a 22.5% stake in the company.



At present, a memorandum of understanding has been signed by both organizations. Once finalized, the investment is subject to approval by the European Commission.

As a result of continued 16% plus growth year after year, DHL has doubled in size in five years, and leads the international air express industry, one of the world's high growth markets.

Today's announcement is consistent with DHL's policy of finding financial and strategic investors to meet this exceptional growth. This dates to 1990, when Japan Airlines (25.001%) Lufthansa Cargo AG (25.001%) and The Nissho Iwai Corporation (7.5%) took stakes in the privately-held company.

The day to day management of DHL's business will remain the same, although the board of directors will be reinforced by the addition of new representatives of Deutsche Post AG, alongside the existing shareholders.

DHL will be using the capital proceeds to develop its network in 227 countries and territories. Last year it spent US\$240 million in infrastructure and technology, and in Europe. It plans to open at least 30 new service centers and acquire nine A-300 aircraft.

In Asia, it is investing in Hong Kong's new Chek Lap Kok airport, a new gateway in Jakarta and a dedicated Asia-Pacific IT center in Malaysia. An airside development is also planned in Sydney.

In turn, Deutsche Post AG is the leading parcel carrier in Germany and is developing its pan-European road-based network. Its express delivery service will now have access to DHL's global air express network.

Dr. Klaus Zumwinkel, chief executive officer said: "At Deutsche Post AG we acknowledge the tremendous growth of DHL over the past 15 years which ensures its position as market leader in the industry. This has been driven by the visionary leadership of DHL's management and the dedication of its staff."

Looking ahead, both parties are keen to concentrate on their core strengths. DHL's fundamental objective is to focus on global air express distribution, while Deutsche Post AG will continue to develop its pan-European road based ground distribution.

DHL International Ltd, an organization with more than 40,000 people, is a privately held company. The DHL Worldwide Express network is composed of DHL International Limited, its subsidiaries and affiliates which serve all locations outside the United States and its territories; and DHL Airway Inc., its subsidiaries and affiliates which serve all locations in the United States and its territories.

DHL Worldwide Express is the pioneer and market leader of the global air express industry. Its founders effectively created the industry on the West Coast of America in 1959 by moving shipping manifests from port to port by air to speed ocean cargo. In doing so, it started a process that would revolutionize the way the world does business. Last year DHL delivered more than 140 million shipments to 227 countries and territories.

Today the DHL Worldwide Express network employs over 5,000 people worldwide, and operates in 635,000 cities. Earlier this year in an INSEAD study of 173 multinationals, DHL was rated first in 'mission and value' and seventh for 'market effectiveness'. Each year DHL re-invests between 2% and 8% (in newer markets) of its annual revenue in training and developing its people.

Al-Qa'atabi: Life of Genius Cut Short

Mohammed Obaid Al-Qa'atabi is one of the greatest Yemeni singers who made significant contributions to Yemeni art. Al-Qa'atabi is considered by many music historians as a pioneer of the Yemeni old traditional song (Mouashaha in Arabic).

Born in Aden, Mohammed Al-Qa'atabi was taught, early in his life, the principles of traditional Yemeni singing by his father Hajj Obaid Ali Belabel. His father also received good training in singing and music by Sheikh Mohammed Dhafer, a Sanaani singer at whose hands several Yemeni singers were taught.

Due to the fact that singing was frowned upon in Sanaa during the reign of the Imam, Sheikh Dhafer had to stay in Qa'ataba before leaving to Ethiopia. During that time, Hajj Obaid Belabel, Al-Qa'atabi's father, tried to get from Dhafer a good knowledge of Yemeni singing, learning by heart as many lyrics as he could.

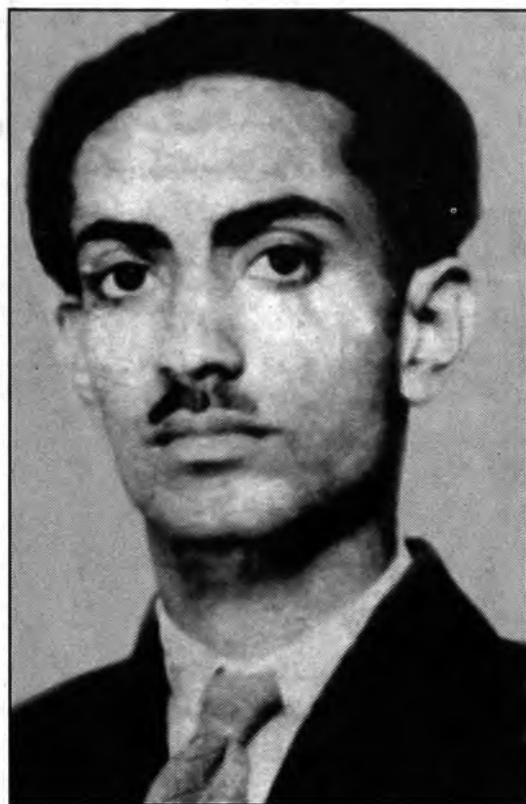
Mohammed Al-Qa'atabi, said his brother Abdullah, was an uneducated man who, despite of his father's and teacher's efforts, refused to study. As Al-Qa'atabi was fond of singing, his father decided to teach him how to play the lute. In a short time, our singer was able to handle this musical instrument. Step by step, he learned by heart all the old lyrics and compositions.

According to the lyricist Ahmed Abu Mahdi, Al-Qa'atabi began his career as a lute player for some Yemeni singers like Ahmed Al-Jarashi and Awadh Al-Mosallami. When he appeared on the stage as a singer, he was admired by all. Among his contemporaries, he was the favorite of people in wedding parties (called *almakhader* in Aden). Being influenced by Sheikh Saleh Al-Antari, his music playing and singing performance was highly harmonious and well-organized.

Moreover, Al-Qa'atabi successfully presented Indian musical compositions accompanied by Arabic lyrics. This raised his popularity and made him even more famous.

Al-Funoon newspaper has published a poem by Abdulmajeed Al-Asbah in which he eulogized Al-Qa'atabi's voice and brought the significance of his poems.

Al-Qa'atabi had recorded some of his songs at Taha-Phone Record Company. The distribution of



his records brought the company and Al-Qa'atabi a huge income. Unfortunately as a young man, Al-Qa'atabi spent all his money on his personal pleasures, legal and otherwise. This made him suffer from several diseases, and so he stopped singing for some time. When the radio station was opened in Aden 1954, Al-Qa'atabi re-recorded some of his songs. Later, his health began to deteriorate and he could not sing any more, which led to his untimely death in 1969. Despite of his short life, he was one of the greatest singers people in Yemen and in the Arab Peninsula have ever loved.

Saleh Abdulabaqi, musician

Cultural Events in Sanaa

Uncommon Musical Evening



Organized by the Yemen Union of Writers, an evening of art was presented by the outstanding Yemeni singer and musician Jaber Ali Ahmed on Wednesday 15 April. The event was attended by a large audience of Yemenis and expatriates. The words of the songs presented by Jaber Ali Ahmed were taken from poems by Yemeni poets such as Abdulalha Al-Baradooni, Yahya Awadh Abdulaziz Al-Maqaleh, Amna Yousuf, Abdulhadi Khidhr and Abdullah Ba-Kalaba.

The music for the songs - all new and never recorded or broadcast

before - was composed by the artist himself. "I like to know my audience's opinion about these songs, which are quite new in their form," said Jaber Ali Ahmed.

This evening is one of a series of such weekly events.

Tunisian Poet Celebrated

A lecture was delivered on Tuesday 14 April at Al-Afif Cultural Foundations by Dr.

Mohammed Al-Taher Al-Sobaitli, a professor of history at the College of Education, Sanaa University. The topic of the lecture was the patriotic Tunisian poet Abu Al-Qassem Al-Shabi, who roused the nationalistic fervor of generations of Arabs through his many great poems. He, however, did not write patriotic poems only, but also love odes which inflamed the passions of many a young lover.

The Yemeni and Arab audience responded enthusiastically to the lecture and the recited verses of some of Al-Shabi's most famous poems.

By Khairiya Al-Shibeebi

African Night

A night of Sudanese music was organized last Saturday at Halaqa and is being followed by an exhibition of artwork originating from both sides of the continent.



The dancing was largely ceremonial with highly coloured costumes; depicting a bride being given away to her groom and their guests dancing for them. The art work includes tribal masks, statuettes, oil and water color paintings, tapestries etc. Much of the wood sculptures come from Western Africa, including an amazingly one piece sculpted table supported by a seated king from the Congo (Kinhasa), and other statuettes from Benin and Togo. Artists such as Shihab el Din, a Sudanese artist, will have photos on exhibit which originate from his work as a photo journalist. Khalid, another Sudanese, is exhibiting his sculpted leather pieces. There are also paintings from Tanzania. The exhibition should continue until the 25th.

Martin Dansky/Yemen Times

Incense: To Scent or to Exorcize?

Nowadays, incense is widely used in Yemen especially in Hodeida, Sanaa and Taiz. People consider incense as quite important in their lives. They buy it with considerable sums of money from people in Aden and Lahaj who still make and sell incense to all other parts of the country.

In Aden and Lahaj, women perfume their bodies with incense after anointing with Palmolive oil. They also incense their clothes by putting live coals into a censer and letting smoke permeate through the clothes. They do this for 2 or 3 hours and later they take the clothes and spray them with perfume. They wear the scented clothes when they visit friends or attend parties or wedding ceremonies.

Basic Incense

Ingredients:

- 1 kg of sugar
- 1 bottle of rose water
- Aloe
- Henna
- Sandalwood
- Ambergris
- Bird's nails
- 3 bottles of tea spices
- 2 bottles of "Khair Lana" fragrance
- 2 bottles of sandalwood fragrance
- 2 bottles of musk
- 2 bottles of "Janat Al-Naiem" fragrance
- 1 bottle of "Luqmani" fragrance

Instructions:

1. Mix the rose water and sugar and heat until sugar is fully dissolved
2. Crush the sandalwood, aloe and birds nails. (birds nails should be soaked in henna and water for 2 days)
3. Pour 1/4 kilo of nails, a little dye, a bit of aloe and ambergris into the rose water and sugar.
4. Mix 3 bottles of tea spices, 2 bottles of "Khair Lana" fragrance, 2 bottles of aloe fragrance, 2 bottles of musk, 2 bottles of "Janat Al-Naiem" fragrance, 1 bottle of "Luqmani" fragrance. Pour 1/2 of these fragrances into a metal bowl. Pour the heated mixture into the bowl and then pour the remainder of the fragrances into the mixture. Leave them to cool and harden, then break the incense into small pieces to be stored.

Uses:

Married women and brides usually perfume their clothes with incense. At wedding ceremonies, incense is used to perfume the bride and guests. It also used in birth celebrations and banquets.

Women in Aden used to buy Lahaj censers, since Lahaj is well known for censers. They also used to import censers from Somalia. There are small and big censers and some with covers in the form of a triangle or a dome. People in Lahaj used to make "Mushjab," made with palm leaves to put clothes over to be perfumed. Incensing can be done by putting live coals and incense into a censer under the *Mushjab*, and then put clothes over the top. Men in Aden and Lahaj perfume their clothes with sandalwood only.

In the northern towns, people did not know about this incense

except a few families in Hodeida

Incense for evil eye and envy

It is made of alum, some onions, 7 seeds of red pepper and black cumin. To treat a person who is stricken with an evil eye, people follow these steps:

1. Put live coal into the censer.
2. Hold the above mentioned ingredients by hand.
3. Go around the person stricken

to be put into the censer until the live coal goes out and a small amount of water is immediately poured into the jar and covered until water absorbs the smoke. After that, the rest of the water is poured. Carnation and cardamom can be added.

Censers are used in Arabic countries, especially those which are made of copper and metal. Nowadays, electric censers are



with the evil-eye while reading some verses of the holy Quran.

4. Put the above mentioned ingredients into the censer. This should be done for 3 days at sunset. Alum usually takes the shape of a human being. If the evil eye is of a Satan, the alum shows a dreadful face.

Satan-repellent Incense

It is used to expel Satan from houses by incensing with olibanum at sunset and in the morning. Also, "shadab" can be hung down over entrance doors and walls of bedrooms and living rooms.

Water Incense

This kind of incense is made of the "mostaka sultani." It is used to incense water by putting the "mostaka sultani" with live coal into a special censer. Then, the jar is turned upside down in order

widely used in Yemen and in the Gulf countries.

Special Incense

It is made of crushed sandalwood, essential oils such as "Khair Lana," tea spices, and sugar. This recipe is called "Maafasiya" in Aden and Lahaj. People use "maafasiya" to perfume their houses when they receive guests or if there is a party or a wedding ceremony.

Birth Incense

It is made of olibanum, asafetida, myrrh and aloe. After birth, incense is used to perfume the house, especially when visitors come. The newborn child is perfumed with this incense as well as the mother during her postnatal period. People believe that this is useful for them.

By Athena Al-Absi

VACANCIES

A leading trading establishment in Abu Dhabi requires qualified and experienced Yemeni professionals for the following vacancies in its office in UAE.

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One electronic engineer with extensive knowledge and experience in electronic/communications electronic circuitries, communication lines, fibre optics, long distance monitoring, surveillance systems, etc.

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اليمنية لمنتجات ام إي سي MEC
بمناسبة افتتاح معرض منتجات MEC الالكترونية والكهربائية المنزلية

هيئة الكهرباء المالية



Integrating Women in Social and Economic Development

The Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs, Mr. Mohammed Al-Batani has on 16 April officially opened the Model Center for Productive Families in Mahweet. In cooperation with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), a special administrative and technical cadre is trained and the essential raw materials are provided for the center.

This center comes as part of the trend to establish small-scale projects to combat poverty and help limited-income people. The training provided will be in accordance with the needs of the locals and the demands of the labor market. Courses provided will include the teaching of English, computer usage, and other necessary skills required in the various cities, towns, and villages around the country.

Most important of all is education and eradicating women's illiteracy. Mr. Ahmed Al-Sermi, the general manager of the education office in Mahweet, assures that "involving educated women like teachers and school students will help making this project a success. This will be a good step towards actualizing women activities in the society," says Mr. Al-Sermi. "On the way to achieve a financial and administrative reform, the project also offers job opportunities for unemployed people," he adds.

Ms. Adeeba Al-Radi, the tricot teacher of the center says, "the project includes offering training of sewing, tricot and needle work, and teaching some health programs for women of the city. The people of Mahweet are responding well to the project, especially those who are uneducated."

"This project is the first of its kind. The center has all the necessary tools and equipment. In addition, it employs a mobile unit of four educated women to

teach health programs, planting, sewing, and tracing out clothes patterns. This team has the responsibility to give medical advice and training courses to people who cannot come to the center. They have a car and all the equipment they need while on duty," says Rasheeda Al-Noseiri, the director of the project.

The project program encourages and supports the women who highly succeeded in making small-scale marketing projects. In the near future, the project will offer secretarial courses in Sanaa and Aden including teaching the English language. Since the Mahweet center has 6 urban centers and 9 rural centers, the center has to send a qualified staff to these centers. For this purpose, an 8-month training course was carried out as a part of the project's program to get a well qualified staff.

Ms. Afrah Al-Saidi, a health counsellor in Mahweet, says "we worked in three villages, Al-Arqoob, No'man, and Jabal Taraf. We taught old women sewing and other skills. Though people of those villages are uneducated, we really found a big response to all that we have done. In Al-Arqoob village, the number of women who came to the center at first exceeded 100. This number grew day by day. Despite of their big duties at home and in planting lands, women are eager to learn and to get trained. For that reason, we tried to organize our courses at a convenient time for them."

Amatulsalam Al-Lesani, the manager of Mahweet center says, "the center has 32 machines and 10 tricot machines. We will make wool sweaters and clothing for women and children and then we will make an exhibition to sell our products."

On opening the Model Center for Productive Families in Mahweet, the following facilities are



available at the center:

1. A well-repaired suitable center with all necessary services.
2. Administrative and technical staff of 9 women and a watchman.
3. All the raw materials necessary for the training of sewing, cutting out, needle work and tricot.
4. Providing the center with 37 machines (10 Joki machines, 20 Singer machines, 15 of them for the villages and the mobile teams, 4 needlework

machines, and 3 tricot machines) .

5. A mobile unit or team of 4 trained women and a driver to work in Al-Arqoob, Al-No'aman, and Jabal Al-Taraf villages.
6. Machines and furniture are provided to these villages. This mobile unit will have the necessary medical supplies and training equipment.

Ahlam Al-Mutawakil, Yemen Times

International Conference on Yemen: Can Yemen Face Up to Future Challenges?

Organized by the Arab Gulf Studies at the University of Exeter, the international conference on 'Yemen: The Challenge of Social, Economic, and Democratic Development' was held in Exeter,

England during 1-4 April. The topics of discussion included economics and demography, oil and energy, agriculture, law, state and society, education, health and social security.



Mr. Kamil Mahdi, & Ms. Lindy Ayoubi receiving flowers from the Yemeni Ambassador to London for her efforts in organizing the conference

The opening address was made by Sir Geoffrey Holland, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter. The participants at the conference included Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister; Dr. Kamil Mahdi, the Director of Islamic and Middle East Historical Studies; Mr. Hussain Al-Hubaishi, the former minister of legal affairs; Dr. Nader Fergany of Cairo University; Dr. Nora Colton of Drew University; Dr. Yahya Al-Mutawakil of Sanaa University; Dr. Mutahar Al-Saeedi of the Ministry of Planning and Development; Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor; Prof. Mikhail Rodionov of St. Petersburg University. Ms. Sylvaine Camelin of the Uni-

versity Paris X, Nanterre; Dr. Robert Burrowes of Washington University, Seattle, and several other Yemeni, Arab and international researchers and experts on Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula in general. The British Ambassador to Sanaa, Mr. Victor Henderson and the Yemeni Ambassador to London, Mr. Hussain Al-Amri also attended the conference.

A total of 36 research papers were presented by the participants, covering almost the whole spectrum of current issues concerning Yemen as a country and people.

An agreement was signed by the Exeter University and the Yemen govern-

ment to strengthen the scientific and cultural cooperation between Exeter University and a number of Yemeni universities.



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AZ COMM LTD & MOTOROLA Great Launch in Yemen

AZ Comm. Ltd. is the agent of Motorola company in Yemen. It distributes Motorola products such as Radio Network solution, mobile phones, pagers, Iridium mobile phones and other modern, state-of-the-art communication equipment.

AZ Communication Ltd. held on 31 March a three-day seminar on communication technology at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa. It was attended by the Minister of Communications and representatives of several private companies interested in communication technology as well as the army and police bodies.

Mr. Abdulmalik Zabarah, the General Director of AZ Communication Ltd., has this to say about his new company and the future developments in the field of communications in Yemen.

★ AZ & Motorola ★

First, I would like to thank Mr. Ahmed Al-Anisi, the Minister of Communication, the Deputy Minister of Comm and Deputy Chief of Staff the security apparatus and all the people who attended this seminar.

The main aim of this seminar is to launch the newly established AZ Communications Ltd in Yemen. The other very important goal of the seminar is to introduce Motorola products, which AZ Communication distributes in this country. It is a very well-known fact that Motorola communication equipment is the best in the market. They are

made according to the highest international standards of technology.

★ Goals ★

The seminar, which lasted for three days, aimed to get the participants acquainted with the latest and most modern communication equipment produced by



Cellular Phone (Star TAC)

Motorola, both for civilian and military use.

★ Benefits ★

The participants at this seminar have largely benefited by getting all the information they need from the Motorola representatives, who came from all departments of the company. Moreover, a large number of modern communication equipment was exhibited and their various functions and features were explained and practically demonstrated.

★ Cooperation ★

AZ Communication Ltd is more than ready to fully cooperate with the Ministry of Communications and all other interested bodies, private or official.

★ Future Plans ★

AZ Communication Ltd. is greatly interested in introducing the most modern Motorola communication

equipment into Yemen. This will be done through extensive media and advertising campaigns. Yemeni consumers will get fully acquainted with this excellent equipment.



Alpha Numeric Pager

Development of Communication Networks in Yemen

Yemen is widely considered as one of the countries which use the most modern communication technology, whether in terms of ordinary telephone lines or wireless communications.

Due credit must go to the Minister of Communication, Mr. Ahmed Al-Anisi who played a major role and made great efforts to advance the communication network in Yemen. He and all those who work at the Ministry of Communications always try to obtain the most modern communication equipment in the world for use by the Yemeni people. On our part, we always try to introduce the most recent developments in this very important field. The Ministry of Communication has been extremely cooperative.



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AL-WAHDA: Sanaa
weekly, 15-4-98.
(Semi-official)
Main Headlines:

1- Return of Prime

Minister is imminent - official sources deny allegations that an alternative coalition government will be formed.

2- Foreign Minister visits Djibouti to strengthen ties and head Yemeni delegation in joint-committee meetings.

3- Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf: "The President does not need absolute loyalty or sycophancy."

4- More than 53,000 persons cast their votes in complementary elections at 4 unrepresented constituencies.

5- In view of UN Human Rights Committee's decision to stop looking into the human rights situation in Yemen, the Head of Liberties and Human Rights Committee in parliament, said: "Yemen has made a lot of progress in the protection and respect of human rights."

Article Summary:

Embezzlements in External Trade Est.

By Ahmed Al-Homaiqani

Official sources have indicated that no decision has yet been reached regarding the embezzlements discovered at the Central Bakery in the External Trade and Grains Establishment. A process of inventory-taking conducted last December revealed the misappropriation of YR52 million, of which YR19 million was missing from the Bakery coffers. The remaining YR33 million was missing from the revenue of goods sold by the Bakery's warehouse. The keeper of the warehouse and the Bakery's treasurer are both under investigation by the Establishment itself, while, they should really be referred to the Public Funds Prosecutor Office.

It seems that some influential individuals involved in the case are attempting a cover-up. The whereabouts of the misappropriated funds are still unknown.



AL-UMMA: Sanaa weekly,
16-4-98.
(Al-Haq Party)
Main Headlines:

1- British navy chief and 8 senior officers made an



Yemini Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil

unannounced visit to the Yemeni isles off the shore of Hodeida. A US division which took part in joint Yemeni-US maneuvers in the area is expected to go to Socotra.

2- Second armed tribal conflict has occurred within one week over a piece of land in Sanaa.

3- Minister of Religious Endowments & Guidance: "No Yemen pilgrims were injured in the Mecca stampede."

4- Muslim fundamentalists attempted to vandalize the grave of the late patriotic figure, Omar Al-Jawi.

Article Summary:

International Testimony to Rights Violations By Abdulkareem Al-Khaiwani

The human rights issue is used by the US and the West as a tool for political leverage. It is particularly used against those countries which are seen as "threatening to the interests of the West." Countries favored by the US and Israel are never accused of human rights violations, even if they have the worst record in the world.

The UN has decided to 'stop looking into the human rights situation in Yemen because of the marked improvements in this field since the establishment of the Supreme Human Rights National Committee.' This "improvement" in the human rights situation in Yemen did not come from the above committee's internal activities, but from the activities abroad of its chief - the Foreign Minister - and his talent of convincing Western governments. Any such testimony made without referring to the Yemeni citizens is worthless.

newsstands for publishing a front-page piece on the Prime Minister's departure and the crisis in the government.

2- Al-Thawri journalists are still being interrogated by the Publications Prosecutor's Office for writing articles critical of the state.

3- Yemen is to receive US assistance in return for military facilities on Socotra Island.

4- Blood feuds lead to tribal conflict flaring up again in Abyan, leaving 8 people seriously injured.

5- Opposition group in exile sends statements through fax to local newspapers in Yemen.

Article Summary:

Woman... an Issue

By Dikra Abbas

Many of the men who loudly call for women's rights do not apply their alleged beliefs to their personal lives. If they were to implement a fraction of what they call for, the women's situation would be ten times better.

Many men treat their wives according to the general morals of the society in which they live. The general conditions support or oblige them to do just that. Women will have to really fight for their rights and not rely on men to do that for them.

The authority in the former southern Yemeni state granted women almost all their rights. But since these rights were granted by men, not forcibly gained by women, they were easily eroded. Women there just remained passive.



AL-TAREEQ: Aden weekly,
14-4-98.
(Independent)
Main Headlines:

1- Clans of Al-Homoom tribe living in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf region called on the President to intervene to swiftly bring to justice the killers of one of their kinsmen and his two cousins.

2- Abyan coastal region lives in a state of terror because of blood feuds among warring tribes.

3- German authorities apprehended two German tourists in possession of pieces of coral reef from Yemen. Two months later, the Yemeni authorities have failed to reply to the German queries as to the circumstances of the smuggling case.

4- Doctors in Aden prepare to go on strike in protest over the arbitrary suspension of the head of the surgery department at Aden Hospital.

Article Summary:

AIDS Patients Refuge

A memorandum issued by the Jumhoria Hospital in Aden stated that Al-Besateen (orchards) area has become a hiding place and a refuge for HIV-positive people. Addressed to the security organ in Aden, the memorandum also stated that most of patients come from Somalia, Tanzania, and Kenya.



RAY: Sanaa weekly, 14-4-98.
(League of the Sons of Yemen - RAY)
Main Headlines:

1- Exiled opposition leader, Al-Jifri:

"The President is serious in calling for national reconciliation, but the power centers want to keep the status quo."

2- Despite the President's affirmation of freedom of expression, security men arrest RAY figures.

3- The President declares a number of austerity measures and rationalization of public spending to offset budget deficit caused by the drop in oil prices.

4- Minister of Justice demands the lifting of parliamentary immunity of an MP accused, along with his sons, of murdering an army colonel.

Article Summary:

Illiteracy in Yemen

By Nadir Al-Siroori

The ratio of illiterate people in Yemen is 55%, rising to 76% among females. About 63% of illiterate people live in the countryside. The real danger lies in the fact that thousands of people, aged between 6 and 15 years, join the illiterate every year by failing to get enrolled in primary education. About 250,000 people annually join the 5 million illiterate people in Sanaa alone.

Due to lack of resources, the 1997/98 target of the

Eradication of Illiteracy Organization has dropped from educating 338,000 persons to only 20,000. The 1996-2000 plan envisaged eradicating illiteracy among 1,610,200 persons. This plan was abandoned two years later for failing to achieve any of its goals.

The eradication of illiteracy curricula must be modernized, considerably more resources should be allocated, programs to eradicate illiteracy at the workplace must be implemented, school truancy must be controlled and public awareness should be raised.



26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa
weekly, 16-4-98.
(Yemen Armed Forces)
Main Headlines:

1- The President discusses bilateral relations and Middle East peace process with visiting German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

2- Officials deny intention to form a new government.

3- Due to delay of rainfall, the President calls on the people to perform prayers for rain after the regular Friday prayers.

4- Council of Ministers ratifies amendments to diplomatic corps law.

5- Ministry of Transportation studies plans for 3 new ports in Shabwa, Hadhramaut and Mahara.

6- Official source: No normalization with Israel before achieving full peace and the return of all occupied Arab lands.

Article Summary:

Education

By Dr. Abdulrahman Jamel

Education is the most important investment in human resources. The first step to reform the education system was already made by the Minister of Education by conducting comprehensive surveys to diagnose the maladies and establish essential data-bases. The second step is to remedy the teachers' conditions; materially, psychologically and socially.

A national conference must be held to discuss education issues and draw plans for the future. Education is not the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, but of all society. The low level of education in Yemen must be fully addressed in order for the development process to succeed.

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- inputting data onto the database.
- preparing commitment forms for visits.
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- making appointments and sending faxes.
- providing general assistance and support in the day to day functioning of the section.

The ideal candidates for these positions should have:

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End of 19th round of excellent-division football tournament:

Wahda On Top

The Wahda of Sanaa managed to benefit from the results of the 19th round of the excellent-division football tournament when it raised its credit to 42 points. This happened due to the great victory achieved by Wahda against the Zuhra team in Sanaa, and the draw between Ahli of Sanaa and Shaab of Mukallah. As a result of this victory, players of

Wahda regained their self-confidence and abilities, considering the spate of bad performance which they went through.

Wahda's next matches will be characterized by toughness, compared to its matches with Ahli of Sanaa. Wahda will reopen the tournament by a strong match with Hassan of Abyan, and Ahli will meet Talieah in Taiz. Wahda will play with the winners of the 3rd, 4th, and 6th positions: the Shaab of Ibb, Hassan and Tilal, respectively. These strong teams have characteristics which qualify them to win or



achieve results which may damage Wahda's position as top-of-the-tournament team.

Ahli of Sanaa will play with Ahli of Hodeida (10th position), Talieah of Taiz (11th position) and Shamsan (12th position). These teams are well-known for their modest performance, enabling the Ahli of Sanaa to raise its credit to compete with the Wahda of Sanaa over the lead.

Thus, there may be more surprises and unexpected results during the next 3 weeks. For the time being, however, Wahda is still on top.

Mokhtar Hamid Seif Appointed Coach of National Karate Team

The Yemeni Karate Association has appointed Mr. Mokhtar Hamid Seif as coach of the Yemeni Karate team. He is to prepare for the team's participation in the International Karate Championship, which will be according to I.T.K.F system. Mr. Mokhtar Hamid Seif told



Yemen Times: "This participation is considered to be very important during 1998. This system is the real part of the Japanese karate school. Our team's performance will be effective because the players are participating in a training course on this system and a refereeing course as well." Mr. Mokhtar expressed his sorrow because the Ministry of Youth and sports apologized for not funding the team. The Egyptian side will bear the Yemeni team's accommodation expenses. Also, the national team will be given a 50% discount by Egypt Air.

The Karate Association is seeking the support of the private sector in this important participation to promote karate in Yemen.

Mr. Seif got a 4-Dan degree in karate last year. He is considered one of the most experienced referees in Yemen. He is also the editor of the Karate World Magazine, the latest issue of which was published last month. The Yemeni and Arab karate associations consider this magazine as the first of its kind in the Arab world.

By David Field, PA Sport Life Boxing Correspondent,

Round-by-round review:

Prince Naseem Hamed settled the doubt with a clinical stoppage of Puerto Rico's Wilfredo Vazquez at Manchester's Nynex Arena on Saturday night (April 18).

Hamed showed due caution and respect for his wily and experienced opponent before retaining his WBO featherweight title for the 10th time after two minutes and 29 seconds of round seven.

When the finish came it was vintage Hamed - punches of withering speed and power to knock Vazquez down twice before referee Gino Rodriguez called a halt to a bout that had been held up minutes earlier by a broken ring rope.

Not long after the restart, Hamed finally broke Vazquez's heart and is now scheduled to return to America for a July defense.

After the fright of his dramatic clash against Kevin Kelley in New York in December, Hamed rightly kept a respectable distance from Vazquez in the opening stages, rarely looking as though he could fulfil his two-round winning prediction.

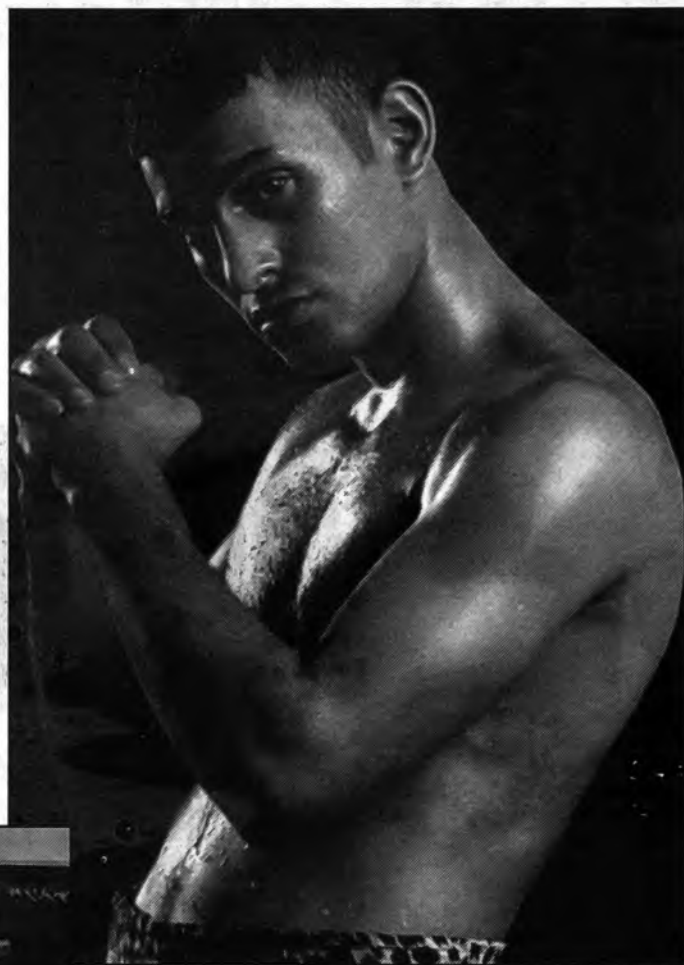
He was down three times against Kelley before winning in the

tacular fare as Hamed went in workmanlike fashion about the task in hand.

Vazquez was a shade slow and somewhat hesitant and inaccurate

A left hook sent Vazquez crashing, and this time the challenger was really hurt.

The Sheffield showman moved in for the finish, flooring Vazquez



for such a well-travelled, experienced fighter.

Hamed began to go to work in the third when a short left hook sent his opponent tumbling to the seat of his trunks for the first of four counts.

Vazquez bounced straight up, and Hamed did not make the mistake of rushing in for the finish.

He was happy to jab and wait for his chance. The Puerto Rican went down again in the fourth but claimed that it was not an authentic knock down, merely the fact that he was off balance. But it still counted and was another step in Hamed's victory march.

After the delay in the sixth, when the rope had to be removed, Hamed clicked into top gear.

When he climbed up Vazquez was tottering, and it took just one more attack from the champion to persuade the referee to halt the proceedings.

Hamed paid tribute to his opponent after his tough workout, saying: "He was a very good world champion. I had to take my time because he was a very strong, determined fighter - I felt his shots, but he was a bit slow. That's 10 defenses and 10 knock-outs."

Hamed said he was not affected by the delay when one of the middle ropes collapsed. "I just wanted to take my time," he said. "We both wanted to win that fight that badly. He was a little bit hot-headed, so I had to knock it out of him in the end."



fourth, and all the opulent plans for his future then began to look decidedly uncertain.

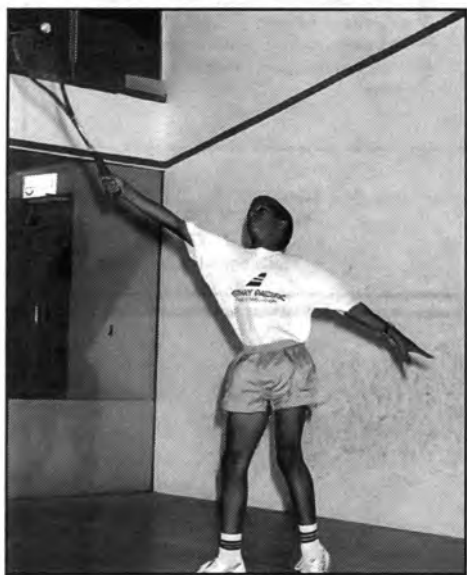
Newlywed Naz knew he could not box with such recklessness against a stiff puncher such as Vazquez, a former WBA champion and campaigner with 21 world championship bouts under his belt.

Hamed entered the ring in his usual elaborate style, complete with somersault over the top rope. Thereafter it was not such spec-

Will Wa'ad Become Alone?

Wa'ad Badr Hamood Al-Hashimi, the international squash player who won several Arab and Asian championships, has become

bereft of his father, who died earlier this month. Wa'ad's late father was the only financier and supporter of his son's sport activities until he became



internationally known. The dream of Wa'ad's father was to see his son an international champ, but he died prematurely of blood thrombosis.

We urge the Ministry of Youth and sports officials in Yemen to support Wa'ad. It is worth mentioning that he received a lot of support from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to represent Yemen in several Asian championships and to win advanced positions.

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- Agricultural engineer (agronomist or agricultural economist or agricultural extensions), or socio-economist/ rural sociologist (minimum: Master's degree) with at least 5 years of professional experience, including at least 3 years in relevant job positions. Experiences in technical co-operation would be valuable.
- Communication, managerial and leadership skills; with experience in the application of a team oriented management style.
- Sensitivity of social, cultural and economic aspects of development processes, especially in the rural areas.
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- A very good command of the Arabic and English language in speaking and writing.

Duty station: IDAS office in Aden, field activities in Abyan and Lehj

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Dates, Coffee, Wisdom & Rababa: A Piece of Desert in Suburbia

Ali Saleh Dokhnan is an outstanding poet, Rababa player, and master of Bedouin heritage from Mareb - Rababa being the one-stringed musical instrument used by Bedouins in Yemen and all over the Arab world. Its whining sad sound is often heard at Bedouin encampments in the desert.

There are very few musicians who still play the Rababa in Yemen. Some artists feel is beneath them to play this old musical instrument. They consider it a primitive piece of ancient folklore.

Dokhnan, 40, started playing the Rababa as a hobby more than 20 years ago. Making his own Rababa, he represented Mareb in the 1996 arts festival organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and he is presented by the Yemeni satellite TV channel. "Solely using my personal efforts, I made a lot of research into the history and origins of this simple, yet enduring musical instrument," said Ali Dokhnan.

The Rababa first appeared in the Arabian Peninsula hundreds of years ago. "In some neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE, traditional arts are better conserved. I really hope that the same happens in Yemen. The state and its cultural bodies should pay more attention to art, whether modern or traditional."

Tent in the Front Yard

Dokhnan's love of the desert and its ambiance has made him

erect his own little camel-hair tent at his house front yard in Sana'a. Fully decorated with ancient Yemeni swords, old rifles, traditional huge coffee mortars and pots, hand-woven mats and colorful pillows, the tent has become a tourist attraction as well as a live piece of old Yemeni desert traditions.

"If it is possible, I'll bring camels and hawks to create a full desert atmosphere within my house," announced Ali Dokhnan. Visiting foreign tourists are served with thick bitter black coffee made of the finest Yemeni coffee beans,

which are roasted and ground inside the tent. "Dates, the staple diet of the desert Bedouins, are also served with water or sour milk."

Sound Reflecting Happiness or Sadness?

"Listening to the Rababa excites all sorts of emotions, but it mainly induces a more contemplative mood," Dokhnan pointed out, adding, "it can only be enjoyed by people who have a taste for the music produced by the instrument."

Ali Dokhnan plays the Rababa at weddings mainly in the eastern governorates, where "audiences are more receptive due to their Bedouin origins." Some people in Taiz also love to listen to the Rababa sound.

Poetry: Chanted & Sung

Ali Dokhnan sets various types of poems by Yemeni and other Arab poets to the music of his Rababa. "I sing lyrics written by such accomplished poets as Ali Al-Qibli form Yemen, Ahmed Al-Sidiri and Khalid Al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Bin

Rashid Al-Maktoom and Zayid Bin Sultan Al-Otaiba of the UAE, Mohammed Al-Adhba and Al-Kindi from Qatar, and other poets from Jordan, Iraq and Syria." Most of these poems deal with life's more serious issues such as chivalry, courage, grief, bereavement, eulogies, the sorrows of jilted lovers and other melancholy emotions depicting human sufferings. "The kind of poetry I like to sing must be original and traditional." Nevertheless, some of the poems are rather odd. "I once sang a poem in which the poet laments the death of his goat." Politics, however, does not feature prominently in the songs of Rababa musicians, except perhaps when eulogizing the ruler of the state or the local Bedouin sheikh. "There are Yemeni poets in the eastern governorates who can still write in Napatian - the ancient Yemeni language. But they don't get their due support and attention by the official cultural establishments."

Support and Encouragement

Dokhnan receives some support from the governor of Saada and a few prominent figures in the UAE. "I performed at the wedding of Prince Sultan. However, I don't get any support from the Ministry of Culture."



He is planning to expand his little tent to a full, live ethnic museum "with the help of various cultural establishments in Yemen so that future genera-

tions can get acquainted with the heritage of their forebearers."

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam,
Yemen Times

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