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• SANAA • April 27th thru May 3rd, 1998

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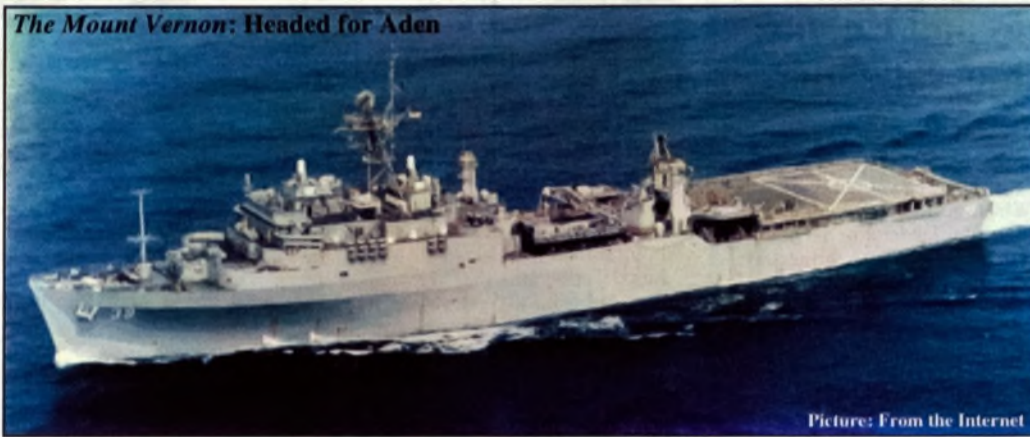
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US-Yemeni Military Access Agreement

Yemen and the USA are finalizing a military access agreement which will give ships from the US navy the right of access to Yemeni seaports, notably Aden. The agreement was hammered out by Vice Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander of the US Naval Forces at Central Command and Commander of the US 5th Fleet, during his visit to Yemen on 7-9th March, 1998. It will specify the procedures to be followed for American military ships to call on Yemeni ports. A source at Yemen's Defence Ministry, downplaying the importance of the agreement, said, "This is a standard facility for military ships. It doesn't involve permanent military bases."

The Mount Vernon: Headed for Aden



Picture: From the Internet

The military access agreement is only one of the high points in a rising level of military cooperation between the two countries. On May 3rd, the *Mount Vernon*, pictured above, is expected to call on Aden. It is more than a year ago when the *Haliburton* called on Aden in April 1997. "If the seaport infrastructure improves, more US ships will call on Yemeni ports," said Colonel Teddy Seel, military attache at the US embassy. At a third level, General Anthony Zinni, Commander of the Central Command Theater, plans to visit Yemen late in May. The visit, originally scheduled for February 10th, had been postponed due

to tension over alleged Iraqi lack of compliance with UN Security Council resolutions and subsequent US military build-up in the region. Earlier this year, the Yemeni Government appointed a military attache at its embassy in Washington. "The purpose is to better enable Yemen to obtain its needs of spare parts and other military hardware," said a source at the President's office. Finally, a group of Pentagon officers have just concluded a visit to Yemen. The team - headed by Colonel Peter Owen - was setting up shop at Aden and Sanaa as part of a US project valued at \$ 5 m for demining efforts.

Yemen Times & UNESCO Sponsor Seminar on: "Press Freedom in Yemen"

Some 50 journalists will meet to assess press freedom in Yemen on May 3rd. The event, organized to observe the World Press Freedom Day, is being jointly sponsored by Unesco and Yemen Times. The first session, chaired by Ms. Amatal-Aleem Al-Susuwa, Deputy Minister of Information, will address government-media relations. Mr. Abdullah Sa'ad, Director of Al-Waki' Center, will give an overall evaluation of conditions of the media in Yemen today. Mr. Ali Saif Hassan, Chief Editor of Al-Wahdawi newspaper, mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Party, will talk about government efforts to hold back information from the media. Faisal Mukarram, Head of Al-Hayat newspaper in Yemen, will talk about the interference of authorities in the work of reporters and correspondents. Ahmed Al-Haj and Hamood Munassar, both correspondents and key leaders of the Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy, will talk about the media

and democratization. The second session is chaired by Mr. Hisham Ba-Shraheel, Chief Editor of Al-Ayyam. Mr. Mahboob Ali, Director of the Middle East Region's International Organization of Journalists, will assess how much of the Sanaa Declaration on Freedom of the Press issued in January 1996 has been implemented. Ms. Aneesa Ghanim, a leading female columnist, will make a presentation on women in the media. Mr. Jamal Al-Adimi, Chief Editor of Al-Qustas magazine, will discuss his tribulations with the financial media regulations. The third session, chaired by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqaf, Chief Editor of Yemen Times, will be a debate on how to revive the now-defunct Journalists' Syndicate. Many options will be discussed. The seminar will be kicked off by Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Iryani, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. Najeeb Freiji, Director of UNIC, and Abdul-Rahman Al-Akwa',

Minister of Information will also participate.

The Mitchells in Captivity: 10 Days and Counting

It was on Friday, April 17, when tribesmen from Al-Taher of Bani Dhabyan in Marib picked up David Mitchell, his wife and son, in Ma'abar as they were driving to Sanaa. David is the director of the British Council office in Aden. UK Foreign Secretary Robin Cook has already written to Dr.

Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani urging him to find a quick and peaceful solution to the problem. While senior government and tribal leaders are working on the case, the army has encircled the region totally sealing it off. The tribe's demands call for implementation of formerly promised development projects.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Healthy Syndicates and Unions: Vital for Our Democratization

The Journalist's Syndicate is paralyzed. It doesn't function. Even worse, it has not been able to organize its congress to elect a new leadership. The Lawyers' Syndicate is in shambles. The last congress witnessed so many irregularities that the very legitimacy of the current leadership is being questioned. The Medical Doctor's Syndicate witnessed massive state intervention in order to elect a politically acceptable leadership, but which proved to be incompetent. The Syndicate of Engineers is defunct. It is not working. The teachers have two syndicates, each controlled by either of the two largest political parties. The list can go on and on.

The basic problem is interference by the state, often using decoys and the Political Security Office (PSO). In the past, when there was an ideological power struggle, it may have been possible to see why such interference took place, given the influence of such syndicates and unions. But now, it is neither logical nor understandable why professional NGOs are not allowed to grow and function independently of the state and the wishes of politicians.

It is my belief that grass-roots level organizations such as unions and syndicates are vital contributors to the system because of their broad-based interaction. They give tangible meaning to popular participation within a democratic context. Therefore, any effort to broaden the participation base of decision-making in this country should, in part, involve the unions and syndicates. This means letting these organizations do their job.

The authorities need to understand that it is in the best interests of the country and the democratization process to depoliticize the NGOs and to let them do their work. The test to the possibility of this re-orientation will take place shortly. The Medical Doctor's Syndicate will hold its next congress in July. The journalists may hold their congress before the year is out.

It is of course evident that the unions and syndicates are centers of power and influence. But that is normal in a system that declares itself to be pluralist and open for fair competition by all. If those in power want to control everything, this can hardly be called a democracy or pluralist. It becomes a central dictatorship. In other words, it is part of the game to allow different participants to exercise varying levels of influence in the system.

In addition, strong syndicates will protect and guide their members, and will contribute to the growth and prosperity of the profession they represent. It would also set norms and standards for business conduct in the profession. For example, lucrative professions like those of medical doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc., generally command low esteem and respect among the public. In part, this is due to the lack of a focal organization that promotes and nurtures the profession.

The past mentality of a central body controlling all aspects of our public life is no more valid. We can show we understand this new reality by enabling the syndicates run their show.

The Publisher
Salah Haddash

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For 40 Days, the Nation Mourned



40 days after the death of Qadhi Abdulrahman Al-Iryani and Ahmed Tarboosh.

Born into a family renowned for its religious knowledge and patriotism in 1909 in Ibb, Al-Iryani played an active part in the resistance against the regime of the Imam. He was imprisoned in 1948 following the assassination of Imam Yahya. Released in the early 1950s, he was arrested again in 1955 following a failed coup against Imam Ahmed. Profoundly versed in Islamic

Sharia law, Al-Iryani was appointed minister of justice in the first government after the outbreak of the 1962 revolution. He later became a member of the Republican Council, which ruled Yemen until the coup d'état of 1974. He lived in a self-imposed exile in Damascus, Syria until his death last March.

Ahmed Tarboosh was born in 1957 in Taiz. He joined the Nasserite party of Yemen during his studies in Egypt in the mid-1970s. Through sheer courage and hard work, Tarboosh was able to ascend the ladder of political activism, alas he did not use his political status for his own personal ends.



PM is Back Home

Prime Minister Faraj Bin Ghanim has returned to Yemen on Friday 24 April following regular medical check-ups, as indicated by official sources.

Elections Observers Make Statement

A joint initiative by the embassies of France, Italy, Holland, and the UK, the observer mission to the Yemeni parliamentary elections in constituencies 93, 204, 238, and 283 has just released its report.

Irregularities noted by the observers included 'the carrying of weapons, underage voters, and different electoral procedures applied in different polling stations.'

NDI Announces New Activities

Mr. Derek Butler of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) has announced that a 2-day workshop with select Islah MPs and party officials will be held in early May. A similar workshop will be organized for the People's General Congress.

As a follow-up to a 2-day seminar held with the Yemeni Socialist Party last December, the NDI will be organizing a teleconference call with Dr. Jerzy Wiatr, former MP and Minister of Education in Poland.

Dr. Qobati Wins Award

The Hayel Saeed Anam's Award Science and Literature for 1997 was won by Dr. Yaseen Abdulleem Al-Qobati for his valuable research on 'Dermatological Diseases in Yemen. Worth one million Yemeni riyals, the award was withheld from researches in other science and arts categories for falling short of the set conditions.

Dr. Al-Qobati is well-known for his big efforts in combating leprosy, TB and other contagious diseases in Yemen.

Rights of the Accused

The 1st national seminar on the rights of the accused in Islamic Sharia and Yemeni law will be held during 9-11 May at the High Judiciary Institute in Sanaa. It is organized by the US Information Service.

Legal Magazine Published

Al-Qistat (scales) is the first magazine in Yemen to deal with legal issues. It aims to provide the public with much needed legal education through articles by the country's top legal experts. Al-Qistat's publisher and chief editor is the renowned lawyer, Mr. Jamal Al-Adeemi, who also runs the Forum for Civil Society.

First US Humanitarian Shipment to Iraq

The American public, medical manufacturers and NGOs have together financed a planeload of medical supplies to the Iraqi people. Today, Monday, April 27th, a plane carrying a 34-ton shipment to Iraq took off from Marka airport in Amman towards Baghdad. Yemen Times as well as a large crowd of journalists, NGOs and well-wishers saw it off.

The effort, organized by Americare under the leadership of Andrew Hanna and Guy Smith - both Vice Presidents of the organization - has been in the works for over six months. "The shipment has been sanctioned by the UN Sanctions Committee and the US State Department," explained Ms. Mary Harrison, the spokesperson for the mission. Indeed, US embassies in Sanaa and Amman have been just too happy to help the Yemen Times in following the story.

"The shipment includes pain killers, baby formula milk, and numerous medical supplies to combat malnutrition," said Dr. Stephen Winter, from Norwalk Hospital, Connecticut, who was part of the mission. The group will spend four days in Baghdad. "Our objective is to provide humanitarian relief, wherever there is need, without regard to political issues," said Ms. Harrison, who spoke in a press conference before take off at Marka. The Americare shipment was fashioned after last year's similar mission to North Korea. In Baghdad, Amman and Sanaa, the general public as well as government officials termed this development as "extremely positive". "We hope this will lead to a lessening of tension and better understanding between Iraq and the USA," said a Yemeni official at the Foreign Ministry.

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Dr. Qais G. Noman:
“Improving management systems should aim at improving productivity and not merely implementing directives.”

Dr. Qais Ghanim Noman has been working for the UN development program for 28 years. He started his career in New York with the office of technical cooperation then transferred to the UNDP, where he served in various capacities in the African and Arab Bureau. He served in Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Benin, Swaziland, and Lesotho. He was resident representative and coordinator of the UN system operational activities, director of the UN Information Center, and representative of UNEFA and UNFP. Upon his leaving Lesotho, he served as chief of the regional programs and later chief of the national country programs which include Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and the Gulf States.

Dr. Noman was born in Aden in 1942, and was educated in Aden and in Egypt in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at the University of Cairo ('62-'64). He completed his degree at Wabash College, Indiana, USA. Later, he received a masters degree in international relations from the University of Rhode Island and a masters degree in public relations and a Ph.D. in development administration from New York University.

Dr. Noman is a well-known poet, writer and journalist, and taught in Aden school prior to his going to the US in 1966.

He is currently an international consultant carrying out assignments for several UN agencies associated with the Change Institute in New Jersey - a group of consultants and former UN staff members, who provide consultancy services in management and sustainable human development issues, administrative and institutional reform and other related subjects.

He is currently visiting Yemen to participate in the second economic conference organized by Al-Thawabit Quarterly. Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, talked to Mr. Noman about important various issues.

Q: What role did you have in the 2nd economic conference?

A: I was kindly invited by Dr. Al-Bishari to participate in the conference and chair the session which dealt with structural adjustment in aid flows. It also covered the role of the media in the economic reform process and population issues and trends. I was also asked to be a commentator on 4 papers presented in the session on investment and privatization.

The conference was well organized and a great success. The issues with which the conference dealt were pertinent to the reform process and other important issues in the country.

Q: How do you see the progress in economic reform, human resource development, and other fields of reform?

A: The progress in the financial sector and the overall micro-economic policies has been impressive, according to the assessment of international financial institutions such as the World Bank as well as the EU and other UN agencies. This is despite some small disparities in the figures.

We should note, however, that the period in question is rather short and comes on the heels of a period of political uncertainty. I am particularly impressed by the stabilization at the micro-economic level and liberalization of trade policies, although there are no trade strategies and there are restrictions on some imports. Inflation has been curbed to 6.3% from the high rate of 71% in three years. Interest rates have become more in line at a realistic 11%, instead of 26% in 1994. The exchange rate has been generally stabilized.

All these factors have improved the balance of payments, resulting in an average growth of GNP, excluding the oil sector, of 5.5%.

The government through the pursuit of transparent policies in the political arena and support of the multi-party system, elections, free press, and improving the human rights record has succeeded in reducing foreign debt.

Q: Do you think that the

reform program is progressing as it should be?

A: I'd like to see simultaneous implementation of the administrative reform along with the economic and financial reform. Trained and committed manpower and the productive reform system institutions will be charged with implementing the structural changes in the economic, financial, and administrative areas. The administrative reform should be accelerated, and not lag behind.

Also the social impact of the reform should be part and parcel of the structural changes, and not be a consequence of it. Improving management systems should aim at improving productivity and not merely implementing directives. The biggest issue which the government must face is that the population growth.

Q: How large a burden does the rapid increase in population put on the development plans?

A: Half of the population in Yemen is very young, about 49% of Yemen's estimated 16 million inhabitants are under the age of 15. These people have a lot of demands and aspirations on the economic pie.

Yemen depends on very few resources, mainly oil and its derivatives. Oil is a very unstable and unendurable commodity. With the fluctuation of prices, the overall revenue available to the government for development could be seriously strained.

One of the consequences of high population growth in terms of growing poverty is producing a non-productive manpower. This also weakens the family structure and values, creating a fertile ground for the pursuit of criminal activities. Thus far this social ill is not rampant, but if these problems continue and are not addressed on urgent basis, there will be more problems to tackle with less resources and weaker commitment.

Q: So how do you see the situation vis-a-vis the country's strained resources?

A: The lack of resources for sustaining human development may worsen and could lead to further deepening of poverty and dis-



parities between the rich and the poor. At the same time there are stagnant and declining sectors as a result of some practices. About 30% of the agricultural land is now devoted to growing qat, which is unproductive and has no nutritional value.

As a result, the government has written off that 30% of the land, as qat is grown throughout the year and the land cannot be used for the other rotating crops. The government imports or assists the importation of cereals in increasing amounts, and this will grow unless the encroachment on the land and water is halted.

Q: What other obstacles hinder the reform program?

A: The other problem is joblessness. The appropriate education and jobs have to be found for young people. Universities now are full of students who are in the majority of cases only finding shelter for four years. The education level on the whole is pathetic, unemployment will continue to grow, and poverty will deepen unless the private sector creates new jobs.

Q: What about progress in the political arena?

A: On the political scene, fortunately the trend towards democratization, multi-party system, decentralization and freedom of the press is being stabilized and is bearing fruits. Also a new political culture is being formed and will hopefully be sustained. However, the security system, the judicial system, the banking system, customs and some other areas which are essential for attracting foreign investment must be reformed as a priority.

Q: What should be done to efficiently implement the proposed development programs?

A: It is very important to understand the capacity of the government to implement the various development programs, which are financed nationally or internationally. There is an overall agreement that coordination in the Ministry of Planning and Development and the coordination of foreign aid in the Ministry of Finance, which is in charge of the national budget, is at best weak.

On the other hand, some donors who initiate projects in collaboration with sectoral ministries and civil society institutions are bypassing the Ministry of Planning and Development. They present projects as fait accompli. The Ministry of Planning, in charge of approving requests, sometimes concedes projects outside the development plan, if

the donor is willing to support a particular project or program. The process of signature and ratification of loans needs to be rationalized and synchronized at present. Loans are signed by the Ministry of Planning and the ratification process is by the Council of Representatives.

Serious problems arise when there are inordinate delays. As soon as loans are signed there is what is known as a stand-by commitment fee which starts accumulating from the date of signature. If there are delays in ratification, these charges accumulate, and are applied to the overall loan. So we end up with a reduced loan depriving other sectors of the economy from valuable resources. Endless delays had been recorded in the clearance of experts by sectoral ministries and the Ministry of Planning and clearance of goods and equipment by the customs. The administrative bottlenecks need to be removed.

Q: What solutions do you suggest?

A: A long-term resource mobilization plan is needed to cover 10-20 years, based on in-depth sectoral studies. The plan will be to attract investors and donors to Yemen's needs, and not be used as gaps in the budget. Also, projects and programs that are directly referred by the donors should not be accepted.

As there is no investment plan, we should proceed with this matter along with improving a trade plan and strategy. The government must make a correlation between the aid that it receives and the sectors it advocates for uplifting such as the social sector and the health and education sectors.

The government and donor countries can seriously address poverty and its consequences by aligning the aid towards the social sector and the vulnerable

segments of society. About 51% of the resources go to the economic reform, according 1996 figures, which is fine. But the social sector and the impact of the reform need to be addressed now.

Q: Local administration is seen by many as the remedy for many ills. What do you think of that?

A: Some people are apprehensive about decentralization. Decentralization encompasses the free participation in the development process and the empowerment and enhancement of transparency and accountability. Naturally, it should aim also at alleviating and eventually eliminating the administrative, legal and financial bottlenecks. Remote management and decisions do not work. It

wastes resources and time and creates friction and disenchantment. It also creates opportunities for corruption, abuse of power and anarchy.

The government is now considering the issues of local authority and decentralization. It would be prudent to think of elections as a key to the decentralization process. Governors should be elected directly by the people and local government bodies as well. They should be charged with raising and regulating resources such as taxes, expenditures, local government services, fees, etc. They must also be accountable to the people. Decentralization lessens burdens on the central government and empowers the local people to be active share holders in their district.

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KLM CARGO CUSTOMERS SERVICE ISO Certification Underscores Worldwide Quality

KLM Cargo's Customer Service organization ensures top quality customer service via its global network of more than 140 offices. The organization recently underscored the success of its activities by obtaining ISO 9002-certification.

Total Quality Management

Customer Service has been working towards ISO certification for some time. Around two years ago, the organization began introducing the Total Quality Management philosophy, based on the quality model developed by the European Foundation of Quality Management (EFQM).

Working towards certification

The Total Quality Management philosophy flourished, providing a firm foundation for the initiation - less than a year ago - of a program to develop a quality system giving detailed insight into process management within the Customer Service organization. This is no mean feat for an organization which serves a worldwide client base in so many different ways, via so many offices.

Following implementation of this quality system, a number of internal audits were conducted. These served as guidelines for a process improvement campaign, which owed much of

its success to the concerted efforts of the 550 Customer Service employees around the globe. External audits were subsequently conducted by an ISO certification bureau, Veritas of Hoofddorp. This ultimately resulted in ISO-9002 certification for KLM Cargo Customer Services.

Remarkable achievement

The fact that Customer Service is now ISO certified is a special achievement. Especially if one considers the many offices that make up the organization. Moreover, few other companies in the world have ever conducted such a thorough assessment of their customer service organization. This is because of the fact that Customer Service was the first organization in the world to certify its call-management process. This is especially significant for an organization where telephone contact plays a crucial role in the provision of customer service. Nevertheless, Customer Service does not see ISO certification as an objective in itself, but as a means of improving processes and ensuring the continuity of quality service, through internal and external monitoring of ISO norms, among other things.

Quality stakes

The drive to optimize quality is

deeply entrenched throughout the KLM Cargo organization. This is due to the fact that six different KLM Cargo departments are ISO certified. These include Customer Service, the Business Units Mail and Special Cargo, Cargo Handling at Schiphol, Cargo Handling at out stations, and Import & Export Handling at Schiphol.

The Business Unit Special Cargo even succeeded in winning the 1997 Netherlands Quality Award in November last year. This success has given a powerful impetus to the entire KLM Cargo organization.

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Yemen Welcomes Germans with Open Arms



Dr. Fritz Fischer is the Director for the Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean at the Federal Ministry of Economic Development and Cooperation, Germany. He was an executive director in the World Bank. Ismail Al-Ghabiri of Yemen Times talked to Mr. Fischer and filed the following interview:

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

A: We have new governmental negotiations with Yemen. Our delegation here consists of members of the ministry, of the German foreign office, the German ambassador, and representatives from the two major agencies that implement our development program: the KfW from Frankfurt and the GTZ including representatives from the local office. A part of our delegation is the local representative of the German Development Service.

Planning and in the President's office.

Q: What agreements are you going to sign?

A: We are going to sign an agreement together with the Minister of Planning on annual use of our contribution. In doing so, we have reviewed the cooperation in general and we have agreed on how the resources we make available are used for the year 1999. As a basis for our negotiations, the Yemeni government has prepared a very impressive dossier with their own project evaluation results. This is the basis of our discussion. Very few countries have prepared for such talks so well as the Yemenis have done.

Q: How much resources are allocated for this agreement?

A: Germany faces severe budget problems that are not of temporary nature. This effects the budget for development cooperation. With many other partner countries we have to cut back the aid volume. In the case of Yemen, it enjoys a very high priority in our cooperation, and, therefore, the effect of our budget cuts are minimal. In other words, we are in a very fortunate position to offer Yemen, in the year 1998, the same amount of aid cooperation as in last year. We can make available in the area what we call financial cooperation on a large basis, an amount of DM30 million, and in the area of technical cooperation on a grant basis with an amount of DM15 million.

Q: How do you evaluate the democratic process in Yemen?

A: There are good reasons why

sequently a delegation of Yemeni businessmen went to Germany. The conditions from private investment have to be there, particularly in the legal field. We have learned that a lot of laws have been initiated or are debated. Once these laws are passed the conditions for increased private investment improved. This is important, not only in our business relations but in our government-to-government relations.

Q: How many governorates have you visited in Yemen?

A: We went to 4 or 5 governorates and we met several of the governors. I went to Taiz and Ibb and in a special plane from the government, we flew to Shibam in Hadhramaut. Shibam has been declared by the UNESCO as part of the cultural heritage of mankind. The German government has made financial resources available in addition to other donors such as the Dutch, the Japanese and the World Bank for the purpose of restoring Shibam.

We are starting a process which involves the people themselves. We had talks with members of this civil society in Shibam. We think that a rehabilitation of this beautiful city and the environment needs a viable economic perspective. So rehabilitation has to be combined with economic revival. People with the government and the other private agencies have to develop an idea of how they see the economic development in the future in Shibam and around Shibam. Without that, it will be too hard to make a real rehabilitation. It has to be a living city inhabited by people. Its houses need constant maintenance.



Mr. Lothar Klemm is the Hessian Minister for Economics, Transport and Urban and Regional Development, who has recently visited Yemen heading a 45-person delegation of top German businessmen and industrialists. Ismail Al-Ghabiri of Yemen Times met Mr. Klemm and filed the following interview:

Q: Could you briefly tell us about the relations between the state of Hessian and Yemen?

A: The state of Hessian in Germany, from the economic point of view, is the most powerful state. Our state has concentrated on the Arab region as an interesting market. Yemen is a country with a developing democracy, which also is strengthening its market economy and is inviting German tourists and investors.

We have come to Yemen as friends. We have had negotiations with government bodies and meetings between business repre-

has to underline that security of travelers and investments is guaranteed in this country. The second point is that we need security in the relations between the investors from Germany and Yemen. We need more security in the relationship between the trade representatives of the two countries.

We have learned that there are new measures carried out in Yemen and we are very much interested to find out whether these measures will lead to more security in investment and trade relations. The activities of the state of Hessian in Germany will not be limited to this delegation, we are going to deepen the relationship between the state of Hessian and Yemen on an economic basis.

Q: What business proposals do you have for the future?

A: We would like to prepare and carry out a workshop on the topic of solar energy and water treatment, and would like to invite small and medium-sized companies who are concentrating on these two economic sectors. We think that we can give assistance to the development of a broad health system in Yemen. We would like to give assistance in building new treatment facilities for cardiology, develop orthopedic clinics and we think there is a need for new facilities for treating cancer.

Q: How can the Yemeni-German cooperation be developed in the future?

A: There is already a good basis for developing this cooperation. We would like to take further steps to make this cooperation more promising and effective for

project, find out whether they will be promising for both sides and that there is the right agenda for the new cooperation between the two countries.

Q: What impressions have come out with your visit to Aden and Socotra?

A: After the reception of the President, part of our delegation had the opportunity to visit the island of Socotra and they were very impressed to be given the opportunity.

The idea of establishing a Free Zone in Aden is an interesting idea from my point of view. Historically, Aden has been an important place for international trade that linked different continents. On this historical basis, Aden is an interesting location to develop new trade cooperation between different countries and continents.

The Port of Aden is a harbor for big shipping units and, for this reason, I think Aden has a potential to be an excellent port for big ships. The development of the Free Zone depends on the development of the port. For this reason, I think that the two projects, the port and the Free Zone, have to be developed at the same time.

Concerning the development of the island of Socotra, there are governmental decisions that are necessary. There are negotiations about the idea to develop the island as a tourist attraction, or to develop a Free Zone and an industrial area. As far as we know, the decisions have not been made yet. During our visit we have met many business people and we got to know them as partners who are looking forward to building new cooperation between Yemen and



We are discussing and agreeing on the continuation of our development corporation on annual basis. Before we started the negotiations, we spent many days touring the country and visiting some Yemeni projects with the cooperation of Germany, particularly in the health, education and water sectors.

Q: How can you estimate the projects that the German Government implements in Yemen?

A: There are no German projects in Yemen. All the projects to which we make certain contributions are Yemeni projects. But, we have agreed several years ago to focus on certain key areas where our assistance can be of certain values, in the water and sanitation sector, vocational training, health, family planning and primary education. We are not only helping to realize projects in the country itself. We have a number of advisors in different ministries such as in the Ministry of Labor, Ministry of

the relations with Yemen in the field of development assistance enjoy such a high priority. It has to do with the great reform efforts this country is engaged in under a very enlightened leadership. Progress in reforming this country in the social and economic fields on the basis of democracy with increased decentralization allow more decisions to be made in the country with the active participation of the people. In Yemen, reforms are done in a way which assures the respect of the very culture and tradition of the country. Of course Yemen still has a long way to go. Our assistance is only a modest contribution because the main input has to come from the government and the people themselves. But we feel that our assistance is very well used.

Q: How do you view the outcome of President Saleh's visit to Germany?

A: Your president's visit to our country was a very important point on the agenda, and sub-

Q: Any last comments?

A: This is my first visit to Yemen. I have been looking forward to seeing its beautiful cities for a long time. When I was a school boy I saw the first photos of Sanaa. It was high up in my list to see such a treasure. I heard so much about the people and culture of Yemen. So it was a fantastic experience for me on this basis. Also, it was very comforting to see much our relations in all fields, whether it was political or in development corporation or in culture, which are in progress. Germany is so much admired here and the man in the street, if he knows that you are from Germany, will embrace you and welcome you. I've never met with such friendliness as in Yemen. We feel that our cooperation is very well used. So I leave this country with a very good impression and with all the best wishes to the reform and the government, the democracy and the people here.

sentatives from the state of Hessian and Yemen.

Q: How do you see the future relations between Yemen and Germany in general and Hessian in particular?

A: We can open a new chapter in the relations between Yemen and Germany. It is important that enterprises and companies are cooperating. For this reason, we need security in investment. Business relations between the two countries have to be carried out on a legal basis according to the normal and legal relationships among foreign countries. We know that Yemen is a safe country, but our Yemeni partners must know that any report of kidnapping gives the impression to the international community that safety in this country is not at the required level.

Q: What measures should be taken by the Yemeni government to attract more investors?

A: The government of Yemen

the two countries. The fact that there are a few business delegations visiting Yemen at this time underlines our opinion that Yemen is an interesting and developing market for German business.

The delegation was impressed by his Excellency the President's reception for two reasons. One is that the President stressed the good relations between Yemen and Germany. Second, he was also very open on different issues.

The President stressed the point that we need stronger economic relations between our two countries. We think the President's proposal is to look at investment

Germany.

Q: Any last comment?

A: We think that the Yemeni business community is an interesting partner for us. We met an interesting business crew in Taiz for example. We were very impressed with this visit because we have seen that the production unit is on a high international level and this group is prepared for international competition. That is our impression from our visit. The name of the company is Mahmood Hayel Saeed / Saeed Ahmed Hayel Saeed. I hope that cooperation between Yemen and Germany will continue in the future.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للشباب
 نبيل عبدالواحد
 بمناسبة زواجه الميمون. الف مبروك
 المهنؤون:
 سلطان الجرادي، شائف الدبعي،
 محمود مجاهد نعمان، طارق الحمادي

This is an **OPINION** page.

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

Universal Declaration of Human Rights & Yemeni Law



Dr. Salah Haddash, Ph. D law (France)
Managing Editor of Yemen Times
Assistant Professor of Human Rights,
Sanaa University

vision dominates all aspects of Yemeni life.

Regarding the equality between men and women, Islam establishes this relationship between men and women on the principle of "Qawama," which means that man should provide for, take care of, and supervises the conduct of, women. This man can be the father, elder brother, or the husband. That is why the Yemeni law provides that a woman cannot travel outside the country without the permission of her male guardian, or he must accompany her on the trip. This is one of many examples which illustrate how Islamic views are implemented.

A secular view will consider such a situation as a form of non-equality between men and women. But in fact man is taking more responsibilities on his part, and women are more privileged. This situation can never be changed.

Religion

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives the right to every individual to change his or her religion. According to the Yemeni law, changing one's religion from Islam to another religion is considered as apostasy, which is a crime punishable by death according to the Yemeni

Article 6 of the amended Yemeni Constitution of 1994 stipulate that the state will act according to the UN charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights...etc.

This declaration is a recommendation of the UN General Assembly issued on the 10 December, 1948. This means it has no legal obligation on the members states of the UN. The fact that the Yemeni Constitution adopted this declaration means that all its principles became part of the Yemeni law.

In this article we'll show that this declaration cannot be fully implemented in Yemen for many reasons. We will tackle here the principles which cannot be implemented.

Equality

Because Islam is the official religion of the state and Islamic Sharia is the main source of all legislation, according to the Yemeni Constitution, the Islamic

judges wages and punishing the corrupted judges.

Marriage

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives the right to every individual to get married to the person he or she chooses regardless of religion. This situation is partially rejected by the Yemeni Personal Status Law because a Yemeni male has the right to marry a Christian or a Jewish woman. A Muslim Yemeni woman, on the other hand, cannot marry a non-Muslim man. This is an Islamic religious principle.

Marriage in Yemen is a religious, not a civil, contract. It is necessary that the father or the elder brother (guardian) should sign the marriage contract on behalf of the female concerned with the husband. Cohabitation, accepted by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is rejected by Islam and is considered a crime of adultery (Zina), punishable by the Yemeni penal law. Abortion is prohibited by the Yemeni unless it is absolutely necessary to save the life of the mother, otherwise the doctor and mother are punishable by the Yemeni penal law.

Unemployment

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that every individual should be protected from unemployment by a social security system. The Yemeni Constitution adopts the same principle. But Yemenis are suffering from high rates of unemployment without the benefit of a social security system, especially those who were not public employees. A huge number of Yemenis which have returned from the Gulf countries in 1991 are left without the protection of social security. There are many new university graduates who cannot find jobs. It is the duty of

the Yemeni state to establish a kind of financial help for those who are not public employees.

Wages

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates that every working individual should have a fair wage that guarantees for that person and his or her family a decent living. Yemeni public employees do not get fair wages. An average university graduate gets about YR8,000 a month, which is not enough for providing the basics needs for living such as housing, food and clothing. There is also no good health service, in spite of the existence of public hospitals.

Education

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulates compulsory primary school education. The Yemeni Constitution considers education as a right, not a duty. This means an individual has the freedom to choose between getting schooling or not to. The Yemeni law does not punish parents if they do not enroll their children into schools. This situation should be changed.

Human Rights

Education

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that education should be directed towards human rights respects and awareness. School and university curricula in Yemen do not have human rights education.

There is a big necessity to introduce such subjects as human rights into the Yemeni educational system in order to raise the people's awareness of their rights and the rights of others.

Conclusion

Yemeni society is an Islamic society governed by the Islamic Sharia law. All international treaties concerning human rights should accept the fact of "cultural relativism," which means that every culture can adopt according to its conditions. Yemen declares its reserve concerning a few provisions in those treaties in order to protect its Arab and Islamic particularity.

Though the ratified international treaties by the Yemeni government have the priority in implementation in case of contradictions with the Yemeni law, Article 34 of the Civil Yemeni Law provided that ratified international treaties cannot be implemented if they contravene the Islamic Sharia principles.

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والنادي اليمني للسياسة والسيارات هو الجهة الوحيدة في الجمهورية اليمنية الذي يقوم بإصدار رخص القيادة الدولية ودفاتر المرور الدولية التي تتيح لك فرصة السياحة بسيارتك في الخارج .

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Desertification in Yemen & France!

Francois Gillet, a French architect, has been awarded a grant by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Construction to conduct a study on the cities of the desert all over the world. Gillet visited Yemen recently to pursue his study. He talked to Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor who filed the following interview.

Q: How did the idea for your study come about?

The first step of this project led me to Sanaa and the cities of Hadhramaut in Yemen, to Abu Dhabi in the UAE, and then to Las Vegas, USA. The subject is to try to find cities established in these geographic deserts, find out how they survived through the ages, figure out the differences between them all, and to see what are the main characteristics of the cities of the desert.

My ultimate goal is to know how we can live in the desert. So, I picked up those three cities as a

they are still expanding cities. Sanaa is the oldest of the three cities and it is interesting to observe the relationship of its latest periphery with the structure of the old city.

- Las Vegas is a totally different city. It is the kind of solution for the next city of the desert, based on information, media and exhibitions, etc.

Q: Will your study cover these three regions only?

A: In the second part of my

I'm trying to find new ideas and solutions and then try to work with those French cities to see if we can adapt foreign experiences.

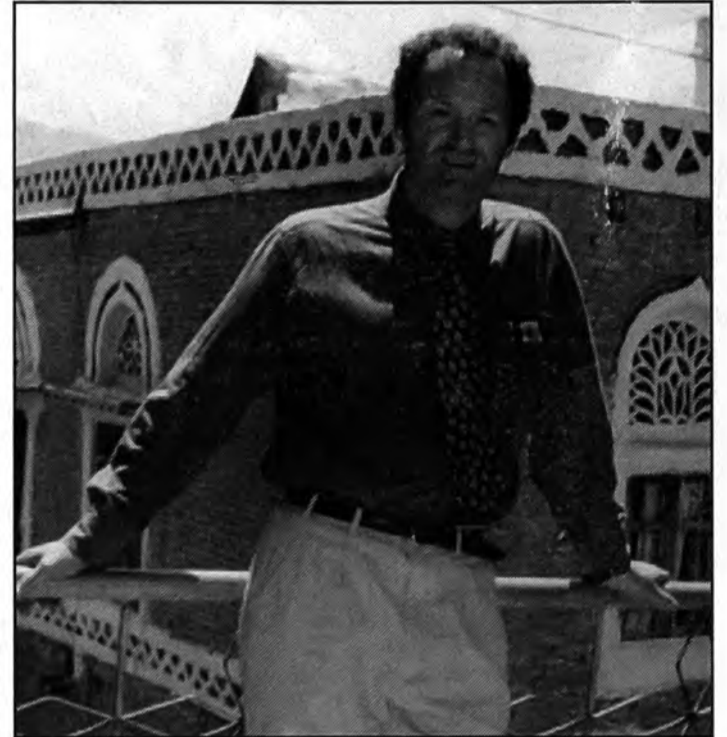
Q: What are you expecting to find in this part of the world, and how does it compare to what you have in France?

A: As far as my project is concerned, Abu Dubai is not a very interesting city. It is a city newly constructed by English or American people. What I found really worthy in Abu Dubai is that how in 25 years time the population was able to settle down; making the city become an important political and economic pole because of its wise use of its natural resources.

The new towns around Paris have more than 150,000 inhabitants each. So comparing the two cases, even though the Emirates are really wealthy people, that is not the only thing. They have the will to construct and to be a part of the world. Even though they live in the desert, they achieve full utilization of the city.

The traditional cities of Yemen are supposed to give me all the information I need. I've been reading a lot about Yemen, but I wanted to come just to confirm these readings. The main topic of my study is to make a comparison between the traditional Yemeni and Gulf towns and the big cities of France.

In Yemen, people built cities not only to protect themselves from enemies, but also to gather around one point. In this way they live as one family in suitably

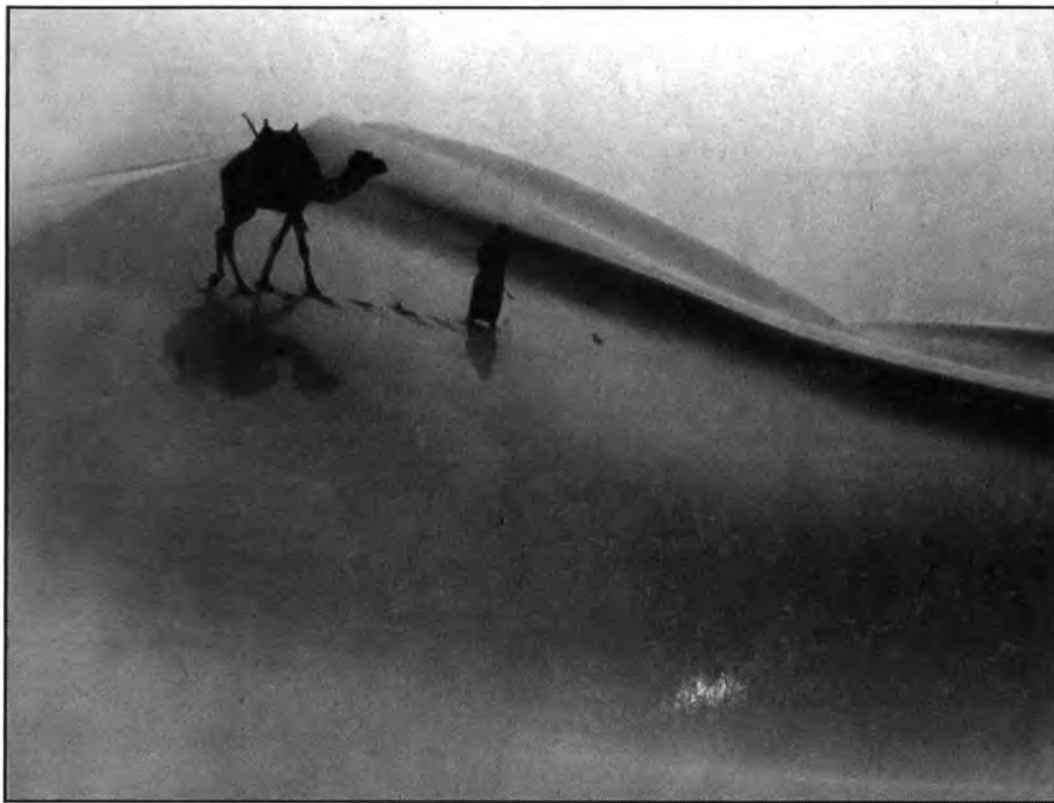


built houses in order to protect themselves from the hard nature of the desert. Unlike in other counties all over the world, where rural and agricultural decline takes place, Yemeni desert cities have not been badly affected. People tend to stay in the country even though there is a lot of migration from the countryside into Sanaa.

through the University of Aline in France with people from the universities of Aden and Sanaa and with other French organizations to try to get all together. Even though Yemen and France are different, we have to find solutions for both our problems. We have to make something in order to stop people's moving to cities and have them live where they are. For that, we need people from different areas to provide solutions for this problem.

Q: Have you found suitable solutions?

A: I've been put in contact



A: Basically, I just initiated the study myself and approached the French government to assist me. The main aim is to study the major different cases of cities established in the desert in different parts of the world.

starting point for different reasons:

- Abu Dhabi is a vibrant city relying on their oil income;
- Sanaa and the cities of Hadhramaut has traditionally been cities of the desert for ages and

study, I picked three small cities in France, which are the following: Savernes east of France near Strasbourg, Parthenay west of France near Poitiers and Lapalisse located in the centre of France in Auvergne. These cities are actually struggling because of the slow desertification of rural and agricultural regions.

I'm trying to work out the points of resemblance between the real cities of the desert and the French desert cities. So I'm traveling around the world and getting connected through the Internet with those 3 French cities. Everyday, I send them an e-mail with a photograph to tell them what I'm going to didiscover so they can follow me on my trip through the desert. I spent three weeks in February in Abu Dhabi. Now, I'll be in Yemen for 2 weeks. Then I'll be going to Las Vegas.

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Mr. Ajay Tandon, Corporate Travel Consultant, has recently won the Top-Quality Performance Award for 1996-1997 for the Middle East & South Asia (MESA). Winning the most prestigious award by competing

within a sales force of 200 around the region, Mr. Tandon's achievement is quite a brilliant one.

This award was handed by Mr. K.B.F. Steller, Vice-President and Area Manager of the KLM Royal Dutch Airlines in Dubai.

Starting in the beautiful islands of the Maldives, Mr. Ajay Tandon has been working with KLM since 1989. He was promoted in 1993 to join the sales force in Yemen.

He was dedicated and customer-oriented right from the beginning and gained the confidence of both expatriates and Yemenis.

oriented right from the beginning and gained the confidence of both expatriates and Yemenis.

He is the first appointed Corporate Travel Consultant in the area (MESA) by KLM. He is no longer just a representative, but a consultant to give passengers the best possible advice and service.

Mr. Ajay was very pleased to receive this award, which came at the same time when KLM & Northwest Airlines were named "Airlines of the Year."

Yemen Times congratulates Ajay for his achievement, and wishes him all the best in life.



From left: Mr. Ernesto Verdugo, Mentor Mr. Ajay Tandon, proud recipient of TQP award Mr. K. B. F. Steller, V. P & Area Manager

بسكويت زيدة

أبو ولد

أطيب منه

مستحيل

مارك لاجلان

PART I

Women's Health & Politics in Yemen

This is the first of three parts of a research paper submitted at the Exeter University international conference on Yemen (1-4 April) by Ms. Ilse Worm, Berlin Free University.

1. Introduction

Studies on women's health in Yemen usually focuses on the medical, social and demographic aspects of health behavior and most often neglect the political dimension of health care. This paper sets women's health in relation to the political process which took place in Yemen in the '90s. It hereby investigates how women's health was defined in the policy making process and how health strategies affecting women's health were implemented.

First it presents available information on the health status and the health needs of Yemeni women as well as on the public health care services offered to women. Second, it sets the development of Yemeni health and population policies in the context of the political liberalization at the beginning of the 90s, the participation of the Islah party in the government between 1993 and 1997, the international debate on population, women and development, and the national discussions on economic reform. Third, it analyzes the main health and population policy documents issued in the 90s and demonstrates that a political consensus on the definition of women's health and on the strategies needed to improve the health of Yemeni women could not be achieved. Finally, it examines how Mother and Child Health and Family Planning services were managed in the Ministry of Public Health between 1993 and 1997. It hereby argues that despite the ideological influence of Islah on the policy making process, the management of health care under the leadership was characterized by pragmatism and continuity.

2. Aspects of Women's Health in Yemen

Seen in its social context, women's health in Yemen is determined by their position in family and household, their legal status and their access to social services. The complex interplay between these factors cannot be developed here. However, the following issues should be highlighted:

Current family law still allows early marriage and, hence, encourages early pregnancies. Although, the reform of the family law endorsed in 1992 prohibited marrying girls under 15 years, it did not ensure the enforcement of this regulation. In reality, early marriage is still frequent, although it has decreased in the last two decades. This decline is mainly due to the higher educational status of Yemeni women. However, in recent years the economic crisis might also have pushed marriage age upwards.

Education also has a high impact on the fertility of Yemeni women. However, the access of Yemeni girls and women to formal and informal education, especially in rural areas, is still very low. More than 75% of Yemeni women are illiterate, in comparison to 36% men. In rural areas only approximately 15% of women can read and write and the school ratio is still very low (27.3%), while noticeably higher in cities (74.6%). (CSO 1996)

Since Yemen adopted the primary health care approach in 1978, Mother and Child Health (MCH) services were established at different levels of the health system, with a focus on infant immunization and pre-natal care. Although, some experience with outreach activities regarding immunization and health education was made, MCH services are until now overwhelmingly facility-based.

One of the main problems in the health sector lies in the severe shortage of qualified female health staff: There were only 550 qualified Yemeni midwives employed by the Ministry of Public Health in 1996, most of them working in urban areas. (CSO 1996)

Family planning (FP) services were introduced in South Yemen in the late '70s and in North Yemen in the mid '80s. Until the beginning of the '90s, they were restricted to the urban areas and started to expand to the countryside since. In public health facilities, contraceptives are only provided to married women under the condition their husbands agree. They can, however, be procured from pharmacies and in private health clinics.

Despite the efforts made in the last two decades to improve health care, estimates of maternal mortality in Yemen ranges between 1,000 and 1,400 per 100,000 live births. (Babobeishi 1992: 99; UNFPA 1997: 68) This rate is one of the highest in the

world and has not decreased significantly during the last decade. Direct obstetric causes, in particular, hemorrhage and obstructed labor seem to account for more than 60% of maternal deaths. (Bahobeishi 1992: 99) Indirect causes are mainly related to the high prevalence of anemia and endemic diseases among pregnant women, such as viral hepatitis or malaria. Malnutrition, early, recurrent and too late pregnancies, as well as the high number of deliveries carried out without trained attendance are the most important underlying factors leading to maternal morbidity and mortality. Although, the number of women using modern methods of contraception has risen, contraceptive prevalence was still as low as 6% in 1992 (CSO 1992) Pills and intra-uterine devices are the most common methods. Lack of knowledge, fears of side effects and difficult access to family planning services are the main reasons for women not to use contraceptives. (CSO 1992a; Assa'edi 1996: 27)

Most of the recent surveys on women's health in Yemen focus mainly on maternal health. This focus is certainly justified insofar as childbearing constitutes a recurrent event in the life of most Yemeni women. However, by restricting the focus on women's roles as mothers, other health concerns are overlooked. Information on other reproductive health concerns affecting the life of Yemeni women, such as abortion, circumcision, reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS is rare and, however, often not accurate.

Although abortion is prohibited by penal and civil law unless pregnancy threatens the life of the mother, it currently seems to be practiced in private and public facilities, provided the unwanted pregnancy results from a marital relationship and both wife and husband consent to it. There are, of course, no statistics on the number of women dying or suffering injuries as a result of illegal unsafe abortions. Female circumcision, consisting in the removal of the clitoral hood of newly born female children, is apparently widely spread in the Tihama, while seldomly practiced in other regions. Unlike more severe forms of female genital mutilation, it does not seem to be a great physical health concern. Data on reproductive tract infections affecting women as

a result of sexually transmitted diseases or in interaction with the use of intrauterine devices are virtually non-existent. Since the establishment of the National AIDS Program in 1988, efforts were made to collect information on the prevalence of HIV infections. According to official data HIV/AIDS cases, although still very infrequent, are steadily rising and 36% of the cases known in 1997 were women.

Seen from the perspective of Yemeni women the current health system does not respond adequately to their health needs, which encompass an easy access to health services for themselves and their children, affordable medical care, as well as respect for privacy and modesty. High transport costs, the lack of female health staff and drugs in the majority of public health facilities are key determinants for the use of MCH/FP services. For these reasons and because they prefer the familiarity of a home setting, most women, despite regional differences, still deliver at home with the assistance of relatives. Even when trained midwives are available, they often lack the knowledge to handle emergency deliveries.

Furthermore, the needs of divorced or widowed women who do not receive the social support of their enlarged family are not often taken into consideration by governmental health services, which are primarily targeted to married women. The structural adjustment program implemented since 1995 will most probably, negatively affect the access of rural Yemeni women to health services, unless a structural reform of the health sector takes place. Due to high transportation and accommodation costs, health care in 1995 was for the rural population three times as expensive as for urban residents. (World Bank 1995:33) The rise of transport prices due to the removal of subsidies on diesel will certainly increase these costs. As a consequence, poor users might renounce to use preventative health care services, which in turn will primarily affect women. Furthermore, the civil service reform which foresees to freeze recruitment into government employment, if conducted without considering the need to raise the number of female health staff, might obstruct efforts to improve the quality of MCH/FP services.

Modern Health & Safety Standards for Yemen

People can talk about making the home a safer place to live but that means having to live up to the latest of standards. Some might be costly like the installation of air filtration systems in the Yemeni home or inexpensive like the use of a new dental cleaner to avoid plaque build up. Health care also means reading container labels carefully before using a product and making sure it is environmentally friendly, that is it does not damage the environment.

If you're Yemeni, the "miswak" has practically no price at all, and apparently does its job. So as a traditional form of dental care it should stay around in use. Yet others will probably switch to new proven techniques of dental care including the modern sculpted brushes that can reach all the regions of the oral cavity. The more recent brushes are more specialized, with hard bristles on the inside for the teeth and surrounding softer ones to massage the gums. Dental floss also introduced on the American markets more than twenty years back will also find its place in the Yemeni medical cabinet. It insures that food particles do not remain trapped between teeth which the toothbrush cannot reach if the teeth are set too close together.

As far as allergy cures are concerned some will continue avoiding the allergen causing hay fever but as we step into the 21st century more will seek professional help and undergo the hay fever treatments that I underwent as a child in Canada, or the alternative medical approach such as homeopathic medicine. When it comes to the control of different pests in the home like

the common mosquito, recent technology tends to add alternative solutions. Netting on windows would be simpler in the long run, people would avoid inhaling noxious fumes and worry less about using an ozone friendly spray. In the case of the flying pest, a can of spray might do just as well as one of those imbued disks that is housed in a vaporizer and plugged into a wall outlet for the night. New treatments are now out on the market for the elimination of age old parasites and their associated vectors which afflict man. And man should not stop thinking of what he set out to solve; after all is he out to eliminate the problem or to support the latest move on the market place? Some products which have been out on the market for years are just as good if not better than the "new and improved" ones.

Home is the place where controls not only eliminate their occurrence but make sure that they don't come back. More attention should be placed on making a safer home, and more hygienic instead of concentrating on needless expenses. The "child proof" safety cap as a deterrent against young children opening up medicine bottles in the bathroom cabinet was an inexpensive innovation and popular with young families in Canada years ago. Since then accidents caused to infants due to the consumption of bottled pharmaceuticals have dropped remarkably. This sets a good example for any future production of dangerous household articles in Yemen; young children should not have easy access to their contents.

In the case of dubious water

supplies, catching the microbe at the source then prevents needless efforts and costs imposed by having to inspect the installation of filters and other equipment for the treatment of drinkable water. Stagnant water sources are good vectors for contamination and should be avoided. They should also be drained so that flies cannot deposit their eggs in them. Malaria is on the increase in this country because of the stagnant water pools.

What about child care? A vast array of new products lure an unsuspecting parent into making a purchase; most often common sense is all that's needed. Taking soap for example, many Yemeni mothers in Yemen follow traditional practices, but with the introduction of new products the uneducated mother could fall victim to insistent marketing of a perfumed soap that might cause irritation. Mothers should consult a pediatrician for the best soap to use for the child especially if he has sensitive skin. Its also important for mothers to carefully read what the product is indicated for on its package, an abrasive soap is then indicated more for the mechanic whose hands are covered with oil; a neutral soap, like those with glycerin is indicated for people whose skin are to sensitive to perfumed soaps.

What about shampoos, testing might show which is safer, but the key is that the product also has to stand up to the test of time. If Selsun Blue has been long on the market, that's because it's a good anti-dandruff shampoo, any other product that tries to take its place is likely to end up being a poor imitation.

Martin Dansk/Yemen Times

Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Policy & Industry

Organized by the Ministry of Public Health in coordination with the WHO, a seminar entitled "New Trend in Pharmaceutical Policies in the Republic of Yemen" was held during 25-27 April in Sanaa.

Opened by the Minister of Health, Dr. Abdulwali Nasher, the first session included the discussion of papers on the current pharmaceutical situation in Yemen and other Arab countries, the rationalization of medicine administering, and the new trend in the Yemeni pharmaceutical policy.

During the second day of the seminar, the participants discussed the reports on the previous day discussions. On the final day, certificates of appreciation were given to the doctors and pharmacists from Yemen and other Arab countries who took part in the seminar.

The Yemeni Minister of Health outlined the pharmaceutical policy of the Republic of Yemen:

- 1- Establishing a basic list of medicines according to their various features such as safety, effectiveness, etc;
- 2- Providing enough financial resources through the participation of society in administration and cost, raising the budget for medicines and looking for external funds;
- 3- Encouraging the national and regional pharmaceutical industry in the Arab World in view of the local and Arab pharmaceutical policies in order to achieve a pharmaceutical integration in the Arab World;
- 4- Encouraging investments in the health and pharmaceutical industries;
- 5- Formulating the necessary charters, protocols, guidelines and educational methods for rationalizing the use of medicines;
- 6- Training and qualifying doctors and pharmacists and raising the level of university education.



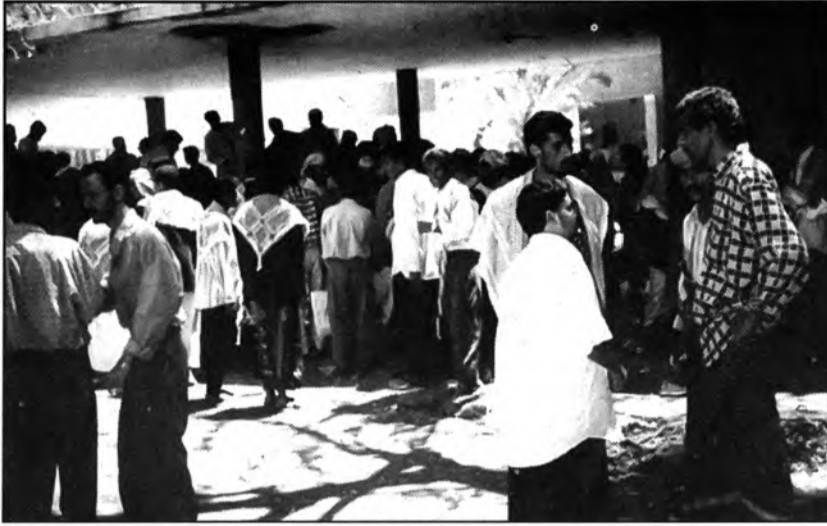
The Minister of Health also indicated that a medicine directory has just been completed in order to provide a valuable source of information for pharmacists and doctors. Preparations are also underway to establish a pharmaceutical information center.

Doaa Taha



Fighting for Salary

Teaching is the noblest profession and teachers are the most respected professionals. In other words, the teachers deserve to be given full support and substantial assistance due to their pivotal position in society. This respected position of teachers in the society made the American ex-president Ronald Reagan say that this century will finish with the availability of tourist journeys to space. And, as the president suggested, the teacher should be the first person to travel to space in such tourist trips. This suggestion genuinely shows the sacredness of the profession of teaching and the respect granted to teachers in the Western World, owing to their indispensable role in enlight-



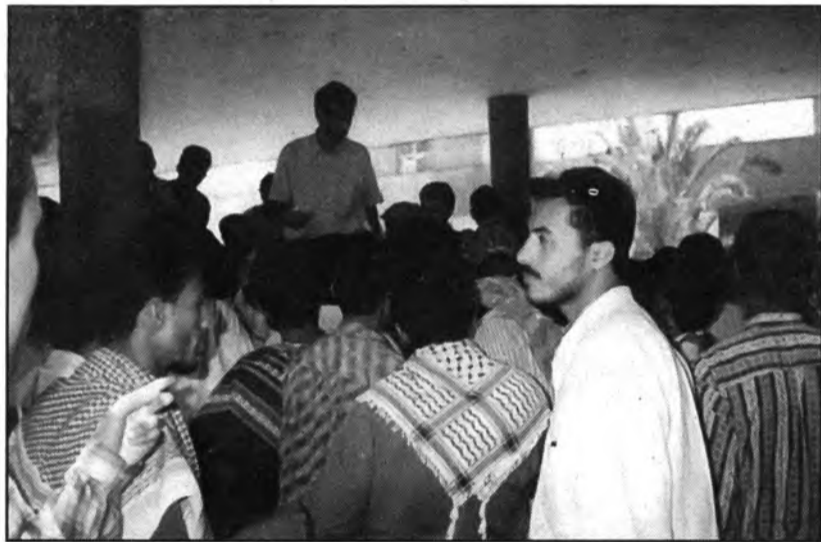
than us. We are very much humiliated." Then he left me, cursing the day when he joined the Faculty of Education.

Another teacher, Anwar A. Hassan, his face and hair full of dust and heavily sweating, started explaining his predicament: "I am teaching in a remote village in Al-Mokha and I am the only teacher at the village school. Imagine, I have to come from Al-Mokha and spend five days here in the city. How much

gives "Hak Bin Hady" bribe, he will spare himself all this hassle."

These are some of the problems and predicaments of the teachers in Taiz, not speaking of the bureaucratic routine of this office. Besides, the people in charge of the Education office and the Finance office accuse each other of all these problems and difficulties the teachers face in receiving their salary. More cynically, it seems that these teachers are the sacrificial-goat of this dirty game and absence of accountability.

But it should be mentioned that the coming of the new director of the education office in Taiz made people feel hopeful of some change. And he came with a new spirit and intention to breathe a new life into this office. But he has been facing many obstacles that make him unable to do his job properly. Some people see their interest in maintaining the status-quo as it is. Therefore, they stand in the way of anyone who wants to



days after the supposed date of payment to receive their salaries.

I was very appalled to see such humiliation to the teachers in Taiz, who have to stand in queues inside the yard of the education office waiting for something called 'salary'.

A furious teacher, Abdullah Al-Sufian, said: "You see what our plight is! Our patience is quickly running out. We have been waiting for more than one year for our names to be entered into the computer so we can receive our money do you think I need for transportation and residence here in Taiz? What is left for my wife and my son who live in my village in Shara'ab? And if we complain or express our resentment at the mistreatment we receive here, we are targeted to further extortion whereby our situation gets worse and worse." "When we were in college, we were immensely enthusiastic to graduate and show our merit in the field of teaching. But now we are wholly frustrated by the apparently intentional obstacles we meet," he added.

At the gate of the education office I met another teacher named Mohammed Ghalib who was slightly happy and smiling. I was enthusiastically willing to interview him. "You know it is a matter of bribery," he said, adding, "I have just given a go-between YR500 and he has been able to get it for me and for a friend of mine without the need to stay in such long queues. If one

Thinking of their payment, one finds no parallel between it and the time spent and effort made at their work. Moreover, they are not paid on time. They have to wait for 10 days or sometimes 15

salary from the school. But maybe it is a profitable business for some people in the education office; we are still waiting for our money." He added; "I believe that even animals are treated better

improve the current situation. But the question "Who can truly put a stop to this farce in Taiz" still begs for an answer!

By Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Taiz

ening the society. Unfortunately, the case in our society is actually the reverse. They are, particularly in Taiz, completely humiliated and their dignity is inexplicably tarnished.

School Libraries Bereft of Books & Readers

Ahlam Al-Mutawakil, Yemen Times

Organized by the Arab Organization for Education and Culture (AOEC), the Yemeni National Committee for Education Culture and Science (YNCECS), and the Ministry of Education, a seminar on school libraries was held during 20-22 April in Sanaa. The seminar was attended by the Deputy Minister of Education, Eng. Abdulmalik Al-Maalami; the YNCECS Assistant Sec-

Maalami. "School children must benefit from reading books and other publications," he added. School libraries in Yemen are almost non-existent, so this issue is in great need of discussion, planning and implementation. Raising awareness among students, teachers and the general public regarding this very important school institution is crucial. Ms. Radman said: "A comprehensive survey was conducted last year by the Ministry of Education which showed school

in Yemen, in comparison with Arab and international criteria." Mr. Abdulmumin Al-Hirbi, the Libraries and Social Education Adviser at the Ministry of Education, emphasized: "This seminar is a good initiative taken by the AOEC because the library is the educational soul of the school. It enhances the curiosity of the students and their love of knowledge. In spite of that, many school administrations neglect their libraries." The research papers submitted by

University; and several other pertinent subjects. The participants also discussed the relationship between the school library and the formal curriculum.

Recommendations

- 1- School librarians must be scientifically trained and qualified to be able to efficiently do their jobs.
- 2- The relationship between school librarians, teachers, and the administration must be enhanced and developed.

- 3- Students must be developed in body and mind.
- 4- The role of the school administration and the relevant educational bodies in creating good school libraries must be emphasized.
- 5- The AOEC should be called upon to create a special body to study library education in order to determine the principles and formulate the necessary ideas for creating good school libraries.
- 6- International publications on school libraries must be reviewed and closely studied in order to formulate a clear and complete

- 7- An educational strategy must be prepared to develop all kinds of educational activities on all academic levels.
- 8- More incentives should be provided for school librarians.
- 9- The government should be called upon to establish a central library in every governorate to supply individual school libraries with their needs.
- 10- The financial resources of the school should be better invested to serve the cultural activities of the students.



retary-General, Ms. Khadeeja Radman and a number of school librarians and educationalists. "Such seminars are very important so that school activities will not be limited to the set curricula, variety of education sources is very important too," said Mr. Al-

libraries are very badly stocked. It is one of the YNCECS top priorities to provide books, organize training courses for librarians, and improve the general conditions of school libraries. "This seminar concentrated on the standards of school libraries

the participants included such diverse topics as; - The Reality of School Libraries by Abdu M. Al-Mikhlafi, Sanaa University; - The Bases and Criteria for Organizing School Libraries by Mohammed S. Noman, Sanaa




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Women Share in Real Equity

The idea of this article came to my mind after I read a history book, documenting the behavior and acts practiced towards woman in past eras, especially in Roman times. Simultaneously, what I had studied in the university reminded me of the English literature and its various references to women and the reactions attributed to them.

The West grievously criticizes Islam in its treatment of women, alleging that it ill-treated them and repudiated their rights. This assertion is baseless, contrary to this, Islam reveres women as mothers, wives, sisters and daughters. This can be distinctly affirmed through an objective historical review of women and their position in society.

Judaism, for instance, disrespected women and attributed the human misery to Eve when she abetted Adam to eat from the forbidden tree and caused him to descend from Paradise. Unsurprisingly, Judaism refused a woman's heirdom if she had a brother.

The Christian communities towards the end of the Middle Ages were reviewing and discussing women's humanity out of scorn for them.

As for the heathen Brahmanism, it foolishly advocated abandoning women as a condition to enter Paradise and absolutely believed that women are indecent creatures who must be stripped of their rights. Therefore, a woman must burn herself on the death of her

husband. The British colonialists in India found it impossible to abolish this custom. The Roman law oppressed woman, considering feminism a cause for interdiction like insanity and immaturity. Even the age of Chivalry which was called the age of woman, was really the age of the horse as John L. Davis described it in his book "The Concise History of Woman."

Some pre-Islamic Arab communities gave women a meager consideration although they kept on treating them in a similar way as their contemporary nations. Some Arab tribes perpetuated infanticide against their baby daughters to ward off scandals, banned women to inherit anything and treated them as a bequest to the parents of the dead man. Women were often held captive and this was common place in these uncivilized communities.

Beyond all the aforesaid injustices which crippled the identity of women, Islam became so articulate as to enact the complete equity of woman, sharing rights and duties with men. It also respects a woman as a part and parcel of man's life as they perform joint responsibilities in this existence. The Holy Quran is copious of examples of these social values, versing and emphasizing the unity of the creation of man and woman:-

"Who created you from a single person.

Created of like nature, his mate." [Surrat Al-Nisa'a (Women), verse 1]

In this respect, the Quran always refers to the duties of men and women in regard to responsibilities, reward and punishment:

"And their Lord have accepted of them, and answered them: "Never will I suffer to be lost The work of any of you Be he male or female Ye are members, one of another." [Surrat (the children of Imran) verse 195]

Many direct references can be seen elsewhere in the Quran, such as Surrat Al-Ahzab (the confederates) verse 35:

"For Muslims men and women" "Devout men and women"

These verses affirm the will of the all-wise God to enact equitable laws for men and women, as opposed to the above mentioned earthly social laws. Furthermore, Islam rejects any injustices practiced on women, raising them above the pre-Islamic era conventions and rescinding the acts of captivity, disrespect and equitably giving them the right of heirdom on equal par with men.

The references are exuberant in Islam "Quran & Sunnah," e.g., Surrat Al-Nisa'a (Women) which comes as evidence of such respect, comprising heirdom systems. The heirdom division starts from verse 6 and follows on

to the middle of the Surrat.

In addition to that, God shows the best outlet from argument and discord which occur in the family. Islam also gave women full serious rights, including freedom of selling and buying independently from men's authority. This cannot be seen in any man-made laws from Europe to date. The French civil law which was being applied until 1939 did not allow a woman to use her properties outside the authority of her husband. Then, it was amended to some extent, showing partial freedom to women's rights and submitting to certain conventions. Another example of this injustice towards women is in the German Civil law, which did not show flexibility towards women's freedom of possessing any property before 1957.

Prophet Mohammed (P) recommended his nation to treat women fairly as men's life partners, placing the importance of the mother even before the father. We know Islam cares so much about the community and its members in a full-scale equity. Thereupon, rights and duties are properly entitled and classified to every member in regard to his or her capacities. Therefore, women share in this just position appropriate to their nature, not on the basis of social differences. Many activities are better performed by women than men, such as household work, child care, as the famous dictum goes:

"Mother is like a school, if well-prepared, noble generations succeed on."

Habeeb Ibraheem,
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The invention relates to a land-side tank for storing low-temperature liquid including an external bearing structure consisting of a sidewall, a roof delimiting the tank at its upper part and a substantially flat bottom constituting the base of the said tank. The internal surface of the said bearing structure is at least partially covered with a leaktight and thermally insulating covering; the said covering includes, on the one hand an insulating barrier and, on the other hand, a leaktightness barrier consisting of a metal membrane consisting at least partially stainless steel and including elastically deformable devices which allow for its thermal contraction without loss of leaktightness. The invention is characterized in that the roof is in the shape of a dome and that the covering covers the entire internal surface of the bearing structure, the metal membrane part associated with the dome consisting of invar sheets.

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علي عبدالله صالح

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والمجلس الإستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبد العزيز عبد الغني وإلى الشعب اليمني

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occasion of
Al-Hijri New Year - 1419.

Many Happy Returns



كنيديان او كسيدنتال بتروليم يمن

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عبد الغني وإلى الشعب اليمني بمناسبة العام الهجري الجديد - ١٤١٩ .
كل عام والجميع بخير

Honkin' My Horn in Yemen

I get up in the morning and open up the gate,
I honk a couple times, I feel great!
Drivin down the road, I honk once or twice,
Honkin' my horn, it sure is nice.

Chorus
Honkin' my horn in Yemen, cruisin down the road.
Honkin' my horn in Yemen, it's the only way to go.
Honkin' my horn in Yemen, cruisin down the road,
Honkin' my horn in Yemen, it's the only way to go.

I honk at the moon. I honk at the stars.
I honk at the people. I honk at the cars.
I honk every day. I honk every night.
Honkin' my horn makes feel alright!

Lookin' in my mirror, I see a Land Cruiser,
He's thinking he's the boss, but he's nohtin' but a LOSER!
Honkin his horn and flickin his lights,
I'll stay right here (pause), he can go to the right.

Honkin' my horn as I go up a hill,
Makin' the noise gives me a thrill.

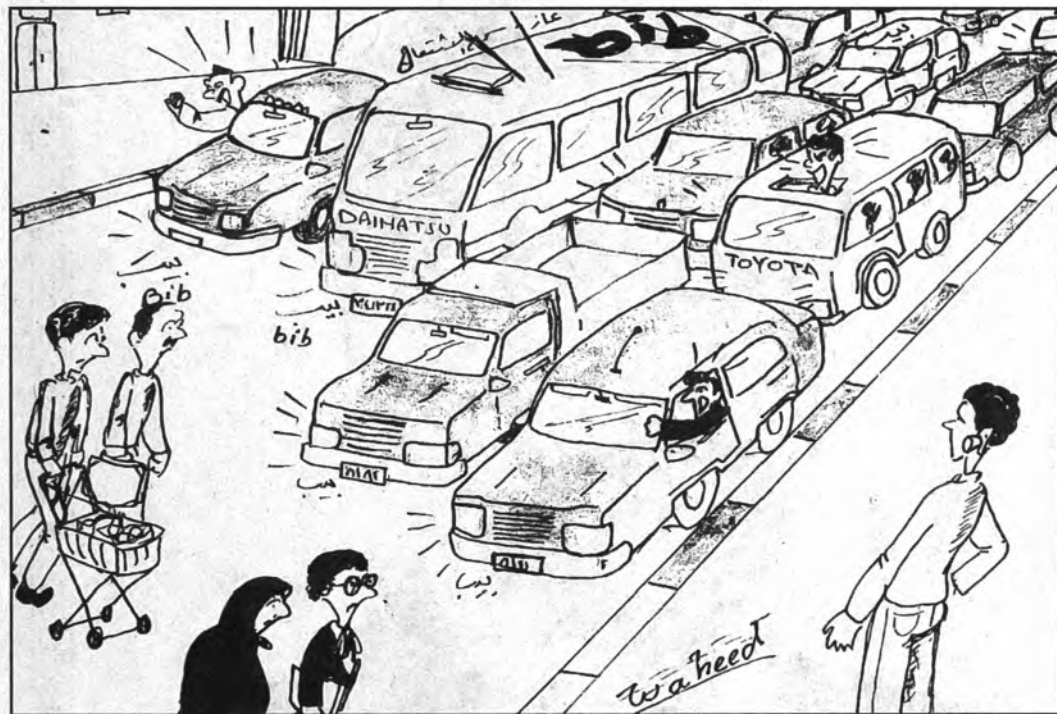
Honkin' my horn as I go into the city,
I love that sound (pause), it sure is pretty.

chorus
Sittin' at the corner, waitin for the light,
horns are honkin', it just ain't right.
The horns begin to honk, before the light is green.
This honkin' of horns makes me want to scream.

A "blue cap" is lookin' at me kind of strange,
he might be thinkin' my mind is deranged.
This Yemeni driving is making me balk.
I'll sell my car. I think I'll just walk.

new chorus
Walkin' down the road in Yemen.
Walkin' down the road.
Walkin' down the road in Yemen,
It's the only way to go.
honk, honk, honk, honk, honk, beep, beep, beep

Mike Salminen
Sean Salminen



By Waheed Sami

MUSIC ROCKS

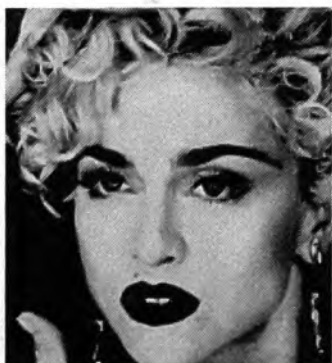
FROZEN

Madonna

جامد

You only see what your eyes want to see
How can life be what you want it to be?
You're frozen
When your heart's not open
You're so consumed with how much you get
You waste your time with hate and regret
You're broken
When your heart's not open

(Chorus)
Mmm, if I could melt your heart
Mmm, we'd never be apart
Mmm, give yourself to me
Mmm, you hold the key
Now there's no point in placing the blame
and you should know
I suffer the same
If I lose you
My heart will be broken
Love is a bird
She needs to fly
Let all the hurt inside of you die
You're frozen
When your heart's not open



انت لا ترى إلا ماتريد ان تراه عينك
فكيف يمكن ان تكون الحياة كما تريد
انت جامد
عندما لا تفتح قلبك
كثيرا ماتستهلك نفسك بالتفكير بما تكسبه
وهكذا تضع وقتك بالكرهية والندم
انت محطم
عندما لا تفتح قلبك

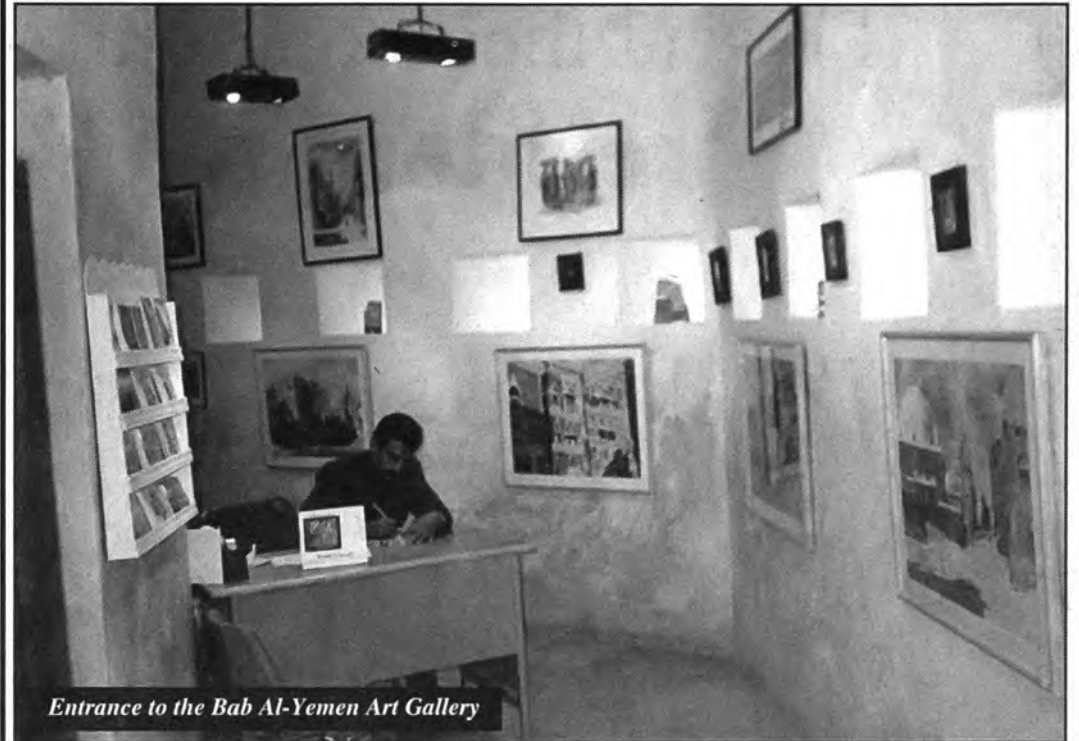
(كورس)
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لما انفصلنا عن بعضنا ابدا
هيا اترك نفسك لي
المبادرة بيدك
اما الان فلامعنى لتبادل اللوم
ويجب ان تعرف
انني اعاني نفس ماتعاني
لانني لو اضعقتك
سوف يتحطم قلبي
ان الحب طائر
يحتاج ان يطير
دع الاذي يزول من قلبك
لانك الان جامد
عندما لا تفتح قلبك

Gallery in Bab Al-Yemen

The Bab Yemen has now been organized into an art gallery and information center on the inside since its official opening last month. Many of the tourists are amazed when they see that there

gallery. When asked about the future of contemporary art in Yemen, Nizar referred to the Bab as a productive means to utilize space for the tourist and artist, a tourist

can come to the Bab and while looking at the maps of city to get oriented can also get a sampling of Yemeni art. "In many cities around the world one way to make old monuments and land-



Entrance to the Bab Al-Yemen Art Gallery



Photos of the old city

marks like the Bab useful is to make it pay for itself. Since this has been the focal point for the local as well as the tourist, there is no better reason than to use the location for cultural as well as informative purposes," he said. The towers obviously were not constructed with a gallery in mind, however if one uses the space well then it can be subdivided: an area can be used to show the old city, another, prints taken of the monument before restoration, while yet another aerial views of the city's artistic models of houses, and contemporary art pieces. Many of the tourists questions about the city can be answered here.

Martin Danský / Yemen Times

is actually a space between the walls of the gate and that it can be exploited productively. Speaking with Mazer Nizar the organizer of the gallery and himself an artist, I learned more of his aims in utilizing the inside space of the door this way.

It was decided to divide the internal space of the door so that part of it can be used for informational purposes and the rest for exhibitions, mostly from contemporary Yemeni artists. The gate is immediately bordered by two towers. As the pedestrian comes in from the new city; there is a news agent shop on the left which sells souvenirs and stationery and on the first floor above that is a space for contemporary art. The tower on the other side of the gate has an information center on the ground floor and space for modern paintings on the floor above. Access to these towers and the adjacent corridors can be reached via an entrance to the left of the opposite tower bordering the gate, while inside the old city. There is a walkway which leads up and over the main gate connecting the first tower and information center with the tower on the other side. A tourist can then enjoy the view of the old city as he walks within the

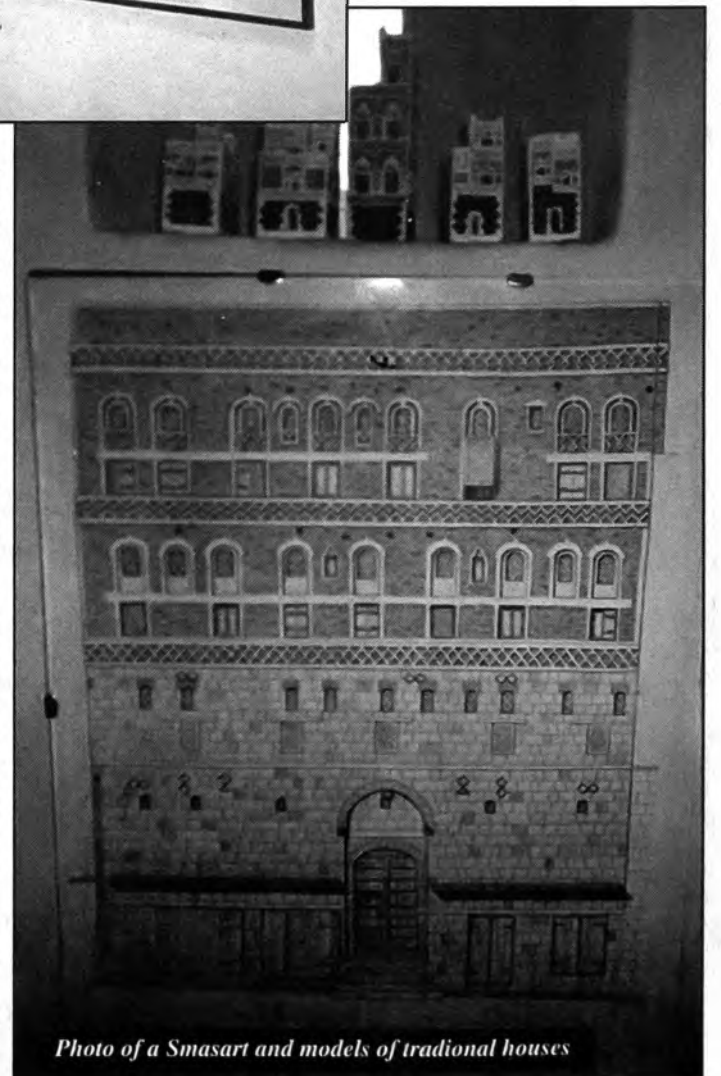


Photo of a Smasart and models of traditional houses

Yemen Hunt & Jannah Hunt Honor OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

On Tuesday, April 21, 1998, Yemen Hunt Oil Company (YHOC) and Jannah Hunt Oil Company (JHOC) held an outstanding Achievement Awards Luncheon at the Sheraton Hotel in conjunction with the Yemen Labor Day Holiday. During this luncheon, YHOC and JHOC recognized 27 employees who demonstrated outstanding performance and achievement during the past year.

This special recognition program honored employees in two different categories, Outstanding Achievement and a General Manager's Special Recognition Award. Both awards were open to all YHOC/JHOC Yemen employees. Employees were nominated for the Outstanding Achievement Award by their respective department manager and selected by the General Manager and an Awards Committee.

Employees were selected for this award based on the following performance considerations;

- * Contributions to the overall success of YHOC/JHOC.
- * Leadership ability
- * Initiative/Creativity
- * Dependability/Reliability

A total of 26 Outstanding Achievement Awards were presented, with each recipient receiving a cash bonus and a certificate recognizing their selection.

In addition to the Outstanding Achievement Award recipients, another employee was chosen by YHOC's Vice President and General Manager, Bill Lewis, to receive the General Manager's Special Recognition Award. This award was given to recognize the employee who best exemplifies the performance criteria mentioned above. This recipient was given a special certificate and cash award recognizing his selection.

YHOC and JHOC are very pleased to recognize these exemplary employees for their outstanding performance and contribution to the success of the company.



Mr. Bill Lewis, Vice-President and General Manager of Yemen Hunt Oil Company.

I would like to thank Mr. Abdullah Naji, Mr. Abdulakareem Al-Shami, and Mr. Jim Clark of Yemen Hunt for their efforts to make this successful ceremony. As you know this ceremony is an opportunity for Yemen Hunt Oil and Jannah Oil to recognize their employees who perform at a consistently high level. It is one of the more

enjoyable, yet difficult tasks that the senior management do each year. The award winners are a very select group and have exhibited leadership, creativity, dependability, and initiative over the year to help the company achieve its goal.

Each one of these employees can have the satisfaction of knowing that today they are being recognized for a job well done.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate last year's winners.



Recipients of The 1998 Outstanding Achievement Awards

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ali Nasser Kaid Haider | Accounting | Banilia Mustafa Abdulla Ajina | Personnel |
| Kadria Anwar Mohamed Haider | ' Administration | Ahmed Ali Abdul Majid Al-Dubae | Pipeline |
| Habib Ali Ghazi Al-Aidrous | Communication | Yahya Ali Humran Al-Makhdi | Pipeline |
| Samir Abdul Rahman Al-Shamiri | Production, Operations | Mohamed Abdul Karim Al-Makhdy | Purchasing |
| Ahmed Abdo Ali Abo Al-Barad | Production, Operations | Jalal Abdulla Al-Sanabani | Reservoir Engineering |
| Ateeq Mohamed Ali Al-Yarimi | Production, Operations | Abdulla Ali Saleh Kodam | Treasury |
| Sadiq Hassan A/Hameed Ahmed | Production, Operations | | |
| Mohamoud Abdulla Sahif | Production, Operations | Nasser Mussein Moh'd al-Agtam | Jannah Hunt |
| Ahmed Ali Amer Ali Amer | Production, Operations | Abdulla Hassan Al-Megan | Jannah Hunt |
| Yahia Hussein Al-Amrani | Production, Operations | Manssor Hamood Ahmed | Jannah Hunt |
| Moh'd Saif Noman Al-Kadasi | Production, Operations | | |
| Mohamed Saeed M. Al-Hibshi | Production, Operations | | |
| Ali Abdul Wahid M. Al-Kholidi | Production, Operations | | |
| Sultan Shaif Othman Al-Ameri | General Management | | |
| Mohamed Ali Al-Ansi | Industrial Relations | | |
| Abdulgabar Abdul-Wahab Mohamed | Marine | | |
| Noman Muqbil Ahmed al-Hareth | Marine | | |



**Recipient of The 1998 General Manager's Special Recognition Award
Abdulla Mahamed Najee Al-Kahili**

Mr. Mohammed Al-Anisi, Deputy Minister of Labor and Vocational Training.

I am very happy to attend this wonderful ceremony held by Hunt Oil and Jannah Oil. Recognizing the efforts of employees according to high standards set by the company shows the employees that the company really cares about them. It also encourages other workers to give their best. I hope other companies will follow the example of Hunt Oil.

Moral recognition is more valuable than material reward. Feelings and memories last longer.

The Ministry of Labor provides all possible assistance to oil companies working in Yemen so that they can overcome all obstacles. The Ministry's top priority is to provide more job opportunities for Yemeni citizens. For this purpose we call on all companies to cooperate with us.

The other important issue is training. In the near future, centers will be opened to train Yemeni cadres and qualify them for the oil industry.





AL-SHOURAH: Sanaa weekly, 19-4-98. (Federation of Popular Forces Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Islah leader, Al-Zindani warns against US occupation of Socotra Island.
- 2- Recent government crisis reveals its failure to successfully implement reform program and conduct a cabinet reshuffle.
- 3- Following a Day-of-the-Dead ceremony by Chinese doctors who laid flower wreaths on their dead colleagues' graves in Abyan, an extremist religious group vandalized two of the graves.
- 4- Tribal conflict flares up in Abyan, while the government fails in its mediation efforts.

Article Summary:
Islah-PGC Struggle

Armed confrontations erupted between the erstwhile coalition partners - Islah & the People's General Congress (PGC) - over the control of mosques in Hadhramaut. Several mosques in Seiyun and Tarim became the scenes of acts of violence when the PGC-controlled local authority fired at a number of Islahi mosque Imams, who were appointed during the rule of the former Islah-PGC coalition government. The PGC accuses Islah of using the mosques for its political propaganda. On its part, Islah accused the PGC of bringing Imams and armed men from outside Hadhramaut to gain control of the mosques.



AL-WAHDAMI: Sanaa weekly, 21-4-98. (Nasserite Unionist Party)

Main Headlines:

- 1- In addition to border skirmishes, Saudi Arabia steps up its propaganda campaign to increase the pressure on the Yemeni government and influence the border talks.
- 2- Prime Minister Faraj Bin Ghanim refuses to return to Yemen unless his conditions are met, including the start of the 3rd "dose" of economic reform.
- 3- Britain expresses its deep concern over kidnapped British Council teacher and his family.

Article Summary:
Significant Numbers

- * The total over-expenditure of aid funds provided by the Presidential Office during 1996 was YR 2,398,242,650. This figure does not include handouts given according to presidential orders, and are deducted from the financial allocations of public bodies. Where does all this money go?
- * A total of YR 1,844,495,155 was paid as salaries to security staff in 1996. How many people work for the security apparatus? What is the average salary there?!
- * YR 800,649 is the total value of salaries paid to staff at the Central Scientific Research Establishment during 1996. No comment.

حجا مبرورا وذنبا مغفورا

خالص التهاني القلبية للحاج
علي محمد صالح
بمناسبة عودته من مكة المكرمة بعد أداء
فريضة الحج.
المهنؤون: جمال العواضي،
محمد الجرموزي، محمد العطاب، علي
العطاب، عبدالكريم العطاب



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil



AL-TAREEQ: Aden weekly, 21-4-98. (Independent)

Main Headlines:

- 1- Opposition parties are to stage a peaceful mass rally on 27 April in protest over deteriorating conditions in Hadhramaut and to call for national reconciliation.
- 2- Arbitrary exploitation of water threatens Yemen's limited water resources.
- 3- Governor of Hodeida orders prosecutor's office to investigate the beating up of a person outside the security offices.
- 4- A fourth Land-Cruiser belonging to the Wadi Hadhramaut Development project is stolen by unidentified armed robbers.

Article Summary:
Secret Mossad Operation

An ex-Mossad officer has revealed, in a book to be published soon, that the infamous Israeli secret service agency had conducted an operation to evict a Jewish family from Yemen. Ten years ago, Gerald Westerby entered Yemen heading a group of Mossad officers disguised as tourists in order to take the six-member Jewish family to Israel. The agents used a helicopter in the operation, but the family concerned refused to leave their sheep behind. Failing to convince them that they will need the sheep in Israel, the officers took the grandfather only.



AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 23-4-98.

[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

Main Headlines:

- 1- Islah Shourah Council: Successful economic reform requires the eradication of corruption
- 2- Parliament Speaker, Sheikh Al-Ahmer meets families of men accused of being behind the Aden bomb explosions.
- 3- Yemeni economists: Economic "reforms" have increased poverty and unemployment levels.
- 4- Tribesmen broke into Al-Hada'a directorate offices, Dhamar, locked up the employees and freed their detained kinsmen.

Article Summary:
Monopoly in Aden Port

Directives given by the Prime Minister last March to suspend the operations of licensed and unlicensed shipping utility companies in Aden are still ignored. The suspension was supposed to be valid until a full investigation is carried out into the activities of these companies. The Aden Maritime Chamber had previously complained that the Ministry of Transportation has allowed a number of companies to monopolize ship services at the port. The privatization of the port utilities should be done according to the free-market principles and monopolies must be prevented, said a letter of complaint by the Maritime Chamber.



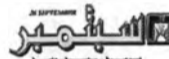
AL-THAWRI: Sanaa weekly, 23-4-98. (Yemeni Socialist Party - YSP)

Main Headlines:

- 1- YSP Central Committee discusses political situation in Yemen during its 35th session.
- 2- Presidential attempts to propitiate the Prime Minister failed because of lack of commitment to PM's conditions of purging the administrative system.
- 3- Al-Thawri writers are still being interrogated by the Publications Prosecutor Office for critical articles they wrote.
- 4- 7 Yemeni engineers were arrested by Hajja security for demanding that a Chinese company working on a sewerage project should level the pock-marked road they were working on.
- 5- People in Sanaa protest strongly against the intended removal of the Knozaima cemetery to construct a fly-over bridge.

Article Summary:
Military Operations by Extremists

Informed sources have indicated that a Muslim extremist group has recently set up an illegal military training camp in Abyan. New recruits have been pouring into the camp for a month now from various parts of Yemen. They are trained to use light and medium-size firearms by people from other Arab countries known for their support for religious extremism. A Yemeni figure, well-known for his support for such groups, visited the camp during the Eid vacation. Citizens living in the area have complained that the presence of the camp interferes with their agricultural and sheep-grazing activities. The local authorities have done nothing.



26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 23-4-98. (Yemen Armed Forces)

News Review:

- 1- The President praises the WHO assistance to Yemen.
- 2- The President expresses his appreciation of the German support for development in Yemen.
- 3- Council of Ministers ratified draft resolutions to re-organize 3 official newspaper establishments.
- 4- Receiving Yemeni ambassador to Washington, US Centcom Commander, Gen. Zinni emphasized the importance of strengthening ties with Yemen.
- 5- Yemen & Eritrea move closer together, expecting a decision on Hunaish Island soon.
- 6- Yemen signs with other Arab countries an agreement to combat terrorism.
- 7- Elections in 4 vacant constituencies were conducted in a

- wholly democratic atmosphere.
- 8- Deductions of up to 90% of customs duties on imported cars ('82 models and older) and 20-30% on new models were announced by the Customs Authority.
 - 9- 5 new laws are to be enacted to organize the medical and pharmaceutical professions.
 - 10- Minister of Labor: A large number of exemplary workers will be awarded prizes on Labor Day.

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HYDROGENATION OF HYDROCARBONS

The above patent is based on South Africa Patent Application No. 98/0586 dated 23 January 1998 in the name of the above.

Copies of the specification and drawings, if any, of the aforesaid invention maybe obtained upon application to the above-mentioned owners.

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20th Week of Excellent-Division Football Tournament: Struggle to the Top

The 20th week of the excellent-division football tournament was characterized by a lot of excitement, considering that the tournament will be concluded by the end of its 22nd week.

All expectations of the Wahda team getting to the top came to nothing when it was defeated by Hassan 1-nil, leaving Wahda with 24 points only. The Ahli of Sanaa, on the other hand surprised its old rival by defeating the Taliyah of Taiz 5-nil, increasing its credit to 41 points. Thus it has become a real threat to Wahda's ambitions to win the tournament.

Zuhra was able to stop the advance of Shoula by tying 4-4 to

share the points and end up with 21 points and Shoula with 38. Ahli of Hodeida has renewed its hopes to remain in the excellent



division after defeating Shamsan 2-nil, thus increasing its credit to 16 points and diminishing Shamsan's chances of remaining in the same division. Shamsan is now at the bottom of the excellent

division. It is very likely that it will slip to the first-class division.

On its homeground, the Ittihad of Ibb was able to take revenge of the Shaab of Mukallah by winning 2-1, increasing its credit to 23 points and leaving Shaab in limbo with 25 points.

In Aden, the Shaab of Ibb continued its victories by defeating Tilal 2-1 and raising its credit to 40 points, thus proving to be a worthy contender against Ahli and Wahda to reach the top. Tilal is left with 27 points only.

The next few weeks will be filled with surprises, considering that the two rivals - Wahda and Ahli - are running neck and neck.

Volleyball Players Speak Out:

"We have plenty of ambition, but lack the facilities and support"

Volleyball is becoming increasingly popular among young men in Yemen. Like other games in Yemen, volleyball also suffers from lack of funds and facilities. Despite the many championships organized by the Yemen Volleyball Association, the level of this game is still below expectations.

To find out more about the conditions of this game, Yemen Times has visited the Ahli Club in Sanaa and met some of its volleyball players and administrators:

Abdulrahman Ahmed Qayid,

23, said:

"We try to do our best in order to help advance this game in Yemen, aided by the Ahli Club management. But the club's facilities are rather limited, so we often find ourselves seeking support from the Volleyball Association. But the latter is always complaining of lack of funds, and the little support it gets from the



falls short of giving full assistance to the game.

"We feel that we are very capable of presenting good performance, but everyone knows that the our difficult financial situation is a big hindrance. Some of the players are married with children, and try to work hard to provide for their families. This pushes us to look for ordinary jobs in addition to our sports activity which does not provide any financial income."

Kamal Ahmed Al-Hamdi, 18, said:

"I started playing volleyball at school. I joined the Ahli Club and gradually became a permanent player in their volleyball team. Throughout my training for this game, I and other players always felt that all the attention of the official sports authorities goes to football.

"The status of volleyball in Yemen will never rise if the players do not receive enough support.

"We sometimes feel afraid that one of us will be injured and will not find the necessary medical care.

"We demand that more funds and facilities be made available to encourage players to do their best to win national and international tournaments. We have great ambitions which need nurturing to prosper."

Adel Hassan Al-Jaini, 18, said:

"The only solution for the lack of funds and support in volleyball and other games is professionalism. The private sector can sponsor sports activities, which can then be regarded as good advertising for them. Private sector establishments can sponsor individual sports clubs and pay the salaries of their outstanding players.

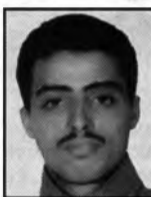
"If Yemeni sport continues to rely just on government support, it will not progress much.

"What makes us persevere despite the problems and difficulties is our great love for this game - volleyball. But I feel that one day we may have to abandon sport because of the continuous difficulties we face."

Ali Hasan Al-Imad, former player and Ahli Club administrator, said:

"When I started playing volleyball, I had great ambitions. But I was shocked by the bitter reality. Sport in Yemen is just a temporary hobby because of the lack of support and encouragement. It is no wonder then that we see young sportsmen leaving their cherished sports very early in their life. They then just practice sport as a mere hobby at the weekend.

"When I joined the club's management, I tried to provide some support and encouragement but my hands are tied because of



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Such patent is used in respect of:

A process for ameliorating a liquid organic feedstock containing at least one undesired oxygenated organic compound. The process comprises admixing the liquid organic feedstock, a liquid alcohol and a hydroxide. The hydroxide is allowed to react with undesired oxygenated organic compound, to form a salt of the undesired organic compound.

The above patent is based on South Africa Patent Application No. 98/1348 dated 18 February 1998 in the name of the above.

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limited resources. The Ahli Club supplies players with sports clothes and training shoes. It also carries out maintenance work on the playing fields.
"All the Ministry of Youth and Sports does is planting lawns in football fields or building closed halls, which are only suitable for a limited number of games. The little support they give to sports clubs is just not enough."

اعلان

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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Al-Baidha: Sweet & Bitter Life

Al-Baidha Governorate is the home of many archeological and historical sites. It was the stronghold of the Taherite state, the summer capital of King Tobaa and the cradle of the Himyarite civilization. Al-Baidha has many natural features, ranging from towering mountains to rolling deserts. Administratively, it consists of 12 directorates and inhabited by 508,195 persons. About 75% of the Al-Baidha population are Bedouin, who are characterized by special human features. Socializing with the Bedouins makes one happy and sad all at one time: happy for their dignity, generosity, honesty, solidarity, resilience in hardships and simple and spontaneous life. These simple folks live for the day, their life is almost the same since time immemorial. They are very realistic people, never building castles in the air like the town

dweller. Al-Baidha Bedouins rely on simple resources for their daily subsistence: little seasonal agriculture and sheep grazing. Every individual in an Al-Baidha Bedouin family fully knows and dutifully performs his or her role. They work from sunrise to sunset, eking out a living in their harsh environment. What is sad about all this, however, is these proud folks' daily hardships and sufferings. They are people with little hope for the future. As soon as one sets foot on their land, the magnitude of their daily struggle becomes readily



clear. A visitor to this arid, yet beautiful landscape, can be shocked by scenes of deprivation and misery. Lack of basic amenities and absence of development in this part of the world makes one extremely dispirited. These people certainly do not have plans for their future. They just dream of having a health center, water-supply project, electricity, school for their kids, decent roads into the nearest town, and the basic necessities. Uneducated young people, pools of stagnant dirty water, homes made of reeds, camel-hair tents, camels and donkeys used for transport, lanterns used for lighting, rampant epidemics, diseases cured by coterie and hocus-pocus, and many other backward phenomena are just a few of the starkly shocking scenes a new

visitor is confronted with. Little school-age boys and girls take the few sheep their families have to graze every morning. Schools are a luxury in such a place. Pregnant women have to carry home firewood and jerrycans full of water on their backs for long distances. But all is not doom and gloom. In addition to the downs, life in this harsh environment also has its ups. Al-Baidha people have different celebrations and dances for different occasions: weddings, feasts, circumcision ceremonies, returning from the pilgrimage, rainfall, etc. In Eid time a clown, Moajib in Al-Baidha dialect, wears an animal skin to dance to the rhythm of drums and receive simple gifts from his usually young audience for a performance well done. The Moajib waves sticks in the air and does clownish and acrobatic movements. He is usually followed by a snowballing procession composed of old and young people, all delighted for this welcome break in their dreary lives.



school for their kids, decent roads into the nearest town, and the basic necessities. Uneducated young people, pools of stagnant dirty water, homes made of reeds, camel-hair tents, camels and donkeys used for transport, lanterns used for lighting, rampant epidemics, diseases cured by coterie and hocus-pocus, and many other backward phenomena are just a few of the starkly shocking scenes a new

Nasser Ahmed Al-Awadhi,
Journalism Department,
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