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# YEMEN TIMES

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## The National Administrative Reform Conference:

# Successful Rallying Effort



Since 1974, the former Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) was thinking about reforming its public administration in general, and the civil service in particular. Many workshops were held and different governmental programs tackled this question. However, little progress was made.

Those efforts climaxed last week. The National Conference on Administrative and Financial Reform and Development was held in Sana'a during 25-29 August, in cooperation with the World Bank. The event was concluded with several recommendations. To what extent the recommendations will be realized in practice, however, is a different matter. But at the very least, the conference was instrumental in two ways:

a) In crystallizing the issues and clearly diagnosing the problems; and  
b) In rallying a wide range of the community around the reforms, and mobilizing support for it.

But there are some necessary steps which should be taken in order to achieve a real

administrative reform in Yemen. Let me list a few:

- 1- Full and complete implementation of the civil service regulations. This implementation should treat all public servants equally and without any distinction or discrimination.
- 2- Decentralizing the process of decision making in all ministries, public establishments and reducing central decisions taken usually by ministers or heads of public establishments.
- 3- The criteria of appointment of officials should be according to their qualification and experience only.
- 4- The legal age of retirement should be set at 55 years for both male and female employees, without discrimination.
- 5- Reducing the duration of effective service to 25 years, instead of 35.
- 6- Encouraging and giving incentives for early retirement to public servants who have already finished 15 years of service.
- 7- Giving the individual public civil servant a reasonable salary which covers the real cost of living for one man, his



wife and 2 children. This salary should not be less than YR 13,000, (US \$100) a month.  
8- Simplification of administrative procedures in each ministry or government establishment. This can be done by giving public employees instructions according to which any paperwork should be completed within a maximum of two weeks. Any civil servant who is

responsible for delays must be punished according to the Civil Service Law. This measure will be a kind of control against corruption and bribery.  
9- Taking legal measures against all civil servants who are registered as employees in two or more government bodies. This stops public servants from receiving two salaries or more from the state budget.

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## Qat's Enormous Cost

"Yemen Free of Qat". Yes, that is the name of it. It is a new monthly newspaper, of which the first issue for July just came out. It is issued by the National Association to Combat the Damages of Qat.

The issue is full of statistics and information by specialists and experts which should convince any reasonable person to quit. The facts also show the enormous cost to the nation.

Look at the following facts.

1. The total expenditure on qat by consumers, on a low estimate basis, is about YR 36 billion every year, yielding a daily average of almost YR 100 million.
2. The total land area allocated for qat growing is about 100,000 hectares.

3. Of the farmers who grow qat today, 90% were growing something else in the 1970s.
  4. The qat sector represents 39% of GDP.
  5. About 55% of all the underground water extracted goes to qat fields.
  6. Some 20 million man-hours are wasted daily on qat consumption.
  7. Qat has serious detrimental effects on physical and psychological health, and on over-all well-being.
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### A New Yemeni Initiative:

# Helping Resolve the Somali Quagmire

A Yemeni initiative has been unleashed. Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, is in South Africa at the head of the Yemeni delegation to the Summit of Non-Aligned Nations. He said he will discuss with his counterparts in Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia and Kenya in

a new initiative aimed at resolving the Somali debacle. "We feel that the time is right to push ahead with a solution to this problem," the minister said prior to his departure. The initiative has been discussed with Hussain Aideed, the strongest of the Somali warlords who just concluded a one-week visit to Sana'a.

It involves three aspects:  
1) To hold a national reconciliation conference which brings together all Somali factions;  
2) To put together a national police force drawing from all Somali tribes; and  
3) To arrange with the Arab League to finance the police force from its fund.

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## When the Public 'Sees' Differently!

These days, the political leadership of Yemen is in a fix. The problem lies in the clear divergence between the stand the authorities are taking concerning the recent US military strikes against the Sudan and Afghanistan, and what the Yemeni public wants. The politicians are trying to lie low, and at worst, give statements that can be construed to mean many things. The general public wants a clear position which denounces the American attacks.

The public mood is turning ugly. Ordinary people will tell you that the Americans are aggressors. Indignance could quickly give way to irresponsible actions of violence. People have been openly saying that if Americans take Muslim life indiscriminately, then any American living anywhere should be a legitimate target for violence. That kind of irresponsible talk, which one hears could lead to dangerous situations. Words are already beginning to be transformed into action. Many threats have been received by the American embassy. Some people have published anti-American pamphlets and flyers. Journalists have written fiery articles in the media, in spite of an unheeded appeal by the Minister of Information to 'please let it go'.

To further complicate the problem, it is clear that some of the ideas were not purely local. There are signs of coordination and exchange of ideas and plans extending from Malaysia, through Pakistan and Iran, all the way through Egypt to North Africa; and to parts of Black Africa.

The problem was further complicated by the lack of progress on the Middle East peace process. Indeed, even moderate Arabs are expressing frustration at the absence of fair play in Washington. Yet, Americans are baffled by the automatic association in people's minds between the failure of Israel to comply with its peace commitments and the recent American attacks against Sudan and Afghanistan. That only shows the divergent mentalities on the two sides. For the Arabs and Muslims, their basic conflict with America is Israel. All other problems are off-shoots to that central problem.

The rulers of Yemen do not share the dangerous attitude of the general public. But they cannot come out openly against it, nor can they even try to pacify it. After all, the politicians do not want to be seen as opposing the people of Yemen stand for on this matter.

The politicians are trying to use the official media to play a role in helping shape public opinion, 'in the right direction'. But that is a long-term process. At the present time, the official media itself cannot digress too much from the general mood. The mood is basically that American bullying has gone a bit too far, even though the people don't actually support terrorism or the extremists. The local public also realizes that US officials are quite insensitive to Arab interests. American officials say what they think will fall well on the ears of the powerful Zionist lobby which shapes public opinion in the US. Besides, elections are in November.

In summary, Arab rulers are hoping that push will not come to shove. If it does, it is likely that the region will witness more cracks, thus ushering in a new period of instability.

*The Publisher*  
*SAQA*

### YHOC Trouble

Yesterday, Sunday, August 30th, tribesmen pierced a new hole on the Yemen Hunt Oil Company pipeline. That is at kilometer 74.6.

At another level, engineers, technicians, and other employees of the company are getting poised to announce a full walk-out. The strike following many efforts to secure better medical coverage and other benefits for the workers.

### Court Decision Issued

On Sunday, August 30th a decision was issued by the South-West Sanaa court concerning the land allocated for the housing development of the Sanaa University teaching staff. It stated that Mr. Mohammed Yahya Al-Ruwaishan is obliged to give the land to the university staff.

The title deed and purchasing documents dated October 19, 1988, and December 15, 1991, should be registered at the real estate registry, the court stipulated. Also a legal fee of YR 200,000 should be paid.

### Scoda at Aden Airport

The governor of Aden, Mr. Taha Ahmad Ghanem; Customs Authority Director, Mr. Mohammed Al-Haboob; and the Free Zone Director, Mr. Dirham Abdu Noman inaugurated the Scoda system at Aden International Airport.

### Good Steps for Customs

Mr. Faisal Mu'jam, Director of Aden Customs told the Yemen Times that the Customs Authority is making good steps towards reforming its structure. Yemen has become now a member of the International Customs Organization. The Authority has simplified the customs procedure system. Mr. Mu'jam added that the authority has adopted a system to simplify its work, especially in the Aden Free-Trade Zone.

### Seminar on Poverty

Dr. Omar Mohammed Ali, professor of economics at Aden University said that preparations are underway to hold a seminar on poverty during October 27-29. "Several professors, specialists and other interested people are eager to take part in the seminar," he said. The seminar will address multi-faceted problem of poverty in Yemen and will endeavor to find out the remedies.

### Public Job Survey Started

Around 4,742 researchers and supervisors are participating in the comprehensive public job survey all over the country. It started on October 29, 1997 and will continue till September 7. This survey comes as a part of the reform program carried out in the country.

### Flash Floods Continue

Rains are still pouring down all over the country. Rains continuing for 12 hours during Thursday and Friday in the Tihama region and Abyan destroyed a lot of property. Three people died in Hodeida because of the floods.

### Presidential Elections

Al-Wahdawi newspaper, mouth-piece of the Nasserite Unionist Party, organized a seminar in Sanaa on Sunday, August 30th. Participants discussed several topics relating to the up-coming presidential elections in Yemen. Yemen Times will run next week summaries of the papers.

### Arab Environment Day

Dr. Abdulaziz Saleh Bin Hatboor, Aden University Vice Rector said that preparations are underway to celebrate the Arab Environment Day, which "will meet our celebrations of the anniversary of the September and

## Indians in Taiz Celebrate Independence Day

Indian nationals in Taiz have celebrated the 51st anniversary of India's Independence Day (15/8/1998) on last Friday evening at Mohammed Ali Othman School, Taiz. Mr. Shehab Saeed Abdu Saeed, Dy. G. M. of NCSPI, Taiz graced the occasion with his presence as Chief Guest. Indian children presented an array of scintillating cultural programs based on the theme of national integration. The program also

included regional folk dances on Hindi, Marathi and Tamil songs. Musical orchestra with patriotic songs in Hindi & Tamilyan and other melodious songs from Hindi films along with a few songs in Arabic/Yemeni tones,



provided a cheerful atmosphere and wholesome entertainment to the spectators.

It is no surprise that the gathering consisted of not only about 180 Indians from Taiz and Aden, but also many local colleagues who always loved joining such wonderful Indian celebrations. The function concluded after distribution of complimentary gifts to the child participants followed by vote of thanks and a dinner where a variety of delicious Indian foods was served.

## Computer Courses in YALI

The Yemeni-American Language Institute (YALI) celebrated on Wednesday, August 26 the inauguration of its computer section. The event was attended by the Deputy Minister of Planning and Development for International Cooperation, Mr. Hisham Sharaf and the American ambassador to Sanaa, Ms. Barbara Bodine.



The computer laboratory includes a server and 16 work stations will help the teachers a lot. The institute will start giving separate courses in computer.

"The number of free seats available for employees of the Ministry of Planning at YALI has been increased by 50% to 104," said Mr. Sharaf. On her part, Ms. Bodine emphasized the US keenness on developing cultural cooperation with Yemen.

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**Brig. Yahya Al-Mutawakil:**

# “The Consultative Council must be involved in law making.”

Brigadier Yahya Mohammed Al-Mutawakil, Assistant Secretary General of the ruling People's General Congress (PGC) and a member of the Consultative Council, is a well-known name among the people of Yemen. He was among the few army officers who have taken part in the September 26th Revolution. Since then, he has served in many capacities.

He was a member of the Command Council, the highest body in the land in the mid-1970s. He was several times minister, governor, ambassador and held many other senior posts during his 35 years of service.

Today, he is seen as among the few wise men of the nation. People look up to them in search of solutions to the many problems facing Yemen. The soft-spoken Yahia, 56, is also a highly cultured person. He appreciates fine arts, speaks English and Russian fluently, and a little bit of French and Spanish.

Mohammed Bin Sallam and Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times talked to Brig Al-Mutawakil about various crucial issues concerning the country's political future. They filed the following excerpts:



**Q: This week, the PGC celebrate its 16th anniversary. How do you assess its performance?**

**A:** Such an assessment can only be done by polling the general public. It is only the people that can properly evaluate the PGC's performance of the last 16 years. It was a period rich with change and achievement. Before those 16 years, the country was in political ruin. The main political players before the PGC did not allow other players. That is why the country was repeatedly torn between a number of conflicting ideologies.

Although the constitution banned the formation of political parties, there were movements representing Arab nationalists, Islamists, socialists, communists, etc. Each one of these political tendencies was also reflected on the ruling authority, which became an arena of political struggle.

So the PGC was created in response to a very urgent need for an umbrella group or a general ideological framework that can bring these various forces together. It was the outcome of a long period of political upheaval, extending from 1962 to 1982. The idea was pondered by Yemen's successive leaders: Marshal Al-Sallal, Qadhi Al-Iryani, and Presidents Al-Hamdi and Al-Ghashmi.

**Q: So who takes credit for creating the PGC?**

**A:** President Ali Abdullah Saleh deserves the accolades in that respect. He responded well to the country's need for an all-encompassing political umbrella. A "dialogue committee" was formed first, which became the PGC's nucleus. The dialogue was among people of greatly varying political affiliations and tendencies, both in authority and outside it.

The dialogue resulted in a historical national document that still represents the thoughts and ideologies of the representatives of the people. On the basis of this document, the PGC was formed. It still represents the PGC's line of action. The PGC's agenda is based on Islamic values, Yemen's rich history and the people's longing to modernization and a bright future.

**Q: What are the PGC's most notable achievements?**

**A:** The most important achievement is formulating the necessary legislation to regulate political party activity in Yemen. Then came the development programs,

which made a great difference to the people from the previous period.

Another remarkable accomplishment is opening Yemen up to the outside world. Before the PGC, Yemen's relations with the US and the West were conducted through a third party such as Egypt, the former Soviet Union, or Saudi Arabia. The country did not really have a recognized international presence.

The PGC is very proud that it has been able to put Yemen firmly on the world map of international politics. Sanaa became like any other Arab capital, dealing directly with the outside world without the intervention of any patron state.

Crowning all the previous accomplishments, the PGC efficiently and quite responsibly achieved and protected the much cherished unification of the country. Unity was complimented with democratization and political pluralism. The PGC won a majority in the 1993 elections and was able to deal effectively with the political crisis that followed and culminated in the war against secession in 1994. Three years later in 1997, it won the general election with a landslide victory.

**Q: Was all the last 16 years full of successes?**

**A:** There is no doubt that there was a fair share of problems and setbacks. One of the problems is that difference in opinion and outlook still exists within the PGC. But we are able to overcome such obstacles in a spirit of democracy that permeates this organization. With meaningful and fruitful dialogue, all problems are surmountable. While the PGC preserved its unity, other political parties just split up into smaller entities.

Other problems facing the PGC are of an economic nature. Economic and administrative reforms suffered quite a setback after the Gulf war. Unification also left the country with huge debts. At that time, the PGC's ruling coalition partners - Islah and the Yemen Socialist Party - did not fully commit themselves to reform. When the PGC became the sole ruling party, it found itself in the position of having to take a very hard decision by starting the implementation of a comprehensive reform program. This has reflected negatively on the PGC, costing it some of its popularity. It is a matter of time before we see the fruits of the reform program.

**Q: There are now some efforts to restructure the PGC from within. What are the major changes expected to be introduced?**

**A:** The PGC leadership is fully aware that, following 16 years, there are some groups within the organization that have small roles incompatible with their huge size. There is a small minority in the PGC that does not really believe in our National Charter (Constitution of the Party) or the true spirit of the organization.

It is inevitable that as we go into the next century with a renewed PGC. So a plan is formulated to rebuild the PGC's organizational structure. This plan consists of three major steps: making sure of the size and base of PGC rank and file; re-organizing PGC's structures; and attracting new members who will assist in bringing about the needed changes. About 30% of the restructuring program has already been implemented. We are about to go into the second phase of the process, which will conclude by the end of this year. The third phase will be launched at the beginning of 1999.

A new membership card will also be issued, as some members of other parties are still holding PGC cards. There will be PGC internal elections at the grassroots and middle levels, leading ultimately to the PGC's sixth congress next year when a new leadership will be elected.

**Q: IWhat kind of policy changes should we expect?**

**A:** The PGC does not intend to change its main policies. But we are working to develop them and adapt them to the new local and world changes. The PGC's basic course is set by the National Charter. There is no doubt, however, that we react to developments around us.

There will be much emphasis on strengthening democracy, supporting NGOs and expanding cultural activities. During the past few months, for example, a special branch for young people was established within the PGC. Women's role is already strongly present within the organization. We hope that the PGC will become representative of all segments of society.

**Q: Let's now move to another domain of your activities - the Consultative Council. How serious are the current attempts to put this organ within a new constitutional framework?**

**A:** The process to develop the

Consultative Council is being executed by a team from within led by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani and Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. They aim to turn this body into an active instrument of change.

The legislative authority is not only the parliament's domain. In all democratic countries, an "upper house" is also involved. The aim behind this is not only the distribution of power, but also reviewing and endorsing legislations, which must not be solely done by a single organ. The upper house usually consists of prominent and experienced people in society, opinion makers, thinkers, etc. The active participation of these people in law making will make such legislation all the more positive and effective.

So we are working now to institute a constitutional amendment making the Consultative Council a more active and efficient instrument of law making.

The Consultative Council offers a great potential, given the caliber of people in it. The Council's role should not really be limited to just giving advice and consultation. Otherwise, there is no real use of spending so much of the tax-payer's money on it. The Consultative Council must have a constitutional function enabling it to effectively take part in legislation. This is now our main task at the Council.

(Yemen Times note: Yahia Al-Mutawakil is actually the chairman of a sub-committee which is entrusted with the job of presenting a draft proposal for

this purpose.)

**Q: You had proposed to conduct a study of a vision of Yemen in the year 2010. How far has this document come?**

**A:** In fact, this is still a mere idea being toyed with. The state as a whole must adopt a strategy taking Yemen to the year 2020. Considering Yemen's economic, social and security problems, it is

very crucial that such a strategy be formulated. We at the Consultative Council have already discussed this matter, which cannot really be done by one organ. It must be discussed and formulated by all relevant organs, legislative and executive. Not only that, but international expertise and the private sector must also be brought into the picture.

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## Yemen Annual Report Published

*The Yemen 1997 Annual Report* is an exhaustive survey of the state of the country during the past year. Published by the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies, this report comes as a major achievement during the center's two years of existence.

The Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies is a 'private and independent academic institution that conducts objective and impartial studies. It aims to study and analyze Yemen's political, economic, social and cultural conditions, ultimately contributing to the country's peace, stability and independence.'

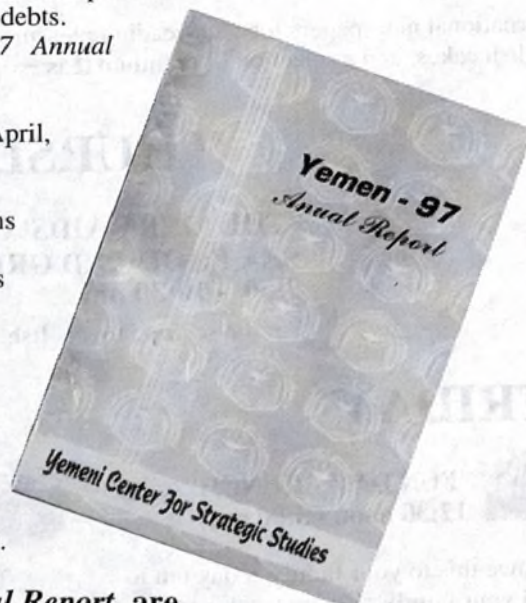
The center, under Mr. Nassr Taha Mustafa and several other renowned academics, has organized a series of seminars and workshops as well as publishing a number of relevant academic studies. One of the center's most important works - a public opinion survey on Yemen's political parties and organizations - is included in this annual report.

Of particular interest in the report is the April 1997 general elections, a turning point in Yemen's political life.

The past year also saw President Ali Abdullah Saleh conducting a successful tour of a number of countries, and the Paris Club has exempted Yemen from a sizable chunk of its foreign debts.

With detailed statistics, *The Yemen 1997 Annual Report* covered the following topics:

- 1- The parliamentary elections of April, 1997
- 2- Legislative authority
- 3- Political parties and organizations
- 4- Human rights and civil liberties
- 5- Non-governmental organizations
- 6- Justice and the judicial system
- 7- Crime and security
- 8- Learning and education
- 9- Public services
- 10- Art and culture
- 11- The mass media
- 12- The economy
- 13- Foreign affairs
- 14- A public poll on political parties.



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# "Somalia is a more peaceful country now."

**Mr. Hussain Mohammed Fareh Aided is the Joint President of the Cairo Agreement and the Joint President of the High Council administrating Mogadishu. He has recently visited to hold talks with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and inform of the latest development of the Somali issue. Yemen is one of seven Arab countries that are closely associated with trying to resolve the dispute in Somalia. Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to Mr. Aided and filed the following interview. Excerpts:**



**Q: What have you discussed with President Saleh?**

**A:** We have discussed what has been achieved regarding the administration of Mogadishu. This is an extension of the historical Declaration of Sanaa, which was the key factor to resolving the Somali crisis. Following seven months of extensive efforts, a special administration for Mogadishu has been established.

**Q: How was this administration formed?**

**A:** The establishment of a transitional administration of the Benadir region (Mogadishu, the capital city) is as per the following steps:

- Supreme Council composed of 50 members and headed by 2 co-chairmen (Hussain Mohammed Aided and Ali Mahdi Mohammed) and vice co-chairmen;
- governorate headed by a governor and 9 deputy governors;
- police force of 6,000 men headed by commander and 5 deputy commanders;
- office of attorney general headed by the Attorney General;
- independent judiciary including Court of Appeal and regional courts that functions according to the Islamic Sharia;
- Mogadishu Port Authority consisting of 2 branches (administration and customers) each headed by a manager and 2 deputies;
- Mogadishu International Airport authority consisting of 2 branches (Administration and Civil Aviation) each headed by a manager and 2 deputies;
- a commander and 2 deputies for the correction department and prison guards;
- a commander and 2 deputies for the Municipality Forces for Benadir region.

A lot of the credit goes to President Saleh and the people of Yemen who supported us immensely. Another purpose of my visit is to ask Yemen to use its good offices with other Arab and Muslim countries to help Somalia rebuild itself and make a fresh start.

**Q: What stage has the Somali national reconciliation reached?**

**A:** A conference of national reconciliation will be held in Baidoa in January, 1999, and in which the signatory parties to the Cairo Agreement will take part. It is hoped that the provisions of this agreement will be implemented. There will be a presidential council consisting of 13 members, a prime minister with wide-ranging powers, a parliamentary speaker and an independent judiciary. It was agreed when the Somali government was formed in Baidoa that all Somali social groups must be represented. We sincerely hope that Yemen continues to support us, both morally and financially,

**Q: What about the Somali refugees in Yemen? Will they be able to go back to their homeland?**

**A:** There are more than 500,000 displaced Somalis in neighboring countries. I hope by this visit to prepare for those refugees to be repatriated.

Several agricultural and animal-breeding and trade projects are planned to help the returnees settle back in their country.

**Q: What is your vision regarding the future of Somalia?**

**A:** I aim to establish a democratic system through which Somalis can attain their full rights and live in peace and dignity. The Somali people must live in peace within their own boundaries have a fruitful coexistence with the neighboring countries.

As far as the economy is concerned, we aim to embrace a free-market approach. We hope that Yemeni and other investors will come to Somalia. Ours is a country with a lot of potential. There are, for example, more than 45 million heads of livestock. There are two rivers and fertile lands. In addition to all that, Somalia is rich with mineral and sea resources.

**Q: Are you planning to visit other countries besides Yemen?**

**A:** I'll be visiting other neighboring countries such as Ethiopia to tell them of what has been achieved so far in my country. Somalia is now healthier and more peaceful and ready to occupy its rightful place among other nations.

**Q: Could you tell us more about the agreement reached by the various Somali factions?**

**A:** The Somali process of national reconciliation started in 1992 following the ousting of former President Mohammed Siad Barri. Somalia's troubles were really started by foreign intervention. With a lot of patience, endurance and heartache, the Somali people were able to overcome that difficult period of their life.

The desire for peace, Islam, Arabism and patriotic feelings have brought the various warring factions together. People suffered enough. It took two national conferences (Ethiopia 1993, Kenya 1994, Mogadishu 1995, Cairo 1997 and Sanaa 1997) to reach a final agreement.

There was also a general conference in Mogadishu, the sessions of which were held from 11 November, 1994 to 15 June, 1995. My late father Mohammed Fareh Aided was elected at that conference. Afterwards I met with Mr. Ali Mahdi and Mr. Othman Hassan in Nairobi. Other meetings were held in Sanaa and Cairo.

**Q: How important is the Cairo Declaration on Somalia in**

**resolving the crisis?**

**A:** The Cairo Declaration on Somalia brought together two differing parties - ours and the Sodare Group. The Sanaa Agreement is very important in that it has allowed the formation of a joint administration of the capital and the Benadir governorate. It is crucial that reconciliation takes place in the capital first, because its peace and stability reflects on that of the country as a whole.

The outcomes of the Sanaa Agreement and others were finally all formulated within the Cairo agreement. The Baidoa conference will finally help establish a national government and rebuild the sovereignty of the Somali state.

**Q: Which countries have helped Somalia achieve peace?**

**A:** We are greatly indebted to Yemen, Egypt, Libya, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Eritrea, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Italy and China.

**Q: What other future plans do you have for the reconstruction of Somalia?**

**A:** There are plans already formulated to reestablish public services, the health care system, schools, roads and other infrastructure. Somalia is a rich country with a huge potential. We call on all countries of the world to help us bring our country back to the international fold and rebuild a prosperous Somalia.

**Q: Could you briefly tell us about the main social groups in Somalia? Are there any other factions which are still at war?**

**A:** There are four main social groups in Somalia which will occupy three seats each in the presidential council. One seat will be for Benadir. All Somali factions have signed the Cairo Agreement. There are some figures who refused to sign. They are mostly supported by foreign powers.

**Q: What about the so-called Somali Land? Is it within agreement?**

**A:** Somalia is united now. The social group that comes from Somali Land has an equal number of seats at the presidential council as the other three social groups.

**Q: What is the period of time allocated to each joint president?**

**A:** There is only one president for the presidential council, which consists of 13 members. He will be the president for the whole three-year transitional period. The president can be elected by a majority vote.

**Q: Will there be parliamentary elections?**

**A:** At the beginning the government will function during the first six months. Through this government, a parliament consisting of 189 seats will be elected.

**Q: Will the ruling authority be mainly central, or will there be some autonomous regions?**

**A:** There will be a central authority established at the Baidoa conference, and regional authorities will also be adopted. The governors of other governorates will be chosen through local autonomous elections.

**Q: How much do you estimate the damages incurred during the civil war?**

**A:** The war created numerous problems and hardships. The so-called international peace-keeping force also did a lot of economic harm to the country. Ports, airports, factories, and other installations and infrastructure elements were destroyed. UNISOM paid \$3.5 billion to occupy and destroy Somalia. That was the biggest catastrophe during the 7 years of war.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** Our struggle for 7 years was to maintain the unity and territorial integrity of Somalia and to establish a democratic state of governance by laws, to safeguard human rights and the rights of the individual Somali citizen. We are committed to ensure peace and security for Somalia and for our neighboring countries.

We call upon the international community (IGAD, LAD, OAU, OIC, NAM, EU, and the UN)

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firstly to support this historical achievement for the establishment of the Transitional Administration of the Benadir region (Mogadishu, the capital city of Somalia). And secondly we call upon them to support the

upcoming "National Reconciliation Conference of Baidoa, which will establish a democratically elected central Government for Somalia on the basis of the Cairo declaration on Somalia on December 22nd 1997.

## Children in Conflict with the Law

Organized by the Yemeni Bara'em Society in cooperation with the UNICEF under the auspices of the governor of Aden, a three-day workshop on juvenile delinquency was concluded on August 25 in Aden. More than 50 specialists including judges, magistrates, police officers, NGO representatives, and social workers took part in the workshop.



Several research papers were submitted and discussed by four different debate groups: education and social, legal and legislative, executive, and rehabilitation and reform. The participants concentrated on the best ways to deal with juveniles delinquents, address their problems and grievances and rehabilitate them into society. Discussions also focused on the role of the family, society and the state in tackling the problems of juvenile delinquents.

Dr. Ali Abbas, UNICEF consultant and director of the Child Protection Program in Yemen, told Yemen Times: "The UNICEF now aims to introduce the phrase 'children in conflict with the law,' instead of the outdated and rather misleading 'juvenile delinquents.' The latter

phrase has many social and legal implications. It may make some children and youngsters believe they are real criminals."

"The UNICEF is keen on including Yemen within its program for 1999-2001. It is a comprehensive and integrated program to protect orphaned and working children, the preparations for which are already underway.

"A study is prepared in Yemen, in cooperation with the Ra'idaat law firm in Sanaa on the legal status of children when they come into conflict with the law. The study also aims to ascertain the compatibility between Yemeni laws and the international agreement on children. "We found that Yemeni legislations are quite developed, and problems only arise in implementing these laws. This often results in youngsters being detained for somewhat long periods of time, despite international and local laws stipulating that child court cases must be treated as urgent in order to protect the children's dignity.

The UNICEF intends to establish a recreational center at the Home for Juvenile Care in Sanaa. Children living in the neighborhood will be encouraged to visit this center so that they can mix with errant children, as a first step towards rehabilitating the latter into society."

### Recommendations

The participants at the workshop came out with the following recommendations:

- 1- A home for juvenile care must be established in Aden and other governorates.
- 2- The Supreme Council for Mother and Child and the Center for Social Studies and Research should study the reasons and motives behind Yemeni children coming into conflict with the law.
- 3- The Ministry of Information should increase the number of programs directed at children and families by at least 100%.
- 4- Existing parks and playgrounds must be persevered and developed and new ones created.
- 5- The Bara'em Society should follow up the implementation of the workshop's decisions and recommendations.
- 6- Local authorities are urged to establish special juvenile courts and departments at police stations, in accordance with the Social Care Law No. 24 of 1992.

**Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,  
Yemen Times,  
Aden**



This is an *OPINION* page.

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

## Marriage & Family Problems in Yemen



**Dr. Fouad Jaleel Al-Salahi,**  
Assistant Professor of Sociology,  
Sanaa University

In some Arab countries such as the UAE, the state is directly involved in the marriages of its citizens. This is for two main reasons: to discourage its citizens from marrying foreigners and to give loans for men to help them towards paying the dowries. In 1976 in (north) Yemen a law was issued to give the largest part of the dowry. But this law was not fully implemented. A similar law was also issued in the southern part of Yemen, which was implemented literally. Nowadays, there is no policy to regulate this issue.

**Dowry**  
In Islamic traditions, the bride-

groom bears all financial burdens. In Yemen dowries demanded by rich families can reach million of riyals. Since marriage in Yemen is mainly a family affair, the family of the bridegroom helps its son with the required money. High dowries lead to increasing the marriage age. Young people now study and embark on a career before getting married. So marriage age in Yemen now is about 27 years. A young man graduates from secondary school at 18 years of age, spends two years in the army, a minimum of four years at university and may be two years at work to save money.

Inter-tribal marriages are more costly than those within one tribe or one family. This is usually due to the fact that individual tribes are very proud of their lineage, so they demand a high dowry to give their daughters a high status. They also wish to appear quite proud in the eyes of the rest of society.

Marriage is often considered a show of riches when families

have the chance to display their material wealth by holding lavish banquets and wedding parties. In view of the rising cost of living, the state should try to raise people's awareness of the importance of a solid nucleus family for the overall stability of society.

### Choosing a Bride

Usually choosing a wife is left to the family, a man seldom chooses his own wife. New generations are gradually changing this habit by directly choosing at the work or study place. The telephone is also a modern tool of getting to know members of the opposite sex. Love is increasingly becoming the main criteria for choosing a spouse, which is quite a positive sign.

Marriage into a different class is not always easy in Yemen, because of the exclusivity of various social groups such as the Hashemites (descendants of the Prophet). There is now a slow but gradual process of opening up. Wealth and career have begun to break these barriers.

There are two very closed social groups: Akhdam and the Shia of Haraz who are also known as the Buhra sect. The first are almost completely outcast by society; while, the latter are very exclusive in their nature. Thus the various groups of the Yemeni society are not fully integrated. As is well known, intermarriages lead to various types of genetic diseases and defects. Another group that has low status in the Yemeni society in general include those with menial jobs such as butchers, barbers, blacksmiths, cobblers, etc.

### Working Women

Yemeni men more often than not prefer to marry women with little or no education. This is in order to keep the woman at home to bring up the children and do the household chores.

Men may also force their working wives to quit their jobs, especially if the women does not contribute to the household budget. Hence, lack of economic independence makes the women unable to take part in major family decisions.

### Family Planning

Families in Yemen live rather spontaneously in almost all aspects of their lives, including family planning. The number of children is left to chance, leading to the noticeable problem of rapid population growth.

Having a large number of children may lead to numerous social problems within the family and without. In a huge family, parents may not be able to completely fulfill their duties in raising their children.

Due to successive pregnancies, Yemeni women often suffer from gynecological problems.

### Second Wife

The Yemeni law, which is based on Islamic Sharia, allows the man to marry up to four wives. It is provided that he treats them equally well and has the financial ability to support them and their children. Polygamy is quite widespread in rural areas in Yemen. In urban areas, it is usually well-off men who marry more than one wife. The second wife is often quite young.

### Divorce

Divorce rates are not high in Yemeni society. It is more spread in urban than in rural areas. Having the right to marry more than one wife makes them

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eschew divorce in favor of marrying another women instead. This is despite the fact that legal divorce procedures are relatively easy for a man to go through in the Yemeni law. A husband can just go into a court and announce his divorce from his wife and have officially endorsed.

### Marrying Foreigners

An appreciable number of Yemeni men are married to foreign women, especially those who studied abroad. The majority of these men are married to women from countries mainly in the Horn of Africa, Indonesia, India. Second come those with wives from the former socialist countries, followed by those who have wives from other Arab countries with a minority married to Western women.

The Yemeni nationality law allows the children from a Yemeni father and a foreign mother to acquire the Yemeni nationality. However, children from a Yemeni mother and a foreign father do not have an automatic right to obtain the Yemeni nationality, even if they were born and currently live in Yemen.

### Role of the State

It is not favorable for the state to be directly involved in the marriage process. However, there seems to be a national need for the state to possibly take the following measures:

- 1- In order to build a cohesive nation in Yemen, the state should encourage intermarriage between different tribes, sects, regions, etc. by providing financial incentives for those who marry into different social groups.
- 2- Public awareness must be raised regarding the importance of reducing dowries.
- 3- The public servants salaries should be raised to help them meet the demands of their families.
- 4- Public service such as health care, education, etc. must be improved in order to reduce family expenditure in these areas in the private sector.

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#### Duties and Responsibilities:

Under the direct supervision of the Representative in B. O. Sana'a, Programme Assistant is responsible for provision of direct services related to refugees, and monitoring and reporting of the projects as detailed below:

#### 1. Project Fund disbursement:

- Assists in preparation of submission and the necessary revision of sub-projects implemented in Sana'a in coordination with Associate Programme Officer in Aden.
- Collection SPMR from IP, checking the sub-project monitoring reports (SPMRs) and forwarded to the Sub-Office for verifying, as well as prepares payment request for the next installment.
- Recording IPR and assists the Associate Programme Officer in preparing periodical various reports on project activities.

#### 2. Provision of Direct Services:

- Facilitating the repatriation exercise of refugees for the Branch Office under project 98/AP/YAM/R/370.

#### 3. Monitoring:

- Monitoring projects sectors implemented directly by the Branch Office and other projects.
- Arranging and monitoring provision of assistance to urban refugees as per the sub-projects descriptions outlined in the agreements signed by them.
- Contacting and coordinating with the local authorities and implementing partners, to provide the necessary assistance and other services to the refugees.
- Undertaking regular visits to the offices of the implementing partners, as well as project sites in order to advise on services provided; coordinate, recommend and arrange the training deemed necessary for the operation; and collect data and reports on implementation of the services and activities carried out.

#### 4. Liaison Duties:

- Draft, combine the monthly SITREP by providing input related to the project activities of Branch Office in Sana'a.
- Providing necessary inputs to documents, reports, and correspondence regarding programme issues and the related sectors covered.
- Reporting all the above projects/programme related matters to the Associate Programme Officer through the Representative.

#### 5. Perform other duties as required

#### Qualification Requirements:

- Completion of secondary education, preferably supplemented by a university degree or diploma in social science or administration. Very good knowledge of electronic data processing.
- Six to seven years of progressively responsible clerical or administrative work, of which at least one year was closely related to support programme activities.
- Excellent knowledge of English and Arabic is obligatory. Knowledge of French Somali and Amhara will be an asset.

#### Others:

- Salary will be paid in accordance with United Nations Local Salary Scales. Other social benefits shall also apply.
- This position is open to Yemeni nationals only.
- Applications should be received not later than 8 September 1998. Any application received after this date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements should apply but acknowledgement will only be sent to applicants meeting the requirements of the post.
- Qualified and interested candidates are requested to send applications with a detailed curriculum vitae to:

The Representative, UNHCR, P. O. Box 12093, Sana'a.

Please note that UNHCR is an equal opportunity employer and is currently prioritizing the recruitment of equally qualified female candidates among professional staff.

Cont'd from page 1:

## Reform Conference....

10- Expanding the administrative presence of the public service all over the country (district / town, etc.) At the same time, public employees should be given them real authority to take decisions regarding the questions raised at their level.

11- Giving the criteria of actual performance of each public servant the priority in his annual evaluation and promotion, not to his presence or absence during working hours. This performance evaluation should be done on weekly, monthly, seasonally and annually.

12- Attracting highly qualified people who hold a Ph.D. or Masters degrees to work in the public service, by giving them the same allowances as those given to university academic staff, instead of treating them differently. This fact pushes these groups to look for a job out of the civil service which affect it negatively.

13- Giving each and every public servant his finan-

cial rights automatically without the need for him to follow up his rights here and there.

14- Attracting new civil servants, especially those in the fields of education and health.

15- Recognizing the principal of financial indemnisation for each civil servant for any damages caused by the public administration

16- Considering the disputes arising between a civil servant and the public administration as an urgent case, which must be solved in an urgent case court.

The conference was an important milestone. Moreover, it played the role of catalyst in pushing forward the need for administrative reforms, which is increasingly becoming a pre-requisite for the success of the whole reform program.

**Dr. Salah Haddash,**  
Managing Editor, Yemen Times.

# World Bank Continues Support for Yemen

Mr. Inder Sud, Middle East and North Africa Director, World Bank, came on a special visit to Yemen to review with government officials the status of World Bank operations in the country. This includes both the ongoing projects and the areas for future cooperation. He also discussed ways in which the World Bank could assist Yemen to meet the shortfalls in the development budget following the decline in oil revenues in 1997.

The World Bank has been helping Yemen implement its economic program. "Since 1995, when the government started its reform program, the World Bank has provided assistance totaling \$360 million for 10 different projects," said Mr. Sud. "This compares with only \$80 million provided in the previous 3 year period. This is an indication of the strong World Bank commitment to help Yemen meet the needs of its population as it moves forward to readjust its economic management."

The areas of World Bank assistance in the last 3 years have included support for the reform program in the form of balance of payments support as well as specific project assistance in the areas of infrastructure, education, agriculture and social protection. Highlighting the projects of the World Bank has assisted within the area of social protection, Mr. Sud enumerated the following:

- the Social Fund Project (\$30 million),
  - the Public Works Project (\$25 million) and
  - the Southern Governorates Agricultural Privatization Project (\$25 million).
- All three of these projects are designed to help the poor with

employment, basic services and income generation opportunities during the difficult period of economic adjustment. "I was pleased to see that these projects are being implemented efficiently, and are already showing good results. We hope to continue support similar projects in the coming years," announced the World Bank executive.

With regards to the immediate needs of financial assistance in the light of the short fall in oil revenues, the World Bank discussed with the government a program that makes a start in improving the management of public expenditures. The components of the program includes for the first time a serious attempt to make the civil service more efficient and modern. It would also establish clear priorities among and within specific sectors. This is important to ensure that whatever expenditures are made are directed to the highest priority projects that can give early benefits to the people and towards basic needs such as education and health. "This prioritisation of expenditure, we expect, will become a normal part of the budget process since government resources, even with substantial assistance from the donors, will continue to be limited for the coming years."

The government considers this program critical to maintain support of the people for the economic reform program that it is pursuing. With the agreement on this program, it is hoped that the World Bank would be able to mobilize the necessary financial resources to meet at least some of the shortfall in development budget.

"I believe that the focus on social

protection needs to continue in the future. We have agreed on a follow up projects for the Public Works Project in view of the very good experience to-date with implementation and the fact that all funds have been committed." The World Bank will allocate additional \$50 million for this purpose and expect that a similar amount could be mobilized from other donors. It is also intensifying work in basic education and health.

"Looking to the next three years, I expect to maintain the same strong support for Yemen that we have done in the last three years. Although IDA resources (which are very soft loans available from the World Bank for the poor countries) are very limited, I'm hopeful that we will be able to convince the World Bank's Board of Directors to allocate at least the same magnitude of resources for the next three years, and possibly even increase them further in view of Yemen's very good performance."

The areas of future World Bank support are expected to include health and education with an emphasis on women and children, water resource management, poverty alleviation and encouragement of private investment. "Yemen can count on the World Bank to be its partner in its efforts to improve the living conditions of the Yemeni people," concluded Mr. Sud.

#### World Bank Contributions to Yemen's Reform Program

**Public Sector Modernization:** The adjustment credit will support (a) reforms in public administration, (b) budget and

financial management reforms (c) expenditure allocations emphasizing poverty and growth oriented expenditures; and (d) reforms in cost recovery, tax and customs administration, US \$ 50.0 million.

#### Civil Service Modernization Technical Assistance:

The program will provide technical support for (a) improvements to personnel and financial management systems; (b) Re-engineering of government agencies with an objective to improve the incentive framework for delivering services and to increase the efficiency of work flow, policies, procedures and organizational structure; (c) the development of a work force adjustment program, US \$ 30.0 million.

#### Legal and Judicial Development:

The project would assist the government in (a) increasing the efficiency of the judicial process; (b) commencing the process of putting in place a legal framework adequate to encourage private sector activities, US \$ 3.0 million.

#### Privatization Support:

The project will help (a) strengthen the Republic of Yemen's institutional capacity for privatization, (b) prepare a small number of large transactions for privatization, (c) provide programmatic support for the privatization of smaller assets. The project will primarily finance technical assistance, US \$ 20.0.

#### Education Sector Management Reform:

The project will improve the

ability and the effectiveness of the education system at the central and governorate levels to plan, finance, implement and monitor basic and secondary education services, US \$ 29.3 million.

#### Health Sector:

The objective of the projects is to improve the delivery of essential curative and preventive services to the poor, particularly women of reproduction age and young children. The project will strengthen the planning and regulatory role of the Ministry of Health, improve health sector financing and support new interventions for services delivery at the community level, US \$ 10.5 million.

#### Child Development:

The project will follow up on recommendations of a study conducted by UNICEF and the World Bank. The project will design and support maternal and child health care, girls education and early childhood development programs through community based approaches, US \$30.0 million.

#### Sanaa Emergency Power:

The project includes the construction of a new 30MW power plant on a prepared site, and the rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing 20MW diesel-fueled power plant at the Dhabban Power Plant. The operations and maintenance of the power plant, including rehabilitation, would become the responsibility of a qualified private operator under a medium-term performance-based management contract. A PPF advance of US \$1.5 million has been to finance preparation

costs, US \$58.0 million.

#### Sana'a Water Supply and Sanitation:

The Project will finance (a) an extension of water production and distribution facilities, (b) waste water collection, (c) exploratory water well drilling; (d) technical assistance, (e) preparation and implementation of sector reforms with the Business, No. 478, dated 16th January, 1998, a pre-qualification notice was published in No. 485, dated 30th April, 1998. Prequalification of contractors for the initial three civil works projects is in the final stages, US \$ 35.0 million.

#### Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS):

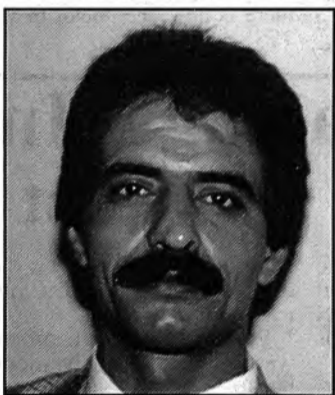
The five year project is to (a) test a decentralized, demand based, community participation and management method, (b) improve rural health by expanding RWSS coverage, and (c) lay the ground for a RWSS Development Strategy and a large scale national program. The project would help rehabilitate existing water supply schemes and build new ones, and provide health education and sanitation infrastructure, US \$ 10.0 million.

#### Solid Waste / Environmental Management:

The project will support improved solid waste collection in small towns and strengthened environmental management, particularly (a) protected area management method (b) coastal zone management, and (c) environmental assessment, US \$ 12.0 million.

Ismail Al-Ghabiry,  
Yemen Times

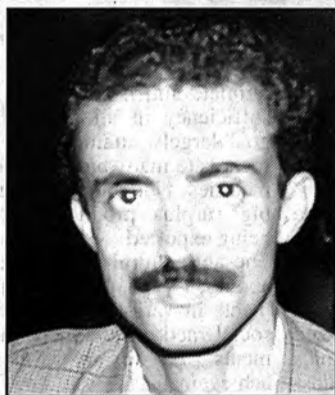
# Cooking Gas in the Countryside



Ahmad Yahya Ali



Nadia Mohammad Ahmed



Anwar A. Kahtan



Adnan Mohammad Abdullah

Organized by the Yemeni Gas Company (YGC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation and the Environment Protection Council (EPC), a seminar on gas in the countryside was held during the period August 24-25. The workshop was attended by Dr. Rashad Rabah, Deputy Minister of Oil; Dr. Abdulmalik Al-Arashi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Hussein Al-Gunaid, Secretary-General of EPC; Anwar Salem, General Manager of YGC; Mr. Muckrid Shantha, Resident Representative, a. I, UNDP and Mr. Syed Shahid Mahdi, FAO representative.

The seminar aims at the following:

- 1-Discussing the current situation of using different energy resources in the countryside.
- 2-Discussing the possibilities of using gas in the countryside instead of firewood.

3-Finding ways and possibilities of preserving renewable natural resources.

4- Specifying the priority regions in the countryside in replacing firewood by gas.

In the seminar, 10 papers were presented. We will try to give in brief a summary of each one.

#### Gas Replacement & Model Villages

1-The first paper was presented by Engineer Adnan Mohammed Abdullah, YGC. The paper presented statistics about the number of gas stores and the current number of tankers transporting gas from the refineries to the filling stations.

The tanker fleet has now 250 tankers. The number increased by about 100 tankers. The number of gas stations has reached 48. The paper has focused on the trends of using gas for cooking, lighting, fridges, etc. It also men-

tioned the positive results of using gas on the social and economic levels.

In its third part, the paper discussed the attempts of establishing model villages which shouldn't go beyond 5 regions for gas replacement. This should be provided with a media campaign raising the awareness of the public about the importance of using gas instead of firewood and its benefits. It recommended this should be done in cooperation with the local councils.

#### Forests & Forester Policies

The second paper of the workshop was presented by Engineer Ahmad Yahya Ali, Forests Administration. It discussed the current situation of forests in Yemen in which the environment and plants have witnessed during the last five years horrible destruction. The reason behind this is the returnees from

the Gulf countries. These returnees tried to cultivate some farmlands at the cost of forests.

Another reason could be the expansion of cities, road building, forests fires, the absence of regulatory laws. The paper concluded with recommending the importance of issuing laws that organize the ways of exploiting the natural resources and raising public awareness about that.

#### Ways of Encouraging Gas Use In The Countryside

The third paper was presented by Mr. Abdulaziz Noman and Mr. Ali Ali AL-Mahdy, YGC. The paper indicates that the average amount of petroleum gas in Block 18 in Mareb is estimated at 2,200 tons. The used amount of it for household and industrial purposes is around 1,000 tons. However, the used amount for this purpose witnessed an increase in 1990-1997 from

60,491 tons to 381,000 tons.

But this figure is very modest in comparison with the countryside population that don't use gas, which represent 76%. Therefore, it has become very urgent to invest in this field. Small gas cylinder filling stations must be built near the populated areas.

#### Trees & Family Life in the Countryside

The fourth paper was presented by Dr. Hamoud Al-Awadi, Sociology Department Head, Sanaa University and Environment Protection Society (EPS). Dr. Udy indicates in his paper that the field survey chosen areas in Mahweet, Ibb, Taiz, Abyan, Aden and Lahaj. The hypothesis of the study was based on the fall of the economic value of forest trees as a main resource of family fuel, economic awareness, absence of revenues and destruction of forest trees household use and the people neglect of these trees as an economic corp.

It is also made on the basis of the random cutting of trees and the absence of the government role and the official protection of the forests. There are many obstacles facing the use of gas like the expensive equipment, poverty, hazardous exploitation, etc. The population increase also leads to the increase of the firewood use.

#### The Socio-economic Impact of Gas Use in the Countryside

The fifth paper was presented by Ms. Nadia Mohammed Ahmad, Ministry of Agriculture. The paper discussed the main family fuel resources in the countryside

represented by firewood and gasoline. It also presents the usefulness of gas use in the countryside, the most important of which is helping woman there and enabling there to participate in diverse social activities.

This will also protect our forests and decrease immigration to the cities. The paper also highlights the significance of women participation in gas replacement for their being the chief users of household fuel.

#### Economic and Commercial Aspects of Gas Distribution

The sixth paper was presented by Mr. Fuad Bamakraf, YGC. The paper talks about a study made by the company regarding suitable sites for establishing gas stations. Twelve sites have been marked and 15 will be marked in the future. Licenses have been given to 12 stations and licenses will be given to 6 more later. The paper suggested the establishment of small gas stations in the countryside.

#### Forest Regions which Can Be Saved by the Use of Gas

This paper has been presented by Mr. Anwar Abdulhameed Kahtan, Forests General Administration. It presented Baraa mountain forest in the Tihama, Arf mountain forest in Al-Makaterah, Alouz mountain forest in Khawlan, Hawf forest in Al-Maharah and Al-Arais mountain forest in Socotra island. All these are a good example of areas enriched with forests. So using gas in these areas is very urgent and a good step for announcing them as natural reservations.

By:  
Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,  
Assistant Managing Editor,  
Yemen Times.

# The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 29 Years of Glorious Al-Fatih Revolution

## Al-Fatih's Great Achievements

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has made big strides in economic and social development. A lot has been achieved during the last three decades by the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and its leader Muammar Al-Qaddafi. Soon after its beginning in 1969, the Great Al-Fatih Revolution embarked on a very ambitious program of extensive development in all fields of human endeavor - economy, culture, social affairs, politics, etc. In order to diversify the economic structure and free the economy from dependence on oil, oil revenues were heavily invested in non-oil sectors throughout the period from 1970 to 1997. Out of a total of 37 billion Libyan Dinars, 30.5 billion (82%) were poured back into development projects. Budgetary, out-of-budget and individual investments helped bring into existence the following big achievements:

1- a GDP annual growth rate of 8.9% in current prices and

health care, allocating one doctor for every 756 people; 12- creating 781,000 new job opportunities, 86% of which are for Libyans; 13- implementing the largest water-transport project in the region - the Great Man-made River - which transfers 6.2 million cubic meter of water per day from wells in the south to the coastal regions.

### Whole Economic Growth

The development strategy implemented during 1970-1997 aimed at achieving a number of goals, the most prominent of which are:

A- high and rapid growth rates in non-oil sectors, especially in agriculture, industry, electricity, and fisheries; B- achieving the appropriate levels of food security and self-sufficiency; C- developing and intensifying the education programs, both horizontally and vertically in order to provide the qualified people needed by the develop-

ment process; D- achieving a balanced social development.

11.9% in non-oil economic activity; 2- a marked improvement in the national economic structure of non-oil sectors; 3- individual income per year rose from LD 656 in 1970 to LD 2,350 in 1997; 4- more than 2 million hectares of arable land were cultivated, achieving self-sufficiency in several agricultural crops; 5- more than 331 industrial projects went into the production and export phase; 6- 2.912 megawatt of compound electrical power and 11,858 ge-gawatt-hour of productive energy were added, and 29.5 billion cubic meters of water are desalinated per year; 7- oil production was regulated and rationalized from 3.3 mbpd in 1970 to 1.5 mbpd in 1997, according to international and local markets demands and OPEC quotas; 8- building more than 390,000 housing units; 9- 58,881 classes were added to all levels of education, except university; 10- the number of male and female students rose to 1.8 million in all levels of education; 11- marked improvement in

### Economic Structure

The plans and budgets made in 1970 aimed at diversifying the structure of the national economy and allowing for larger contributions by the non-oil sectors. Thus the national economy is made to depend on its own self-growth factors, on the one hand, and on new revenue sources. Due to this policy, the contribution made by the non-oil economic activity to the GDP rose from 36.9% in 1970 to about 77.1% in 1997.

### Individual Income

The marked increase in the GDP during 1970-1980 led to quintupling the average individual income (LD 656 to LD 3,252). Due to the drop in oil and gas production from LD 6,525 million in 1980 to LD 2,977.5 million in 1997, the average income came down to LD 2,350 in the same year. The total state subsidy of basic commodities during 1978-1996 was 1,068 million, i.e., an average of LD 56 million per year.

### Industrial Projects

In order to diversify the sources and means of production, a total of 331 industrial projects became fully operational during 1970-1997. Another 47 large projects are currently being executed.

industrial shariites and companies, which rely largely on local raw material. Seventeen private banks are now operating, and three more are being established.

### Agriculture

The Great Fatih Revolution pays a lot of attention to land rec-



lamation and cultivation. The ultimate aim is to achieve self-sufficiency in all foodstuffs, a goal largely attained now with regards to many basic food commodities. Not only that, but the big surplus produced is now being exported.

### Electricity & Water Desalination

Due to the great importance of electrical power, both for indus-

trial and domestic use, substantial budget allocations were designated for the electricity sector. National cadres are constantly trained to work efficiently in this sector. Water desalination capacity stood at 295,500 cubic meter per day.

### Communications & Transport

A great deal of attention has been heaped on this sector since 1969. Big improvements are made in transporting means of production to and from the work place and connecting production with the consumption centers. Various means of communication and sea, air and land transport are made available to the people within the country and without. Huge investments in this sector during 1970-1997 have greatly improved road construction, air transport, passenger transport, telephone and wireless communications, sea ports, etc.

### Health

Recognizing the crucial importance of the health services, Al-Fatih Revolution provided extensive health care and disease prevention facilities. Some of the 1970-1997 achievements include:

- 1- establishing 74 hospitals with different specializations in various parts of the country.
- 2- increasing the number of beds from 7,589 in 1970 to 22,005 in 1996, i.e., an average of 4 beds for every 1,000 people.
- 3- introducing 35 new clinic compounds, 150 new basic health care units, and 14 TB centers.
- 4- instead of one doctor for every 2,507 people in 1970, there is now one doctor to very 756 people.



### Tourism

To provide recreational facilities for the people, create new job opportunities, and contribute to the GDP, great care is given to developing the tourism sector. The following are some of the achievements:

- 1- constructing 118 new hotels;
- 2- establishing several tourism companies;
- 3- creating 13 tourist villages and a significant number of parks;
- 4- converting 66 hotels into tourist shariites;
- 5- establishing a number of hotel and catering institutes to qualify local cadres.

### Population

The population rose from 2,052,400 in 1973 to 4,405,500 in 1995. Statistics indicate that during 1970-1997 the population increased by 2.5 times at an annual rate of 3.4%. About 47.9 of the population are female.

## Damages Incurred Due to Unjust Embargo

The detrimental effects of the economic embargo - imposed on the Jamahiriya by UN Security Council resolutions 748 in 1992 and 833 in 1993 - are very serious. Such repercussions have extended to all sectors of life and development programs. The total financial loss incurred by various sectors of the economy during the period from April 15, 1992 to December 31, 1996 are estimated at \$23,590,379,992.

### 1- Human Consequences

#### Health and Social Security

- \* The health and social security sectors have incurred losses estimated at \$210 million.
- \* There are about 16,950 patients with serious diseases that cannot be sent abroad for medical treatment.
- \* More than 5,750 people died as a direct result of lack of medicines. And 12,515 are suffering from serious injuries and disabilities.
- \* About 1,245 new born

children and 605 women died due to lack of various medicines and vaccines.

- \* Several health care projects were delayed or abandoned because of the inability to import essential medical equipment.

### 2- Economic Consequences

#### 1- Agricultural Sector

- \* Total financial losses incurred by this sector (during 1992-1996) due to the embargo are estimated at \$337,253,104.
- \* Large deficits were reported in the produced quantities of wheat, barley, legumes, and fodder.
- \* Severe shortages of pesticides and fertilizers led to large deficiencies in crop yield.

#### 2- Transport Sector

- \* Losses incurred by this sector (1992-1996) are estimated at \$2,489,167,978.
- \* A number of employees were laid off due to their companies' inability to pay their salaries.

#### 3- Industry & Minerals Sector

- \* Losses incurred by this sector are estimated at \$5,136,410,732.
- \* Spare parts are almost impossible to import.
- \* Foreign experts and instructors experience numerous difficulties in coming to Libya.

are not allowed to go for training abroad.

- \* Restricting cargo transport to sea shipment has largely delayed the arrival of industrial equipment.

#### 4- Energy Sector

- \* Financial losses in this sector due to the embargo are estimated at \$5,856,000,000.
- \* The GNP has been badly affected.
- \* Export revenues have diminished markedly.
- \* Freezing Libyan foreign bank accounts has lost the country valuable credit facilities.
- \* Commodity prices in local markets rose noticeably.

#### 5- Trade Sector

- \* Total financial losses in this sector are estimated at \$5,000,000,000.
- \* The oil industry is largely affected by lack of spare parts and the rise in maintenance costs.
- \* Oil refining projects are delayed considerably.
- \* It is difficult to import new technology for the smooth running of the oil sector.

### Introducing the Green Book

'The thinker Muammar Al-Qaddafi does not present his thought for simple amusement or pleasure. Nor is it for those who regard ideas as puzzles for the entertainment of empty minded people standing on the margin of life. 'Al-Qaddafi's ideas interpret life as it erupts from the heart of the tormented, the oppressed, the deprived and the grief-stricken. It flows from the ever-developing and conflicting reality in search of whatever is best and most beautiful.'

### Selected from the Green Book on Authority of the Masses

'The Green Book presents the ultimate solution to the problem of the proper instrument of government, and indicates for the masses the path upon which they can advance from the age of dictatorship to that of genuine democracy.

'The new theory is based on the authority of the people, without representation or deputiation. It achieves direct democracy in an orderly and effective form. It is superior to the older attempts at direct democracy which were impractical, because they lacked popular organizations at base level.'

'All political systems in the world today are a product of the struggle for power between alternative instruments of government.'

### Parliaments

'Parliament is a misrep-

## Expounding Third Universal Theory

resentation of the people, and parliamentary systems are a false solution to the problem of democracy.'

'True democracy exists only through the direct participation of the people, and not through the activity of their representatives.'

'Representation is a falsification of democracy.'

'After the successful establishment of the age of the republics and the beginning of the era of the masses, it is unthinkable that democracy should mean the electing of only a few representatives to act on behalf of great masses.'

### The Party

'The party is a contemporary form of dictatorship.'

'The party is the rule of a part over the whole. As a party is not an individual, it creates a superficial democracy by establishing assemblies, committees, and propaganda through its members.'

'Just as tribal and sectarian rule is politically unacceptable and inappropriate, likewise the rule under a party system.'

### Plebiscites

'Plebiscites are a fraud against democracy. Those who vote "yes" or "no" do not, in fact, express their free will but, rather, are silenced by the

modern conception of democracy, as they are not allowed to say more than "yes" or "no". Such a system is oppressive and tyrannical.'

### Popular Conferences and People's Committees

'Popular Conferences are the only means to achieve popular democracy. any system of government contrary to this method, Popular Conferences, is undemocratic.'

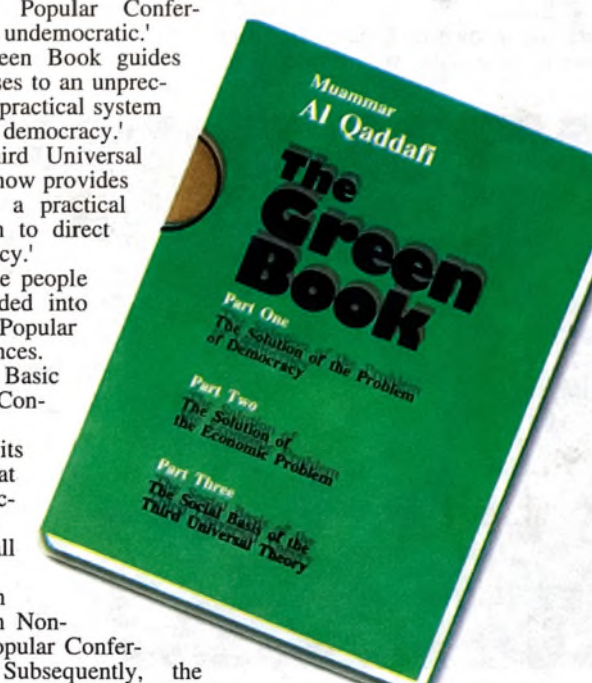
'The Green Book guides the masses to an unprecedented practical system of direct democracy.'

'The Third Universal Theory now provides us with a practical approach to direct democracy.'

'First, the people are divided into Basic Popular Conferences. Each Basic Popular Conference chooses its secretariat.'

'The secretariats of all Popular Conferences form Non-Basic Popular Conferences. Subsequently, the masses of the Basic Popular

Conferences select administrative People's Committees to replace government administration. All public institutions are run by People's Committees, which will be accountable to the Basic Popular Conferences, which dictate the policy and supervise its execution. Thus, both the administration and the supervision become the people's and the outdated definition of democracy - democracy is the supervision of the government by the people - becomes obsolete. It will be replaced by the true definition: Democracy is the supervision of the people by the people.'



## The River of Life The Great Man-made River

'In the name of God we lay the foundation stone for the Great Man-made River. It will, God willing, burst with plentiful springs for this place in the desert.'

With these words, the Leader of the Revolution, Muammar Al-Qaddafi launched the Great Man-made River Project on August 28, 1984.

### Facts & Figures

- \* About 1,900km of piping were all manufactured in the Jamahiriya.
- \* About 2,000km of roads were built to facilitate the transport of pipe pieces into the desert.
- \* Each tube piece is 7.5m in length and 4m in diameter and weighs 73 tons.

- \* Tubes are buried 7m deep.
- \* The amount of earth removed equals 12 times that of the Aswan High Dam, Egypt.
- \* The Jamahiriya has become the world's top country in pipe manufacturing.
- \* One pipe is manufactured every 15 minutes.
- \* Water is pumped from 270 wells in the heart of the Libyan desert.

### This very ambitious project lies in several phases:

#### First Stage:

This stage aims to transfer 2 million cubic meter of water every day from the Sarir and Tazarbo water fields to a coastal area extending from Benghazi to Sirta. Water flows naturally under gravity without pumping through 4m-wide pipes.

#### Second Stage:

It is aimed by this stage to pump 205 million cubic meter daily from fields to the north and east of Al-Hasawna mountain to the north-western part of the country. In order to facilitate the success of this phase, roads extending to more than 2,155 km were built to connect various water fields with the areas for which the water is intended. A complete program is instituted to maintain and repair these roads.



#### Third Stage:

This stage involves the drilling of water production wells in the Kafra aquifer to produce 107 million cubic meter per day, increasing overall daily water production to 307 million. The pumped water is used to answer the needs of Al-Jabal Al-Akhdar and Al-Batnan areas, while the rest is pumped to the western region.

#### Fourth Stage:

This stage involves the drilling of wells in Al-Haruj

Al-Aswad area to produce 105 million cubic meters every day, to be transferred to the central region. It is aimed through this part of the project to irrigate 150,000 to 180,000 hectares of agricultural land and provide pastures for 2 million heads of sheep and 200,000 heads of cattle.





# The Old City of Taiz: A Great Historical Heritage for the Nation

## Introduction

Taiz was a central basis from which a volcano exploded for shelling the towers of tyranny and oppression. Its vital role was to receive thousands of young men from different places of the world, arming them with weapons and experience and then sending them for combating the reactionism that refused the revolution. And again in about one year it contributed in another important part to liberate the south of Yemen from British colonialism.

Formerly, Taiz was known as Odana. The name Taiz came into existence in the Al-Rasulyde age.

institutions such as mosques, schools, museums and palaces.

Those kings and rulers were either Arabs, Yemenis themselves or Turkish. Now there are many Turkish people who cut off all their relations with their own country and settled down in different regions of Yemen.

## Architectural Heritage

The old city of Taiz has many architectural landmarks well worth mentioning. Seeing the old city of Taiz, one cannot fail to notice its significant and unique constructions either in their heights, beauty, colour or decorations.

In fact, this old city is well-known for its rare ancient monuments. It has many famous mosques built over a thousand years ago. Such mosques like, Al Modhafer, built by the king Al-Modhafer, is considered to be a central facility in the old city of Taiz. It beautifies the city with its charming ornamentations.

Most people of Taiz prefer to pray in the Al-Modhafer mosque, particularly on Fridays afternoon prayers.

Similarly, Alashrafia mosque is the most beautiful heritage in Taiz, a vast mosque consisting of catchy embellishment and

colours. A part of it is used as an institution for teaching children. It is visited by many tourists who spend many hours gazing at this historical landmark.

The Sheikh Abdul-Hadi mosque is another famous mosque in the old city of Taiz. It is said that Al-Sheikh Abdul Hadi Asudi is buried in a dome in this mosque. It is no exaggeration to say that it is the biggest mosque in the whole of Yemen. Today, people from all over the country visit his shrine, cleaning it, slaying sheep, praying and reading chapters from the Holy Quran to seek God's forgiveness.

Other architectural landmarks in the old city of Taiz are the huge gates. These gates used to be closed at night and opened again in the morning. They still remain today. In short, we can enumerate some of them, Bab Mosa which was leading to vital and important regions such as Makberat Alogamat, Almosla and Al-Mukha road.

Bab Al-Madager is another important gate, it borders the old city from the north. While Bab Al-kabir borders it from the west.

Indeed they are important and ancient edifices which the authorities should take care of.

But unfortunately, these ancient monuments are about to be ruined.

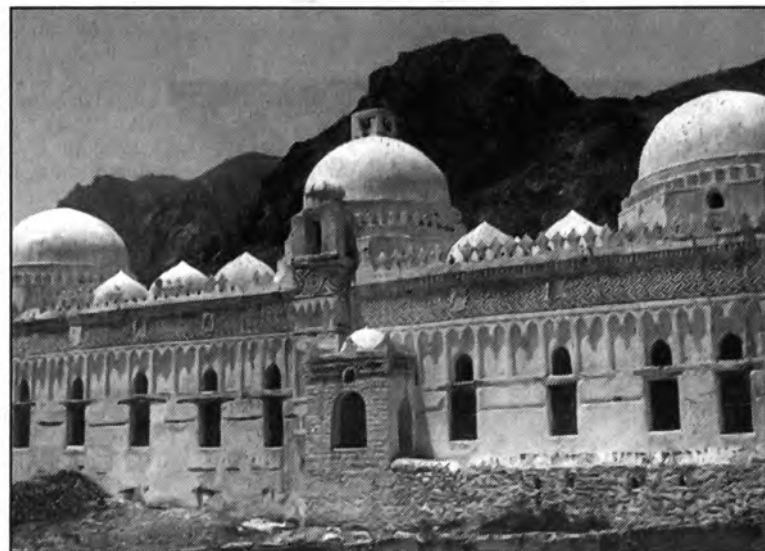
In this respect, we cannot forget to mention some of the palaces in this old city such as Dar Al-Mahmola, Dar Al-Shayana, Dar Al-Bostan, Dar Al-Otaba, Dar Al-Nour, etc.

These unique buildings were inhabited by the kings and rulers. However, poor people are living in them now. They usually rent them from the government. It should be noted that treasures are found from time to time in many quarters of the old city of Taiz. Ten years ago, people found huge pots full of gold and silver and also coins in one district of the old city.

## Markets in the Old City

The old city of Taiz has remarkable markets (suq). For example, the Al-Shanini suq sells special things which you will fail to find in any other market. It is the suq of all spices, foods, drinks, traditional clothes, ancient masterpieces and some conventional furniture. It is also remarkable for its cheese which is brought from nearby villages.

The Al-Markizy suq is another that the old city has, it is a central market supplying the people with almost all their needs. This suq has many shops and restaurants which are well known for their tradi-



tional dishes.

Likewise, it has many shops selling silverware, traditional clothes, madar, and dishes made of stone. Moreover, it is the only suq from which you can buy good dates. Tourists visit these markets to have some photographs taken, and also to buy silver and the traditional clothes.

## Dialects

There are big differences between the dialects of the people in the old city of Taiz and the dialect of other regions of Taiz. One can easily recognize whether the speaker is from the old city or another part of the city. They actually speak a simple and clear language. While speaking, they often omit the letter "L" from words.

## Conclusion

Thus, the old city of Taiz is distinguished by its unique architectural heritage. It has all the qualifications of a beautiful and historical city. It is gifted with marvelous weather, unique buildings and friendly people. It is a fruitful branch in the lofty tree of the Arab history. It really needs someone to preserve its historical identity.

By: Haifa Yahia Qanbar,  
Taiz



## Location

The old city of Taiz lies on the north of the Saber mountain. A long time ago, this towering mountain supplied Taiz with a great amount of water as well as fruits and vegetables. Equally, this lofty mountain is considered to be the main producer of the most important indispensable tree, called the Qat tree.

For its excellent location, Taiz was almost a pleasant home for so many Arab kings, foreign rulers and so forth. They settled down in Taiz, ruling it for many decades. By turn, these kings brought into being very many great buildings and



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## Beginning of Lahaji Song & Its Development

### The Folk Song

I would like to give a view of Lahaji singing, beginning with the study conducted by some prominent

researchers in Lahaj and presented at the First General Conference on Literature and Folklore in 1971.

Before Al-Qomandan, the famous tunes in Lahaj used to be in the form of well-known folk dances such as Al-Razha, Al-Zafah and Al-Hinna. Many folk poems by outstanding Lahaji poets were composed on these folk dances' musical meters. At that time, the Yemeni Mou-shaha, also known as the Sanaani song, was widely spread in Lahaj where brides used to dance to their tunes.

These songs created a deep desire to learn how to play Qanbous (an old type of the lute) among many singers such as Hadi Sobait. Then, Fadhl Maater, the Yemeni singer and songwriter, composed the first Lahaji song called "Wa marhaba Bel-hashimi" (welcome Al-Hashimi).

### Birth of Artistic Prince Ahmed Fadhl Al-Qomandan

Al-Qomandan came to prominence in the 1930s. He took it upon himself to develop the Yemeni song in Lahaj, which

was lacking the creative and artistic fundamentals that make an artistic work successful.

Al-Qomandan's artistic life passed through three stages.

Firstly, he began to imitate the traditional songs which made him gain great knowledge of folklore and traditional music composition.

Secondly, Al-Qomandan

composed his songs, performed them and introduced new dances which relied on the above mentioned artistic fundamentals. Being a Lahaji prince, Al-Qomandan supported the Lahaji artistic movement materially, morally and intellectually. He established his school and devoted the ground floor of his house for artists and foreign and Arab visitors who used to meet with him. He was also the first to introduce the modern eastern lute and violin for the first time in Lahaj.

Thirdly, Al-Qomandan modernized singing through poetic and expressive songs. He drew on inspiration at Al-Hosaini orchard, a place of sweet scents and Arab jasmine. After Al-Qomandan made good progress in the field of folk dancing and singing, he managed to modernize some tunes, presenting them in a new distinguishing style. Al-Qomandan took an interest in the folklore called "Al-Samaayat" which is a slow rhythmical style with a musical meter of 4/4 or C.

### Influence of Yemeni Mou-shaha on Al-Qomandan

Al-Qomandan was greatly influenced by the Yemeni Mou-shaha, which gained much popularity among the general public when master singers used to perform it at weddings or qat chewing sessions. He was able to present the new Lahaji Mou-shaha which had become a new trend in Yemeni singing.

By setting to music the song "Sadat Oyoon Almaha Qalbi" (Oryx eyes conquered my heart), Al-Qomandan was the first lyricist to combine the Sanaani and Lahaji songs. He managed to lay down the foundations for the Lahaji artistic fundamentals as he himself was an artistic landmark, not only in Yemen but also in the whole Arabian Peninsula.

### Development of Musical Creativity After Al-Qomandan

In the early 1950s, some artists such as Abdullah Hadi Sobait and Saleh Nasib contributed greatly to the spread and development of this creative singing, presenting it in a new distinguished style.

A band was formed in 1956, headed by some outstanding artists such as Abdullah Hadi Sobait who presented his debut of artistic creativity with the song "Salat Al-Ein" (the eye sheds tears). This song which was sung by Mohammed Saleh Hamdoon in 1956, became an instant hit all over the country. Mohammed Murshed Naji mentioned in his book "Our Folk Songs" that this

song shot into the arts' firmament like a rocket.

### Lahaj Musical Band

The Lahaj Musical Band was then established under the mentorship of the well-known musician Fadhl Mohammed Al-Lahaji. The band included:

- 1) Mohammed Saad Al-Sanaani (violinist & composer).
- 2) Salah Nasser Kurd (violinist & composer).
- 3) Abdulsalam Al-Najjar (zither player).
- 4) Ali Salem Al-Najjar (violinist).
- 5) Mohammed Salem Al-Najjar (violinist).

The band also included some poets such as Saleh Mahdi and Saleh Nasib and other artists such as Abdulkarim Tawfiq, Mahdi Darwish and Faisal Alawi.

Thus, the restorational song elements developed and flourished in the original Lahaji song, which shot to fame in the neighboring countries. Credit is due to some of Lahaji artists such as Ahmed Yousif Al-Zabidi, who presented "Sakat Wala Kilma" (silent without a word).

It is written and composed by Mahmood Al-Salami. The artist Faisal Alawi has recently played a big role in adopting Lahaji songs and making them famous in Yemen and many other Arab countries.

By: Saleh Abdulbaqi,  
Arts Editor, Yemen Times.

# Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

## International Year of Older Persons 1999: Towards A Society For All Ages

For the UN, the overall objective of the International Year of Older Persons - 1999 - is to promote the UN Principles for Older People. The main theme, 'Towards a Society for All Ages,' has been chosen to encourage the participation of as many people as possible - children, young people, senior citizens, etc., and to work towards an environment in which older people are not side-lined as a separate category but are fully integrated into our world. The UN is encouraging all those preparing to participate in this event on a set of four key ideas, as a starting point for reflection and activities. The UN Program on ageing explains the purpose of these ideas in a statement issued by the UN Secretary General. The General Assembly of the UN has suggested to the countries and communities to explore these ideas and develop activities around them, in keeping with their cultural environments. The ideas given in a statement by Alexander Sidorenko, Officer in Charge, United Nations Program on Ageing for exploration, debate and actions are:

- 1) Situation of older persons
- 2) Individual life-long development
- 3) Multi-generational relationships
- 4) Interplay of population ageing and development.

The Yemeni Pensioners Association based in Aden has been informed by Help-Age International about the activities of the International Year of Older Persons, 1999. The association plans to organize a function in October, 1999 on this occasion. Its program will include:

- 1) A function where a senior government official will be invited to give gifts to the old age people who have served the country diligently and loyally, without being honored by the authorities concerned.
- 2) Calendars will be printed for 1999 by the association with the International Year of Older Persons, 1999 logo showing Yemeni pensioners and older people.
- 3) Old people who are still work at the age of 70 or over will be photographed to show their skill and hard work notwithstanding their age.
- 4) The Social Security Organization and other organizations in Aden will be asked to contribute towards the success of the exhibition. Details will be announced later.
- 5) TV programs in Arabic and English will be aired to highlight the efforts of the Association in its fight for the rights of pensioners and senior citizens in general.
- 6) The four ideas put forward by the Secretary General of the UN will be openly debated. The results of the discussions will be published in the local media.

By: Yusuf Abdul Hamid, Foreign Relations, Pensioners Association, Aden.

## Rent Problems in Yemen

The rent we tenants pay - for a house or a shop - is one of the greatest problems that we face in Yemen. No two people differ on that. But why does the rent become an impossible thing in our country? Why can't those whose income is limited find a place to live easily? There are four explanations for that.

Explanation number one: Life is very complicated in our country and landlords must increase the rent in order to meet rising expenses. That is what landlords say. The truth is that if they take half of the money that they now take, it would be quite enough for them. But their greed is stronger than anything.

Explanation number two: Landlords change their mind from time to time. Every day is a different story. We know the purpose of renting a house is to earn money, but they want to gain as much money as possible without consideration to the tenants.

Explanation number three: You can't find houses for rent easily because of the foreigners. These foreigners who earn a lot more money than Yemenis, are prepared to pay lots of money to the owners. Thus they force up the price.

Explanation number four: People from villages immigrate to towns in order to look for jobs or for whatever reason. The end-result is that demand rises faster than supply.

True happiness is, when you own your own home. But with the kind of income that we have, and the kind of costs it takes to build a house, that is an impossible situation.

Finally: Is there any solution? A few days ago, I was reading an article about the government and its plans regarding this matter. It was very wonderful article, but I didn't agree with him about one thing - his solution. He was saying that the government should build residential areas for low-income people and sell them on a long-term contract basis. But where is the money?

By: Faheem Mohsen Saeed Al-Hashemi.

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# Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit Weekly Programs Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit

<p><b>America Plus</b></p> <p>31 August 1998 1530 Step by Step 2030 3rd Rock 2100 Over the Top</p> <p>Tue, 01 September, 1530 Step by Step 1900 *The New Adventures of Robin Hood 2030 It's a Man's World</p> <p>Wed, 02 September, 1600 ER 1800 The New Adventures Of Superman 2100 Melrose Place Year 6</p> <p>Thu, 03 September, 1800 Bless This House 2200 ER 2300 Due South</p> <p><i>*On Tue 1st at 1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood: The ancient magician Olwyn tells Robin that an evil force haunting a mysterious black castle must be defeated before it wreaks havoc on the world. The merry men then must capture the castle's eccentric architect to discover he dark secret behind its walls. America plus ... no secret, just magic!</i></p> <p>Fri, 04 September, 1700 Beverly Hills 90210 2000 Union Square 2300 Malibu Shores</p> <p>Sat, 05 September, 1700 Beverly Hills 90210 2100 Spin City 2200 Renegade</p> <p>Sun, 06 September, 1600 ER 1700 Beverly Hills 90210 1800 The New Adventures Of Superman</p> <p><i>Melrose place</i> Last season's typically Merosian cliff-hangers set the scene for the tonight's season opener: Will Kyle finally find out Taylor's dark secret in time to win back Amanda, who's flying to the Dominica Republic to wed Rory?</p>	<p><b>The Disney</b></p> <p>August 31, 1998 1500 Sinbad 1750 Darkwing Duck 2130 Home Improvement</p> <p>September 1, 1998 1530 Brand Spanking New Doug 1930 Boy Meets World 2130 Dinosaurs</p> <p>September 2, 1998 1300 Movie - Almost Angels 1700 Bill Nye the Science Guy 2100 Movie - Spaced Invaders</p> <p>September 3, 1998 1800 Student Bodies 1830 Sinbad 2000 Movie - Young Again</p> <p>September 4, 1998 10300 Movie - The Prince and the Pauper 1430 Mickey Mouse &amp; Friends 1730 Flash Forward 2000 Movie - Toy Story</p> <p>September 5, 1998 1230 Aladdin 1300 Dinosaurs 1630 Bill Nye the Science Guy 2000 Movie - Student Exchange</p> <p>September 6, 1998 1700 Talespin 1750 Darkwing Duck 1840 Gargoyles</p> <p><b>ESPN Schedule</b></p> <p>31 August 1998 1900 SportsCenter 2000 ESPN ews Day 2030 ESPN ews Day</p> <p>Tue, 01 September, 1700 Brazilian National Football 1900 SportsCenter 2000 ESPN ews Day</p> <p>Wed, 02 September, 1900 SportsCenter 2000 ESPN ews Day 2030 ESPN ews Day</p> <p>Thu, 03 September, 1800 W NBA Action 1900 SportsCenter 2000 ESPN ews Day</p>	<p><b>Fun Channel</b></p> <p>31 August 1998 1705 Power Rangers 2200 Reboot 2350 Too close for comfort</p> <p>Tue, 01 September, 1730 Batman 1915 Cattanooga Cats 2005 Police Academy</p> <p>Wed, 02 September, 1500 Happily Ever After 1730 *The Mask 1705 Power Rangers</p> <p>Thu, 03 September, 1700 Power Rangers 1730 Animated Classic Hero 1800 World Youth News 1900 The Big Movie: Legends of the North</p> <p>Fri, 04 September, 1430 *The Mask 1900 The Big Movie: Paydirt 2100 Love Boat 2150 Doris Day</p> <p>Sat, 05 September, 1615 Sky dancers 1640 Animaniacs 1705 Power Rangers</p> <p>Sun, 06 September, 1500 Pinky and the Brain 1550 Beast Wars 1730 Batman 1755 Beatejuice</p>	<p><b>Hollywood</b></p> <p>31 August 1998 1430 E! Extreme Close Up 1900 Jeopardy</p> <p>Tue, 01 September, 1800 The Price is Right 2030 Judge Judy 2100 E! Extreme Close Up</p> <p>Wed, 02 September, 1430 Uncut 1700 Movie Show 1730 Flare TV 1800 The Price is Right</p> <p>Thu, 03 September, 1600 Globetrotter 1730 Fashion Emergency 2230 1998 Emmy Awards Nominations</p> <p>Fri, 04 September, 1730 Arts &amp; Minds 2000 Pictionary 2130 True Hollywood Stories: Michael London p1</p> <p>Sat, 05 September, 2100 Celebrity Profiles: Jerry Seinfeld 2200 E! News Week In Review 2300 Fashion Emergency</p> <p>Sun, 06 September, 1500 E! Gossip Show Daily 1530 E! Coming Attractions 1600 Travel America</p> <p><b>Music Now</b></p> <p>31 August 1998 1200 Ultra Violet 1400 American Chart Show 1500 Cosmix 1700 Doris Day</p> <p><i>360 - Mariah Carey</i> Nearly a decade after rocking the R&amp;B boat Mariah is still dominating the charts. Join 360 which follows here ascent to supper stardom and discover why after selling over 90 million albums, she has no intention of falling.</p>	<p>Tue, 01 September, 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana 1900 Mediterranean 2100 Awtar</p> <p>Wed, 02 September, 1100 *360" Degrees Mariah Carey 1900 Mediterranean 2300 Sahretna</p> <p>Thu, 03 September, 1600 Globetrotter 1730 Fashion Emergency 2230 1998 Emmy Awards Nominations</p> <p>Fri, 04 September, 1600 *Music For Montserrat 2100 Arabic R.s.v.p. 2300 Sahretna</p> <p>Sat, 05 September, 1430 Fframe/chain Reaction #2 1500 All Saints 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana 1900 Mediterranean</p> <p>Sun, 06 September, 1400 Indimage 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana 1900 Mediterranean</p> <p><b>Orbit News</b></p> <p>31 August 1998 1300 CBS Morning News Live 1330 NBC News at Sunrise Live 2200 ABC Primetime</p> <p>Tue, 01 September, 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2000 NBC Dateline</p> <p><i>Thur 3rd at 2300 Hackers:</i> Drama. When he was eleven years old, Dade Murphy hacked into Wall Street and caused 1,507 computers to crash, plunging the financial world into chaos. He was rewarded with a visit from the FBI and a band from touching a keyboard until his eighteenth birthday.</p>	<p>2100 ABC 20/20</p> <p>Wed, 02 September, 1400 NBC The Today Show Live 2000 NBC Dateline 2100 Mysteries of Deep Space ep.1 2200 ABC Nightline</p> <p>Thu, 03 September, 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2230 ABC Special: Sex, drugs &amp; consenting adults 2330 ABC Primetime</p> <p>Fri, 04 September, 1600 CBS This Morning 1220 Richard Nixon 2330 ABC News Thursday Night</p> <p>Sat, 05 September, 1400 NBC Weekend Today Show Live 1900 ABC Special: Looking for America 2000 NBC Dateline</p> <p>Sun, 06 September, 1500 NBC Weekend Today Show Live 1930 CBS Face the Nation 2000 NBC Meet the Press 2100 ABC This Week</p> <p><b>Super Movies</b></p> <p>31 August 1998 1500 Cry, The Beloved Country - 2L 2030 E! Behind the Scenes 2100 Clean And Sober - 3L</p> <p>Tue, 01 September, 1500 Batman - 2V 1710 Warrior Spirit - 2V 2300 Until The End Of The World - 3L</p> <p><i>*The Mask:</i> Can ou handle it? Based on the \$300M box office blockbuster, The Mask animated series brings action, heroics &amp; a heavy dose of wise-cracking physical comedy to the little screen.</p>	<p>Wed, 02 September, 1505 Maverick - 2VL 1715 Legend of the North - 2V 1900 Who's That Girl? - 2 2030 E! Extreme Close Up</p> <p>Thu, 03 September, 1430 E! Extreme Close Up 1900 The Curse of the Dragon- 2V 2030 E! Coming Attractions Hackers</p> <p>Fri, 04 September, 1500 Nobody's Fool - 2L 1700 The Witches - 2 1830 Movies - Games &amp; Videos 2100 My Fellow Americans - 2L (Premiere)</p> <p>Sat, 05 September, 1500 Hoop Dreams - 2L 1800 Empire of the Sun - 2V 2100 Deadly Voyage - 3VL</p> <p>Sun, 06 September, 1700 The Fencing Master - 2V 2100 Cry, The Beloved Country Double Exposure - 2L 2300 Natural Born Killers Double Exposure - 3SVL</p> <p><b>CONNECT TO YOUR AUTHORIZED ORBIT DEALER:</b></p> <p><b>APOLLO</b> Tel: (967) 1 273 992. 280 280 Fax: (967) 1 274 850 P. O. Box 11309 - Sana'a</p>
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أول شركة متخصصة في مجال التكييفات

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٢- مؤسسة عبد الجبار راشد واولاده: الميدان - كريترت: ٢٥٢٨٧٤

٣- مستودع سبأ: شارع حسن علي - عمارة الشهداء ت: ٢٥٤٥١١

**صنعا**

١- مؤسسة الشبابي للتجارة الدولية

شارع حده بعد جولة الستين ت: ٤١٤٥٠٣ - ٤١٥٦٦٦

٢- مركز الصنيف للتجارة: شارع حده ت: ٢٠٣٠٨٥

٣- المترب: شارع حده ت: ٢٦٩٣٠٣

٤- مركز الأديبي: مدينة حده شارع صفر



# Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil



**AL-TAJAMMU':**  
**Sanaa weekly,**  
**24-8-98.**  
**(Yemeni**  
**Unitary Con-**

**gregation Party)**  
**Main Headlines:**

1- Opposition parties and figures express strong rejection to dividing Hadhramaut and the law restricting mass rallies and demonstrations.  
2- The Unified Board of Directors for Electricity, Water and Sewerage has recommended a new tariff with an increase of 106% for water and 10% for maintenance.

3- The President promised 300 fishermen (their boats were nationalized by the former regime in the south) with a compensation of 250 new fishing boats. However, the boats were given mainly to the relatives of Aden officials and the families of the war for unity martyrs.  
4- Committee entrusted with privatizing the National Navigation Company has decided to suspend the activities of all private shipping companies which fail to employ former workers in privatized enterprises.

**Article Summary:**  
**Aid Organ to be Abolished**  
**By Shafer Musabin**  
Ever since the 1994 war, a fierce campaign has been waged by the Director of the Ministry of Finance office in Aden to close down the Aid Organ. The Organ's funds and assets were seized during the war, except for the salaries of its 104 employees. It used to provide citizens in southern governorates with corporeal assistance.

A decision was issued recently to include those employees within the Ministry of Finance office, contrary to all administrative regulations. A number of soldiers were sent to bring down the plaque on the Aid Organ's building, but their attempt was thwarted by the employees. This was done despite a 1996 directive by the Minister of Finance to keep the Aid Organ as an independent entity.

weekly, 25-8-98.

**(Independent)**

**Main Headlines:**

1- The world condemns US aggression on Sudan and Afghanistan.

2- The Director of the German consultancy company, Klaus Peter [Bleth] converts to Islam, and changes his name to Mohammed Klaus.

3- The Vice President's call for the Fiber-Glass Factory to monopolize all buying and distribution of boats has astonished many businessmen.

4- A Nigerian gang swindles a number of Yemeni businessmen through a get-rich-quick scheme.  
5- General Manager of Hodeida Port Authority is suspended from work for allocating YR 80 million for a water cistern project not worth more than YR 30 million.

6- Government accountants in Mahweet go on strike in protest over the arrest of one of their colleagues by the governorate's chief of security for refusing to dispense YR 40,000 to him.

**Article Summary:**

**Moonshiner Caught**

Police in Hadhramaut seized YR 4 million worth of locally made alcohol last Thursday in a raid on what they described as the largest moonshining establishment in the governorate. They were tipped off that a municipality employee manufactures the illegal substance in a guest house run by the Mukallah municipality. Five large rooms were discovered containing 35 kegs and a large number of plastic water bottles full of alcohol and ready for marketing.

**Article Summary:**  
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**الطريق**

**AL-TARIQ:**  
**Aden**  
**weekly,**

**25-8-98.**

**(Independent)**

**Main Headlines:**

1- Yemeni government denies that Bin Laden owns a pottery plant in Yemen.

2- An unknown Islamic group calling itself the Aden Islamic Army has threatened to target US interests in Yemen. It declared an "all-out war in response to the US bombing of Sudan and Afghan-

**AL-RAY**  
**AL-AAM:**  
**Sanaa**

istan."

3- A bomb explosion near a restaurant in Dhali' injures 10 people.

4- A leading sheikh of the Waila tribe of Saada expressed his tribe's willingness to host Bin Laden.

5- An opinion poll conducted by the London weekly - Al-Mostaqilla - in Hadhramaut indicates that people there reject the proposed division of their governorate.

6- Authorities in Hawta, Lahaj, detain a number of housing beneficiaries to force them to give up their (nationalized) homes to the previous owners.

7- Unregulated fishing could lead to the extinction of Yemen's rock lobster.

**Article Summary:**

**Army & Taxes**

**By Ali H. Al-Gharib**

raising fuel prices has increased the government's revenue by about YR 10.5 billion; and, the partial lifting of the wheat subsidy provides about YR 16 billion. Public expenditure, on the other hand, was increased in the wrong sectors.

Security received a rise of about YR 3.6 billion, the presidential office got YR 16.5 billion, and the foreign service YR 1.1 billion. Other big rises in expenditure on the army and the tribes are also reported. About 80% of the people in or close to the government do not pay taxes. The poor are most hard hit by this unbalanced equation.



**AL-THAWRI:**  
**Sanaa weekly,**  
**27-8-98.**  
**(Yemeni**

**Socialist Party - YSP)**

**Main Headlines:**

1- For the 2nd time, YSP Secretary General is intercepted by security personnel near Aden, and his bodyguards were stripped for their licensed weapons. They were delayed for more than 1 hour.  
2- A Sanaa court is still reviewing the case brought by the Press and Publications Prosecutor Office against two of Al-Thawri's journalists for writing newspaper articles highly critical of the government.

3- Following the bomb explosion near a Dhali' mosque, opposition parties warn against a possible lapse of security all over the country.  
4- Seminars by the YSP and the American National Democratic Institute Taiz, Aden and Mukallah conclude successfully.  
5- Political parties and mass organizations in Yemen strongly condemn the US bombing of Sudan and Afghanistan.

**Article Summary:**  
**Nasser College in Abeyance**  
The governor of Lahaj directed the special technical committee - assigned the task of resolving land claims - to conduct a field visit to the Nasser College of Agricultural Sciences. The aim was to survey the college's research farm in preparation for returning it to its original owners.

The directive came despite previous recommendations by the committee itself that the land owners should be compensated with pieces of land in a different

area. The college's administrative and academic staff were not consulted, either.  
Academic work has been greatly disrupted at the college due to this irregular act. All measures taken to settle land claims after the 1994 war contravene the unification agreement. No new law has been introduced to deal with this issue.



**RAY: Sanaa**  
**weekly, 25-8-98.**  
**(League of the**  
**Sons of Yemen)**

**Main Headlines:**

1- The dead bodies of 14 Yemeni citizens were discovered in Saudi Arabia.

2- A Yemeni citizen is arrested in Nairobi, Kenya, in connection with the bomb explosion at the US embassy.

3- The Yemeni Organization for the Protection of Human Rights (based in Geneva) calls for protecting the life and property of Mr. Mohammed Omar Zain, RAY secretary general in Aden.

4- Union of Yemeni Writers calls on the Public Prosecutor to carry out the necessary legal measures in response to the arrest by the Political Security personnel of a leading RAY member and the search of his house.  
5- An army colonel and his family were shot dead in a personal dispute.

**Article Summary:**  
**Bloody January**

The UN special committee concerned with cases of missing persons in Yemen also concentrated on the possibility of closing the files of the bloody events of January, 1986 in Aden. Then rivals factions of the ruling Socialist Party attempted to settle their differences in a bloody confrontation. Compensating the families of the disappeared is on

the agenda.  
Those people who have gone missing 12 years ago are now presumed dead, and their families have become eligible of compensation and monthly pension. The UN committee is dealing with cases of those who disappeared during the 1994 war, as well.



**AL-WAHDAWI**  
**: Sanaa**  
**weekly, 25-**  
**8-98.**

**(People's Nasserite Unionist**  
**Organization)**

**Main Headlines:**

1- US exerts enormous diplomatic pressure on Yemen to hand over dossiers on Arab and foreign citizens holding Yemeni passports, revoke their travel documents, and stop further naturalizations processes.  
2- Arab and Islamic organizations hold mass rallies in Yemen in solidarity with Sudan and Afghanistan.

3- Chemical analysis by the Ministry of Health proves that "improving" substances added to "French rooti" bread contain Potassium Bromides, which cause lymphatic cancer. The substances used are either made in Turkey or Germany.  
4- More than 60 Yemeni fishermen are interned in Eritrea. They were caught while fishing in Yemen's territorial waters.

**Article Summary:**  
**Housing Prisons**

**By Abu Omar**  
It is incredible but true. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning has a prison of its own. People unfortunate enough to be detained there say that the small unventilated cells are like rubbish tips. A prisoner wanting to go to the toilet, for instance, has to pay

the guard somewhere between 50 and 300 riyals, depending on the prisoner's status in society. Getting food involves an extra payment.

Yemeni law strictly prohibits individual ministries from having their own prisons. Several ministries have abided by this law, except the Ministry of Housing.



**26 SEP-**  
**TEMBER:**  
**Sanaa**  
**weekly, 27-8-**

**98.**

**(Yemen Armed Forces)**

**Main Headlines:**

1- The President visits Al-Jawf and meets its community leaders and political figures: "We must carry on with stability, development, and solidarity."  
2- There are 27 blocks still available for oil exploration and investment.

3- Chief of Passport and Nationality Office, Dr. Najad: "The new Yemeni passport is almost impossible to falsify."  
4- Aden water and sewerage project will soon be launched at a cost of DM 75 million, to be provided by the German government.

**Article Summary:**

**Yemen Fights Terrorism**

The Minister of the Interior said the Yemeni government has already requested the Saudi authorities to extradite the original holder of a Yemeni passport, which was used by one of the suspects in the US embassy bombing in Kenya.

The Minister also denied allegations by some opposition newspapers that the US government has asked Yemen to give information about foreigners holding Yemeni passports.



## ARAB BANK PLC GIVEN NEW RATING

Thomson BankWatch is pleased to announce the assignment of new ratings for Arab Bank PLC. The rating exercise for Arab Bank was indeed unique as the legal structure of the bank is unlike anything previously seen, even when compared to developed markets. While typically it is unusual to split a rating as such, the very nature of the legal structure of Arab Bank necessitates such an action.  
Arab Bank PLC can lay claim to one of the longest and decidedly the most distinguished histories of any bank in the Middle East region. The bank's origin pre-dates from World War II, and has continued on during periods of regional turmoil and strife that would have severely tested and destroyed the resolve of many institutions not just regionally but globally, if similar circumstances were applied. During all of these periods, the bank has not just weathered each crisis, but in every case benefited and emerged even stronger.

Arab Bank can be described in at least two ways. Firstly, the bank is clearly a survivor. Secondly, the bank's own name can be a misnomer, especially from risk profile perspective. While the bank is headquartered in Amman, Jordan, the overall country risk profile resembles some of the best banks domiciled in both Western Europe and the United States. The bank brings with it, a long history and a philosophy that its customers are "first and most important". It is this philosophy that has created the bank that exists today and that can lay claim to be a peer bank when compared to some of the best banks in the world. This philosophy has also moved Arab Bank into being one of the only true "flight to quality" banks in the Middle East.

Arab Bank is diversified over a broad geography where operations comprising more than 80% of consolidated activities are conducted outside of Jordan.

The unique capital structure enables the bank ratings to be considered independent of any sovereign rating for the country in which the Arab Bank is headquartered. Further, there are sufficient legal precedents and opinions which indicate that any potential extraterritorial seizure of Arab Bank external assets by local regulatory authorities is highly unlikely and not valid under most if not all legal jurisdictions. Accordingly, as the vast majority of Tier I capital, and

assets are outside of Jordan thereby greatly diminishing the element of transfer risk and as hard currency (US Dollar) is the functional currency for Arab Bank, Thomson BankWatch employs the global ratings scale for the Arab Bank rating.

Asset quality is extremely solid given the history of expertise cultivated and applied to lending. Additionally, a conservative level of loan loss reserves is maintained to fully cover non-performing loans. The tenor of the loan portfolio is quite short with 80% scheduled to mature within one year as of YR 97. Total loans for Arab Bank typically represent less than 50% of assets.

The stability of earnings is enhanced by the conservative asset / liability management as well as the lending strategy and geographic diversification. Also supporting the sound financial position is a healthy capital base with the BIS Tier I ratio exceeding 12% and shareholders' equity to assets of nearly 9%.

Arab Bank is well established and dynamic, as demonstrated in its sound performance and impressive perseverance. Management has planned for any potential disruption in the Arab region by building capital in its branches in some of the world's major financial centers. Even in the unlikely event of a regional difficulty affecting more than Jordan, Arab Bank has more than sufficient asset liquidity to repay all foreign currency obligations. As Arab Bank has several sizable subsidiaries, affiliates, and an extensive network of international branches, the bulk of consolidated equity is housed outside of Jordan. Management has co-ordinated the broad geography of banking operations through the hubs in Amman, London and Geneva.

The underlying strategy has been a focus on serving Arab communities worldwide, particularly through trade finance both on and off the balance sheet. Credit quality is solid, as are loan loss reserves and capital. Management prefers to maintain a high degree of liquidity mainly in conservative inter-bank placements and government securities. Consequently, returns have been modestly lower than those of diversified international banks. Management's successful and well developed strategy provides the foundation for the continued sound expansion of operations.

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## Yemen Wins Gold in Arab Athletics AbdulRahman Has Done It!



No wonder, Yemen won a gold medal in the Arab Athletics Championship held in Damascus, Syria last Thursday. In spite of the bad situation of sports in Yemen, Abdulrahman Abdulaziz managed to snatch the gold medal in the 10km race. The 10km race is the most important and competitive among the championship races. It is the only race attended by Mr. Sameeh Modalal, the head of the Syrian Olympic Committee. The other teams did not expect this result considering that the Yemeni team was not well-prepared like other Arab teams.

### 1st Yemeni Accomplishment in Athletics

Well-trained athletics champions representing 13 Arab countries: Egypt, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sudan, and Syria took part in the championship. So our Yemeni champ had to compete with many Arab and Asian champs in the 10km race.

However, Abdulaziz Abdulrahman won the second place, and Ahmed Al-Esawi of Tunisia won the third place. The 4 Yemeni players who participated in this championship are: Abdulrahman Abdulaziz in the 10km race, Bashir Al-Khiwani in the

400m race, Fouad Obad in the 10km race, and Afif Al-Hobaishi in the 100m race. Last Saturday, the Yemeni embassy held a ceremony to honor the Yemeni champ. The event was attended by the Yemeni ambassador to Syria, the minister of Yemeni Supply and Trade and few other diplomats.

## Heavy Defeats for Our Team in Qatar A Tragedy

Sports in Yemen has spoken... during Asia's Football Tournament in Qatar. In his last match against Qatar, the Yemeni team was horribly defeated 8-1. Our players totally gave up after Qatar's first goal at the 18th second of the first half of the match. The other 7 goals followed very easily. This is not strange. We have been always like this and we almost got used to defeats. The Qatari players played with a very high self-confidence and showed good personal skills. They secured 4 goals during the first half of the match and 4 goals during the second. In sharp contrast, the Yemeni players did not do anything, neither attacking nor

any serious training program and they are not physically qualified to play. Not only defeats, but the Yemeni team came out with 3 red cards, 1 red card of each match they played. The first red card was for Hani Abdulrahman during the match with Bahrain, in which Yemen was defeated 1-nil. The second red card was for Ibrahim Awad during our match with Iran in which we were defeated 1-4. And the third red card was for Basil Awad during our last match with Qatar. Thus, our team comes out



defending. It was quite clear that with heavy defeats and bad performance the players did not go through.

## Al-Odri Head of Taekwondo Technical Association

The Yemeni Taekwondo Association has formed a special technical, which includes a group of international Yemeni referees and coaches. Motahar Al-Odri was appointed head of the committee and Khalid Ghaleb, Yahya Al-Bakhish, and Abdulaheem Solaiman as members. One representative from each governorate will be appointed as member of



the group later. The Yemeni Taekwondo Association is one of the most active sport associations in Yemen. A group of Yemeni referees have just finished attending a international referees course which was concluded in South Korea last week. They will soon be qualified to be international referees for Taekwondo. They are Motahar Al-Odri, Mowafaq Monassar, Kamal Awad, and Mohammed Is'haq.

## Sport Seminar Sport For All = Health For All

Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh, the Minister of Youth and Sports, launched the scientific seminar "Sport For All = Health For All" at the Studies and Research Center last Thursday. The seminar included two lectures. The first, entitled 'the sport's role in developing the society,' was delivered by Dr. Hamood Al-Odi, sociology lecturer in Sanaa University. The second lecture was delivered by Yahya Ali Al-Thawr, a top surgeon at the Brain and Nervous System Center in Germany. He shed some light upon the bad effect of qat and smoking on the brain and the nervous system. Some 400 young men from various sports clubs as well as sports officials attended the seminar.

Mr. Hassan Al-Khowlani, the head of the Sports For All Association mentioned that sport is the cheapest means for fighting diseases. Therefore, his association has established 9 summer centers in all governorates. Dr. Hamood Al-Odi highlighted the big role of the Sports For All

Association within the Yemeni society, stressing that regular exercise protects youth from deviation.

Dr. Yahya Al-Thawr indicated that the most pressing health problem facing Yemeni youth nowadays is due to smoking and chewing qat as well as the economic situation. According to the above-mentioned topics, Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi, chairman of the Yemen Olympic Committee, put forward some suggestions. He recommended that medical lectures should be delivered to deal with qat and smoking, and more sports halls and stadiums should be established.

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Mihoko Yamabe

## Photographing Her Way From Japan to Yemen

and Arab countries and Yemen is a pure Arab-Islamic country. Yemen is famous as the place the Queen of Sheba ruled. But very little information is available about this country. So for me, it sounds more mysterious and attracting.

Ms. Mihoko Yamabe is a Japanese photographer currently working in Yemen. After graduating from junior college, Mihoko, started her career as a graphic designer, then she became a photographer. In Japan she mainly deals with advertisement photos.

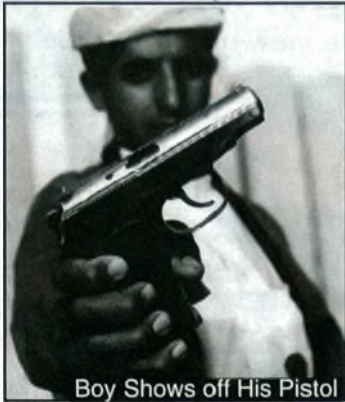
Bin Sallam of Yemen Times talked to Ms. Yamabe about her life and work in Yemen, and filed the following interview.

**Q: Is photography your hobby or profession?**

**A:** I have been a professional photographer for the last 9 years. For me taking photos is not merely a "job," but also the "joy" of my life. While I am in Japan, as a commercial photographer, I take pictures of everything from fashion models to athletes in the field, from architecture to the delicious food on the dish, for the sake of magazines, posters and pamphlets. I am also interested in interior coordinating. But for the future, I want to travel around many countries, and introduce their lifestyles, cultures and societies to the Japanese people through my photographs.

**Q: When did you first come to Yemen?**

**A:** I'm now on my second shooting tour, which started in October, 1997. I first traveled to India and Pakistan, then I arrived in Yemen in January, 1998. I've stayed here with a one-month interval in Pakistan. The reason why I chose Yemen is that I am interested in Muslim



Boy Shows off His Pistol

**Q: Do you find Yemen interesting from a photographer's point of view?**

**A:** For me as a foreigner, Yemeni architecture and the customs of the Yemeni people with their unique lifestyle are very exotic and charming. And as a photographer, the ordinary man with his machine gun round his shoulder and a grenade on his belt walking down the street is very photogenic.

Women wearing hijab are also exotic. Since other parts of her face are covered, eyes are the only remaining tool for a woman in expressing her feelings. Because of this restriction, Yemeni women's eyes show their strong will and send rich messages. I want to catch their messages by taking photographs.

**Q: What do you like to photograph, people or scenery, and why?**

**A:** Although I'm charmed by beautiful landscapes and architecture in Yemen, my primary concern is the people. Allah made the people, and their characters are defined by religion. Whenever I meet people who sincerely believe in Allah, I feel they're mature and mentally rich. And from their faces and gestures, though I cannot understand their language, I feel many messages have reached the bottom of my heart. Then, I take a picture to keep the image and inspiration.

**Q: What are your impressions of Yemen, the country and the people?**

**A:** It's a very interesting mixture of traditional and modern. They drive 4wd cars, eat pizzas, watch satellite TV, and talk on mobile phones. Still they wear the traditional dress, not throwing away the jambiyah nor the hijab. They chew qat and frequently scream "Aibi!" to which they fell into disgrace. When they encounter a foreigner, they ask "Yemen tamaam?" with the expected reply of "Tamaam," they nod satisfyingly. I feel they love and cherish their culture.

Besides the people, the landscape of this country itself is an excitement to the foreigner. Sanaa and Hadhramaut, for example show a very striking variation in their landscape, architecture and climate. I personally like walking around in labyrinthine old Sanaa.

Last year, about 3,000 Japanese people visited Yemen. Two thirds of them were on business trips, the rest were tourists. This



Suq Al-Malh, Sanaa

number, when compared with European people, is not so big. But I think the number of Japanese tourists will increase, because Yemen has been introduced on Japanese TVs several times. Guidebook on Yemen in Japanese will be published in the near future.

**Q: Any last comments?**


**A:** In a gallery, I saw old photographs of Sanaa 30 years ago. Of course there are many new things and the number of cars and people have increased, but the peoples lifestyle itself has not changed that much. This is because, I believe the Yemeni people are proud of their way of living. If I come to Yemen after ten years, I hope to meet men chewing qat with their jambiyah proudly on their belt.



Knocker and a girl in Thula



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