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# YEMEN TIMES

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## LEADERSHIP VACUUM

There is a strange phenomenon that has encompassed the world, as we leave the 20th century - a leadership vacuum. Weakened and unacceptable leaders seem to be at the helm of important countries all over the world. While such a situation could be dangerous, some specialists say that it is the sign of erosion of government. It indicates the falling prestige of officialdom.

**A. INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES:**  
At the international level, it is easy to see that the largest and strongest countries of the world suffer from this malaise. Look at the situation of the United States of America, the uncontested leader of the world. President Bill Clinton is so weakened by his own mistakes that he is unable to lead in the full sense. The Russian Federation is another example. President Boris Yeltsin now tends to escape to his private home on the outskirts of Moscow where he remains in seclusion for days or even weeks. Japan has been paralyzed by

frequent changes in government leading to very short-term policies. In Germany, the nation awaits the 27th September elections. Even here, a formerly strong Helmut Kohl is seen as a man who is clinging on to power in spite of the need for change. In France, Jacques Chirac is visibly weakened by the co-habitation with a prime minister from another party. Of course, there are exceptions. Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom is a case in point. But the overall trend worldwide has shown badly weakened leaders.

**B. REGIONAL EXAMPLES:**  
Within the Middle East, one can see numerous examples of weakened leaders. Our immediate neighbor, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, suffers from this problem. HM King Fahd is an ailing man, who has repeatedly fallen into coma. HE Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan of the United Arab Emirates has been hospitalized on emer-

gency cases several times. The same is true of another great leader, HM King Hussain. The same is also true of Syrian President Hafez Assad. Turkey has an embattled Prime Minister, Messoud Yilmaz, who is at the head of a fragile coalition. In Israel, Iraq, and several other countries, although the leaders are able-bodied, they are not in high standing with their own people. Across the Red Sea, the same can be said of our African neighbors. President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti is a very old man who has not made arrangements for a succession. Disenchantment with Danier Arap Moi in Kenya has led to unrest in that country. President Assias Afewerke of Eritrea has taken his country to several wars in his short five-years of rule.

**C. HERE AT HOME:**  
President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been in charge of Yemen for the last 20 years. Although technically his powers are uncontested, his grip over things seems to be slipping. Many Yemenis openly speak about the uncontrollable power centers in the country. The President has often promised to bring law and order, as well as accountability to

the political life in the country. He has failed to deliver. The reason is that such measures would bring him head-on against the various power centers - political, tribal, military, etc. The conclusion that experts draw of the Yemeni situation is that President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been weakened by the intricate network of power centers which seem to run the country. That is why, although he may be convinced of the need to clean up the system, he has not dared address this matter in a bold way.

**D. CONCLUSION:**  
Many analysts believe that the world does not need strong central leaders. "It is actually a good thing that countries should have weaker central leaders. But we do need strong institutions and systems," explained a political scientist at Aden University. This phenomenon makes sense to a world value system which empowers the people and which dictates "small government is good government". But on many occasions, it is clear that a strong political leadership - within a system of checks and balances - is necessary to guide local and international relations.

### Saqqaf Holds High-Level Meetings in Japan

## TOKYO PREPARES TO RECEIVE PRESIDENT SALEH

Mr. Seiichiro Nuburo, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Japan, confirmed the Government of Japan's welcome to the coming visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. In a meeting with Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the senior Japanese official emphasized his country's commitment to consolidating cooperation with Yemen. Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, leading member of the Foreign Relations committee of the Japanese Parliament and son of the former Prime Minister, told Yemen Times Chief Editor: "We will do everything we can to make the visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the accompanying delegation a success. I am sure such a visit will be a milestone in our bilateral relations." Indeed, many officials in Tokyo are busy these days in preparations for the trip, termed as an official working visit. President Saleh, who plans to arrive in Tokyo in March 1999, will be the first ever Yemeni head of state to

visit the Land of the Rising Sun. Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Member of the Consultative Council, is presently on an official visit to Japan for this and other purposes. At another level, Mr. Kenzo Oshima Director-General of Economic Cooperation at the Foreign Ministry, re-affirmed Japanese commitment to continued grant aid to Yemen. However, Mr. Oshima, who is responsible for the disbursement of some US\$ 10 billion Japanese official development assistance (ODA) annually, insisted that Yemeni eligibility for aid is contingent on continued democratization and good governance. "It is absolutely vital that your country continues political pluralism, respect for human rights, and press freedom. In addition, the announced efforts to curb wide-spread corruption are critical," he said in a meeting with Saqqaf. Japan's ODA to Yemen is in the neighborhood



Mr. Seiichiro Nuburo

of US\$ 30 million a year, and goes to finance mainly health, water and other infrastructural project in addition to debt relief. This puts Japan among the top aid partners of Yemen. Dr. Al-Saqqaf has also met with Mr. Kunio Katakura, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and Mr. Kishiro Amai, Director-General of the Middle Eastern and African Affairs at the Foreign Ministry. He also held meetings with academicians, journalists, and NGO leaders. "The basic purpose of my meetings was to present Yemen's case and help lay the groundwork for the President's visit," he said.

## Socotra... Again & Again!!

Much has been said about the Yemeni Island of Socotra in the Arabian Sea. And much more is, and will be, said about preserving its biodiversity. Nothing much has materialized so far. On the contrary, declaring it a free-trade zone and encouraging more tourists to visit are bound to be detrimental to the island's unique flora and fauna. This is especially so considering that Socotra has never been declared a nature reserve or a protected area. Many Western scientists visit the island to conduct research on its land mass and its waters. Few of them take back

samples and specimens of its wildlife, where they are laboratory tested and analyzed. With the rapid advances in agricultural sciences in general and genetic engineering in particular, Western scientists have been able to successfully grow Socotra plants in their own countries. Yemen has not really benefited from this, and Yemeni scientists and experts are not involved either. Organized by the Environmental Protection Council and the "Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity of Socotra Archipelago," a workshop

started yesterday, Sunday, September 13. The main objective of this workshop is to formulate and propose a draft legislation to regulate the exploitation of the island's resources, benefiting both the local population and the country as a whole. Will the workshop come up with an efficient piece of legislation to help protect the unique flora and fauna on the Island of Socotra and the precious marine life in its waters? More attention should also be paid to the flora and fauna in mainland Yemen.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT REAL ESTATE DOCUMENTATION: Prerequisite for Progress

One of the sources of headaches in our courts is the dispute about real estate ownership in this country. The traditional way of documentation needs an immediate transformation. Let me give my reasons, as follows:

### 1. Creating New Institutions:

The present system of deeds is based on the work of clerics who can literally transfer ownership from one person to another. The qadhi who writes the deeds and registers them with himself holds too much power, leading to corruption and manipulation. We have seen many cases whereby a qadhi has been party to forgeries and improper deals. The right to issue deeds and register them must be transferred to an institution which works according to clear rules. Its registry and other documents should be made available to the public. Its work must be transparent. And its officials must be held accountable. Such an institution could be tied to the modern legal sector. It need not necessarily be part of government.

### 2. Uniform Deeds:

The titles to land ownership (deeds) must be unified in format and legal structure. At present, people have documents which are so different, and in some cases, are not even legible, given the handwriting. These papers have to be given some uniformity for several reasons:

#### a- To increase confidence:

By creating a uniform set of documents, people will be able to readily recognize them. This raises the level of acceptance and confidence in them.

#### b- To use them as collateral:

If the ownership titles are standardized, they can be used as collateral to raise money in the financial market. At this stage, most of the deeds are not in an acceptable shape. This deprives our society from the ability to use such capital to create more capital. This would be an interesting development for the urban middle class, for example.

#### c- To raise tax income:

By standardizing the ownership documents, the government can immediately increase its tax revenue from such income as capital gains, real estate sale/purchase, rental revenue, etc. In most of the world, real estate-based taxes provide a rich source of income for the state.

### 3. More investors:

In my opinion, attending to this matter would reduce the level of dispute among people. This means that local and foreign investors would find it easier to invest in real-estate in the country. As things stand today, this problem of authentication of real-estate ownership is a major disincentive for investors. If you live in Yemenis cities, especially the capital city, Sanaa, you will definitely be aware of the shoot-outs associated with conflicting claims to land ownership. The main reason for this is that the country does not have a modern system for documenting rights and titles to real estates.

As such, I believe that it would be instrumental, within our reform program, if this matter is seriously addressed.

*The Publisher*  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

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### 1st Oil & Gas Conference in Yemen

Under the auspices of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the 1st Yemen Oil & Gas Conference will be held at Hadda Hotel in Sanaa during the period September 28-30. The conference represents a milestone in the nation's business life.

Topics to be discussed will include Yemen's energy policy; its political, economic and investment climate; the petroleum geology of Yemen and its main oil basins; privatization and economic reform program in Yemen; strategies for financing Yemen's oil, gas and related industrial projects; oil and gas exploration, production, transportation and storage; petrochemical and refining projects in Yemen and several other topics.

### Seminar on Child Rights

Organized by the Arab League, the Arab Seminar on Child Rights will be launched today, Monday, September 14. The event will be attended by representatives of Arab countries and some other local and Arab organizations concerned with the rights of the child.

Participants in this 4-day seminar will discuss a draft Arab declaration on child rights and the necessary measures to implement it. This seminar will be the basis of a Yemeni draft law for child rights which will be fully formulated in a national conference to be held during the first week of November.

### Refugees Assisted

On Saturday, September 12, the UNHCR distributed a large number of household goods and appliances such as mattresses and blankets to around 8,800 Somali refugees living in Al-Jahin camp. Four hundred tents were also erected. The cost of this donation is US \$126,000.

### Seminar on Mass Demonstrations

Organized by Al-Qistas, a monthly law journal, a seminar on a draft law for organizing demonstrations will be held on Thursday, September 17. This seminar will be the first but not the last which the journal will organize monthly to discuss various law topics aimed at giving law education and raising public awareness.

The event will be attended by lawyers, judges, academics, representatives of the American and Dutch embassies, National Democratic Institute, UN human rights organizations and the British Council. The proceedings will be published in the October issue of Al-Qistas.

### Al-Arabi Managing Editor in Sanaa

Mr. Anwar Al-Yassin, Managing Editor of the Kuwaiti *Al-Arabi* monthly magazine has arrived in Sanaa. Invited by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Maqalih, Rector of Sanaa University, Mr. Al-Yassin is expected to discuss preparation for the seminar on relations between Yemen and other Gulf countries. The event will be held in Sanaa next February and March. Around 25 academics from different Gulf countries will participate in the seminar.

### Minister of Endowments Resigns

Qadhi Ahmed Mohammed Al-Shamy, Minister of Religious Guidance & Endowments, tendered his resignation to President Saleh on Wednesday, September 8. It was accepted. Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al-Shaibany is to replace him. Al-Shamy is the Secretary-General of Al-Haq

party while Al-Shaibany is a leading member in the People's General Congress.

### Aden Container Platform

Engineer Omar Ba-Wazeer told the Yemen Times that 35% of the Aden container platform work has been finished. Five hundred blocks of concrete out of 1,550 were laid down on the sea bed. The Aden harbor is being prepared to receive huge ships. A workshop on the maintenance of this project is underway.

### YSP 36 Session Held

The Central Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) has held its 36 session, headed by the Secretary-General Mr. Ali Saleh Obad. The meeting concluded with many resolutions, the most important of which is holding the first conference of the party during the period November 28-30.

### Outdoor Children Art Exhibition

Hyogo Prefecture of Japan will be holding its annual outdoor exhibition of art by Asian children. For the present contest, paintings on the theme of "Family" are invited from the children living in various parts of Asia. Yemeni children are invited to take part. Painting must be submitted by January 30, 1999. The main activities of the contest will be painting, outdoor ceramic plate placement, and an outdoor exhibition of winning works. Winners will be invited to attend a ceremony to be held in Japan at the end of July, 1999.

### Al-Tahkeem Issued

The first issue of the monthly Al-Tahkeem (arbitration) bulletin has recently been published by the Yemeni Center for Conciliation & Arbitration. The bulletin

## Taiz Group Wedding

The 10th of September in Taiz was joyful, for it was the day of a group weddings ceremony of 2,000 brides and bridegrooms. Supported by the Islah Charitable society, it is considered to be the first such event in Yemen and the Arab world. Of the YR 20 million cost of the ceremony, the President donated YR 10 million, Sheikh

Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar YR 3 million, Hayil Saeed Group of Companies 2 million, Tawfiq Abdulraheem YR 1 million, Al-



Shaibany Group YR 500,000, Dubai Company YR 500,000 and Al-Aqil Company YR 100,000. This is in addition to YR 1.3 given by some benefactors.



## Sheraton Sanaa Bids Sharma Farewell



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The new Director of Sales at the Sheraton Hotel in Sanaa, Mr. Sharif Sabry, has recently assumed his post. He is replacing Mr. Sanjay Sharma, who will become Executive Assistant Manager at the Sheraton Deira, Dubai. *Goodbye Mr Sharma!*

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**Dr. Abdunasser Al-Munaibari:**

**“There is a great need of qualified Yemeni doctors in this country's health-care system.”**

Al-Thawra General Hospital in Sanaa is the main public medical establishment in the capital. It receives a huge number of patients, especially limited-income citizens, because of the reasonable cost of treatment and medication there - compared to private clinics and hospitals. This vital institution, however, has been plagued by incompetence and mismanagement. This has discredited it as an efficient health-care provider in the eyes of the public.

Dr. Abdunasser Ali Al-Munaibari has been recently appointed by the President as General Manager of Al-Thawra General Hospital. With a Ph.D. degree in cardiology and being assistant professor of medicine at Sanaa University, Dr. Al-Munaibari, 42, has been nominated for fellowship of the American Heart Surgeons Society. He also has his own private practice in downtown Sanaa. So Dr. Al-Munaibari seems to be the right man in the right place.

To know more about the measures taken to reform Al-Thawra's administrative system and health-care facilities, Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times met Dr. Al-Munaibari. He filed the following interview. Excerpts:

**Q: What are your plans to reform Al-Thawra Hospital?**

**A:** I have been working in Al-Thawra's General Authority since 1983. The hospital's infrastructure (technical and administrative staff, diagnostic facilities, etc) are all below par.

My first priority is to reform the performance at the hospital's various departments. The hospital's General Authority is now concentrating on improving facilities in the x-ray, emergency and intensive care units. We also aim to reduce as much as possible ward overcrowding.

Another important thing is to move some of the tasks of the special medical committee, assigned the task of reviewing the eligibility of patients to be treated abroad, to another place. This will allow other hospitals to take part in deciding which patients are to receive medical treatment abroad on the government's expense.

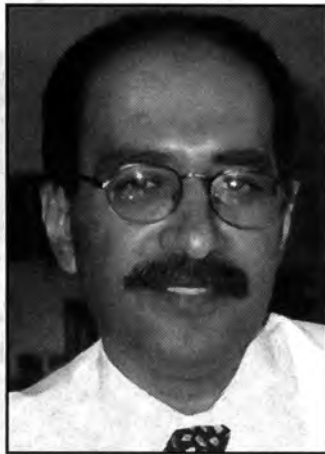
**Q: Which other hospitals will be involved with the work of this special committee?**

home and back. Patients visiting the out-patients department will also benefit. Instead of having to come later on in the day or even the next morning, they can now get all their medical examinations and lab tests done on the same day.

Other steps taken include improving the labs. The hospital will receive modern equipment in the next three months. The General Authority's adviser, Dr. Mohammed Ali Ba-Sohaib has evaluated the present staff, and recommended the necessary training courses.

**Q: What are your plans for the emergency ward?**

**A:** Dr. Abdulsamad Al-Hakimi, a well-known anesthetist, is currently re-organizing the emergency department. We aim to make this department really unique in Yemen. Only the patients who really need emergency treatment will be referred to this department, unlike before when patients with chronic or mild illnesses also came to the emergency ward. This used to put



**Q: What sort of obstacles hinder the implementation of all these plans?**

**A:** The most major obstacle is a psychological factor. Most of the staff we have now are emotionally and psychologically disappointed and frustrated. Their salaries are low, they have no chances of doing higher studies, and not much reward for their efforts. We are planning to attract the Yemeni specialist doctors currently working abroad by offering higher wages and greater incentives. Hopefully, the salaries of the Yemeni staff will be equal to those received by their expatriate counterparts.

The other problem is of a bureaucratic nature. Long-winded routine procedures have stifled the administrative system at the hospital, creating a source of corruption and mismanagement. I believe there should be administration specialists to run Yemen hospitals.

The third problem is not unique to Al-Thawra Hospital, namely over-staffing. Almost all public bodies in Yemen are over-staffed by 65%, creating confusion and poor performance.

**Q: How many doctors, nurses and other staff members are there at your hospital?**

**A:** There are about 1,450 people working at Al-Thawra. We are now in the process of redistributing the excess staff on other public hospitals and health centers.

**Q: What are the cases that cannot be treated at Al-Thawra and are sent abroad?**

**A:** Diagnostic cardiac tests such as cardiography and endoscopy of the coronary arteries are now done at the hospital. More complicated heart surgery cases have to be sent abroad. Sometimes international medical teams visit the hospital to do major operations. Cases needing micro-neuro-surgery are also referred to hospitals abroad.

**Q: Do you receive any support from donor countries and organizations?**

**A:** International medical teams such as Interplast of Holland and others from the US, Canada and Germany regularly visit Al-Thawra and other public hospitals. We hope that, in addition to performing surgeries, these teams would also train Yemeni doctors.

**Q: How many foreign doctors are there working at Al-Thawra and what privileges do they get?**

**A:** In the past more emphasis was on numbers, at the expense of quality. So we would get foreign doctors who were sometimes less qualified than their Yemeni col-

leagues. Some of them were even learning from the Yemenis and receiving tens of times higher salaries. This frustrated the Yemeni staff immensely, and made them sometimes leave work altogether.

The present plan is to invite highly qualified doctors to work in Yemen and train Yemeni doctors at the same time. The most important thing is they have to be really experienced and highly qualified, even if they demand very high salaries.

**Q: Do you submit some of the hospital's needs to international donor countries?**

**A:** The problem in the past is that the requirements of Yemeni hospitals used to be submitted in a vague and unclear way, confusing the potential donor organization. Also, some donors sometimes sent obsolete equipment or equipment badly in need of maintenance.

On other occasions, medical equipment is sent, but never reaches their intended destination. They are usually kept at warehouses to collect dust. Sometimes the local technical staff would not be able to repair the equipment in cases of breakdown or technical failure.

**Q: How many patients visit the hospital each day?**

**A:** The emergency department receives about 140 to 180 cases every day. This reflects the service provided by the outpatient department. The internal

medicine ward, for example, receives about 2,500 patients a year.

**Q: Is the number of doctors working at the hospital compatible with the number of patients?**

**A:** No, the numbers are not always compatible. In some wards we have two doctors assigned one patient; while, in other departments there is a marked staff shortage. The total number of doctors, however, is quite sufficient. The problem is in distribution and the need for more specialists.

**Q: How do you advise young Yemen men and women who wish to study medicine?**

**A:** I strongly encourage brilliant and aspiring Yemeni youths to

become doctors. There is a great need of qualified Yemeni doctors in this country's health-care system. The future of this profession seems very bright indeed. In addition to being a humanitarian profession, medicine is also a very satisfying vocation.

**Q: What do you think of privatizing health services in Yemen?**

**A:** I don't mind the privatization of the health-care services, provided its done in a reasonable and rational manner. Private health care does not necessarily mean that a patient has to pay for the service out of his personal funds. In other more advanced countries, there things called health insurance, etc, where people's access to a health service is assured.

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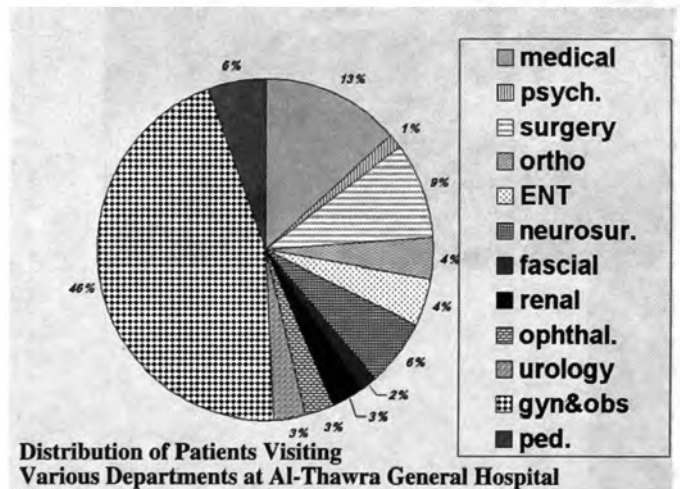
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**A:** A special meeting of Al-Thawra's General Authority was held recently, presided over by the Minister of Health himself. It was decided that the special committee be directly accountable to the Minister's office. Al-Thawra Hospital will be responsible for cases of heart and kidney diseases, Al-Jumhoriya Hospital for adult cancer cases and Al-Kuwait for children cancer cases. The committee will be chaired by Dr. Ahmed Al-Kibsi and will be independent, answerable only to senior officials at the Ministry of Health.

a lot of pressure on the doctors and nurses working in emergency. Another important matter will be turning the hospital's fourth floor into a modern private hospital. Plans are drawn with the help of Dr. Yahya Al-Horaibi to establish this hospital according to international standards.

**Q: What new departments will be opened in Al-Thawra Hospital?**

**A:** There will be modern centers for heart surgery and kidney transplants. Big advances have been made in the latter project by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Sayyaghi. The heart surgery center will be run by a Yemeni team of doctors, including myself and Dr. Ali al-Rabo'i. We'll start with the facilities we have now, and work on importing the necessary modern equipment.

**Q: What other changes have been introduced?**

**A:** Instead of working from 8am to 1pm and then from 4pm to 7pm, doctors will now work from 8am to 4pm with a break in the middle. This will save a lot of time and effort as well as car fuel for the buses used to take the staff

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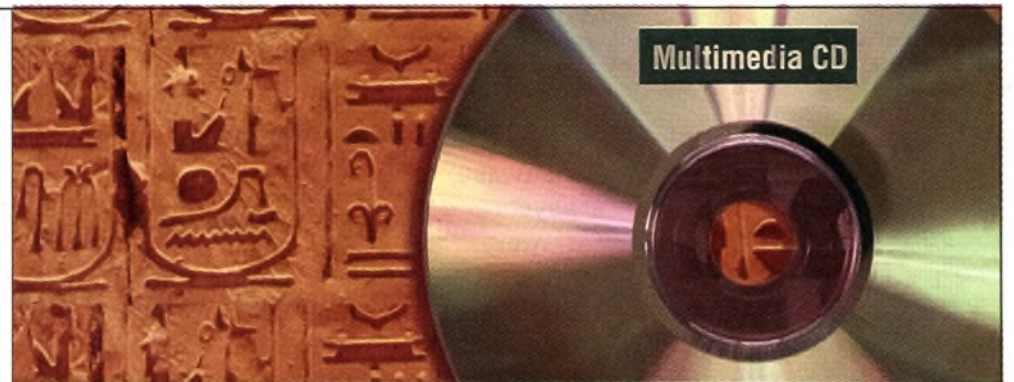


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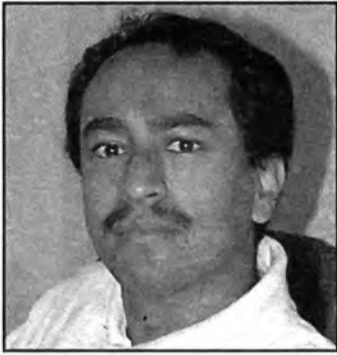
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# Internet Service Monopoly in Yemen

BY: Walid Al-Saqqaf



In broad terms, monopoly is a strategy to control or possess a particular service or material by one person or one group, and not give a chance to others to provide that very service. It is like selling fish, and never teaching or even letting anyone learn how to fish. Hence in this case, people have to buy their fish from this sole seller, even if the fish they buy is not good in quality. After all, he is the only person selling fish. Similarly, the fish here is the Internet service, and the fisherman no other than the Ministry of Communication. As a computer engineer and an expert in Networking, I feel that the Internet service monopoly in Yemen should be lifted, and all sorts of companies should be able to compete fairly in providing better Internet services with reasonable subscription rates.

Unfortunately, this Internet monopoly is a fact in Yemen. One can imagine the number of companies that are eager to

provide Internet service with lower subscription rates, and better quality. But, that is impossible as long as the government's strategy of keeping this service in one group's hands persists. The Ministry of Communication is the only source of this service today, and keeps holding on tight to this technology. Teleyemen, which is the official name of the company providing this Internet service, is in itself not fit to serve as the only provider. It needs more experts, better machinery, and wiser management. Let me explain in more detail.

I have been using the Internet for email, WWW surfing, network programming, and for other purposes over the last 5 years. I used to check my email more than 5 times a day while I was studying in the Computer Engineering Department of the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey. Internet usage was vital for my studies in METU. Our homework was published on-line through the department's news server (local Usenet server). Exam and project announcements were also made on-line. I used to go on-line using my modem at home, and using the Local Area Network (LAN) at college. The daily time I spent on-line was between 4 to 5 hours for academic as well as for miscellaneous purposes. I gained in this period a lot of experience, and developed during these 5 years tens of software programs operating on the Internet.

But now that I am back in Yemen after graduation, what do I find? Disconnection every 30 minutes, slow transfer rates, invalid

Domain Name Server (DNS) reverse lookup support, no log-in shells, no Usenet services, no Common Gateway Interface (CGI) services, and most important of all, high subscription prices. I would sometimes rather say "There is no Internet service in Yemen" than saying "We have one Internet service provider". You might not think the way I do, but let me give you a specific example to try and get you convinced.

I have been trying to access my email on a Unix shell account at my computer engineering department in the METU for more than a month now with no use. In technical terms, Teleyemen dial-up server does not have a facility for returning DNS results in reply to a DNS reverse lookup request, simply because there are no assigned names for Internet Protocol (IP) numbers given for Internet access. Today, security issues are given a great deal of importance, and this DNS reverse lookup is important to block system hackers and crackers. I have visited Teleyemen more than once, asking them to fix this problem. Although fixing this simple problem is actually a matter of adding some very primitive lines to the DNS lookup database, it hasn't been done.

But that is not all! Up until the time of writing this article, the system administrators of Teleyemen's dial-up servers did not wake up and figure out how to fix their servers' mishandling of echoing when receiving a dial-up attempt. Whenever you dial-up, most of the time, you find rubbish characters appearing at the prompt. I am really surprised that a huge company like Teleyemen, having the responsibility of providing Internet Services to the whole Yemeni nation, does not understand that this flow of char-

acters is due to system echoing, and can be handled and fixed correctly in minutes. Consequently, a simple conclusion comes to mind: Either Teleyemen does not care enough about their services to their customers, or they do not know about these problems. However, it is likely to be the first probability, because I remember I used to email Teleyemen for advice and suggestions when I was a student in METU, but not once did I get a reply!

Moreover, considering the many Internet problems Teleyemen has, its rates are quite high for a standard Yemeni family to afford. Only upper class people and institutions have the luxury of using this service. When I try to compare the Internet facilities I had in Turkey, and the ones in Yemen regarding prices and quality, I cannot stop from thinking that this is nothing else than a monopoly. It is also disturbing to hear that Teleyemen claims that they have standard quality services. For example, how on earth can an ISP, without CGI services, and without telnet services, be able to use CGI applications that are so vital for designing World Wide Web (WWW) pages on the Internet? In my view, Teleyemen needs new ideas for improving its services. They cannot stay idle while all ISPs in the world are on the fly in improving their services. Teleyemen should not feel satisfied with what they provide today, and should always think of higher achievements. Teleyemen can be better, it can provide better services, and with lower prices. The only requirements are commitment and experts. I once suggested visiting and helping Teleyemen with my expertise in fixing these problems for free. But sadly, I was rejected. What else can I do?

Speaking as the developer of the Yemen Times Web site, I have great difficulty in setting up the Yemen Times online search engine. After I graduated from METU, our Unix administrator in Turkey began to use the DNS reverse lookup. I used to directly connect from the y.net domain here to my account and then set up the search engine and other CGI applications I used for the Yemen Times. But now, not only do Teleyemen servers lack the requirements to run the search engine and other CGI applications (feedback managers, counters, etc.), but they also do not allow me to connect to the account where these applications actually exist.

I know that I am not the only person who is not satisfied with Internet Services in Yemen. There are tens of others who complain. But because the Internet technology itself is new to Yemen, our voices are not heard. But in time, Internet will grow rapidly to a degree that makes it impossible to ignore the essential need of opening the door for investors to provide Internet services.

Under the hardships Yemenis live today, it would be a wise decision of the government to open the door for investment in such technologies as the Internet. This will provide more jobs, and will make the dream of having the Internet in Yemeni Universities and in more Yemeni homes possible. Getting rid of this monopoly will not only be to the benefit of us as customers, but will also allow Yemen to catch up with the rest of the Internet world. In the mean time, I personally wish that Teleyemen could review this article carefully, and push itself towards enhancing its services, and perhaps one day, become an ideal ISP company for others to use.

## British Council in Aden: OPTIMISTIC PLANS

Mr. John Cleaver is currently the Manager of the British Council Teaching Center, and will soon be moving to Aden to become the Director of the British Council there. A graduate of the Cambridge University in History & Political Science, Mr. Cleaver has spent 14 years teaching English as a foreign language and 14 years in educational management, not only for the British Council, but also for a British private company. He taught in Turkey, Iran, Morocco, Greece, Kuwait, and Japan.



He also moved into management in Japan and spent a total of 6 years there. For 5 years, Mr. Cleaver ran an educational recruitment agency in London.

He first came to Yemen in December, 1995, and assumed his present post in April, 1996. Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, interviewed Mr. Cleaver on the occasion of his leaving to Aden.

**Q: What ideas did you originally have to improve the system at the Sanaa British Council? What have you been able to achieve so far?**

**A:** In 1994 the British Council Training Center closed because of the civil war and all the staff were evacuated. At the time we also had centers in Hodeida and Aden.

The Council school here reopened in October 1995 and since then there has been the enormous task of sorting out the chaos of closure and evacuation, to say nothing of the necessity to create a successful teaching center using the most modern methods and equipment.

Two years ago we had 120 students, now we have over 400. There were originally 5 teachers, now there are 15. We were initially using 5 classrooms, now 12 classrooms are in use. In the early days we only taught General English classes, but since then we have taught English for Business and run Report-Writing courses. Our Young Learners' center has

been very successful, particularly during the summer with a 100 children aged 6-14 attending intensive classes.

I cannot stress enough that the Council Teaching Center receives no money whatsoever from the British government. It has to be run like a business, unlike the aid funded services of the main Council office such as scholarships, library and development projects. I can assure you that any profits are re-invested to upgrade our facilities. For example in May during this year we set up a Multi-Media Center with an interactive CD ROM capacity for the use of our students. The CD ROM features special language programs and exercises developed exclusively by the Council which has a world-wide network of centers.

In any work one should never be entirely satisfied with what has been achieved, because there is so much to learn and constant change. At the British Council I think that we need to adapt our course more to the Yemeni learning style, and to pace better what we offer so that the students reach higher levels with skills in all aspects of learning English, namely reading and writing, listening and speaking. They are all facets of the same diamond, so to speak, the diamond being overall competence in English.

**Q: What will your duties be in Aden?**

**A:** I'm becoming Director of the British Council in Aden, which only opened last October and

already has nearly 200 students. I start there in next few days. It is principally a teaching center with a small reading room and information service. My main duties will be concerned with building up the center, but I would like to develop a modest cultural program and for it to become a center for British examinations. I have other ideas for its general development but these will depend on growth and financial resources.

I would also like to help set up a branch of the Yemen-British Friendship Association in Aden.

**Q: Being British, does Aden have any special meaning to you?**

**A:** I'm obviously aware of Aden's connection with Britain, and my Adeni friends seem very warm and somewhat nostalgic towards Britain. It is a good feeling and we must build on these close links but as equal partners.

**Q: Would you like to add anything?**

**A:** I think I was fated to come to Yemen. Twenty years ago when I was working in Kuwait, I tried to visit 5 days during the Eid Al Fitr, but the moon didn't do what it was supposed to do and I had to change my travel plans.

It was worth waiting for. I like this country and its people. I have always felt extremely comfortable here, I'm referring to the civility and real courtesy of Yemenis at all levels. After all it is a country of history and settled tradition, not a country artificially created like many of the countries in the region. At present Yemen is somewhat battered economically; it deserves a better future and in my view, Yemenis have the intelligence and talent to create this.

I have enjoyed working with my colleagues at the Council, both Yemeni and European, particularly Brendan McSharry, the Director of the British Council in Yemen. Finally I wish my successor, Kevin McLaven, the very best of luck.

## Announcement

Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Taiz Chamber of Commerce and Industry

To protect the reputation of the banking sector in Yemen and to defend the interests of their members, the Aden and Taiz Chambers of Commerce and Industry are holding a press conference in the Aden Chamber offices at 10am on Thursday, September 17, 1998. The main aim is to expose the illegal violations perpetrated by the Aden branch of the French Bank Credit Agricole IndoSuez, which have harmed the reputation of the banking business.

The two chambers invite all people concerned, especially the French Bank representatives, to attend the conference in order for the full truth to become clear.

### اعلان

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This is an *OPINION* page.  
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## The Economy of The Arabian Peninsula: Focus on Yemen



**Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,**  
Chief Editor, Yemen Times  
Professor of Economy, Sanaa University

### I: General Background:

Let me start with a warm greeting to all of you who found it worthwhile to come to a lecture on the economic prospects of Yemen. I was warned that not many Japanese business people and academics would be interested in the lot of a small and poor country. I am gratified with this overwhelming attendance of high caliber people. I hope to show that you have not made a wrong decision by coming. The Arabian Peninsula is the name of the large chunk of landmass that lies at the South-western corner of Asia. It is made up of seven countries; namely, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. Their basic are as shown in the following table:

Country	Population (million)	Area (Sq. kms)
Bahrain	0.5	700
Kuwait	1.5	20,155
Oman	2.1	212,457
Qatar	0.5	11,500
Saudi Arabia	16.0	2,331,000
United Arab Emirates	2.5	84,000
Yemen	18.0	565,000

The first six of the seven countries listed above, whose economies are dominated by the oil sector, are grouped within the Gulf Cooperation Council, a loose association created 17 years ago. Citing reasons of economic advantages, geographic proximity and historic ties, Yemen applied to join earlier this year, but was rejected. The countries of the Arabian Peninsula suffer today from a major economic problem because of the dramatic decline in oil revenues. That is why all of them, whether they recognize this or

not, require an adjustment process. For many, which have enjoyed an unearned level of high lifestyle, that will now have to go. The run on the Saudi Arabian Riyal which we saw a few days ago, is only a signal of the weakening of the economies of these countries. It is my belief that unless urgent action is taken towards reforms, a painful adjustment is awaiting these countries. I do not want to dwell on generalities and the region at large. Allow me now to zero in on the situation in Yemen.

### II. Biting the Bullet:

Yemen, urged by donor wisdom, has seen the need to embark on corrective measures. Starting in 1995, first a two-year stabilization program was implemented. This required painful changes in the form of currency devaluation, raising of interest rates, limitations on credit, curbs on printing of money and reduction in budgetary deficits, and other similar decisions. But at the end it worked. The exchange rate of the local currency has stabilized, government deficits have shrunk to less than 2% of GDP, which is within the Maastricht requirements, and the banking system has been invigorated.

Now the country has moved to the second stage of the reforms - structural adjustment. This required changes in the legal framework to create an environment more favorable to private business, privatization, an overhaul of the bureaucracy by reduction of government paperwork and personnel, etc. New laws now give foreign investors the same rights as locals, including 100% ownership of projects, no labor requirements, no controls on capital flows, and very generous tax holidays. The price, in terms of the political damage of the adjustment process, has already been paid, as attested in the massive demonstrations and unrest, including the kidnapping of foreigners and the hostile actions against government projects. The country can now turn to collect the dividends.

### III. What Are the Opportunities?

The opportunities for investors and businesses are quite clear. Let me list a few:

#### 1- Natural Resources:

Investments in the oil and gas sectors have seen an enormous growth over the last few years. Although Yemen produces some 360,000 bpd of oil today, there are major expectations for growth in this sector. This is especially true if Yemen and Saudi Arabia agree on their borderline, thus releasing more than 50,000 square kilometers of land with high oil potential on the Yemeni side. With about 17 trillion cubic feet of proven gas reserves, a major liquefaction project is being led by American and French companies, with some Korean interests. Reports of gold discoveries by a joint Swiss/Canadian effort have added to the excitement in the country. Other natural resources which are being prospected include silver, zinc, aluminum, iron, etc. Several Euro-American companies are now heavily involved.

2- Fisheries: With 2,700 kilometers of shoreline and hundreds of islands in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea, possibilities for marine projects are enormous. Already, companies from Korea, China, Russia and other parts of the world are involved in the region. The prizes include lobsters, prawns, and various other marine delicacies.

#### 3- Tourism:

Yemen is well-endowed as a tourist destination. As the land of the ancient Queen of Sheba, and home to the aromatic Mokha coffee - both household names in many parts of the world, the name Yemen conjures many romantic images. It is also a society rich with folklore - souqs that tell tale of the Arabian nights. Male tourists invariably return home with the famous jambia, and women come back with lots of hand-made silver jewelry - both of which cost only a few dollars. Desert treks for the adventurers, majestic mountains and deep gorges for the hikers, and beautiful slopes with some of

the most unique fauna and flora in the world for family and group tourists offer inviting attractions.

#### 4- Industry:

With abundant and cheap labor, a major consumer market, various industrial joint ventures are a distinct possibility. Processing and packaging industries are an immediate possibility which could tap into the bountiful agricultural products. Manufacturing is another possibility.

With the Aden Free Zone coming on line, taking advantage of redistribution and trans-shipment is yet a further possibility.

Finally, let me conclude by touching on the political changes that have taken place in the Republic of Yemen. Of the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, only Yemen has really embarked on a serious political transformation.

Since the country's reunification on 22nd May 1990, Yemen's desire to join the world community nations into the 21st century has enabled it to adopt new values in the structure of political system.

The first pluralistic parliamentary elections were held in 1993. The second elections were held in 1997. Next year, 1999, the country will have two sets of elections - local and presidential. I cannot say that we have had exactly fair and free elections as in the West. But the system is slowly and steadily correcting itself.

Freedom of the press is reasonably assured. There are today some 100 newspapers and magazines in the country representing all political colors. Although the government heavily guides quite a few of these, there are independent as well as opposition

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publications which have haunted the people in power. I can say that there is no pre-printing censorship, although if you step on some influential people's feet, you should expect some heat. The next development in the country's freedom of expression would be to break the state monopoly in television and radio stations and allow private investors in. Human rights and civil liberties are respected, within certain

constraints. In short a civil society is being developed. Nobody is saying life in Yemen is heaven. But compared to the neighborhood, it is indeed better blessed. I hope some of you will come and check it out. Thank you for listening.

This lecture was delivered at the Middle East Institute of Japan, Tokyo, on September 11th, 1998.

## PROJECT NOTICE

Business meetings for the projects mentioned below will be held with Mr. H.S.CHOE, Director General, Tamjin Corporation, Seoul, Korea, from September 14, 1998 onwards at the following address:

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## TASH Develops Shabwa

Mr. Richard Boni is the team leader of the Shabwa Basic Development Program (SBDP), which was put into operation in October 1997. Known by its Arabic abbreviation - Tash, this three-year program is funded by the Dutch government with approximately 9.3 million Dutch guilders (\$5 million). Mr. Matoq Ghaleb, Yemen Times correspondent in Shabwa, talked to Mr. Boni about the SBDP and its future impact on the region. He filed the following interview.



**Q: What are the activities of this program?**

**A:** As its name indicates, it's a basic development program. We're working primarily on infrastructure activities. There are four or five basic components in the program: health, girls education, water and sanitation, and agriculture (land and water conservation). We also have a community development program. So, in the health sector we're remodeling some hospitals, health

units and health centers. This year we're building a couple of health units and health centers, and the construction program will continue into next year. As far as female education is concerned, we're building girls' schools and additional classrooms for girls. Our primary goal is to help the government in Yemen to keep girls in school. There is a high drop-out rate of girls from around

the 4th level in Shabwa, and we would like to see them continue their education at least through the 9th level.

**Q: What about the water projects?**

**A:** We're building a water project in an area called Wadi Jirdan, which will eventually serve about 10,000 individuals. Sewage disposal projects are being implemented in three or four different villages this year and the same number next year.

In the field of land and water conservation, we're working on protecting agricultural land from future floods and helping improve the irrigation systems in different areas.

**Q: How do you select the regions, and what government bodies are involved?**

**A:** We work as closely as possible with the government agencies concerned. We have very good cooperation with the Ministries of Health, Education and Agriculture. SBDP is helping

the General Authority for Rural Water and Electricity Supply establish its operations down here. Projects and priority areas are always selected by working closely with the government. So in the first year we developed a three-district approach. We work through districts in the first instance and then expand the program afterwards. This program has already been expanded into other districts.

**Q: What are the problems encountered by Tash?**

**A:** There are always problems. Unfortunately our number one problem here is communication. It is very difficult down here, and that's a drag on the program.

In the villages, we experienced some problems with villagers. It's difficult to reach or discuss the projects with all the villagers, giving rise to misunderstandings. We're trying our best to correct these problems through continuing contact with villagers. SBDP is also closely working with the local authorities to help

them help us inform people about what's going on.

**Q: What has been achieved so in the female sector?**

**A:** It is difficult. Shabwa is a lot more conservative than other governorates. But firstly, the education program is completely targeted towards young women. Part of the effort to work with women is to start with the young girls.

We are working closely with the Shabwa Women's Development Association. SBDP helped them establish an office, and they have since conducted a sewing training course for women around the town and the area in general. We're planning to continue doing that, but it is very difficult to have interaction with women here. There is a female community development specialist from Holland working on the project as part of the management team, and the community development coordinator is a woman from Aden. Also, one of our community development assistants is a woman.

**Q: What kind of training courses are provided by Tash?**

**A:** We have had one computer training course in Sanaa which lasted for 10 days. The participants were selected by Tash and the relevant government offices. Secondly, two English language training courses were conducted, with the help of two teachers from Sanaa. Another course is in the pipeline.

**Q: Who benefited from the English courses?**

**A:** A lot of people just came along and the teachers were kind enough to allow them to sit in the classes at no extra charge to the project. So I would like to thank the teachers for that. We had a great response and demand for the English language computer training programs.

**Q: What does SBDP provide by way of equipment?**

**A:** In our project we have items and money available for support to certain offices. We basically provided some furniture and some copiers, printers and computer software to the Ministry of Education and the education office in Shabwa. For the agriculture office we bought some field equipment like tree pruning shears. We are planning to purchase some items for the Minister of Health office, and we will also do the same for the rural water authority.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** I would like everyone to know that this project is understood as the beginning of a long-term cooperation and development program between the Dutch and the Yemeni governments. As we all know, when the Dutch decide to start a project, they're in for the long haul of helping people.

I would like people to recognize that development is always a long-term process. We can't accomplish everything in two or three years. What we look for, from a donor's point of view, is cooperation by the beneficiaries and contribution by both governments concerned.

We also work on the philosophy that people should, as much as possible, contribute to their own development. We want to help people who are ready to cooperate and contribute.

We've found quite a bit of cooperation and had some contributions by beneficiaries. For instance, in our land and water conservation program in Wadi Hada'a, the villagers contributed nearly 40% to the construction of the project. I'm happy about that and we continue to work in that area. So really we just want people to be patient, and we want them to know that we are here for the long term. We believe that what we're now laying down is the ground work for assisting the people and the government in Shabwa.

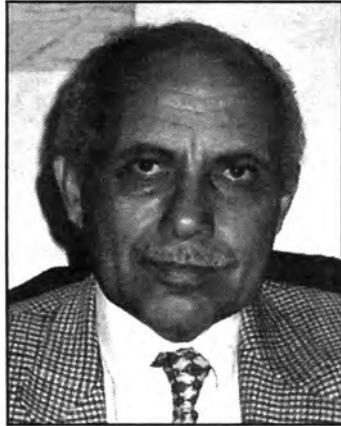
## Amin Dirhem Enters Who's Who

Mr. Amin Dirhem Mohammed is Chairman of the Board of the Tihama Tractors & Engineering Co. Ltd., the Tihama Computers Co. Ltd., the National Trading & Services Co. and the Tihama Travel and Tours.

The International Who's Who of Professionals indicates, 'Mr. Dirhem has an impressive professional background.'

'Utilizing more than 30 years of experience, he assesses potential projects, calculating possible risks and benefits, and tenders the contracts.'

Bin Sallam of Yemen Times met Mr. Dirhem, on the occasion of his recent admission into the International Who's Who of Professionals. He filed the following interview.



**Q: Can you give us an idea about your beginnings in business? What were the difficulties you faced. Are you satisfied with what you achieved in your life?**

**A:** After the revolution of September, 1962, Mr. Mohammed Qayed Abdu, Mr. Mohammed Saeed Awadh, Mr. Abdulqawi Maqawi and I began our business activity with the French Alps, then a big company operating in Aden.

In 1967, with Mr. Mohammed Qayed Al-Zo'aiteri, I established the Tihama Tractors & Eng. Co. Ltd. We supplied Al-Thawra hospital in Sanaa, Al-Thawra hospital in Hodeida and other hospitals and clinics in Yemen with the necessary equipment and facilities. Also in 1967, we began our first trade venture by importing tractors from the former Yugoslavia and digging artesian water wells.

**Q: The Tihama Co. is one of the biggest companies in Yemen and it has always supported the economy of the country. How do you evaluate the projects of the company until now, and what are your plans for the 21st century?**

**A:** The Tihama Company has many projects in the electricity, water, communication and health sectors. It directly contributes to the country's development. Cooperating with the Siemens and Deutz German companies, we established the first electricity stations in Sanaa, Taiz and

Hodeida after the revolution. Tihama was the first company to install a modern telephone network of the Siemens technology. Moreover, our company established water supply projects in several Yemeni areas like Hajjah, Ibb and Haifan.

Our future projects will be more in tune with modern information technology. We also aim at improving tourism because, we realize, tourism is a key factor in confidently going into the 21st century.

**Q: How many international companies are you the agents of in Yemen?**

**A:** We are the agents of a group of German, Swedish, British and American companies, most important of which are Siemens, Deutz, Atlas Copco, Kent Water, Meter, Lufthansa, Beckman Culter, Hospitalia, and Osram.

**Q: You have recently become a member of the International Who's Who of Professionals. What does this organization mean to you? Could you tell us about its position in the world of international business?**

**A:** The International Who's Who of Professionals introduces the professional and civic achievements of its members, those who are highly successful in their life. The organization's directory lists the members' achievements and contributions to the business world.

In its quarterly publication, News Letter, it assists expanding contacts among international businessmen.

**Q: According to which criteria were you chosen to be a**

**member of Who's Who?**

**A:** They chose me according to their criteria, which I have fulfilled and, of course, according to the judgment of the Board of Trustees in North Carolina, USA.

**Q: What privileges do you get by being a member of Who's Who?**

**A:** A lot. The organization would list a member's names in an excellent edition of its directory, thereby make him/her well-known in the international business community.

In addition, a Who's Who member gets discounts on goods, traveling expenses, telephone services, real estates, modern cars, hotels, adverts, health care, transportation and emergency services in many countries around the world.

**Q: How do you see the future of investment in Yemen?**

**A:** I feel optimistic about investment in the coming years. I hope that the reforms program will turn out well. Some tangible results have been achieved so far. More needs to be done, though.

**Q: As a vice-chairman of the Yemeni-German Friendship Association (established in 1990), can you tell us about the plans and activities of this body? Who supports it?**

**A:** We try to continuously improve the relationship between Yemen and Germany through holding meetings, seminars, lectures, and celebrating the national days of the two countries.

Additionally, we publish a magazine which tells the Yemeni people about all aspects of life in Germany: political policy, economy, culture, etc. In short, the association aims at improving communication and cooperation, and developing better understanding between Yemen and Germany.

It is supported by some businessmen who have economic ties with Germany. Besides, it receives monthly financial support from the Presidency.

**Q: What about your interest in arts? I understand that you are also a patron of some artists.**

**A:** This makes me drift back to my school days. I was the head of

the students committee at Al-Baderi school in Aden, from 1949 to 1957. Later I became the chairman of the Former Students Society of the same school until 1979. We had a theater in which we held musical performances. During those years, I worked with the now famous singer Abu Bakr Salem Belfaqih and the first Yemeni actress Nabeeha Ghoraim. I knew the artists Ahmed Yusuf Al-Zabidi, Mohammed Saleh Hamood, Abdulqareem Tawfeeq, the monologist Fouad Al-Sharif, Fat'hia Al-Sagheera and her brother Hasan Faqeeh. When I moved to Taiz in 1960, I met Ali Al-Anisi. Our relation lasted until he died in April, 1981.

In 1966, we established a production company - Songs of Sanaa. We wanted then to record Al-Anisi's songs on gramophone records. We recorded 10 of his best songs in Beirut with the Al-Rahbani band. We also recorded songs for Forsan Khaleefa, Ahmed Qasim, and Fat'hia Al-Sagheera in Cairo.

During the 1960s, some Egyptian singers used to come to Yemen to entertain the Egyptian troops stationed here. I met then Abdulhaleem Hafez and Moharam Fouad, through whom we recorded some Yemeni songs with Egyptian singers. For example, Faiza Ahmed sang the Yemeni song "Yakhi Al-Sagheer" (my little brother).

Mr. Ali Al-Khader has been always my companion. We have worked together since the 1960s, when we were working for USAID, until now.

From the early 1970s until now I associated with Mohammed Morshid Naji, Ahmed Qasim, Ali Al-Sima, Ayoob Tareesh, Abdulbasit Absi, Ahmed Fat'hi, Mohammed S. Abdullah, Abdulhakeem Rashed, Fahmi & Ihab Turki, Hamood Al-Jonaid and his son Waleed, Abdulrahman Al-Haddad, Ahmed Al-Ma'atari, and Abdulbasit Al-Harithi.

**Q: Any last comments?**

**A:** Something I feel very happy about, are the great efforts made by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Prime Minister Al-Iryani to reform the situation in the country. I'm sure these are good steps towards putting Yemen safely and confidently into the 21st century.

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الف مبروك

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د/مازن علي محمد السقااف

بمناسبة زفافه الميمون. نتمنى له وعروسه حياة زوجية سعيدة.

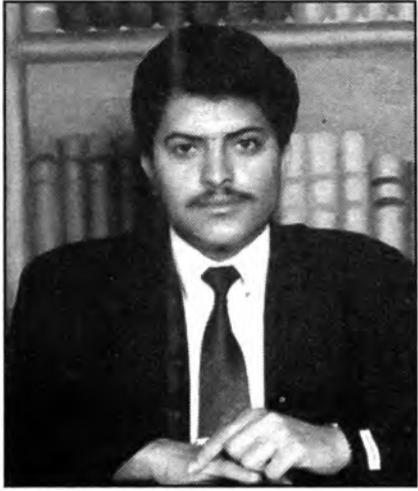
المهنون عاطف عبدالجبار السقااف، اشرف عبدالله، ناصر منصور السقااف،

مشعل محمد السقااف، وسيم طاهر السقااف، عماد احمد السقااف،

معاذ طاهر السقااف، منذر احمد السقااف

وجميع الاهل والاصدقاء

# 600-Year Experience: Plants Hold Miracle Cures



he claims he can cure, also arouses some suspicion among conventional doctors. The lists of illnesses purportedly curable by herbal remedies at the Hikma Clinic range from rheumatism to gout, eczema, leukoderma or vitiligo and other skin diseases, partial paralysis, all types of allergy, psychological and nervous disorders, stomach ulcers, lymphatic illnesses, kidney troubles, bladder stones, infertility, menstrual disorders, hemorrhoids and many others.

Abdulhamid Al-Dhomain is a herbalist with degrees from Bombay University, India, and certifies from various medical bodies - including the Ministry of Public Health. Not older than 25 years, Al-Dhomain has made quite a good reputation for himself, both in Yemen and abroad. He has achieved big successes in treating various types of diseases (he lists more than 55 different ailments in a flyer he distributes). This has made his patients shower him with gifts and letters of appreciation, which he hangs in his practice - The Yemeni Hikma (wisdom) Clinic.

In spite of all his renown, Al-Dhomain remains a controversial figure. Some Yemeni and foreign medical circles are still skeptical about his methods of treating the patients. The large number of diseases, which

To know more about the extent of Al-Dhomain's success and how popular herbal medicine is in Yemen, Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times visited him in his clinic. He filed the following interview.

**Q: Is your practice licensed by the Ministry of Health?**

**A:** Yes, of course. A special committee consisting of seven doctors visited my clinic to inspect and discuss the various methods and substances I use in treating patients. They were quite impressed.

You see, I have several certificates in herbal medicine from internationally recognized bodies and institutions. The many thank-you notes I receive from patients attest to my success.

**Q: When did you start practicing herbal medicine?**

**A:** The business of herbal

medicine has been in our family for the last 600 years. My grandfather used to visit various parts of Yemen to provide remedies for patients, at a time when there were very few hospitals.

So really, I started learning this vocation very early in my childhood, just by watching my father at work. I also read many books about this very important branch of medicine. So I became a practicing herbalist about ten years ago. It is a very ancient profession, the knowledge of which is handed down through the generations.

**Q: What are the most common cases that come to your clinic?**

**A:** Many people come complaining of hemorrhoids, skin ailments, stomach and intestine ulcers, tonsillitis, and hair loss among men and women. I also see many cases of infertility from Yemen and the Gulf countries.

**Q: From where do you get your herbs and other remedial substances?**

**A:** Yemen is very rich in medicinal herbs. The Island of Socotra, for example, has unique species of flora. I also get some types of herb from other parts of the world such as Indonesia, Singapore, India, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, etc.

**Q: Have you tried to grow the plants and herbs that are not available in Yemen?**

**A:** I tried to grow specimens of some of the rarer plants I brought from India, but I wasn't successful. I think climate differences play a vital role in the process. However, most of the plants I need can be found in the mountains of Saada, Mareb, Ibb, Al-Shihr, Hadramaut, etc.

**Q: Where do you do the required medicinal prepara-**

**tion?**

**A:** I have a special, modern lab in Hadda, which I imported from New York. All preparations are done according to high-standard, internationally-recognized methods. Poisons and other harmful ingredients are professionally extracted and disposed of.

**Q: How do you diagnose the various illnesses?**

**A:** I rely on experience and modern medical methods such as x-rays, lab tests, etc. I certainly don't always prescribe the remedy immediately. A patient with a stone in the bladder, for example, is sent for tests to ascertain the size and shape of the stone. This is quite important for me to be able to prescribe the appropriate dose. Follow-up tests are also conducted to figure out the extent of the remedy's effect. Men suffering from infertility,

say, are sent to the appropriate lab for semen tests.

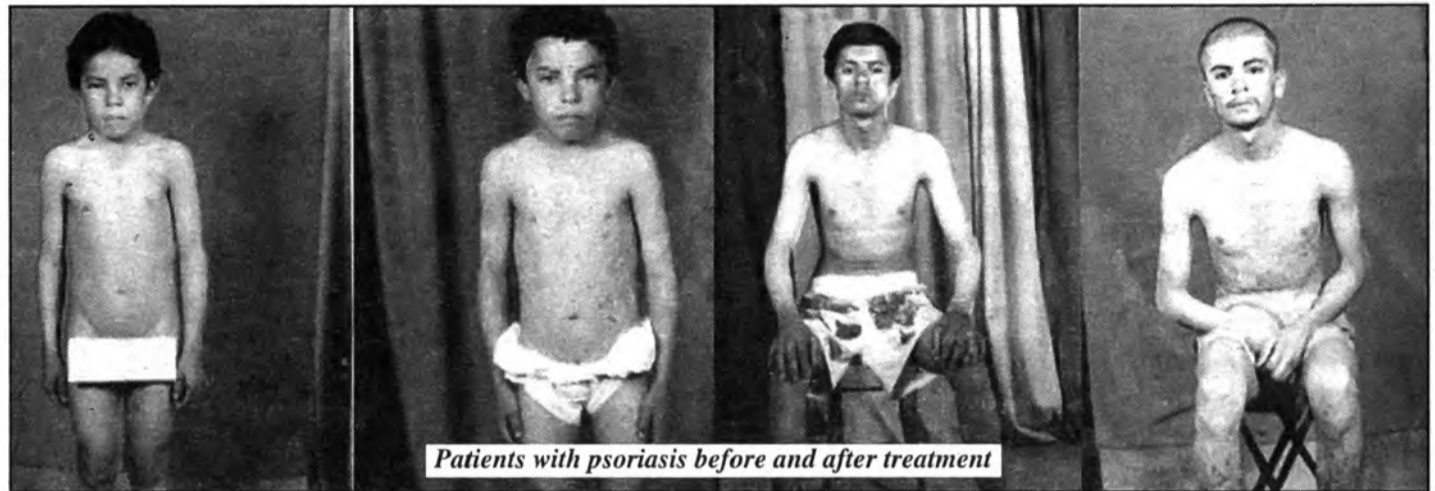
**Q: How many infertility cases have you treated successfully?**

**A:** I am proud to say that I have treated more than 2,000 cases of infertility.

**Q: What do you recommend to enhance the popularity of herbal medicine in Yemen?**

**A:** There are some people who start practicing this profession without enough knowledge or experience. By failing their patients, such impostors make people lose their trust in herbal medicine. So I call on the Ministry of Health to send committees of specialists to investigate the many so-called herbalists that are opening unlicensed clinics. Licensing procedures should be stricter and better regulated.

On another level, the higher education authorities should seriously consider incorporating alternative medicine into university curricula. It is done with great success in China, India, Germany, etc. In Kuwait, for instance, a special hospital for herbal remedies has recently been opened.



Patients with psoriasis before and after treatment

Republic of Yemen  
Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation  
Seeds and Agricultural Services Project

## Tender Notice ICB Nos. 02 & 03/98

1. The Government of the Republic of Yemen (ROY) has received a credit from the Interim Trust Fund (ITF) administered by the International Development Association (IDA), in the amount of SDR 9.2 million equivalent to US\$ 12.5 million towards the cost of the Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) and it is intended that a part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of:

ICB No. 02/98 - Cargo Trucks  
ICB No. 03/98 - Fertilizers - Quantity 4500 Tons.  
For the Agricultural Services Cooperation - (ASC) Sana'a

2. The Seeds and Agricultural Services project (SASP) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of the above-mentioned goods.

3. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from following address and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

(a) Director of Project Support Unit  
Al-Daery/AI-Gazaier Street  
Sana'a (ROY)  
Tel. No. 207848  
Fax No. 207848

(b) or by writing to SASP, P. O. Box 15316  
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen

4. A complete set of the bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US Dollar 100 for ICB No. 02/98 and USD 150 for ICB 03/98 or its equivalent in Yemeni Rials at the selling exchange rate established by the Central Bank of Yemen on the date of purchase of documents. Documents may also be obtained through Express Courier Services on payment of an additional non-refundable fee of USD 50.00

5. All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and must be accompanied by a bid security of no less than two and half percent (2.5%) of the total bid value in a freely convertible currency, in favor of Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) valid for (120) days from the closing date of bids. Bids must be accompanied by the following documents:-

a. copy of valid Tax Card  
b. Trade registration (for Local Bidders)  
c. Authorization document of manufacturer (for all Agents).

6. Bids submitted by an Agent on behalf of more than one manufacturer, should be submitted by a separate Bid Form for each bid and should be accompanied by a separate bid security for each bid and an authorization certificate from the respective manufacturer.

7. Bids envelopes must be delivered to the main office of SASP, Sana'a, Al-Daery/AI-Gazaier Street on:  
(1) For ICB 02/98 on or before 10:00 a.m. on 12/10/1998  
(2) For ICB 03/98 on or before 10:00 a.m. on 27.10.1998

8. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend:  
(1) For ICB 02/98 at 11:00 a. m. on 12/10/1998  
(2) For ICB 03/98 at 11:00 a. m. on 27/10/1998  
at the main office of SASP, Sana'a.

9. All required goods will be delivered within 120 days from the date of opening of an irrevocable letter of credit in favor of supplier.

الجمهورية اليمنية  
وزارة الزراعة والري  
مشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية

## اعلان مناقصتين عالميتين

1- تعلن وزارة الزراعة والري ممثلة بمشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية ان حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية تحصلت على قرض من الصندوق الاستئماني المؤقت (البنك الدولي) بمختلف العملات الأجنبية لتمويل جزء من تكاليف مشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية وقد خصص جزء من تحصيلات القرض لمقابلة المدفوعات المعتمدة تحت هاتين المناقصتين التالية:  
1- مناقصة عالمية رقم 98/2م لتوريد شاحنات-  
2- مناقصة عالمية رقم 98/3م لتوريد أسمدة متنوعة لكمية 4500 طن

2- يدعو المستفيد من القرض - مشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية المتقدمين المؤهلين بحسب شروط البنك الدولي والصندوق المؤقت لتقديم عطاءاتهم مختومة بالشمع الأحمر لتوريد البضاعة الموضحة في الفقرة (1) من هذا الاعلان سارية المفعول لمدة (90) يوماً من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات.

3- يمكن شراء وثائق المناقصة بموجب طلب كتابي إلى العنوان التالي:-

مدير وحدة دعم المشروع  
الدائري - تقاطع شارع الجزائر  
تلفون/فاكس (207848)، ص. ب. 15316  
سناعة - الجمهورية اليمنية

مقابل دفع رسم لا يسترد وقدره (100) دولار أمريكي للمناقصة رقم (98/2) و (150) دولار أمريكي للمناقصة رقم (98/3) أو ما يعادل بالريال اليمني بموجب نشرة البنك المركزي يوم شراء وثيقة المناقصة ومن يرغب الحصول على وثائق المناقصة بالبريد السريع دفع رسم اضافي قدره (50) دولار أمريكي لايرد.

4- يجب ان يصحب عطاءات المتقدمين ضمان بنكي بواقع (2,5%) اثنين ونصف بالمائة من اجمالي مبلغ العطاء أو شيك معتمد مقبول الدفع ساري مفعوله لمدة (120) يوم من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات باسم مدير وحدة دعم المشروع. كما يرفق بالاتي:-  
أ- البطاقة الضريبية مجددة  
ب- السجل التجاري  
ج- وثيقة تفويض الشركة المصنعة

5- يجب ان تقدم العطاءات المقدمة من الوكيل لأكثر من شركة مصنعة بكراسة منفصلة لكل عطاء ويصحب بتأمين ابتدائي منفرد لكل عطاء بموجب الشروط المحددة بالفقرة (4) من هذا الاعلان ووثيقة تفويض من الشركة المعنية.

6- آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات كما يلي:

أ- مناقصة رقم 98/2م الساعة العاشرة صباحاً من يوم الاثنين الموافق 12/10/98م  
ب- مناقصة رقم 98/3م الساعة العاشرة صباحاً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 27/10/98م

7- سيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات المختومة بالشمع الأحمر بجلسة علنية وبحضور من يرغب من مندوبي المتقدمين كما يلي:

أ- المناقصة العالمية رقم 98/2م الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً من يوم الاثنين الموافق 12/10/1998م.  
ب- المناقصة العالمية رقم 98/3م الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً من يوم الثلاثاء الموافق 27/10/1998م.  
وذلك بمقر وحدة دعم المشروع بصنعا حسب العنوان اعلاه.

والله الموفق



# Anything To Declare?



## Introduction:

During the 1950s and 1960s, a lot of Yemeni people decided to leave the country they were born in to earn a better living. Britain was a popular destination for many of these people. Why? Well that's why I decided to talk to a few Yemenis who had to endure much hardship to earn their living in a foreign land, far different to their own.

There is a large Yemeni community in Britain. They believe that once you're in England, you need never wish for anything more, but there are advantages and disadvantages facing many immigrants today.

**Mr. and Mrs. N** moved to England some time ago. Mr. N says: "The first time I went to England was in the late 1950s. I got married in Morocco in 1968, then we both settled in England permanently. Roughly, I've spent about 40 years in England, while my wife has spent about 30 years there. Originally, I lived mainly in Liverpool, but I've also spent time in places like Sheffield, Warrington, Manchester and London. My wife has also lived in Sheffield, but mainly Liverpool. I worked in steel and soap factories in the late 1950s. Then I opened my own business; news agent / grocery store."

Mrs. N worked in sweet factories in the early 1970s. Mr. N goes on to say, "the reason for my returning back to Yemen, is that I've worked basically all my life, and I felt it was time to settle down back in the old country." Mr. & Mrs. N have two children, a son and a daughter, both are adults now. Their son and daughter studied in England, but also worked in their parents family business.

"I can speak, read and write English, but not very well," says Mr. N. His wife comments, "I can also speak English and learned how to read and write English at evening classes before I had my first child in the early 1970s."

I asked them whether they read any English newspapers, etc.? "I didn't bother with them much. For the news, I used to listen to

the BBC in the early days," disclosed Mr. N. Mrs. N also comments, "I also did not bother with newspapers."

What about hobbies? "I had no hobbies, I was too busy working." They spent their given holidays in Yemen and France. Mrs. N said, "I also used to take my children on trips to places like Blackpool or New Brighton." Neither of them bothered with places like theaters or cinemas. Mr. N: "I had no time for those places, although my wife used to go to the cinema, but not regularly."

They go on to talk about their likes and dislikes about England. "We dislike the violence, although the majority of the people are very friendly. We do like the fact that England takes education very seriously."

Mr. & Mrs. N both reached the age of retirement in England, receiving roughly £400 a month as a joint pension. They both have British passports.

I asked Mr. & Mrs. N, whether they would encourage their children to work or study in England. They both agreed, "we would rather have our children working or studying here in Yemen, even though there are less opportunities."

The N family are now living in Yemen with their daughter who is working, while their son is studying in England.

Finally, I asked them whether they prefer England or Yemen? They replied, "both Yemen and England have their advantages and disadvantages, so we can't really answer that question."

I then spoke with another family, **Mr. & Mrs. S**. They first moved to England in the mid-1970s, and spent over 20 years of their lives there. "We mainly lived in Sheffield, but also in Liverpool. I've worked in factories," says Mr. S. Mrs. S, on the other hand, said: "I did not work that much. I am mainly a housewife, and feel that it is up to my husband to work. I had to look after our three children at that time. We have five children now, two daughters and three sons." Their children studied in England.

They then went on to tell me about the family business they started in the early 1980s. "We opened our first store in Liverpool, but we came back to Yemen in 1994 because we felt it was time to return back home."

Mr. & Mrs. S both speak English very well. "I can speak English, but reading and writing is difficult. I learned just enough to get by. My wife, on the other hand, started to go to evening classes to learn how to read and write English, we both speak enough English to get us by."

I asked Mr. & Mrs. S whether they used to buy English news-

papers and magazines, and whether they had any hobbies at all. "We only read the newspapers and magazines that we sold in our shop, but most of the time, in the early 1990s we started reading the Arabic newspapers that were available. As for theaters and cinemas, we were both too busy working."

Hobbies? "Well, we had no time for any." Mr. & Mrs. S spent their rare vacations in Yemen. I asked them both whether they had a fixed savings account? "No we had to have a business account."

What do they think of England? "We dislike the weather, the violence and racism. We like the fact that our children are getting a proper education." Mr. & Mrs. S both retired in Yemen. They both receive around £330 monthly as their pension payment. They also obtained British passports.

Do they encourage their children to work or study in England? "We prefer them to work or study here in Yemen." Now Mr. & Mrs. S do not work. Their children are grown up and married, some of them study and work.

Finally, I asked them both whether they prefer England or Yemen? "Well, Yemen is our home, but we do see some of the advantages that England holds."

**Mr. & Mrs. R** moved to England in the early 1970s, and spent over 30 years there. Originally, they lived in Sheffield. But in 1982 they moved to Liverpool to take over a business, newsagent/grocery store, formerly owned by one of their relatives.

I asked them what their reasons were for leaving England to come back to Yemen? "We came back in 1995, because we felt it was time to settle down with our families. But we do have plans to return to England for a possible visit."

The R's have four children, three sons and a daughter. They are all grown up and working in England now.

"We both speak, read and write English. Although reading and writing are always difficult, we get by quite well." I also asked them whether they ever bought English newspapers and magazines, and also what were their hobbies and whether they ever took holidays abroad? "Well, we only read the English newspapers that we sold in our shop, so I guess we did have to take some interest in them. Hobbies and holidays? "We were both too

busy to have any hobbies, but we did take yearly holidays to Yemen to see our families. Mr. R never used to go to cinemas or theaters. "I was far too busy, but my wife went to the cinema sometimes. But on the whole, we were both too busy working."

I went on to ask them about their likes and dislikes in England? "We dislike the weather and the violence. Of course we do like the job opportunities, and the fact that our children can work or study with real potential."

They came back to Yemen on reaching the age of retirement in England, and now both receive an average of £310 a month as pension payment. They both have British passports.

"We would like to encourage our children to work or study in England, simply because there are no great job opportunities here in Yemen, but we do ultimately want our children to be with us."

Mr. & Mrs. R are now retired and

in 1972, as Mr. T will explain: "We arrived in England in 1972, spending over 20 years there. Originally we were in Liverpool, but we've lived in Manchester, Birmingham and London. Originally, we went to England to study then we later opened a shop." I asked Mr. T why they returned to Yemen? "Well we came to Yemen just for a holiday, and because we were born in Yemen, it is our home."

They have five children, two sons and three daughters all of whom now study in England.

They all speak, read and write English. I asked Mr. T whether they both used to buy English newspapers? "Yes, we used to buy the Daily Mirror, the Sun, the Liverpool Echo, etc." Mr. & Mrs. T have no hobbies as such, but on holidays they always come back to Yemen to see their families.

What do they like or dislike about England? "We like the friendly people, and we didn't have much trouble. What we don't like is the crime, but there is crime everywhere really." They both have British passports.

What about their offspring? "We encourage them to study in England as there are a lot more opportunities." They don't do

England. They also did some of their studies in Yemen.

Mr. & Mrs. D can speak English, but reading and writing are somewhat difficult for them. I asked them about their hobbies? "Well you could say our hobbies were working in the shop, we were all too busy for anything else."

I also asked them about holidays? "Well hardly ever, but we used to take our children to places like New Brighton or Southport, not regularly of course. I went to Yemen once for a holiday, but really it was for business."

Their likes and dislikes about England? "Well apart from the weather, we were always living in fear. It was the crime, violence and racism. We liked the fact that we had our own business and we had employment, and the civil society that we were living in. Yemen is different. For example, our village has no electricity, no running water, etc."

I asked whether they encouraged their children to go back to England? "I've never really encouraged them to go back, nobody likes to encourage their children to leave their family."

Their children are grown up and married. The daughter is in the village, while their two sons work. Mr. D receives a pension of



Mr. N in his newsagent shop, Rice Lane, Liverpool, UK

they do not work here in Yemen, they just enjoy their time with their families. Their children are grown up, they mostly live and work in England, they have taken over their parents' business, and their daughter is a secretary.

They concluded: "We prefer England to Yemen, but our families are here. So we can't really decide which is better."

**Mr. & Mrs. T**, went to England

much in Yemen now, they enjoy going around exploring different places and they like visiting their families. Their children enjoy spending time in a village near Rada'a, where their father was born.

Do they prefer England or Yemen? "Well, we like both, we have not decided on that yet."

Finally, I asked **Mr. & Mrs. D**. The father explains his story to us:

"I left Yemen in 1965 with my wife. We stayed in England from 1965 until 1981. I worked in a Sheffield steel factory, then lived in Warrington for a few years and moved to Manchester. I left all this hard work to open a shop in Liverpool in 1975.

"Our main reason for coming back to Yemen was to mainly bring up our kids here and to lead a Yemeni life. Also we all felt as Yemenis, we don't belong in England."

Mr. & Mrs. D have three children, one daughter and two sons, all were born and educated in

over £100 a month. Finally, I asked them both whether they prefer England or Yemen? "We prefer Yemen, but we wouldn't mind going back to England for holidays."

## Conclusion:

Lastly, I would like to thank all the families who took part in this mini-survey. So now, what can we conclude by reading these different stories? There will always be advantages and disadvantages concerning living both in Britain and Yemen.

However, ordinary Yemenis are no longer able to make their own way to England, like they used to three or four decades ago. Visa issuing is very restricted now that only senior businessmen, academics and well-off people or students are allowed into Britain. But still, some Yemenis desperately want to go to Britain since the grass always seems greener on the other side. Britain is not heaven, people have to really work hard to earn their living there. But is it worth it for Yemeni people to leave their homes and families just for a fist full of "Quids?"

By: Ms. Waffa Alawi Nasser



# The Word is Mightier than the Sword

Adel J. Moqbil,  
Yemen Times

"Nushou' wa Tatawur Al-Sahafa fi Adan" (the burgeoning and development of journalism in Aden), 1937-1967, is a new book by Abdulrahman Khobara (175 pages, published by Al-Amal for Printing and Publishing). Aden, with its special geographical position, social structure and cultural development, represents a focal point for all kinds of cultural and scientific endeavor. 'My satisfaction with this important book is not complete due to a very deep feeling that such a project remains incomplete if it does not cover all the country's geography and history,' wrote Saeed Awlaqi, the renowned Aden writer and journalist, in his introduction to the book. He goes further by suggesting that his 'friend and colleague' can write a second or even a third book to fully complete his 'very important project.'

**Moscow Thesis**  
*Al-Sahafa fi Adan* - part of an MA thesis submitted to the Moscow State University (Lomonosov) - consists of 12 chapters divided over two sections, in addition the appendices. It also relies on a number of reference books, a series of articles on this subject published by *Al-Thaqafa Al-Jadida* (modern culture) during 1984-85 in Aden, and direct personal interviews with some of the publishers and editors.

## Aden... the Lodestar

Before delving into the book's main topic, Abdulrahman Khobara gives a brief review of the city's modern history, its political, economic and social conditions and the population structure during the period covered by the book.

'Due to Aden's unique geographical position, the British sent their navy to occupy under a rather feeble excuse - the looting by the locals of a British ship. By the end of the 1940s, there were more than 60 British companies and trade agencies operating in the city,' wrote the author. Even before the British military hegemony, Aden was the home of several communities: Jews, Hindus, Somalis and Parsees, in addition to the indigenous Arab-Muslim community. With its increasing military and economic importance, Aden attracted people from different races and backgrounds. 'It was a truly cosmopolitan city, in which foreigners did not only live, but also enjoyed the privileges of nationality and other political and civil rights,' indicated Khobara.

## Early Beginnings

The first publication ever to appear in Yemen was *Sanaa* (1887), consisting of four pages printed in both Arabic and Turkish. It was no more than a gazette publishing new Ottoman decrees and communiqués. The first official newspaper to

appear during the Imamite period was *Al-Imam* (1926). It was printed in Sanaa right up to 1957, with a five-year stoppage due to the Second World War. The first independent newspaper, *Al-Hikma*, was established by Ahmed Abdulwahab Al-Warith in Sanaa, 1938. Other publications in northern Yemen, listed by the book, include the weekly *Al-Nasr* (Taiz, 1955), which was strongly pro-Imam. *Al-Tal'ia*, on the other hand, was originally a left-wing, anti-colonial Aden publication. Due to increasing restrictions by the British administration, its publisher Abdullah A. Ba-Dheeb had to move to Taiz in order to continue his work. The second part of Appendix C of *Al-Sahafa fi Adan* is devoted to

Manual type-setting was first introduced into Aden in the first decade of this century. It was in the mid-1930s that the modern automated printing presses were imported from India. One of the first private printing presses was owned by Ibrahim Rasim, which played a prominent role in publishing several of the early publications in Aden. These include *Fatat Al-Jazira*, *Al-Qalam Al-Adani*, *Al-Dikrah* and the northern *Sawt Al-Yemen*. The first Linotype printing press was imported in 1957 from Britain by the late Mohammed Ali Ba-Sharahil, the publisher of *Al-Raqeeb* and *Al-Ayyam* (still published by his twin sons). 'It was the first of its kind in the whole Arabian Peninsula.' The rapid growth in the literary movement in the former British colony led to a similar rise in the number of printing presses. The book lists more than 20 major printing presses and several minor ones.

## Mother of All Weeklies

Twelve newspapers and magazines were published during 1940-1956. First published and edited in January, 1940, by the lawyer Mohammed Ali Loqman, '*Fatat Al-Jazira* was the first weekly newspaper in Yemen.'

Six years later, *Sawt Al-Yemen* (voice of Yemen) was published in Aden by the Al-Ahrar Party - headed by Al-Zobairi and Noman. It was closed in 1948 following the failure of the uprising against the Imam. Another newspaper, printed in the south but devoted to northern issues, was the satirical *Al-Fudhoul* (published by Abdullah A. Noman, 1948-50).

Hadhrami journalism, both in Hadhramaut itself and abroad (Indonesia, Singapore, etc.) More than 15 periodical newspapers, magazines, and other publications are listed, some of which - especially the satirical ones - were published in the local Hadhrami dialect. The first such publication was the weekly *Al-Islah* - published by Mohammed Bin Aqeel Bin Yahya in Singapore, 1916.

The book is concluded with four extensive lists recording all the publications, along with their year of establishment and chief editors, in the Aden Colony (45), the Aden Eastern and Western Protectorates (2), the former Yemen Arab Republic (more than 40), and the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (about 20).

## 1st Publications Law

The first section of the book covers the period from 1940 to 1956. In 1939, the governor of Aden, Bernard Reighly issued a number of laws, rules and regulations to organize the colony's political, economic and social life.

The Publishing and Registration Law No. 27 was one such legislation. Accordingly, a 12-month renewable publishing license had to be obtained from Aden's chief judge. Matters did not end at that, however. 'A written permission had also to be given by the British governor of Aden, a thing usually left to his personal discretion.'

## Enter Automation

Other publications mentioned by the author include *Al-Nahdha* (1949), *Al-Shabab* (1949), *Al-Qalam Al-Adani* (1952), the *Chronicle* (in English, 1952), and *Akhbar Al-Janoub* (1953). '*Al-Janoub Al-Arabi* and *Al-Baath* (both appeared in 1954), can be considered the first wholly partisan newspapers' in the southern part of Yemen. The book follows with a technical, artistic and literary appraisal of these publications, along with samples of the published material.

## Women's Issues

Chapter 8 of *Al-Sahafa fi Adan* deals extensively with coverage of women's issue in the Yemeni press during the 1940s and '50s. 'Most of the publishers and editors of that period belonged to enlightened families. They studied abroad and were influenced by the social developments there.' They advocated many important reform issues, including women's.

Probably the first article on women appeared in issue 29 of *Fatat Al-Jazira* on July 24, 1940. It dealt with the serious social issue of early marriage. Another example cited by the book is an article on rural women that appeared in the *Al-Janoub Al-Arabi* issue 72 of October, 1949. Whole paragraphs were included within the text to give a flavor of the way journalists, writers, and social reformers saw things at that time.

## Turbulent Times

The second section of the book covers the period from 1956 to 1967 of Aden's history. 'With the city's rapid economic development as a free-trade zone and an important transit point, the people's demands - supported by the press - became more pronounced,' explained Khobara. With the completion of the Aden refinery, trade unions were formed in the early 1950s (25 such organizations were established during 1954-56). This

## About the Author



- Abdulrahman Khobara was born in Moodya, Abyan.
- Finished high school at Aden College.
- Received a diploma from the Teachers Training Center.
- Received an MA from Moscow State University.
- Worked as a teacher, head of the Supreme Council for Agricultural Information and as dean of the Media Institute in Aden.

- Became active in politics early in his youth, and occupied senior positions in the People's Democratic Union.
- Became the former PDRY's representative in the Executive Committee of International Journalists Association, Prague, former Czechoslovakia.
- Won the Golden Plume award from the German Journalists Union, in addition to several other local and international medals and awards.
- Writes regularly in Yemeni Arab publications.

period also witnessed a sharp rise in the public's political awareness, with the pan-Arab nationalist movement - led by President Jamal Abdunnasser of Egypt - reaching the zenith.

Towards the end of the 1950s, Aden workers went on 118 strikes, demanding shorter working hours, higher wages and more favorable social insurance. By 1962, there were 32 trade unions with a membership of 22,000 operating in Aden. More political parties, covering almost all of the political spectrum, were also formed. Civil strife culminated in the outbreak of 14 October 1963 Revolution against the British.

## Informative Appendices

The book also boasts three rather large appendices. The first appendix generously gives rich examples of essays and journalistic writings from that period (1937-1967) by such well-known and outstanding writers, journalists and poets as Mohammed Ali Loqman, Lutfi Jaafar Aman, Ali A. Ba-Dheeb.

Appendix B briefly lists the biographies of 16 of Aden's most famous political writers and journalists, in addition to listing the names of more than 30 others.

A full directory of Yemeni journalism during 100 years (1887-1987) is provided in Appendix C of the *Al-Sahafa fi Adan*. In this part of the book, Khobara deals with journals and publications issued in all of Yemen since the Ottoman occupation of the country.

## First Step

'Despite my effort and assistance by several of my colleagues, this book is just a first step towards a larger and more comprehensive research,' wrote the author in his prologue. He cites lack of specialized libraries, research centers, and some very important reference books as the main obstacles that hindered his work.

For Abdulrahman Khobara, choosing Aden did not come out of a vacuum. 'It was the cradle and shelter of the modern Yemeni political movement - from Saada to Al-Mahara,' he explains.

## Omar Ghabbah & the Satirical Monologue



Not a fully accomplished singer then, as was shown by his gramophone records, Ghabbah had to adopt a new singing style in order to find a distinguished position amongst the traditional master singers. Therefore, he tended to employ the popular style prevailing in the south of the Arabian Peninsula at that time, in addition to his famous satirical monologues.

Satirical monologues usually express criticism to society and authority. Omar Ghabbah, who presented satirical monologues, is considered to be one of the most famous professional singers in south Yemen and the Arabian Peninsula. He performed in almost all the old Yemeni singing styles. However, after Ghabbah had given up his job as a business broker in Aden, he took up music and singing as a profession. But he faced strong competition from his contemporaries, who were master artists of Yemeni classical singing.

It has to be mentioned that Ghabbah did not know that this types of art was called "monologue." He presented humorous songs which bore neither deep meaning nor addressed any issue. Some of these songs included "Marhaba Saidi" (welcome sir), "Ta'al Ya Sadiqi" (come on my friend - Indian Bitoros), "Ijlis Ya Akhi" (Somali Fariso Walal), and "Ta'al Ya Azizi" (come on dear). Thus, Omar Ghabbah unwittingly went into this new world of singing for the above-mentioned reasons. But later on, he proved his talent as a humorist since his jokes received an enthusiastic response from ordinary people, particular

females in Aden.

Many women used to laugh wholeheartedly and ululate at wedding ceremonies in which Ghabbah performed. Our artist used to inflame women's emotions by ululating himself and making his violin and its bow tremble. The women who were watching him through narrow openings from the roof in the gallery where he used to sing, thought that the bow trembling made that ululating sound.

As Ghabbah had many female fans and groupies, he was romantically associated with some of them. Women were highly impressed by Ghabbah's great sense of humor and wit, as he was the first artist to pay attention to the issues that concerned them.

Omar Ghabbah reacted and wrote monologues whenever he heard about a major event, social or political. For example, during his stay in Djibouti, Ghabbah witnessed a quarrel between some Somali and Djibouti people and thus wrote the following poem. "Oh Arabs and Somalis living in Djibouti, you do not have to make trouble. You are all brothers in this country." He was hinting that they should unite to face up to colonialism.

Also, Omar Ghabbah wrote and

composed a monologue about the hire-purchase sale which was introduced for the first time in Aden. He had a high opinion of this kind of sale as well as the artist Al-Qomandan who wrote a poem about it.

Mr. Hussain Al-Safi, the Director of Aden Radio at that time, mentioned that car imports at that time were exclusive to the Bazarara family in Aden. But when the Indian trader "Qahwaji" introduced hire-purchase sales into Aden, it caused immense damage to the Bazarara trade. Therefore, Ghabbah was deeply affected and wrote a monologue criticizing the Indian trader in support of Bazarara.

Omar Ghabbah also performed in the Gulf and some other Arab countries such as Syria where he and the artist Abdurab Takrir recorded their songs with the help of the Syrian artist, Nouri Al-Mallah. Also Ghabbah made various promotional tours to some African countries and in his last days, he was employed by Hussain Al-Safi in the Aden Radio Band as a violinist.

Ghabbah continued to sing and write monologues up until he died, in 1965, in Aden.

Saleh Abdulbaqi,  
Yemen Times Arts Editor



**Iran Vows to Avenge Murder**

Former Iranian President, Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, last Friday vowed to exact revenge for the murder of nine diplomats by the Taliban militia in Afghanistan as some 70,000 elite Iranian troops remained poised on the border between the two nations. Iran's state news agency Irna reported that its correspondent in the northern Afghanistan town of Mazar-i-Sharif, where the diplomats were killed, had also been murdered by the Taliban. The journalist disappeared along with the diplomats on August 8, when the militia captured Mazar-i-Sharif from the anti-Taliban opposition. Independent sources said last week, that Iranian military aircraft had landed within range of advancing Taliban forces at the airport in Bamiyan city, the last stronghold of the pro-Iranian Hezb-i-Wahdat group.

**New Jordanian Online Service: Baladna**

Arabia.On.Line and Global One are to introduce a joint online media, community and e-commerce service. Dubbed Baladna, the service will give Jordanians the opportunity to utilize a comprehensive virtual world on the Internet through a pioneering project covering all aspects of life. Initially aimed at Global One's subscriber base as a value-added service, Baladna is set to expand to as many Internet-savvy users in Jordan as possible since it covers the full gamut of media, community and e-commerce services. The result is a high-end media and community service that will keep users updated on news, entertainment, business, and much more. Baladna will provide news coverage and hourly updates on current affairs in Jordan and the

region. Through its Jordan Channel, Baladna will provide news as it happens without the usual delays of print media. A professional editorial staff backed by the know-how of the editorial department of Arabia.On.Line will infuse the service with a wide diversity of political, business, culture, and technology news about Jordan and the Middle East.

**Syria & Egypt To Lift Customs Barriers**

The Syrian - Egyptian joint high committee will meet in Damascus under the chairmanship of the two states' prime ministers before the end of the current year to discuss signing an agreement to establish a free trade zone between the two states. Economic sources in the Egyptian embassy in Damascus said the technical committees in the two states are discussing the framework of the agreement according to which the customs barriers will be reduced by 30% during the next five years. The sources added that the two states exchanged equal amounts of goods worth \$200 million each. The volume of the commercial exchange between the two states increased from 93 million Egyptian pounds in 1991 to 240 million in 1996.

**Flood Destroying Sudan**

Sudan revealed last week that more than 204,000 families have been displaced due to floods. Hussien Ebid, the general delegate of the Humanitarian Aid Commission, said during his meeting with ambassadors from Islamic and Arab countries in Khartoum that the floods have destroyed 119,000 houses, 95 schools and 60 health corporations, in addition to 3 million feaddans of agricultural lands. Ebid referred to the flooding of Tuti Island in Khartoum due to the flood of the Blue Nile that hit

at least 100 houses and schools and flooded farms. Moreover the floods have damaged parts of railways linking Khartoum with Port Sudan, the main harbor in the country. Sudan urged the international community for more aid to confront the catastrophe made by the floods in the eastern and northern parts of the country. Sudan confirmed the need for \$19.5 million for shelter, food, and health services for the victims of natural disasters.

**AL Regrets UN Resolution Against Iraq**

The Arab League (AL) expressed regret last week toward the adopted United Nations Security Council resolution stopping reviews of the sanctions against Iraq in response to Iraq's suspension of cooperation with UNSCOM and the International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors. The UN Security Council will not meet to review the sanctions against Iraq due to Iraq's lack of cooperation with UNSCOM. This means that the sanctions have no chance of being removed, until a review meeting takes place, which will not take place until Iraq cooperates with the UN, according to the resolution just passed. Iraq insists that it has complied with the UN mandates and that the inspection team efforts are politically motivated and aimed at crippling Iraq. The assistant secretary general for international and political affairs at the AL characterized the resolution as a negative development increasing tension in the region.

**India Rejects EU Plan for Fresh WTO Talks**

India has rejected a European Union call for a fresh round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to further liberalize trade. The 15 European

Union heads of state and government issued a statement in June calling for a "comprehensive new round of liberalizing negotiations" towards the end of 1999. While Japan backed the EU proposal, the United States is firmly opposed, arguing that it will slow the entire liberalization process. For its part, New Delhi argues that some countries calling for India to implement "broad-based" liberalization are not willing to allow "meaningful" market access to Indian textiles. India also complains about what it considers unfair anti-dumping duties imposed by some developed countries on its exports.

**Israel Seals West Bank & Gaza**

Israel sealed the West Bank and Gaza Strip on last Friday after Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians from the Palestinian Hamas movement. According to Israeli Radio, the two men are brothers, Imad and Adel Awadallah, and are allegedly members of Hamas military wing. Hamas responded to the killings with a vow to retaliate, saying Israel would "pay a dear price." The army said the two men were killed in a clash on last Thursday with its forces around the West Bank town of Al-Khalil. Israel has periodically sealed its borders with the West Bank and Gaza. The last closure was enforced during last April's celebration of Israel's 50th anniversary. The closures cause economic damage by disrupting trade and barring Palestinian workers from reaching jobs in Israel, as collective punishment.

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**Officers Freed to Boost Ethiopian Army**

Thirty-one high-ranking Ethiopian army officers imprisoned since the fall of Mengistu Haile Mariam's DERG regime in 1991 were freed recently. After inquiries that ran for seven years, the special prosecutor's office ordered their release due to lack of proof against them. The special prosecutor's office was to free more prisoners in the same category. Last Thursday the weekly Tobia reported that 34 former officers who had not yet faced trial would be freed to help with training in the armed forces. Last week at least five "high-ranking" DERG officers were released from prison. Since a border conflict erupted between Ethiopia and Eritrea on May 6, both countries have been boosting their forces by recalling former soldiers, officers and fighter pilots, African diplomatic

sources said. The two countries have been in a state of undeclared war for four months over a few pockets of barren territory in the north of Ethiopia.

**Bomb Blast Kills 18 at Jaffna's City Hall**

A huge bomb exploded at Jaffna city hall last Friday killing the mayor and the area's military and police commanders and 17 other military officials in the northern Sri Lankan city. The attack came just four months after the mayor's predecessor was assassinated. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but a Defense Ministry spokesman blamed the Tigers, who are fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils. Slain Mayor Ponnuthurai Sivapalan was trying to restore a civilian administration to Jaffna, which would undermine the Tigers' influence over the region's predominately Tamil population.

**Orbit Weekly Programs**

<p><b>America Plus</b></p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1530 Step by Step 1700 Beverly Hills 90210 2030 3rd Rock from the Sun</p> <p><i>It's a Man's World Tue 15th 2030</i> Steve, vexed at having to pay all the bills, lands Jamie a temp job at the convention center entering data on a computer. Amazingly, he makes friends with just about everybody at his new workplace &amp; finds a way to get his job done in record time. Men: The Rough Guide ...on America Plus!</p> <p>Tue, 15 September, 2030 It's a Man's World 2000 Profiler 2300 FX The Series:</p> <p>Wed, 16 September, 1300 Sunset Beach 1600 ER 2000 Pearl</p> <p>Thu, 17 September, 1830 Camp Wilder 2000 Friends 2030 Working</p> <p><i>Friends: Thu 17th 2000</i> The friends attend the opening night of an off-Broadway play starring Joey. Rachel brings a guy she just met as her date when she finds out Ross is bringing someone else. American plus...your best Friends channel.</p> <p>Fri, 18 September, 1700 Beverly Hills 90210 1900 Due South 2200 Beverly Hills 90210 Year 8</p> <p>Sat, 19 September, 1500 Hangin' with Mr Cooper 1900 Malibu Shores 2300 Babylon 5 2100 Family Matters</p> <p>Sun, 20 September, 1530 Step by Step 1900 Babylon 5 2030 Murphy Brown 2100 La Femme Nikita</p>	<p><b>Disney Channel</b></p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1515 Chip 'N Dale Rescue Rangers 1700 Aladdin 1800 Bill Nye the Science Guy</p> <p>Tue, 15 September, 1630 Darkwing Duck 1800 Bill Nye the Science Guy 1830 Flash Forward 1900 Boy Meets World</p> <p>Wed, 16 September, 1830 Student Bodies 2000 Movie - BRAT Patrol 2130 Home Improvement</p> <p>Thu, 17 September, 1430 Mickey Mouse &amp; Friends 1630 Gummi Bears 1930 Torkelsons 2000 Movie - Student Exchange</p> <p>Fri, 18 September, 1800 Brotherly Love 1900 Honey I Shrunk the Kids 2000 Movie - Ride A Wild Pony</p> <p>Sat, 19 September, 1700 Aladdin 1830 Brand Spanking New Doug 1900 Boy Meets World</p> <p>Sun, 20 September, 1450 Talespin 1605 Ducktales 1730 Gargoyles 1830 Flash Forward</p> <p><b>ESPN</b></p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1800 Women's Soccer USA Italy 2000 ESPN ews Day 2030 ESPN ews Day</p> <p>Tue, 15 September, 1800 Pro Beach Hockey 2030 ESPN ews Day 2100 Latin Football Weekly</p> <p>Wed, 16 September, 1800 Women's Soccer USA Brazil 2130 UEFA Champions Teams Tha Live 2330 UEFA Champions Teams Tha</p> <p>Thu, 17 September, 1730 FIVB Volleyball 1800 1998 National Rugby 7's 2030 ESPN ews Day</p>	<p><b>Hollywood</b></p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 0300 The Emmy Awards 1998 Live 1800 The Price is Right 1900 Jeopardy 1930 Wheel of Fortune</p> <p>Tue, 15 September, 2130 True Hollywood Stories: Natalie Wood p2 2230 Uncut: H. Locklear 2300 Model TV 97</p> <p>Tue, 16 September, 1330 Cooking Secrets of the CIA 1500 E! Gossip Show Daily 2300 Simply Red 2330 Late Show with David Letterman</p> <p>Thu, 17 September, 1700 Videofashion 2000 Pictionary 2030 Judge Judy</p> <p>Fri, 18 September, 1900 Jeopardy 1930 Wheel of Fortune 2000 Pictionary 2030 Judge Judy</p> <p>Sat, 19 September, 1730 Fashion TV 1800 The Price is Right 1900 Jeopardy 1930 Wheel of Fortune</p> <p>Sun, 20 September, 1400 E! News Daily 1430 Uncut 1500 E! Gossip Show Daily</p> <p><b>Music Now Channel</b></p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1200 Ultra Violet 1400 American Chart Show 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana</p> <p><i>360 Degree - Lenny Kravitz, Wed 16th 1100</i> Join 360o, a two-hour journey epanning the musical career of Lenny Kravitz, a legend in the making.</p>	<p>Tue, 15 September, 0400 Min Aghanim 1700 Dandana 9600 Mediterranean 2100 Awtar</p> <p>Wed, 16 September, 1100 *360* Degrees Lenny Kravitz 1300 R.s.v.p. 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana</p> <p>Thu, 17 September, 1500 Convwith/chainreaction#2 E-Extreme Close-up with Noel Gallagher (Oasis) 1700 Musabaqa 2100 Awtar 2300 Sahretna</p> <p>Fri, 18 September, 1600 *Sting Live At The Hollywood Bowl 1900 Mediterranean 2300 Sahretna</p> <p><i>*Sting - Live Fr. 18th 1600</i> Sting, the name associated with the person loved and admired around the world for his music &amp; his conscientiousness.</p> <p>Sat, 19 September, 1700 Dandana 1900 Mediterranean 2100 Awtar 2300 Musabaqa</p> <p>Sun, 20 September, 1400 Indimag 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana</p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1600 CBS This Morning 1800 ABC Good Morning America</p> <p>2000 NBC Dateline 2100 ABC 20/20 2100 ABC Nightline 2230 Wall Street Week</p> <p><b>Super Movies</b></p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1500 The War Of The Buttons-2L 1900 Only You - 2L 2030 E! Behind The Scenes 2100 Big Night - 3L</p> <p><i>Big Night- Mon. 14th</i> To the list of great 'food movies', we must now add Big Night; a sublime treat, beautifully prepared, wonderful to consume and leaving the most stasfying teste in the mouth. Primo &amp; Secondo are borthers, Italian immigrants running a restaurant in America. Only on American Plus.</p> <p>Tue, 15 September, 1900 Police Academ 347 y 3 - 2L 2030 Movies, Games &amp; Videos 2100 The Wanderers - 3VL</p> <p>Wed, 16 September, 1910 Larger Than Life - 1 2100 Dead Sleep - 3V</p>	<p>2000 NBC Dateline 2300 K2-The Ultimate High-3L</p> <p>Wed, 16 September, 1300 NBC The Today Show Live 1600 CBS This Morning 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2000 NBC Dateline</p> <p>Thu, 17 September, 1400 NBC The Today Show Live 1600 CBS This Morning 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2000 CBS : Public Eye w/B. Gumbel</p> <p>Fri, 18 September, 1600 CBS This Morning 1800 ABC Good Morning America 2000 ABC News Thursday Night 2100 CBS 48 Hours</p> <p>Sat, 19 September, 2000 NBC Dateline 2100 ABC 20/20 2200 ABC Nightline 2230 Wall Street Week</p> <p>Sun, 20 September, 1430 NBC Nightly News 1930 CBS Face the Nation 2000 NBC Meet the Press 2100 ABC This Week</p> <p><b>Orbit News</b></p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1200 Ultra Violet 1400 American Chart Show 1500 Cosmix 1700 Dandana</p> <p>Mon, 14 September, 1500 The Hunchback Of Nortre Dame - 2V 1700 Critters - 2VL 1830 E! Behind The Scenes 1900 Stand And Deliver - 2L</p> <p>Sun, 20 September, 1500 The Hunchback Of Nortre Dame - 2V 1700 Critters - 2VL 1830 E! Behind The Scenes 1900 Stand And Deliver - 2L</p> <p><i>*D.O.A. - Fri. 18th 2100</i> It's a great premise: a man with only twenty-four to live and a day to solve his own murder. On Super Movies</p> <p><b>CONNECT TO YOUR AUTHORIZED ORBIT DEALER:</b></p> <p><b>POLO</b></p> <p>Tel: (967) 1 273 992. 280 280 Fax: (967) 1 274 850 P. O. Box 11309 - Sana'a</p>
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## ILLITERACY: Latter-Day Plague

Sponsored by the Illiteracy Eradication and Adult Education Organization (IEAEO), a special ceremony was held in Sanaa to mark World Literacy Day (September 8). The event was attended by the Prime Minister, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, who stressed the need to intensify all efforts in order to eliminate illiteracy in Yemen. He also emphasized his government's commitment to provide all possible assistance to help implement the necessary plans and programs in this respect.

Ms. Fawziya Noman, chairwoman of IEAEO told Yemen Times: "Adult education is the means to raise the levels of creativity and productivity in this nation."

Ever since its establishment in 1990, the IEAEO has been dealing with illiteracy rates of



73% among females and 27% among males.

According to the 1994 population census, there are more than 5 million illiterate Yemenis.

"Some of the illiterate people were not fully incorporated in the program," says Mr. Mohammed Al-Midhwah of the IEAEO. "There are about 65,000 truants and 180,000 not included in the program every year." The IEAEO plans to open more literacy centers by the beginning of October to be able to cope with the increasing number of students, which number exceeds 45,000.

Mr. Al-Midhwah goes on to enumerate the problems facing his organization at the moment:

1- lack of funds which are really decreased every year, instead of being increased to allow more illiterate people to join up;

2- people employed are mainly primary school teachers, not qualified to teach adults;

3- curricula used are now old and in need of updating.

"A special committee is now working on authoring new books for adult education, taking into account the learning requirements for rural and urban men and women," explained Mr. Al-Midhwah. It is expected that new curriculum will be ready by the next academic year.

Ms. Fawziya Noman indicated that women are specially targeted by the program to eradicate illiteracy, in view of the high proportion of illiterate females in Yemeni society. "Our program does not include literacy classes only, but women are also taught various useful handicrafts to help them generate more income to support their families," announced Ms. Noman.

"Over a period of two years, illiterate adults are taught to read, write and do simple arithmetic," said Mr. Al-Midhwah. Added Ms. Noman, "unfortunately many women do not go the full learning courses due to their home and family demands." This is especially so in rural areas, where there not enough literacy centers and women have to do more work at home and on the farm, both Ms. Noman and Mr. Al-Midhwah agreed.

Ahlam Al-Mutawakil,  
Yemen Times



## First Festival for Yemeni Orphans

Organized by the Islah Charitable Society (ICS), the first festival for orphans was held during the period September 8-10. The event was attended by President Ali Abdullah Saleh; the Speaker of Parliament, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar; the Prime

Minister, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani; several ministers; members of the Consultative Council and representatives of some charitable societies in the Gulf countries and other states. The ICS supports many charitable activities and causes. One of them

is the support of orphans in Yemen. The "speech of the orphan" was followed by an emotion-rousing scene sketching the tragedy of orphans. It stirred the feelings of the audience. According to its Secretary-General, Dr. Hameed Zyad, the



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No. of Orphans in Need of Support

Governorate	Orphans No.
Capital	1126
Sanaa Gov.	186
Hodeidah	1178
Yafa	7
Aden	422
Taiz	1162
Ibb	797
Sayoun	188
Mukalla	167
Dhamar	117
Abyan	32
Radaa	35
Hajja	24
Jawf	20
Marib	12
Mahara	28
Saada	57
Lahaj	116
Shabwah	11
Jubaw	30
Mahwait	41
Amran	42

affiliated with any political party."

In his speech, President Saleh urged the government to establish special homes for orphans. He also said that the government sponsored 25,000 orphans in 1998 and will sponsor 25,000 in the rest of the year, indicating that the cost was YR 1 billion. He also expressed the readiness of the government to support all charitable societies in order to help the needy. President Saleh also said the presidency will sponsor 3,000 orphans, the government 3,000 and urged the commercial chambers to sponsor 5,000. Some people in the audience will also sponsor 4,000 orphans. The ICS also sponsored the communal wedding of 2,000 brides and bridegrooms in Taiz.

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

**OXFAM GB**

Oxfam (Great Britain) in Yemen  
-Sanaa Office-

### Vacancy for Two Programme Development Officers

Oxfam's programme in Yemen is being consolidated and expanded. As a result of a new programme orientation for the forthcoming three years, new field programme posts have been created to carry out the implementation of the new programme priorities. Oxfam is now seeking to fill the two Programme Development Officer posts.

Candidates are expected to work as part of a versatile team guided by the Yemen 1998-2001 country plan and within the framework of the Middle East & Maghreb regional plan.

They will have a proven strong development experience, knowledge of the country and commitment to gender equality. They will need to demonstrate considerable individual initiative and creativity, have good analytical abilities, good report writing and numeracy skills, high degree of interpersonal communications skills and proficiency in English and Arabic.

The posts are offered on a local salary scale with an additional benefits package.

Candidates are requested to submit a detailed CV to Oxfam's Sanaa office by **25 September 1998**. Only those candidates short-listed will be contacted for interview.

NB: All applications should be sealed and submitted to:

P. O. Box 1045, Sanaa  
Opposite the Saudi Arabian Embassy  
Al-Quds Street-Ring Road  
Tel: 01 242996  
Fax: 01 260320

## More Telephones in Aden



With a loan by the Government of Japan, work is now underway to expand and improve the Aden central telephone exchange. Improvements will extend to more than 50,000 telephone lines in the city and its outskirts. Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Time Aden Bureau Chief, conducted the following brief interview with Eng. Ahmed Mohammed Nasser, General Director of the Ministry of Communications Office in Aden.

Q: Could you tell us more about this project to expand the Aden telephone exchange?

A: Work on this project, funded by the Japanese government and implemented by an Indian company with the help of Yemeni

engineers and technicians, was started on May 27. It is planned that the project will be finished on March 3, 1999. There will be 50,000 telephone lines, which can be increased in the future, divided over the Maalla, Al-Mansoura, and Carter telephone exchanges.

The project cost is estimated at YR 3.7 billion. It will take care of a backlog of 27,232 telephone extension applications from 1979 to this year.

This is a vital project for Aden, Yemen's economic and business capital. It is an essential part of the Free Zone's infrastructure, and is expected to cover the communications needs of this zone for the next 10 years.

Q: What progress has been made so far in this project?

A: The project consists of three stages: internal works (instruments and equipment), external work (digging up ditches and laying down telephone cables), and the last stage which involves constructing special buildings to house the exchanges. About 80% of the work has been successfully completed.

Q: Are there any future plans for further expansions to the system?

A: Yes, there is the Dar Saad central telephone exchange at a cost of YR 24 million, and 3,000

lines will be expanded at a cost of YR 977 million.

Other projects include the Aden Free Zone telephone exchange, the glass-fiber cables for which have already been laid by Caltex. Yemen has also subscribed to the OXYGEN project at a cost of \$15 million.

Q: Will this project help reduce telephone bills?  
A: Yes, by 10%.

Q: What are the major difficulties faced by the Ministry of Communications Office in Aden?

A: The main difficulty is digging up ditches for telephone cables near people's houses, which were haphazardly built without planning permission.

### تهانينا الحارة

تم في الاسبوع الماضي زفاف العروسين الشابين فتحة سعيد الانبي وعبيد احمد فاضل البصير وقد سافرا للخارج لقضاء شهر العسل. فالف مبروك. المنهون: ام عبدالرحمن السقايف، ام منصور الاهدل، وام محمد الانبي، وام سعيد النافعي، وام عصام عبدالله، وام فتحي الانبي، اكرام ونجاح وكفاية الانبي، فتحة احمد سعيد، ريم ورشيدة وليندا ورويدا وغادة محسن ناجي العودي، وجميع اهل واصدقاء العروسين في صنعاء وتعر.

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تصميم وفوز لوني كمبروتر هاون ٤١٥٦١٧

## Whoever Runs in Fears

By Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Magaleh  
Translated by Dr. Mohammed Sharafuddin

He who seeks refuge in fears,  
The earth disappears,  
Civilization and Time cease.

Whoever runs in fears,  
He has no warmth, nor peace,  
As he walks,  
The road behind him writes:  
"Here goes the scared."

He who seeks shelter in the Sword,  
The beast flees,  
So do the bullets and men:

To him History bows and the Place.

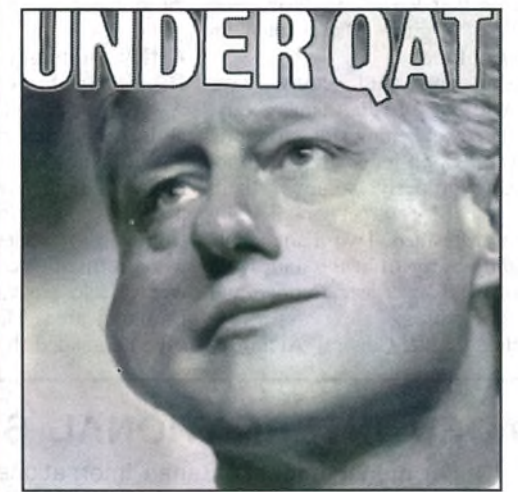
## QAT PLANTED IN US OF A Us Law Enforcement Busts First Ever Qat Plantation

Salinas, California (September 10, 1998 9:25 p.m.)

Police announced Thursday they had busted the first undercover US plantation devoted to "qat" - a bush whose leaves are a popular drug in the Horn of Africa and Arabian peninsula.

Lt. Dave Allard of the Monterey County Sheriff's Department said narcotics officers found about 100 qat plants, some as tall as 14 feet, on a small plot in Prunedale, about 75 miles south of San Francisco.

"State and Federal authorities believe this is the first outdoor cultivation of qat in the United States," Allard said.



Raw qat leaves, which are chewed or brewed as a kind of tea, contains a natural amphetamine called cathinone - which is federally listed as a restricted drug in a similar category as heroin and cocaine.

Police have identified one suspect, but had so far made no arrests, Allard said. "Investigators continue to follow up leads in this case."

One item which stumped the police was the possible street value of the qat, which is almost unknown in the United States.

In Yemen, however, where qat is extremely popular, anti-qat campaigners say the mild drug accounts for about 33% of agricultural production and represents 9.3% of gross national product. Yemeni families spend more than 63% of their income on qat, official government figures show.

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النفطية

معرض الأثاث والأجهزة المنزلية  
صنعاء، شارع مجاهد، تليفون: ٢٦٩٨٠٨



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Adel J. Moqbil



**RAY: Sanaa weekly, 8-9-98.**  
(League of Sons of Yemen - Rabita)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Bomb explosions rock 5 governorates: Sanaa, Aden, Dhamar, Abyan, and Dhali'. Stringent security measures are taken.
- 2- Yemen-Saudi committee demarcating sea borders held closed sessions. Compensations to the families of the 3 Yemeni soldiers killed during the Saudi attack on the Island of Dowaima were probably discussed.
- 3- Main clauses of Local Authority Law have been endorsed by the committee entrusted with formulating it.
- 4- A number of Iraqis living in Yemen have been arrested for forging Yemeni passports.
- 5- Draft laws regulating public demonstrations, carrying firearms, and local authority were struck off parliament's agenda for this term.
- 6- Lightning struck 2 houses in Abyan, killed 7 people and injured 2.

### Article Summary: Mareb Dam in Danger

Funded by Sheikh Zayed of the UAE, the Mareb Dam was inaugurated in December, 1986. More than 40 million cubic meters of silt has accumulated in the lake behind the dam over the last few years, according to experts' estimates. This poses a real danger to the structure of the dam. As the bottom of the lake rises, water level and hence pressure increase on the upper, thinner part of the dam wall. This was probably the reason that led to the destruction of the original Mareb dam in ancient times.

Weeds and wild shrubs have grown out of the dam's body, further weakening its structure. Several flood gates are not functioning properly, some of them are used for target practice by local tribesmen. Two main canals leading away from the dam were destroyed by flash floods, and never repaired.

Although the General Authority

for the Development of Eastern Regions received a \$3 million loan from the World Bank to address flood damages, nothing has been done to repair the damage sustained by the Mareb Dam.



**AL-UMMA: Sanaa weekly, 10-9-98.**  
(Al-Haqq Party)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Al-Haqq Party Secretary General, Ahmed Al-Shami resigns his post as Minister of Religious Guidance and Endowments in protest over the "unserious reform measures."
- 2- Opposition Coordination Council condemns the government's abandonment of the original draft law of local authority in favor of far less decentralization.

3- Courses at summer training and education centers for youths, run by Al-Haqq Party in Saada, were concluded with the a ceremony attended by several religious scholars and local sheikhs.

4- Educators send a letter to the President, complaining of gross injustices by an influential group at the Ministry of Education, which unfairly dismissed several of their colleagues.

5- Following 3 bomb explosions in Aden, 40 suspects were arrested.

6- Police fire live ammunition to disperse a demonstration by more than 150 Somali families in front of the UNHCR office in Aden. They demanded financial allowances and ration coupons for the last 3 months. One man was hit in the stomach.

### Article Summary: Oil Pipeline Punctured

A group of armed men had fired at the oil pipeline passing through Al-Zawr area, 22km from Mareb. Fire was raging in the damaged part of the pipe. Hunt Oil Company engineers, however, were refused access when they went to close a valve in the Al-Dammajj area. The Al-Dammajj tribe demanded that the company

should pay them rent for the piece of land where the valve is situated, in addition to regular monthly salaries.

A military contingent was sent to the area. After much negotiation, it was agreed to increase the rent, in return of the Al-Dammajj's promise to protect the pipeline.



**AL-JAMHEER: Sanaa weekly, 10-9-98.**  
(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Minister of Religious Guidance and Endowments - the only minister from an opposition party in a PGC-dominated government - resigns, because of the interference of influential people in the affairs of his ministry.
- 2- In a quid-pro-quo measure, the Yemeni authorities prevent Saudi trucks from entering Yemen. They have to unload at the border, and their cargo delivered into Yemen by Yemeni trucks.

3- Complaints rise of prevalent corruption in the judicial system.

4- Ba'ath Party Secretary General and Chairman of Parliament's Presidium returns to Yemen following a conference of Arab parliamentarians in Mauritania.

5- Light and medium firearms were used in tribal clashes in Harib, Mareb, over the delineation of the border between tribal areas.

### Article Summary: Robbery on the Highway

A group of armed bandits intercepted on Sunday, August 30, a car belonging to the Internal Trade Company. The incident took place in the Nojaiba area, Taiz, on the Taiz-Hodeida road. The gang fired a hail of bullets, stopped the car and stole a huge sum of money, estimated at several million riyals.

The driver, Nabeel Abdulkheq Suleiman, was arrested by the police and is still in detention; while, the real perpetrators are still at large. Similar other incidents have taken place in this area, which lies between Haiss and Al-Mokha junction.



**AL-SAHWA: Sanaa weekly, 10-9-98.**  
[Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah)]

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Islah's Supreme Committee sets October 6 as the date for holding the Islah's 2nd general conference.
- 2- Islah Secretary General, Mohammed Al-Yadoumi, attends the People's Conference to Defend Al-Quds (Jerusalem) in Amman, Jordan.

3- With the attendance of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Islah Charitable Society holds the 1st festival for Yemeni orphans.

4- A severe water-shortage crisis in Saada has culminated in a total stoppage of water supplies, because of a strike by the Saada water authority employees. They

are demanding their wages for the last 3 months.

5- Flood damages in Yafi' are estimated at YR 174 million.

6- Two Taiz men received 80 lashes each for drinking alcohol

### Article Summary: Agricultural Tender

The complicated case of the tender to supply the Agricultural Bank of Borrowing 250 irrigation units has now entered a new phase. Parliament had in its last term ordered the relevant organs to implement Decision No. 33 of 1997 to award the deal to the French [Junidere] company and its local agent, Abu Al-Rijal Establishment. But the matter did not end there in the this very controversial business deal.

Nevertheless, the authority concerned with the deal has recently decided to allow new tenders to be submitted, enraging both parliament and the French company. The government indicated that parliament can only recommend, not order, something to be implemented.



**26 SEPTEMBER: Sanaa weekly, 10-9-98.**  
(Yemen Armed Forces)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- In his visit to the College of Dentistry, University of Science and Technology, the President emphasizes state support for the establishment of private colleges.
- 2- The President inaugurated Daar Al-Ahmer for Female Training, which is part of the Islah Charitable Society.

3- In an audience with the new World Bank resident representative, the President commends this international organization's contribution toward reform and development in Yemen.

4- Yemeni and Djibouti Ministers of Transport held the 1st working session to develop mutual cooperation.

5- Vice President discusses the consolidation of Yemeni-Russian ties with the Russian ambassador to Yemen.

6- Council of Ministers ratified the National Strategy for Girls Education.

7- Deputy Chief of Staff inaugurates the Army Engineers School.

### Article Summary: Embezzlement Cases Uncovered

Acting upon directives by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Central Organization for Control and Audit (COCA) has been strongly supported as an impartial organ with serious tasks and responsibilities. During the first half of 1998, COCA had uncovered many cases of misappropriation of public funds.

A total of 59 cases, with funds involved amounting to more than \$589,000, were referred by COCA to the Public Funds Prosecutor Office. The cases were discovered in a number of administrative units in Sanaa and other governorates.



**AL-WAHDAWI: Sanaa weekly, 8-9-98.**  
(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

### Main Headlines:

1- US administration puts Yemen under military surveillance,

2- Nasserite organization in Abyan held its organizational congress in preparation for the upcoming 9th National General Conference.

3- Opposition parties call on MPs to strongly reject the new version of the Local Authority Law.

4- Eritrean authorities refuse to disclose the fate of more than 60 Yemen fishermen who were caught by the Eritrean navy in Yemen's territorial waters 4 week ago, and had their boats confiscated. It is rumored that 2 Yemeni navy officers are also held by Eritrea.

5- A 5th "dose" of reform is expected late in September.

6- Iraq warns against the tightening of economic sanctions.

### Article Summary: Fighting Terrorism

The Yemeni authorities have deported many Arab and foreign nationals, under the pretext of being involved with extremist Islamic groups active against US interests in the region. In spite of that, informed Western diplomatic sources have indicated that Bin Laaden still a large number of followers and supporters in Yemen.

It has also been known that the US Embassy in Sanaa almost regularly receives threat by telephone and fax. Security has been greatly stepped up in and around the embassy compound. A US Marines contingent is expected to arrive soon.

Representatives of security forces are currently "negotiating" with a number of well-known extremists to close their camps in return for private pieces of land and other privileges.



**AL-USBOU: Sanaa weekly, 10-9-98.**  
[Independent (Issue No. 0)]

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemen is to increase daily oil production by 35,000 bpd. The rise will come from the Janna oil field, Shabwa.
- 2- Engineers are still trying to repair an oil pipeline (12th damage of its kind) punctured by Mareb tribes to draw attention to their demands for better public services. The Yemen Hunt Oil Company has not stopped oil pumping, complicating the repair procedures.

3- Sudanese Ambassador to Yemen: "The US wants to bury the truth in the pharmaceutical factory's rubble."

4- A Saudi newspaper attacks Deputy Foreign Minister for siding with Iraq, and accusing the Saudi sponsored Islamic Congress Organization of not helping that beleaguered country.

5- Yemeni Socialist Party suggests the establishment of a national council composed of people with various political affiliations to run the state-owned media and ensure their impartiality.

### Article Summary:

**Abu Nidhal Strikes in Yemen?!**  
A Jordanian man of Palestinian origin, accused of stabbing to death the Egyptian speaker of the Al-Hussaini mosque in Sanaa, has claimed that he was ordered to do so by the Fat'h Revolutionary Council - the Abu Nidhal faction.

Jamal Hamdan, who holds 3 dif-

ferent passports and murdered Sheikh Mohammed Salah, appeared before the South-West Sanaa court last week. He was caught, immediately after committing the crime, by people who rushed to scene, urged on by shouts of help by the deceased man's family.

Unconfirmed diplomatic reports have indicated that Abu Nidhal was caught by the Egyptian intelligence service, which succeeded in infiltrating his group.



**AL-TARIQ: Aden weekly, 8-9-98.**  
(Independent)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Yemen buys \$500 million worth of Su-27 bombers from Russia. The deal also includes training of Yemeni pilots and supply of spare parts. Yemen will become the first country in the Middle East to receive these advanced war planes.
- 2- US administration is to establish anti-terrorism organ in Yemen, providing financial and technical support to Yemeni cadres.

3- One man died and 11 injured in a bomb blast in Shabwa.

4- Bakers in Aden threaten to strike in protest over the sharp decrease in flour supplied by the state-owned Internal Trade Company.

### Article Summary: Stolen Car Found

People in the Osailan Directorate, Ataq, were able to retrieve a car belonging to the manger of the Agricultural Bank of Borrowing branch in the governorate. The car was stolen by a group of unknown bandits on Thursday, September 3, on the Ataq-Markha road.

The bank manger and a journalist passenger were intercepted by the 4-man gang in a mountainous region. The assailants jumped from their car firing a fusillade of bullets from sub-machine guns, trying to kill the driver and his companion. The letter escaped unharmed and hid behind large boulders, while 2 of the highwaymen drove away in their car. Despite reporting the incident to the police, not much progress was made. It was left to the local citizens to form a posse to chase the perpetrators. The car was later found abandoned on a dirt road with all of the travelers' possessions missing.



**AL-AYYAM: Aden biweekly, 13-9-98.**  
(Independent)

### Main Headlines:

- 1- Independent MPs criticize the Central Organization of Control and Audit for not carrying out its tasks properly.
- 2- In a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh, exiled opposition leader Abdulrahman Al-Jifri indicates that the present Yemeni leadership 'has wasted an historic opportunity to bring about national reconciliation.'

3- MPs' armed bodyguards are now prohibited from entering the parliament's compound.

4- More than 60 Yemeni fishing boats are held by Ethiopian authorities.

5- Kuwait is to organize an Arab symposium on relations with Yemen.

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## The Volunteer Ishida: Deeds not Words

The Japanese volunteer Ishida is the wife of the Japanese ambassador in Sanaa. She has a distinct role in arranging cultural and sports activities among the Yemeni young people. She is an example of the fruitful cooperation between Yemen and Japan. All these things made me pay a visit to the Yemen Japan Friendship Association on (YJFA) in order

to see and talk to this woman. As I arrived, I saw her teaching Japanese to some Yemeni guys. When I asked her to talk about herself, she said: "I began teaching Japanese to Yemeni people as a volunteer before 2 years. We had enough support to open a class inside the YJFA. Later, we began to arrange for some sports activities. For example, we arrange football, basketball and volleyball matches between Yemeni teams and foreign societies in Yemen. In 1996, during the cruise of the Japanese Ship for World Young People (JSFWYP), a sports activity which Japan arranges

every year, a large number of Yemen young people participated. They knew a lot about the traditions and customs of several countries. Indeed, Yemen is a very nice and traditional country. Yemeni young people have good abilities but they need support. The Japanese Government will sponsor the building of an indoor sports hall in Yemen. In addition, we offer you some scholarships. I hope that the Japanese language class in Sanaa will be a whole special institute. This will, in my opinion, contribute to developing the relations between Yemen and Japan."



### Al-Wahda of Sanaa Begins Training

After returning from Bahrain, Al-Wahda of Sanaa team began a training camp inside the Youth's House in Sanaa last Thursday. The team will face the Al-Refa'a team of Bahrain next Friday. The match is included in the Asia's 2nd Championship for Cup Winners.

### Yemen in the Arab School Sport Tournament in Morocco

With 10 other Arab countries, Yemen will participate in the Schools 12th Sport Course in Morocco. The 11 participant countries are divided into 3 groups:

- Group 1: Morocco, Yemen, Algeria, Lebanon.
  - Group 2: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Libya.
  - Group 3: Tunisia, UAE, Egypt.
- Yemen will participate in 4 events; football, basketball, volleyball, athletics.

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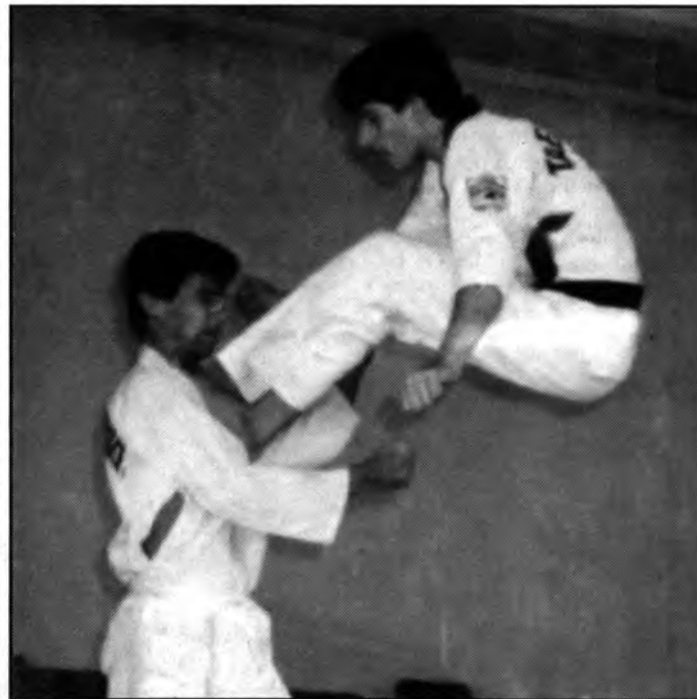
P.O. Box 3423, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Or fax to 00-971-2-655220 to the attention of Mr. SALEM B. AL KATHIRI before 27.09.1998

## Republic's Taekwondo Championship Launched

Started last Thursday at the indoor sports hall in Sanaa, the fourth Republic's Taekwondo Championship for clubs and juniors. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Hamood Obad, the Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports and Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi, the Chairman of the Yemeni Olympic Committee and various sports officials.

Mr. Mowfaq Munasser, the Chairman of the Yemeni Taekwondo Association (YTA) told Yemen Times; "Nine clubs representing nine governorates are participating in the clubs' championship for seniors and seven junior teams are participating in the Yemeni cities juniors championship. The two championships will be held according to the International Taekwondo Association regulations. The YTA aims to activate and develop the Taekwondo sport in many Yemeni governorates.



## IOS Sponsors a Training Camp for 3 Yemeni Athletes

The International Olympic Solidarity (IOS) agrees to sponsor a 3-month training camp for 3 Yemeni athletes who are supposed to participate in the Sydney Olympics in 2000. The Yemeni Olympic Committee proposes the participation of three Yemeni athletes who won gold, silver and bronze medals in Arab and international championships:

1. Wadah Abdulaziz: got the gold medal in Western Asia Championship for Taekwondo held in Iran in 1997.
2. Abdulrahman Abdulaziz: got the gold medal in athletics during the 10 km race in the Arab 8th Championship held in Syria in 1998, and the silver medal in the cross-country race in Taiwan.
3. Abdullah Al-Azani: won the silver medal for wrestling during the Arab 8th championship held in Lebanon in 1998. The IOS has sponsored many course in qualifying referees and



Abdullah Al-Azani



Abdulrahman Abdulaziz

coaches for Yemen. Recently, the IOS sponsored a course for football coaches. The course was open last week at the Yemeni Olympic Center in Sanaa.

### Ahli, of Sanaa, Trains in Iraq

Ahli football team of Sanaa left for Baghdad last Thursday to start training in preparation for the match against Al-Talabah team of Iraq which comes within the Asian qualifying matches for the Cup Winner clubs. The Ahli team is expected to participate in some preparatory matches in Baghdad and, hopefully, achieve a good result in the match against Al-Talabah team.

It should be mentioned that Ahli of Sanaa drew with Al-Talabah team in the match held, in Sanaa, earlier this month. The next match between the two teams will be 18th September 1998. Ahli of Sanaa has chosen



Baghdad to train in order to acclimatize with the Iraqi weather.

### Ahli of Taiz Honors Abdulrahman

Last Thursday, at the headquarters of Ahli Chess Club, Taiz, a ceremony was held to honor those competitors who won the international and local championships. The first to be honored was Abdulrahman Abdulaziz, who won the gold medal at the Arab championship, held two weeks ago in Syria. The Ahli team won second position in the Republic's cham-

pionship - an extremely good result.

### Launching the International Football Training Course

Last Wednesday, the International Training Course for Football Coaches commenced at the Yemeni Olympic Center in Sanaa. The international Egyptian professional, Dr. Hesham Montasar, delivered lectures

during this course. In a talk to the Yemen Times, Husain Awadhi, the secretary general of the Olympic Committee, says: "This course comes after the disappointing results of our team in Qatar during the Asia Football Tournament for Football. Our aims are to better qualify the Yemeni coaches and to suggest solutions to improve the sports situation in Yemen. Thirty coaches from all over Yemen participated in this course. The IOS plans to arrange similar courses until the year 2000."

## Yemen Hosts International Junior Asian Basketball Championships

Mr. Al-Khader Al-Azzani, a member of Parliament and Chairman of the Yemeni Basketball Association (YBA) told Yemen Times; "Yemen will host the Asian championship for juniors after Yemen's request for hosting this championship was accepted by the Asian Basketball Association.

Mr. Al-Azzani called upon the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Yemeni Olympic Committee to cooperate with YBA to support the championship in order to reflect a better image of Yemen among the participating teams. The Asian Basketball Association will pay for the airplane tickets of the Asian and Arab teams. The YBA just has to find accommodation for the teams and determine the fields at which the matches will be held. The matches will

most probably be held at the indoor hall in Aden.

Mr. Al-Azzani added that the YBA is in great need of sponsorship by Yemeni businessmen because this championship is the

first of its kind in Yemen. "We urge the commercial sector to finance such activities which bring together many international teams who are introduced to the culture and traditions of Yemen."





# WATER... WATER!!

ologists date these cistern back to the first century AD during the reign of the Himyarite dynasty, as indicated by the Yemeni historian Hamza Loqman in his book "The History of Aden and Southern Arabia." The majority of these structures were carved out of solid rock. They were dug into a sloping site, and connected to one another by means of canals running

said, could hold up to 10 million gallons. However, Mr. Slott - an intrepid English traveler - visited Aden in 1809. He saw then some of their remains, indicating that three of them were 80 feet wide. They are lined by thin, crystal-like marble,' he wrote.

### Colonialists to the Rescue

The infamous Captain Haines, while sailing through the Gulf of Aden in 1835 (four years before actually invading Aden), noticed that there were similar cisterns in other parts of the region such as Husn Al-Ghurab and Al-Amadia. They are still suitable for storing water, he wrote in his log book. The British colonial forces, however, neglected those other cisterns, and concentrated on the Taweela ones. Renovation work on the latter was begun in 1856.

### More Water Needed

The Aden Cisterns were not all constructed during the same period of time. More were dug with the population growth and expansion of the city. So it is not possible to attribute the credit of constructing the cisterns to a particular era or to one ruling dynasty. Some British civil engineers date the cisterns back to pre-Islamic times. This hypothesis is supported by the Russian scientist Serge St-

rinsky and the Pakistani engineer Mian Abdulmajid. However, there is very little historic evidence as to the exact time and method of building the Aden Cisterns. Above Burkat Anbar, there are three stone cisterns known collectively as the Sab'a Duroub (seven roads). They were constructed during the rule of Prince Abu Othman Bin Ali Al-Zanjabili, who ruled Aden on behalf of Bani Ayyub.

### What Others Said

The famous Arab traveler Ibn Batouta visited Aden and described its social and economic conditions. He made a fleeting mention of the cisterns and their use for water storage. During the Egyptian occupation of the region in 1538, it was noted that Aden had no other source of water but its famous cisterns. Prince Ahmed Bin Fadhl Al-Abdali mentioned in a book these cisterns: 'Aden is very unique. Its cisterns are one of the most exquisite engineering works in the world. They can hold 80 million gallons of water. Their date of construction is unknown, some historians say they go back to the fifth century AD. They were buried, but discovered by the British in 1272 After Hijra.'

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,  
Yemen Times, Aden



The essence of the ancient Yemeni civilization was elaborate dam and cistern building. By harnessing rain water and flash floods through clever networks of cisterns and canals, the

along the valley.

At the top of the valley, a dam was built to prevent rocks and silt from going into the cisterns and blocking the canals. The lake behind the dam is known as Burkat (pool) Anbar.

The first of this series of cisterns is known as Abu Silsila. It has a staircase leading into it, and decorated columns

adorning its rim. A gypsum lining runs around the cistern's inner rim. It has miraculously survived the beating of nature's elements.

### Playfair Discovery

It was widely considered that Captain Playfair, Assistant Political Resident was the first person to discover the Taweela Cisterns in 1845. He indicated that there were 50 cisterns, which could hold 30 million gallons of water. The largest of these cisterns, he

ancient Himyarites were able to establish a brilliant civilization - without relying on perennial rivers like their contemporaries in Egypt and Mesopotamia.

### Himyarite Marvel

The Taweela Cisterns in Aden are such a network. This impressive group of 18 cisterns with a total capacity of 20 million gallons of water is situated in the district of Crater, in the middle of the Taweela Valley. Arche-



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