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YEMEN TIMES

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Corruption Eats Away into Our Infrastructure!

What Capital Accumulation?

Economists call it capital accumulation. It is supposed to be the essence of growth. It refers to society's investment in infrastructure - both physical and human. It is the basic groundwork for any productive activity. That is why most nations - developed as well as developing, invest heavily in capital accumulation. In Yemen, the process of infrastructure building and human resource development has been a priority. The government has been spending an average of 30-40% of its annual budget on capital accumulation. Yet, there isn't much accumulation in the true sense. Part of the reason is that corruption has allowed sub-standard execution. What this means is that most of the construction work, for example, is not of good quality. The supervisory authority allows this because of kick-backs and bribes it receives. Let us take a case, which is fast becoming classic - road construction.

The world average life-span of roads is about twenty years. With proper maintenance, well-constructed roads can last for a long time. Unfortunately, this is not the case in Yemen. Yemen spends annually about YR 15-20 billion on road construction - both in cities and between cities. What one readily observes is that the life-span of roads in Yemen is much shorter than the world average. Roads lasted for an average of 8-10 years in the past. But that problem has been exacerbated in the recent past. Recently, the life-span of our roads has been falling steadily. In some cases, they fall into disrepair even before they are formally handed over by the contractor. This situation is both ridiculous and alarming. For those people who may think this is an exaggerated sentence, all they have to do is to go on the Khushm-Hajjah or Houth-Amran or Nadirah-Ibb highways. Within



cities, there is plenty of evidence in Taiz, Sanaa, Hodeidah, Aden. This is not a political issue. Therefore, our rulers should not take the criticism with any sensitivity. It is a straight case of inefficiency, carelessness and, of course, corruption.

Will the nation get an equally straight answer? Yemen Times will interview the officials in charge of the Highway Authority and the Ministry of Housing and Construction. See you next week.

Yemen and Jordan Sign Cooperation Agreements

Today, October 26th, Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, and Jordanian Prime Minister, Dr. Fayiz Al-Terawna, concluded their meetings of the Supreme Joint Ministerial Committee in Amman. The annual meetings are held alternately in Sanaa and Amman.

The two countries signed 12 agreements aimed at expanding cooperation in technical and vocational education, electricity, industry, trade, health, etc. Yemen and Jordan enjoy excellent political relations, but economic exchange is limited.

The Short-Lived Glory: Fiscal & Monetary Crash

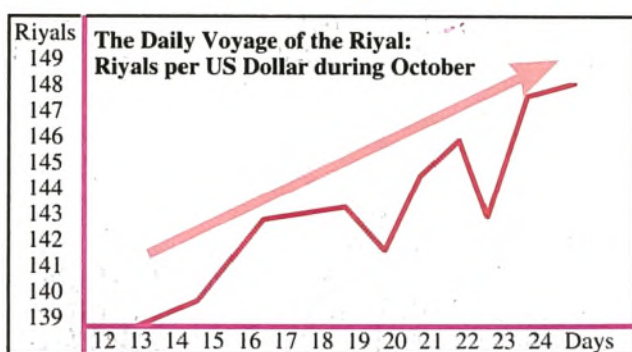
The main showcase of the ongoing economic and administrative reforms has been the success achieved in fiscal and monetary policies. Now, even that is in doubt.

The IMF/World Bank supported reform program looks good on paper. But the point which has been repeatedly made is that the system in which such a program is supposed to work is not a good one.

The basic requirement for the success of any reform program is good governance, which we presently don't have in Yemen. Hence, the hundreds of millions of dollars poured in by multi-lateral and bilateral donors, is a misuse of funds. In addition, it leaves us saddled with a new debt burden, however good the terms.

Correcting the government budget deficit was a major objective of the reforms. It was even shown to work, albeit with lots of subsidy to the state. But look at the situation this year.

The budget deficit, so far, is fast approaching the YR 100 billion mark - a solid 13% of



GDP. By year end, it could reach a troubling 20%. The problem is simple. The main point of any good fiscal policy is better management of expenditures, and better collection of revenues. In both cases in Yemen, the people who are supposed to do the job are the culprits. The people who mismanage our public expenditures are those same people who avoid paying taxes - the influential people who run the country directly or indirectly. Another part of the reform showcase has been the steady decline of the exchange rate. The US dollar-Riyal rate remained within the YR 130-138 for a long time. That is

because the Central Bank of Yemen has had the foreign exchange resources to intervene to keep it there. Now that the CBY has less FX resources, the riyal has started a downhill tumble. It seems to lose a riyal a day. The market exchange rate stands today YR 148 per US dollar, in spite of angry warnings from our ruling politicians, and lots of maneuvering by technocrats. The fall continues. If we want real reforms, the nation has to go back to basics - good governance. Unless the reforms achieve that, forget about everything else.

By: Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor, Sanaa University

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Hard Times for Educated Yemenis

Last week, the Yemen Times announced it had six vacancies. The reaction was quite telling. I want to use such reaction to shed light on what happened.

1. Immediate Response:

Within the first 24 hours, the Yemen Times received about thirty applications. Two days later, the number had reached 41 persons, and by the time I was writing this editorial - four days later, there were over a hundred applications from Sanaa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb and Mukalla.

To us at the Yemen Times, this was good news. It was one more proof to show the immediate and extensive outreach of the paper. It showed we had readers waiting for the YT to come out. It pointed to the power of the message and the out-reach of the paper.

2. Flooding Supply:

The response also shows the pool of manpower that is sitting idle. The majority of the applicants are in their 20s, and quite a few had never worked before. These young people are mostly university graduates who are looking for any kind of work for reasonable pay.

It was frustrating to send back all those young men and women, because we could only take six of them. They all deserve a chance, but the paper can only take six. I could understand the feeling of those young men and women as they anxiously waited for a decision. Those who could not make it have the right to feel bad because they have done their end of the deal - went to school and succeeded. Now they want society to give them an opportunity, which isn't there.

I blame the economic stagnation for this unemployment problem. But stagnation is really the result rather than the cause. It is the result of stupid policies by the authorities. Let us look at examples:

a. Insecurity:

One of the major hurdles to new investments and activities is the lack of adequate security. When we talk about an environment conducive to business, the basic requirement is law and order. That is not available in Yemen.

b. Corruption:

Many investors will tell you that something like a third of any project cost is really bribes, primarily to complete meaningless paperwork. The government bureaucracy increases the cost of doing business in this country. In addition, many projects require patrons who will fend off parasites - the same service offered by the mafia groups in other places.

c. Moody Decisions:

Our officials keep changing the laws. They change the directives even more often. This means that an investor cannot really count on an existing structure of rights and obligations, because these can change, and they do.

Let me go back to the jobless young Yemenis. These people are going to fight back against society and the system if their needs are not met. And what they are asking is not impossible. They want a job so that they can interact positively with society. If we do not find jobs for them, they are surely going to turn against us. Be ware!

The Publisher
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CC on Manpower Needs

The Consultative Council will start hearings next week on the structure, demand and supply of manpower in the Republic of Yemen. Several specialists and relevant officials will be invited to brief the Council on their professional views.

UK MP to Inaugurate the YWBA

UK Member of Parliament, Ms. Christine McCafferty, will arrive in Yemen next month. She will use the occasion to formally inaugurate the Yemeni Women's Business Association, which is a UK-supported NGO. The MP will also meet with Yemeni MPs, opinion makers and government officials.

Prince Claus and Minister Herfkens Arrive Here

His Highness Prince Claus and Her Excellency Ms. Eveline Herfkens, Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation, arrive today on a private royal jet at the head of a large official and media delegation. The Dutch delegation will tour several parts of the country.

Yemen and the Netherlands will also celebrate the 20th anniversary of the launch of their bilateral cooperation program.

Senior UNFPA to Arrive in Sanaa Shortly

Ms. Kerstin Trone, Assistant UN Secretary-General and Deputy Director of the UNFPA, will arrive in Sanaa on October 31st, 1998. For four days, she will be travelling around the country meeting with officials, NGOs, opinion makers and the general public.

Mr. Som Pudasaini, UNFPA Representative, indicated that the organization's growing interest in Yemen reflects an existing need and a responsive government policy. The Yemeni population presently grows at a staggering rate of 3.7% annually.

N. Ireland Trade Delegation Gets Feel for Yemen Market

Seven Northern Ireland companies arrived in Sanaa in the first ever trade mission to Yemen. They are from various industries ranging from construction equipment to milk powder, dairy products, automatic appliances, etc.

The delegation also visited Aden to look into the Free Zone's potential for investments. Mr. Barry Clarke, of Trade International Northern Ireland, said, "There are very strong possibilities, and members of the delegation are more optimistic. We have no immediate plans, because we are looking forward to our plans from March 1999 to April 2000. Some of the delegates said they will be coming back to follow up on the contacts they have made here.

Mr. Michael Craig of Internal Consultant, Management Development, European Investment Bank, indicated that the trip will be reported in a Belfast quarterly magazine, which will go out to over 2,000 companies not only in Ireland, but worldwide.

Yves Gazzo: Farewell Visit

Mr. Gazzo concludes his 4 year term as head of the EC Jordan and Yemen Delegation with a farewell visit to Yemen from 23 October to 1 November. The visit includes meetings with the President and other senior officials. Mr. Gazzo looks back on a term in office during which the EC assistance to Yemen has almost tripled from approximately US \$30 million in 1995 to US \$80 million in 1998.

Seminar on Environment
Organized by the University of

Ibb, a seminar on the Environment in Yemen was held during October 24-25. Several Yemeni university professors and government officials participated in the workshop with valuable research papers.

Yemen in the Newsweek

A special sponsored section about Yemen was published in the Newsweek in its issue of October 19. The section, entitled "Yemen: Poised for Growth into the Next Millennium," includes many topics about different commercial establishments like the Yemenia Airlines, TeleYemen, Canadian Oxy, Aden Free Zone Development Project, Hayel Saeed Anam Group of Companies, main commercial banks in Yemen, tourist agencies and many others.

DAAD Representative

For the first time ever the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has a representative in Yemen. Those who are interested in getting more information about the services of the DAAD can contact Ms. Susan Zerwinsky at her office located at the campus of Sanaa University, Faculty of Languages, German Department.

Food Aid Agreement

The Minister of Planning and Development and the French Ambassador to Sanaa will sign today, Monday October 26, at the Ministry of Planning an agreement concerning new food aid given by France to Yemen.

Teachers Appeal to Parliament

While parliament is discussing a draft Yemeni teachers law, the Yemeni Teachers Syndicate sent a letter to the Speaker and MPs. It expresses the unbearable conditions of Yemeni teachers, which were clearly vented through their various strikes and letters of appeal.

Indian Ambassador Builds Contacts

Ambassador Mohinder Singh Suman has fully settled-in and is already busy building contacts. His out-reach circle is rapidly expanding.

Ambassador Suman presented his credentials to President Ali Abdullah Saleh on October 6th, 1998. He says he has found it easy to settle-in.

Mohinder is a career diplomat and has long experience. He has served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in New Delhi and at Indian missions in Islamabad, Dublin, Amman and Baghdad.



Bridget Brind UK Embassy

Ms. Bridget Brind is the newest addition to the UK Embassy in Sanaa. As second secretary, she succeeds James Downer, and is thus in charge of relations with the media NGOs, and other similar groups.

Ms. Brind has just concluded an intensive orientation program, especially in Arabic.

"I am sure that I will quickly fit in," she told the Yemen Times in a reception held in her honor last week by the UK ambassador.

Relations between Yemen and the UK have recently witnessed a significant up-turn.



US Lecturer Visits Yemen

Last week, Ms. Jenny Quillien, a visiting American lecturer, made three presentations at the Center for Strategic Studies.

Quillien, in cooperation with the US Embassy, lectured on 'Privatization,' 'American Women's Movement' and 'Cultural Issues Affecting the Work of Various Administrations and Organizations.'

She left Yemen following a



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Abdulaziz Shayif:

“Without the Sanaa and Taiz radio services, I think the revolution would not have succeeded.”

The role of radio in our world today cannot be over-estimated. But this role was especially so in Yemen - a country troubled by a difficult terrain making contact and travel among the different parts so arduous. At the same time, a mostly illiterate population found its need for information on the radio waves. Finally, the radio sets, inexpensive as they have become, gave the large majority of the population easy access. One can even hear the loud music and news transmissions beaming from the caravans of nomads criss-crossing the desert parts of the country. The radio in particular, plays an important role in the modernization process of Yemen. It first played a pivotal role in supporting the 26th Revolution, which needed volunteers and sympathizers, especially in the first few years as it failed to win a decisive victory from the outset. Then the radio played a crucial role in the development process. Then it played a further vital role in the re-unification of the nation. Today, it plays a significant role in the democratization of our system. One of the early persons who worked in the Sanaa Radio Station, by far the most important and influential in the land, is Mr. Abdulaziz Shayif. Starting in 1963, he continues to reach out to loyal and appreciative listeners. Shunning administrative posts, Mr. Shayif continues his role as a distinguished announcer. Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times talked to him about radio, his life, and lots of other things. Excerpts.

Q: Let us start at the beginning. Tell us about how you started.

A: I joined Sanaa Radio Station in 1963. At that time, the person who was in charge was Mr. Ahmed Hussain Al-Merwani. Along with another colleague, Mr. Saleh Jarallah, I was assigned to work in the news section.

Q: What were your main responsibilities?

A: At the time, there were no specific responsibilities assigned to anyone. The number of professional announcers working in the radio station was less than a dozen.

Our main task was to inform the public about the meaning and virtues of the republic and revolution. We worked hard to win sympathy and support. You know that the Revolution was in danger, and there was a civil war going on. So, our job was to support the revolution by winning support for it.

I remember among the most important material was the "Political Commentary" written by Ali Abdullah Sallal, son of the first president of the Republic. His writings were powerful, and we tried to enhance their impact through good presentation and sound effects.

Q: When did you first have your own program? And what was it?

A: I first started my own program in 1965. It was called "Min Al-Muheet Ilal Khaleej" (From the Ocean to the Gulf, meaning the

Arab World). It was a weekly program which provided Yemeni listeners a summary review of the political events taking place in the Arab World.

Q: What came next?

A: My career continued to evolve as I took on more responsibilities. I started a program called "Min Kulli Bustanin Zahrah" (A Flower from Every Garden). This was jointly prepared and presented with my able colleague, Ms. Fatin Al-Yusufi.

That was my first shift away from politics, and into the vast world of arts, poetry, love songs, etc.

Q: What was the high point of your radio career?

A: I am especially proud of my later program "Bareed Al-Mustame'een" (Listeners' Mail). This program brought me in direct contact with a very large number of our listeners. It also enhanced the diversity and richness of material. It went on for many years, and it actually continues today.

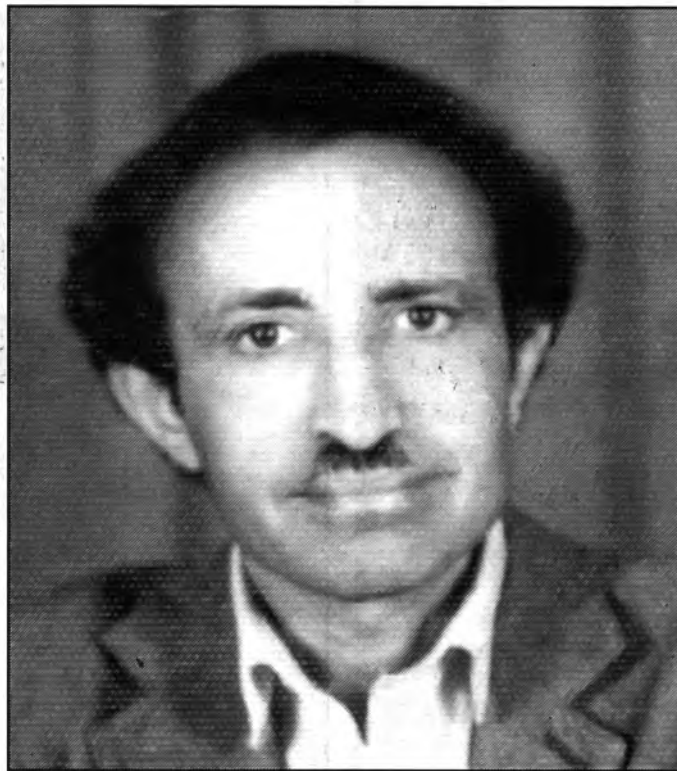
Q: What administrative posts did you occupy in your long career?

A: I occupied many posts, including the post of director-general of the radio station.

I want to stress here that I find myself as an announcer and presenter of programs, not as an administrator.

Q: You also wrote many songs and ballads?

A: Yes, I wrote many poems



which became love song. I also wrote ballads which became patriotic and revolutionary material.

Some of the singers who used my poems are Ali Abdullah Al-Simah, Mohammed Qassem Al-Akhfash, Ahmed Al-Sunaidar, Yahia Al-Awwami, Mohammed Al-Harithi, the Kawkaban Trio, and many more.

Q: How do you assess the condition and performance of Sanaa Radio Station today?

A: Well, of course, Sanaa Radio Station has come a long way since those humble beginnings. You will remember that 35 years have lapsed since I joined, and I can feel the difference.

Today, the machines and equipment are very modern, the stock of tapes and other material is enormous, and the number of people working here is in the hundreds.

Yet, I believe that the performance can be much improved with a better management and more clarity in vision. The objective of the radio today, should keep up with the country's democratic transformation. In other words, we should reflect public opinion and the wishes of the people, and we should not lecture to them and brain-wash them on the virtues of our politicians. This responsibility has not yet

been fully understood, let alone accepted and internalized.

Q: What do you think of other government radio stations?

A: There are many government stations in the country. There is one in Aden, one in Taiz, another in Hodeidah, and still another in Mukalla, etc. But Radio Sanaa is the strongest.

Q: How do you view the possibility of private radio stations

in the country?

A: I think this is inevitable, given the present local and international trends. It would be wise if it were gradually brought in with the consent and support of the authorities. Otherwise, it would come against their wishes.

Let me also add that I think this is going to be a positive development for this sector as well as for the country.

Q: Any last comment you want to make?

A: First, let me stress one more time the contribution of the radio to this country, its revolution, and its development and growth. Without the Sanaa and Taiz radio services, I think the revolution would not have succeeded.

Second, I want to tell my fans and listeners that their feedback and interaction is important for us to constantly improve our service.

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20 Years of Cooperation

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Yemeni-Dutch development cooperation, the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Sanaa commissioned a series of photographs by the young Yemeni photographer Ms. Boushra Al-Mutawakel, which was exhibited in the Nuba Tower of the National Museum in Sanaa. The exhibition, held on the 24th October, was opened by Mr. Abdul-Qader Bajamal, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Arend Meerburg, Ambassador of the Netherlands.



The photographic exhibition shows only a selection of the wide range of activities where the Netherlands are involved in. For this occasion a brochure was made with an introduction by Ambassador Meerburg and Mr. Ahmed Sofan, Minister of Planning and Development. The exhibition was organized with active collaboration of the staff of the National Museum in Sanaa.

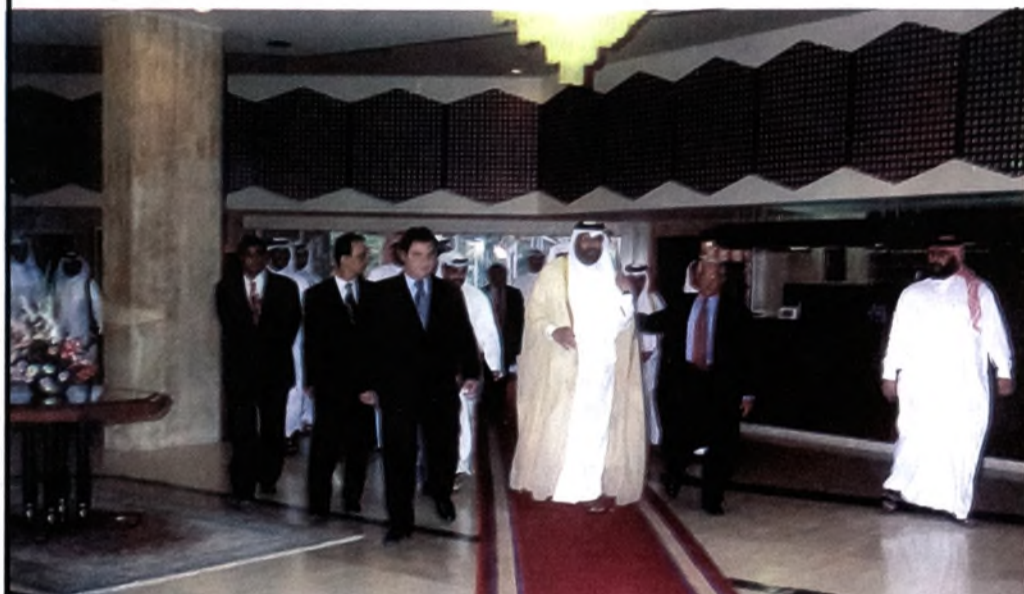
The Dutch-Yemeni relationship dates back to the 17th century with the coffee trade through Mokha. An "Agreement on Technical Cooperation" between Yemen and the Netherlands was formalized in 1978. It constitutes the legal framework for

the development cooperation. Over the years the Netherlands development cooperation with Yemen included many activities in different fields, like agriculture, culture, health and population, women in development, democracy and good governance, education and training, water and sanitation and the environment. The program also involves many small-scale local activities.

PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Sheraton Sana'a Hotel in conjunction with the Yemen Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Qatar Embassy hosted HE Sheikh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al-Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and Qatari delegation on Friday 23rd Oct. 1998

Mr. Wehbe, General Manager, received HE and the delegation.



SHERATON NEWS FLASH

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UNHCR Seminar Addresses the Refugee Issue in Yemen

Organized by the UNHCR in coordination with the Foreign Ministry, a workshop was held during 19-21 in Sanaa on 'Refugee Protection and International Asylum Law.' Mohammed Bin Sallam was there to record the different views on this issue, with which Yemen is increasingly concerned. Here is what different participants said:

1. Mr. Abdullah Al-Sayidi, Vice Foreign Minister:

"Yemen signed the 1951 International Refugee Accord in 1980 which, along with the 1967 protocol, is considered the main part of international regulations governing asylum and refugee status and issues.

Yemen has been following the clauses of these agreements not only from a legal point of view, but first and foremost from a humanitarian standpoint. Yemen welcomed large numbers of refugees fleeing civil strife in the Horn of Africa. Wave upon wave of refugees arrived on our shores from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Uganda and even Liberia.

"This has become quite a big responsibility, which Yemen cannot shoulder alone. This country's resources simply cannot cope with the thousands of new arrivals, who are in dire need of food, shelter, medical care, etc. Also, we don't have enough experience to deal with refugees. So we asked the assistance of UNHCR and other international organizations, which have extended much help and aid.

"There are some people who come as economic migrants. Asylum rules do not apply to them. The problem is seriously compounded by the danger of spreading disease, given that many of these illegal aliens are not medically examined.

"I call for the deportation of illegal immigrants who are not considered as refugees. The economic difficulties of Yemen, well known to the UNHCR and other international bodies, do not allow any more burdens."

2. Onder Yucer, UNDP Resident Representative

"The Government of Yemen has been, for years, implementing a generous asylum policy. Yemen is host to the largest number of refugees in the region.

In fact, the Yemeni government established a National Committee for Refugees in November, 1995. Also, a special department dealing with refugee issues has been set up at the Passport and Immigration Authority, which coordinates its efforts with UNHCR. All these are signs of Yemen's commitment to tackling the refugee problem.

"The importance of this workshop emanates from the fact that Somali and Ethiopian refugees are still coming into the country in large numbers. The UNHCR aims to make those refugees as self-reliant as possible, in a first step towards temporarily integrating them within Yemeni society. At the same time, the UNHCR always bears in mind the long-term solution of voluntary repatriation, when conditions in the refugees' home countries allow it."

3. Dr. Najeeb Ahmed Obeid, Director of Specialized International Organizations and

Nationality	Arrivals	Drowned	Wounded
Somalis	7,873	18	4
Ethiopians	1,719	9	1
Unknown	247	247	0
Total	9,839	273	5

Agencies, Foreign Ministry:



"This is the first workshop of its kind to be held in Yemen. Such an event is important in that it provides a good meeting forum for exchange of information.

"The fact that there is no central governmental body to deal with refugee issues, and that UNHCR deals with it on an individual-case basis have created some confusion. There are also problems encountered in providing international food aid to refugee camps.

"We proposed the establishment of a coordination committee to deal with all the international agencies concerned with the refugee condition in Yemen. I hope the participants in this workshop will endorse the formation of an official apparatus to coordinate efforts. This is quite crucial, in view of the big economic, social and health burdens imposed on society by the continuous flow of refugees."

4. Mohammed Dayri, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Syria:



"A person is given a refugee status according to the criteria set in the 1951 Accord. A refugee is a person who had to leave his/her country, fleeing political, religious, sectarian, racial or other types of discriminatory persecution. Therefore, the time period during which a particular asylum application is reviewed must be a reasonable one. A person must be given ample chance to explain all the reasons that led him or her to leave their country. The authority studying that person's case must employ accurate and objective means to determine his or her eligibility for refugee status.

"Forced repatriation of refugees is strongly opposed by international asylum laws. This must be observed by all signatory countries. Article 32 of the 1951 Accord allows a state to deport a refugee only if he/she breaks the law or becomes a serious threat to national security.

"Assistance provided by Yemen to the UNHCR is very important. Despite its

visible economic difficulty, this country is a host to more than 65,000 refugees. The crisis-plagued countries in the Horn of Africa will continue to be a source of waves of asylum seekers. Moreover, there are refugees residing in Yemen who have come from countries in other parts of the world such as Bosnia, Afghanistan and some Arab countries.

5. Mohamed Nasser Ba-Janoub, Government Coordinator at UNHCR, Maifa'a Directorate, Shabwa:



"The Yemeni authorities have perpetrated a heinous crime, violating all human rights principles, by deporting a large number of Oromo people back to Ethiopia. This action also runs contrary to the Arab and Islamic tradition of giving sanctuary to people fleeing in fear for their lives.

"Those deported people are now being put on trial in Ethiopia. Many of them have already been sentenced to various terms' in imprisonment, some as long as 12 years. We have proof of that.

"Deportation of these people took place despite strong appeals by many international organizations to allow them to remain. All asylum criteria applied to these people. Moreover, the Yemeni government had not allowed them to join refugee camps set up by the UNHCR. The latter had also prevented them from joining camps allocated for Somalis under the pretext that this will create problems. Their other excuse is that the Yemeni government rejected setting up special camps for Ethiopians.

6. Mazin Abu Shanab, Acting Director, UNHCR, Sanaa:



"The Yemen UNHCR office was first opened in 1987. We enjoy very strong cooperation with the Yemeni government, which is quite seriously working on alleviating the refugees' suffering.

"The Yemeni government adopts an open-door policy towards refugees. Such responsible policy is very well appreciated by the UNHCR specially, and the world community, at large."

Inauguration of Aden Demining Training Center

Training sessions had already started on Saturday, October 24 at the National Training Center for Demining, which was opened 4 days earlier in the Daar Saad area, Aden. A team of 35 US Marines personnel, including officers, sappers, doctors and media people are delivering the lectures. This course is set to last for two months.

The launching event was attended by Mr. Muttahar Al-Saeedi, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Chairman of the National Demining Committee; Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanem, Governor of Aden and Chairman of the Aden Demining Sub-committee; Admiral Charles Moore, Commander of the 5th US Navy Fleet; and Ms. Barbara Bodine, US Ambassador to Yemen.

"It is an honor for us to assist our Yemeni counterparts and the international organizations in planning and formulating Yemen's demining program," Admiral Moore announced in his inaugural speech.

Admiral Moore strongly praised the efforts made by such organizations as the Swedish Radda Barnen and UNDP. "We knew right from the beginning that the task in hand was not easy. Our

main motivation is the importance of such a program and the friendships we are likely to build during the progress of the program. Such friendships will surely serve our mutual goals."

Ms. Bodine congratulated all the people involved in demining efforts. "You should all be proud of this achievement. It is a gesture made by Yemen to the international community signifying a leading role in the demining issue," she said.

People in more than 60 countries, including Yemen, face a daily danger of death or mutilation because of landmines. About 26,000 people die every year around the world in land mine-related incidents. Large areas of agricultural land is now inaccessible because they are planted with landmines.

The US Ambassador congratulated the Yemeni people and government on their efforts to get rid of land mines. "We start today the real work towards a Yemen free of landmines," she concluded.

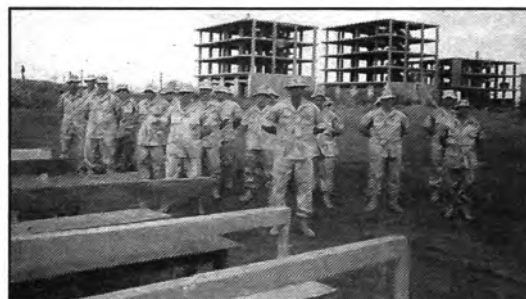


Yucer, UNDP Resident Representative in Sanaa said, "opening this center confirms Yemen's commitment to the Treaty to Ban Landmines, which is signed by 134 countries and legally endorsed by 40, including Yemen."

On his part, Mr. Muttahar Al-Saeedi stressed Yemen's "keenness on following the route of development and peace in consolidating the country's modern achievements." He also highlighted Yemen's commitment to political reform and pluralism and enhancing regional and international cooperation.

Yemen's demining program is supported by the US and a number of donor countries and organizations. In addition to the training team mentioned above, the US is to provide the demining program with \$2.5 million. Canada is contributing \$100,000 worth of equipment and the UNDP \$500,000.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Aden Bureau Chief,
Yemen Times.



HOTEL PROJECT

Tender Notice

TOURISM INVESTMENT CO., LTD. SANAA

Invites Tenders for its proposed New Extension of the

HADHRAMAUT HOTEL Al-Mukalla

Hadhramaut Hotel, Four star category hotel is located on the beach front proposed to add a new wing to its existing building with 50 to 60 keyed room. The facilities to include all services of a four stars standard hotel and other requirements mention on our tender documents. Competent Architect companies are requested to collect the tender documents as per the following condition from:

GENERAL MANAGER,
TOURISM INVESTMENT CO., LTD.,
P. O. BOX 12193, ALZUBAIRI STREET, SANAA
FAX NO. 01-273756

Bids Should include:

- Company profile, list of project Managed or designed by applicant attached by necessary references.
- Engineering team qualifications and experience.
- A separate quotation including three proposal for the general elevation of the new building.
- A separate quotation for the preparation of detailed design plans for the new construction, civil, architectural, and electromechanical.
- All designs should facilitate the operational activities of a hotel building.
- Approval from all applicant to make a visit to Hadhramaut hotel in Mural in order to be able to visualize the site and evaluate different alternatives. The hotel will provide full board for two members of each company for one day stay, however the cost of air ticket or road transportation should be the responsibility of the applicants.

Tender terms & conditions:

- The bids should be submitted in closed and sealed with red wax enveloped and in original with two copies.
- Bids to be accompanied with a bank guarantee or payable check for 2.5% of the total bid amount through a reliable and accredited bank in Yemen to be valid for 180 days from the closing date.
- Bids should be accompanied with a copy of valid income tax documents for the year 1998 and a valid trade certificate.
- Tourism Investment Co, Ltd., is not oblige to accept the lowest offer.
- All bids to be submitted in Yemeni Riyals and to be valid for 180 days from the closing date and renewable.
- Tender documents can be obtained against a non refundable fee of YR 3,000.00.
- The last day of receiving Bids will be on 18th November 1998, and will be open on same day.

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

The Seventh Circle

"So lonely, abandoned, wrapped in grief
Was my existence in this holy land ... " (1993).

After the 1962 September Revolution, North Yemen emerged into the international arena after a long isolation imposed by the Imam. Its ties with the outside world were revived; and, in the framework of this process, Yemeni youths mostly males - started to travel abroad primarily for education. Some of them married foreign women and brought them to Yemen. For different reasons many such marriages turned out to be a difficult and painful experience for both partners especially for women.

This is a personal reflection on such marriages. It is not intended to be a generalization, nor is it supposed to pass value judgement. It is just a few thoughts on a personal experience.

Though in the opinion of Yemeni women, foreign wives enjoy more freedom and respect from their husband, the reality is quite different. Foreign women married to Yemenis are either deprived or oblivious of any rights they might have; and, therefore, they are easily subjected to different kinds of violence and discrimination.

The types of violence often practiced against foreign wives can be described as domestic violence - the main reason for female suicide all over the world. The rates of suicide attempts by foreign wives in Yemen would

Maria Handhal
Women Report-Writing Course.
The British Council, Sanaa.

definitely be higher than for native women, if statistics were available. This happens because foreign wives live in constant depression, psychological instability and suffer from nostalgia.

In Yemen, there is a complex mechanism of tribal norms and traditional regulations (O'rf), which has the power to curb (read, to hide) domestic violence and spousal abuse. The husband is also worried about reprisal from the wife's relatives. However, such effective methods of protection do not exist where a foreign wife is concerned. So, foreign wives remain totally at the mercy of their husbands. They can't even count on compassion on the part of their husband's relatives or on the support from the embassy of their country of origin. While the husbands' families or neighbors can sometimes intervene if the abuse goes too far, the embassies are usually unwilling to get involved in such affairs.

Therefore, the rights and supposed freedoms of foreign women remain hostage to their husband's will and authority. Foreign wives can't even leave the country without their husbands' consent, which is another kind of domestic violence. This makes a man feel that he is definitely superior and can exercise his power and do as

he wishes.

In this situations, a woman is left on her own with her grief and despair. Only her friends who are in the same position will sympathize with her, though they are not able to help.

Many mixed marriages end up mixed-up. They lead to divorce, as the couple break-up. Even then, foreign wives are subjected to violence and discrimination. They have no right to any property after divorce (or they are just oblivious to this right, who knows?) and their children will usually stay in their fathers' custody. Even, if the woman manages to escape to her native country with her children, people there are not likely to be kind to her and it goes without saying that her ex-husband won't support her financially.

On the other hand, when a woman continues to live with her husband only for the sake of her children or because she has nowhere else to go, problems continue to build up and no solutions come into sight. Moreover, the Yemeni environment itself adds to the woman's unhappiness, because she is usually not only unhappy in her private life, but has a limited social life.

In any case, often these women

reache middle age with nothing but a broken heart, undermined health and psychological trauma. Almost each foreign wife feels that the strength needed to overcome stress is drained by everyday problems and her mental resources are exhausted without being replenished from outside. The intensity of these feelings changes from one woman to another, but certainly the general trend exists.

Having highlighted some of the main difficulties a foreign wife is likely to face in Yemen, I can continue the list and describe how foreign women's rights are abused in the fields of employment, political life and even in every-day life. In all these spheres, foreign women are treated unjustly and have no clearly stated rights, only restrictions and discrimination.

Even if some rights reserved for foreign wives exist on paper, they either don't know about them because of their poor knowledge of Arabic or the legal advice and service is unavailable. In short, all developments in mixed families depend on the personal traits and convictions of the husband. He is the lifeline to the wife he brought with him.

In light of the above-mentioned, it is clear that foreign wives in Yemen are practically an isolated group whose problems and troubles don't go beyond their limited circle as the wider public is not interested in their fate or is oblivious to it. As everywhere, family problems are considered too private to be discussed in public and any violations are seen as involving only a group which is very small in number and therefore unimportant. And nobody realizes how wrong this attitude is.

Foreign women married to

Yemeni men usually have a very good educational background. Thus they may wish to work for the benefit of this country, which has become their second motherland and where their children will live. Unfortunately, they don't know how to apply their skills, and the laws of this country don't encourage foreign wives' activities equally as regular employees or at a grass-roots level. This is another negative experience awaiting foreign wives in response to their effort and good will.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I realise that the subject of this article is a very sensitive and controversial one. Until now

there has been no thorough research or study covering the lot of foreign wives in Yemen. That is why this article is based on first-hand experience, personal observations and interviews with foreign wives from several countries, who have reached the same main conclusions. This situation of this group of women definitely needs urgent attention, even if from a human rights point of view. They are vulnerable and unprotected. The local Yemeni community also stands to benefit enormously if foreign wives are properly and fully integrated into general life, if at least to make use of their potential in the development of this country.

تعزية

بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره

تلقينا نبأ وفاة

الحاج سلام عبدالله الأصبحي

ونحن إذ نتقدم بالمواساة

للاستاذ/ محمد سلام عبدالله الأصبحي،

نسأل الله القدير أن يلهمه الصبر والسلوان

وأن يتغمد المرحوم بواسع رحمته،

وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسيفون: د/ عبدالعزيز السقاف،

وجميع موظفي صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

الشيخ/ عبدالكريم الأصبحي

وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

يتقدم بأرق التهاني والتبريكات للأخ

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

والدكتور عبدالكريم الأرياني وجميع أعضاء حكومته

وإلى الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر وجميع أعضاء مجلس النواب

وإلى الأستاذ/ عبدالعزيز الغني وجميع أعضاء المجلس الاستشاري

وإلى الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة العيد السادس والثلاثين لثورة السادس والعشرين من

سبتمبر

والعيد الخامس والثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر

وكل عام واليمن بخير

كما يتقدم إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

والدكتور عبدالكريم الأرياني وجميع أفراد الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة الإنتصار العظيم

في إستعادة السيادة اليمنية على أرخبيل حنيش

وذلك بفضل حكمة القيادة اليمنية

وكل يوم من نصر إلى نصر بإذن الله

عن

الصندوق الاجتماعي للتنمية

المدير التنفيذي عبدالكريم اسماعيل الأرحبي

presents his congratulations and best wishes to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani and his Government,
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husain Al-Ahmer & Parliament,
Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani & Consultative Council,
and the Yemeni people

on the 36th anniversary of 26 of September Revolution
and

on the 35th anniversary of 14 of October Revolution.

Many Happy Returns

also present his felicitations to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani

and the Yemeni people

on the decision of the Court of Arbitration

in favor of Yemen

regarding the dispute over Hunaish Islands.

The wisdom of our leadership has paid off.

On behalf of

**Social Fund For
Development**

Mr. Abdulkarim Ismael Al-Arhabi,
the Executive Manager

Annual Yemeni-German Consultation Talks Conclude Smoothly

The annual consultation talks between officials of the Yemeni and German governments were concluded today. The talks, led by Dr. Volker Ducklau, Director for the Mediterranean, Middle East, Latin America, and the Caribbean in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, on the German side; and Mr. Ahmed Soufan, Minister of Planning and Development on the Yemeni side, were described as successful.

Yemen Times talked to Dr. Ducklau about the talks and the bilateral relations. Excerpts.

Q: You are new to the job?

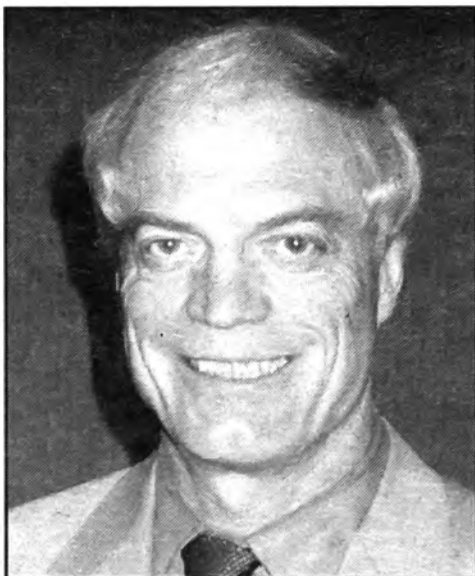
A: Yes, I have only been in post since July 1998. Before that I was head of the policy planning of the ministry. This is my first visit here, and it has been a pleasant one on one hand and a successful working visit on the other.

Q: You have just concluded your talks. How do you characterize Yemen-German cooperation?

A: Yemen is one of our key partners in the Arab World. We have a relatively high level of cooperation. There has been a traditional friendship between our two countries, which we try to consolidate in every way possible.

Q: What are the main sectors to which your government contributes?

A: Let me first state that our two sides have almost the same understanding and strategy. We now have a focussed program. Our cooperation deals mainly with human resource development. Thus, we focus on education - especially primary education, as well as vocational



and technical training, in which Germany has a successful model. We also push health programs, including family planning. The Prime Minister has specifically asked us to help address the population explosion. We finally focus on water supply and sanitation projects, which are an important part of social infrastructure. In many of these projects, we link up and work closely with other donors, which share our priorities.

Q: Are there issues of contention or differences between the two sides?

A: Of course, there are some minor differences. An example would be the institutional weakness which does not enable a comparable pace in development in all sectors. I don't want to side-step this question, but the reason for this near-complete match of ideas and approach is that we have similar backgrounds - having re-unified our two countries at about the same time.

Q: Does the issue of corruption bother you?

A: Yes, it does. I have noted deficiencies in public service. We have discussed this matter. Let me mention here that there is an anti-corruption clause in each of our agreements. The clause calls on each of the two parties to "confront and avoid any corrupt practices in the management of the development assistance". Corruption is seen worldwide as an impediment to proper development. So, it is important to tackle this issue. We have confidence in your government's commitment to act on this.

Q: You mentioned in an earlier meeting your interest in NGOs. Can you give us details?

A: I am sure many people now see that development is not something to be left solely to government. To achieve success in development the whole society has to be involved. That is why broadening the actors and partners in the development process is important by bringing in the civil society. Thus we have a need for an increasing role for non-governmental organizations.

This is partly because NGOs can have better access to some parts of the population. In another way, NGOs are better able to mobilize local input. Finally, in a democratic setting, it is important that decision is achieved by a broader base.

Q: Finally, what are your impressions?

A: What I found here is overwhelming. I now see why they say that if you come to Yemen once, you have to return.

Agricultural Education in Yemen: THE REALITY & THE AMBITION

Agriculture is one of the major sectors of the national economy. Roughly 62.1% of the population resides in rural areas and is involved in some aspect of agricultural production. Rural women provide at least 60% of the required labor for general farm work, 90% for livestock and dairy production and almost all activities of animal husbandry. Thus, enhancing agricultural output and improving rural life is vital. The colleges of agriculture at Sanaa, Aden and Ibb universities, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, organized a workshop on 'Agricultural Education in Yemen: Reality and Ambition' during October 17-19.

Holding this workshop represents a good sign of giving due importance to agricultural education in Yemen. Since agriculture is considered to be the main economic activity of the Yemeni people, people in authority should plan well for the national economy and its resources, notably agriculture. Agricultural education is one of the key elements of improving the agricultural sector, for it prepares a good number of qualified people who shoulder the responsibility of carrying out agricultural development plans. People working in the agricultural sector represent 61% of the total labor force, producing 18% of the GNP.

Several papers were presented at the workshop. Ismail Al-Ghabery of Yemen Times talked to some of the participants. Following is a summary of what they said.

Prof. Nasser Al-Awlaqi, Rector of Ibb University:



"The main problem is that high school graduates are not willing to join faculties of agriculture. I think the main reason for that is that the government has been the main employer of graduates from the faculties of agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture cannot possibly absorb all graduates of the colleges of agriculture.

"A lot of these graduates, from Sanaa and Aden universities and other Arab universities, are jobless. In my opinion, this is one of the primary reasons why students are not willing to study agriculture.

"So, I and the rectors of Sanaa and Aden universities decided to hold this workshop in an attempt to find a solution to the problem of agricultural development in Yemen. The workshop addressed four main issues: the role of colleges of agriculture in agricultural education and development, role of agricultural research in agricultural development, agricultural education and scientific research and the needs of agricultural development, and the role of women in agriculture.

"Women actually play a very important role in agriculture and we try to get more female students in the faculties of agriculture and to train women working in the agricultural field. "The participants also addressed the agricultural development policy in Yemen and its problems. Yemen is facing a big problem which is the wide gap between consumption and production. Yemen over last year has had to import 1,800,000 tons of wheat. The annual production of wheat is only 100,000 - 120,000 tons.

"Water is another problem facing

agriculture in Yemen. There is a shortage and bad management of water resources. I think the recommendations of the workshop addressed these problems. The colleges of agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector have to address these problems otherwise we will face a big problem in production."

Dr. Abdullah Al-Mousa, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Jordan:

"I think this workshop represents a sort of a stop to reflect back on what has been done and what we can do and the role of agriculture in general in Yemen in sustainable development. The recommendations that have been presented will hopefully solve the problems."

Prof. Hamid Ghaloob Ali, Dean of Agriculture College, Ibb University:



"First of all we want to study and evaluate the reality of agriculture in Yemen. Second, we will propose a plan of action for future development in agriculture education and its output. The input is the new students and we are looking forward for the output.

"This workshop considers the education, admission, and scientific research related to agriculture development, role of women in agricultural education and agricultural education and the environment.

"There are 71 students currently registered in our college, which has a very good program. The college farm has a very high standard of production; a hundred kilograms of milk, 30 cartons of eggs. We also sell chickens. The college will held a symposium on the environment in Yemen.

"This workshop has succeeded in its program and there is a kind of interaction among the students, faculties and among the presenters of the papers. This led to specific recommendations which are helpful for the students of agriculture as well as agricultural scientific research. I advice students in Yemen to join the colleges of agriculture because they are related to food production, which means food security to the country. No food means no life."

Dr. Abdulrahman Al-Saba'a, Faculty of Agriculture, Damascus University:



"Papers presented at the workshop could tackle all the problems discussed by the participants. Concluding the event, the participants made several recommendations, which, if applied, will evolve the process of agriculture in Yemen. The agri-

cultural education in Yemen is in a good position and our friends want to push it forward."

Dr. Hussein Abdulrahman Al-Kaf, Dean of Nasser College for Agricultural Sciences, Aden University:



"The participation of teaching staff from agriculture colleges in Yemen, the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector led to useful discussions and recommendations.

"Agriculture is really the pillar of development in Yemen, hence it has to be given special care and attention. We should also take care of agricultural institutes for preparing qualified agriculture workers.

Universities should open new departments such as food industry, rural development, etc. One of the main problems facing colleges of agriculture in Yemen is that they are short of laboratories and chemical materials and appliances. They are also short of audio-visual aids."

Recommendations

By the end of the workshop, the participants recommended the following:

1- It is important to develop the infrastructure of agricultural education through allocating more funds in the annual university budget and providing job opportunities for the graduates of agriculture faculties.

2- A balance should be struck between the output of agricultural education and the needs of the agricultural sector, providing an intensive plan for the need of the labor market in different specializations.

3- Training courses for people working in agriculture are vital to raise their work efficiency. Supporting scientific agricultural research is also crucial.

4- Natural protection should be provided in order to preserve biodiversity in Yemen.

6- A committee of the deans of colleges of agriculture should be formed to follow up the implementation of these recommendations.

7- An effective media and information policy should be formulated to raise public awareness of the role of the faculties of agriculture.

8- Registration and admission procedures of students in the faculties of agriculture should be central all over Yemen, taking into account the students' overall high school grades.

9- Students of agriculture my be further motivated by providing them with free accommodation and food during their studies, and giving them plots of lands to cultivate after graduation.

10- The sciences of agricultural resources management, anti-desertification, pastures development, etc should be included in the syllabuses of the faculties of agriculture in Yemeni universities.

11- More coordination should be instituted between the colleges of agriculture and the general authority for agricultural research in the field of agricultural researches.



VACANCY

A donor funded agricultural project in Dhamar has a vacancy for:

A TRANSLATOR (Yemeni Nationals Only)

Qualifications:

1. Fluent in English and Arabic (writing, reading, speaking)
2. Computer literate (Windows 95, MS Word Arabic/English)
3. Minimum 5 years experience as a translator
4. Working knowledge of the technical subject matter (agriculture)
5. Willing to live and work in Dhamar

Contract duration 2 years.

Interested candidates have to send their CV's to the Team Leader Mr. M. Brugman at fax 06-500766 after which eventually an appointment for an interview in Dhamar will be arranged.

JOB VACANCIES

Following positions are available for immediate placement with a well-known group based in Sana'a.

1. Senior Accountants
2. Data entry operators
3. Book keepers
4. Junior Accountants

Only computer literate university graduates Yemeni nationals with fluency in English need apply. For first two positions 3-5 years experience is a must. For the rest of the positions experience preferable but not necessary. Lower age limit for first two position is 30. Excellent remunerations and other benefits for the right candidates. All positions relocatable at any part of Yemen.

Apply within 2 weeks giving full details of qualifications, experience references and position applied for to: DY. Finance Manager P. O. Box 2579, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

Applications must accompany copies of credentials and recent passport size photograph.

Non-Professional Advice on High Blood Pressure (Hypertension)



I have high blood pressure. Thousands of people in Yemen have high blood pressure or hypertension or AHT. Middle and old age people are mainly affected by AHT, but it grips youngsters as well. The symptoms of high blood pressure are pounding headaches, habitual sleeplessness, dizziness and difficulty in breathing. Stress and strain, anxiety, emotions, sudden hazardous movement or mental action, climbing stairs swiftly, talking too much or reading loudly, gyrated exercises and an unhealthy living also increase blood pressure.

We are taught at school that blood pressure is essential for the circulation of blood in the body. We were also told that the normal pressure of a person is 120/80. The upper figure known as systolic pressure between 120 and 130mm of mercury is also normal whereas the bottom figure known as diastolic pressure between 75 and 85mm of mercury is likewise normal for a person. These figures may vary. For instance, I have had AHT for 15 years. My medical specialist says that the figure 140/90 at age 69 is quite normal for me.

We hypertensives must try to keep our blood pressure under control. If not, there is a serious

danger that we could suffer a stroke. Some of my close friends and relatives in Yemen who had high blood pressure sustained strokes. Many of them died as their attacks were quite severe, others were paralyzed rendering them powerless, mentally weak and crippled for the rest of their lives.

There are hundreds of AHT patients who have mild hypertension and their diastolic pressure is between 90 and 105mm Hg. These patients should, I feel, try non-drug therapy, and use medicines according to instructions from medical specialists. Even when the

condition of a patient is chronic and he or she is on medication, dieting, exercising and healthy living will greatly help in recovery.

Let me confess that I quite often eat the wrong food, which is my main problem. My AHT has reached levels of 160/120 on many occasions due to an unhealthy diet. Another factor causing increase in my blood pressure is unhealthy living and improper medicines. However, with subsequent correct medication and correct feeding for weeks I have been able to control my AHT. We should continue medication even when the BP is normal. This advice is given by our medical specialists. It is quite likely that the AHT will rise if the maintenance dose is reduced or cut out altogether. We should consult our doctors on this subject.

Let me now recapitulate some corrective principles which could greatly help those suffering from high blood pressure:

1) Reduce (or best cut-out) all kinds of meat, fish, eggs and other high protein foods. I cut out meat products when I have diastolic pressure reading of 120mm, and I am on high medication. When the diastolic pressure

return to 90mm, and I am on maintenance medication I feel safe enough to go back to high protein, though moderately.

2) Control emotions. I know that hard feelings or excitement or mental agitation and anxiety can cause high blood pressure leading to a stroke. Thus it is imperative that we control our emotions.

3) Reduce or cut-out, if possible, all devitalized foods. I consume these items very moderately. They are tinned fruits, white bread, white sugar, halwas and jams, pastries and other items cooked at home with white sugar. We know that tinned fruits are hydrogenated with gas, fats and oils to harden them. These hydrogenated foods are not utilized by the body, and are harmful. White sugar is added to practically all our sweet dishes, and tea and coffee. Too much white sugar is harmful. I prefer items containing natural sugar, e.g. honey, fruits, dates, raisins and other naturally sweetened items. These preferred items do no harm to my teeth or stomach, and help control my blood pressure. During a visit to California, USA recently I was offered honey bags with tea and coffee by all restaurants I visited.

4) Eat less. I try to keep my stomach 80% full only when eating main meals allowing the circulatory system to digest the food with ease. Of course, there are occasions when I am tempted and I do eat more especially when I am having fried chicken or fried fish with dal and rice or biryani or aseeda or saeadiya. After eating any of these dishes I feel heaviness in the stomach. I also suffer from gastritis and acidity after these dishes.

We need 3 to 4 ozs of high protein daily to replace dead tissues; why then take more protein and invite trouble. Our hearty meal gives harder work to the heart and circulatory system. We may be satisfied by a rich and nutritious meal which may fill our stomach 100%, but it can

increase blood pressure.

Let us also apply 80-20 formula for our daily food intake. I do. My food consists of 4/5th of vegetables, fruits, yogurt and salads. Only 1/5th of my food is starch and protein. I enjoy malookhia, ragna, carrots, cucumber, kooosa and other vegetables plus fruits and other fresh raw salads. These form 80% of my food everyday.

5) Physical exercise to improve health: I love walking and other exercises which don't require weight lifting. Exercise is certainly good for AHT patients. We should walk at least a mile and if fit enough up to four miles a day to remain fit, and to help digestion of food, and to keep our blood pressure normal. We should, if possible, engage in complete and free movement of the entire body while walking.

6) Avoid salt. I avoid sprinkling salt on my food which is cooked with very little or no salt. I have read that salt attracts water, and causes the retention of fluid in the body. Salt also does not allow calcium in the food to be used properly.

7) Measure our own blood pressure. I possess a sphygmomanometer-blood pressure measuring instrument - plus a stethoscope. I measure my own blood pressure regularly. Its operation is quite simple, and any doctor or nurse can teach you. It makes me aware as to how my medicines, diet and exercise are affecting my blood pressure.

In conclusion let me say that we should develop the art of relaxing, and slow down the tempo of our life. Hypertension takes a long time to develop, and it can therefore take a long time to withdraw. In the meantime we should follow the instructions of our doctors. If the BP increases notwithstanding medication it is due to our own negligence, and wrong living.

Good luck and good living.

By: Yusuf Abdul Hamid, Aden.

Eradicating Polio: Campaign Gains Momentum

A press conference about the National Days for Eradicating Polio was held on Saturday, October 24 at the National Institute for Administrative Sciences. The conference was attended by Dr. Abdullah Abdulwali Nasher, Minister of Health; Ms. Amat Al-Alim Al-Soswa, Information Deputy-Minister; Dr. Abdulkarim Rasa'e, Health Deputy-Minister; Mr. Habib Hammam, representative of the UNICEF;

to 12, leaflets about the campaign were distributed in the governorates. On October 10, a cooperation memorandum was signed with the Japanese government. On October 18 and 19, the Immunization Supreme Committee, the Prime Minister, the Parliament Speaker and head of the Consultative Council held a meeting to put the last touches on launch of the campaign activities. On October 20, the Vice-President



Mr. Yassin Qinawi, representative of the WHO; representative of the Japanese Embassy, and the World Health expert from Geneva.

In his opening speech, Dr. Nasher said: "Last year, vaccination covered less than 25% of the of children. Until today, it covered 65% and we hope it will cover 70% by the end of this year. This conference has been prepared for from July 28, 1998." The Japanese government provided maintenance services for the following:

- 60 vaccination coldstores in various governorates with refrigerators and generators.
- 12 vaccination coldstores in different directorates with equipment that work by solar energy.
- 20 health centers with solar energy equipment.

During September, 23/24, the vaccines were imported and then distributed to all health centers in governorates. From September 30 to October 3, the general managers of the health centers were trained. On September 29, a special operation room set up for administering the campaign began its work. From October 3

attended the Supreme Committee for Immunization Coordination session.

Those who participate in the campaign from the health sector are 5646, in addition to 13,361 volunteers. There are 5405 vaccination centers, 2400 of them are permanent places and the other 3,005 are temporary centers. There are 552 supervisors. Some 558 cars are to be used in the campaign. The number of children targeted by the campaign is 3,588, 870, all under 5 years old.

About supporting the campaign, Dr. Rasa'e, Health Deputy Minister said: "International organizations funded the campaign with US \$1,291,000, EC Countries with US \$567,915, and the Japanese government US \$314,000. The WHO supported us with US \$182,000, the UNICEF with US \$120,000. The Diseases Monitoring Center in Atlanta supported us with US \$90,000 and Exxon Co. with US \$10,000. On the other hand, the Yemeni government supported the campaign with US \$630,000."

Nadwa Al-Dawsari,
Yemen Times

Future Prospects of Agriculture To Be Discussed

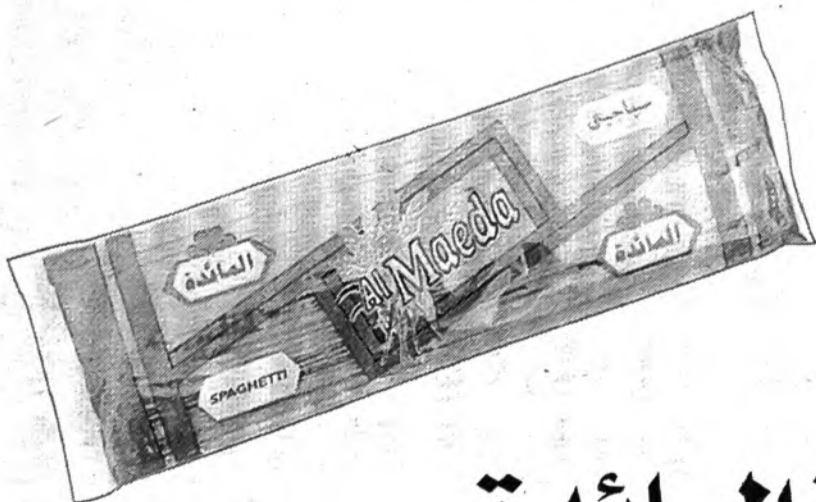
Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in cooperation with the World Bank, a workshop on 'Reviewing Agricultural Policies and Agricultural Development Strategy' will be held during October 28-29.

Participants will include representatives of Yemeni universities, ministries, the World Bank, the EC, UNDP and research centers in Yemen. All in all nine research papers will be submitted, dealing mainly with the basic features of crop production economies, marketing strategies, applied projections of agricultural policy (sources of growth), rural funding, public expenditure, and establishing a fund to aid fisheries and agricultural coop-

eratives in Yemen. There will also be an extensive study on qat.

Workshop Objectives
Participants aim to achieve the following:

- Understanding the conditions of the agricultural sector management with a view to employing this understanding in solving administrative problems;
- Utilizing the concept of rational choice in strategic management by identifying the needs and assessing sustainable management of the agricultural sector; and
- formulating sound policies and developing the agricultural strategy by utilizing the results of the Aden Agenda as a basis.



مكرونه المائدة
غذاء... وفائدة



MidEast

Shipping clearing and forwarding agents

presents his congratulations and best wishes to
President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani and his Government,
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Husain Al-Ahmer & Parliament,
Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani & Consultative Council,
and the Yemeni people
on the 36th anniversary of 26 of September Revolution and
on the 35th anniversary of 14 of October Revolution.

Many Happy Returns
also present its felicitations to
President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani
and the Yemeni people
on the decision of the Court of Arbitration
in favor of Yemen
regarding the dispute over Hunaish Islands.
The wisdom of our leadership has paid off.



MIDEAST

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Republic of Yemen

شركة الشرق الأوسط للملاحة المحدودة

MIDEAST

Shipping clearing and
forwarding agents
Republic of Yemen

تتقدم بأرق التهاني والتبريكات للأخ

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

والدكتور عبدالكريم الأرياني وجميع أعضاء حكومته
وإلى الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر وجميع أعضاء مجلس النواب
وإلى الاستاذ/ عبدالعزيز عبدالغني وجميع أعضاء المجلس الاستشاري
وإلى الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة العيد السادس والثلاثين لثورة السادس والعشرين من سبتمبر
والعيد الخامس والثلاثين لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر
وكل عام واليمن بخير

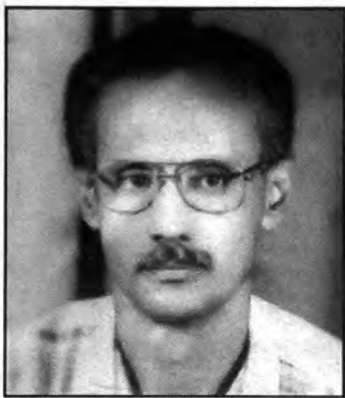
كما تتقدم إلى فخامة رئيس الجمهورية الأخ

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

والدكتور عبدالكريم الأرياني وجميع أفراد الشعب اليمني
بمناسبة الانتصار العظيم

في إستعادة السيادة اليمنية على أرخبيل حنيش
وذلك بفضل حكمة القيادة اليمنية
وكل يوم من نصر إلى نصر بإذن الله

Folk Dances in Lahj



dancing and tapping on the ground by the right leg. The performers then advance towards each other and retreat backward, while the drummers circle around them.

The most famous song composed according to this dance is "Wabo Zaid", which has been recently sung by the famous Yemeni singer Ahmed Fat'hi.

Al-Damdam:

The traditional "Hajer and Mirwas" drums are used in this dance, which is performed by a man and a woman with fast rhythms. The male dancer walks quickly around the female dancer and tries to snatch an item of her simple adornment. But she slips away from him. This dance is performed at weddings and harvest time.

Al-Murkah:

Popular Folk Dances:
Before the emergence of the Lahaji song as a popular art form, famous tunes in Lahaj used to be in the form of well-known folk dances such as Al-Razha and Al-Henna. Many folk lyrics by outstanding Lahaji poets such as Fadhl Maater and Masroor Mabrook, were composed to be rhythmically in tune with these folk dances. The following is a view of the most famous and beautiful folk dances in Lahaj.

Al-Rahif:

This beautiful dance is usually performed by two men and two women dancing to rhythms of the traditional "Hajer" and "Mirwas" drums. During this dance, the two male dancers try to snatch any of the female dancers' adornments, whether it is a necklace, shawl,

Two women, facing each other, start dancing to the tunes of the Hajer and Mirwas drums. They wear embroidered dresses and thick sliver anklets with small rattlers attached to make rhythmic sounds. This dance is usually performed at weddings.

Al-Henna:

This beautiful dance expresses merriment among relatives and friends and is performed during wedding ceremonies after midnight. Some of the guests,



etc. But their attempts are thwarted teasingly. One of the most popular songs, lyrics for which were composed to the rhythm of this folk dance, is "Laytani Ya Habibi" or (I wish I were with you, my lover). It was performed by Ahmed Yousif Al-Zabidi.

Al-Razha:

This dance is performed during harvest time by two lines of men and women facing each other. They start the dance with slow, even rhythms accompanied by

together with the bridegroom, start the dance by forming a circle where every person holds the waist of the one next to him. The singer, drummers and a woman holding a censer stand in the middle of the circle. They dance slowly to the rhythms of the Hajer and Mirwas till the morning. Then, the bridegroom is carried home in procession to the same rhythms.

Saleh Abdulbaqi,
Arts Editor

نتقدم بخالص التهاني للشباب
فائز نورالدين السقاف
بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولوده البكر الذي اسماه
فرات

المهنيون
جميع موظفي صحيفة «يمن تايمز»
وجميع أعضاء جمعية الحضارم الخيرية
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

Survey of Yemen's Red Sea Coral Reefs:

UNTAPPED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

0. Back ground

The Yemen Republic covers an area of about 550,000 km², has a population estimated at 16 million, the main land coastline of the Red Sea extends about 250 nautical miles in a roughly north-south direction. Yemen has a continental shelf of 3,500 square nautical miles with a depth less than 200 m.

The coastline lies on the eastern shores of the Red Sea from about latitude 12 40 N to latitude 15 25 N.

1. Objectives

- Coral reefs form the basis for the commercial and artisanal fisheries of the Red Sea.

- Many animal species depend, directly or indirectly, on coral for their food requirement.

- Coral reefs are important to man, supplying high quality protein through their associated fish and shellfish components (Sohannes, 1970; 1975);

These food stuffs may be a critical factor in the development of tropical islands or coastal desert communities.

- Numerous reef inhabitants have also been found to be source of various pharmaceutical compounds (Sohannes, 1970a; McEnroe and Fenical, 1978).

2. Methods

- GPS position is the main site identification, site number is merely a tag for the data sheet and database record.

- Under water data sheets we record water temperature, salinity, and visibility.

- A visual estimate of the percent bottom cover of the main sessile benthos categories (hard coral, soft coral, etc.).

- Scuba diving, linetranssect 50m, random places for three transect.

- Underwater camera.

- Temperature loggers fixed for six months.

3. General

Coral reefs are animals and go through a larval stage.

The larvae settle on hard substrate and proceed to grow, but high levels of sedimentation or turbidity can mechanically block the feeding polyps and prevent growth.

Some corals are quite adept at removing sediments but the symbiotic algae called zooxanthellae contained in the coral tissues require light to produce food.

While some corals can capture enough plankton from the water in order to live and grow, others have enough zooxanthellae to produce sufficient food for growth in the absence of plankton. Very few coral can survive if their plankton feeding apparatus is blocked and insufficient light is available for photosynthesis by the zooxanthellae.

Nevertheless, some corals are able to survive these conditions, but have a limited food supply and, therefore, grow slowly.

Thus, recovery of corals is expected to be slow.

The morphology of some Scleractinia corals may be affected by independent environmental factors such as the availability of food and the ambient light intensity.

A species having a wide depth distribution may exhibit several growth forms and/or colonies may become less robust, more slender, or flattened with increasing depth.

The optimum temperature for growth is 26C (Coles and Jokiel 1978). The minimum sea surface temperature is 18C (Vaughan and Wells 1943).



- Some types of sponge are important in accreting coral skeletons in deeper waters where light is limited and coral growth rudimentary. Also some sponges are significant contributors to the net primary productivity of reef systems.

- "Boring" and "burrowing" sponges, found on most coral reefs, chemically dissolve (etch) calcitic and aragonitic substrates including live corals; cause the phenomenon of "coral bleaching", and sometimes result in the destruction of large tracts of coral reef.

Some of the etching chemicals are also toxic to humans, denaturing proteins.

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4. Survey Results

- Large areas of coral reefs exist in Yemen's Red Sea water. All islands and shoals surveyed to the north and west of Hodeidah have adjacent reef complexes. Some of the coral on these reefs are dead, but this is believed to be a recent phenomenon.

- The limited areas surveyed to the south of Hodeidah showed reef development.

- Most of the areas of reef surveyed south of Ghulayfiqah had less coral mortality.

- Reefs in Bab Al-Mandeb and north of Dhubab were in good condition with a high percentage of live coral.

- Most reefs surveyed contained a large fish population.

- The distribution of habitat types along the Red Sea coast of Yemen roughly divides the coast into three sections:

- The northern part from the Saudi border to Ras Isa is a relatively lower energy environment, protected from heavier seas by offshore islands and reefs, mainly dominated by mangroves with seagrass beds in bays and patches along the coast and reef patches off the coast and around the islands.

- The central section near to Khawkah, has some seagrass, but is mainly long sandy shores in a higher energy environment.

- The southern section which extends to Bab Al-Mandeb, has fringing reef along most of the coastline with moderate energy and clearer water.

- Temperatures took from loggers in Bab Al-Mandeb (27 C- 34.5 C) south of the Red Sea, and Luhaya

in the north is (27 C- 32 C).

4.1 Types of Reef

- Shallow and short to expended reef flat usually has a sandy bottom and small patches of hard substrate, and terminates with a hard edge that drops to a similar unstable bottom.

- The width of the reef flat could extend from several tens of meters to over 2km. Many have patches of flashy macro algae or

salinity.

Also releasing zooxanthellae was the result of the scraping type of feeding behavior of the Red Sea urchin *diadoma setosum*.

Another possible coral predator observed was the crown of thorn starfish, *Acanthastr planci*.

4.4 Physical (Mechanical) Damage

Corals are undoubtedly very well adapted to the kind of physical destruction (fragmentation, etc) that heavy wave action produces, and apparently it makes no difference whether these waves are generated by a hurricane or shock-waves generated by an explosion (Antonious and Weiner, 1982).

While hurricanes have occasionally annihilated reefs (Stoddart, 1963), and have caused considerable breakage (Antonious, 1972), resulting in large amounts of rubble (Shinn, 1972), coral rubble does not typically originate from damage to live, healthy colonies. Rather, it is produced from colonies which have been dead for some time, with their skeletons weakened by boring algae, sponges, and other invertebrates (Antonious and Weiner, 1982).

- Increased turbidity associated



seagrass meadows in the shallows.

- The hard coral species to be found in the shallowest part of reef flat is *Stylophora Pistillata Savignana*.

- The hard edge of the flat was mainly composed of massive colonies and sometimes plating *Acropora* and occasionally small beds of branching *Acropora*. On the sandy flat at the bottom of the slope were often a sparse scattering of massive corals of the genus *porites* and family *favidea*.

- (Back and Engel 1979) observed that one-third of all juvenile colonies died or disappeared during six months of observation; the results were the same for all species and all species groups. Since skeletons of the juveniles were not found, the cause of this mortality was attributed to perdition by grazing.

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4.2 Collection of Biological Specimens

Over 200 samples of hard coral specimens were collected. These were bleached, labeled and identified. Of these 72 were *Acropora*.

4.3 Dead Coral

Coral may die from a wide variety of natural causes (Antonious 1977). However, the most serious diseases are white band disease and black band disease (Antonious, 1973; 1976; 1977; 1982a, b). Several coral colonies exhibited the "bleaching" phenomenon whereby coral has been "stressed". Such stresses include abrasion, increased turbidity, pollution, disease and sudden changes in temperature and/or

with physical/mechanical impacts (Chalker, 1976), (Back; 1978) suggests that the primary effect of turbidity on the calcification rate is through reduced light availability.

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Turkey & Syria Meet on PKK

Turkish and Syrian officials last week held groundbreaking talks on security issues in their first meeting since the eruption of a war of words over Ankara's charges that Damascus backs Kurdish rebels in southeastern Turkey.

Qatar Gas Reserves Up By 27%

Estimates of Qatar's proven gas reserves have grown by 27% over the last year, making it the third largest in the world.

Nigeria Blaze Death Toll Rises to 700

A pipeline inferno killed

hundreds of people in Nigeria in a scramble for fuel. Press reports said that at least 500 people were feared dead.

Mideast Peace Deal Is Signed

Palestinian and Israeli leaders signed on Friday, October 23 a land-for-peace deal that restored momentum to the Middle East peace process after a 19-month deadlock and handed US President Bill Clinton a diplomatic triumph.

Iraq Seeks UN Reply

Iraq has given the United Nations a list of nine questions it needs answered about a proposed 'comprehensive review' of sanctions before it will consider resuming cooperation with UN arms inspectors.

UN arms inspectors and in return receive a watershed review by the council of its seven-year effort to disarm itself.

One of Baghdad's nine concerns is that inspectors be forced to disclose the source of evidence to back their claims that Iraq isn't fully disarmed.

Saudis Urge Taliban to Hand Over Bin Laden

Saudi Arabia's top intelligence officials met a top Taliban leader privately in September in an attempt to persuade Afghanistan to deport Osama Bin Laden, suspected of masterminding the August bombings of American embassies.

The meeting was at the urging of President Clinton's administration. According to New York Times, Prince Turki Bin Faisal, chief of Saudi intelligence, sat down with Mullah Muhammad Omar, leader of the Taliban's Supreme Council, and asked him to end his protection of the Saudi exile and hand him over.

After the Taliban refused, Saudi Arabia downgraded its diplomatic ties with the group. The Saudis and the Taliban have long had close ties in the past. Bin Laden, as Islamic militant, is suspected of masterminding the August 7 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 253 people.

Taliban representatives and have sought Pakistan's intercession in the matter as well as to Bin Laden's family.

Administration officials want Bin Laden to face trial in the United States and have asked the Saudis to urge the Taliban only to deport Bin Laden.

Eritrea-Ethiopi NEW MAP

According to Eritrean sources, Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is circulating a map to the diplomatic community in Addis Ababa. The map has also been widely distributed in schools and other government institutions.

Ever since the eruption of the crisis, Eritrea has been insisting that Ethiopia declare - fully and clearly - the totality of its territorial claims.

Typhoon Kills Over 80 in Philippines

Typhoon Babs killed over 80 people after triggering massive flooding and a deadly landslide which buried a village in eastern Philippines.

The bulk of the deaths were recorded in the east, including 53 on the Island of Catanduanes and 19 in the province of Camarines Sur.

The typhoon roared out into the South China Sea mid-afternoon last week with the Red Cross saying that at least a quarter of a million people were left homeless. Floodwaters were still rising due to heavy rain in Manila and elsewhere.

Sudan Famine Victims Struggle With Rains

Tens of thousands of southern Sudanese trying to recover from this year's hunger crisis are now struggling to cope with heavy rains and flooding, a U.N. agency said on Thursday.

Davies said seasonal rains had been late, erratic and abnormally heavy in some areas. One of the worst hit areas is Ajiep in northern Bahr Al-Ghazal where the River Jur has burst its banks.

able people and the flooding has made the airstrip unusable for the last three or four weeks making it difficult to get supplies in," Davies said.

Another badly affected area is Bor on the White Nile north of the southern capital of Juba, which is suffering its worst flooding for 10 years.

A third region of significant flooding is Gumriak in Upper Nile province where at least 50% of crops have been destroyed, she added.

This year's hunger crisis in southern Sudan - at its worst in parts of Bahr Al-Ghazal - was caused in part by a drought last year but mostly by fighting between southern rebels and the Khartoum government in the country's 15-year civil war.

Procter and Gamble targets for increased exports from Yemen

Procter, & Gamble, a multinational consumer goods manufacturer and marketer well established in Yemen is looking at prospects to promote its investment in Yemen.

currently producing five of the company's top selling brands, namely Ariel detergents, Pert Plus and Pantene shampoos, Pampers and Always sanitary products for babies and women.

Procter & Gamble Yemen's mother company is a multinational with existing set-up in 130 countries worldwide. The company produces some of the world's best selling consumer products of the highest quality.



Orbit Weekly Programs. Grid of TV shows and times for various channels including America Plus, Orbit ESPN Sports, Music Now, Hollywood, Super Movies, and FUN Channel.



YEDCO: Laudable Steps Towards Success

The Yemen Drug Company (YEDCO) was founded in accordance with the Republican Resolution No. 56 of the year 1964 - a joint sector company consisting of private and public sector with a capital of 100% Yemeni source.

The company has two main purposes:

- 1- Manufacture of the pharmaceutical finished products, medical preparations, chemicals, medical appliances and baby food.
- 2- Import, marketing and export of pharmaceutical finished products, medical preparations, chemicals, medical appliances and baby food.

The company was established to fulfill the country's need for pharmaceuticals. It established the drug factory in Sanaa in 1983 in realization to its essential target to materialize the manufacture of the drugs locally in Sanaa commencing with three types of pharmaceutical preparations, later on developed gradually until it extended its capacity to manufacturing 54 products in 1997.

The product line and its ultimate output capacity

- 1- Tablet line producing approximately 560 million tablets per annum.
- 2- Capsule line producing approximately 350 million capsules per annum.



- 3- Syrup line producing approximately 14 million packs per annum.
- 4- Suspension line producing approximately 8.75 million packs per annum.
- 5- Ointments and cream line producing approximately 5.25 million tubes per annum.
- 6- ORS producing approximately 25 million sachets per annum.

In 1987 the medical package factory was established side by side with the off-set printing plant. In 1993 I.V. fluid plant was founded, the products of which began with an ultimate output capacity of 5.25 million packs annually. Manufacturing is carried out according to the European pharmacopoeia to Scandinavian countries standards.

The updated preparations are applicable for the following different ranges of the company's products:

- 1- Analgesic Anti-pyretic
- 2- Vitamins
- 3- Antibiotics
- 4- Anti-malaria
- 5- Anthelmintics
- 6- Anti-histaminic

- 7- Anti-cough
- 8- Anti-spasmodic
- 9- Anti-acid
- 10- Steroid by itself and associated with anti-biotics such as neomycin.

Employees

The number of employees increased gradually until it became 569. Sixty of them are university graduates and 50 others are holding legislative and industrial institution certificates, whereas the rest are skilled workers.

Research Field

The company carries out its scientific research and studies along with the cooperation of Arab and European experiences to improve and develop existing products as well as to produce new preparations to match up with the scientific progress in this field. Great attention is paid to the training and development of eligible and qualified employees capable to cope with the challenges of the medical industrial field.

Forthcoming Plans

The company seeks to establish the following productive units and sections:

- 1- Disposable syringes unit with an ultimate capacity of 30 million syringes with volumes of 1ml, 2.5ml, 10ml, and 20ml.
- 2- Eye drops and ointments unit with an ultimate output capacity of 5 million packs in addition to 3 million packs of ear drops and 2 million packs of nostril drops.
- 3- Ampoules unit with an approximate ultimate output capacity of 20 million ampoules applicable for the following different ranges of YEDCO products:
 - a- Analgesic anti-pyretic 17 million ampoules
 - b- Vitamins 6 million ampoules
 - c- Antibiotics 5 million ampoules
 - d- Anti-allergic 2 million ampoules
- 4- To establish plastic packing plant to cover iv. Fluid plant, eye, ear, nostril units requirements as well as to replace other packing consisting of glass bottles currently used to bottle some of the products, as well as disposable syringes products.

Product Marketing & Promoting

YEDCO possesses a vast transportation network capable of distributing its own products and other imported products to all of its following branches in all the governorates:

- 1- Sanaa branch
- 2- Aden branch
- 3- Taiz branch
- 4- Ibb branch
- 5- Hodeida branch
- 6- Dhamar branch
- 7- Saada branch
- 8- Al-Mahweet branch
- 9- Marib branch
- 10- Amran branch
- 11- Al-Saleef pharmacy
- 12- Central pharmacies located in most of the governorates

Each branch is equipped with a telephone and a fax for immediate contact with the head office in each and every time reporting every now and then about the sales process and stock inventory.

Distribution Agencies

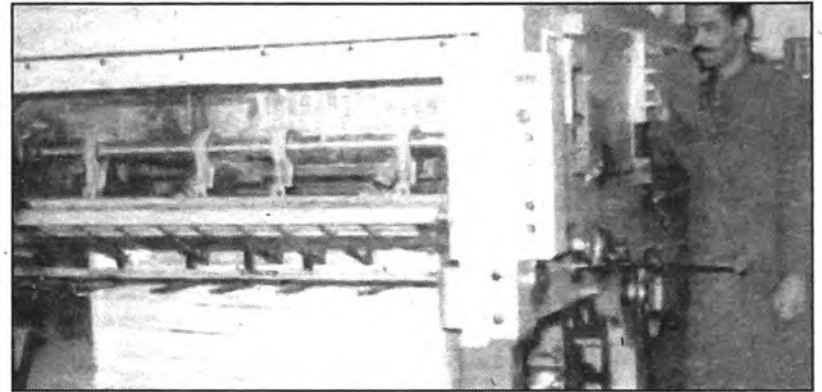
The company has agencies in Shabwa, Al-Baidha, Mukala, Lahj, Abyan, Al-Mahara, Sayoon and Haradh. The volume of the

Yemeni market for drugs ranges between 250 and 300 million dollars, whereas the average capacity of YEDCO to cover the Yemeni market is around 30% out of the local products and 20% out of the imported products.

YEDCO is doing its best to develop its marketing team to be capable to step forward to the second stage of exporting to neighboring countries.

The company pays great attention and care to promoting the sales of all

products, local as well as imported, by means of advertisements in newspapers, TV, poster and by personal visits to doctors, hospitals, clinics all over the governorates.



Word From YEDCO Chairman



Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Al-Qadhi, 30, is a graduate of business administration from the USA. He is now chairman of the Yemen Drug Company.

Q: We have heard of new efforts for restructuring the company. Could you please give us some idea about that?

A: This is one of our strategies because the company has been working very hard for a long time. It faced many financial and technical problems. So our plan now is to rebuild and expand the company, having the first place in Yemen to manufacture drugs.

We are planning to extend our production to different kinds of medicine to cover the market in Yemen and limit the importing of medicines from abroad. I feel very optimistic about the future of the company; it is big and has a lot of capabilities. What we need is to have good management. In this case, we would be the leading company in Yemen.

Q: Is it true that YEDCO is losing some of its franchises?

A: The company used to be the agent of most of the well-known and famous pharmaceutical companies in the world. Around 12 or 15 agencies have been taken from the company and given to the private sector. We will try to work out and discuss this issue in our plan and strategy and get what is for the company and cooperate with companies outside Yemen.

Q: What plans do you have to increase marketing?

A: One of the main problems the company used to face was the lack of a good marketing system. The first thing I did when I took over this responsibility was to reorganize the marketing department.

We have 11 branches in the country. YEDCO's new marketing system will make our medicines accessible to everybody in Yemen. We will give the responsibility of marketing our products to specialized people. We are optimistic about this action which I think will be very effective.

YEDCO is very competitive in price and quality. Our products are cheaper than any others imported from abroad. Our main concern is to let people know about our products.

Q: It is alleged that the YEDCO logo is being falsely used by rogue manufacturers. What is the reaction of the company?

A: Yes, this happened to the Paramol product. We found that there is a paramol in the market manufactured in India or Thailand and has entered the country illegally. But we and the Ministries of Health and Industry are going to take legal action against them because this is detrimental to manufacturing in Yemen and our company in particular. They have chosen Paramol because of its good reputation in Yemen and because it proved that YEDCO is capable of producing a good product.

Q: Is it true that some expired medicines or which are not up to standards are imported and reproduced in Yemen?

A: Well, I heard and have noticed that there are drug items coming to Yemen either through smuggling or officially and they are expired. The saddening thing about it is that most pharmacies and people dealing with medicines are selling them to the people.

I think the Ministry of Health and customs authorities are taking stiff measures against these people and will not allow them to continue because these medicines are harmful to the whole society. The government and the people should take action against companies and people smuggling expired drugs into the country.

Q: What are YEDCO's future plans?

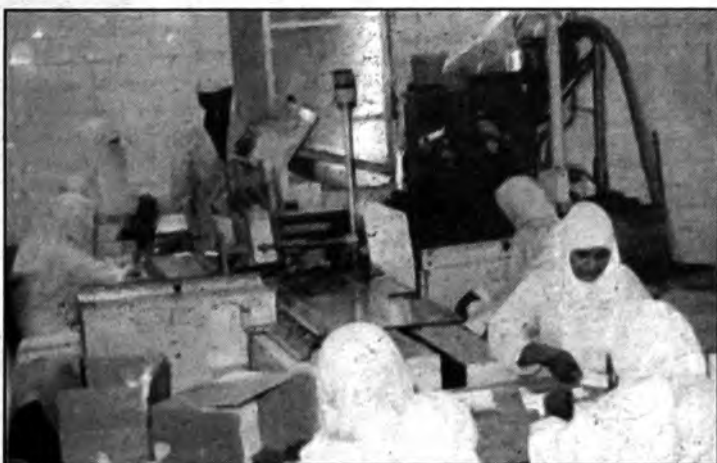
A: First of all, we are going to increase our marketing level by concentrating on distributing our drugs in every city and village. We are also concentrating on the training system; training in management and other fields that will make the company prosper. We are also focusing on quality and price. We are trying to minimize our prices, making our profits less.

Q: What about the privatization of the company?

A: This news was released three years ago. Yemen is in general shifting towards privatization and it is good for the public sector to be privatized but it will take time. The government is working hand-in-hand with the World Bank and this needs at least four years to take place.

Q: What are the main obstacles faced by YEDCO?

A: The company has a financial and management problem. We have also problems over lands and buildings. But we are doing our best to overcome them and make them a thing of the past.



"Portraying Yemeni women is my primary concern."



Aden, is a well-known and prolific Yemeni artist. In addition to her natural talent for symbolically depicting Yemeni themes, Ilham, 39, also holds an MA degree in graphic arts from the High Institute of Fine Arts, Surikov Academy, Moscow (1990).
Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief interviewed Ms. Al-Arashi.

Q: How did you start your life with art?

A: My love for drawing and painting really started when I was a child. I started taking part in school exhibitions when I was at

Ms. Ilham Ali Al-Arashi, chairperson of the Yemeni Plastic Artists Syndicate's branch in



Surrender (surrender by meek women)

preparatory school. Following my graduation from the Teachers' Institute in 1979, I joined an artists' workshop, which was part of the Ministry of Culture and run by an Egyptian master painter - Mr. Darwish. After a two-year stint at the workshop (1980-82), I won a scholarship granted by the Yemen Women's Union to study art at the former Soviet Union. After my return from Moscow in 1990, I worked as a school inspector, dealing with three different schools up to 1997. Afterwards I moved to the Ministry of Culture office in Aden. I now work as a lecturer at the Institute of Fine Arts, as well.

Q: Do you specialize in a particular field of plastic art?

A: I mainly do graphics. I use water colors, charcoal, brass, etchings, oil paints, printing on stone, etc.

Q: What are your main themes or subject matter?

A: My primary concern is women: meek women, illiterate women, confused women; women wanting freedom. Most of my work deals with Yemeni environment and themes.

Q: In what exhibitions did you take part?

A: I participated in local and international art exhibitions. My works have been exhibited in Turkmenistan, France, Aden and Sanaa.

Q: Where do you wish to go *Sunset*

from there?

A: I'd like to further improve my style and hone my talent. I hope the state will give Yemeni artists more care and attention.

I also wish to win a scholarship to continue my higher studies abroad.

Q: What sort of difficulties do you come against in your work?

A: The main obstacle any artist faces is lack of government support. Also, copy rights are not

observed. An artist's work might be reproduced in even a government publication, without bothering to ask for his or her permission.

Q: Any last comment?

A: I hope that the recently formed Plastic Artists Syndicate, with branches in Sanaa and Aden (15 December, 1997, and 31 August respectively), will be empowered to protect the rights of its members and advance their interests.



Where To?! (declining values and morals)



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Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Sameer Farawna

الطريق

ATTARIQ
Aden, weekly 20/10/98
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

-The Americans inaugurate the training program in Aden for the removal of mines left over from the 1974 civil war starting with Aden and Lahj before moving on to Hadhramut.

-Yemen prohibits the entry into its territory of Egyptian, Libyan, Sudanese, Tunisian and Algerian nationals who come from other countries than their own.

-More than ten foreign fishing boats have been fishing at night in the regional waters of Yemen off the Aden coast posing danger to local fishermen's boats and nets.

-The price of paper and other printing materials will go up by five to ten percent as a result of the increase of the u.s. dollar's rate of exchange against the Yemeni riyal in the past few days.

-Three armed men attacked a group of agricultural engineers while working at a private ranch last Saturday in Wadi Hadhramut and stole their Toyota Land-cruiser, 91, in the fifth incident of its kind in the same area.

-New military checkpoints were introduced along the Saudi-Yemeni borders in Hadhramut to prevent the outflow of Yemeni citizens to Saudi Arabia via Al-Kharakheer area, following reports that the neighboring country was granting them Saudi citizenship.

-The Director of the Seyoun hospital recently issued a strange decision banning the admission of any patient into the surgery wards unless his/her relatives donate blood to the hospital whether the patient needed it or not.

البلاغ

AL BALAGH
Sanaa, weekly 20/10/1998
(Independent)

Article Summary:

Beware of CocaCola

By Abdullah Al Wazir

We care for the issues that affect society and the nation and when we publish something for the sake of reform we continue doing that until something is done about it. Among such issues is the publishing of "Beware of CocaCola" which we have printed for the past few weeks but to no avail. It is regrettable that the CocaCola factory did not respond to the publication of the report in which we proved that dirt was present in some of its bottles, thus indicating its carelessness toward the expected negative results on the citizens' health.

Some people thought that the continued publication of the report meant that there was a kind of bargaining on our part, which is not true. Our main concern, as those close to the weekly well know, is the citizens' health. Furthermore, the Housing and Construction Bureau's lab tests have proven that expired raw materials are used in the factory. I believe that the factory's administration means to harm the Yemeni citizen's health, particularly when the chemical materials used in the bottling process have quick effects on those consuming them.



AL SHOURA
Sanaa, weekly 18/10/1998
(Federation of Popular Forces)

-Seven Somali refugees, including a woman, were killed in Shabwa last week on the Beir coast while the Coast Guards were trying to force them to dis-

embark from the vessel that illegally carried them into Yemeni territorial waters.

-The murderer of Dr. Mohammed Hael Al Areeqi was executed two days following his crime and his body was crucified in Marib's central market.

-Value of the Yemeni riyal against the U.S. dollar was notably retreating in the past few days which automatically led to the increase in prices of basic food materials and other imported commodities.

-Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ahmad Al Jabali, passed a circular last week banning the Ministry's employees from chewing qat during working hours and evening meetings.

الحدود

AL WAHDAWI
Sanaa, weekly 20/10/1998
(Peope's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

Main Headlines:

-Official Saudi papers last week attacked Yemeni opposition dailies accusing them of fuelling the border dispute between the two countries.

-Local authorities in Taiz have intervened to prevent the implementation of the Minister of Health, Dr. Abdul Wali Nasher's decision appointing two new directors to Al Thowra and Al Jumbo hospitals fearing their competence and intention to introduce financial and administrative reforms.

-The local agent of the Egyptian pharmaceutical company, Pharco, still has a permit from the Health Ministry to import medicine from that company, which an Egyptian-court mid last month had ruled that its products did not meet required medical standards.

-Armed men, accompanying parents of a detained girl, last Sunday broke into the homicidal department in Sanaa and released the girl who was kidnapped two weeks ago and the department refused to set her free until after she marries a 14 year old boy who was behind the kidnapping, according to a security source.



26 September
Sanaa, weekly 22/10/1998
(Yemen Armed Forces)

Main Headlines:

-The Deputy Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdul Qader Bajamma, is to launch official visits to Egypt and Syria within the next few days.

-Yemen is to officially restore the greater Honaish Island on November 1st in a modest ceremony to be attended by army officers from both the Eritrean and Yemeni sides.

-A number of agreements between Yemen and each of Syria and Jordan were concluded during the Minister of Electricity and Water, Ali Hamid Sharef's visit to both countries last week.

-Director of Conscription and National Defense Brig. Mohammed Mohammed Moharam has stressed that all graduates from the secondary school should serve for two years or else face three years impris-

onment or payment of 30,000 riyals fine, liable to further increase.



AL SAHWA
Sanaa, weekly 22/10/1998

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah)

Main Headlines:

-A group of thirty parliamentarians have tabled a request to form a special committee to investigate, through field visits, in Marib the reported arrest campaign against inhabitants of the Serwah area.

-The general syndicate of oil and refineries workers has decided to suspend its strike until Oct. 25th as a last chance for the Hunt Co. to implement the agreement between them signed last September 1st.

-Foreign fishing boats flee Yemeni territorial waters carrying hundreds of tons of fish without paying their supposed dues to the government.

-Three bombs exploded in Aden almost two weeks ago within a series of similar blasts, the perpetrators of which were not apprehended or known.

-Fifteen tremors shook Al Qafr area in Ibb governorate a week ago spreading fear among the more than 80,000 inhabitants of the area who spent the night outside their homes fearing an earthquake.



RAY
Sanaa, weekly 20/10/1998
(League of the Sons of Yemen)

Main Headlines:

-The Yemeni Embassy in Austria warns against the dangers of importing blood without enough examination, noting that Israel was importing blood from African countries then re-exports it to third world countries.

-Differences between the ruling People's General Conference party and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) party recently emerged over the kidnapping of girls, a matter refuted by the Interior Ministry that charged the Islah with fabricating the story for partisan interests.

-Yemeni-American military cooperation is growing in the past few weeks with more American military delegations at high level visiting the country.



AL THAWRI
Sanaa, weekly 22/10/1998
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines:

-The U.S. denies it wishes to establish military bases or facilities in Yemen and declares that it offers technical assistance to the Yemeni government to combat terrorism.

-The preparatory committee for the YSP fourth general conference has concluded its works issuing a statement that, among other things, called for ending repressive and unconstitutional measures in the country.

-The mother of Lt. Ali Ahmad Al Shaybani, who died in defense of Honaish during the Eritrean storming of the Island, appeals to President Ali Abdullah Saleh

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to disclose the whereabouts of her son's body. arrival from that area in particular.



AL UMMA
Sanaa, weekly 22/10/1998
(AL Haq Party)

Main Headlines:

-Saudi daily newspapers have attacked Yemeni opposition papers following the latter's call for international arbitration over border disputes between the two neighboring countries.

-The Sheikhs of Marib demand the release of detainees from their governorate who surpassed 70 persons including youngsters and elderly.

-The Interior Minister, Hussein Mohammed Arab described as pure fabrication the rumors on the wide-spread kidnapping of ladies in various governorates.

-The Seera Primary Court in Aden governorate a few days ago sentenced to death Nabil Nanakly Kasaibati, Spanish nationality of Syrian origin, and passed different prison sentences on his remaining 26 companions for collaborating with a foreign country and engineering a number of explosions in the country.

-The army recently deployed a number of military checkpoints along the Saudi-Yemeni borders in Hadhramut to deter the outflow of Yemeni citizens to Saudi Arabia which is reportedly granting them citizenship on

الري العام

AL RAY AL AAM
Sanaa, weekly 20/10/1998
(Independent)

Main Headlines:

-Several political and informational circles have denounced the security authority's oppressive campaign against journalists in the partisan and independent newspapers, especially in the governorates of Sanaa and Aden.

-More than 22 MPs from the Islah party have called for including two issues on the current parliament agenda namely that of the deteriorating educational conditions in the country and the unaccepted recreational programs in the local media.

-Yemeni students studying in Jordan staged a several days sit-in in front of the Yemeni Embassy in Amman demanding the speedy payment of their financial assistance.

-A time bomb exploded Saturday last week in a garbage collection vehicle in Sanaa killing one of the cleaners on the spot and seriously injuring another.

-Employees at the Sanaa Local Council are launching a large scale protest campaign against the Council's Executives, accusing them of squandering official funds and corruption.



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Apollo Travel & Emirates Celebrate 2nd Year in Yemen

Emirates Airlines is celebrating its second anniversary of service in Yemen. The event was marked by Sheikh Hamid Al-Ahmar, Chairman of Apollo Travel Company

GSA for Emirates in Yemen, hosting a luncheon followed by gift-giving to employees who completed two years of service to the company.



Children Special Puppet Show

At the Taj Sheba Hotel from 30th Oct. for Friday brunch 12:30 pm. special Italian Girotondo Artists will perform 'a show never to miss' for the children.

Come enjoy our Friday Brunch and watch the Girotondo (puppet show) with special effects. The show is part of the Italian Embassy-sponsored Italian week. Book early to avoid disappointment.



October 26th, 1998

By: Jamal Al-Awadi

Asian Clubs Qualifiers: Hilal 4, Wahda 0

Despite the Hilal football team of Saudi Arabia defeating the Wahda of Sanaa 4-nil, taking into account the former's experience and capabilities, Wahda played very well indeed. Hilal, with its huge resources has been able to win several Arab and Asian tournaments.

Judging from the way they played, Hilal players were very well prepared for the match. The Saudi coach, Al-Zayyat, considered Wahda as a strong opponent. This is especially so after the media attack on the Saudi team's former German coach, Hollmann, following the 2-score draw with Wahda in the Sanaa match.

First Half

This part of the match featured intensive strikes by Hilal players on the Wahda goal zone. It was countered by solid defense and

short counter-strikes. This situation continued up to the 25th minute of the first half, when the Wahda defender, Ibrahim Awadh, made a serious error.

In an attempt to kick the ball away from the Yemeni goal, Awadh gave it easily to the Saudi striker Ziyad. The first goal was scored. The Saudi strikes continued unabated, forcing Wahda players to take defensive positions.

Hilal's Khalid Al-Timawi and Abdullah Jumaan were able, more than once, to infiltrate Yemeni defenses constituting real danger. In such instances, the exceptional ability of Wahda's goalie, Fadhl Al-Matar, was quite remarkable. He was able to foil many serious Saudi attempts. Al-Matar was really the star of the game.

The first half ended with Hilal leading 1-nil.

Second Half

The second 45 minutes continued like the first, more or less. Wahda players ferociously defended the Yemeni goal, while Hilal aggressively struck. Yemeni strikes were few and far between.

Wahda striker Mithaq Al-Asbahi was able to control the ball and pass it to Anqad, who infiltrated Saudi defenses getting near to the Saudi goal. However, he lost the ball which went out resulting in a "goal kick."

Wahda's spirited attempts almost resulted in a goal. During the 7th minute of the second half, the Yemeni striker Mithaq Al-Asbahi shot the ball strongly towards the Saudi goal. It was diverted by the goalie, turning into a goal kick.

In the 15th minute, Hilal striker Abdullah Jumaan, exploiting a corner kick by Mohammed Lutf, shot the ball with his head into the right corner of the Yemeni goal. With a 2-0 score to Saudi's advantage, Hilal players became almost unstoppable. The second goal, on the other hand, dampened the spirits of the Wahda players who lack the Saudi players' long experience. They lost the concentration and hence their control of the field. Hilal players were almost in full control of the mid-field.

During the 23rd minute of the second half, Wahda striker Anwar Al-Surori infiltrated Saudi defenses reaching their goal. His delay in shooting the ball gave the Saudi defenders ample chance to kick the ball out of the field, resulting in a goal kick.

In a Saudi counter-attack during the 27th minute, Abdullah Jumaan overtook Wahda defenders, shooting the ball com-



Photo: Abdullahi Omar

fortably into the left corner of the Yemeni goal - 3-nil.

Wahda players were in a state of disarray during the last few minutes of the match. It became quite easy for Saudi strikers to go through several gaps in the Yemeni defenses. Sami Al-Jabari, Hilal striker, scored the 4th goal of the match.

After that the Wahda players' main concern became how to

prevent the Saudis from scoring more goals by grouping near the goal zone. This situation persisted until the referee whistled signaling the end of the match.

Wahda players made a truly remarkable performance. They definitely need more training facilities and more resources, the lack of which was somewhat compensated with enthusiasm.

Int. Football Coaches Training Course Concluded

The 'International Training Course for Excellent-Division Football Coaches' was concluded on Thursday, October 22 at the Olympic Center in Sanaa. Delegated by the German Football Association, the German football expert, Mr. Wige lectured at the course. Twenty-five football coaches from various parts of Yemen attended theoretical and practical lessons.

The event was part of a sports and youth cooperation protocol signed by the Yemeni and German Olympic committees.

Mr. Wige considered this course one of the most successful he had ever given. He praised the participants' enthusiasm and high attendance. He called upon football officials to provide more opportunity for Yemeni coaches to practice what they have learned at the course. Wige also stressed that coaches should continue to acquire more expertise through other similar courses.

Al-Qadhi Wins Gold in Chess Olympiad

The Yemeni chess player Hamid Al-Qadhi won a gold medal at the 33rd International Chess Olympiad held last week in

Russia. This is the first time Yemen has won a gold medal in this Olympiad. Al-Qadhi was able to defeat strong players from France, Germany Poland, Uzbekistan, Angola, and Finland.

In addition to Al-Qadhi, three other Arab players were able to win gold: Mohammed Al-Modhahiki from Qatar and Iman Al-Rifa'i from Iraq. Alia Hassan of the UAE won a bronze medal.

Ahli of Sanaa Wins Table Tennis Tournament

The Ahli of Sanaa table tennis team was able to win the game's tournament amid fierce competition by other clubs. In its final match, Ahli defeated Shaab of Sanaa 3-nil. Zuhra table tennis team came in third.

Following this victory, the club's board decided to participate in the Arab Clubs Championship due to be held in Beirut soon. The Ahli Club took part in an extensive training camp in preparation for the Arab championship.

In a ceremony attended by the club's chairman, Mr. Mohammed Abdul-Ilah Al-Qadhi; the Wahda Club Chairman, Mr. Noman Dowaid; the Yemeni Olympic Committee Chairman, Mr. Hussein Al-Awadhi and several other sports officials, the Ahli Club honored its champions on their winning the tournament.



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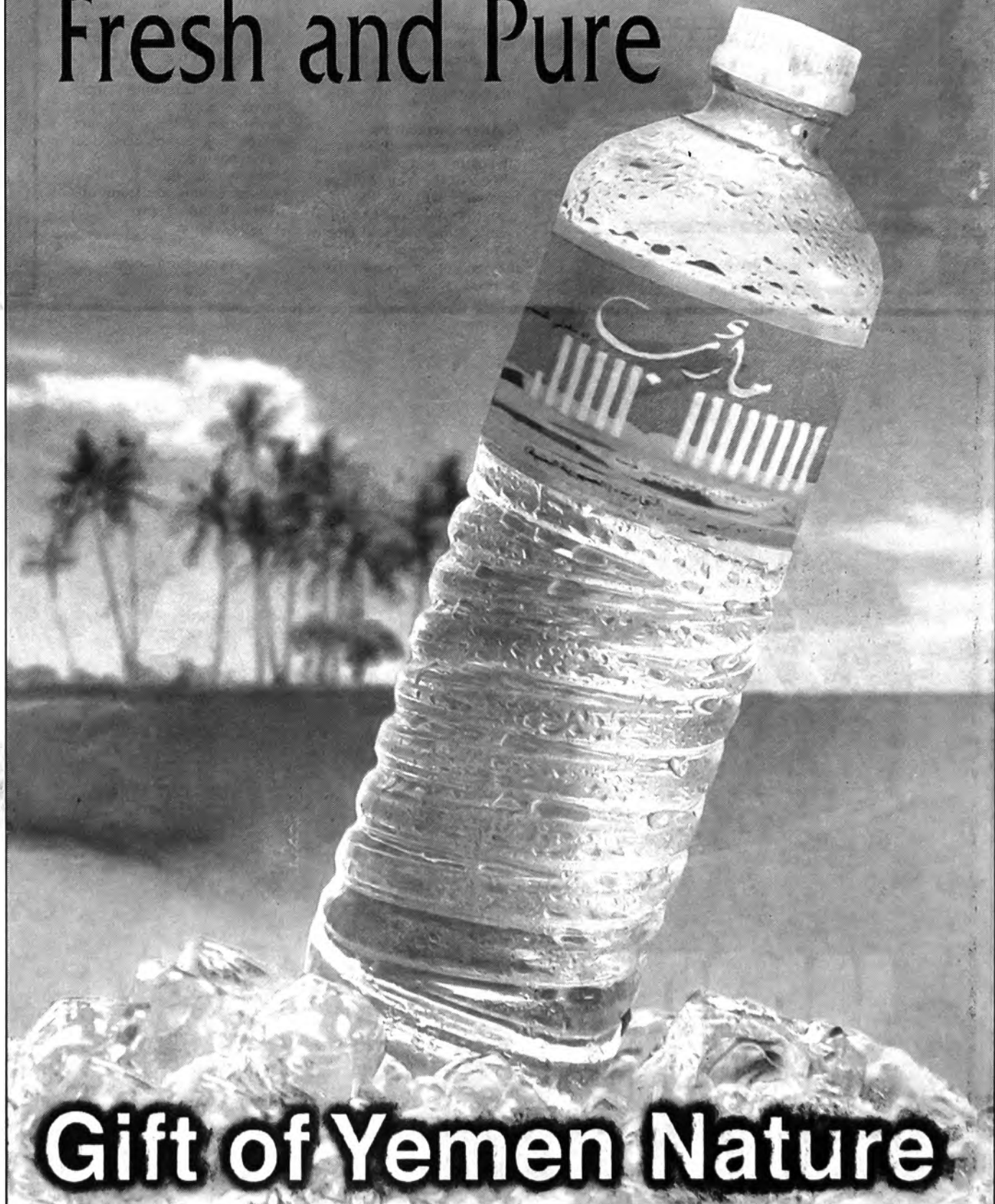
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Yementimes.com Yemen Times Digital Edition



By: Walid AL-SAQQAF
Yementimes.com
Webmaster

Yet another accomplishment, Yementimes.com. After almost 2 years of online publishing experience we have arrived to the conclusion that Yemen Times must have its own domain for it to provide the best service to its readers online. Hence, we did it. We bought the Yementimes.com domain to enable us to serve

our readers even better. In the last two years, thousands of emails, thousands of feedback messages, and hundreds of thousands of hits have been witnessed. While expressing our gratitude to all our online readers for making us the best Yemeni newspaper online, we promise them we will do our best to rise up to their expectations.

After so many sleepless nights working hard to set up the new server, we today are proud to officially launch our newly Yemen Times Online site: yementimes.com, with its new looks and enhanced services. It has not been easy to develop a site that can match up with international newspaper sites on the Internet, especially as the Internet is in its primitive form here in Yemen. We have tried our best to make the Interface of Yemen Times

more attractive, more user-friendly and more informative. We have added a number of services that can be summarized as follows:

1. New Search Engine

We have installed a new powerful search engine that does everything the last search engine did plus more. Unlike the old search engine, this one can also search sentences (phrases) and partitions results into pages rather than displaying all the results in one page. After your search is processed, you can jump to any specific result page directly. The new search engine is configured to display the first 300 characters of each result.

2. Bulletin Board Service

We have added a Message Board Service which is a place where everyone can type in his/her opinions and comments.

3. Contact Page

Now you can contact any staff members directly using his/her email account. We already have more than a dozen working email accounts, and will be adding more soon.

4. Classifieds Page

This page enables you to post a classified advertisement on the site free of charge. After entering the appropriate information required for the advertisement, it is immediately processed and written to the classified database for others to read.

5. Advertisement Page

In case you are thinking of advertising in the paper edition of the Yemen Times, here you will find all you want to know about rates, discounts, and advertisement layout. In the near future we may accept online advertisements as well.

6. Yemenis Abroad Page

This page is dedicated to Yemenis abroad who want to identify themselves and include their information in the Yemen Times 'Yemenis Abroad' database. Yemen Times wants to include links to these Yemenis' homepages on its site. It wants to know how they are doing and ways to establish links between them and their Yemeni brothers and sisters all over the world. It will be our honor to help to bring Yemenis together in any possible way we can.

7. Links Page

This page will include all kinds of links to Yemen Related pages. These include business related, educational, personal, etc.. Although we will be updating this page as often as possible, we want our readers to enter their own links, and other links they think might be useful.

We realize that the use of Internet is rapidly growing in the whole world. Being part of it, Yemen is no exception. Look at the new Yemeni media WWW sites that have emerged lately. That is fascinating. However, we still want Yemen to take part more effectively in this new technology. We want to encourage new media organizations to have their own WWW pages, and we want to link to them and proudly say "they are Yemeni". Yemen Times is putting itself first in line, and wants others to follow. By launching yementimes.com, we confirm our realization of the importance of reaching our readers on all seven continents.

We would like to again welcome you all from this issue on to Yemen Times Digital Edition:

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