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Taiz Celebrates the ISO 9000 for HSA Industries. Pages 8+9.

Re-Structuring Yemen's Vocational Training

600% Growth in 1998!

There is good news coming from the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training. Some real work is being done to promote technical skills among the future labor force of the country.

"Until last year, the annual in-take of new trainees in all technical and vocational institutes and centers in the Republic was about 1,600 young men and women. This year, we have taken in some 10,000 persons in various programs, including short-term intensive courses," explains Mr. Mohammed Al-Tayyib, the Minister. Visibly happy with the achievement, Al-Tayyib said the projected in-take for next year will be even more.

The total number of Yemenis who graduate from basic education schools (grade 9) who are eligible to enroll in vocational and technical schools is around 400,000 boys and girls. Of these, the majority (71%) continue with regular education (high schools). Another 27% quit education altogether and proceed to the labor market or become housewives. It is only around 3% who consider going-on to technical and vocational institutes. In the past, many were refused, given lack of space and facilities.

"I have mounted an extensive campaign to secure external funding. We now have assistance from the World Bank, the European Union, Germany and other sources for our programs. There is no scarcity of funds if you have good programs and you know what you want," the minister explained. Indeed, a total of US$ 60 million is readily available for this sector to be dispensed over the next three years. "Donors see that manpower development is a key factor for the nation's future growth and well-being."

That is why and how the ministry is able to establish many more centers and institutes in various parts of the country. "We have a nationwide plan, and we are implementing it, based on needs and market demand," he added.

The ministry has just sent to the Cabinet (Government) its national master plan for technical and vocational training. It is expected to be easily approved in next week's session.

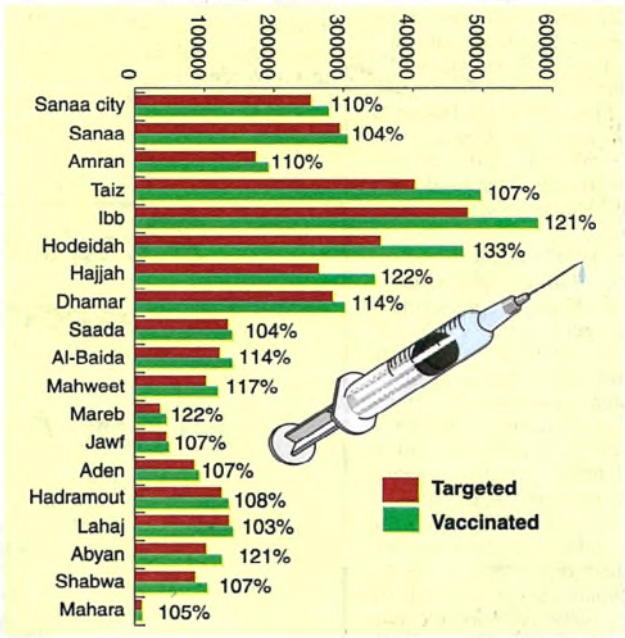
"We are not pushing quantitative growth only. We have also re-structured our approach, curricula and training methods. For example, we have reduced the course load for religious and similar courses, because the students are supposed to have taken the necessary dose in those fields at earlier levels. We put more emphasis on the hard sciences. We have also reduced the time allocated for lectures, and increased the hands-on training component."

Qualitative re-direction of the programs also meant pushing skills based on market requirements. "Our objective is to produce people with immediately employable skills."

Finally the new approach calls for partnership with the private sector. "We have regular consultations with businessmen."

marvellous success story

POLIO VACCINATION DRIVE



Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, Minister of Health, and Dr. Abdul-Karim Rasse', Deputy Minister, and the 18,000 men and women who worked with them are happy with the results. They vaccinated 4,087,287 children - a 114% of their target.

The first of 3 phases of the National Campaign for Eradicating Polio was concluded on October 27. "Through the Yemen Times, I would like to thank President Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Vice President, the head of the Consultative Council, and all officials in all Ministries and the Supreme Committee for Eradicating Polio who joined us to make this campaign a success," Dr. Nasher said. "I would also like to thank UNICEF, WHO, the Japanese government, the Diseases Monitoring Center in Atlanta, the Rotary Club International, Exxon Co and others for their support," he added.

As head of operations, Dr. Rasse', was more directly involved in the effort. "I value the people's response to our efforts. I hope their response is equally enthusiastic during the second phase of the campaign," he added.

The second phase of the campaign will be a month later.

By: Nadwa Al-Dawsari, Yemen Times

Story of the President's Journalist Friend

BACKSLIDING!

Foreign friends of Yemen worry about what is now commonly referred to as "Yemen's backsliding from democracy". In spite of repeated assurances, the authorities not only resist going forward, they show strong inclinations and even made attempts to go back to the old ways. That is why the regime is beginning to lose credibility. That is also why it is losing friends worldwide. The country's deteriorating image is another tangible evidence of a growing problem. A third evidence is the worsening human rights record.

The backsliding of Yemen's leadership from its commitment to democracy is also behind losing friends here in Yemen. In the media for example, even those seen as the president's supporters, now speak of a credibility gap. They discover they can't remain professional in their work and remain friends of the regime.

More on page 6

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OUR VIEWPOINT

1000 Agreements ... and Counting

Last week, the Government of Yemen signed 12 agreements and half a dozen protocols with the Jordanian Government. A few weeks earlier, the Yemeni Government had signed 39 agreements and protocols with the Egyptian Government. A similar number of agreements was also signed with Syria. A few months earlier - during the Presidential visits to Malaysia, China and Indonesia, Yemeni authorities signed 31 agreements and protocols with the governments of those countries.

The root cause for the plethora of Yemeni agreements with other countries is the wrong perception that official visits by senior Yemeni officials should be climaxed with the signing of documents. The official media often boasts that the visits were successful because so many agreements were signed. Nobody cares what happens to those agreements.

The approach is simple. In most cases, junior bureaucrats who are part of the delegation, carry samples of various agreements signed with other partners. These are used to draft new agreements. Sometimes, the whole thing can be rather amusing. I remember going up to one minister during the President's Far Eastern voyage, and asking him after signing seven agreements, to name the agreements. Just the names.
He could not.

Today, observers estimate that Yemeni authorities have signed - over the last ten years alone, some 1,000 agreements and treaties, though nobody really knows the exact number. As one Foreign Ministry official candidly notes, "We really don't know how many agreements we have signed."
There should be a central department that at least keeps tap on the documents we commit ourselves to. Unfortunately, there isn't. There should be copies of the agreements. Unfortunately, there isn't. In some cases, the very documents are lost.
I remember one frightening case. I was first-hand witness to a minister writing a letter to an oil company asking it to please give it a copy of the concession agreement according to which the company was working in Yemen. Now that is frightening.
Most ministries and authorities would have a collection of the documents they have signed. Of course, the efficiency with which the agreements are followed necessarily varies from one agency to another. That is why an umbrella watch-dog would be a good idea.

Implementation is the key point of any agreement.
We have another need. The Yemeni Government, in its attempts to fall in line with the world community, regularly signs various international conventions. We have so far signed many of them. While it is important to accede to these treaties and conventions, it is equally important to make sure that we live up to our commitments. Sometimes, failure to comply is merely a question of being aware of what our commitments were, rather than refusal to live to them.

So, what is the point of all of this?
Well, I already mentioned a solution would be to set up a center or department to provide registry and follow-up services. This center or department would alert various ministries and other authorities of their responsibilities as stipulated in the agreements.
Is this too much to ask for?

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YIDD Seminar Next Week

The Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy plans a two-day workshop on "The Media and Democracy". During 9-10 November, key Yemeni journalists will speak about their experiences in promoting democracy in the country. A number of Western embassies will also participate by giving their assessment on Yemen's press freedom and democratization.
"We are happy with this effort, which is being co-financed with help from the Canadian government," explained Mr. Ahmed Al-Haj, Board Member of the YIDD and Coordinator of the workshop.

CC + FES Seminar on Decentralization & Democracy

A 3-day seminar is to be jointly executed by the Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee of the Consultative Council and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. Participants from Yemen and Germany will shed light on their countries' experiences and on various models of local rule.
"We are happy to be partners with the Human Rights and Civil Liberties Committee of the Consultative Council. We look forward to a stronger cooperation now that we have our branch office in Sanaa," explained Mr. Manfred Haack, FES Regional Director. The seminar will be held during 14-16/11/ 1998.

Sakellariou in Town

Mr. Jannis Sakellariou, Member of the European Parliament from the German Social Democratic Party, arrived in Sanaa last night. During his 3-day visit, Jannis will meet the speakers of the House of Deputies and the Consultative Council, visit EU and German-financed projects, and hold talks at the FES House in Sanaa.

World Bank Reaches Out to the Media

The World Bank is sponsoring a three-day get-together with key media personalities in Yemen. The effort which takes place at the Aden Movenpick Hotel during 2-4 November, is not a mere exercise in public relations. While definitely trying to reach out to the local media, the Bank is also trying to win-over the opinion makers to the on-going economic reform program and the Bank's relations with Yemen by providing detailed and accurate information. Senior World Bank people will be on hand to interact with the media.

Launch of Yemen 21 Forum

Spearheaded by the Yemen Times, a new NGO - Yemen 21 Forum, was created this week. As its name indicates, this NGO's aim is to help Yemen move into the 21st century.
Yemen 21 Forum will provide logistical support to national and international advocacy NGOs working in the country. The forum will also offer temporary office space and meeting area to NGOs under formation.

CFS Holds Seminar on Hunaish Verdict

The Center for Future Studies announced it will hold a seminar on the arbitration court's decision on the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute on Hunaish. "Several experts and practitioners will be invited to comment on this precedent," said Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf, President and owner of the center.

Malaria and Typhoid in Dhale'

The Dhalé Social Welfare Society issued an appeal for help in fighting the menace of malaria and typhoid in Dhalé region. The society reported the prevalence of those two diseases which have already claimed many lives.

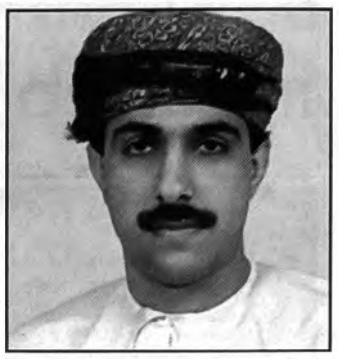
WB Named National Agent for Arab-Trade Financing

Valued at US$50 million, the Inter-Arab Trade Financing scheme was established in 198 by the Arab Monetary Fund and Central Banks of Arab states. On 22th October, 1998, the Central Bank of Yemen named the Watani Bank for Trade and Investment (WB) as the national agent. On October 26th, the WB set up a YR 750 million facility for this purpose.
"It is not an accident that our bank was chosen for this purpose," said Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdani, Chairman of the bank. The bank distributed application forms and announced that it will finance up to 85% of the value of the import or export deal.

Arab Geographers Meeting

Some 82 geographers will participate in a pan-Arab gathering that will start in Sanaa on October 16th. This is the first such meeting in Yemen.
Papers on such pertinent issues including desertification and environmental degradation.

New Manager Activates Gulf Air Contacts



Mr. Abdulrazaq Alraisi of the Sultanate of Oman who has recently taken over as the Yemen Area Manager for Gulf Air says he has found adjusting to life in Yemen easy. "Yemen is like a second home to me. I feel nearly at home."
Alraisi has had extensive Arab and East African experience. He is now applying some of that experience and dynamism to the Yemeni market. That is why he has been building contacts by constant meetings and visits to various partners.
At another level, Gulf Air has gotten out of the red. Last year, it showed reasonable profits. But that is not the only positive development. The company has linked up with American Airlines by signing `a code-sharing agreement. This winter, Gulf Air will place its GF designator code on American's flights between London's Heathrow and Chicago's O'Hare, Miami and New York's Kennedy Airport.
American already codeshares with Gulf Air by placing its AA designator code on Gulf Air flights between London's Heathrow Airport and the Gulf cities of Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Doha and Muscat.
Gulf Air also concluded a technology agreement last February accordiong to which AMR's SABER Group will provide the airline with a new information technology infrastructure, including application development and maintenance, a data center and network management.

The Attorney General Reacts Positively

Dr. Al-Murtadha Al-Muhatwary was arrested on the eve of 26th of September, 1998. He is still at the Sanaa Investigations Bureau jail. No charges have been filed.
No court appearance is planned.
"I have not been interrogated. They refuse to take me in front of a judge. They block any visitors," he complained.
Now the authorities will not even allow people to go and visit the man. "A group of us tried to visit him on Wednesday, October 28. The guards would not let us see him. They demanded a prior permit, which is odd and against the law," explained a group of opposition politicians in a memo distributed on 1/10/1998.
Acting on that memo, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee at the Consultative Council, held a meeting with Dr. Abdullah Al-Olofi, the attorney general. He also handed him an official letter asking for immediate release.
"Dr. Al-Olofi is a civilized man. He understands the dictates of the law, and promised immediate action accordingly on this matter," Saqqaf said.
Dr. Saqqaf's letter to the attorney-general also asked for authorization to carry out an independent autopsy on the body of Wadee Shaibani, who died during interrogation in Aden earlier this year.
The official medical report on the cause of the death states that the young man bashed his head against the wall of the prison cell, thus committing suicide. Members of his family claim that he was tortured and that he was murdered during interrogation.
"I have faith and cnfidence on the integrity and professionalism of the new attorney-general. He promised me an answer within two days. I am sure we will work by the law," Saqqaf said.

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Jarallah Omar:

"There is visible regression in our democratization experiment."

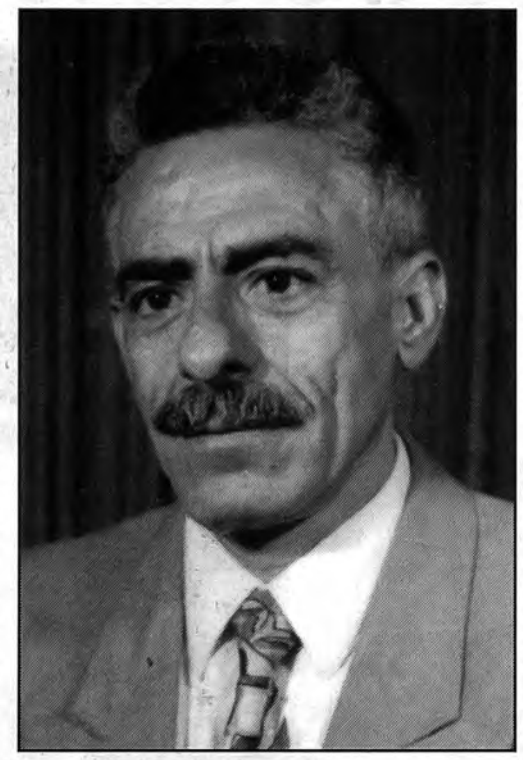
The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) is the party that had secured the independence of the southern part of the country from British colonial rule. It was one of two partners which achieved Yemeni unity. It is now the leader of the opposition camp. For those and other reasons, it is definitely an important player in the political scene of Yemen, and it makes a vital contribution to the nation's democratization process.

Yet, the YSP did make some big mistakes. First of all, its former leaders attempted to break up the country, during their power struggle with President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Second, the party decided to boycott the last parliamentary elections, leaving it out of the presently sitting parliament altogether. Third, it has been more than a decade since the party rank and file elected their representatives.

To overcome those shortcomings, the YSP is attempting a re-birth. That will hopefully happen during the upcoming party congress.

To shed light on the predicament of the YSP and its future plans, Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times spoke to Jarallah Omar, Head of the Political Department and a leading member in the party hierarchy. A former field commander during the NDF insurrection, as well as minister in the post-unity government, Mr. Omar is a well-known quantity. He has extensive local following and wide-ranging international connections.

Excerpts:



Q: Could you briefly tell us about the YSP's preparations to hold its next congress?

A: In the Central Committee's last session, it was decided that the YSP's 4th congress will be held on November 28th. A preparatory committee is assigned the task to prepare for this.

Three major documents to be presented at the congress are almost finished ready. They are the party political program, party charter, and Yemen political report.

Q: Will YSP members residing abroad participate? How will they be represented?

A: This is quite a problem. It is actually the main reason behind the delays in convening a congress since the 1994 war. There are about 800 to 1,000 YSP leading members in exile. Most of these are prominent politicians and academics. It is very difficult for these people to attend.

So, we have decided to hold the party congress in two rounds; one for submitting the documents I just mentioned. In the second round, there will be a chance for the exiled members to take part.

Q: What is the agenda? Will there be a leadership change?

A: We will focus on political and ideological issues, drawing a clear course for the party. The agenda will be decided by the participants.

Electing a new leadership will take place during the second round. Whether that will be a wholly new leadership or not, is a matter left to the participants. We are really determined to make this congress a turning point towards democracy for the YSP.

Q: What are the changes in the YSP's ideology?

A: There are drastic changee envisaged. Ideology will no longxer feature prominently in our program. We will concentrate more on practical issues: democracy, human rights, general liberties, social justice, modernization and several other similar topics. There will be more openness in our party.

Q: Will the YSP turn into a more liberal, Western-style political organization?

A: Frankly speaking, ever since the 1980s, the YSP has been going through internal political and ideological struggle. Our party was one of the first socialist parties to fully recognize the tumultuous world developments. Profound ideological discussions continued within YSP rank and file. The YSP was actually one of the first parties to call for political pluralism, even while it was still in charge in the former PDRY.

Our party was gradually moving towards democratic socialism. With this idea firmly in mind. We aim for the YSP to join the international socialist order without compromi-zing its relations with other socialist, communist and other organizations.

Our main goal is for the YSP to be open to all political and ideological movements and trends.

Q: Do you expect that a number of YSP members will resign due to differences in opinion? Is there a danger of a splinter YSP group?

A: The YSP is for all Yemenis, men and women. People can join or leave at will. They are also free to form another organization. Forming a splinter group - supported by the government or others, in Yemen or abroad - has been experienced by other parties during the last four years. YSP enemies tried to exploit its weakness immediately following its defeat in the last war to form a group under the same name. Needless to say, their efforts came to no avail.

The YSP has unique building factors, which others lack. It has become a wide social and cultural movement, gathering people with similar hopes for a Yemen with brighter future. That is why some of the people who were forced by past circumstances to leave the YSP are now coming back. We welcome them. We will certainly not prevent anyone from leaving or from coming back.

Q: Has the YSP been able to retrieve confiscated property?

A: No, it has not. YSP funds and office buildings are still under government seizure, especially its main headquarters in Aden. Part of the YSP offices in Sanaa were returned. Other parts of the offices are still occupied by some ministries. The YSP has economic difficulties. We need a lot of resources to re-build the party.

Q: Are you going to seek support from abroad?

A: We have not asked support of any body from abroad. We strongly adhering to the law of the land. In the future, maybe, we will invite people to make donations; if the party remains under "embargo" by an intransignet ruling authority.

Q: How does the YSP see democracy in Yemen, in view of recent trends?

A: The YSP regards legislation as the correct base for our democratic development. If new laws support the democratic process and help establish civil society, then we are all for it.

The YSP is definitely against totalitarian legislations. Some of the recent laws are cause ofr concern. They diminish the present democratic margin. A good example is the new law governing public gatherings and demonstrations.

Q: You have recently visited a number of countries recently. What was the purpose of these visits?

A: The main aim was to re-establish or consolidate YSP ties with our friends in the rest of the world. I was able to meet with many prominenet public figures and representatives of political organizations and the media in Britain, France, Syria, Lebanon. The aim was to re-establish relations severed since 1994. It represents the comeback of the YSP.

Q: Have you met any Yemeni opposition people in exile?

A: Yes, I held meetings with many of them and held frank discussions on the country's current circumstances. I met and/or talked to Mr. Abdul-Rahman Al-Jafri, Ali Salim Al-Beedh, Salim Saleh Mohammed, Mohammed Ibnul-Hussain (of the former Hameed Adden ruling family), Ibrahim Al-Wazir, and others.

We are working for all Yemenis to return home and be treated equally. No veto on anybody.

I also met with Arab leaders such as Abdul-Haleem Khaddam of Syria and other leaders.

Q: How do you assess Yemen's democratization process?

A: Conditions in Yemen are not a cause for rejoicing, to say the least. The economy is shrinking and thus living standards are falling. Corruption is rampant. Our showcase to the world - democratization, is witnessing a regression. We are steadily going back to the old ways - to authoritarian rule.

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The Team That Made It Happen:

Our Experts on Hunaish

Yesterday, November 1st, 1998, Eritrea formally handed over the island of Greater Hunaish to the Yemeni authorities, in partial fulfillment of the ruling of the Court of Arbitration issued on October 8th.
Since then, President Ali Abdullah Saleh has run away with all the glory. No mention was ever made of the large number of men and women who spent many long nights and travelled extensively working on the case. Of course, President Saleh deserves some of the glory, but the official media presented the people of Yemen with a picture as if it was a one-man effort. Even Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani hardly got any mention. Other than being erroneous, this approach takes the nation back to the era of personality cults of the times of dictatorships.

In its efforts, to put the issue in perspective, the Yemen Times will run a series of interviews with some of the men and women who contributed to the process.

Mr. Hussain Al-Hubaishi, former Legal Affairs Minister, now private legal advisor:
1. On how the work was distributed and the strategy followed:
There is an office of experts in border matters which was mainly concerned with the Saudi side. So the Yemeni side made use of this office. But basically this issue was a marine issue so we had to feed this office with people who know something about marine matters.
Fortunately I myself was leading the committee of negotiations with the Saudi side on marine matters and islands. I had few people who are like myself know few things about the law of the sea.
But the first official step taken was the establishment of the National Committee for Negotiating the Dispute with Eritrea Over the Hunaish and Zuqar Islands. So we had this committee headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs (at the time) and 2 other ministers. They were assisted by legal experts, not as members, but in their capacity as legally trained people, specialized in the law of the sea.
Every main committee negotiating or preparing for every step had its technical people. So we added at a later stage Dr. Sayed Mustafa for historical matters and Mr. Mohammed Al-Saghir for fisheries.
Our plan was to divide the case into three parts. The first group included the legal people like myself. The second group included the diplomats - people from the Foreign Ministry. The third group was concerned with fisheries, and it gathered documents and data from fishermen and the Ministry of Fisheries.
The legal people gathered legal documents from books and court precedence issued by the International Court of Justice. We used to sit regularly to check our information. Basically, we checked documents - whether they were useful or not. We had discussions with our lawyers and legal consultants outside Yemen. We used to consult lawyers in France, Brussels and Britain. We also consulted Arab lawyers, especially those with similar experiences.
We worked with the foreign experts regarding specific documents, asking for their legal opinion. As Yemenis, we checked on them.

That was in summary our strategy in the historical and legal practice of the case. Practice means official and government practice. But when I say legal, history, practice, these concepts have to be taken in a legal frame.

2. On why Eritrean fishermen have fishing rights around islands of Yemeni sovereignty:
In the past, fishermen had certain rights in certain parts controlled by the other side. These rights include recognizing certain traditional practices such as the right to fish in a certain area. It is not creating new rights but recognizing existing ones. So we shouldn't worry about this.
Both sides have been fishing for ages in certain areas which belong to the other side. So it is an acceptable norm that the Yemenis can fish in Eritrean territorial seas and vice versa.
We have to remember that the case is still pending. This is a matter of international law. You have to quote previous international court rulings especially in marine matters and delimiting marine boundaries.
Economic factors like national resources, fisheries, oil, etc, can create conflicts. In this case we should remember that the Red Sea is a semi-closed sea and either side cannot claim full territorial sovereignty over that sea plus over 200 economic zones. Sometimes it is easier to divide this between them by a middle line. However, Yemeni sovereignty over the Hunaish Islands gives our country a better chance.

Ahmed Al-Basha, Chief of Africa Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

We were searching for documents with regard to the Hunaish case. We were especially looking for references to Hunaish in international treaties. Our committee was analyzing such treaties and searching very hard for diplomatic correspondences to prove the case of Yemen's sovereignty over the islands.
The search was done in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defense, and the Political Security Organization. The national security was brought in because we discovered that our government had been involved in secret relations with Eritrea and the Eritrean liberation movement.
We also looked for documents dating back to the Turkish presence in Yemen as well as for oil concessions at the Ministry of Oil. In the issue of oil, the head office of Total company was helpful. All these documents gave us the evidence which helped regain sovereignty over the islands.
We knew exactly what to look for. The Eritreans based their case of the "fact" that they are Italy's successors. However, we found some documents proving that the Italians never occupied the islands. Their presence on Hunaish was according to a 1925 agreement with Britain. It was not to create a title for sovereignty.
Also, the Turkish authorities gave the East of Africa to Mohammed Ali in the 19th century. He was given the whole shore of East Africa with the islands close to the shore, but not, for example, Hunaish islands which were part of the Arab shore. This is some of the important evidence we sourced.
We also got a map which was annexed to the report of the UN committee that was in charge of Eritrea's case from 1950 to 1952. The UN General Assembly issued a resolution making Eritrea a state federated with Ethiopia. So, that map was one of the important pieces of evidences showing that the islands were not part of Eritrea.
The Italians who were present on the island during the late 1930s and 1940s let us have other maps. They intended to occupy the islands, but they did not have permanent occupation to create a title of sovereignty.
Ambassador Marwan Noman started searching for documents from December 1995, soon after the occupation of Hunaish Island. I myself went to Addis Ababa in search of maps. We were searching for documents in Rome, USA, France, etc.

Marwan Noman, Present Yemeni Ambassador to Ethiopia:

Most of the Yemeni documents we found at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, some dating back to the years before the Revolution. Besides, we archived other countries' documents which are related to Yemen.
The Public Records Office in London were of great assistance because the British were in the area since their occupation of Aden in 1839. They had diplomatic correspondence between Aden, and the India and Colonial offices in London.
We found most of the political history and the diplomatic correspondence among the Yemeni records. Our archives are full of documents related to the islands. So everything was here. We also searched the Italian and American archives. We gathered huge volumes of documents not necessarily directly related to the islands themselves, but also related to the general political history of Yemen.
Yemeni translators and experts from all over the world were employed to read and translate the documents.

Abdullah Al-Sayidi, Foreign Vice Minister:

I was responsible for documentation. I was entrusted with the task of persuing documents and deciding whether they were relevant and needed or not. I was also involved in studying the contradictions between the Eritrean assertions and the documentation used to substantiate these assertions.
I did three reports. The first on the Eritrea memorandum, the second on the Eritrean counter-memorandum, and the third on the primary observations. I was also involved with Mr. Basha and Mr. Noman on revising the memorandum and the counter-memorandum before their submission to the joint meeting of the National Arbitration Committee.
According to the court verdict, we are now working on the maritime delimitation. This will follow the same procedures as in the first phase. Each side will submit a memorandum, and then a counter-memorandum. Of course, our counter memorandum would be a rejoinder to the Eritrean one. They will likewise submit a rejoinder, a counter-memorandum to Yemen's memorandum. Then, we will have a hearing after which the court will be convened to make a decision. But at this particular stage, the court will ask for help from specialized bodies to help in the process of delimitation.
In this respect, the Sea Convention is very clear on the case of closed seas. There are special articles that deal with that and I think that the tribunal will operate according to them.
Yemen is a signatory to the 1982 Law of the Sea. Ethiopia was also a participant. Eritrea inherited the Ethiopian commitment to the Law of the Sea. Yemen and Eritrea are compelled to go according to the rules of the international law.
All nations which subscribe to the Law of the Sea convention must have limits they can not exceed, as stipulated by this law. These are economic zones. The Red Sea is closed sea and you cannot have the same 200 miles economic zone, but 12 miles instead.
International navigation will not be impeded by the court's verdict. The three main light houses in Haba Al-Ter, Al-Zubair and Abu Ali, which are very close to Zuqar Island, all belong to Yemen. Even the lighthouse on Mahabaka island, which is 6 kilometers from Eritrea, used to be operated by Yemen in the 1980s.

Captain Saeed Yafei, Chairman of the Public Corporation for Maritime Affairs.

I was not actually a full member of the committee. I worked in the Fisheries sub-committee. My point of contribution had to do with maritime shipping routes.
About 7% of the world trade goes through the Red Sea and Bab Al-Mandab. Safe shipping in these waters is essential. The government of Yemen assumed responsibility for operating and maintaining lighthouses in the region.
Now that the dispute has been peacefully settled by the International Court of Justice, my organization is taking responsibility, in the name of the Yemeni government, to proceed with providing safety and security to international navigation passing through Yemeni waters.
Actually Yemen is considering a joint project with the World Bank and the Organization for the Protection of the Red and the Gulf of Aden. It aims to further improve the maritime situation in the southern part of the Red Sea.
Among our other projects is to introduce 'vessel traffic management system,' free international navigational lines, and other facilities for shipping.

Interviews by:
Dr. Salah Haddash,
Yemen Times Managing Editor

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

Gender and Health

Dr. Husnia Al-Qadri,
Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine,
Sanaa University
Head of Health Group in the Women National Committee, Sanaa

Introduction
Health policies and programs usually focus on biological aspects such as diagnosis, treatment and prevention. Likewise when considering the differences between women and men, there is a tendency to emphasize biological or sex differences as explanatory factors of well being and illness.
A gender approach to health while not excluding biological factors, considers the critical roles that social and cultural factors and power relations play between the sexes. These inequalities can create, maintain or exacerbate exposure to risk factors that endanger health. They can also affect access to and control of resources, including decision-making and education, which protect and promote health.
Since these inequalities most often disadvantage women, a gender analysis must be used to explain and address women's health problems.

Gender and Health
Patterns of health and illness in women and men show marked differences. Women in most communities report more illness and distress than men.
Even though elsewhere women generally live longer than men, in Yemen men outlive women. This demonstrates the complex relationship between biological and social influences in the determination of human health and illness.
Women are more likely than men to suffer health problems connected with their reproductive system such as breast cancer. Pregnancy is a natural process, but it can sometimes go wrong. Although these difficulties take the form of biological disorders, social factors such as gender discrimination in nutrition and health care, play a major part in causing them. Some women face difficulties in completing pregnancy successfully because of childhood discrimination.
Depression is reported more frequently among women than men. This is linked on the one hand to the stresses and strains of daily life, especially in our present conditions of poverty; and on the other hand, to gender socialization which leads so many women to undervalue themselves and their potential.

Gender Inequalities in Health Care:
1) Bias in Medical Research
The topics chosen, the methods used and the subsequent data analysis all reflect a male bias in a number of important ways. Common problems that cause considerable distress for women have received little attention if they are not central to women's reproductive role. Incontinence, dysmenorrhea and osteoporosis are frequently cited as examples of such neglect. In developed countries the failure to reduce high rates of mortality from breast cancer has also led to accusations that research into the disease is not adequately funded.

2) Access to Health Care
Women use medical services more than men. Therefore the low expenditure on health care and the general inadequacy of services, resulting from the country's economic problems, affect women more than men.
Another problems is that in some settings, customs and traditions deny women the right to travel alone or to be in the company of men outside their immediate family. When female health workers are not available and where treatment by a man is seen to dishonor the woman and her family, she may go without necessary care.
In addition the emotional development of women themselves may limit their access to health care. In our culture women learn to believe that suffering is natural. For example problems such as backache may be so widespread that they are accepted as normal. Low self-esteem limits women's ability to make demands and this may be reinforced by embarrassment if the problem is one that the community does not acknowledge. The lack of education contributes to this low self-esteem while also denying women the opportunity to understand their own bodies or to make an accurate assessment of their need for health care.

Changing the Focus of Research
Most statistics are not disaggregated by sex. This makes it difficult to understand the specific situation of women or men and therefore to plan in ways that take these differences into account. In other words making projects "gender sensitive". So special care is needed in the collection of data, and its analysis and presentation. The failure to provide a complete picture of women's health status stems in part from the lack of a complete and accurate census.

Gender sensitive research focuses on the differences between:
- women's and men's roles and responsibilities;
- women's and men's position in society;
- women's and men's assess to and use of resources;
- social codes governing women's and men's behavior which affect health and well-being.

Conclusion
There are a number of factors that need to be considered in order for health policies and programs to adequately address the inequalities between women and men in relation to their health.
All data collected should be disaggregated by sex, age and social class. Quantitative and qualitative methods should be used to examine gender inequalities. This would contribute to making research more gender sensitive.
If gender inequalities in health care are to be clearly identified, women must be involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of health policies and programs. As a result of the relative invisibility of women in public life and their absence from many of the most important areas of decision-making, special care has to be taken to ensure their voices are heard.
If gender sensitive health plans are to be put into effective operation, the importance of educating health workers and policy makers to better understand the importance of gender sensitivity in their work cannot be underestimated. Capacity building programs must be designed for both female and male workers and these must include broadly based gender awareness courses and more detailed briefings on gender-related topics not generally included in the medical or nursing curriculum.
All policies and programs require a clear strategy for monitoring and evaluation if policy makers and services providers are to take gender issues seriously. This strategy must include an assessment of the differential impact of health care on women and men. A gender based monitoring and evaluation plan enables health professionals to clearly identify the effects of the project or programme on women and men. It also shows how far a project or programme is effective for both sexes and enables the necessary management decisions to be taken.

Cont'd from page 1:

BACKSLIDING

The 21st of October offered yet another example. Representatives of Jezirah Television Channel of Qatar - known as friends of the regime because of their sympathetic reporting, were detained.
Mr. Anwar Al-Ansi and his team had just shot footage covering the trial of the people accused of the Aden bombings.
He had the judge's and the governor's permission.
"About 30 soldiers swarmed into the Seera Court entrance and arrested me. They took me to Brigadier-General Mohammed Turaiq, Aden's Director-General of Security. I was forced to spend the afternoon in his custody," explained Anwar. "I told him that there was no legal basis for my arrest. I told him I was close to the president. But to no avail."
Mr. Al-Ansi then called up the president. After his conversation, the president asked him to brief him on the footage. Then he instructed the journalist to change his report here and there. Anwar AGREED.
The president then said the problem was over. Even then, however, the team was delayed long enough to miss transmitting the story.
President Saleh a few days later tried to convince Anwar he was on his side. He cursed the Aden security director and blamed gross misinterpretations of his instructions.
Anwar told Yemen Times, "Nobody has the right to block the work of a journalist except by a court decision."

Republic of Yemen
Ministry of Education
Coordination Unit (CU)

INVITATION FOR BIDS (1)

1. The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies toward the cost of the Education Sector Investment Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply, transportation and assembly of furniture and equipments.
2. The Co-ordination Unit now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Furnitures and Equipments for EMIS centers in different governorates.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at, the office of Co-ordination Unit, Tel. 235919, Fax 236005, Bir al-Shaif, between Almustaqbal al-Jadeed and Al-Risala schools, Building No. 61.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US$100/-
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of goods.
6. Bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 10:00 a.m. on 24/11/98 and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% of the total amount of bid price.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 11.00 hr and date 25/11/98 at the same address.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (2)

1. The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies towards the cost of Education Sector Investment Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply, transportation and assembly of Classrooms furnitures.
2. The Co-ordination Unit now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of student chairs and tables and other accessories for 106 additional classrooms in Sanaa city.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Co-ordination Unit, Tel. 235919, Fax 236005, Bir al-Shaif, between Almustaqbal al-Jadeed and Al-Risala schools, Building No 61.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US$100/-
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of goods.
6. Bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 10:00 a.m. on 28/11/98 and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% of the total amount of bid price.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 11:00 hrs and date 28/11/98 at the same above address.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (3)

1. The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in various currencies towards the cost of Education Sector Investment Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply, installation and training of computers with their accessories for Inspection and Evaluation Sector, MOE, Neqoum, Sanaa.
2. The Co-ordination Unit now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and installation of computers with their accessories alongwith training on their use and delivery to the respective sites.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Co-ordination Unit, Tel. 235919, Fax 23605, Bir al-Shaif, between Almustaqbal al-Jadeed and Al-Risala schools, Building no 61.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of US$ 50/-
5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of goods.
6. Bids must be delivered to the above address on or before 10:00 a. m. on 2/12/98 and must be accompanied by a security of 2.5% of the total amount of bid price.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 11:00 hrs and date 2/12/98 at the same above address.

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Supplier represents and warrants that the Hardware and/or software being acquired is designed to be used prior to, during, and after the calendar year 2000 A. D. (Year 2000), and that the Hardware and software will operate during each such time period without error relating to date data, specifically including any error relating to, or the product of, data which represents or references different centuries or more that one century and the correct treatment of the year 2000 as a leap year.

In Follow-up to a Yemen Times Article Last Week:

CONDITION OF OUR ROADS

Engineer Khalid Abdullah Al-Kurshumy, Chairman of the Highways and Bridges General Authority (HBGA), graduated from the USA in 1990. Mr. Kurshumy was appointed as chairman of the HBGA in 1995.

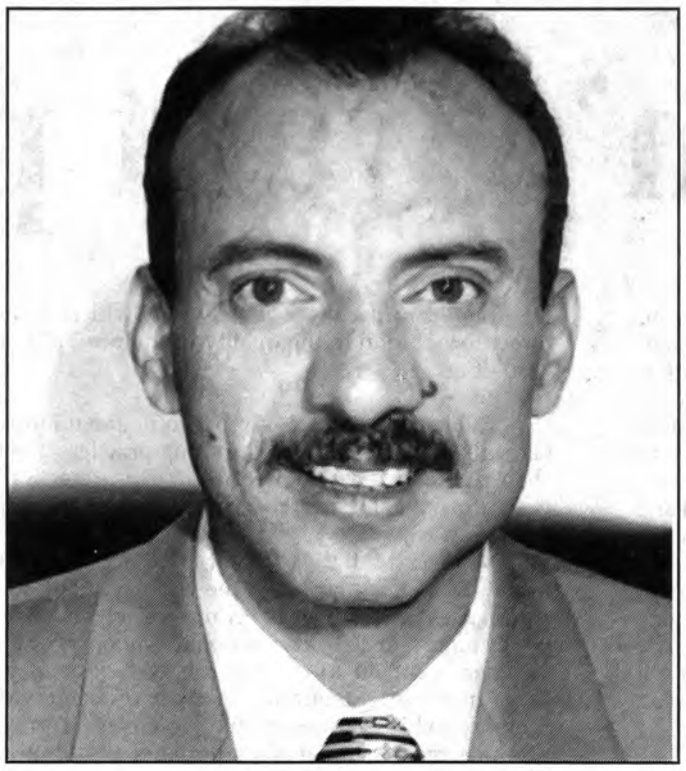
He is the son of Abdullah Al-Kurshumy, the person who supervised the construction of most of the nation's roads and highways, given his many years as head of HBGA.
Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Assistant Managing Editor of Yemen Times met Mr. AL-Kurshumy and filed the following interview. Excerpts:

Q: When was the HBGA established?
A: The Highways and Bridges General Authority (HBGA) was established in 1972, as part of the Ministry of Labor. It was later integrated with its counterpart in the former South Yemen in 1990, after unification, into the recent body. HBGA is responsible for constructing main highways outside cities and roads connecting cities with villages.

Q: The road connecting Sanaa, Taiz and Hodeidah is often jammed with traffic nowadays. Do you have any plans to expand it?
A: This road was the first to be built in Yemen. Our job now is to maintain this network, for it was built according to international standards. Hopefully, Yemen will have the capacity to make it a dual carriage-way, as is happening now in some cities. HBGA has strengthened this road by adding another layer to it, owing to its expected long life-span.

Q: How do you explain the falling of our roads into disrepair in a relatively very short time?
A: Roads are usually constructed for life-spans ranging from 10 to 15 years. This is what is done in Yemen. But we can construct a road for 40 or even 50 years. But then the cost increases. The asphalt layer we make is 5 cm, making a road's life-span 15 years. This is because we are short of money and equipment. So it is defined by our capacity. But we try our best to maintain these roads so that they can last a long time.
For example, the expected life-span of the road connecting Sanaa and Hodeidah was 6 years, but it has lasted for 28 years. This is actually due to the constant maintenance we are always carrying out.
But we are not to be blamed when floods destroy the roads. The flash floods of 1996 could not to be stopped. Roads inside cities are the responsibility of the Ministry of Construction, Housing and Urban Planning.

Q: Recent flash foods have damaged many roads. Have you finished repairing them?
A: When flash floods and heavy rains destroyed some of the highways and roads in Yemen recently, the HBGA formed an emergency team for repairing and re-opening damaged roads. The roads were not closed for very long, the HBGA emergency team acted quickly to repair damaged parts.
Hearing the news of the damage, I went myself to inspect the roads hit by the heavy rains. Then engineers were sent to assess the damage. Their reports were sent to the Ministry of Construction and other government bodies. Our main concern at that time was to keep the roads open, which we achieved.



Q: What are the annual expenses spent on roads?
A: The annual amount of money allocated for the main highways is around YR 7 billion, including construction and maintenance.

Q: Who are the main companies in charge of constructing roads in Yemen?
A: There are several major companies constructing roads in Yemen; the HBGA, Sabaa Contracting Authority, Al- Murshed for Contracting, Al-Gabiry, etc.

Q: Have you ever rejected any newly built road because it didn't meet the standards?
A: The HBGA surely refuses any road that doesn't meet with international standards and criteria. This applies every time and to every road. The Chinese Company was obliged to reconstruct and asphalt a 30-km stretch of the road connecting Sanaa and Taiz in 1991 at a cost of US $30 million. Any rejected road has to be remade at the contractor's expenses.

Ibb University Raises Awareness on Environmental Issues

Organized by Ibb University, the "Scientific Symposium on the Environment in the Republic of Yemen" was held during October 24-25. The topics discussed were diverse touching on the role of local factors, the role of Yemeni universities in protecting the environment, environmental awareness within the public education system, urban expansion into rural areas, the role of the media, the effect of car transportation on the environment, evaluating drinking water in Hadhramaut, water pollution and sewage treatment, the effects of pesticides, desertification, and several other pertinent topics.

Environmental problems are not new to this country. They are the result of tens of years of unregulated urban expansion, regardless of the serious threats to the environment. The rapid increase in consumerism in Yemen has disturbed the fine balance that used to exist between man and his environment in the past. The price - in terms of air, water and oil pollution and the exhaustion of natural resources - is quite high.
In Yemen so far, this environmental crisis has been largely ignored. This has led to serious pollution, desertification, soil erosion, removal of the green cover, the extinction of various types of animal and plant species.

Although, Yemen has no industrial base as such, the wave of urbanization, country-to-town migration, lack of planning, an unmonitored sanitation system have all led marked deterioration in the environment.
There is an urgent need for environmental awareness among the populace. Despite the existence of the Environmental Protection Council, which includes representatives from various governmental and non-governmental bodies, lack of human and financial resources has made it difficult to do enough work to arrest pollution, let alone reversing it.
Yemeni universities should play a bigger role in raising public awareness of environmental issues. Studies, lectures and seminars can be conducted in this field. Such activity is bound to create more understanding in evaluating the environmental situation in Yemen. The mass media has a comparable role to play.

Pollution Definition
The term pollution means introducing - by human beings - pollutant material into the environment, resulting in changes in the ecosystem. Pollution includes any sort of quantitative and/or qualitative changes in the animate and/or inanimate elements of the ecosystem that cannot be fully assimilated. Pollution can also be defined as the introduction into the environment of foreign organic and/or inorganic material. It results from human activity that changes the environment's physical and chemical features and disturbs and its natural balance in a way detrimental to living creatures.

Pollution & Pollutants in Yemen
Petroleum production is one of the main sources of pollution in Yemen. The seeping of extra oil into the soil has harmed the environment. Industrial pollution is still somewhat limited in Yemen. Cement factories and open quarries constitute another source of pollution
The haphazard use of pesticides and fertilizers has created numerous problems, both to the environment and to human health.
A badly managed sanitation system causes microbiological pollution - sewage oozing into the underground aquifers and rubbish accumulating in the streets.

Recommendations
1- Special plans should be formulated to protect the country's environment and natural resources.
2- More financial and moral support should be granted to NGOs working on environmental issues.
3- Environmental scientific research should be included in the postgraduate programs at Yemeni universities, with the cooperation of the Environmental Protection Council.
4- More support must be given to national tree-planting and desertification-combating programs.
5- Studies should be conducted to identify various types of pollution in this country. This includes formulating national plans and strategies, specifying priorities, specifying the desired environmental attitude, and assigning special roles to the relevant organs.
6- A special fund should be set up to support environmental research.
7- The media should be directed to give more attention to environmental issues.
8- Proposed industrial projects should include, in addition to an economic feasibility study, an environmental feasibility outline.
9- More research must be conducted on the serious problem of desertification in Yemen.
10- The government should provide at least the minimum level of suitable drinking water to all citizens.
11- Sewage must be fully and safely treated, to be reused for agricultural purposes.
12- Larger taxation should be imposed on water used for qat irrigation.
13- Water projects must be compatible with world standards.
14- More coordination should be introduced among public organs concerned with environmental issues.
15- Customs authorities and other relevant bodies should impose stricter controls on the importation of refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment that uses Freon 11, 12, and 22 and other CFC gases.
16- Strict monitoring must be imposed on the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Ismail Al-Ghabiry,
Yemen Times.

German Embassy
Language Courses

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The term begins on the 1st of November and lasts until the 9th of December, 1998.

The course will be held at the British Council, Street No. 7, Maidan Al-Sabeen.

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Courses are for beginners and intermediates. Certificates will be issued upon successful completion.

Courses will be taught by teachers who are experienced, qualified and native speakers.

Fees are US$100 per term.

Registration will commence on the 24th of October until the 28th of October.

For information, please call:
244 121 or 413 177; Fax: 244 120

Embassy of India, Sanaa

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Embassy of India plans to hold a get-together and a small reception on November 11, 1998, between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm at the premises of the Embassy of India, 12 Djibouti Street, Sanaa, for all Yemeni nationals who have either studied or received training in India, either under the Government of India's Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program, or under the scholarship scheme of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

All Yemeni scholars/trainees who have studied or received training in Indian under either of the above schemes or even as self-financed scholars/ trainees in India are cordially invited to attend. It would be preferable if those attending could intimate their names, addresses, telephones, fax numbers to:

Mr. E. Martin, First Secretary,
on telephone (264-873) or fax (243-439)
or through a letter to P.O.Box No. 1154, Sanaa.

Vacancy for a bilingual secretary (female)

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3. Typing speed for Arabic minimum 40 words/minute and English 55 words/minute.
4. Organizing and filling and preparing all correspondences related to the project.
5. Answer telephone calls, schedule appointments, hotel reservations send/receive faxes and record them.
6. Register in-coming and out-going mail; photocopying related documents to the project.
7. Coordinate and arrange transportation with concerned project personnel.
8. Prepare monthly and annual leave records for project personnel.

Conditions:
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- Minimum High School certificates.
- At least 3 years of experience in secretarial work.

Send CV's to PIMS-Central Statistical Organization (5t floor)
tel: 250618/19.
CV's will be accepted until November 10, 1998.

More Hayel Saeed Anam Industries Prove Themselves Internationally and Get ISO 9002 Recognition:

Ali Mohammed Saeed:
"We don't want protection. We want fair competition."

Thursday, October 29th, 1998 was a festive day in Taiz. Four of the industries of the Hayel Saeed Anam (HSA) group of companies celebrated their international recognition by receiving the International Standard Organization (ISO) 9002 Awards. These industries are: Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce, Ltd.; ALSAEED Trading Company; Yemen Lubricants Manufacturing Company; and the National Company for Sponge and Plastic Industry.
Attending the celebration on the occasion were key government officials, notable members of parliament and the Consultative Council, business leaders, opinion makers, and many other individuals. The Minister of Industry, Abdul-Rahman Mohammed Ali Othman, and the Governor of Taiz, Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajri, headed the festivities.

"In the name of the group, I am happy to welcome you to this happy occasion, which adds to the happy mood in the country given the anniversary of the Revolution and the return of Hunaish to Yemeni sovereignty," said Sheikh Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the HSA group, in his opening address.

He pointed to the ISO 9000 Awards which "come as direct recognition to the quality of the products of our industries".

In a visible comment on the run on national industries because of smuggling and dumping practices, the HSA chairman said, "We are not asking for protection. But we are asking for fair competition and correct practices."
The Minister of Industry praised the rising level of investment of the group in the country. "You are the nation's leading industrial group, and we are aware of your commitment to the national economy," he said. He then went on to express full commitment to the Department of Standards of Measurements in his ministry, which is responsible for ensuring imported products meet national and international standards.

Dr. Abdul-Moneim Bakheit, Deputy General Manager of the Egyptian Federation of Chambers of Industry, who attended the events, indicated that free trade entails responsibilities. "Free trade does not mean chaos. There are many people out there who would like to take short cuts to make money. There must be a system that makes sure there is fair competition," he indicated.

Mr. Abdul-Gabbar Hayel Saeed, Chairman of the Association of Yemeni Industrialists, said that 91 countries are members of the ISO standards, set up in 1946. "There is a rigorous process before any company or product is recognized for the awards. The idea behind the awards is actually to raise the quality of products by requiring certain international standards in quality control, packing and packaging methods, storage facilities, transportation systems, etc.," he said.
The ISO award or stamp of approval becomes a vehicles for products and companies to access to international markets in their marketing drive.

Mr. Shawki Ahmed Hayel Saeed, Director of the industrial division of the group, indicated that quality comes first in the policy-making priority. "Eventually, you can only maintain customer satisfaction and confidence by providing quality for money. That is why the Hayel Saeed Anam group is today where it is - at the forward front on industrial activity in the country," he said.

But it is not only in Yemen that the group is active. As a recent NEWSWEEK article indicated, "Today's HSA is the largest employer in Yemen, with a work force of 11,000. Its businesses range from service agencies to banking to real estate to manufacturing - an almost endless list, with holdings as far afield as the UK, Egypt and Saudi Arabia."

Ahmed Hayel Saeed, the Vice Chairman and General Manager of the Group, feels hopeful about the future. "Hard work with some ingenuity must lead to success. That is why four more of our companies will be awarded ISO 9001 and 9002 in the near future," he disclosed. These are General Industries and Package Company, National Dairy and Food Company, United Industries Company (Rothmans of Pall Mall), and Yemen Company for Packaging Industries.
Another Hayel Saeed Anam company - the Yemen Company for Ghee and Soap Industries Ltd. - had already received the ISO award earlier.

HSA

Reported by:
Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Aden Office; and
Mohammed Al-Qadhi, Taiz Office;
Yemen Times

ALSAEED Trading Company

Marketing par Excellence

ALSAEED Trading Company was established in 1994. Under the able management of Mr. Walid Ali Mohammed Saeed, the company quickly made its presence felt in the market. The company is today the marketing arm of the Hayel Saeed Anam industrial group.
"The products we export are of high quality. That is why we are able to compete successfully in international markets. That is also why we were able to get the ISO 9002 recognition," Walid explained.
Indeed, exports today are far flung covering almost all continents of the world. "We have established branches and agencies for contact and distribution purposes. For the Middle East and South Asia, our hub is Dubai, for East Africa, our base is Addis Ababa, and for Europe, it is the UK, for Southeast lAsia, it is Malaysia," he indicated.
The company is now targetting the West Africa and American markets. "We have already made significant in-roads in those markets. Our products are successfully sold in Ghana, Nigeria and other countries in West Africa. We also sell in the USA," he added.
"There are two main components to successful marketing - quality products at reasonable prices, and a self-driven highly motivated personnel that caters to the various needs of customers, retailers, and whole-sale distributors.," Walid concluded.

Yemen Lubricants Manufacturing Company

Quality Products Bring Trust

The Yemen Lubricants Manufacturing Company Limited (YLC) was established in 1993. It was, and remains the first and largest company for blending various kinds of lubes for vehicles, machinery, and other industrial applications.
"The establishment of the YLC came as an important contribution to the national economy, given the enormous savings of hard currency in import substitution," explained Khaled Ahmed Hayel, General Manager of the company. Indeed, in partnership with Mobil and Shell - two of the largest world companies in the field, the YLC has been able to win consumer satisfaction and trust in a short time.

The storage tank which receives the imported raw oils and chemical additives is at Mokha seaport. The plant itself occupies an area of 40,000 square meters at the outskirts of Taiz.
"Our objective is to meet domestic demand of various lubricants and oils. The present installed capacity can meet our local needs up to the year 2025," Khaled explained. In the meanwhile, whatever excess output exists goes to the neighboring markets, especially in East Africa.
"The ISO 9002 Award is a new milestone in our company march forward. It also gives an additional incentive to continue with our excellent services and products," the general manager said.

Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce

The First and the Best

The Yemen Company for Industry and Commerce (YCIC) is the oldest of the Hayel Saeed industrial group. Established in 1970, it was actually the first serious private investment in Yemen at the time, given the volatile conditions. Since then, the YCIC has grown in a spectacular way and has become a model.
"The company has a technical capacity of nearly 100,000 tons," explains Mr. Shokri Alfurais, general manager. Of the 1,600 employees, only 19 are foreigners. "We are proud that nearly half of our labor force is female," boasts Shokri who says that the YCIC is the country's first equal opportunity employer.

Of the output of the company, some 10-15% is exported, while the balance goes to meet local needs.
"Our company is actually four plants in one. We have the Wafer Plan, the Biscuit Plant, the Cakes and Cookies Plant, and the Sweets Plant," he pointed out. The Abu Walad brand biscuits have become a household item.
"We are happy with the worldwide recognition as reflected in the ISO 9002 Award. This comes as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the start of production of our company," the general manager said.
Visiting the company is an experience in itself. The size as well as the cleanliness are two overwhelming feelings as one enters the plant.

National Company for Sponge and Plastic Industry

Expanding to Meet Demand

The National Company for Sponge and Plastic Industry was established in 1974. Today, it incorporates seven lines of production. Its total employment is 1,200 persons, with a turnover that is the envy of many an investor.
"We have the set the standard in our line of business," says Jamal Saeed Abdo, Vice General Manager. Indeed, the cmpany's products are seen as the best in the field.
"Our main lines of production include the following:
1. the plant for sponges from which pillows, mattresses, and other similar products are made;
2. the plant for cartons and other paper packing products;

3. the plant for plastic pipes (UPVC) and other similar products;
4. the plant for producing tissues, toilet paper, etc.
5. the plant for producing various household plateware, buckets, containers, etc;
6. the polythelene plant which produces plastic bags, etc;
7. the plant for recycled products from which waste baskets, vegetable containers, etc. are made.
The company is now expanding in terms of size as well as variety of products.
"The Sanaa branch of the sponge plant is only the beginning of our new investments," Jamal said. He also indicated that market requirements are making the company look into new products."

NCSPI

Children's Literature: Breathing a New Culture in Our Future

Attention has increasingly been focussing on how society fills the mind of children. "How we 'feed' our children today is going to shape how they think, and even how they live in the future," said Ms. Najeeba Haddad, Director of the Children's Literature Department at the Ministry of Culture.

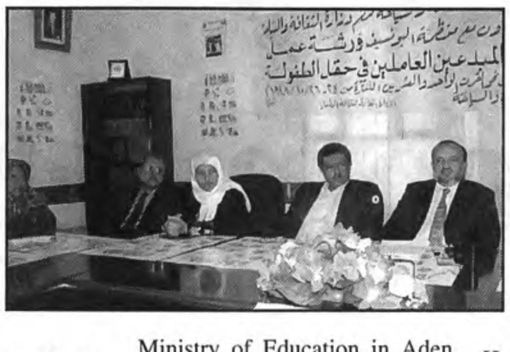
This new orientation has resulted in more work in this field at many levels. One such effort was a workshop for people working in children's rights which was held from October 14 to 16. It was attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism and many Yemeni writers and authors.

The papers presented at the workshop were:

1. Developing Children's Talents
2. Childhood, Hopes & Ambitions
3. Media and Child Rights
4. Cultural Identity & National and Human Values
5. Child Literature and Future
6. A workshop about the Convention of the Child's Rights
7. Child Literature & Yemeni Writers

"The press plays a major role in promoting children's rights," the minister insisted. He asked for the media to play its constructive role in this field.

He also pointed to articles 13 and 17 of the Rights of the Child Convention, which he said should be fully implemented.

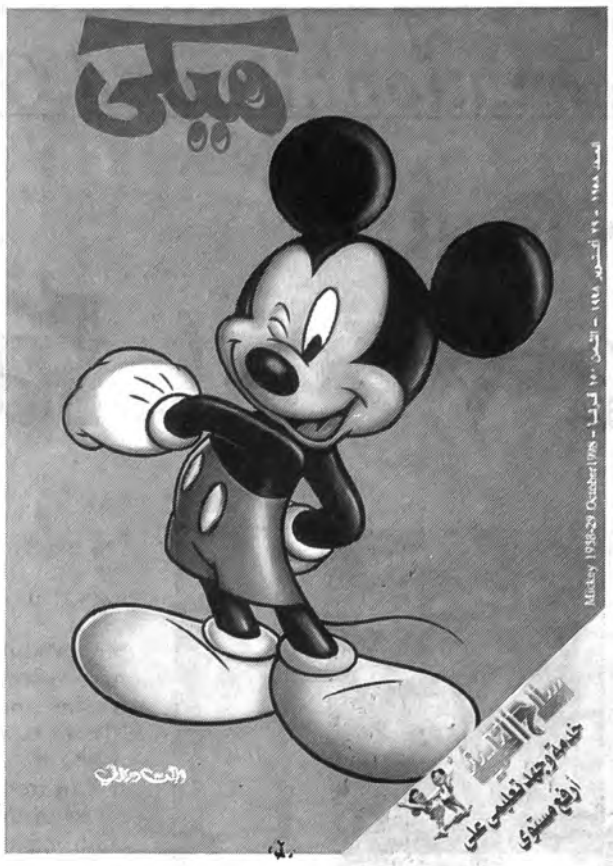


A paper submitted by Noriya Abdulrahman Al-Rada'ee indicated, "Issues dealt with by children's magazines should help build up children's characters, socially, culturally, emotionally, and psychologically. However, comic magazines appeared late in Yemen. All other magazines and newspapers concentrated totally on political issues."

Al-Hodhod, the first Yemeni children's comic magazine, was issued in 1980. Published by the Ministry of Education in Aden, "Wadah" magazine was issued in 1983. Then, Dar Al-Hamdani in Aden published a comics magazine named "Nashwan." Other magazines like "Al-Haris Al-Saghir" and "Al-Bara'em" appeared in Aden during 1984. Unfortunately, no more than 10 issues of each of those magazines were published.

After the nation's unification in 1990, only one issue of "Waddah" magazine was published. Then it stopped again. "Osama," a new magazine, then came onto the market. This magazine continues to be issued until now, though irregularly. In 1992, 3 magazines - "Al-Yemen Al-Sa'aeed, Thee Yazan, and Nadir" appeared. Because these magazines were not financially viable, they also stopped after one issue of each.

In 1993, "Al-Tafoolah" newspaper came into existence. Its editor-in-chief was Ms. Najeeba Haddad. Unfortunately, this newspaper lacking financial support, also disappeared after only one issue.



Shared Objectives

All children's magazines mentioned were mainly concerned with the following:

1. Instilling Islamic and human values such as integrity, heroism, honesty, solidarity and sacrifice - in the child readers' characters;
2. Eradicating backward legends and superstitions from children's minds;
3. Instilling good attitudes towards work, responsibility and family among children;
4. Developing children's taste of beauty and art and encouraging them to practice hobbies in order to develop their abilities;
5. Giving children an optimistic view of the future;
6. Improving cooperation between home and school in order to better serve the children's rights.

Shared Problems

1. Most comics were irregularly published. At the end, they all ceased publication because they were not financially supported.
2. They did not give children real lessons about society and life.
3. The magazines' staff had no experience in the field of children's literature, making the comics poorly edited and directed.
4. They were printed on bad-quality paper.
5. Copies were only distributed in main cities.
6. Almost all magazines dealt with folklore and ancient stories. They did not address certain contemporary issues.

Recommendations

The participants observed that there are no real comic magazine in Yemen. Most are irregular and lack certain elements of children's literature.

The workshop was concluded with the following recommendations:

1. providing children's magazines with all necessary facilities and financial support;
2. all children comic magazines must be regularly published;
3. they should include short and interesting topics that present humane morals;
4. magazines' staff must include psychologists who know how to deal with children;
5. color photos must be included in order to attract children; and
6. a children's magazine must include issues suitable for all ages.

Khairiyah Al-Shabibi, Yemen Times

GIFA: Cry for Help!

It is true that arts in Yemen, especially music, are not well supported. The [Jamil] Ghanim Institute of Fine Arts (GIFA) is the only institute teaching fine arts in Yemen. However, it is left to decline without any assistance.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief, talked to Mr. Suhail Bin Is'haq, head of the Music Department and the Director of Research and Academic Studies Department at GIFA. Excerpts:

Q: Can you give us an idea about GIFA?

A: The Jamil Ghanim Institute for Fine Arts was established in 1973 by Mr. Jamil Ghanim and the artist Ahmad Bin Ghawdal. At the beginning, it offered free evening music classes. One year later, a section was opened for teaching drama. It was supervised by the Egyptian drama and theater expert Sami Abdounnabi. Later, Dr. Abdulaziz Darwish opened the Plastic Arts section. It continued as evening classes at the institute until November 5, 1979. After that Saleh Bin Ghawdal was appointed director general of the institute.

Q: How many classes graduated from GIFA until now?

A: From 1982 up to date, 14 classes have graduated from this institute, comprising 425 students. They graduated with the equivalent of a secondary school certificate in the following subjects:

1. 117 students from the Music Department.
2. 67 students from the Theater Department.
3. 236 students from the Plastic Arts Department.

We don't accept students here unless they have individual talents in any aspect of arts. We then train them to be professionals through academic study. Our teachers are Yemenis with high degrees. Most of the teachers graduated from our institute and then took higher degrees from abroad. Now, we have to face the challenge of rebuilding this institute from scratch.

Q: What art departments are there in GIFA?

A: Music, theater, and plastic arts. We are now planning to open a department for acoustics and vocals.

Q: Where do students go after graduating?

A: Some go to work at the Ministry of Culture. Others go to work for private teams. Now, we try to have them graduate with more personal skills that qualify them to stand tall by themselves.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: Firstly, we want the Ministry of Culture to provide us with financial support. If that is done, we plan to enlarge the exhibitions hall, to rehabilitate the learning stage and to build a new theater. We also want to provide the place with air-conditioners and a bus.

Q. Why don't you look for support from the private sector?

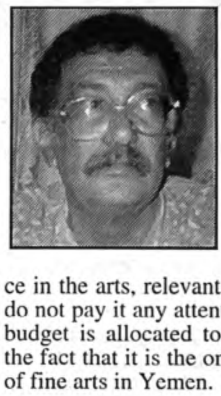
A: We've tried that many times but it did not work. Some private institutions do not give us specific answers and others do not answer us at all. For example, on May 20, 1998, we asked for support from the Hail Saaid Group of Companies. We wanted them to provide the exhibitions hall with equipment and in return we would name it as the Hail Saaid Hall. Until now, they have not answered us.

Q: Any last word?

A: All that I want to say is that I hope people value art better and that the Ministry of Culture support us. I leave it for you to send them the message which I hope they understand.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf, also met Mr. Hussain Al-Sayyid, General Director of GIFA.

Q: This institute is in a terrible condition. What is the reason behind that?



A: The institute is not supported by anyone in any way. People here do not find any importance in the arts, relevant authorities do not pay it any attention and no budget is allocated to it, despite the fact that it is the only institute of fine arts in Yemen.

Q: What facilities does GIFA offer now?

A: The monthly budget allocated for the institute by the Ministry of Culture is YR 50,000. They do not support us at all. Imagine that they refused to give us YR 30,000 to equip the institute. This is happening while hundreds of thousands goes on salaries for officials. We don't know how we will manage to continue teaching this year. We asked for a new budget but it did not work. We have been talking to officials at the Ministry of Culture since 1997 about getting a budget for us, but they still don't care.

Q: What about your teaching staff?

A: All of them are Yemenis. They are paid YR 100 a lecture, which is very little. Most of our teachers, by the way, are graduates of this institute who completed their higher studies abroad.

Q: What is the best way to solve GIFA's problems?

A: We have asked officials for support but this did not work. So, I think that the President himself and the Prime Minister should intervene to put an end to this carelessness. Only they can improve the situation.

Turkish Commandos Storm Hijacked Plane

Elite Turkish special forces stormed a hijacked Turkish Airlines plane at Ankara airport last Friday, October 30, killing the hijacker and releasing all 38 hostages unharmed.

The assault by 25 members of the special forces lasted 15 minutes and was launched some six and a half hours after the Boeing 737 landed. The hijacker was armed with a 7.65 mm pistol and a hand-grenade, which he had no time to use before being killed with three bullets. Police said the hijacker was a leftist member of the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and wanted for the killings of three teachers and a policeman.

The hijacking, the fourth in Turkish airspace this year.

The PKK has been fighting for an independent Kurdish homeland in southeastern Turkey since 1984 in a struggle that has left more than 30,000 dead.

India Holds Rates Steady

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last week left interest rates unchanged in its mid-year policy review despite worries over rising inflation and a high level of government borrowing. Central bank Governor Bimal Jalan said he would have liked to have helped industry by cutting rates, but price trends and money supply growth stopped him.

Ethio-Eritrea Talks in November

Blaise Comapore, President of Burkina Faso and current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) recently disclosed that five African heads of states have agreed to hold a two-day summit on November 7 and 8 to help resolve the territorial dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The summit is mandated by the OAU.

The President will be joined by leaders from Ethiopia and Eritrea, as well as the Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and his Djibouti counterpart, Hassan Jouled Aptidon.

Hundreds were killed between May and mid-June when a latent border dispute between the two former allies flared into violence. Open fighting has been on hold since a cease-fire was introduced in the middle of June. Since then both sides have deployed tens of thousands of troops along the 1,000km border. With so many troops facing each other, incidents are inevitable - only last week the two sides exchanged artillery fire. Both have used the lull to re-equip and reinforce their troops along the border.

Afghan Groups To Free Prisoners

Afghanistan Taliban Islamic Movement and its opponents have agreed to free 1,000 prisoners each under the terms of last week's truce.

A Taliban spokesman told reporters from the militia's headquarters in the southern city of Kandahar that work on the swapping of prisoners, the biggest one between the warring sides, would begin shortly.

"The process will start soon," he said. "The agreement is that each side will release 1,000 prisoners, on a daily basis 150 prisoners will be freed", he added.

Arafat Turns Up Heat on Hamas

Palestinians security forces pursued a campaign of arrests and harassment of radicals last week, but Israel dismissed the crackdown as a public relations "show" to save the Wye River land-for-peace deal.

The Israeli Foreign Minister, Ariel Sharon said that real peace with the Palestinians would take years to achieve. Speaking to reporters at his farm in southern Israel, Sharon said that talking about peace was not only a matter of signing a document.

He said he believed that Israel could, and must, reach an overall agreement with the Palestinians based on mutual understanding. He strongly condemned the bomb attack aimed at an Israeli school bus last week, and welcomed the security measures taken afterwards by the Palestinian Authority.

Kenyan Ethnic Violence

In potential replay of the Rwanda and Burundi violence, up to 300 people, many of them women and children, are feared dead after a clash a few days ago between nomadic groups from Ethiopia and northeastern Kenya. Reports of the attack began to emerge several days ago, but casualties are thought to be significantly higher than an official death toll of 139 deaths. Witnesses believe it could be at least twice as high.

More than 3,000 Somali victims of the attack near the town of Wajjir, some with gunshot wounds, were said to have fled to safety. The reports added that 52 villagers - mostly teenage girls - were kidnapped and an estimated 17,500 cattle stolen and driven back towards the border. The targets of the raids were reportedly from the Degodia ethnic group. Reports say that although clashes between rival nomadic groups in the region occur from time to time, the number of dead in this attack makes it the most serious for years.

Iranian Leader Accuses Arafat of Treachery

The Palestinian Authority has reacted sharply to a fierce personal attack on its leader, Yasser Arafat, by the supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The secretary-general of the Palestinian presidency, Tayyib Abdel - Rahim, said the Ayatollah's comments were baseless, irresponsible and lacked credibility - and he advised Mr. Khamenei to stop encroaching on Palestinian and other Arab affairs.

In an address earlier to Muslim worshippers in Teheran - the thousandth Friday prayer session since the Islamic Revolution - the Ayatollah denounced Mr. Arafat as a traitor and American lackey, saying the latest Middle East peace agreement meant the Palestinians could continue living only as slaves to Israel.

Ayatollah Khamenei described Mr. Arafat as steeped in selfishness and materialism and unworthy to lead the Palestinian resistance.

New Radios Beam Into Iran And Iraq

After months of political and diplomatic wrangling, two new US-funded radio services to Iran and Iraq have begun transmitting. They are also available via the Internet. The short-wave broadcasts, in Persian and Arabic respectively, are produced by Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), the US Government-funded surrogate broadcaster based in the Czech Republic capital, Prague.

In 1997 members of the US Congress floated the idea of starting a so-called "Radio Free Iran" service which would function as a surrogate broadcaster, separate from the Voice of America (VOA) and modeled on the Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and Radio Free Asia services that the US Government already funds.

RFE/RL, a private international radio service funded by the US Congress, has broadcast to central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union since the 1950s.

Later, in the aftermath of the confrontation in early 1998 between Iraq and the United Nations, political pressure mounted in the US, initially from members of conservative think-tanks and later by Republican politicians, for the setting up of a similar "Radio Free Iraq" service.

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CAUTIONARY ADVERTISEMENT

The Office of the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Yemen announces that Mr. Ali Ahmed Saleh Al-Beil is considered suspended from duty with the office and therefore has no authority to represent the office in any official business.

Furthermore, the office will not honour any activities committed by the said person.

Orbit Weekly Programs

America Plus

02 November 1998
1505 Friends
1530 Babylon 5
1900 Highlander The Series:
2000 Moesha

03 November 1998
1505 Friends
1645 Martin
1710 ER
1800 The New Adventures Of Superman

04 November 1998
1330 Murphy Brown
1505 Friends
1530 Babylon 5
1620 Hangin' with Mr Cooper

05 November 1998
1100 All My Children
1330 Murphy Brown
1350 The New Advenures of Robin Hood

06 November 1998
1530 Kung Fu
1530 Suddenly Susan
1900 Due South
2200 Beverly Hills 90210 Year 8

07 November 1998
1710 ER
1800 The New Adventures Of Superman
1900 Anyday Now

08 November 1998
1240 Sunset Beach
1505 Friends
1900 Kung Fu
1200 Family Matters

Orbit News

02 November 1998
2100 ABC 20/20
2200 CBS 60 Minutes
2300 NBC Dateline

03 November 1998
1700 CBS This Morning
1900 ABC Good Morning America
2100 NBC Dateline

04 November 1998
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live
1500 NBC The Today Show Live
1700 CBS This Morning
1900 ABC Good Morning America

05 November 1998
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live
1500 NBC The Today Show Live
1700 CBS This Morning
1900 ABC Good Morning America

06 November 1998
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live
1500 NBC The Today Show Live
1700 CBS This Morning

07 November 1998
2000 60 Minutes evg
2200 ABC 20/20
2300 ABC Nightline

08 November 1998
2030 CBS Face the Nation
2100 NBC Meet the Press
2200 ABC This Week

ESPN

02 November 1998
1600 1998 14TH GCC GULF CUP Kuwait v Qatar and Saudi Arabia v Bahrain Live
2200 NFL Football: Minnesota Vikings at Tampa Bay Buc caneers
2300 ATP Magazine

03 November 1998
1630 1998 14TH GCC GULF CUP UAE v Oman Live
2100 GolE
2130 Latin Football Weekly
2200 World Football Report

04 November 1998
1830 Sportcenter
1930 NBA Basketball: Boston Celtics at New York Knicks
2200 UEFA Champions League Live

05 November 1998
1600 1998 14TH GCC GULF CUP Qatar v UAE Oman v Saudi Arabia Live
2200 European Football Weekly
2300 World of Rugby

Thur. 5 at 1600
1998 14TH GCC Gulf Cup
Gulf cup live at Qatart v UAE Qatar have been building for this tournament & will be looking for victory over a solid and workmanlike UAE.

Oman v KSA
Oman will be looking to pull off the surprise of the tournament against a strong Saudi Arabia team.

06 November 1998
1630 1998 14TH GCC GULF CUP Bahrain v Kuwait Live
2100 ATP Sup 9 Tennis 1998 Paris Open Quarterfinal Match
2300 College Football: East Carolina at Cincinnati

07 November 1998
1300 Racing to the Breeder's Cup
1900 Sportcenter
2000 NBA Basketball: New York Knicks Minnesota Timberwolves

08 November 1998
1600 1998 14TH GCC GULF CUP Qatar v Bahrain Saudi Arabia v UAE Live
2200 Sportcenter
2300 NFL Football Live

Hollywood

02 November 1998
1530 E! Extreme Close Up
1600 Globetrotter
1900 Jeopardy
1930 Wheel of Fortune

03 November 1998
2030 Judge Judy
2100 E! Extreme Close Up
2130 True Hollywood Stories Princess Diana part 1

04 November 1998
21:30 1998 Emmy Awards Highlights
2230 E! ECU
2300 Celebrity Profiles

05 November 1998
1800 The Price is Right
1900 Jeopardy
1930 Wheel of Fortune

06 November 1998
1600 Globetrotter
13630 Uncut
1700 Videofashion
1730 Arts & Minds

07 November 1998
1800 E! Behind The Scenes
2000 Pictionary
2030 Judge Judy

08 November 1998
1430 Uncut: James Woods
1730 Ooh La La
1800 The Price is Right
2100 E! In Focus

Music Now

02 November 1998
1400 American Chart Show
1900 MEditerranEe
2100 Awtar

03 November 1998
1200 In Motion
1330 Musabaqa
2300 Music Now Jukebox

04 November 1998
1100 "360" Degrees Prince
1300 R.s.v.p.
2300 Sahretna

05 November 1998
1600 American Chart Show
1700 Musabaqa
1830 (a)convnwith../chainrtn3

06 November 1998
1100 Vital Soul
1200 Indimage
1700 Dandana

07 November 1998
1200 In Motion
1400 Convwith./chainreaction#1 Fframe/chain Reaction #2
1500 Cosmix

08 November 1998
1100 Vital Soul
1200 Rock Raiq
1400 Indimage

Super Movies

02 November 1998
2100 Over The Hill - 2S
2200 Gang In Blue - 3SVL
2300 A Man Of No Importance-3S

03 November 1998
1900 Empire Records - 2L
2030 E! Uncut
2100 From The Hip - 2SL

04 November 1998
1700 Three Wishes - 2
1900 Only You - 2L
2030 E! Extreme Close Up

05 November 1998
1500 Three Men And A Baby - 2
1900 The Fencing Master - 2V
2030 E! Coming Attractions

06 November 1998
1500 The Stars Fell On Henrietta-2
1700 Northern Lights - 1
2100 Fled - 3VL - (Premiere)

Fled at 2100 Frid. 6th
Two of the brightest young stars in Hollywood Laurance Fishburne & Stephen Baldwin team up in this all-action romp of two chain gang convicts on the run. Piper & Dodge are working on a Georgia prison work gang when all hell breaks loose. A prisoner gets a gun & starts shooting, killing guards and inmates indiscriminately. Piper & Dodge, who are chained together, escape.

07 November 1998
1710 Akira Kurosawa's Dreams - 2
1915 The Positively True Adventures Of The TEXAS Cheer leader-Murdering Mom - 2L
2100 The Body Snatchers - 2SVL

08 November 1998
1315 The Positively True Adventures Of The TEXAS Cheerleader-Murdering Mom - 2L
1500 Nobody's Fool - 2L
1700 Police Academy 2 - 2L
1830 E! Behind The Scenes

The Disney Channel

02 November 1998
1450 Chip IN Dale Rescue Rangers
1515 Goof Troop
1540 Ducktales

03 November 1998
1730 Gargoyles
1900 Boy Meets World
1930 Brotherly Love

04 November 1998
1400 Gummi Bears
1700 Aladdin
2100 Dinosaurs

05 November 1998
1530 Wuzzles
1600 Little Mermaid
1800 Brand Spanking New Doug

06 November 1998
1500 Sing Me A Story
1630 Gummi Bears
2000 Movie - Escape to Witch Mountain

07 November 1998
1800 Bill Nye the Science Guy
1830 Brand Spanking New Doug
1900 Boy Meets World

08 November 1998
1605 Darkwing Duck

Escape to Witch Mountina Fri. 6th 2000
It's a thriller about two young orphans with supernatural power who become captive of a ruthless millionaire and are finally rescued, with the help of human and animal friends, by someone from another Galaxy.

1830 Flash Forward
1900 Boy Meets World

Fun Channel

02 November 1998
1440 Beetlejuice
1645 Fantastic Voyage of Sinbad
1710 Superman Animated

03 November 1998
1210 Barney
1300 Felix the Cat
1620 Pinky & The Brain

04 November 1998
1735 Batman
1800 Power Rangers
1825 Tattoed Teenage Alien Fighters
1850 Animaniacs

05 November 1998
1700 Animated Classic Hero
1730 World Youth News
1830 Police Academy

06 November 1998
1300 Felix the Cat
1325 Richie Rich
1350 My Hometown
1415 Dumb & Dumber

07 November 1998
1915 The Mask
1940 Anti-Gravity Room
2005 Beast Wars
2030 Reboot

08 November 1998
1710 Superman Animated
1735 Batman
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1825 Tattoed Teenage Alien Fighters

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في محافظتي تعز وعدن

تحت رعاية الحاج / علي محمد سعيد رئيس مجلس إدارة مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم وشركاه

تم افتتاح معرض«ناتكو» (قطاع السيارات) فورد وهيونداي في كل من تعز وعدن بحضور نخبة من رجال المال والأعمال ورجالات الدولة وعدد كبير من الشخصيات الاجتماعية وجمع غفير من عشاق وهواة ومحبي سيارات فورد وهيونداي.

وتعتبر المعارض الحديثة طريقة متطورة لخدمة وسائل العرض وثمرة نجاح للاستثمار ات المتميزة لمجموعة هائل سعيد أنعم.

وسيشمل الموقعين في تعز وعدن ورش للصيانة مزودة بأحدث المعدات والآلات لضمان تقديم صيانة ممتازة وسريعة لعملاء فورد وهيونداي .. وهو مايميز الشركة الوطنية للتجارة المحدودة «قطاع السيارات» التي تولي جانب الصيانة والتحديث اهتماماً بالغاً.

ويكفي مع فورد وهيونداي أن تشعر بالراحة والأمان

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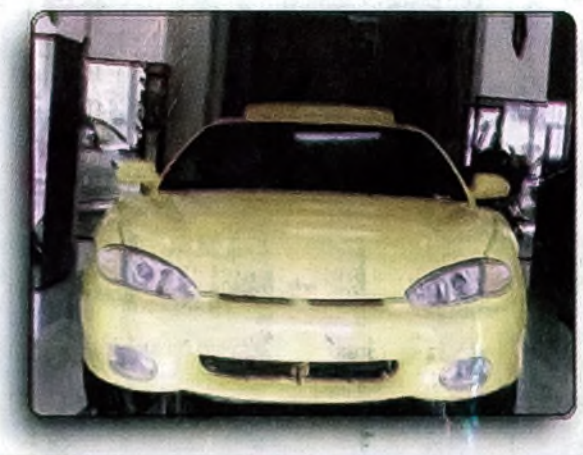

الأخ منير أحمد هائل اثناء قص شريط الافتتاح

الاخ منير أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم يلقي كلمة في المهرجان الخطابي للافتتاح

معرض ناتكو قطاع السيارات (بتعز)

Italian Delights Delight Everybody!

From 30th October through 3rd November, a piece of Italy is presented at the Taj Sheba Hotel in Sanaa. Italian food, music, a puppet show and a photographic exhibition of Rome are there to delight the Taj's patrons in a colorful carnival appealing to a wide spectrum of tastes.

Organized by the Italian Embassy and the Taj Sheba Hotel, the events are sponsored by Yemen Airlines, Ansaldo Energia, Universal Touring Company, Yemen Times, Yemen Economic Corporation (YECO), and Alitalia Airlines.

"The Italian Week in Sanaa has become a tradition, running in its sixth year," said a beaming Vitaliano Napoleone, Italy's ambassador in Sanaa.

This year, the Taj's foyer was adorned with photographs depicting features from Rome - probably the biggest city/museum in the world. Showing the marking of Rome's Jubilee, Mauro Evangelista's pictures were a delightful visual fiesta.

Folklore music is played by the Alba Mediterranea band in their traditional costumes from the Campania region. Mino, Massimo, Gennaro, Eva and Adriana delighted their audiences with famous Napolitina songs. the crowds responded enthusiastically with dancing and clapping.

Children both at the Taj Sheba Hotel and in three major schools in Sanaa got a nice treat from the Maninalto Girotondo (puppet show) group. Puppet masters Luisa Piazza and Augusto Terenzi gave an excellent performance.

Lucana is a nice, mainly agricultural region in southern Italy. Lucana cuisine is widely known for its simplicity, in which the famous Lucana cheese features prominently. "It is a cuisine with a distinguished and firm taste in which pepper is nearly always present," said a proud Mario Demuro, Executive Chef. Demuro has a 20-year experience as a chef in the best restaurants and hotels around Italy. Very few people have their profession and hobby the same. Demuro enjoys cooking both a means of a earning a living and as a pastime activity.

Moreover, Signor Demuro is the president of the Chefs Association in Italy, winning a major prize at the Italian Cooking Olympiad last year.

Antonio Stigliano, Assistant Chef from Basilicata started 15 years ago, working in famous Italian restaurants in Italy and in New York. He and Demuro are treating the Taj's patrons to typical dishes from Basilicata: special homemade pasta with special vegetables, Lucana cheese, and special desserts with fresh ricotta cheese.

"All ingredients are brought fresh from Italy, none of the frozen stuff is used," says Stigliano, "fresh olive oil, fresh tomatoes, basil, etc. Instead of pork, which is used a lot in Lucana dishes, we use here lamb, chicken, fish, and veal," he explained.

The Sanaa folks have much to enjoy. Join'em?

By:
Adel Moqbil,
Yemen Times.

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ماس للإعلان

Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Sameer Farawna

الرأي العام

AL RAY AL AAM
Sanaa, weekly 27/10/98
(Independent)
Main Headlines:

-Despite official Saudi denial, arrivals from the desert border of Hadhramaut have affirmed that the Saudi seven-member committee was still granting citizenship to willing Yemeni nationals.

-An official ceremony will be organized on the occasion of restoring the greater Hunaish island from the Eritreans, after which a summit meeting between presidents of the two countries in either Hodeida or Aden will take place heralding a new era of relations between the two countries.---

---Employees at Sanaa's local council have refuted what was published last week that they were rallying for the sacking of the council executives.

-Workers and employees in the Ministry of Fishery are complaining of the Minister, Ahmad Musaed Hussein's practices in refusing to cater for their issues while spending a lot of money on himself and close friends from the Ministry's fund.

American Base in Mocha
Article Summary

A high level source affirmed to AL RAY AL AAM that the government had concluded top secret measures to grant military facilities and a naval base to American forces in Mocha on the Red Sea and not in Aden as reportedly published before. He said that the U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa's denial that an American naval base was to be set up in Aden was correct because the base will be in Mocha and not Aden.

The source explained that the city of Mocha was chosen because it was safer than Aden for Americans for being away from curious Yemeni and foreign eyes as well as politicians and opposition elements.

The source further disclosed that the Yemeni Economic Institution, at the government's orders, seized houses built in the late seventies east of the American Embassy in Sanaa. The Institution evacuated the buildings, maintained and painted them at a record time then started construction of a number of four-storey houses in the vicinity to receive and entertain American officers and soldiers by the second half of 1999.

الطريق

ATTARIQ
Aden, weekly 27/10/98
(Independent)
Main Headlines:

-The rate of poverty in Yemen increased from three million people six years ago to nine million last year and is expected to reach fourteen million people by the year 2005 if the current slow economic growth persisted, according to the workshop in Aden Oct. 25-26 on Human Development in Yemen.

--- Interior Minister Hussein Mohammed Arab has announced in an interview with a Qatari Daily that Yemen had deported 21,000 foreigners from its territory since 1994 after summoning all those residing illegally in the country and asking them either to amend their residence violation or leave.

- One of the Sheikhs in Hadhramaut has asked the governor Brig. Saleh Obad Al Khawlani to investigate the death and disappearance of a number of Yemenis after crossing the borders into Saudi Arabia.

- The Yemeni Organization for the Defense of Human Rights and Democratic Freedoms appealed to relatives and friends of those who disappeared in Yemen during various periods to report them to the Organization in Aden, files on whom would be later sent to the International Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

- The director of the General Seyoun Hospital, Dr. Mohammed Alawi Al Aidarous said, in a commentary on the paper's article last week, that the hospital asks patients to donate blood before entering surgery to ensure it was void of any microbes and to be ready for use by the patient himself during or after the operation.

رأي

RAY
Sanaa, weekly 27/10/98
(League of the Sons of Yemen)
Main Headlines:

- Well informed sources said that the Yemeni government has received a number of investment requests in the Hunaish Islands in the tourist, oil, fishing and other fields.

- Three armed men more than ten days ago seized a tanker vehicle for Canadian Occidental in Duaen area of Hadhramaut and fled with it to an unknown destination.

- Press and media circles have expressed dismay over the recent detention in Aden of Anwar Al Ansi, correspondent of the Qatari TV channel Al Jazira by security director of the governorate after covering the recent trial there of those convicted in a number of explosions and other crimes in the country.

- Light weapons were extensively used in an exchange of fire between elements of the ruling Popular General Conference and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) in Qaataba, Ibb more than a week ago in a dispute over running a certain school there in which three Islah men were injured after a hand grenade was tossed at them.

الحق

AL HAQ
Sanaa, weekly 25/10/98
(Independent)
A Cabinet Reshuffle Soon
Article Summary

Reliable sources told AL HAQ that premier Dr. Abdul Karim Al Iryani will resuffle his cabinet soon. They said that the change will include five portfolios at least, some of which former prime minister Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanim had asked to be changed. The sources revealed that the reshuffle will include ministers who are requested to appear before the parliament for questioning on financial corruption in their ministries.

Sources close to the government told the newspaper that the soaring exchange rate of the U.S. dollar against the Yemeni riyal was premeditated as a face saving justification for the reshuffle.

الشورى AL SHOURA

AL SHOURA
Sanaa, weekly 25/10/98
(Federation of Popular Forces)
Main Headlines:

- Inhabitants of Al Qafr, Ibb governorate fear the eruption of the volcano in Qafr mountain after witnessing gasses emanating from its summit in addition to the tremors that shook the area recently.

- The value of the U.S. dollar against the Yemeni riyal has retreated following intervention by the Central Bank which flooded the market with the hard currency.

- Tribal sources in the Marib governorate said that the security authorities released last week 52 persons detained a fortnight before after suspecting their involvement in blasting oil pipelines and other disturbances there last June.

- Minister of Labor, Dr. Mohammed Al Tayeb has asserted, in a U.N.-sponsored seminar against poverty last week, that Yemen does not enjoy any economic privilege and that 70% of university graduates will not find any jobs.

- Yemeni workers in the free zone in Aden are complaining of inhumane work conditions including 12 hours of non-stop labor and payment of their salaries in Yemeni rials instead of U.S. dollars as stipulated in their contracts.

الوحدوي

AL WAHDHAWI
Sanaa, weekly 27/10/98
(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)
Main Headlines:

- Two U.S. military helicopters landed last week at Aden Airport carrying military equipment and supplies from Navy vessels anchoring off the shore of Abyan concerned with the demining operation in certain southern areas launched by Yemeni backed American forces.

- The Saudi authorities have deported 640 Yemeni workers from its lands after detaining them for a few weeks despite the fact that the majority of them were living in the Saudi Kingdom according to appropriate legal procedures.

- The Egyptian Pharco Co. has presented enough proof from the Ministry of Health in Egypt that its medicine fabrication was according to required standards following press reports charging it with producing medicine not fit for human consumption. Meanwhile, an official Yemeni committee further confirmed that Pharco products were according to medical standards after checking a number of its medicines distributed here in Yemen.

Constitutional Amendment s
An Article Summary

The government is to propose a number of constitutional amendments to change election of the President from directly by the people to indirectly by the Parliament. The amendments also include changes in the President's as well as the Consultative Council's jurisdictions by which the latter would endorse laws. The Council's members would be increased to more than one hundred half of which would be elected equally in governorates of the country and the other half appointed by the President.

The sources said that the amendments would be approved by not later than early next year before the presidential elections by October 1999 so that the President would be elected in accordance with the new amendments.

Meanwhile, the Parliament's Freedoms and Rights committee has started discussing a government tabled draft resolution to check unlicensed demonstrations.

الأمة

AL UMMA
Sanaa, weekly 29/10/98
(Al Haqq Party)
Main Headlines:

-A powerful explosion has rocked Al Kiyada road leading to downtown Al Tahreer square a few days ago without any official reports leaking on losses inflicted.

-Observers were surprised at the number of American trainers on the demining operation in the southern governorates, noting that there was one American trainer for each Yemeni trainee.

-A poor mother offered her son for sale at one of the capital's schools due to soaring prices and the family's inability to cater for all its children, and another woman reportedly paid two hundred thousand rials for the ten years old boy.

-Yemeni jews are returning in large numbers as tourists to Aden governorate and taking photos of their old buildings and asking their inhabitants how they bought them.

الصحوة

AL SAHWA
Sanaa, weekly 29/10/98
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah)
Main Headlines:

-An army soldier's body was found with bullet holes in a mountainous area in Al Dale, the soldier, originally from Jibla, Ibb had disappeared a few days before.

-Nine patients have died in Hodeidah from kidney failure after closure of the specialized center there due to lack of funds.

-The second exhibition for Yemeni products is open this week in Aden after which it will tour all governorates of the country before flying to Arab and other friendly countries.

-The Financial Director of the Fish Canning Factory 'Shaqra' in Mukala, Hadhramaut has demanded, in a memo to the General Manager, an end to overspending which resulted in a big deficit in the 1998 budget.

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"I take part in championships on my own expense."

Wa'el Hussein 'Amer, 30, is fond of bowling. He played this game for many years, and is looking forward for it to become popular in Yemen. Wa'el represented Yemen in the International Bowling Championship (1997) held in Cairo, paying wholly for himself.

Yemen Times met this young man to know his story with this game, which is new in the Yemeni spots fields.

Q: When and where did you start playing the game?

A: I started playing bowling while studying in Jordan in 1987. My level improved noticeably, with continuous training, after participation in the Jordanian University championship (1988). After graduation, I returned back to Yemen and stopped playing bowling, because of the lack of bowling facilities. During my travels abroad, I participated in some championships held in Amman and Cairo.

Q: Do you wish to make bowling more popular in Yemen?

A: Yes, this is my ambition. Bowling is an interesting, commercially profitable game, but the cost of a bowling alley is pretty high.

In the year 2000, bowling will be included in the international Olympic games. I presented a project for establishing a bowling center to the Yemen Olympic Committee and the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Q: Yemen does not have a bowling association, how were you invited to participate in the International Bowling Championship in 1997?

A: Within my personal contacts, the Asian International Bowling Federation invited me personally to participate in the International Bowling Championship (1996) held in Ireland. Later I declined to attend because of lack of funds.

The following year the AIBF invited me again to participate in the 33rd International Bowling Championship which was held in Cairo by 1997. The Yemen Olympic Committee along with the Ministry of Youth and Sports nominated me to represent the country in this championship. Because I have to pay my own expenses and due to the lack of bowling centers in Yemen, the results were generally not encouraging. I came 72nd out of 82 participants from various countries. Things might get better for me if my country paid all expenses and provide training facilities.

Q: What is your last bowling participation in 1998?

A: My last participation was two weeks ago in October in the International Bowling Championship in Egypt. I came 40th among 56 competitors from 18 different countries.

Q: Since we do not have bowling centers in Yemen, how do you train?

A: I usually travel a month or so in advance of any championship to be able to train in private centres. This is what happened in the October International Bowling Championship in Cairo.

Q: Are there any more international championships for you to participate in soon?

A: I received an invitation from the Japanese Bowling Federation to participate in the next International Bowling Championship to be held in Tokyo in November 1999. My participation in this championship will cost me a lot, above what can my personal budget bear!.

Q: Is it possible to establish bowling centres in Yemen?

A: The role of the private sector is very important. Bowling is profitable from the commercial point of view.

I hope to form a Yemeni bowling association within my limited resources. I would like the private sector to invest money in bowling training centres to encourage sports and tourism at the same time.

Victory, the Hard Way

It was tough! It was lengthy! And it was critical!

But Hamid made it. On Saturday, October 31st, Hamid lived one of his most challenging moments.

The match between him and Wayne McCullough, unexpectedly, lasted 12 complete rounds until a critical and significant unanimous decision came out. Not only Hamid, but all Yemeni and Arab viewers were nervous and were praying for the decision. Thankfully, the announcement came out. And Hamid did it again, he won. WBO featherweight champion Prince Naseem Hamid defeated his challenger, Irishman Wayne McCullough.

However, Hamid should have not gone this far and risked the match. He should have thought the possibility of a score not in his favor. We were all delighted with the result, but not with the match.

With the 30 winnings to his credit, Naseem could not live up to his promise to knock out McCullough in the third round.

"He was quite strong," Hamid said. "I tried to knock him out in the third round. What can I say? He's got a hard head. He's Irish, you know."

McCullough was the aggressor throughout, but he couldn't hurt Hamid. Egged on by more than 1,000 enthusiastic fans, he sustained some powerful shots.

"I'm still the best lightweight in the world. I won easy," the Prince said.

McCullough, 28, was a silver medalist in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

"He ran from me," McCullough said. "He didn't come to me and never hurt me. He's strong physically but he never hurt me."

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This scheme funds young dynamic professionals to undertake short-term training/study from three months to one year in the UK.

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  - the media,
  - business
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  - primary education.
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- have a University degree or equivalent, and
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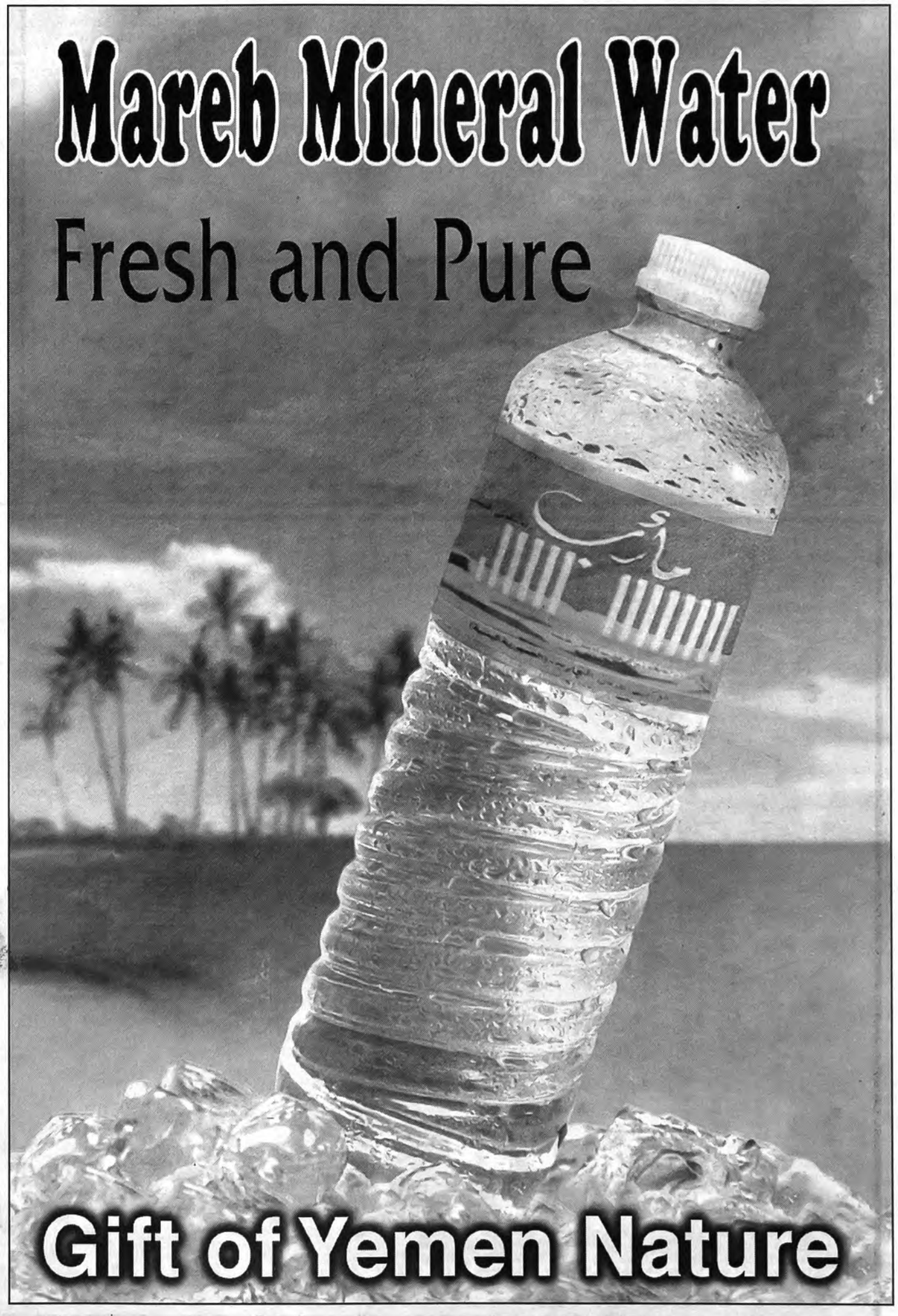
For help in choosing a suitable study course please consult the British Council Library in Sana'a or Aden. For advice on filling the application form contact: in **Sana'a** Abdulla Al-Duraibi, Tel: 01 244121/2, in **Aden** Mr. Atraf, Tel: 02 232027.



Successful Efforts by CC's Human Rights Committee Continue:

Postal Authority Issues Stamps Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Universal Declaration on Human Rights

On December 10th, 1948, the world issued the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. In a few weeks, the world will celebrate the 50th anniversary. This will be a chance to take stock of what has been achieved, and what lies ahead.

The Human Rights Committee of the Consultative Council has been working hard to make Yemen join the world in this endeavor. These efforts are beginning to bear fruit. One of these efforts was to make the Postal Authority issue stamps to commemorate the occasion. Last week, the Chairman of the CC's Human Rights Committee, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, received samples of three stamps, which will be released on December 10th, 1998.

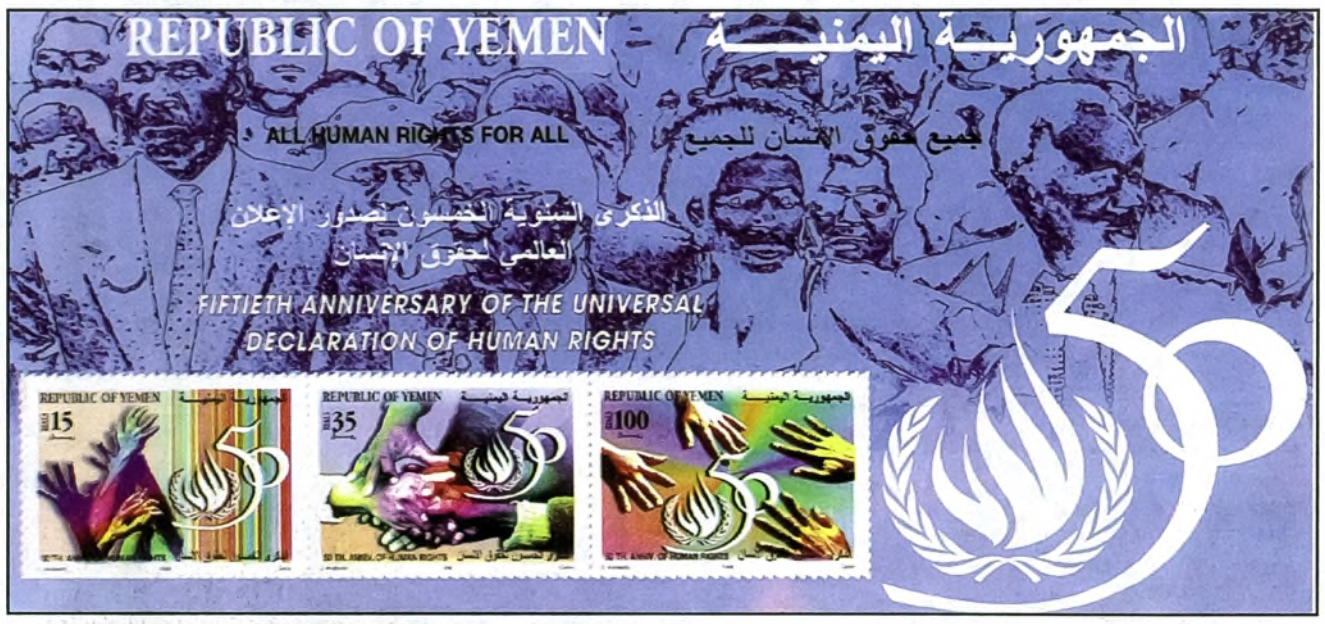
"These are four-color 30 by 40 centimeter stamps to be printed in France. They are priced at YR 15, 35, and 100 each," he explained.
The design and artwork is quite impressive. In all three versions, hands have been used to indicate different aspects of human rights.
In the first stamp, the picture shows hands in several colors (ethnic backgrounds) rising high as if coming out of a prison cell. This image stands for the appeal of vulnerable groups whose rights are not respected.
In the second stamp, again hands of various colors join together to show unity and solidarity. The call here is for all nations and peoples, even individuals, to join hands in show of commitment for human rights.
In the third stamp, various color hands reach out from all corners towards the 50th anniversary to celebrate this important occasion.

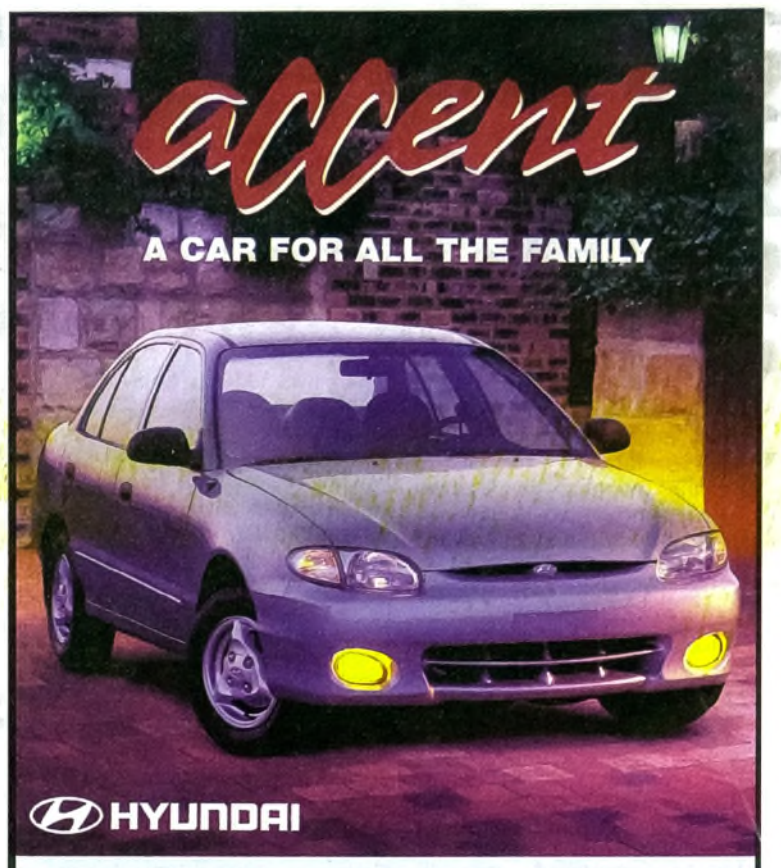
The Human Rights Committee at the Consultative Council 'is now preparing the texts of several international conventions to be printed in Arabic. Some 10,000 copies of the actual texts of the following conventions will be distributed on the occasion.
1) The Universal Declaration on Human Rights of 1948;
2) The August 12, 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 2 subsequent protocols;
3) The 1951 Convention on the Rights of Refugees, and Displaced and Stateless Persons;
4) The International Agreement Against Torture issued by the UN General Assembly on 10th December, 1984;
5) The Rights of the Child Convention issued by the UN General Assembly on 20th November 1989;
6) Parts of texts of Yemen's Constitution and various laws that are related to human rights.

The Committee will also release 10,000 cassette tapes which contain the exact text of the Universal Declaration as well as its explanation in layman language. "This is important because many of our people are illiterate. Even those who read and write may not fully comprehend the legal jargon," explains Saqqaf.

The most daring of the CC's Human Rights Committee program has to do with a seminar on Thursday, December 10th, 1998. "During this seminar, the high point is when 100 law enforcement officers, judges, lawyers, public attorneys and other officials take a vow to honor the Universal Declaration and to work towards its full implementation. "We don't have a firm commitment yet. We do hope that several prison wardens, arresting, investigation and interrogation officers, and others will agree to take the oath," the human rights activist said.

"The total budget for this 3-months effort is a meager US$ 30,000, given the voluntary nature of most of the effort. I would like to use this opportunity to thank those donors who have either committed to help, and who are in the process of doing so. These include the Danish, Canadian and Norwegian governments, as well as international NGOs such as Radda Barnen," concluded Dr. Saqqaf.





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