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# YEMEN TIMES

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## "The state failed to dictate direction of our congress."

Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, Secretary-General of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), lashed out at the authorities for playing an arm-twisting game with his party. The fiercely independent Obad said that his party was exposed to all kinds of intimidation and blackmail.



"The authorities decided to dictate the direction our party's congress (28-30/11/1998) should take. I can tell you the political leadership, governors, military and security officers and other senior officials were involved in a sustained effort to tell us what we should do.

They promised to finance our meetings, if we toe the line. They threatened all kinds of punishments, if we refused," explained the YSP leader in an extended exclusive interview with the Yemen Times. Read full text on page 3.

The YSP Boss said that his party's congress decided to show more tolerance and flexibility in its continued

soul-searching and adjustment process. "We decided that we will let all by-gones be by-gones whether it is with our own members or with other members of our society. "I challenge the others to start with a clean slate in full cooperation to build Yemen of the 21st century," he said.

In response to the torrent of criticism from the leaders of the ruling People's General Congress, Mr. Obad simply answered, "Do you see me wink?" He suggested that the PGC leadership, frustrated that the YSP refused to take orders, embarked on a barrage of attacks using the official media. "We will not be dragged into mud-slinging. But we will stay on our course," he insisted.

Speaking about the reforms of the party, Mr. Obad said the YSP will continue to push for international socialism and a secular state. "We will work for democratic values as well as for social justice and equality among citizens in our society," he said.

## Stronger Yemen-American Military Cooperation

# Zinni Here Next Week

General Anthony Zinni, Commander of the US Central Command Theater, is expected to arrive here next week. This will be the 7th senior US military delegation visiting Yemen this year. Earlier visitors include Zinni himself, Admiral Thomas Fargo, Commander of Naval Forces at Central Command and his successor, Admiral Charles Moore, and General Fulford, Commander of the Marines, among others. Meanwhile, Yemeni-American military cooperation has grown by leaps and bounds. This year alone has seen three joint military exercises and calls by US military vessels on Yemeni ports.

At another level, the first batch of officers in the demining operation will graduate in Aden on December 13th. Defence Minister Mohammed Dhaifallah, General Zinni, US Ambassador to Yemen Barbara Bodine, Aden Governor Taha Ghanim and others are expected to be on hand for the graduation ceremony of the US-trained 150 Yemeni demining personnel.



## Accelerated Malaria Control Program

On December 1st, 1998, the Minister of Health, Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, unveiled a plan of an acceleration of malaria control program to be implemented during 1999. The minister invited representatives of donors to whom he presented his case. According to the plan, it will cost about YR one billion to reign in prevalence and outbreaks of malaria.

The minister had earlier appealed to the Yemeni government. He presented his plan at a cabinet meeting

three weeks back, and was given an immediate allocation of YR 40 million. "We see this as an important positive step. It is badly needed seed money. We hope to raise more money locally and internationally," the minister said.

A field survey by an Omani expert team during 5-23/11/1998 reported that 1,500,000 malaria cases occurred annually in the country. With a 1% fatality rate, that translates into 15,000 deaths every year from malaria alone. More ominously, the report

indicated that 60% of the total population is under risk all year round because the people live in malaria endemic areas. Another 20% of the population lives in areas where malaria outbreaks are seasonal. The job of "rolling back malaria" is a Herculean task. When the present minister of health took over in mid-1997, the grand total allocation of the malaria control program for the whole year was less than US\$ 1,500. "So, we are now building from scratch," Dr. Nasher stated.

## Yemen to Host Emerging Democracies Summit

Leslie Campbell, Director of Middle East and North Africa Region at the National Democratic Institute, is in Sanaa to finalize arrangements for a gathering of 150 pro-democracy leaders to be held in Yemen next year. The "Emerging Democracies Forum: A Political Leaders Summit" is tentatively scheduled for mid 1999.

The objective is to provide an opportunity for discussing the common hurdles confronting senior political leaders in democratizing countries, and to promote the formation of a diverse multi-national "caucus" of emerging democracies with a view to encouraging on-going commitment to democratic values.

Participating countries include newly emerging transitional democracies from Africa, Latin America, and former communist countries. Yemen agreed to host the gathering.

NDI is now busy with preparations, which explains the visit. Mr. Campbell re-focused the objectives. "While recognizing the achievements so far, we want to renew the pledge to stay the course of democratic transformation."



## Parliament Approves 1999 Budget

The House of Deputies approved the 1999 budget on Saturday, December 5th. But the session, which was characterized by heated debate leading to the withdrawal of all opposition members - including the Islah, did not stop the approval. The ruling People's General Congress had sufficient votes to push the budget through.

The parliamentary committee to review the budget proposal presented a report which was full of criticism. It lamented the lack of vision and less than serious efforts to present

a real budget. The report pointed to many contradictions in the numbers of the budget on different pages.

The 1999 budget envisages total revenues to be YR 294.4 billion, while authorized total expenditures stood at YR 335.6 billion, of which recurrent expenditures (nearly half of which is payroll) represents 77% of the total. Finally, the report indicated that the government routinely neglects to honor the commitments it makes when it approaches the House to get approval of the budget.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### HUMAN RIGHTS: We Have Come a Long Way

The world, our Arab region, and Yemen have all come a long way since the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, exactly fifty years ago this week. Nobody any more argues that dictators can do whatever they like with people under their control. Human rights are everybody's concern, even if that may mean intervention in the internal affairs of rogue states.

It is just fitting that the world should carry with it this year some gifts on this occasion. By far, the most important gift is the establishment of the International Criminal Court, which is ready to put on trial violators of human rights. Other gifts include the arrest of Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean former dictator, under whose regime some 3,000 persons were killed. A final gift was the arrest of Serbian General Radislav Krstic, who ordered the mass murder of Yugoslavs in Srebrenica in Bosnia. He is now awaiting trial at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in the Netherlands.

Within the Arab region, human rights was a virtual taboo. I remember in the late 1970s, a group of Arab intellectuals started making noise about the need for respect of citizens by the state. The idea developed momentum until in December 1982, 18 of us - Arab intellectuals and human rights activists - met to establish the Arab Organization for Human Rights. We could not find a place to meet in the whole Arab world. So, we met in Cyprus and launched the effort from there.

I also remember as I came back to Yemen from the meeting, the dean at my college at Sanaa University called me in and grilled me about the crime I had just committed. I was immediately dismissed as chairman of the economics department, and was subjected to many other complications. Since then, I have been able to remain on the blacklist of our Political Security Organization.

Today, many Arab rulers profess to respect human rights. The Arab regimes have made much progress, if at least on paper. But the concept is developing roots, and it has become an integral part of the political structure.

Here in Yemen, we have also made enormous gains. Today, there are a dozen or so organizations that have as their main objective the defence of human rights. This is much progress. Even the government has its own organization to defend human rights. In the future, the effectiveness of these organizations will depend on their ability to coordinate their efforts.

Violations of human rights in Yemen continue to occur. But they happen mainly because of lack of adequate understanding on the part of the law enforcement agencies. It is due to socio-cultural backwardness of the general public.

Of course, there are some politically driven violations, but the bulk of the transgression is non-political. In other words, if there is more training for law enforcement agencies, and more awareness among the public, there would be less violations. While we speak about human rights violations in general, special efforts must be exerted to protect vulnerable groups - black Yemenis, children, the handicapped, muwalladeen, women, and generally the poor.

The authorities say they are willing to respect human rights. The laws are good. Now we have to put those in practice.

**The Publisher**  
*Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf*

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## 10th of December a National Day in Yemen

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister, announced his government's decision to consider the 10th of December of every year, as a "National Day" in Yemen. "This decision reflects our commitment to the principles of human rights," he said.

Mr. Iryani, who was speaking at the opening session of a 3-day seminar on "The Right of Women to Work" organized by the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training in collaboration with the Supreme National Human Rights Committee on Sunday, December 6th, cautioned against over-ambitious demands. "Our demands steps and steps have to be realistic," he added.

Speaking on the same occasion, Mr. Mohammed Al-Tayyeb, Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, stressed his ministry's

commitment to empower women in the labor market. "We shall do everything we can to ensure equal opportunity employment in the labor market," he said.

Ms. Amatal-Aleem Al-Sususuwa, Deputy Minister of Information and Chairman of the National Women's Committee, stressed that no society can really develop if half of its labor force faces difficulties in contributing to the community's development. "On paper and verbally, we do announce our commitment for the female cause. In reality, much still needs to be done," she said. She also pointed out that more than 87% of the female labor force works in the traditional agriculture sector, without financial remuneration. "Career women in the modern sector are few."



Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the National Supreme Human Rights Committee, re-affirmed

the country's commitment to full respect of human rights. The seminar will continue for three days, and is expected to spell out recommendations.

### National Day for The Disabled

The 9th of December is the National Day for Disabled Persons in Yemen. Observing this event, several activities will be held, including a speech ceremony, sport activities, launching the Second Camp for Disableds, the information programs and field visits to schools. More than 800 disableds representing different governmental and non-governmental associations will participate in these activities.

### Maps Exhibition

The Blue Noon and Halaqa organize an exhibition of authentic old maps of the Arabian Peninsula and Yemen will be held on December 12th at the French Cultural Center on the Ringroad.

### The DPC Suspended

A circular was distributed by the Committee for Correcting the Situation of the Doctors and Pharmacists Association (DPA). The circular complained against the government for suspending the community's work since 1994. The circular claims that "although more than one thousand doctors supported it, the committee was not officially recognized by the government."

The committee met with the Parliament Speaker to explain the situation. It also met the Minister of Social Affairs and other relevant authorities.

The Committee called on human rights organizations to support its position.

### Annual Report On Children Conditions

The Annual Report on Children's Situation in the World will be launched tomorrow, December 8th at the Ministry of Culture in Sanaa. Several officials and NGO representatives, and people interested in children's issues are expected to attend.

### Demographic Survey Seminar

A seminar to review the results of the Demographic Survey for Maternal and Childhood Health was held on December 1-2 at the Central Organization for Audit Control in Sanaa.

The seminar was kicked off by Prime Minister Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, the Minister of Labor and Technical Training; the American Ambassador in Sanaa; and representatives of different national and international institutions.

### YT Weekly Poll

Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll question is placed at:  
<http://yementimes.com/#poll>

As a Yemeni emigrant, do you own the house you are living in?

Result  
Yes 57% - No 43%

### Observing World AIDS Day

Organized by the Ministry of Health and the WHO office in Yemen, a meeting was held in Sanaa, a meeting was held in Sanaa, on the World AIDS Day, on December 1st. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Health, Deputy Ministers, WHO representative in Yemen, the UK ambassador in Sanaa, and other people representing different governmental, non-governmental, organizations.

A delegation, sent by the UN AIDS in September 1997 to Yemen found that AIDS began to spread seriously in Yemen. Other information indicate that the spread of AIDS in Yemen is related to prostitution and anal sexual intercourse. Most HIV victims in Yemen used to live in African or Gulf countries. It is reported there are some 600 AIDS patients under treatment in Yemen.

### Panasonic Festival Launched

A seminar launched the annual Panasonic Shopping Festival on Sunday, December 6th in Sanaa. The 3-week festival offers sales promotions and discounts on high quality Panasonic equipment.

### Seminar On Al-Hakeemi

A seminar tracing the life and works of Sheikh Saeed Al-Hakeemi, founder of Al-Salam newspaper, was held on 6th December. Many researchers and historians attended.

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Ali Saleh Obad:

# “Allegations blaming outsiders for the bombs are easy cover for inefficiency.”

**Q: How do you assess the outcome of the YSP's 4th general congress?**

**A:** The congress was successful. This is confirmed by Arab and foreign observers. Moreover, the enthusiastic interaction of our members is another indicator. We received a large number of messages of support, both from Yemenis - both here and abroad.

**Q: It is reported that YSP members disagreed amongst themselves on several issues in the meetings, and some of them were absent from the event altogether. How true is that?**

**A:** Out of 1,359 YSP representatives from around Yemen, only 108 were absent. Most of the absentees had valid reasons, nothing to do with differences of opinion. The only exception was the Hadhramaut branch of the party - 62 of them did not come. But they sent a message of support, which definitely means that they are not against any of our resolutions. They fully endorsed the party's internal statutes, without expressing the slightest objection. So I would say that well over 90% of YSP representatives attended the conference. All reports to the contrary all figments of gossipy people's imaginations.

**Q: Some YSP leaders said that the ruling party aims to divide the party by supporting splinter groups. It is also alleged that the authorities tried to impede your efforts to reorganize the party structures. What do you say to that?**

**A:** To a certain extent, that is all true. Shortly before the congress, people representing the ruling authority started contacting our potential participants, using the old carrot-and-stick method. Some governors even threatened YSP members with suspension from public employment if they went ahead and attended the meeting. Some even went further by threatening our people with expulsion from the governorates where they live. All these attempts were orchestrated to weaken congress's prospects. The government also tried to dissuade some Arab and foreign delegations from attending by inviting them to other activities on the congress's first day. Most of these delegations, however, were aware of the intentions of the rulers, and they declined. Another method of dissuading participants was made by calling the government and parliament to meet on November 28 - our first day of meeting.

A few non-existent projects were "inaugurated" by the Vice President, the Chairman of the Consultative Council, and other dignitaries on that same day. They insisted that visiting diplomats, who came to attend the congress should accompany them on their inaugural trips. The list of hindrances is long.

**Q: You also alleged that the state offered money in return for the YSP taking some specific decisions. Could you elaborate?**

**A:** We rejected all money offers for the sake of preserving our independence and integrity. We

rejected all such advances. But, let me just demand that they give us back the YSP's confiscated property. We don't want handouts from government money to shackle our party. The authorities had asked us to expel 140 leading YSP members whom they specifically named. And that was supposed to be only the first round of expulsion. Our party rejected all these dubious offers. We relied exclusively on our resources to finance the meeting. We came out stronger with more solidarity.

**Q: What has been the position of YSP members in exile regarding this congress?**

**A:** Messages of support and congratulations were sent by former or active YSP members abroad. These were read out at the conference, and were received with great approval by the participants. There was no opposition, whatever, to holding the congress from YSP member, whether in Yemen or abroad.

**Q: What future plans does the YSP have?**

**A:** We have many dangers ahead of us. The dangers I perceive do not only threaten the YSP, but also the whole democratic process in Yemen. Solidarity among all political powers is crucial to safely overcome these dangers.

Yemen's political life is threatened by the excesses of the ruling party, which is trying to contain all other political movements.

**Q: You claimed in a recent**

**press conference that the YSP did not expel any of its members who were involved in the 1994 secession attempt. It is widely known that these people were thrown out after an exceptional meeting soon after the war. How can you reconcile these two facts?**

**A:** We actually reviewed all decisions against all party members. I am happy to tell you that the 4th congress nullified all penalties since 1967 against any of its members. All those who were expelled from the party at any time during that period are now free to rejoin.

**Q: A long time has passed since the YSP's third congress in 1985. What is your assessment?**

**A:** During this congress, we fully reviewed all our shortcomings and mistakes. We are wholeheartedly trying to learn from the errors of the past, whether made during the party's rule (of the former PDRY), during unification and the time of the ruling coalition, or since the 1994 war. We made many mistakes.

**Q: What changes are brought about by this congress?**

**A:** We have re-focussed our goals and methods. All participants have emphasized the new goals for which the YSP struggles; namely, democracy, national unity, political pluralism, and other basic democratic principles.

**Q: When will second round of the the 4th congress be held?**

**A:** According to the recommendations, the 2nd round should be held early next year. It will start at grassroots level.



come back without any fear of persecution. The YSP also calls for rescinding all exceptional measures taken against any group of people.

**Q: You said previously that Yemen needs real political pluralism. What do you mean?**

**A:** We call upon the ruling authority to refrain from interfering in the affairs of other political parties and civil society institutions. All such organizations must be allowed to operate independently and freely. This is not the fact of life today.

**Q: Who is responsible for the bomb explosions in Yemen?**

**A:** The government is still unable to prove its allegations that these acts are instigated by non-Yemeni circles. Such allegations are easy excuses to cover-up their inefficiency.


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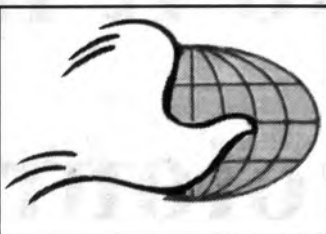
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Mr. Mebrahtu Habte, the Marketing Manager of RED SEA AIR, is in Sanaa since November 28th, to conclude final arrangements of the flight with the concerned Yemeni authorities. He has also signed the official General Sales Agent (GSA) agreement of RED SEA AIR in Yemen with UNIVERSAL TRAVEL & TOURISM, the well-reputed and leading travel and tourism organization in Yemen.



Mr. Habte said that the first flight is scheduled to touch down at Sanaa International Airport at 8:15 am on December 9th. Many officials from the Yemeni Civil Aviation Authority, Yemen Airlines (Yemenia), and members of the travel, hotel and tourism industry will be on hand to receive the historic flight. "Journalists and interested individuals are also most welcome," Mr. Habte said.

On this occasion, Mr. Omar Mohammed Omar, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of UNIVERSAL Group of Companies, said that the new addition to the service will complement the already existing Yemenia flight between Sanaa and Asmara. Mr. Omar who signed the agreement on behalf of UNIVERSAL, added, "The new addition in the service will meet the growing movement of business - both passenger and cargo between the two neighboring countries."

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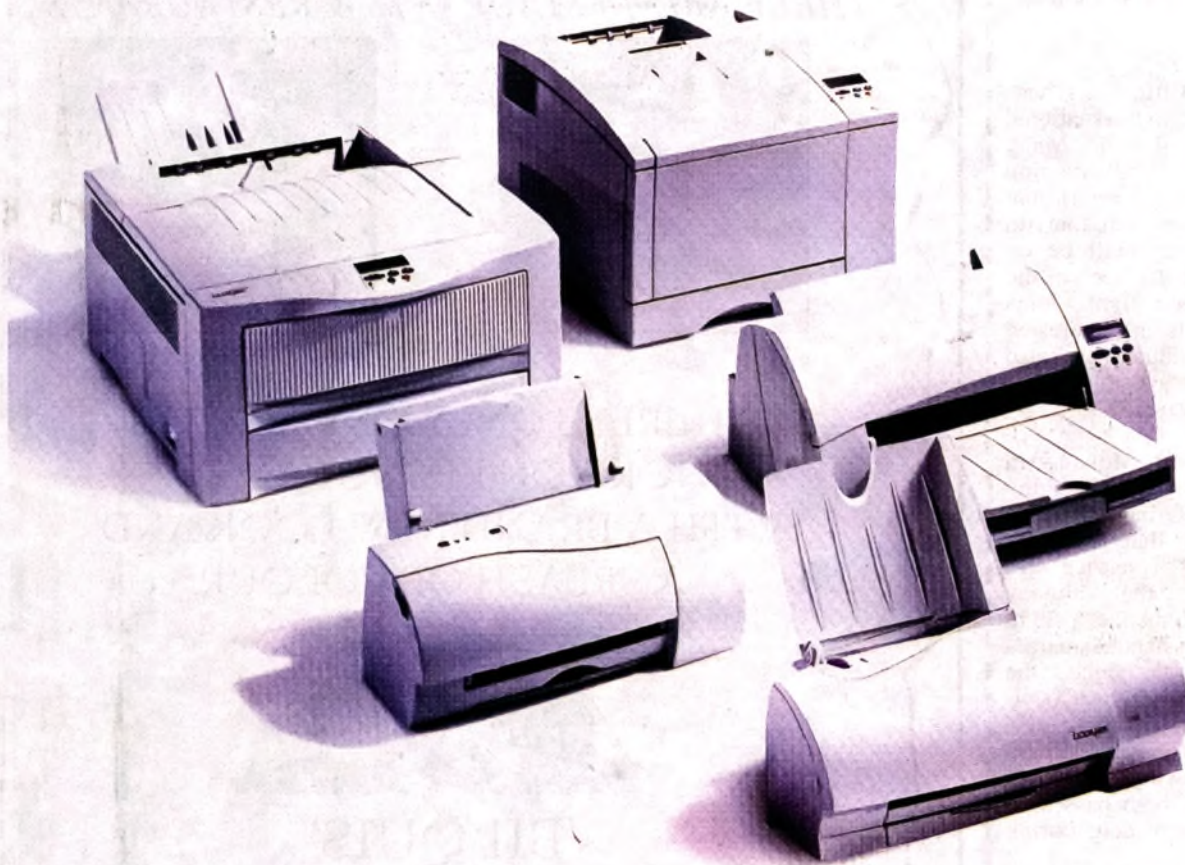
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## KIDS



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

## DEVELOPING WORLD

### The shape of things to come!



By: Riad Al-Khouri\*

Whether we like it or not, change is coming to Yemen, and it will be up to everybody to make sure that it is managed properly. Fortunately, like any late starter, Yemen stands to learn a great deal from its neighbors who have already gone a long way down the path to globalization. Yemen is an emerging economy that has yet to emerge, but when it does so, a stock market will be one of the country's main features. So a look at other bourses in the region could be helpful.

In Cairo this week to work on the traditionally thorny question of Egyptian import procedures, gloom predominates among economists and businesspeople. Though acknowledging macro-economic stabilization and some reform, many indicators - such as a stock exchange did not cheer them where share prices continue to fall. The trade regulations I was looking at had become user-friendlier over the past few years, along with other government

rules that are steadily being simplified. This is a good thing, but by itself such reform - though necessary - is not sufficient to keep an economy moving forward (surely a lesson for Yemen).

Meanwhile, Egyptian shares have been caught in a downward spiral. A showcase of the country's shift to a market economy, Egypt's bourse had boomed till the spring of last year. A host of reasons can be cited for the market's doldrums, but the financial turmoil in Asia - the contagion factor - is probably not one of them, at least not directly. More relevant are lower oil prices and weaker regional and international markets for Egyptian goods and services. Thus, Egypt's macro-economic performance, though still reasonably good compared to others in the Middle East, has been dented.

However, though it is difficult to put much of the blame for the Egyptian stock slump on the impact of the turmoil in emerging economies, there has been some flight of foreign funds as part of international investors' moves to reduce exposure in emerging markets worldwide. Around a fifth of customers in the Cairo bourse for the first half of 1998 were foreign, but among them buyers continue to be outnumbered by sellers. Though more buyers had been there in June 1996, foreign players then still accounted for roughly the same twenty-percent of the value of transactions. In other words

this indicator of international interest in Egypt has not moved over the past couple of years, though foreigners' transaction were a mere eight percent in March 1996. In the heady days of that year's boom, no less than 125 overseas financial institutions were participating in the market. Many of these are now holding back. There is no mass exodus of foreign funds, as happened in Russia and other contagion-plagued markets in the past year or so, but there has certainly not been an influx of fresh money.

In all this, we should remember that the Cairo bourse in its present incarnation really is new. It was only the government's enactment of the Capital Market Law in 1992 that restored domestic and overseas interest in Egyptian shares. Since then, the market has gone through four distinct phases:

During the first (early 1993 to October 1994) it was on the rise as a result of some companies' increased profits, a drop in interest rates, and dividend income becoming tax exempt.

The second phase (November 1994 to August 1995) was one of correction, characterized by depressed prices and a decline in daily trading volumes. Among the reasons behind the drop were the inexperience of individual local investors who are yield-driven and the lack of sufficient institutional traders who are more sensitive to earnings growth and capital gains.

The third phase (September 1995 to February 1997) witnessed a boom in the market, up around forty percent in 1996. The total value of trading also rose. That phase was characterized by the market's responsiveness to privatization program and by the

increasing interest of foreign institutions in Egypt. International fund managers had discovered Cairo as far as portfolio investment was concerned. Egypt's allowing foreign intermediaries to operate on the same basis as national firms, with no limitations on capital mobility or restrictions on forex transactions, was also a factor in putting the country higher on the list of emerging markets to be looked at positively.

However, by the spring of 1997 the Cairo bourses had cooled down, and phase four - which continues till today - had begun. The trouble in Asian and other merging markets thus came later than the beginning of the current share slump in Cairo, but prices now are still around half what they were during the peak days of early last year. Though some shares are earning twelve percent, several points above what an Egyptian can get on a bank deposit, other companies have seen their stock fall by up to seventy percent since the 1997 Winter of Contentment.

Paradoxically, the putting on the market now of large chunks of privatized shares could actually move things upward. Usually, new stock on most bourses tend to depress prices of existing shares, for the obvious reason that the latter may temporarily be less attractive than their nascent competitors. In the case of Cairo, however, offerings by the government of lots of shares in the right companies on the right terms will boost the market. This would be the start of "phase five," and after that, the sky could be the limit. Will we have to wait a long time for Yemen's "phase one"?

\* Riad Al-Khouri is a Beirut-based economist and leading intellectual. He writes regular columns in many Arab newspapers and magazines.

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# Yemen Post Office to Introduce New Services



Postal service in Yemen has witnessed some major improvements in the recent past. It is also poised to make new headway in the future. Behind these efforts is Mr. Abdullah Mohammed Al-Kabous, Director General of the Post and Postal Savings Corporation. Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Al-Kabous. excerpts.

**Q: What are the services offered by your corporation?**  
**A:** Postal services were present in Yemen for a long time. Governments continued to extend and cater for that service in view of the people's need to maintain contacts with others whether

within the country or abroad. With the reunification of Yemen on May 22, 1990, postal services were granted greater importance and a new modern law was passed by which the General Post and Postal Savings Corporation was established. It was granted administrative and financial independence which led to speedy development of all its services, provided through 206 offices and 45 postal agencies in various governorates. Post offices and sub-offices offer different services; delivering letters and packages, express mail, advertising post, in addition to financial services such as postal savings and money remittances. They further pay pensions

to former military and civilian employees, and receive payment for water, electricity and telephone bills. The Corporation, in order to improve its services, took the following steps:  
 1- Reviewing the post's internal and external routes, closely monitoring and noting the period which a letter takes until it reaches its destination;  
 2- Sending vehicles to all governorates on daily basis along with making use of domestic flights.  
 3- Expanding the computer network which links post offices, thus providing speed and accuracy in dealings among those offices including deposit/withdraw transactions in postal savings in addition to cashing pensions and sending daily accounts to the central administration;  
 4- Subscribing in the international system of sending and pursuing data which enables the Corporation to follow up postal materials until their final destination via a computer network that was financed by the International Postal Union (IPU) and the U.N. Development Program (UNDP);  
 5- Organizing qualitative training courses for its cadres at the Corporation's training center and sending employees to attend courses organized by the IPU or other countries according to bilateral cooperation agreements.

**A:** According to 1997 statistics, letters and printed material from Yemen to the outside world numbered 1,827,696 letters. A total of 3,379,683 letters came in. Packages from various parts of the world to Yemen reached 6,325 parcels, and the other way round the packages reached 2,527 parcels. While messages and printed material circulating within the country totaled 691,979 items.

**Q: Does the Corporation provide fax services?**



**suffered as a result of competition by private courier service?**  
**A:** The Corporation's Express Mail Service (EMS) offers a low-price package for its local and international services which won us a place in that competitive market. We were encouraged to introduce the Electronic Mail for internal and external services. The EMS was introduced on May 15, 1990 and kept on expanding since then to meet the market's needs. We offer top speed and guarantees for the transfer of documents, samples and packages up

**50th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration. How will the Corporation take part in this event?**

**A:** We interact with national and international occasions and receive advice from the IPU in this regard. Hence, we decided to issue three stamps to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These stamps were printed in France. They are in three pricing categories - 15, 35, 100 Riyals in addition to a souvenir postal card with the same categories.

**Q: What are your future plans and projects?**

**A:** Our future projects are numerous and need huge investments to attain the desired goals, yet we set our priorities in accordance with available resources. However, we aim to expand postal services to include deprived areas, and provide advanced services in existing offices along with improving their performance. Soon computers will be installed in a number of postal centers to expand the E-mail service, while new offices will be inaugurated.

## Welcome Mayank Mehta Good Bye Vijay

The Taj Sheba hosted farewell / welcome get together by the poolside for the outgoing GM, Mr. Vijay Albuquerque and incoming GM, Mr. Mehta.



"The Best successor for the Best predecessor" was the caption at the entrance of the hall along with photographic exhibition with events held during the tenure of Mr. Vijay 1995-1998.

Being a Friday, yet the function was well attended by local end expat community in large numbers.

**Q: What is the volume of mail flowing in and out of Yemen, as delivered by your Corporation?**

**A:** The fax service urges us to improve our own and benefit from it at the same time. Such modern means should be made use of in the postal services. The mail service, keeping up with telecommunication developments, had made use of boats, ships, planes and wireless contacts to carry its services. This made the postal service one of the most important developmental factors worldwide.

**Q: Has your Express Mail**

**to 30 kilograms for each article.** That service is currently feasible with 73 countries in various continents. That number is expected to increase by 1999. EMS is offered to the public, institutions, companies, ministries, etc., on demand or according to contracts. The spread of our offices in a big number of governorates and towns distinguishes us from the private companies that offer similar services.

**Q: Yemen will celebrate the**

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# Young Pharmacists Speak Out!

Yemen is one of the undeveloped countries. Lack of specialists and highly educated people is one of its features. In spite of this fact, Yemeni university graduates are facing real problems that threaten their ambition, mainly the problem of finding jobs. This problem does not only affect Yemenis who are graduates of humanities and arts fields, but also scientific faculties graduates such as doctors and pharmacists. This article tries to cover the problems of Yemeni graduates of Pharmacology. Yemeni pharmacists are neglected. This might increase unemployment among Yemeni graduates, which is a catastrophe.

By September 98, the Medicines Supreme Authority issued an administrative act to be applied to all Yemeni medicines' agents and companies, which seemed to solve the problem. The act indicated the following:

1. Representatives of Yemeni medicine companies are to bring their files to the Medicines Supreme Authority with their CVs and their work contracts enclosed before September 9, 1998.
2. Ending the contracts of non-Yemeni representatives and they are to be cleared before September 9, 1998.

Some students explain their problems, as follows:

Pharmacist Ilham Mahmoud

**Al-Ba'adani, graduated in 1994, Sanaa University:**

**Q: What did you do after graduating?**

**A:** We worked at a pharmacy in Sanaa. We were not paid, of course, because we were getting trained. We were sent to public health institutions for that purpose. After graduating we had no real practical period of work. Students of other Medicine Departments like Medicine and Laboratories are, usually, given from 6 months to one year field work after graduating. We made field studies during the third and fourth years of our academic studies.

**Q: And what after that?**

**A:** Because there were better job opportunities in private institutions, most of my colleagues went to work there. Personally, I was employed at Al-Jomhoori Public Hospital. Firstly, I worked as a pharmacist, then I headed the Training Administration Section. Now I'm the director of the Clinical Administration in the hospital. As we were given work license from the Ministry of Labor, I opened my own pharmacy.

**Q: Graduates of Pharmacology are having difficulties in getting employed? What are the solutions, in your opinion?**

**A:** What I think is right and must be done is that the relevant authorities must make a survey seeing the number of employees health institutions in the country

need. Upon that survey, they have to accept students in the Faculty of Pharmacology. Then, the Ministry of Health must distribute them to all governorates of the country.

Another problem is that foreign candidates, before Yemenis, have the right to be employed. No enough job opportunities are available for graduates.

**Q: Is it easy to open your own pharmacy?**

**A:** It is becoming more and more difficult. When we graduated, we were not allowed to open private pharmacies before one year passed by. Now, graduates have to wait for two years to get licenses. Before, the distance between one pharmacy and another allowed was 100 m. Now, it becomes 250 m.

**Q: Are the graduates of Pharmacology qualified to work as pharmacists? Why?**

**A:** Frankly, they are not. The main reason is that they were not given real academic study. There are no labs, no real practicing, lack of books, etc.

**2. Afrah Abdulaziz, a graduate of the year 1995:**

**Q: Can you tell us about your experience after graduating?**

**A:** Two years after graduating, I was employed by the government in Mareb. I couldn't go there because of two reasons. First, it is too difficult for me as a girl to settle there. Second, the salary was very little, about YR7,000. In

addition, there were no advantages in that work.

**Q: Why don't you open your own pharmacy?**

**A:** I could do that in the past but now it's difficult. There is a decision now indicating that nobody is allowed to open a pharmacy or taking another person's license for that sake. We are allowed only to work in private companies or in pharmacies. Nobody is given a license unless he is a technologist.

**Q: How many of your colleagues got employed?**

**A:** About 15% of them work in public institutions. Most of the others work in private companies. Generally, most of the graduates prefer to work for private sector because they pay them very well in addition to different privileges private sector offer. However, private companies prefer to employ foreign people.

**3. A doctor from the Doctors and Pharmacists Community says:**

The graduates has three alternatives. First one, they work for health sector. However, this is very difficult since there are no enough vacancies in the public sector for all the graduates. Second one, they go to work for the private sector. In this respect, either they open their own pharmacies or they work for private companies. However, foreigners are employed more than Yemenis, though they sometimes less qualified. Now, the new Ministry of Health planned to give more job opportunities for Yemenis. By the end of 1998, we expect all pharmacists to be

Yemenis.

**Conclusion:**

Different Yemeni legislation, wither laws or administrative acts, are not implemented in Yemen. Will this administrative act be implemented. The condi-

tions in which these pharmacists are living, without job, might push Yemeni medicines agents to recruit young Yemeni pharmacist. But, priority still for the public sector to offer opportunities for Yemeni pharmacists to get a job. In the same time, the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacology should accept the number of students according to the needs of the market.

By: Dr. Salah Haddash,  
Yemen Times Managing Editor

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## "Don't break my heart!"

The Friends of Heart Patients Association (FHPA) has two branches, one in Sanaa and the other in Hadhramaut. The third branch is to be opened shortly. Dr. Ahmed Lof Al-Motarrif, FHPA vice chairman, is a cardiologist at Al-Thawra hospital and an assistant lecturer at Sanaa University.

Ms. Nadwa Al-Dawsari of Yemen Times talked to Dr. Al-Motarrif and filed this interview:

**Q: Can you give us an idea about the FHPA?**

**A:** The Friends of Heart Patients Association was established in 1994 by some cardiologists. It was supported by Dr. Najib Ghanim, then Minister of Health, and some businessmen. The association members are some cardiologists and internists, businessmen, drug companies and also from some governmental associations.

**Q: What are the common cardiac diseases in Yemen, and what causes such diseases?**

**A:** A common disease among adults and children aged between one and 15 years in Yemen is rheumatic fever. In this country, family members usually share rooms. For example, more than 5 people sleep in a poorly ventilated room. This causes rheumatic fever. If there is to be a health survey in schools, such disease can be discovered at their early stages, and the treatment will be more effective. Patients, in general, come when they are in a bad condition.

**Q: What services does the FHPA offer heart patients?**

**A:** We opened a clinic in which we offer free treatment for people. Until now we held two conferences and some seminars about cardiac problems in Yemen.

At this time, we publish some leaflets to tell people how to avoid heart problems. You know that some heart diseases like rheumatic fever, hyperlipidemia and ischaemia can be avoided if people follow certain health regimen.



that one of the patients we received at the intensive care unit at Al-Thawra Hospital used to smoke 100 cigarettes every day before he ran a serious heart disease. Many Yemenis also do the same.

Another reason is that Yemenis do not care about doing exercise. This causes different heart problems. Stress also causes health problems including some serious heart diseases. Congenital heart defects are also very common in Yemen. In general, about 90% of heart patients in Yemen are males.

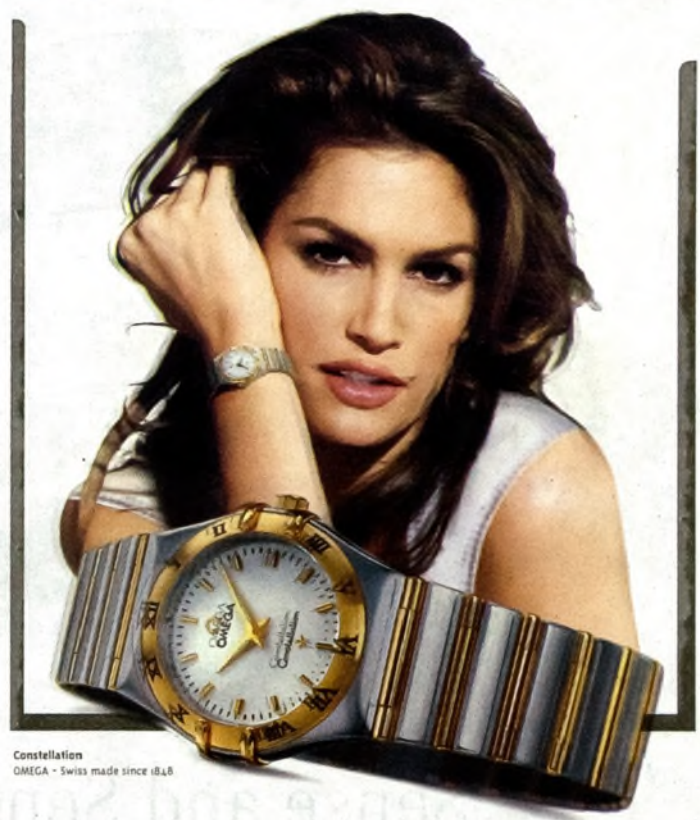
**Q: Are there any public or private hospitals in which heart operations can be performed?**

**A:** Unfortunately, no. The necessary equipment for doing heart surgery are not available here. At Al-Thawra public hospital, we do simple heart operations. We regularly invite experts from Switzerland, Germany and Jordan to Al-Thawra hospital to perform some complicated heart surgery. This is the first step we make towards opening a national heart center, sponsored by the Japanese government, within Al-Thawra Hospital. We expect we'll be able to operate transcatheters and do other complicated heart operations in this hospital about one year from now. Our real dream is to open an independent national heart center and medical hospital.

**Q: So where do heart patients go for treatment?**

**A:** About 12 thousands patients a year go abroad for that purpose. Most of them usually go to Jordan. Others go to Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Those who are rich, go to Germany and Britain. On the other hand, many patients do not go to any place because they cannot afford treatment expenses abroad.

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# Second Branch in Aden: Arab Bank Goes From Strength To Strength

The Arab Bank is one of the quite well-established banking institutions in Yemen, providing some of the most modern financial services in the world.

Celebrating the anniversaries of the September and October revolutions, the Arab Bank's second branch in Sheikh Othman, Aden was opened by Mr. Waheed Ali Rashed, Deputy Governor of Aden, on Monday, November 30. The event was attended by a large number of businessmen, and social and political figures.

In his inaugural speech, Mr. Rasheed said:

"I am happy on this day, marking the great revolutions of Yemen, to open the second branch of the Arab Bank in Yemen's economic and trade capital. This area has witnessed a remarkable expansion in trade and commerce. It has also quite a high population density - 300,000 people in the Shaab District alone.

"This new branch of the Arab Bank further consolidates Aden's increasing status as a port and a free-trade zone."

"The Arab Bank aims to provide its customers with the best available service, as near as possible to where they are. With its worldwide renown and huge experience, our establishment always endeavors to keep with the most recent developments in the world of finance and banking, bringing to its clients very modern and sophisticated services.

"Yemen's accelerating development process has made people at the Arab Bank feel more responsible in developing its services in this country to keep up with the growing economy.



branches to deal with all branches as if he or she has an account there. This is quite convenient for businessmen.

"The Automated Teller service allows a client to conduct transactions in both dollars and riyals 24 hours a day, including holidays. Such a service is now available in Aden.

"Another innovative service by the Arab Bank is the Phone-Bank, which helps clients get information or give instructions regarding their bank accounts through the use of a secret personal number. This service can be accessed from any part of the world. It was noticed that Yemeni



Mr. Mahdi Allawi, Arab Bank Regional Manager said:

"First I would like to extend my congratulations and felicitations on the happy anniversaries of the victorious revolutions of Yemen. The Arab Bank actually started working in Aden in the 1960s. Opening another branch for the Arab Bank in Aden - after Sanaa - is indicative of this city's promising commercial potential.

"The Arab Bank would like to announce to its clients in Yemen and the rest of the Arab World that it has obtained a much coveted business evaluation by reputable international banking institutions. Any bank not getting this evaluation cannot really be considered a world-class establishment. Such recognition received by the Arab Bank should make every Arab citizen proud.



"It is always our responsibility to ensure that up-to-date services are provided to all clients. This achievement has not come out of a vacuum, but through our faithful clients' constant support and the strong solidarity between the bank's staff and management.

"The Arab Bank has some very unique services. The inter-branch service allows a client with a bank account in any of the Arab Bank

clients, especially in Hodeidah, are the most frequent users of this service in the whole world.

"We are very proud to present these services and others to the Yemeni people, which has proved more than able to deal with technology and quickly catch up with its advances.

"Other Arab Bank services include instant money transfer, safety deposit boxes, Visa card, and many more."



### Arab Bank Offices

<b>Regional Management:</b> PO Box 475 Tel 276592 / 3	<b>Taiz:</b> Jamal Street Tel 231523 / 5
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## Holy Shrines: Prime Tourist Destinations

Tourism is one of the main business economic fields, which provides a constant source of income in hard currency to the Republic of Yemen. Yemen Times is very pleased to introduce to our readers one of the most leading reasons of commercial success in the field of tourism and tourist industry. Holy and religious sites in Yemen attracted tourists, from all over the world, because of its ancient archaic places and to buy old transcripts of the Middle Ages. Hence, we will discuss the holy and religious areas and all subjects related to this issue, which connected business economy and tourism and developed new professional jobs resting on trade secrets.

### Holy and Religious Areas:

Holy and religious areas play an important role in the tourist sector and forms the fundamental base for religious tourism, which forms mosques, churches and religious sites. There are many famous ancient mosques and religious sites in the Republic of Yemen as listed below:

#### 1. The Grand Mosque, Sana'a:

The mosque was built by one of the scholars of Prophet Mohamed, the Messenger of Allah, in 627 A.D. / 6 A.H. This known mosque is located in the private garden of the Persian Sassanid Ruler in Yemen, Badhan, (*Bazenos*), at Western Hamdan. It is considered one of the first Islamic mosques built in Yemen and contains four porticoes. Some changes and annexation occurred in different eras, where the eastern portico was built during the reign of Mohamed b. Ya'afor in 878 A.D. / 265 A.H. The portico ceiling is wooden, and the walls of the "Qiblah" was re-set up with 3 doors in 1159 A.D. / 553 A.H. The two minarets was established during the reign of the Persian Sassanid ruler in Yemen, Wardishar b. Sami (*Vardisherus Samius*), in 1206 A.D. / 603 A.H. A noticed dome on cubic building in the courtyard was a donation by the Great Islamic Ottoman ruler of Yemen Sinan Pasha (*Shino Pas*) to become a library-store for all manuscripts of the Holy Quran (1607-1609 A.D. / 1016-1018 A.H.). Procedures of reparation and supplementation of wall-scripts, holds the names of Imamates, under the ceiling during the reign of Queen of the Suleihids Arwa bint Ahmed, and later on Imam Yehya ibn Mohamed Hamid Al-Din Al-Hassani, the ex-King of the Mutawakelite Yemen in 1936 A.D. / 1355 A.H. The trunkyy ceilings of excavated brocades are considered an omnipotent art in the Islamic world.

#### 2 Al-Bakiriyah Mosque, Sanaa

The mosque, which renews and reparation occurred on its design later, was built in 1298 A.H. The mosques are distinguished with lot of wonderful designed ornaments, Qoranic versions, discoids, coloured attractive stones on the dome of the prayer house and other domes.

#### 3. The Great Mosque, Dhamar:

This mosque was built with Black-Abyssinia-stones, as it was conventional with a lot of innovated buildings, late Arab and monotheistic testimonial inscriptions. These Innovations had changed the feature of the mosque-structure. The Side-pillars of different ornamented crowns appear in the mosque along with domes of concave windows, adorned with architectural ornaments and Kufi inscriptions. It is noticed in the

rest parts of the mosque, concave multiple-niche-domes decorated with Qoranic versions and inscribed in Naskh. The mosque-minaret, located in the Southwest, includes many designed ornaments made of bricks.

#### 4. The Grand Mosque, Zabid:

One of the ancient mosques in Yemen following epochs of the Great Mosque in Sana'a and Al-Janad Mosque in Taiz. The founder of the mosque is Al-Hussein b. Salama in 981 A.D. / 371 A.H. and was renewed many times. Once it was renewed during the Ziyadi State, another in the epoch of Al-Hussein Salama (391 A.H.) and in the tenth century by Amer b. Abdul-Wahab. Finally, the Mutawakelite Imam, Al-Mahdi Lidinillahi Al-Abbas had renewed its archs in 1185 A.H. The mosque was built with bricks and gypsum but late renewals deformed its road signs and effaced many designed ornaments. Furthermore, the mosque contains of four hemisphere domes built with bricks.

#### 5. Al-Asha'era Mosque, Zabid:

The mosque was established in the early second century of the raise of Islam (105 A.H.). It was built with bricks and gypsum and has six entrances. The renovation businesses deformed the mosque similar to that of the Great Mosque. The used material of lime effaced a lot of its road signs and wooden ceilings, which assembled in unoriginal places.

#### 6. Al-Hadi Mosque, Sa'adah:

There are many old archeological mosques in Sa'adah, but the famous one is the Hadi Mosque, which go back to the 3rd century A.H. / 9th century A.D.

#### 7. Al-Janad Mosqu, Taiz:

One of the oldest mosques of Yemen, which was established by Mu'adh b. Jabal in 627A.D./6 A.H. It was rebuilt and repaired several times under various rulers and during different reigns. Firstly, the mosque was by Al-Hussein b. Mifdhal (317-402A.H./981-1011A.D). Secondly, the Suleihid ruler, Bin Abil-Barakat, sustained the reconstruction operation of the mosque. The mosque later was a target of destruction by Mahdi b. Ali b. Mahdi in 1163A.D. /558 A.H. Thirdly, the Ayubbid ruler Saif Al-Din Atabek Sanqar, renewed its structure, adding new structures to the previous one, some porticoes and two naves. Last modern reparations were in 1970A.D. / 1390A.H. and caused complete changes effaced a lot of its road signs and ornaments.

#### 8. Al-Mudhaffar Mosque, Taiz:

It was built by Al-Mudhaffar Yussuf b. Omar bin Ali bin Mohamed Haroun in the seventh century A.H. His son Al-Mujahed Ali b. Yussuf b. Omar added some more structures in the mosque. Both the father and the son were Kings or sultans crowned over the Rassulid State of Yemen in the middle ages. The mosque, similar to others, became exposed to new renovation businesses which deformed many parts and effaced many road signs of arts and creativity aspects. The mosque contains two big domes and a set of small domes, adorned by sharpened archs hold by various pillars. The bottom of the domes is decorated with various ornaments and different coloured Qoranic versions, with a noticeable deformed remnant because of reparation.

#### 9. Al-Ashrafiyah Mosque, Taiz:

The mosque was built by Al-Ashraf II Ismail b. Al-Abbas b.

Da'ud in 778A.D./802A.H. It was built of gypsum and bricks, while its external walls have windows and archs of different volumes. The terraces include discoid ornaments similar to that of the Great Mosque in Zabid. The Ashrafiyyah Mosque has four entrances, with an unclear inscripted room above the main entrance and a sharpened arch. The domical main entrance leads to a passageway which surrounds the mosque from southern, eastern and western directions. There are six big windows in the Qiblah Wall and similar in the southern side, which leads to an entrance near annexed premises. The site includes tombs of the King Al-Ashraf II and a number of his royal clan; inscripted coloured domical buildings, and extremely artful creative wooden graves. The mosque has two minarets; one in the southeast warehouse corner, and the other in the southwest corner. The latter one consists an ornamental and arch fields, its top physiognomy looks like a hemisphere and its bottom a clear ornamental band.

#### 10. Queen Arwa Mosque, Jibla:

The mosque is traceable to the rule-phase of the Mistress, Arwa bint Ahmed, Queen of Yemen, and the wife of Al-Mukarram (492-532A.H.). Queen Arwa was famous because of her equanimity, appositeness of opinion and wisdom. The mosque was renewed, repaired, and can be stepped up to it by a ladder on a stone. A paved courtyard interposes the site, half of it composed of gypsum and the other of cement. Three porticoes which include cylindrical columns surround the courtyard. There is a concave (prayer) niche full of ornaments and Kufic inscriptions inside the mosque. The gilded-wooden tribune contains many ornamental designs. In the northwest corner of this tribune there is an entombment of the mistress Arwa bint Ahmad, Queen of Yemen, surrounded by architectural ornaments. These architectural ornaments have the shape of small niches, with sharp archs. Finally, the mosque has two minarets, one in the southwest corner and the other in the southeast.

#### 11. Al-'Ami Mosque, Rada'a:

The mosque was built by 'Amer b. Abdul-Wahab, the last sultan of the Tahiri State. It is one of the mosques, which is rich in Islamic arts of ornamental and creative crafts. The external facades of the mosque contain of disparate doors, archs and windows. The wooden ceilings of some of the porticoes are inscripted by ornamental designs of gypsum and Qoranic versions and revelations. The mosque has nine entrances distributed among various sides of the compass, north, south, east and west. The mosque ceiling is considered of seven sharpened archs, carrying six hemispherical domes covering the prayer house. Moreover, the bottom of the domes is full of inscriptions and ornaments of various colours.

#### 12. Dhafar Dhi-Bayn Mosque:

The mosque is located seventy-five kilometer away the district of North Sana'a. Imam Al-Mansour Billah Abdullah b. Hamza of the seventh century A.H. (Thirteenth century A.D.) Built the mosque. It includes a big library which was visited by all clergymen of the world at that time. The mosque is distinguished with its unique style inscriptions and architectural designed form. People suffer from road-ruggedness to reach the mosque, because it located on the top of the mountain, which they need to

spend walking three hours on foot to reach it.

#### 13. Al-Abbas Mosque, Khawlan

The mosque was ordered to be built by Sultan Musa b. Mohamed in 1125A.D. /519A.H. A lot of information about the mosque is still unknown. Whereas, Al-Abbas, which the mosque is ascribed to his name, is still an anonymous person. The importance of the mosque's ancient monument imitated in its raised ceiling according to a form of wooden excavations.

#### 14. Thula' Mosque:

This mosque is located in Thula', thirty-four kilometer west, away from Sana'a. The date, this mosque is constructed, traced back to the sixth century A.H.

### Cathedrals and annexed Monasteries:

There are no cathedrals or annexed monasteries where the recognized worships are performed in ancient Yemen, but there was a church built by the Abyssinian conqueror Abraha (*Avraha Soremos*), which was called *Al-Qalis* in Sana'a. *Al-Qalis* is an arabized name derived from the Latin word "*Ecclesiastes*", a book of the bible written as though by Solomon. In fact, the word *Al-Qalis* in ancient Yemen had meant something related directly to Christianity and the Church. The Abyssinian invader had exaggerated in adorning, mastery and gilding the church with gold silver, glass and dyestuffs' inscriptions. His church was built due to the welfare of the Roman Byzantine Empire arts and crafts. His purpose was to dissuade the people from Mecca (*Becca*). a

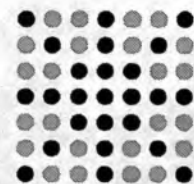


religious city located in the Middle West of Saudi Arabia. Nowadays, this ancient church is already gone with the wind or March of the time, but few stones are still a remnant called, once in the history, by *Al-Qalis*. There is also a Jewish synagogue in the southwest of famous Al-Qahirah castle in Taiz City. The synagogue is considered a squared form construction built by bricks and stones, which imitates a hemispherical dome based on four pillars. It is obviously noticed from the internal sector view of the Hebrew assembly three binary hexagrams (Stars of David). The Jewish temple emerges above a water-storage-basin, where both sites supervise Al-Mahabbah valley, which connects Al-Qahirah castle and Mountain Saber.

the cemeteries of their mortals as a sort of devotion to their reminiscences. These religious tours (*ziyarah*) might be, of course, within specific periods of time. According to the conviction of many naive people, some of the mortals are clergymen, and their visits are compulsory. Their mentalities are deep-rooted with some creeds that clergymen grant felicities and rights of preemption to those who visit their couches. Some of them might even exaggerate the extent of hallowing the clergymen and knit around them a lot of legends. This kind of turnout in visiting the cemeteries and sepulchers of clergymen, is an important factor which encouraged the religious (internal and external) tourism. Here are some of the famous religious tour-sites in the Republic of Yemen:

Religious Shrines: Sanctuaries: People are accustomed to visit

Compiled: Ghassan Al-Ahdal, Yemen Times



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**Rift in SPLA Exposed**  
A gun-fight in Nairobi between two factions of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), in which one man was killed and several wounded, exposed the sharp divisions in the main opposition fighting to oust the Khartoum government. Initial reports said a fierce 30-minute exchange of fire ensued when supporters of Maj-Gen Bol attacked Col Garang's residence on Saturday night, November 28, leaving one of Garang's men dead. Col Garang, who was in the house at the time, escaped unhurt. But Maj-Gen Bol disputed the account, claiming that it was Col Garang who wanted to kill him.

**Saudi Arabia Asks UAE Loan**  
Plunging oil prices have forced Saudi Arabia to ask the United Arab Emirates for a loan estimated at \$5 billion to help finance its budget deficit. Saudi bankers said the loan would help stave off a budget deficit they estimate could reach around \$15 billion this year, 11% of gross domestic product. The Arab world's wealthiest country, and also the world's top oil producer, had been hard hit by rock-bottom oil prices.

**Israel Set Conditions for Further Pullback**  
The Israeli cabinet warned that it would not go ahead with two further withdrawals from the West Bank until the Palestinian Authority fulfils three conditions. Israel is demanding that the Palestinians officially renounce plans to declare an independent state in May, that they no longer call for the release of prisoners "with blood on their hands" and that they halt all "incitements to violence." Palestinians are furious over Israel's refusal to include more political prisoners in a group of 750 Palestinian detainees it must free under Wye River.

**Pakistan Will Not Sign CTBT Until Sanctions Lifted**  
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has vowed Pakistan will not sign the nuclear Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) until all economic sanctions imposed by the US are lifted. Following the tit-for-tat nuclear tests by India and Pakistan in May, Washington imposed sanctions on both countries and has been urging them to sign the CTBT.

**Sub-Saharan Africa to Recover Fast**  
Sub-Saharan Africa could be one of the regions in the world which will recover most quickly from the effects of the current Asian economic crisis. According to the Global Economic Prospects and the Developing Countries report for 1998 and 1999, Africa will see a 2% fall in its trade for this year, mainly because of lower commodity prices. But the bank predicts that next year, Africa should again see growth rates recover to an average of 3.2%, second only to Asia's growth rates.

**Fire Blazes Through Philippines Orphanage**  
A fire raged through an aging Manila orphanage before dawn on Thursday, December 3, killing at least 28 people, mostly children. Fire officials said eight other children were missing and feared dead. At least 70 people were inside the orphanage and children's home complex when the fire broke out. Thirteen dead children were found huddled together in a store-room, where they apparently ran in a desperate attempt to get out. Elsewhere, a dead adult was found clinging to two children, all burned beyond recognition. The orphanage needed repairs which were long neglected.

**Wrecked Harvests Threaten Somalia**  
This year in Somalia, drought stunted crop growth. Crops that should be one meter tall barely rise a few centimeters above the earth. As a result, the UN says, some 300,000 people in southern and central Somalia are threatened with starvation. Thousands have left their homes for the coast of neighboring Kenya in search of something to eat. It is the worst food crisis in the region since the great famine of 1992, when tens of thousands of people died. The UN has appealed for more than \$12 million to head off the famine in Somalia. But factional fighting makes it impossible to distribute supplies everywhere. Recently, two rival clans competing for jobs with a Swedish relief agency resorted to machine guns to solve their dispute. At least 60 people died and 150 were injured in three weeks of infighting.

**UN Relief Reduces Famine in Southern Sudan**  
The threat of a major famine has been staved off in a key southern city in Sudan, but the region will need sustained aid for months to come. The World Food Program said that the situation in the south's second largest city of Wau had significantly improved, compared to July, when dozens of famine victims died daily. Although vigil is still required. The WFP official said U.N. agencies and other relief groups would keep delivering food to the area for at least another year because fighting and population movements had disrupted farming. About 70,000 people are completely dependent on WFP food in Wau, the principal city in the Bahr al-Ghazal region.

# SEASONS CELEBRATION IN



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# Orbit Weekly Programs

**Hollywood**

**07 December 1998**  
1330 The Pet Department  
1400 E! News Daily  
1430 Uncut: James Caan  
1500 E! Behind The Scenes

**08 December 1998**  
1430 Uncut: Treat Williams  
1500 Mysteries and Scandals  
1930 Wheel of Fortune

**09 December 1998**  
1300 Sunshine Cuisine  
1430 Uncut: Christine Lahti  
1730 Flare TV

**10 December 1998**  
1300 Arthel & Fred  
1400 E! News Week-End  
1500 E! In Focus

**The Roseanne Show**  
Sat. - Wednesdays  
We all remember Roseanne, queen of kitchen-sink sitcoms. Some time ago she and her very successful show Roseanne, a less-than-glamorous, groundbreaking take on American working class family life, disappeared from our screens. Now Roseanne Barr is back with her own talk-show.

**11 December 1998**  
1300 Travel Update  
1930 Wheel of Fortune  
2130 True Hollywood Stories Johnny Cash

**12 December 1998**  
1100 The Roseanne Show  
1600 Travel Update  
1700 E! Coming Attractions

**13 December 1998**  
1330 Garden Variety  
1400 E! News Daily  
1630 America's Dumbest Criminals

**Disney Channel**

**December 7, 1998**  
1200 Movie - Student Exchange

**1700 Aladdin**  
**2000 Movie - Parent Trap**

**December 8, 1998**  
1400 Gummi Bears  
1605 Darkwing Duck  
1900 Boy Meets World  
2000 Movie - The Rescue

**December 9, 1998**  
1730 Gargoyles  
1800 Bill Nye the Science Guy  
1930 Sidekicks

**December 10, 1998**  
1300 Movie - Mark Twain & Me  
1700 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh  
2000 Movie - Ugly Dashed

**December 11, 1998**  
1120 Aladdin  
1300 Movie - Young Harry Houdini  
2230 Swiss Family Robinson

**December 12, 1998**  
1200 Movie - Journey of Natty Gann  
1700 Aladdin  
2000 Movie - On Promised Land

**December 13, 1998**  
1540 Ducktales  
1830 Flash Forward  
2200 Movie - Little Spies

**Orbit News**

**07 December 1998**  
1330 ABC World News this Morning Live  
1400 CBS Morning News Live  
1700 CBS This Morning

**08 December 1998**  
1400 CBS Morning News Live  
1500 NBC The Today Show Live  
1900 ABC Good Morning America

**09 December 1998**  
0900 ABC World News  
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live  
2100 NBC Dateline

**Thu Dec. 10**  
**Berlin (1948-1949)**  
Three years after the end of World War II, the Nazis' former capital, Berlin, would once again find itself the target of an allied air fleet. This time, the air armada was working to save, rather than destroy, the city

**10 December 1998**  
1000 CBS Up to the Minute Live  
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live  
1500 NBC The Today Show Live  
1700 CBS This Morning

**11 December 1998**  
1400 CBS Morning News Live  
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live  
1500 NBC The Today Show Live

**12 December 1998**  
1330 ABC Nightline  
1400 NBC Dateline  
1500 NBC Weekend Today Show Live

**13 December 1998**  
1100 Cold War: Berlin  
1200 Wall Street Week  
1400 CBS 48 Hours (Thu)  
1830 CBS Face the Nation Live

**Fun Channel**

**07 December 1998**  
1150 Scooby Doo  
1510 Freakazoid  
1650 Zorro  
1805 Masked Riders

**08 December 1998**  
1740 Power Rangers  
1805 Masked Riders  
1830 VR Troopers  
1900 Beast Wars

**09 December 1998**  
1510 Freakazoid  
1535 Beetlejuice  
1650 Zorro

**10 December 1998**  
2200 Big Fun  
2230 Big Fun  
2300 Big Fun

**11 December 1998**  
1215 Midnight Patrol  
1500 TFC  
1900 TV Funnies

**12 December 1998**  
1445 Pinky & The Brain  
1510 Freakazoid  
1600 Challenge of Superfriends

**13 December 1998**  
1240 Birdman & The Galaxy  
1535 Beetlejuice  
1740 Power Rangers

**Super Movies**

**07 December 1998**  
1900 A Weekend In The Country 2L  
2030 E! Behind the Scenes at 17:30 GMT  
2100 Late Shift - 3L

**08 December 1998**  
1700 A Little Princess - 2  
1900 Fluke - 2  
2030 E! Uncut at 17:30 GMT  
2100 First Blood - 3V

**09 December 1998**  
1500 Moonstruck - 2  
1700 Cry, the Beloved Country 2v  
1900 Moonstruck - 2

**10 December 1998**  
1700 [Starts at 14:10] Overboard-2L  
1900 [Starts at 16:10] Lost In America - 2L  
2100 The Mighty Quinn - 3VL  
2300 A Smile Like Yours

**11 December 1998**  
1700 Saint-Ex - 2  
1830 E! Uncut At 15:30 GMT  
1900 Green Card - 2  
2100 The Evening Star

**12 December 1998**  
1930 E! Coming Attractions at 19:30 GMT  
2000 Striptease - 3SL  
2200 [Starts at 22:05] Tank Girl - 3SVL

**13 December 1998**  
1500 Grumpy Old Men - 2L  
1700 Empire Records - 2L  
1830 E! Behind The Scenes at 15:30 GMT  
1900 Widows' Peak - 2L

**Orbit ESPN Sports**

**07 December 1998**  
1530 Boxing Cayton Boxing  
1630 NFL Presents  
2330 NFL Football Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings

**08 December 1998**  
1500 Sportcenter  
1800 NBA Basketball San Antonio

Spurs at New York Knicks Live  
2130 ESPN News Evening

**Chicago Bears at Minnesota Vikings**  
NFC Central leaders Minnesota take on division rivals Chicago Bears looking for another home victory as they march to the playoffs. The Vikings have had a great season dominating the Green Bay Packers in the division race.

**09 December 1998**  
1800 Gillette Sports Special  
1830 Sportcenter  
1930 NBA Basketball San Antonio Spurs at New York Knicks  
2200 UEFA Champions Teams Tba Live

**10 December 1998**  
1600 College Soccer 1998 Women's Division I Champ.  
1800 College Basketball Florida Duke  
2100 Latin Football Weekly

**11 December 1998**  
1900 Sportcenter  
2000 NFL Blast  
2030 W.U. World Soccer

**12 December 1998**  
1700 College Basketball Connecticut Massachusetts Domestic  
2000 NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Seattle Supersonics  
2230 Liga Live Teams Tba Live on air 1930

**13 December 1998**  
1930 UEFA Champions Teams Tba  
2130 Liga Live Teams Tba Live on air 1827  
2330 World Football Report

**America Plus**

**07 December 1998**  
2030 The Nanny  
2100 Buddy Faro  
2200 Homicide: Life on the Streets

**08 December 1998**  
1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood

**2100 Radio**  
2100 Charmed  
2200 Michael Hayes

**1500 Conwith/Nathalie Imbruglia**  
**1530 FFrame/chain Reacti on #1**

**09 December 1998**  
1835 High Society  
2030 Malcom and Eddie  
2100 Early Edition

**10 December 1998**  
2000 Friends  
2100 Seinfeld  
2200 ER

**11 December 1998**  
2000 Mad About You  
2030 Cosby  
2100 Party of Five  
2300 Maximum Bob

**12 December 1998**  
2000 Caroline in the City  
2100 Anyday Now  
2200 Veronica's Closet

**13 December 1998**  
2000 Babylon 5  
2100 Rescue 77  
2200 La Femme Nikita

**Music Now**

**07 December 1998**  
1100 Vital Soul  
1200 Ultra Violet  
1400 American Chart Show

**08 December 1998**  
1330 Musabaqa  
12500 Cosmix  
1900 MEditerraneE

**09 December 1998**  
1100 "360" Degrees R.e.m.  
1300 R.s.v.p.  
2100 Awtar

**360° R.E.M.**  
**Wed. 9th at 1300**  
A two-hour program spanning the music & history of the band R.E.M. A musical career which began 17 years ago has produced millions of dollars in record sales & just as many dedicated R.E.M. fans. Although the group is no longer four, but three. Tune into 360° for an in-depth view of this pop group.

**10 December 1998**  
1300 "360" Degrees R.e.m.

**On Cinema City Channel**

**A Bride Too Far - Wed. 9**  
There are war movies and then there're great war movies - A Bride Too Far is the greatest. Set in September of 1944, it is about the true-life Operation Market Garden, a plan to drop three divisions of Allied paratroopers behind enemy lines in Holland, each tasked with capturing a key bridge successively deeper in Nazi-held territory. Only on Cinema City.

**EUREKA 1983**  
Mod. 7  
Nicolas Roeg's story of finding everything & then wishing you hadn't finds Arctic prospector Jack McCann, after 15 years of solitary searching, becoming one of the world's wealthiest men when he literally falls into a mountain of gold in 1925. Years later, in 1945, he lives in luxury on a Caribbean island that he owns.

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# Saba Islamic Bank Opens in Aden A Monumental Economic Establishment

The Saba Islamic Bank is now considered one of the most distinguished banking establishments in Yemen. Due to its major financial successes, Saba has been able to win the Yemeni bankers' trust and confidence.



### Inauguration

To keep up with economic developments in this country, a branch of the Saba Islamic Bank was opened on November, 29 in Aden - Yemen's economic and commerce capital. The bank's grand opening in Aden - part of major events celebrating the anniversaries of the September and November revolutions - was attended by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the Consultative Council; Mr. Taha Ahmed Ghanim, Governor of Aden; Mr. Waheed Rasheed, Deputy Governor; Brig. Mohammed Saleh Toraiq, Chief of Security and several other dignitaries, businessmen, financiers, prominent community figures and representatives of the media.

### Saba Islamic Bank Services

Mr. Mohammed Shamsan Al-Moamiry, Aden Branch Manager, has the following to say about the services provided by Saba:

"Saba is the second bank in Yemen to operate in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic Sharia Law. Our head office was opened on April 4, 1997 in Sanaa.

"It conducts several types of investment and banking transactions, in full compliance with the guidance of our great religion. Investments are done without usury by the process of *Murabaha* (trade finance - the financing of goods' resale, especially of commodities such as grains and oil). The process ends

when a client buys the goods he or she needs, whether locally or from abroad.

"The other method of financing is *Mudhraba* (equity sharing with a joint venture involving both a capital partner and a working partner). In *Mudharaba*, we provide finance to a person who has the ability to trade and make profits but has not enough money to do so.

"Thirdly, there is *Musharaka* - a profit-sharing partnership, leading to the ownership of trade or agricultural enterprises. In another type of *Musharaka*, Saba Islamic Bank invests a hitherto inactive capital in projects which it plans, supervises and administers until they are successful.

"The first ever service in Yemen to be provided by Saba is the **certified cheque card**. It guarantees the payment of cheques at private and public commercial organs, hotels, etc.

"Businessmen and other clients can also obtain **Gold and Silver Visa and Master cards**. This certifies people to get rid of the burden and worry of carrying huge amounts of cash.

"**Travelers' cheques** are issued in both US dollars and Pound Sterling - a very convenient and safe method of carrying money while abroad.

"Saba Islamic Bank provides many other services and facilities. **Safety deposit boxes** are leased to our customers at nominal monthly or yearly fees to enable them to very safely keep their jewelry, important documents and other valuables.

"Saba Islamic Bank funds local trade as well as import and export operations. Big businesses are not our only concern. Saba also supports small investors, artisans, farmers and all projects that help the country economically and socially. Supporting the national industry is on top of Saba



Islamic Bank's priorities."

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Tel 286506, 271798  
Fax 286505

**Aden:** Tel 244267, 244266  
Fax 244265

### Saba Islamic Bank Goals

- To actively take part in Yemen's economic and social development process;
- To work according to the rules and teachings of the Muslim faith and Islamic Sharia Law, believing that Islam is the nation's incandescent truth;
- To give investors all possible guarantees of good and Halal returns on their money.

# TOYOTA

## At the First International Auto Show

Brigadier Abdulmalek Al-Sayyani, Minister of Transportation, inaugurated the First International Auto Show at the Sanaa Expo Center (1-5 December, 1998) with the attendance of several businessmen, car enthusiasts, motorists and media people. Toyota has participated with recently developed Japanese technology of the Lexus LX470, Toyota Prado and Crown. The unique Toyota vehicles enjoy an international fame seldom found in similar cars. A Toyota - through its unmatched engine, elegant streamlined figure (aerodynamic

involved, powerful performance, endurance and cheap spareparts, as compared to other vehicles. The availability of Toyota maintenance centers saves a lot of effort and time and guarantees superior service. Toyota has always been able to lead the market, considering the unique features it enjoys. People prefer its very well-developed technical, performance and cost advantages to other makes.



to fully justify the magnificent performance of Lexus LX 470. To really know the features of this unique car and its superiority over other luxury vehicles, you have to try it yourself. Open the door... get in... and enjoy luxury driving wherever you are.

**LAND CRUISER PRADO**  
With the modern Land Cruiser Prado, daily life becomes an ever enjoyable experience, with new things to discover every day.

air freedom. This is what Land Cruiser Prado provides - pleasure with safety. A driver is given the ability to avoid accidents. On the rare occasions when they do occur, the impact of accidents is appreciably reduced by the car's numerous safety features.

**CROWN**  
Success and its privileges are brought about by the magnificent improvements, excellent quality and careful design that adorn Toyota Crown. Relying on Toyota Crown's top quality, fame and care for the most minute of details, we started with more than 100 different design standards.

design), and spacious seats - provides perfect comfort and guarantees absolute safety. All these advantages made Toyota the most superior and best among all vehicles in the world, as testified by the millions of people who drive it everyday around the world.

**LEXUS LX 470:**  
Launching Toyota-Lexus LX 470 means that we always desire to bring superior models to all modern cars in all parts of the world. Our aim is to satisfy our clients with the highest levels of excellence. Lexus LX 470's great performance has



**Toyota is the most famous and widely sold brand in Yemen**  
Many visitors to the Auto Show have been dazzled and fascinated by Toyota. They highly admired the Lexus LX470 and other Toyota models, confirming that Toyota comes always in the forefront of the car market. This is due to the high technology

brought a much sought-after solution, combining two seemingly contradicting features: great horse-power and smooth operation. This is achieved by the innovative technology of the new 4.7 liter, V8 engine that was made exclusively for the king of 4WD. This lightweight engine works with the best combustion efficiency for achieving a balanced 4X4 performance, drastically reducing fuel consumption and exhaust fumes. Mere words will not be able

Land Cruiser Prado offers a complete integration of deep-rooted traditional principles, highly developed 4X4 automotive engineering, sports elegance, and extreme comfort. The ultra modern, multi-valve engine gives Land Cruiser Prado the very high power and torque needed to travel over rugged lands. This automotive power is completely harmonious with the high-suspended body, solidity and precision suspension system, which make the most arduous of journeys a sheer joy. Feeling safe is the most important element in enjoying the taste of open-

Cruiser One of the most important luxury features offered by Toyota Crown is peace of mind. It is the result of hard and honest work to develop all possible safety features, the whole-mark of Toyota Crown. Toyota's highly advanced interior is an oasis of comfort beyond imagination. The joy and comfort of you daily trips are enhanced by quintessential Toyota design standards.

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**\* A new generation of Lexus LX470 and GS300 conquers the market for the first time**

The joy and comfort of you daily trips are enhanced by quintessential Toyota design standards.



**Automotive & Machinery Trading Center (TOYOTA)**





## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Sameer Farawna



### AL SHOURA

Sanaa, weekly 29/11/98

(Federation of Popular Forces)

#### Main Headlines

-A Jewish organization has offered 50 million dollars to facilitate the immigration of the remaining 1500 Yemeni Jews to Israel.

-A powerful explosion took place 400 meters away from the President's motorcade at entrance of Dali city ten days ago.

-Three blasts rocked the governorate of Shabwa Saturday before last. The explosions, which went off almost at the same time, targeted official security buildings.

-Local authorities in Marib have released most detainees of the Jahm tribe but retained a number of others from Al Zaidi.

#### A Million Yemeni Expatriates Expected Back Home

##### An Article Summary

Reliable sources said that millions of Yemeni expatriates in Indonesia were suffering from the deteriorating situation there and the rising racial struggle.

The sources said that more than one million Yemenis there have expressed the desire to return home and that scores of them daily check with the embassy in Jakarta on possibility of their repatriation.

Embassy sources said that the Yemeni diplomats were confused with the new development and that the Ambassador maintained contacts with the President and the Foreign Ministry over the affair.

The return of two million Yemenis following the 1990 Gulf war lead to serious dilemmas for the country at the time and recurrence of a similar phenomenon could lead to a disaster.

More than 20 million Yemenis live in east Asian countries for

more than two centuries, most of whom are from Hadhramaut.

in Attaq/Shabwa last November 28. He was not hurt in the incident.

### الرأي العام

#### AL RAI AL AAM

Sanaa, weekly 1/12/98

(Independent)

##### Main Headlines

-Yemeni fishermen are planning to travel to Eritrea to restore their fishing boats seized by that country's authorities in the past three years. Eritrea is detaining 138 Yemeni fishing boats that were captured at separate intervals in the period 1995 to 1998.

-Nahem tribesmen are stealing cars passing the Sanaa-Marib main road without any interference from a nearby military check point.

-The eight Yemeni kids who were deported alone from Saudi Arabia have no relatives here except a blind grandmother that needs someone to look after her. The children, the eldest 12 years old, were deported one month after their parents were jailed for theft.

### الطريق

#### ATTARIQ

Aden, weekly 1/12/98

(Independent)

##### Main Headlines

-Voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees are ongoing with 179 of them returning home last week.

-A University student beat up one of his professors a few days ago because he failed in his subject.

-Family of the kidnapped Yemeni businessman Abdul Hakim Shamsan received threatening telephone calls from his abductors who said that his children should stay at home and don't go out of their home, not even to school.

-A group of six armed men opened their machine gun fire at head of the social security office

recent visit to Sanaa of a Sudanese security delegation.

-The Dali security authority is still detaining between 12 to 16 persons including a number of Sheikhs from Zabid in the aftermath of the bomb explosion that occurred during the President's visit to the governorate recently.

### الاسبوع

#### AL OSBO'

Sanaa, weekly 3/12/98

(Independent)

##### Main Headlines

-News of a dialogue between the People's General Conference and the Yemeni Socialist party are reported despite the war of words between them.

-Government and popular efforts to combat malaria have failed due to the medicine's inadequacy while plagued areas were still not isolated which further complicated the problem.

-The oil pipeline passing through Marib was again the target of an explosion last Wednesday, the 16th of its kind this year, by Jahm tribes. An oil source said that 1500 oil barrels are leaking daily as a result of the blast.

-Government offices at the Ibb governorate are withdrawing medicines and medical equipment that were previously distributed to schools by the Red Crescent after discovering that they were Israeli made

#### Yemen Deports a Number of Arab Nationals

##### An Article Summary

-The Yemeni authorities deported

six Egyptian, Algerian and Jordanian nationals over the past few days while a number of others waiting their turn in the political security prison.

Arab opposition elements living in Sanaa said that four Egyptians, wanted by their country's security apparatus, were deported last week along with an Algerian nationalist and a Jordanian journalist.

The Yemeni authorities are still detaining a number of Sudanese, Iraqi and Eritrean opposition elements in addition to Egyptian Islamists.

The opposition elements had pledged to the Yemeni government that they would not indulge in any political activity against their respective governments, yet the government recently started picking them up and deporting a number of them.



#### AL THAWRI

Sanaa, weekly 3/12/98

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

##### Travel Ban on Socialists

##### An Article Summary

The Interior Ministry has issued instructions to its various bodies banning the travel outside Yemen by members of the Yemeni Socialist Party's Politburo and Central Committee.

Well informed sources said that the Ministry has postponed implementation of the decision until after the convening of the People's General Conference's general committee.

Meanwhile, the YSP's Politburo

had held a meeting to evaluate the party's fourth general conference under leadership of Secretary General Ali Saleh Obad.

The conferees expressed satisfaction over the successful results of the conference and admired the positive spirit of attending representatives.

### الوحدوي

#### AL WAHDAMI

Sanaa, weekly 1/12/98

(Nasserite People's Unionist Organization)

##### Main Headlines

-A large-scale popular delegation, grouping more than 100 figures, leaves for Tripoli, Libya Monday to express rejection toward the negative stances of Arab regimes toward the oppressive siege against that country.

-Armed guards in a motorcade of a tribal sheikh fired 13 bullets at a taxi because it refused to quickly make way, killing the driver on the spot and seriously injuring the man sitting beside him almost two weeks ago in As Sitteen road, Sanaa.

-A Yemeni businessman accused ambiguous investment legislations and absence of a clear development strategy of being the major obstacles facing investors in Yemen.

-The Nasserite Organization's MP and member of the Parliament's financial committee Ali Al Yazeedi said that the government replies to committee queries on the state budget were weak and unconvincing.

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## Invitation to Bid (ITB)

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Date: November, 30, 1998

Contract Identification No. YEM 009 SB

- The Government of Republic of Yemen has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of Sana'a Emergency Power Project and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for Expansion and Upgrading of Sana'a Asser 132/33 KV Substation (Contract No. Yem 009 SE). The Public Electricity Corporation eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
- The Public Electricity Corporation, Republic of Yemen invites sealed bids from eligible bidders on a turnkey basis for the supply and installation of an outdoor double circuit 132KV switchyard with 4 nos. OHL feeder bays, 3 nos. transformer feeder bays and one number bus section/coupler bay, modification of existing 132KV OHL, supply & installation of 1 No. additional 60 MVA, 132/33 KV power & associated earthing transformer, expansion, upgrading and modification of the other related systems of the substation.
- Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from November 30, 1998 at the office of the Managing Director, Public Electricity Corporation, Hadda Street, Diplomatic Area, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen, for a non-refundable fee of US\$200 or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the above address, contact details for the above office is:

The Managing Director  
Public Electricity Corporation  
P. O. Box: 178  
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen  
Tel: (967)(1) - 260128, 260133  
Fax: (967)(1) - 264115 - 263155  
Cable: YEMENKAHRABA

- Bids shall be valid for a period of 120 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of US\$175,000 or equivalent in a freely convertible currency, and will be delivered to the Managing Director, Public Electricity Corporation, Hadda Street, Diplomatic Area, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen on or before 12:00 noon on January 31, 1999 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

## 2nd Week of Excellent-Division Football:

### Sanaa's Ahli Defeats Aden's Wahda

The Ahli of Sanaa football team defeated the Wahda of Aden 2-nil in match held last Friday, December 4 in Aden, as part of the Excellent-Division football Tournament. Ahli's second winning since the beginning of the tournament on November 30 has increased its credit to 6 points. Aden's Wahda, on the other hand, has remained without points.

#### First Half

Although Wahda's strikers made a good performance during the first few minutes of the game, Ahli's defenders - led by Salem Saeed and his brother Abdulrahman - were able to thwart all

their attempts at scoring. Mid-way during the first half of the match, Ahli and Wahda ran neck and neck in their attempts at scoring. Wahda's famous duo, Mithaq Yousuf and Nawfal Hassan, made all they could to move the ball into their opponent's court.

At the 19th minute of the game, Wahda's striker Wijdan Al-Shadili almost scored, were it not for Ahli's goalie Moad Abdulkhaleq. Just one minute later, Ahli retaliated with a strike led by Al-Salemi who shot the ball to his fellow striker Bashir Al-Haimi. The latter's kick, however, sent the ball over the goal's bar.

During the 27th minute of the match, with increasing pressure by Ahli and retreat by Wahda, Ahli's striker Ali Al-Nounou shot the ball, right under the noses of Wahda defenders, to score his team's first goal.

At the 33rd

minute, Wahda tried to balance the score. Through individual effort, Wahda's Sakhar Sawda struck from the left part of the field. However, due to the absence of a supporting striker, his attempt came to nothing.

#### Second Half

Ahli struck against Wahda's goal in order to consolidate its lead in the match. During the second minute of the second half, Ahli's striker Ali Al-Nounou took advantage of Wahda's weak defenses. He shot the ball just above the goalie's head to score his team's second goal.

Thus Ahli played magnificently with a lot of enthusiasm. Wahda's players, on the other hand, were not up to standard. This is Wahda's second defeat this week, the first was 3-nil against Shaab of Ibb.

Other matches of the week saw Hilal of Hodeidah defeating Saqar of Taiz 3-2; Shaab of Ibb defeating Zohra 3-nil; Hassan tying with Ittihad of Ibb nil-nil; and Tali'a defeating Shoula 1-nil.

### Tennis Open Championship

Seventy players are taking part in the Tennis Open Championship being held at the Sheraton Hotel, Sanaa. Organized by the Sheraton management to celebrate the 31st anniversary of independence, the championship is set to go on until December 12.

This is a good initiative on part of Sheraton, considering the visible lack of similar championships organized by official sports bodies. Six games are played every day: men's and women's singles, mixed doubles and men's doubles. All in all, 77 matches will be held during the championship.

### Taekwondo Concluded

Winners in the taekwondo championship, organized by the Wahda Sports Club in Sanaa, are as follows:  
 - Mohammed Al-Hadaa (47kg).  
 - Badr Muttahar Al-Odri (43kg).  
 - Sami Abdulwahid (39kg).  
 - Akram Anwar (35kg).  
 - Tamim Al-Qobati (22kg).  
 - Ali Nasser Drwish (50kg).  
 The championship was run by Muttahar Al-Odri, coach of the Wahda of Sanaa and taekwondo referee.

### Yemeni Athletes in Bangkok

A Yemeni team of athletes is taking part in the 13th Asian Games Tournament which started on Sunday, December 6 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Headed by Mr. Hussain Al-Awadhi, Secretary General of the Yemen Olympic Committee, the Yemen sports delegation arrived in Bangkok on Friday. It consists of players of table tennis, taekwondo, shooting, athletics and wrestling. The delegation was met by Mr. Ahmed Salem Ba-Olihan, the Yemeni honorary consul in Bangkok.

"Our national teams will benefit greatly from this participation," said Mr. Al-Awadhi. "They'll compete with very well-known international champions. We chose the best of Yemeni youth to reflect a good image of our country." Mr. Ali Al-Sabahi, Member of the Yemen Olympic Committee, said: "Yemen has achieved good results in the table tennis singles Arab championship, through extensive training. This time we hope to achieve more not only in table tennis, but also in all other games."

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#### (b) IT Network Technician

- Possess a diploma in Computer Science or IT or equivalent'
- Able to speak and read English fairly well;
- Relevant experience in IT network maintenance and trouble-shooting;
- May be required to perform shift work;
- A pleasant personality;

To ensure the smooth running of the day-to-day operations of the network and systems; to monitor and follow-up on the environmental problems in computer center and users' site and to collect, collate and produce statistical reports on the system utilization and efficiency level band and to provide Helpdesk support to end-users.

#### (c) Junior Accountant

- Qualified accountants by certification and practice;
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- Good PC knowledge (MS Excel and Word);
- Fluency in English and Arabic;
- Pleasant character;

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- Cut & Complete this Application form.
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- Do not leave any item blank. If it is not applicable to you, indicate "Not Applicable"
- Please return the completed form by 15th Dec 98.

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		month/year	month/year
a) Name of School/College attended since age of six			
b) Highest education completed/ passed	Passed	(year)	
	Completed	(year)	
LANGUAGES	Written:	Spoken:	
EMPLOYMENT DETAILS			
a) Give in a chronological order a complete record of employment and /or unemployment up till now			
Position Held	Period of Service		Name of Employer
	From	To	
			Reason for Leaving
b) *Present/Last Drawn Salary (State Type of Allowance and amount)			
DRIVING LICENSE (Class of Vehicle / Equipment)			

I State that all the particulars contained in the form are true and that I have not willfully suppressed any material fact. I understand that I will be disqualified from appointment or may services will be terminated without any notice if the said particulars are found to be untrue.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Hadhramaut is a very large governorate, including both desert and coastal areas. It is the cradle, all at once, of some of Yemen's most famous religious scholars, poets, singers, and architects. It was, and still is, the source of migration waves to the rest of the world. Its people are industrious and very well known for their mercantile acumen.

#### Allah's Prophet Houd

The region - its far more than a mere governorate - is rich with age-old traditions. One such ancient ritual is the annual visit to the mausoleum of the Prophet Houd. Situated

in Shi'b (valley) Houd in the Ahqaf area of Hadhramaut, the shrine is the focus of a pilgrimage that takes place between the 5th and 10th of Shaaban - the month just before Ramadhan.

Being four arduous hours by car away from Seiou - Hadhramaut's interior capital - does not deter people from all over the world from visiting the place. Muslims from Indonesia, Malaysia, Kenya, Canada, the USA, and several other countries make this annual pilgrim.

People from this region and other parts of Yemen also visit other shrines on the way to the Houd mausoleum, arriving exactly on the 5th of Shaaban.

#### Houd Enters Into a Rock!

One of the most revered attractions of the pilgrimage is a very large and imposing rock, dominating the site and is known as Naqat Houd (Houd's camel). Another revered rock is split in the middle, where ancient folklore has it that Houd hid from his enemies inside the rock!

#### Preaching & Washing

Throughout the pilgrim's five days, preachers continue giving much sought-

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## Houd: Ancient Prophets Never Forgotten

after sermons. Major families from the region each has its own special visiting ceremonies known as Dakhla. The biggest of Dakhla is that of Abu Bakar Bin Salem, which is held on the pilgrim's last day.

During Dakhla, people bathe at a rivulet near the Houd Village. They then visit a well, mentioned in the Holy Quran, situated in the middle of the village. Afterwards a last visit of the shrine is conducted with more sermons and preaching, praising not

to the faithful, said that Houd's shrine is probably the oldest shrine in the world, which people still visit. "It more than 4000 years old, as stated by Al-Tijani in his Taj Al-Ayan book," explained the Sheikh. It also mentioned in the Quran that Alexander the Great visited the place with his army. All other Arab historians agree that Houd's shrine have been visited since



Sheikh Salem Bin Abdullah Al-Shater



only Prophet Houd, but also all other prophets, especially Mohammed (PBUH).

#### Seasonal Village

Houd Village is not inhabited all year round. It is a seasonal village, so to speak. People only live in it during the five-day pilgrimage.

#### Oldest Shrine

Sheikh Salem Bin Abdullah Al-Shateri, one of a several revered scholars who preach

time immemorial. The annual pilgrimage, however, did not start in earnest until one of Prophet Mohammed's descendants - Imam Ahmed Bin Isa visited the place in 318 AH (more than 1100 years ago).

Rasheed Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times, Hadhramaut



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