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Yemeni and American Top Brass Attend: On Landmines Treaty's 1st Anniversary, Yemen Graduates 1st Batch of Deminers!

Yesterday, Sunday, December 13th, the first batch of Yemeni anti-personnel deminers graduated in Aden. On hand for the occasion were the top brass of the Yemeni military, as well as a military delegation headed by General Anthony Zinni, Commander of Central Command Theater. The group - 150 of them, represent managerial and supervisory cadres of the program. The second batch will involve technicians who will work in the field. It is fitting that this occasion coincides with the first anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction by 123 countries in Ottawa, Canada. The number of ratifications needed to bring the treaty into force - 40 - was reached on 16 September 1998, in record time for an arms-related treaty.

Yemen was one of them. A total of 131 states have by now signed the treaty and 55 have ratified it. The treaty will enter into force on 1st March 1999 for the 40 states that ratified it by 16th September and six months after the ratification date for other states. Once the treaty has entered into force, states will have four years to destroy existing stockpiles, which 11 nations have already done; and 10 years to clear all mines from the ground. The first meeting of nations party to the convention will be held in May 1999, in Maputo, Mozambique. Yet landmines continue to cause untold suffering. The "evil underground" as Yemen Times called it, continues to haunt many people worldwide. The people of Yemen are among those haunted. Although no firm statistics exist, the number of landmine victims



Mine victim Lahej kid gets artificial legs

runs into several thousands. That is why the government's efforts in setting up a national commission to clear all landmines in the country is received with enormous relief and appreciation by the population. This is especially true in rural areas. The inauguration of the 150 American-trained Yemeni officers is the first step in an extended 5-year program. A national team led by experts from the Ministry of Defence - and assisted by international support mainly from the USA and Canada - has taken up the challenge. Although no exact figures are available, the number of Yemeni landmine victims runs in the thousands. In addition to the human suffering, there is an enormous economic cost to the landmines. Large chunks of farmland, grazing areas, and potentially oil-rich territories are now off-limit because of the 'evil underground'.

Ask for the supplement on insurance companies in Yemen with this issue.

President Saleh Meets Chirac in Paris Today

President Ali Abdullah Saleh meets in Paris today French President Jacques Chirac. The President is also scheduled to meet with many other French officials, including the President of the Senate. President Saleh makes an annual pilgrimage to Paris in what has become a tradition over the last few years. Presidential sources indicated that Mr. Saleh will present Yemen's gratitude for France's role in mediating successfully in the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute over Hunaish Islands, which have been found by the court of arbitration to lie within Yemen's sovereignty. The discussions will also cover Franco-Yemeni cooperation. Sources say that President Saleh could stop over in Saudi Arabia on his way back. The roller-coaster relationship between Yemen and Saudi Arabia have left many observers baffled.



Same Old Story... Same Actors

German citizens Norbert Degen, Petra Penglistra, Rozwita Adlung and Inge Brunner are still being held captive by tribesmen of the Bani Dhabyan. The man and three women were captured last Sunday, December 6th at Yislah Pass - some 60 kilometers south of Sana'a, and were taken to a remote hideout in Mareb. Meanwhile, the government has expanded its witch-hunt of Dhabyan tribesmen who are held hostage by the government. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, furious at these developments, gave the kidnapers until Wednesday, 16 December, for the release of the Germans. At another level, the German Foreign Ministry has sent a letter to the Yemeni Government urging it to find a solution. It also insisted that

whatever steps are taken should not jeopardize the lives of the hostages. To complicate things even further, there was a failed attempt to kidnap Dutch citizens on Friday, December 11th. This resulted in additional Dutch dismay at the state of affairs. The captives have not been deterred by official threats to execute abductors, according to a law recently passed by parliament. A military contingent has encircled the area where the four Germans are believed to be held. This is the same place that British Council teacher David Mitchell and his family were held hostage for more than 2 week last April. They were released unharmed after intervention by tribal leaders and other influential figures.

The kidnapping of foreign tourists seems to have become a "tradition" among some Yemeni tribes. Grievances with the government, demands for better public services or even downright selfish personal greed are the main causes of this disturbing phenomenon. The Dhabyan people say they are protesting the dismissal of some 300 of their tribesmen from public employment, following political tension and the 1994 civil war. Although no foreign hostage has ever been harmed in the 100 or so cases of kidnapping over the last few years, Yemen's fledgling tourist industry has suffered enormously. The country has been deprived of much needed hard currency to support its socio-economic development process.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Signs of the Ability to See Light

Two months ago, the Yemen Times ran a story about the foreign exchange resources that have been made available to the authorities through sale of oil as well as foreign aid. The paper asked for explanations how the money was used. Then hell broke loose on us.

I got several threatening phone calls from senior officials in the state. The paper was attacked in the official media. My personal car was smashed from two sides, in a car 'accident'. The paper's premises were visited by security personnel. I was taken for interrogation by the Media Prosecutor, etc., etc.

When the Yemen Times wrote the story, it felt it was doing its watchdog job. We also believed the system was serious about introducing accountability into the system. We did expect some heat, but not to the level that we endured.

Today, however, the tide is beginning to change. Government dismay may be subsiding. Instead, I believe there are positive developments. Let me list some of them.

1. Dropping the Case:

Following two interrogation sessions, the case against me has been dropped. Actually, I was asked to prove the numbers quoted in the article and provide tangible evidence to the media prosecutor. This is actually against the law, because journalists are not required to divulge their sources. But, I felt that the prosecutor wanted documents to show that the country did get US\$ 22.5 billion over the last 20 years.

I gave him proof in the form of documents that show the authorities had received more than US\$ 27 billion. Actually, I collected some additional evidence after the article was published. The attorney-general, Dr. Abdullah Al-Olofi, who I believe is a fair man, decided to shelve the case. However, he asked me to help be providing specific information on government officials and others who embezzle public funds. I promised to work with him on that count.

2. Calls of Support:

After the initial barrage of bad calls, I started receiving sympathetic calls. People in government and outside eagerly expressed their support. Some of the well-wishers are senior members of the ruling party itself. In fact, some senior PGC members promised to take up the matter with the rulers to show them that my article actually serves the nation and regime itself, rather than the other way round.

3. Asking the Same Question:

It was interesting that some of the official media are now beginning to ask the same question: Where did the money go? It is normal that the opposition papers, which ran over 80 articles and cartoons on this theme, should capitalize on the issue. But for the official media to also join the band wagon, it is an encouraging sign.

On the evening of Friday, December 11th. Sanaa Television had a round table debate which brought together the chairman of the Central Organization for Audit and Control, the Chairman of the Financial Committee in Parliament, and an opposition parliamentarian. The topic discussed was: Where did the money go?

Indeed there seems to be a change of heart, and that is heartening!

The Publisher


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Sanaa University On Strike
Since Act No. 231, issued by the Council of Ministers to increase the salaries of the teaching staff in Sanaa and Aden universities, has not been implemented, the Academic Staff Union in both universities began an open strike on December 8th. The teachers won't stop the strike until the act is fully implemented.

9th Conference for Security Chiefs

The 9th 4-day conference for Ministry of Interior senior officials starts in Sanaa today. Chiefs of security, and heads of all Ministry of Interior departments and organizations will participate in this conference. They will discuss issues related to the work of the Ministry and its plans for 1999. Hovering over their heads are issues related to bomb blasts and kidnapping.

Ramadhan On 19 Dec.

According to a Yemeni astronomer, the holy month of Ramadhan, 1419H will start on December 19th. During Ramadhan, working hours start at 11:00 am in public offices. Most private businesses are open during night time.

20 Days

Since Shamsan Kidnapping

It has been 20 days since Aden-based businessman Abdulhakim Shamsan was kidnapped. His relatives and friends have sent many letters to the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, Parliament Speaker and several ministers to help find Shamsan. To date, no results.

Al-Qistas

The 7th issue of Al-Qistas magazine was published this week. It includes several articles, mainly focusing on legal matters, in addition to several field studies.

Al-Qistas is a monthly legal magazine published by the Civil Society Forum.

Bazaar for the Disabled

To commemorate the World Handicapped Day - December 9th, the Educational and Technical Rehabilitation Center in Sanaa will organize a bazaar for the benefit of disabled people on December 15.

Al-Qadha'eyah Published

The Ministry of Justice released issue no. zero of a 12-page newspaper named Al-Qadha'eyah (judicial). It is a weekly bulletin published, temporarily, every two weeks.

The overall supervisor of this newspaper is the Minister of Justice. Several issues related to the judiciary and justice system in Yemen are addressed.

Lecture on Libyan Policy

Mr. Mabrook Qayed, Libyan Ambassador to Sanaa, gives today, December 14, at Queen Arwa University in Sanaa, a lecture on Libyan Policy Towards International and Arab Issues.

Gender Statistics Workshop

A workshop for Gender Statistics Users and Producers in Yemen starts today, December 14th, in Sanaa. The 2-day workshop is organized by the Central Organization for Control and Audit and the Economic Committee of Western Asia.

Population, habitation, education, training and other issues will be discussed.

YT Weekly Poll

Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll question is placed at:

<http://yementimes.com/#poll>

As a Yemeni emigrant, do you chew qat while abroad?

Result
Yes 27% - No 73%

UK Embassy Assistance for the Y21F

UK Ambassador in Sanaa, the Honorable Victor J. Henderson, wrote to Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf pledging support for the Yemen 21 Forum. The embassy decided to provide a lecture-presentation kit (camera/computer-connected projector) and a microphone system for the forum.

Ambassador Henderson's letter also states: "I am happy to join the Board of Y21F, along with a number of distinguished Yemenis and colleagues from the Sanaa Diplomatic Corps".

Yemen Times is the largest donor to the organization. The German Embassy had earlier donated 5 computers. Japan's embassy is expected to announce its donation in the near future.

The Y21F is an NGO dedicated to the promotion of the values of the 21st century - democracy, human rights, press freedom, tolerance, and broader participation in public life. It will do that by supporting the rise, growth and effectiveness of NGOs.

The Y21F will start its activities immediately after of Ramadhan or second half of January 1999.



Workshop On Health Planning

A workshop on Health Planning is under way in Sanaa. The workshop, which continues from the 12th through the 17th, is concerned with formulating future plans for the health sector in Yemen.

Participants will analyze what projects and approaches are suitable for the country's health sector.

Arts Exhibition in Taiz

Organized by the Industrial Institute, Department of Arts, an arts exhibition has started on 12th December. The exhibition which will continue until the 17th, is located at Al-Sha'ab school in Taiz.

Items being exhibited include different artistic works - paintings, drawings, and other arts work by artists in Taiz.

Flop to Break Libyan Embargo

148 Yemeni personalities - from parliament, the ruling PGC party, sheikhs, and others, formed what was termed as a people's delegation to Libya.

They leased an Egypt Air plane, which they tried to force land in Libya, in an attempt to break the international embargo. Instead, the pilot landed them in Tunisia, before bringing them back home.

PASSION FOR PEOPLE



THULA RECREATION CENTER recently conducted children's activities with outdoor games during the Halloween, with donkey riding, drawing and painting competition.

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Abdullah Ali Obaid:

“The scouts movement is doomed if political influence permeates its activities.”

One of the grassroots activities that witnessed enormous growth in Yemen in the recent past has been the boy scouts and girl scouts movements. Strongly supported by the public and government alike, the young boys and girls have expanded in their outreach considerably.

Mr. Abdullah Ali Obaid is the Commissioner General of the Boy Scouts Association in Yemen. He is also the director of the Project to Integrate Population Activity in the Youth Sector of the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Mr. Obaid has a degree in law and Islamic Sharia and diploma in youth and sports activity. He successfully attended a number of courses on aspects of the scouts and youth movements around the world.

Obaid is responsible for running scouts activity all over the country, though the Minister of Youth and Sport is chairman of the BSA.

Dr. Salah Haddash, Yemen Times Managing Editor, talked to him and filed the following interview.



Q: Could you give a brief background on scouts movement in Yemen?

A: The actual Boy Scouts and Association was established according to a law issued in 1974. However, the movement dates back to 1922 when it was introduced into Aden by the late Mohammed Fare'. Its activities then spread to all parts of southern Yemen.

In 1954, the scouts movement was introduced to a school in Turba, Taiz. But it was later closed by orders from the Imam. It was allowed to re-emerge only after the 26th of September Revolution.

Q: What happened to the movement after the nation's reunification in 1990?

A: The movement had flourished in northern Yemen, but had slumbered in the south. So, immediately after re-unification, we worked to revive it in the south. We have been quite successful in that regard. There is now an appreciable scouts movement in Aden, Lahaj, and Hadhramaut. It is gradually increasing in Abyan and other governorates, as well. Before unification the ruling Yemen Socialist Party in the south founded an alternative

effort, more politicized youth organization.

Q: What are the numbers and ages of the boy scouts in Yemen?

A: There are about 35,000 young boys registered in the Boy Scouts Association. Their ages vary enormously, but they are all within the ages of 6 and 24 years. In addition, there are about 16,000 girl scouts. The Girl Guides Commissioner in Ms. Fatin Hamoud Issa.

Q: What kind of training or activities do you engage in?

A: Boy scouts go through four stages: Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts, and Rangers. Girls, on the other hand, start as Roses then go on to blossom as Guides, Senior Guides and Rangers. We engage in many activities related to personality development and skill-acquiring, mostly in the field. We also participate in many public activities such as city-cleaning, assisting in traffic movement, charity activities. For example, as the Yemen Times comes out this week, many drivers could see our boy scouts volunteers assisting in the Traffic Week effort in order to bring sense to vehicle circulation.

Q: How is this movement viewed by Yemeni society?

A: The credibility of the movement had been hurt by politics and a very conservative social view. Now it is starting to regain some respect and interest, as we continue to rise on firm ground among Yemen youth.

Q: Do you have relations and contact with similar organizations in other countries?

A: Yes, we do. We are in constant contact with sister organizations worldwide. We attend regional and international meetings and activities. We also seek international support for our activities.

Q: Who funds BSA?

A: It is largely funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. They give us a measly YR 500,000 a year. We also get finances from the Youth Support Fund, which is funded by taxes levied on tobacco consumption. Of course, the association also gets membership fees, which do not amount to much. The UNFPA is now providing \$600,000 for a three-year support project to be implemented in several governorates. The UNICEF also chips in.

Q: Could you tell us a little about the association's organizational structures?

A: There is the general commissioner, that is me. He is assisted by commissioners for training, social development, relations with international organizations, environmental health, and information.

Q: What are your main activities?

A: Our activities are endless, all year round. The association, however, is more active during the academic year than during the summer vacation. This is due mainly to the fact that it is easier and quicker to get the pupils/students organized. We hold training sessions on basic skills. The scouts annual camp is held to celebrate the anniversaries of the revolutions of Yemen. A torch is lit to mark a new year of the Revolution's life. Summer camps are held in various governorates. We need more financial support to do more. The experience and expertise are there.

Q: What skills do you teach?

A: This actually differs according to the age of the scouts. Six to nine-year-old Cubs, just starting and feeling very proud to wear a scouts uniform, are taught to regularly do a good deed on their way from home to school and

back. This may involve removing a piece of litter from the street, helping a blind person cross the street, etc.

The older scouts are conducted through walking trips, camping for a day or two. This helps them to become more self-reliant and confident. Our motto at this stage is "Be Ready."

Rangers, aged 16-24, have "Public Service is My Motto." They do research, exploration trips, and social projects.

Q: What difficulties impede scouts activities in Yemen?

A: Lack of sufficient funding is the primary obstacle. This is compounded by the general state of the economy. Since joining the scouts is voluntary, many young boys refrain from doing so. They would rather work to support their families.

There are other types of problems. Some political parties and organizations try to influence the movement. If they are successful, the whole movement is doomed. The international scouts movement has been able to survive since 1907 by being universal and apolitical. It is quite a challenge for us to steer clear of political influence.

Other obstacles include lack of scouts centers in the governorates. Some of those that exist are small and are not good for the purpose. In the southern governorates, much of the scouts association's property - formerly nationalized by the previous regime - are now usurped by profiteers. I call on the government to rectify this situation.

Q: What does it cost to provide our boys and girls with a full scouts outfit?

A: Before unification, we used to get 10,000 uniforms every year from the government. A uniform used to cost YR 100, which we used to sell to our members at a token price - YR 30.

After unification, all this support stopped. Now a boy scout's outfit costs around YR 1,500; while for girls, it is YR 3,000. We only get these uniforms occasionally, and

only about 1,000 of them at a time. Scouts will be asked to provide their own uniforms soon.

Q: What are your future plans?

A: Our national plan started a few years ago and extends to 2002. It is very ambitious. In cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, we aim to rebuild the infrastructure of the scouts association and expand its membership. Some resources are already available for this purpose.

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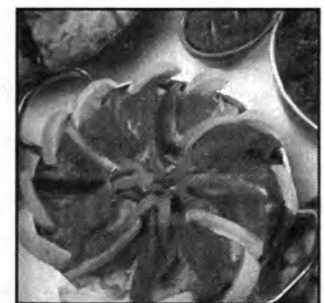
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PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Tennis Open Championship

GM of Sheraton Sana'a Mr. Fadeel G. Wehbe with the opening of the Tennis Tournament



Seventy players are taking part in the open Tennis Championship being held at the Sheraton Hotel, Sanaa. Organized by the Sheraton management to celebrate the 31st Anniversary of Independence Day, the championship is set to go on until December 12, 1998.

This is a good initiative on the part of Sheraton, considering the visible lack of similar championship organized by official sports bodies.

Six games are played everyday: men's and women's singles, mixed doubles and men's doubles, all in all. 77 matches will be held during the championship.

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Ecco: Biggest Launch in Yemen

Ecco, the world's leading shoe retailer, launched its brand in Yemen last Friday in what can only be described as the biggest party Yemen has witnessed. The event, which was held at the Ecco shop in the Sana'a Trade Center, located on Algeria Street, attracted well over 1,500 people, including several ambassadors, businessmen, and families looking for a fun day out.



The recently opened Ecco shop at the Sana'a Trade Center, considered by Ecco to be their most beautiful store in the Middle East

There were several attractions for the large crowd to enjoy, including free Nescafe and chocolate provided by Nestle, Clowns performing from the Russian Circus, as well as new 4x4 models displayed by the likes of Suzuki. But there was no doubting the

of ATICO said, "Ecco is the dominant name in shoe retailing today, and they have stores in most countries around the world. This store was made in the new design of Ecco shops, and is considered by Ecco as their most beautiful showroom in the Middle East,



Eddy and friends in front of the Ecco shop

reason why most parents and children came, to see the hero of the day "Eddy the Bear".

Eddy is famous all around the world as the mascot for Ecco. He gave out free gifts, balloons, and sweets and dazzled the children with his charm and wonderful dancing. It was quite a unique experience for the kids, as they had never seen the likes of Eddy before in Yemen.

When asked, Eddy said, "it was a real honor to come here and perform for the children of Yemen. Just to see their happy faces made my visit worthwhile".

Ecco is originally a Danish company with factories in over 7 countries, selling approximately 16 million pairs of shoes per year worldwide. That makes it by far the largest shoe retailer in the world. Mr. Ali Haidary, General Manager



A sample of Ecco's unique kids products

and one of the best in the world", he added. "That is a wonderful achievement for Yemen and a testament to the hard work and dedication of all parties concerned."

"The environment of this outlet is inspiring and alive, giving the Yemeni consumer a positive and warm shopping experience. Customers can find shoes for every occasion, every personality, whether for work, leisure, fun or formal events", said Mr. Mikhalis Maimaris, Marketing Manager for Ecco.

The Ecco store in Sana'a has in stock the latest designs and models, some of which are not yet available in other Ecco stores in Europe. Ecco's designers create the foundation for two collections a year, each of which contains over 200 widely varying models. The designers are inspired by all types of trends in the global arena, transforming them into tangible shoe designs, covering appearance, construction, materials, and much more.

A pair of Ecco shoes has a number of values, which are not immediately visible, as they are to be found "within the shoe". The feeling of well-being, enjoyment, comfort and pleasurable walking are things you only experience when you actually put the shoes on - and that is Ecco's strength.

Mr. Salem Hattab, Managing Director of Ecco, who took time out from his busy schedule to be here for the opening said, "Making walking a pleasure has always been Ecco's primary aim. The development of pleasant walking stems from our philosophy, which



Mr. Salem Hattab, Managing Director of Ecco presents a commemorative plaque to Mr. Ali Haidary, GM of ATICO

is perfectly described by the following three statements: Ecco's aim is pleasant walking; Ecco's inspiration is nature and life; Ecco's shoes are for living people."

"We have maintained that at ATICO, we are setting the standards in Yemen by bringing the best brands in the world here. We feel that the Yemeni consumer deserves nothing less", said Mr. Haidary. "We have shown this once again with the launch of Ecco, and we promise there will be many more top quality brands and events in the near future", he added.

If all launches will be as exciting as this event, then no doubt the Yemeni consumer will be having a great deal of fun and doing a lot of shopping in the coming months.

Coverage by Walid Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times

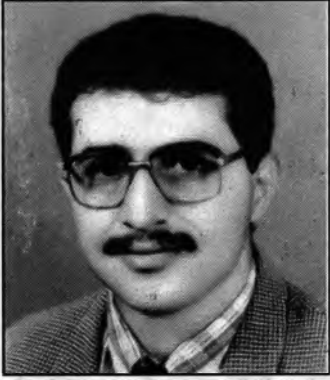
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Shoes for Life

Sana'a Trade Center - Al Jazaer Street

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

Disputes Over Land Ownership



By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Yemen Times, Taiz Office.

defeating the neighborhood. This has really become a major problem, at least in terms of safety and security on the one hand, and in terms of blocking any serious investments, on the other hand. That makes it an issue which the authorities and the public must promptly address.

WHY?

Military/security officers, tribal sheikhs and other influential people are the heart of the problem. In the absence of law and order, it has now become very easy for a military officer under the escort of 'his' soldiers and other armed relatives to trespass on any piece of land. The same is true of any tribal chief who uses his 'murafigeen' to take possession of real estate.

Well located pieces of lands make such people drool over them, particularly if the owner has muscle to back him up, except the law and legal title to the land. It is actually possible for a person to find himself penniless, after having been driven off his own property. Some people

fight back, going through the labyrinth of the legal system. These people sell off the wife's jewellery or other assets in the hope of regaining the land. That is, of course, a mirage. Adding insult to injury, they end up spending the proceeds from the sale of the jewellery or whatever other asset they have sold.

One cannot over-emphasize the corruption of the judicial system. But, even if a person gets a court verdict, who can enforce it. That is because the violators are highly influential people, often associated with the rulers.

Let me give a glaring example. In 1985, a group of Sanaa University professors and staff put together some money and bought land from none other than Sheikh Mohammed Bin Yahia Al-Rowaisan. He pocketed the money, which was paid through BCCI, at the time, and today the Yemen Commercial Bank, which he partly owns. The professors pleaded many times and in many ways with Sheikh Al-Rowaisan, but to no avail. They went to court, and got a court sentence.

Still no dice.

What kind of moral values do people who control this country have, when they treat university professors in this way. The plundering mentality has no limits. And of course, the violators represent the law and the system.

That explains why frustrated citizens take up arms and end up breaking the 'law'. Thus giving the influential people a legal justification to persecute them even further. If these citizens are strong, you end up with repeated shoot-outs, with each side grouping and re-grouping in a real battle.

But if the victim is weak or too civilianized or too civilized, he or she loses all hope and surrender. Another party to blame is the real estate registry department. Their job is marked with chaos and disorder which often fuels the problem. This department has no way of verifying whether a deed is true or a forgery. Thus, I have seen an example of 16 competing deeds to the same piece of land authenticated by the Sanaa Real Estate Registry. It is either they can't tell if the deeds are true; or, simply, they are corrupt.

Given the lawlessness that prevails in the country today, the owner of the land sometimes sells it twice or three times to different people, making the multi-owned piece of land a battle-field. The reason for this illegal behavior is that the multiple seller can get away with minimum damage.

GOVERNMENT'S JOB:

Some people might not see the gravity of the problem. In my mind, it is undoubtedly a major

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concern. This is because it is a clear indication of the fragile authority of the state that makes people take the law into their own hands. The most important task of any government must be to uphold the law. That is because if and when people feel the government is not able to protect their rights and ensure their safety, taking the law into their own hands will be the only way out. This will lead to chaos and the law of the jungle. As some people succinctly put it, instead of the power of the law, the nation will have the law of power.

But there are additional costs. We are a nation that is trying to entice local and foreign entrepreneurs to bring their money and invest in

Yemen. One of the first factors in creating an appropriate investment climate is for law and order to prevail. If we cannot guarantee that, then all our efforts to invite investors are meaningless.

Even if investors do bring their money, they will incur extra costs in protecting the assets of the projects, including the real estate. In our marvellous capital city, even diplomatic missions have not been immune to the predator mentality that prevails nowadays. We have seen many embassies run around literally trying to protect their turf.

It is up to the government to bring control the situation. But that may be a stupid demand since it is the people who run this country who are the predators.

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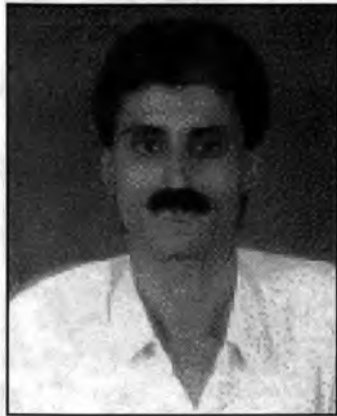
احتفظ بقسيمة الشراء لتشارك في السحب الكبير على سيارتيه لعملاء الشركة وزبائننا الكرام ومائة جائزة قيمة

ALFA

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شركة ألفا المحدودة

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Agricultural Information Sources in Yemen



Concentrated research and extension efforts have made it possible to come out with a large number of innovations and improved agricultural packages to be communicated to family communities for field work. Therefore, at present, Yemeni farmers are adopting many modern agricultural technologies they did not use before.

Joint work between Yemen's two research organizations resulted in improving the farmer's knowledge through generating and disseminating relevant information. This has not resulted in a change of the overall work environment. In other words, information flow has been through persons, agencies and/or materials officially or non-officially designated and described as information channel as well as donors. These are known as information sources by which agricultural messages are being delivered. The farmers, herders and other users of the information now know where to look.

Empirically, many of the agricultural information sources were identified by many locally conducted field studies, particularly during 1988/98. In their study, Taha et al (1988), indicated that the majority of farmers (24.5%) received more information from their neighbors and relatives.

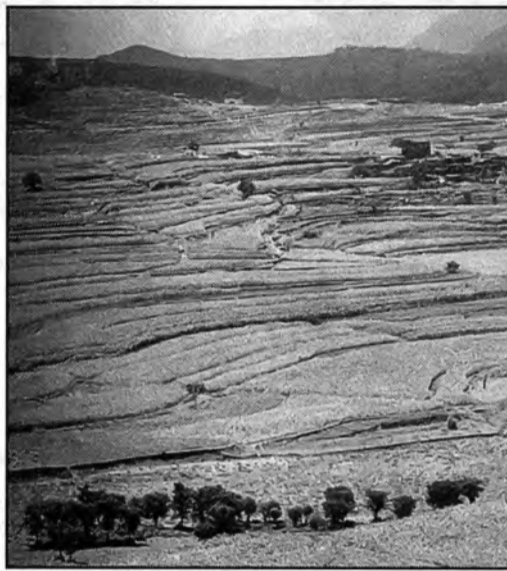
About 23.2% of farmers received information from other farmers. Only 10.1% of farmers depend on T.V as a source of information. In his M.Sc thesis of 1990, Al-Sharjabi reported that "other farmers" served as a source of information for the biggest group of farmers by 42.7%. Furthermore, his study revealed that farmers know about new agricultural technologies through extension workers, radio and television, respectively by 35.5%, 23.2% and 20.7%.

The Second Potato Production Center (SPPC), according to Sallam Arasi, 1996, was found to be the most important source of information. Al-Jereidi's study in 1997 revealed that extension agents constituted a principal source of information by 64.58% of farmers in Wadi Hadhramaut. In this connection, I ranked the information, in my M.Sc. thesis, 1998, as follows:

By evidence, the notes above

cited, clearly identify the different sources of agricultural information by which it was communicated. Moreover, this identification in total shows that two major categories of information sources could be noticed;

namely, governmental (official) sources and non-governmental sources. The first category includes persons and agencies that are officially designated to be information sources such as: Extension workers, printed



media, mass media programs, rural development agents, .. ect. While, the other category - related to persons/organizations such as input dealers, cooperative and agricultural associations, specialized and private companies,..etc - are non-officially designated to be information sources.

This latter category, as the research findings confirmed, was the most commonly utilized by Yemeni farmers for gaining more information to benefit their activities and operations. Thus, the main point in this regard, normally, is searching for an answer for such phenomena.

By: Wadie Al-Mikhlafti
Agricultural Research & Extension Authority (AREA), Dhamar

Information Sources as Indicated by Respondents (farmers) in Dhamar-Ibb, 1998*

S.No	Information Sources	Frequency (sample size)	Rank
1	Other farmers	105	1
2	Friends	73	2
3	Neighbors	72	3
4	Relatives	67	4
5	Radio	61	5
6	Extension Workers	50	6
7	Television	47	7
8	Others **	38	8
9	Researchers	14	9
10	Agricultural Bulletins	7	10
11	Agricultural Magazines	5	11
12	Newspapers	3	12
13	Leaflets	3	12

* Sources: Al-Mikhlafti (1998), Ms thesis, India.
** SPPC, Farmers Associations, Inputs Traders, Cooperatives, etc.

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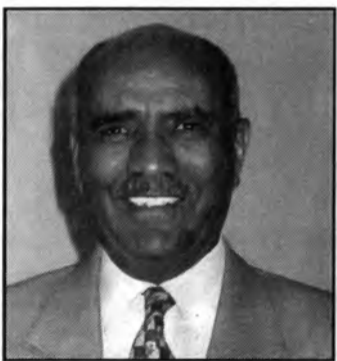
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Abdulkhaleq Al-Qusaily

author of an article on Low Cost GIS and Remote Sensing in the Yemen Times of 16-22 November, 1998 is requested to get in touch with the Chief Technical Adviser of FAO's Environmental Resource Assessment for Rural Land Use Planning project. Please fax contact telephone number to one of the following numbers in Sana'a: 206999 or 208852.

Eritrean Airlines Starts Flights into Yemen



As relations between Yemen and Eritrea continue to improve, following the peaceful settlement of their dispute over Hunaish Islands, the newly established Eritrean Airlines has decided to extend its flights to Sanaa. Mr. Mebrahtu Habte, Marketing Manager for the airlines, has recently visited Yemen to finalize arrangements for the flights.

Q: What is the purpose of your visit to Yemen?

A: I'm here in Yemen to find out how we can work with Yemenia. We have already started our operation as Red Sea Air which is a subsidiary company of Eritrean Airlines, operating now to Jeddah, Riyadh and Dubai. For Sanaa, it's going to start this week. Since arrangements are not yet complete, the inaugural flight was delayed by one week. What we are trying to do is first to develop a market between the two countries. People and cargo

coming from Eritrea to Yemen and vice versa.

We also want to use Sanaa as a gateway, bringing passengers to Sanaa and then we connect them with Yemenia to fly to Europe and other destinations. On the way back, Yemenia can bring them in here and then they connect with our flights.

Q: What are the airplanes used by Eritrean Airlines?

A: We have a Bac 111, which offers 20 business class and 55 economy class seats. It is a new company with only one airplane. The activity of Eritrean Airlines is that we are the ground handling agents. We handle all the airlines who come to Asmara and we are also sales agents for all other airlines.

Eritrean Airlines will hopefully grow to become a national carrier.

Q: When did you establish Eritrean Airlines?

A: In 1991, we established the ground handling at the airport. A 100% government institution, this company was just established about 6 months ago. We started operating only one month ago.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: By February, we'll be going to Europe, the Middle East and Africa. There are several investors interested in this enterprise. Negotiations are still going on. When it ends, we'll begin our activities.

Q: Will you benefit by working with Yemenis?

A: Yemenis have long years of experience in this field. They have got very important training departments and good service. So, we'll bring people to train here. The relationship will be much better than before.

Q: How many airlines are operating into Eritrea?

A: Lufthansa flies 4 times a week from Asmara to Frankfurt, Saudia flies twice a week, Yemenia once a week, Egypt Air twice a week.. There are also Emirates Airlines and other companies.

The major investors in Eritrean Airlines are from Saudi Arabia. What we are trying to do is to sell shares to Eritreans. If we take for example 51%, part of it will be sold to all the nationals who are outside the country.

Q: How many airports do you have in Eritrea?

A: We already have two airports and the third is being constructed.

Q: How about the prices of your tickets?

A: We are a new company and we cannot charge higher prices than others. People have to know our service. We have to compete in the market. As we are going to work with Yemenia, we are going to charge the same fares.

Q: Who is your GSA in Yemen?

A: Universal is our general sales agent. We have selected them because they are well-known in the market and they are credible and reliable. We felt that they are a strong support for us in the market.

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A WAKE UP CALL!

There is a growing recognition of the fact that industrial progress is linked to a healthy environment. Safeguarding the environment represents a major challenge to the community (local & international). Handling hazardous wastes is an important part of this challenge.

What are hazardous wastes? It is very difficult to define what hazardous wastes are. In a certain way, they are the by-product of modern technologies, a result of development.

Origins of hazardous wastes

In general, hazardous wastes mainly originate from industries that produce chemicals such as petrochemicals, paints, plastic, textiles, leather, etc.

Agriculture is considered another origin of hazardous wastes due to the use of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals.

Households and hospitals produce hazardous wastes such as garbage and pharmaceutical products.

In Yemen however, vehicles play an important role in producing hazardous wastes, because of the

large quantities of used oil and the hazardous exhaust gases.

1. Industrial waste

Hazardous wastes in this category are usually chemical wastes. In other words, they are the remains of spills and leakage; raw, rejected, and off-grade materials. A large amount of such wastes are dyes, pigments, paints, acids, batteries and insecticides. All these and more are dumped in large quantities, without any control.

2. Hospital waste

In all hospitals, wastes are collected in drums to be gathered by the municipalities and dumped in landfills. The separation of hazardous from non-hazardous waste does not happen in any of our hospitals. Separation could reduce the amount of hazardous waste by more than 90%, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Some hospitals burn the accumulated waste. Other hospitals have incinerators to burn solid waste, but have never used these facilities. Why?

The average solid waste production is around 635 kg/year for every hospital bed. We can imagine how much hospital waste is generated and disposed of in landfills. Some of this waste (e.g., disposable contaminated needles) are dumped on public roads, risking the lives of passers-by and municipality workers.

Chemical wastes from hospital laboratories, X-ray departments and blood banks are disposed of into the sewage. Among these are very toxic ones. Chemicals disposed of in large quantities are acids, alkalis and methyl blue.

3. Oil wastes

The transportation sector is the largest consumer of lubricant oil, compared to industries and agricultural sectors, which only consume around 15% of the total consumed oil. Enormous quantities of lubricant grease is released at service stations as waste. Some of that is reused as a fuel by cement factories, power stations and Turkish baths, etc.

The reuse of waste oil has declined due to the fact cement factories and power stations are lowering their consumption rates of it because of the impurities it includes. On the other hand, waste oil is not used as before by Turkish baths either, because they are on the verge of disappearing altogether.

4. Photographic wastes

In photo laboratories some chemicals are used to develop films and photos. Chemicals are used as fixers, developers, bleachers and sta-

bilizers. Such chemicals are completely disposed of into the sewage. They are very harmful.

Are we aware?

After we found out how hazardous wastes are generated, and before we discuss the best way to deal with this problem, we should ask ourselves: "Are we aware of the dimensions of this problem?". Awareness is the first step to be taken in solving any problem.

The negative answer to this question is a shocking reality. People in Yemen are not quite aware of the presence of hazardous wastes. We, as citizens, are not even sure if there is a governmental department for supervising and controlling the amounts of these wastes.

While awareness in governmental ranks is weak, public awareness of the dangers of hazardous wastes does not exist at all. People do not realize how serious this issue is, including those working in chemical, textile and leather industries. Almost all factories in Yemen do not take occupational health or safety into consideration.

There is a general lack of personal protection against harmful wastes that workers are exposed to. For example, factories in Yemen do not provide enough protective clothing such as safety shoes, helmets, goggles, ear plugs, dust masks, etc. Therefore, the level of health problems and fatal injuries among workers is unacceptably high.

Usually the factory management is unaware of the danger of hazardous wastes and feels not responsible for the harm that may be caused to workers by the factory's wastes. Disposing of chemicals into the sewage is the result of ignorance, lack of awareness, management being uninterested in the well-being of the workers, and insufficient government control.



Recommendations

There are many recommendations on how to prevent or reduce the suffering caused by hazardous wastes. According to experts, the problem is still in its early stages and can be controlled. However, in the near future it may grow and become difficult to solve. Experts further warn that if the problem is ignored for a long time, it will probably get out of control causing disastrous results to the environment.

Here are some of the recommendations made by people who had studied these cases to help us avoid a tragedy:

- Collection of these wastes and safe disposal or incineration is the most generally recommended treatment. Usually special designs of incinerators are used, known as controlled-air incineration. This incineration emits very low amounts of CO₂, particles, odors or visible emissions. The fact that most industries are located in one of the four large cities in Yemen makes collecting and safe disposing of waste easier.

Oil waste must be collected and stored safely to be disposed of, incinerated or reused by power

stations. Sometimes there are possible ways to recycle some hazardous wastes. In this case, separating hazardous from non-hazardous wastes is required.

S.O.S

The most common excuse we often hear from the authorities is "What can we do? we don't have sufficient financial backing". No matter how much costly it might be, we should always put in mind that humans are the most valuable resource the country has, and they should be safeguarded and protected in every possible way.

It is time for us to wake up, the problem is not yet too complicated to be solved and is still under control. We currently have a chance to prevent a gigantic calamity. There are small problems, which, if not solved in time, may become big problems that we might find too difficult - if not impossible - to solve. Hazardous waste belongs certainly to this category.

By - Hatem Bamehriz.
Sources - UN.
& W. H. O.



Demographic Survey Shows Hopeful Results in Fertility Statistics



By: Khairya Al-Shabibi,
Yemen Times.

A workshop was organized by the Central Statistical Organization during December 1-2, 1998, on the results of the second Yemeni demographic survey on maternal and child health carried out during 1997/98. The first survey was held during 1991/92.

The survey was based on a national sample that included interviews with 10,414 married women between the ages of 15 and 49 years. It is the second of its kind in the country and had the objective of providing detailed information on fertility, family planning, infant and child mortality, maternal and child health and their nutritional level in addition to information on female circumcision. It also aimed to provide data on weight and height of mothers to measure maternal malnutrition.

Fertility
Results of the survey indicate that fertility rates in Yemen had

declined from 7.7 births per woman in the first survey, to 6.5 births in the 1997/98 survey.

Fertility rates vary to a great extent, depending on level of education as well as area of residence. In urban areas, these rates fell to 5 births per woman, which is two children less than the rural equivalent. In the mountainous, plateau and desert areas the rate was 5.8 births per woman.

Mothers in Yemen say they give birth to two children more than they wish to because of social pressure. The survey indicated that almost one quarter of the births were not desired. It further displayed that 40% of the births were liable to early death due to the mother's age (less than 15 or more than 35), more than four consecutive births and short intervals between births (less than 24 months).

Family Planning

Knowledge of family planning among Yemenis had greatly improved since the first demographic survey. The number of married women who are aware of one or another form of family planning rose to 84%. About 52% know modern contraceptive methods, while only 8% knew that women are most likely to conceive in the middle of their menstrual cycle.

Less than 45% of husbands agree to use contraceptives while 6% of wives agree that couples should use family planning methods. The survey showed that four out of ten women in Yemeni society had used one means of family planning or another.

Government and private medical clinics provided the most popular means which are pills and IUDs.

There is a general trend in society to make use of family planning. One out of every three married women thinks of using one of those methods. More than three quarters of women who need to use such means live in rural areas and a higher percentage than that are illiterate.

Maternal Nutrition Status

How tall a mother is helps in knowing whether she will suffer during labor. Data affirm that mothers less than 145 cm tall are more subject to dangerous labor situations.

Measuring women's body mass index showed that they suffer from feeding problems especially in the countryside, followed by those in the coastal and mountainous regions.

Female Circumcision

Half of those surveyed said that they had heard of female circumcision and 25% said that they were circumcised. A higher proportion of women in urban areas are circumcised than those in rural areas.

70% of women in coastal regions have been circumcised while one out of six was the percentage in the mountainous region and only 5% in the desert/plateau areas.

20% of mothers said that one of their daughters at least had been circumcised. On female circumcision, 48% of the women said they object to such operation "which should not continue". 41% wish it to continue.

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REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

DHL Expands Business in Yemen

Philip E. Couchman, DHL Middle East Area Director, has visited Yemen to attend the annual DHL gathering. About 300 customers and guests attended. He also came to meet DHL customers and staff and to discuss business issues. Yemen Times talked to him.



Q: How is DHL business in Yemen?

A: DHL business in Yemen is quite good. We've had a 22% growth in sales in 1997/98. The previous year, 1996/97, we had 18% growth. Next year, we are expecting a growth of over 25%.

Q: How does that compare with the region as a whole?

A: Growth in DHL business has

Service, which is an economical and easy way to import goods into the country, to be paid for by the consigned. I think we are the first to do this in Yemen. Effectively, it means the Import Express account holder can order goods to come into Yemen or to go anywhere from anywhere and it is paid for in his own country.

prospects of DHL in Yemen?

A: We are quite optimistic about Yemen's future DHL market. Notwithstanding any difficulties in the oil industry, we see some very broad prospects on the horizon, particularly with progress in the Aden Free Zone.

We see a whole range of beneficial growth opportunities for us to expand our services. We have a very large domestic services network in Yemen which we intend to develop as we intend to continue to invest particularly in IT and operational features of the business over the next couple of years

Q: How often do you visit Yemen?

A: I come here as often as

from a business point of view. I would like to see more of Yemen, the land and the people.

Mr. Hussain Al-Sayyadi, Country Manager:



Q: What is special about DHL service in Yemen?

A: We are the only courier company within the Republic of Yemen that offers services to customers in every major city. Again we are the only company that can offer service with our own vehicles. We don't use any public transports, taxis or buses. We use our own trucks to all the major cities except Mukallah, to which we use flight service. We are the only one that can guarantee next day morning delivery by 8 o'clock.

Q: How did DHL's annual year-end party go?

A: I just would like to say the DHL party was a great success and I would like to thank Nabors Drilling Services, Andy Lozano (an organizer), and UTT for the orchestration of the party.

By - Hatem Bamehriz, Yemen Times



Photos by courtesy of Faisal Qirby

been quite phenomenal in other countries in the Middle East and in the rest of the world. We are expecting the same popularity of the product here.

Q: Are you offering any new services in Yemen?

A: Last July, DHL Yemen launched its Import Express

DHL Connect, a tracking and tracing service available to account customers linked to the Internet, will be available in May next year. A customer on his own line can dial up DHL from his office PC and track and trace any shipment.

Q: How do you see the future

needed, mainly to discuss how business is developing with our office, as well as with our partners, Universal.

I plan to come back soon, hopefully early next year. I am very fond of Yemen and I find it to be a very colorful and charming country. It is also very interesting

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بأحر التعازي وخالص المواساة

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بوفاة والده المغفور له الحاج علي

تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته

وألهم زميلنا وكافة أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان

وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون

الأسيفون:

أسرة «يمن تايمز»

تهازينا الجارة

نتقدم أسرة «يمن تايمز»

بأحر التعازي وخالص المواساة

للأخ احمد مرشد الخولاني

بوفاة والده المغفور له الحاج مرشد ناصر الخولاني

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Remembering a True Son of Yemen



Sheikh Abdullah Ali Al-Hakimi is a national leader and an Islamic evangelist. He is one of the pioneers of The Free Yemenis Movement (FYM) in 1944, in Aden, along with other notable leaders such as Ahmed Noman and Mohammed Al-Zubairi. He had a remarkable role in establishing/supporting the FYM and its people.

He was well-known among the Arab and Muslim communities in Europe and Africa. He was a leader to the Yemeni emigrants in Europe and Africa since the 1930s.

The Republic of Yemen this week celebrates the 50th anniversary of the issuance of Al-Salaam Newspaper.

The beginning

Sheikh Abdullah was born in Halis village in Taiz governorate in 1900. He received his basic education in Al-Kuttab (village school, where they teach Quran and other Islamic studies). He left for Aden in his early childhood to join his father who was working there. He continued his studies in Islamic science and language.

Abdullah the Soldier:

Sheikh Abdullah joined the Arab army - the Yemeni regiment, which was formed by the British in 1918. He was admired and respected by his seniors and colleagues for his courage, straightforwardness and leadership qualities. He was known

for his enthusiasm and self confidence. He served in the army for five years. When he decided to leave, he stated that he will not remain a soldier serving the occupiers' interests.

Abdullah the Sailor:

In 1925, he joined a French ship, as a sailor. This job gave him a good opportunity to meet people from different parts of the planet including Yemeni immigrants, and see many new places.

His trips exposed him to the new world, where he was able to compare the life styles and progress of the new world

with the backwardness and the darkness of his country. That was a turning point in his life.

Through his Arab sailor friends, he came to know about Sheikh Ahmed Mustafa Al-Alawi school in Algeria, who also was a freedom fighter against the French occupation.

Back to School

During this phase of his life, he decided to leave the French ship and join a Sufi school, where he spent five years learning Sufism and other Islamic subjects at the hand of Sheikh Ahmed. He won the confidence of his teacher, who appointed him as an evangelist to teach Islam to Arab immigrants and other Muslims in Europe.

The Man with a Message

In 1934, he left Algeria on an extended visit to many European cities in France, Belgium and the Netherlands. He closely observed the conditions of the Arab and Muslim communities, where he worked in uniting the different ideologies of these communities through the Islamic societies.

In May 1936, he arrived at England, he toured the country and he decided to settle in Cardiff, where many Yemeni immigrants were living. Cardiff was the beginning of his nationalistic activities. Where he established Noor Al-Islam (light of Islam) mosque, a school to teach Islam and an Islamic society in 1936 to unite the Arabs and Muslims and

help them to improve their living standards. He also helped in sending the Yemeni immigrants sons to study in Al-Azhar University in Egypt.

Coming Back Home

In 1940, he decided to come back home, on his way back he visited Egypt with a new batch of scholars wanting to join the Azhar University. In April of the same year he arrived in Aden and established a school in his residence at Sheikh Othman. He then went back to his native village, where he started a school and built a mosque. He believed that the only way to eliminate poverty, backwardness and illness is knowledge and education. He was appointed the General Guide of Taiz province by Imam Ahmed Hameed-ul-Deen, to hold him back from teaching. He felt it was hopeless, there will be no progress under the current circumstances. It was then when he decided to go back to Aden, and before leaving Taiz he met with other intellectuals and freedom fighters such as Ahmed Noman and Al-Zubairi to ensure their support to forming an opposition movement, he escaped to Aden in 1942.

In the beginning of 1944, Al-Hakimi received the freedom fighters who had escaped to Aden. Together, they instituted the Liberals Party, which was named later The Grand Yemeni Association (GYA) after the colonial authorities band them from any political activities in the name of the party.

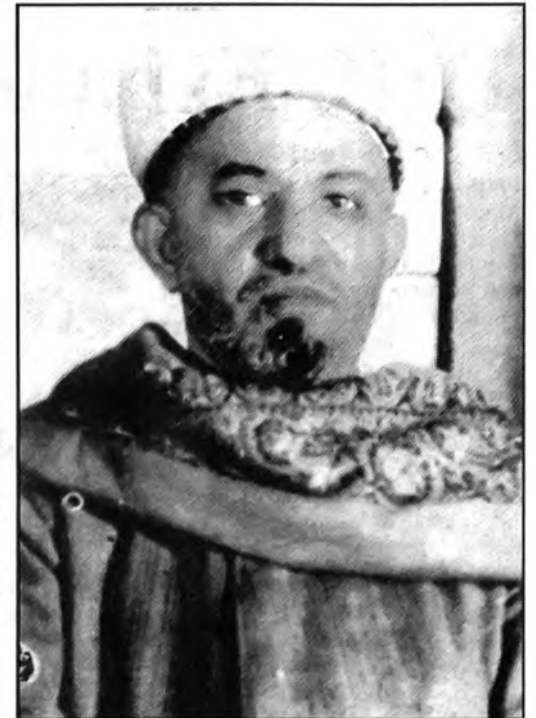
1948 Tragedy

In May 1946, he went back to England. He represented the GYA in England and abroad, serving as a link between the immigrants and the freedom fighters back at home. Late in 1948, and after the failure of the 1948 revolution, he established Al-Salaam newspaper in Cardiff. The first issue came out on 6th December, 1948.

He was successful in uniting the liberals who were demoralized after the failure of the revolution. Al-Salaam newspaper played an important role in recharging their energies.

Last Home Coming

In 1952, after the Egyptian revolution, Al-Hakimi decided to come back home. He stopped over in Egypt, to discuss with the late president Mohammed Najeb the possibility of Egyptian support for Yemenis' struggle against the Imam. He also met with Mohammed Mahmood Al-Zubairi who had



come from Pakistan.

On 15 January, 1953, he arrived at Aden, where he was falsely accused by the colonial authorities of arms possession. On 2nd April, he was sentenced to one year of hard labor. The liberals took up the case to the supreme court in Nairobi, where he was pronounced not guilty on 17th July 1953.

On 25th Oct. 1953, he was elected by the liberals to lead the Yemeni Association.

It was natural for the Imam and the colonial authorities to unite against him. They fabricated stories to jail him, which they did.

On 4th August 1954 the martyr Al-Hakimi died.

Some of his books:

- *God's Religion IS One.*
- *Dialogue between Christianity & Islam.*
- *A Call to Liberals*

Some of his achievements:

- He built Noor Al-Islam Mosque in Cardiff, England.
- More than 500 persons converted to Islam at his hands.

Compiled by:
Hatem Bamehriz, Yemen Times

Workshop on Gender Issues

The Integration of Women in Economic and Social Development Project hosted a workshop at the Yemeni Council for Maternal and Childhood Care in Sanaa from the 1 to 5 December. The opening session was attended by the Deputy Minister of Insurances and Social Affairs; the UNFPA representative in Yemen; and Mrs. Noor Ba-Abbad, manager of the project. In addition, a group of men and women representing different public authorities and NGOs attended.

"Women can play bigger roles through which they can better contribute to the social and economic well-being of the country," said the Deputy Minister.

Mrs. Noor Ba-Abbad was responsible for the arrangements of the workshop. "The population growth and the resultant rise in the level of demand for services and other needs makes it necessary to create a gender balance between men and women," she said.

For five days, more than 14 papers discussing various aspects of gender, gender equality and equity were presented. More than 30 participants, repre-

senting governmental and non-governmental authorities, discussed issues related to health, education, violence against women, information, environment, and technology, and how they affect gender relations. The workshop concluded with the following recommendations:

1. There is need for accurate statistics to serve planners and decision makers;
2. Gender issues must be given more prominence in the media, focusing more on the role of women in domestic life;
3. Education for women and more work opportunities are important vehicles for enhancing their contribution to society;
4. Improving school curriculums in a way that promotes gender equity and equality;

5. Supporting female entrepreneurs through small projects;
6. Increasing the number of people benefiting from social security, especially among the poor and disabled;
7. Intensifying illiteracy eradication programs;
8. Increasing health-related educational programs;
9. Implementing international conventions, calling for equality between men and women;
10. Promoting the role of civil society institutions, traditional as well as modern ones in educating people about human rights.

At the end of the workshop, participants were given certificates.

By: Nadwa Al-Dawsari,
Yemen Times



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Human Resources Department
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Khormaksar, Aden
Republic of Yemen

Applications will not be accepted after the mentioned date above. The accepted candidate will be chosen after screening has been made. Priority given to Yemeni nationals.



82 Deaths in Thai Air Crash
Rescue crews stopped searching for survivors from an Airbus A310 crash in a swamp in southern Thailand. The Thai Airways airplane went down on December 11th, while on an internal flight- TG 261 from Bangkok to Surat Thani, a famous tourist area. Initial reports blamed storms and heavy rains for the crash. "The crash, which occurred while trying to land at a provincial airport in southern Thailand, happened because of poor visibility due to heavy rain," according to officials. Police said that at least 82 of the 146 people on board had died. Officials said 50 others were rescued. Having crashed in muddy terrain, it was quite difficult for rescue workers to reach the wreckage and put out a raging fire that enveloped the plane's fuselage.

81 Killed in Algeria Massacre
It was the deadliest night of violence since militants killed 400 people in two Algiers suburbs in January. Armed bands killed last week 81 people - mostly children - in one of the bloodiest massacres in nearly a year. As if that was not enough, the armed men also committed torture, slashing and mutilating on their victims, hospital sources said. To bring it to its limits, they slashed the throats of children, cutting the arms and legs off one of them and throwing the body in a boiling pot, as was described by a victim's family members. Despite the government's claims that it has brought the 7-year-old Islamist insurgency under control, this season's attacks are repeating the same murderous intensity of previous years. More than 75,000 people have died since Islamists rebelled in 1992, when the military-backed government canceled general elections the Islamic Salvation Front was predicted to win.

Iran to Talk with UAE
Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi announced on Friday, December 11, that his country is ready to hold bilateral and direct talks with the United Arab Emirates to defuse any row or misunderstanding between the two countries. Kharazi emphasized that Tehran is waiting for the visit of UAE Foreign Minister to discuss all pending issues concerning the three Gulf islands occupied by Iran. He also hailed the desire of UAE President Sheikh Zayed to resume the talks.

UN Approves Humanitarian Plan for Iraq
The UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan, has approved Iraq's latest plan to distribute humanitarian supplies under the oil-for-food program. The plan is based on Baghdad selling 3.7 billion dollars' worth of oil over the next six months, although correspondents say it's likely to be less than that because of the fall of oil prices.

Violence Erupts in Palestine
Two Palestinians were killed and around 50 wounded in a violent conflict between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers on last week. Israeli troops implementing an iron-fist policy, ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, opened fire with real bullets on a demonstration by several hundred Palestinians. The demonstrators were protesting against Israel's continued refusal to release Palestinian political prisoners agreed under the Wye River land-for-security accord brokered by Washington in October. Israel was worried of U.S. recognition of an independent Palestinian state as President Bill Clinton paid his first visit to Palestine. The American administration has come down on the side of the Palestinians.

Bin Laden Associate Faces Extradition
An alleged associate of the man accused of masterminding the US embassy bombings in Africa could be extradited to America. Germany's highest court voted unanimously not to hear an appeal by Mamdouh Mahmoud Salim, a Sudanese citizen arrested in Germany in September. He told German police that while he knows Osama bin Laden, he had no connection with his activities. Salim told the Federal Constitutional Court that extradition violated his rights. Washington wants Salim to stand trial on charges of conspiracy to kill American citizens, bomb-making and other offences. The German federal government is expected to decide in the next few days whether to give the necessary approval for an extradition. On the other hand, reports say three other alleged associates of Osama bin Laden are already in jail in the US.

Ethiopia Denies Normalization With Sudan
The Ethiopian government on Wednesday, December 9, denied any closeness or inclination towards normalizing relations with Sudan. Relations between the two countries have been nearly frozen since June 1995, when Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak who was on an official visit to Addis Ababa, was exposed to a failed assassination attempt. Ethiopia accused Khartoum of being behind the attempt and of giving shelter to three terrorists who were involved in the operation. A spokesman for the Ethiopian government insisted that any information on a rapprochement between the two countries was groundless. He reiterated that the three men accused of the failed assassination attempt were in the protection of the Sudanese government.

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Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit Weekly Programs Orbit Orbit Orbit Orbit

Disney Channel
December 14, 1998
1730 Gargoyles
1800 Bill Nye the Science Guy
1930 Thunder Alley
2000 Movie - Parent Trap II
December 15, 1998
1605 Darkwing Duck
1830 Brand Spanking New Doug
1930 Brotherly Love
December 16, 1998
1200 Movie - The Incredible Journey
1630 Quack Pack
1930 Sidekicks
2000 Movie - Apple Dumpling Gang Rides Again
December 17, 1998
1300 Movie - Watcher in the Woods
1630 Gummi Bears
2000 Movie - Mother's Courage
December 18, 1998
1130 Movie - No Deposit, No Return
1900 Amazing Animals
1930 Movie - WWOD - Goofy Movie
December 19, 1998
1605 Talespin
1600 Darkwing Duck
2000 Movie - Iron Will
December 20, 1998
1130 Movie - Iron Will
1450 101 Dalmatians
1700 Aladdin
Hollywood
14 December 1998
1430 Uncut: Ricky Martin
1500 E! Behind The Scenes
1730 Videofashion: A Woman's World
2000 Judge Judy
15 December 1998
1300 Sunshine Cuisine

1430 Uncut: Jon Bon Jovi
1500 Mysteries and Scandals
16 December 1998
1500 True Hollywood Stories
1600 Travel Update
2100 E! Coming Attractions
17 December 1998
1500 E! In Focus
1900 Jeopardy
2100 Don't MISS it: Miss World
18 December 1998
1630 Uncut
2100 E! Behind The Scenes True Hollywood Stories Heidi Fleiss
2230 E! News Week-End
19 December 1998
1630 America's Dumbest Criminals
1930 Wheel of Fortune
2100 Celebrity Profiles
20 December 1998
1330 Garden Variety
1600 Travel Update
2000 Hollywood Squares
2330 Late Show with David Letterman
Orbit News
14 December 1998
1700 CBS This Morning
1900 ABC Good Morning America
2100 CBS 60 Minutes
15 December 1998
1900 ABC Good Morning America
2100 NBC Dateline
2200 C.I.A.: Italy-Hidden Persuaders
16 December 1998
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live
1500 NBC The Today Show Live
1470 CBS This Morning
17 December 1998
1000 CBS Up to the Minute Live
1400 CBS Morning News Live
1430 NBC News at Sunrise Live
1500 NBC The Today Show Live
18 December 1998
1400 CBS Morning News Live
1500 NBC The Today Show Live

1700 CBS This Morning
19 December 1998
1900 Cold War: Korea
2000 Cold War: Reds
2100 NBC Dateline
20 December 1998
1400 CBS 48 Hours (Thu)
1500 Wall Street Week
1530 ABC World News
ESPN Schedule
14 December 1998
2100 Dutch Football Ajax SC Heerenveen
2300 NFL Primetime
2330 NFL Football New York Jets at Miami Dolphins
15 December 1998
1900 Sportcenter
2000 NBA Action
2300 NFL Football Detroit Lions at San Francisco 49ers
16 December 1998
1700 National Hockey Night Street Louis Blues at Dallas Stars
2000 Sportcenter
2100 NBA Basketball Phoenix Suns at Miami Heat
17 December 1998
1100 UEFA Champions teams Tba
1600 Gillette Sports Special
1630 Racehorse Digest
1700 Football International Game of the Week
18 December 1998
1100 Superstar Coaching
1130 World of Rugby
1330 WCW Wrestling
1200 European Football Weekly
19 December 1998
1800 HRA Drag Racing
1900 Ajax Training Methods
2030 NFL Football Kansas City Chiefs at Oakland Raiders Live
20 December 1998
1630 College Basketball Princeton Maryland

1830 NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Washington Redskins
2130 Liga Live Teams Tba Live on air 1827
Super Movies
14 December 1998
1730 E! Behind the Scenes at 17:30 GMT
2100 Champions - 2S
2300 Interview With The Vampire - 3SV
15 December 1998
1700 [Starts at 14:05] Overboard - 2L
1900 Carpool - 2
2030 E! Uncut at 17:30 GMT
16 December 1998
1900 All Lies End In Murder - 2VL
2030 E! Extreme Close Up at 17:30 GMT
2100 Shootfighter II - 2SVL
17 December 1998
1500 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame - 2V
1700 Fluke - 2
1900 A Killer Among Us - 2V
2300 Wild Bill
18 December 1998
1700 Only You - 2L
1830 E! Uncut At 15:30 GMT
1900 Grumpier Old Men - 2L
2100 Let It Be Me
19 December 1998
1500 Of Mice And Men - 2VL
1700 It Takes Two - 2
2300 Extreme Measures - 3VL
20 December 1998
1500 A Midwinter's Tale - 2L
1700 Saint-Ex - 2
1830 E! Behind The Scenes at 15:30 GMT
America Plus
14 December 1998
1745 Moon over Miami
1835 High Society
1900 Highlander: The Series
2030 The Nanny

15 December 1998
1900 The New Adventures of Robin Hood
2000 The Closer
2030 Newsradio
16 December 1998
2030 Malcom and Eddie
2100 Early Edition
2200 Melrose Place
17 December 1998
1810 Vinnie and Bobby
1835 Daddy Dearest
1900 Love Boat: The Next Wave
2000 Friends
18 December 1998
1900 The Client
2000 Mad About You
2030 Cosby
2100 Party of Five
19 December 1998
2100 Police Academy
2200 Babylon 5
2250 Rescue 77
20 December 1998
2000 Babylon 5
2200 La Femme Nikita
2300 Renegade
Fun Channel
14 December 1998
1445 Pinky & The Brain
1510 Freakazoid
1625 Batman III
15 December 1998
1125 Dynamutt Dog Wonder
1330 New Adventures of Huck Fin
1445 Pinky & The Brain
16 December 1998
1420 Tiny Toons
1535 Beetlejuice
1650 Zorro
17 December 1998
1400 Gary Coleman Show
1700 Cattanooga Cats
1900 TV Funnies
18 December 1998
1745 Lassie Rescue Rangers
2000 Family Movie

2100 Big Fun
19 December 1998
1650 Zorro
1740 Power Rangers
2000 Family Movie
20 December 1998
1330 New Adventures of Huck Fin
1445 Pinky & The Brain
1510 Freakazoid
1535 Beetlejuice
Music Now
14 December 1998
1500 Cosmix
1700 Dandana
1900 Mediterranean
15 December 1998
1330 Musabaqa
1500 Cosmix
2100 Awtar
16 December 1998
1100 "360" Degrees U2
1300 R.s.v.p.
2300 Sahreina
17 December 1998
1500 Convwith/Morcheeba
1530 Fframe/chain Reaction #1
1600 American Chart Show
18 December 1998
1300 American Chart Show
1600 Concert Mark Knopfler
1900 Mediterranean
2100 Arabic R.s.v.p.
19 December 1998
1500 Cosmix
1700 Dandana
2100 Awtar
2300 Musabaqa
20 December 1998
1200 Rock Raiq
1400 Indimage
1500 Cosmix
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Alfa & Panasonic Festival Launched

The 1998 Panasonic Shopping Festival was launched in Yemen on Sunday, December 6. To better acquaint Panasonic dealers in this country with the unique features of newly launched goods, Alfa - Panasonic's sole agent in Yemen - has invited an expert to give a special seminar.

Mr. Mirza Fazal Mohammed, Sales Coordinator, Panasonic Gulf PGF, Dubai, gave excellent demonstration of the new products,

demands and establish even closer ties with them.

Alfa's new investment plan for 1999 aims to expand the company's operations by opening new branches in Taiz and Hadhramaut. This will immensely help in delivering top-of-the-range goods to customers at very competitive prices. Each branch will its own comprehensive maintenance workshop, a spare-parts outlet and well-stocked warehouse.

National-Panasonic is a very well-known brand name, worldwide and especially in Yemen since a long time. Despite that, Alfa never stops providing more and more facilities and advantages in appreciation of the important role played by our distributors.

Through the investment of large amounts of money and resources, Alfa

aims to consolidate its maintenance centers, guaranteeing excellent after-sales services. It also aims to provide warranty cards, original spareparts and to assign instant maintenance contracts with foreign and local companies. These are services Alfa is very proud to expand and present to its customers.

Alfa's management has always kept in mind the importance of giving customers excellent goods and services at very reasonable and competitive prices, considering the trends of consumption in various governorates. All this is made available for our clients according to the highest international standards of quality.

One of the main problems facing the state and our national economy is the smuggling of cheap goods into Yemen. An urgent solution is needed to tackle this problem.

We at Alfa stress the need for the state to put an end to smuggling, which affects all trade, production and service sectors in Yemen. We confidently hope to see a fair market clean of all smuggled and cheap imitation goods.

Mirza Fazal Ahmed, Sales Coordinator, Panasonic Gulf PGF, Jebel Ali Dubai:

This is my second visit to Yemen. I came here to conduct a product seminar, displaying and demonstrating new models. I also came to look into Yemeni market trends and study the market situation. I hope to find out about the impact of the Panasonic Festival on the local market.

I have talked to most Panasonic dealers, who complained about the effect smuggling has on the market in Yemen. This phenomenon is disturbing serious business people. Alfa, for example, has spent a lot of capital on building their infrastructure. They have full staff, an after-sales service system. Such firms get badly affected when the market is flooded with smuggled goods. It becomes very hard to survive when smuggling is rampant. Smugglers are distorting prices.

The market has shrunk because most people are price-conscious. So smuggling has had a negative impact on Alfa sales of Panasonic goods. However, Panasonic goods are everywhere in Yemen at very competitive prices.

Form my discussions with Yemeni dealers, I got to know that Panasonic products are very well accepted in the market. People love to

use them.

We have been working hard to maintain our product quality and not to put ourselves in a price war with others. This helps maintain the bright image of Panasonic.

The market in Yemen seems to be quite constant, no drastic changes. We are trying our best to enhance our product image and to boost sales. This is the main aim of this Panasonic Shopping Festival.

With our new merchandise, people are welcoming the increasingly advanced features of Panasonic goods for entertainment, business, telecommunication. In the future, we are getting very sophisticated products at economical prices.

We are always suggesting to Alfa the products they have to concentrate on more, depending on the response of Yemeni customers. The most popular Panasonic products in Yemen include TVs, washing machines, RCRs, electric blenders, etc. It depends on the purchasing power of the average citizen.

We never push a product that has a weak market in Yemen. We are very understanding, rather than being business-oriented. We understand the people, and respect their needs.

We assist our local agents everywhere such as Alfa to provide warranties and excellent after-sales service. We often organize seminars to provide technical know-how to local agents. Customer have to understand that by spending slightly less on better quality goods, they can get excellent after-sales services with original spareparts.



Sheikh Mohammed Salem Al-Awlaqi, representing Alfa agents and distributors:

This festival is a good opportunity for us to meet and express our pride and appreciation for the products of National-Panasonic, which have a great fame in Yemen. Alfa has made these products even more popular and famous in this country.

Through more publicity efforts, we hope Panasonic products will conquer the Yemeni market. Meetings such as in this festival make all Alfa agents and distributors more acquainted with the unique features of Panasonic. This will ultimately help them convey knowledge of the equipment's high quality to the customers. Thus people will be more confident when buying Panasonic.

We thank Mr. Hussain Al-Rasheedi, Alfa General Manager, for his great effort in expanding business through opening more branches in various parts of the country. He is also providing increasing support to, and cooperation with, all Alfa agents and distributors.

**Compiled By Adel Moqbil
Photos By Waleed Al-Saqqaf**



praising their top quality which everyone attending the seminar can full see and inspect. A dazzling array of state-of-the-art electronic goods were on display in the seminar hole at the Sanaa Sheraton Hotel (TVs, videos, CD systems, Micro-component systems, and several other home entertainment goods).

The event kicked off with the cutting of a cake by Dr. Aqil Al-Iryani, Assistant Deputy Minister of Supplies and Trade. Among the attendees were members of parliament sheikhs, Alfa agent Mr. Abudmalik Al-Ridhi, on behalf of the Governor of Sanaa, a representative of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Alfa agents and distributors, and media people.

Following is what key figures in Alfa and Panasonic had to say about the festival:

Hussain Mohammed Al-Rasheedi, Alfa General Manager:

The Alfa company management is pleased to launch the activities of the 1998 Panasonic Shopping Festival. We at Alfa consider all our clients and agents in all governorates as partners in our success. That is why we are always keen to maintain very close and friendly ties with all of them.

Through the 1998 Panasonic Shopping Festival, Alfa's Sales and Marketing Department aims to create a bigger role for all our distributors in all governorates. We also aim to greatly raise the level of cooperation for our mutual benefit.

Therefore, Alfa has provided all possible means to make this festival successful.

The 1998 Panasonic Shopping Festival is an inauguration of a new era in marketing relations with our agents. It also heralds a new qualitative leap in the progress of serious commercial relations between the company and its esteemed customers.

During the last few years, Alfa has adopted effective practical methods to protect its clients and agents from all economic downturns that have badly affected the economies of south-east Asia. These changes have negatively influenced the performances of some very major international companies, and led to unexpected increment in operational costs and expenses.

Alfa has worked hard on establishing a solid network of clients, agents and distributors. They were entrusted with the important task of delivering high-quality goods to our customers. Other companies usually want to sell directly to the consumer, without the intervention of middlemen. Alfa, however, is keen on benefiting all its agents and distributors.

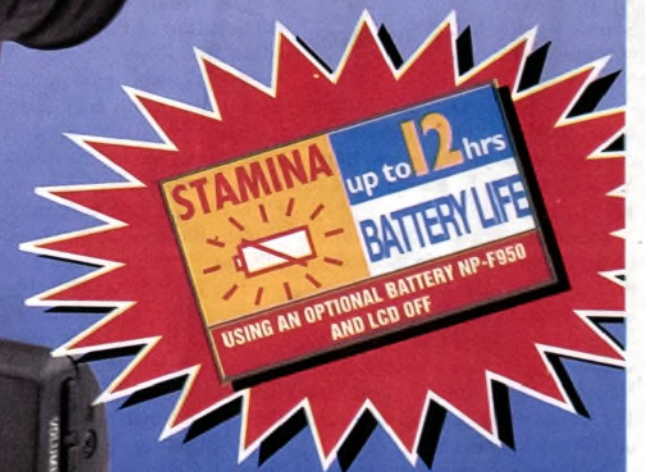
Alfa has thoroughly reviewed all its previous marketing policies. We are now in the process of preparing a new system of effective marketing policies. The main objective behind such policies is to better serve our customers'



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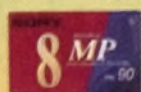
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December 14th, 1998

By: Jamal Al-Awadi

In 13th Asian Tournament:**Our Volleyball Team Defeats Maldives & Mongolia**

During the 13th Asian Tournament in Thailand, our team achieved good results despite of the short training period the players had undergone. Until now, the Yemeni team played 4 matches. They won two matches and lost in the other two. In both matches against Maldives and Mongolia, our team won 3/0. It was defeated with a similar result (3/0) by Iran and Japan.

This result made our team take the 9th place with Qatar's team. It will continue the competition with other 17 teams participating in the tournament. Our track and field athletes are going to participate for the first time in the tournament.

In wrestling, Abdullah Al-Azani and Mohsin Al-Sho'aibi continue competing the tournament. On the other hand, our taekwondo team have lost and pulled out of the competition.

Fouad Al-Kmoaim, Ismael Abdulghani, Abdulkadir Al-Soufi, Mowafaq Monasar, and Mohammed Shaiban attended the meetings of the Asian Associations for track and field games, wrestling, taekwondo and volleyball.

Because of Traffic Accident, Omar Off Asian Tournament

Anwar Omar, one of the best Yemeni athletes, was supposed to participate in the 13th Asian Tournament in Thailand. While on his way from Aden to Sanaa, he was, unfortunately, met with a traffic accident. He now lies in Aden's Public Hospital. Because of that, he was not able to participate in the Asian Tournament.

Omar now needs a special care to convalesce in order to be able to go back to track and field sports. Will the Ministry of Sports and the Yemeni Olympic Committee provide him with enough support?!

Minister of Sports In Qatar

Invited by Sheikh Mohammed Bin Eid Al-Thani, head of the General Authority for Youth and Sports in Qatar, Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh went on a 4-day official visit on December 10. "This visit comes within the framework of bilateral cooperation between Yemen and Qatar," said Dr. Raweh. "We'll discuss ways of promoting cooperation between the two countries in terms of exchanging visits and experiences between sport institutions," he added.

Excellent-League Tournament Enters 4th Week

ces between sport institutions," he added. The third round of the Football-Excellent League Tournament was concluded with a high-pitch match between Al-Ahli of and Al-Zohrah teams - both of Sanaa. In that match, Al-Ahli defeated Al-Zohrah 2-1 and so won 3 points. Being in the second place after Sha'ab Ibb team, Al-Ahli has 9 points.

At the 14th minute of the first half of the match, Abdulhafeez of Al-Zohra scored the first goal. Two minutes later, Al-Qadeemi scored an equalizer. During the second half, Al-Ahli lost a lot of chances to score, forcing extra play-off time. On the third minute, Al-Salimi of Al-Ahli scored the winning goal.

As Al-Zohrah was defeated, it will remain at the end of the list with only one point.

On December 10th, Al-Wahda defeated Al-Hilal 4-1. This allowed Al-Wahda to take third place with 7 points and Al-Hilal remained in 10th place with only 3 points.

In Aden, Al-Sho'ula defeated Al-Ettihad 6-nil. With this result, Al-Sho'ula remains in 4th place with 6 points to its credit. Al-Ettihad of Ibb remains in 7th place with 4 points.

In Hadhramaut, Sha'ab Hadhramaut defeated Hassan team 1-nil, thus taking 6th place with 4 points. Hassan team, on the other hand, occupies the 5th place with 4 points.



In Sanaa, Al-Wahda of Aden defeated Al-Majd 1-nil. Al-Wahda got 3 points more taking the 12th place, and Al-Majd remains in the 13th place with only 1 point.

The tournament continues to generate extensive popular interest and enthusiasm. Unfortunately, that also means more friction among the fans.

The tournament will be continued over the next few days. Matches will group the teams a follows as per the dates and game places shown.

Teams	Date	Place
Ahli of Sanaa vs Tilal	16/12/98	Sanaa
Shoula vs Sha'ab of Mukallah	16/12/98	Aden
Wahda/Aden vs Wahda/Sanaa	17/12/98	Aden
Hilal versus Tale'ah	17/12/98	Hodeida
Majd vs Zohrah	17/12/98	Sanaa
Ettihad vs Al-Saqr	17/12/98	Ibb
Hassan vs Sha'ab of Ibb	17/12/98	Abyan

Football is the most popular sport among the Yemeni public. Children play it starting from a very tender age, some times as young as three or four. No facilities are really required, as the budding stars often start from street alleys.

In large cities and towns, clubs and sports recreation facilities do offer some training ground. But the general rule is no facilities.

وسط لفيف من الأهل والأصدقاء تم زفاف الأخ/ توفيق عامر العاقل. وبهذه المناسبة نتقدم له بأحر التهاني والتبريكات مع تمنياتنا له بحياة زوجية سعيدة.

المهنيون:

جميع الأهل والأصدقاء
عنهم جميلة عبدالرحمن القرشي



أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للشاب الخلوقة

عبدالله رمضان

بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف المهنيون

محسن رمضان، حسان رمضان، فضل رمضان، جميل الفقيه، حسان الفقيه، محمد رمضان، صدام رمضان، وليد رمضان وجميع الأصدقاء

Sport Associations Are Mere Names

Jamal Al-Awadhi, Sports Editor



It is a well-known fact that sport

associations are formed when there are certain founding bases for some sport games. Therefore, sport associations for football, volleyball, tennis, etc. were formed in Yemen.

It is funny, though, that some sport associations in Yemen were formed without any reference. The Handball Association, for example, was formed in the early 1990s when there were no handball players, coaches, or even fields. Very few athletes in Yemen knew about handball then. The association was formed only because there were international associations for that game.

In other countries, it goes differently. In Egypt, for example, thousands of Kung Fu athletes were willing to form their Kung Fu association, though it was not an Olympic game.

There are a lot of names for sport associations in Yemen. We have, for example, Boxing, Tennis and Swimming associations although some of these sports are not very popular in Yemen.

Despite of this fact, Ministry of Sports officials do not seem to find any solutions for this problem. The result is shameful performances by our teams in international sports events.

In short, is that the money allocated for such useless sports associations must be given to other active associations in order to support them more. It's better, in my opinion, to be perfect in one game than not to succeed in any.

FIRST GUEST IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED ROOMS AT THE TAJ SHEBA

Mr. Gary Harington from the U.S Demining team was the first occupant of the newly fully renovated center wing rooms of the hotel. The new General Manager of Taj Sheba Hotel, Mr. Mayank Mehta, is seen here welcoming him.

"The new rooms and bathrooms have been designed keeping in mind the needs of the businessmen of today," said Mr. Mehta. "We are busy planning the opening of our Coffee Shop on Builqis very soon" he added.

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A Word from the GM,
 Mr. Mohammed M. Shareb



We started business in 1971 by importing products from several famous international companies. By the early 1990s, we established a company specialized in foodstuffs which are not generally found in the Yemeni market. Our aim is to support Yemen's economy and provide a new line of products in this country. With our long and rich experience in imports, we have been able to choose from the best and most famous brands in the world. We aim to provide our customers (oil companies, catering establishments, hotels, wholesalers, and ordinary consumers) with top-quality goods.

Jamal Abbas Al-Amin,
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