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YEMEN TIMES



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Aden Girl Rises to Stardom in World of Boxing

Isra Goes for Top Title

They call her "Raging Beauty". In spite of her calm nature and shy smile, she is bad news in the ring. She bounces constantly. Once she starts bobbing and weaving, watch out. She dances in loops, and then, wham, she hits. Isra Girrah was born in Aden on 16th September, 1971. She left with family members for Canada in 1974. That is where her association with boxing started. But the world opened up for her after moving to Atlanta, Georgia in 1994, which she now calls home. There, her journey to stardom began. To-date, Isra fought 12 matches,

she lost one of them. The only blemish in her record is her duel with the title holder - Christy Martin, at Madison Square Garden in New York on 23rd August, 1997. At the end of the 8 rounds, most fans who voted on the internet thought she had won. So did her manager, Debbie King, and the sports judges, however, gave the match to the "coal miner's daughter". The media referred to the match as the best fight in the history of female boxing. The event to watch now is a rematch between the two women. It is scheduled for the 13th of March, 1999, again in New York. In a telephone conversation with the Yemen Times, a confident Isra said, "I know what I have to do." One of her better performances was on 11th April, 1998. She

fight against the Australian Angela Buchanan at the Township Auditorium in Columbia, South Carolina. Isra landed on the Australian almost at will, and sent her to the floor four times before the referee stopped the match and declared a technical knock-out. After the game, Isra Girrah was crowned the International Boxing Federation Women's Champion by IBF president, Robert Lee, Sr., making her the first female champion in the history of the IBF, one of the top male boxing sanctioning bodies in the country. There are today three female sanctioning bodies: the International Female Boxers Association (IFBA), the Women's International Boxing Federation (WIBF) and the International Women's



Isra punishes Martin with a left jab.

Boxing Federation (IWBF). Girrah ranks number 2 with the IFBA, behind Christy Martin. She ranks third with the IWBF and fourth with the WIBF in the Lightweight Division.

Raging Beauty also holds the distinguished record of vanquishing her opponents before the 3rd round, often in a brutal knock-out.

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رمضان مبارك
Happy New Year

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AT 3 DIFFERENT FRONTS

The Ministry of Legal Affairs has finished its job. It has prepared drafts for the constitutional amendments being proposed in three broad categories, as follows:
- Changing the legal status of the Consultative Council to become a full-fledged upper house with legislative powers;
- Changing the requirements for presidential candidates, by by-passing the screening role of parliament; and
- A collection of several other amendments that touch on different issues.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave instructions to prepare the drafts as soon as possible, which has been finalized by the government. Parliament is expected to act on this matter in February 1999. A 3/4 majority vote is required to pass the amendments. The ruling People's General Congress (PGC) party believes it has the needed votes, especially with a deal in the works with Islah MPs. The Republic of Yemen had once before, in 1994, amended the 1992 constitution.

Hamaiel is released, Now the Hostages Please

The correspondent of Berliner Zeitung, Sadek Hamaiel, arrested by the authorities on 17th December after having interviewed the four hostages held in Bani Dhabyan, was released on Wednesday, 23rd. He left on Sunday, 27th, without his films or interview cassettes - all confiscated by the authorities. The 4 German hostages, kidnapped on 6th December, spent Christmas in captivity. Meanwhile, efforts continue to secure their release, but to no avail, so far.

Yemeni-Saudi Media Fight

Several Saudi newspapers unleashed their anger last week by running stories critical of the Yemeni regime, including President Ali Abdullah Saleh by name. The Saudi papers' barrage comes following Yemeni media attack on Saudi Arabia. The Saudis accused President Saleh of masterminding the attacks by opposition and 'independent' Yemeni papers. "Even though the Yemeni newspapers in question are privately-owned, that is a mere technicality as they operate under presidential patronage. We believe there is official sanction behind the attacks," the Saudis wrote.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Yemenis Excel Abroad. WHY?

Time and again, we hear and read stories of Yemenis who stand out. They command excellence and prove themselves in more than one field. Unfortunately, in all cases, that happens only once they leave their country and emigrate. It is associated with their life abroad.

In this issue of Yemen Times, we offer examples of two Yemenis who were able to make it to levels of excellence. Our main front page story is about Isra Girgra, an Adeni girl who has made it to stardom in the world of female boxing. She is based in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. The page-three interview of this issue is with Professor Al-Attas, a distinguished professor at Singapore University. He is in the ivy league.

There are many more high achievers in the Yemeni diaspora. Why is it that here in Yemen we do not have such achievers? Is it because they do not exist? Or is it because the system does not allow them to come out?

Let me from the outset say that I realize that there are better facilities abroad allowing for people in general to be their best. But there are also local reasons here in Yemen. One of the reasons is a mix of bad habits entrenched in our socio-culture. This is conveniently married to political expediency. One of the top bad habits is our constant bad-mouthing of people, especially during qat chews.

Rumors are an important part of our psyche. This problem is exacerbated by politicians who employ rumor-mongers to their own ends. In fact, there is a sustained and organized rumor-distribution apparatus that is an integral part of the political system. It is not an accident that many rumor-mongers, including some journalists and opinion-makers, are on the payroll of our top politicians.

One would ask, why do top politicians need rumor mongers. The answer is simple, to delay or even block the inevitable transfer of authority within the transformation of our society. High achievers are potential leaders, and they should replace the current circles of influence. By discrediting achievers, the present centers of power prolong their hold over things. That explains why the old vanguards who have been running the country since the 1960s are still in charge. They work diligently to block the rise of any new achievers because they see them as rivals and potential replacements.

As a result of this 'power-struggle', the nation is deprived of the potential contribution of some of its best sons and daughters. This also explains why frustrated would-be achievers end up leaving the country in order to settle down in an environment that is more conducive to their aspirations.

There is another reason. A person's place in our society does not really depend on his/her knowledge or work. It depends on such things as tribo-political connections, relations with power centers, etc. Therefore, ambitious young men and women are not driven to learn and work. They are driven to forge relations with people of influence. In short, our young men and women spend most of their time, energy, talent and resources kissing up to the authorities rather than doing actual work. This is the shortest way to satisfy their aspirations.

The Publisher


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Public Meeting for Iraq

A public meeting was held at Sanaa University on December 24 to condemn the American-British attack on Iraq. Political parties and public organizations representatives, scholars, university professors, Parliament and Consultative Council members attended the meeting. They came up with some recommendations, most importantly, that Yemen should not continue the blockade on Iraq and that an Arab summit must be held soon.

720 Projects in 1999

In its 1999 plan, the Social Development Fund will execute 720 projects in different governorates. About 302 of these projects (281 in social development, 12 in establishment building, and 9 in small loans) begun to be implemented in 1998 and they will be continued in 1999. Other 406 projects will be implemented in the education, health and water sectors; 12 in training and qualifying people in specialized associations.

Yemeni Journalists Meeting

The general secretariat members of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate called the Syndicate's Central Council to meet on January 5, 1998 at the Syndicate's offices in Sanaa to study and confirm the its documentation and to set a date for the Syndicate's second conference. The general secretariat members meet continuously to prepare for the Central Council's meeting. They call upon all members of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to participate in preparing for the conference.

Teachers Appeal to President

The Yemeni Teachers Syndicate asks President Ali Abdullah Saleh to review the Teacher Law, endorsed by the Parliament on December 2. In their letter to the President, the teachers complained that this law does not address their basic demands.

Arab Universities Meeting

Sanaa University will participate in the 5th Arab Meeting which will be held in Asyoot, Egypt from 22 to 25 of February, 1999. In this meeting, participants will discuss the program of students exchange among Arab universities and how to make training more active through using the Internet and associations with research centers.

Exxon Provides US \$40,000

The American Exxon Oil Company will support health programs in Yemen with US \$40,000. This is allocated for the NIDs program, the Disabled Rehabilitation Center in Al-Jomhoori Hospital, Al-Sab'een Hospital, and the Orphans School in Sanaa.

226m Yens for Refrigeration

An agreement between Yemen and Japan for improving refrigeration systems in Yemen was signed on December 24 at the ministry of Planning and Development. According to this agreement Japan will provide Yemen with 226 Yens (US \$1,900,000) to buy 600 refrigerators and other equipment to improve storing of medical vaccines.

YT Weekly Poll

Yemen Times Weekly Poll question is placed at:

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

As a Yemeni emigrant, when was the last time you visited Yemen?

Result

Within last year: 36%
Within last 5 years: 31%
Within last 10 years: 4%
More than 10 years ago: 9%
Never visited Yemen: 20%

Nasr Passes Away

Ali Abdulaziz Nasr, a Yemeni poet and freedom-fighter, died on December 20, 98. Nasr spent most of his life working in the education sector. He edited some local newspapers and wrote in many Arab magazines and newspapers.

From 1971 on, he held positions in the State Council. Until he died, he was a member of the People's Founding Council and Shourah Council. Some of his poetry volumes include "People's Struggle" and "The New Nero".

Cardiologists in Mukallah

The Friends of Heart Patients Association, Mukallah branch, will hold a seminar on Heart Problems in Yemen in March, 1999. Several Arab and Yemeni cardiologists will participate in this seminar.

Businessmen Condemn Lack of Security

Following an attempt to kidnap Yemeni businessman Nabeel Al-Khamiry, the business community is now channeling its efforts to get the government to overhaul the country's security system.

Mr. Al-Khamiry was confronted by a gang of 10 men when leaving his Sanaa offices on Monday, December 21. Using a car with military number plates, the men hit Al-Khamiry with their rifle butts, but he was able to resist and was later assisted by his employees. The assailants fled after snatching the businessman's pistol and briefcase.

Sanaa University Ends Strike

As the Ministry of Finance agreed to raising their salaries by 50%, Sanaa University staff stopped the strike they started on December 8. The Ministry of Finance will pay out the allocated 50% raise for the last three months of 1998.

Training Courses in Taiz

The Vocational and Industrial Institute in Taiz is organizing regular short-term training courses. The 10 courses recently held covered many specialties. Over 1,000 people applied to attend the course, but only 240 candidates were accepted through an admission test.

Mr. Saif Mohammed Ahmed, director of the institute, said: "These intensive courses will

provide people with a better chance to get jobs and improve the skill of those who already have their own businesses."

In the future, each course will last for 4 months and there will be 4 courses per year where the trainees have to study 5 days a week.

"All the courses are provided free of charge." Courses will continue immediately after Ramadhan.

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Prof. Farid Al-Attas:

“There are 3 conditions for successful democratization.”

There are some 8 million people in Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore who trace their origin to Yemen. Their forebears left several centuries ago. Today, they make an important contribution to their societies. Members of this community have risen to high positions - whether in government, business or academia. They also hold the potential of serving as an important bridge linking Southeast Asia on the one hand, and Yemen and the Arab World on the other. In the recent past, visits have been exchanged at an ever rising pace.

Last week, Farid Al-Attas concluded a two-week visit to Yemen. The purpose was both personal and professional.

Farid, 27, holds a BA in economics from the University of Oregon and an MA and Ph.D. in sociology from the Johns Hopkins University, US.

In 1989, Al-Attas became a lecturer at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In 1992, he joined the National University of Singapore's Sociology Department. He teaches sociological theory and the sociology of development as well as political economy.

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



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

A: I'm here for my research project. I'm conducting research on the state of social sciences in selected developing countries. In this project, I'm trying to understand the way in which social sciences are dependent on American and European ideas, theories, financial aid. I want to see to what extent alternatives in terms of theories, concepts and organizations have been created in developing countries. So, I have visited Sanaa and Aden universities for that purpose.

This is the main purpose. At the same time, while I'm here, it was an opportunity to see the country from which my forebears came.

Q: Does your study include the curricula?

A: Yes, I plan to return to Yemen next year for a longer stay. I realized that it will be good to study would-be changes in the development of curricula. For example, in Aden University, there was very radical change in curriculum development because they were basically Marxist-based. Now many changes have been made. So, I want to look at these changes.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about the Yemeni community in South-East Asian countries?

A: When we say the Yemeni community, we are referring to people who trace their origin to Yemen. The majority of people of Yemeni origin (more than 90%) in South Asia are from Hadhramaut. There are others who come from other areas of Yemen.

The reason for these people's emigration from Yemen has to do with some push factors over here as well as some pull factors at the receiving end.

The push factors have to do with the economic conditions in Hadhramaut, at some point in the history of the region. Decline in agricultural production, famines and droughts made people leave to different parts of the world. But most of them emigrated to South-East Asia, especially to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Southern part of Thailand, which offered better opportunities.

This took place over a period of 700 years, making it one of the most remarkable cases of migration. Yemenis had been emigrating to several parts of the Indian ocean even before Islam.

The waves of emigration which took place after Islam in large scales to South Asia started from the beginning of the 16th century with still larger scale migration taking place in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Q: Are these communities integrated into their new homes?

A: Yes and no. They are integrated in the sense that there is a lot of inter-marriage with the local community. They are, of course, an integral part of the local economic, social and political structure. At the same time, their descent from the first Yemeni immigrants gives them a special attachment and cultural aspects. For example, they still maintain some Yemeni marriage customs, music and dance.

Q: How compatible are a religion-based culture with the values of a secular state?

A: We live in secular states, alright. However, Malaysia and Indonesia are states in which the majority are Muslims. In these states, it is possible to apply the Sharia and other laws. For example, family law is according to the Sharia law, not to the secular law. In Singapore, people marry according to the Sharia law if they wish. In terms of other aspects of life, for example, in the economy, it is possible for people to adapt Islamic banking practices. Islamic banks and insurance firms are available.

Q: How active is the Yemeni community in public life?

A: This depends on the country. In Indonesia and Malaysia, they have played some role. Yemenis or people of Yemeni origin fought for independence and they were instrumental in the emergence of political parties during the colonial period. For example, among the founders of the United Malay National Organization, the ruling party in Malaysia, are some people of Yemeni origin. Some Indonesian parties were formed by some people of Yemeni origin.

After the colonial period, from time to time, you have people of Yemeni origin in high positions in government. They have played roles in the religious administration of the country. Many Muftis in various states in Indonesia are of Yemeni origin.

Q: Do emigrant Yemenis form associations or NGOs?

A: They don't form associations for themselves. They don't need

that. But, they are active in various associations. From the time they settled in the South Asian countries, they did not separate from the locals. Since they were involved in the conversion of people to Islam and they married local people, they also formed associations and groups that are inclusive of others. In other words, they made themselves a part of the local community. So, you find that, if they formed a religious organization, it will not be a religious organization of Yemenis only. It will be for everybody.

Q: Do they have Arab newspapers of their own?

A: In the past, in Indonesia for example, we had several newspapers published in Arabic. But, after some generations, the ability to read and write Arabic on that level declined. They began to write in Malaysian or Indonesian. Today, there are some attempts to revive Arabic. For example, the magazine we publish "Al-Mahjar" is bilingual, in English

as well as in Arabic. Issued in 1996, the purpose behind publishing this magazine was to inform the Yemeni people wherever they exist about the Mahjar (diaspora) outside of Yemen and to inform people in the Mahjar about Yemen in terms of culture, history, politics and social issues.

This magazine is published three times a year and we hope to increase it.

What we really need is the cooperation of people outside of Singapore, especially in Yemen and the Middle East or Yemenis in Europe and America to contribute articles to the magazine.

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

A: Although Yemen is among the poorest of the Arab countries, it is also probably the most democratic. In the Middle East, I can only think of Israel and Turkey as democratic and liberal.

In the world experience in democratization, some countries (middle-income countries) only became democratic when they reached a certain level of development. Most democratizing countries in the Third World are not countries with high economic growth. You can see the same thing in Yemen which is a poor country, but is most definitely democratizing. So, economic growth is not the main condition. I think that there are 3 conditions. One is that a permanent economic group in a country would support the government morally and financially. Now, how does democracy maintain itself in a country? Well, there has to be a strong financial base for the country with a business class (middle class) which gives that support.

Second, there should be a high

degree of cohesion among the political elite. They must agree on basic policies.

Third, there should not be armed resistance against the state. If you have these conditions, the country can proceed to democratize even if it is not economically developed.

Q: A secular state is one of the conditions of democracy in Europe. Is it applicable to Third World countries?

A: No, secularism is part of the historical experience of Europe but it is not an absolute condition for democracy. One could presumably have a non-secular state based on, say, religious principles run along democratic lines. Israel is an example.

We have to distinguish between the ideology of the state which could be religious and the procedures which may be democratic or not democratic. We could have an Islamic state which is run along democratic lines, along the lines of tribal political system or along the lines of a republic. That republic may be democratic or not democratic. But a political system has an ideology and procedures.

If we refer to democracy as consisting of certain procedures that distinguish it from dictatorship, there is no reason why democratic procedures cannot be applied in a state which is based

on Islamic or a Christian ideology.

Q: What role does public sophistication play?

A: It plays a big role in the sense that democracy must be meaningful to the people that it is supposed to serve. These people have to understand the kind of system they live in.

In India's experience, illiteracy was a big problem, and I think the same situation is taking place in Yemen. Democracy is a process and a procedural system which evolves and improves. It has to evolve and improve in education, culture, and in general, in the level of awareness of the public.

Q: Do you see Yemeni women playing a bigger role in public life?

A: We go back to the democratic experience in the West, where large blocks of the population were disenfranchised. In the United States, for example, Americans of African origin did not have the right to vote until very recently. European women got involved in politics recently. It is wrong to insist a visible role for women in politics. It is wrong to assume that if women are not involved in politics, they are not liberated or that the system is not democratic. They must have the right. If they choose to exercise it or not is their prerogative.

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First-class hotels were later opened by Mövenpick in Switzerland, Germany and other European countries. During the Seventies, Mövenpick opened its first luxury hotel in the Middle East in Egypt. It now has seven hotels in Jordan, Yemen, Egypt, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Switzerland, employing thousands of staff.



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Mövenpick will open new hotels next year in some Arabian Gulf States, eight more hotels will be opened in Southern Africa and Jordan as well as several new Mövenpick Restaurants will be opened in the United States of America.

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About the Aden Mövenpick Hotel, Mr. Fadhl Al-Hilali, Assistant General Manager, said:

"Aden Mövenpick Hotel provides distinguished, first-class services in its De-Luxe, five-star premises. The Hotel was first opened in 1990 by Mövenpick Company to provide good-quality services in a city with a great potential. A lot of renovation and refurbishment work has been carried out since then in order to maintain the hotel's high level of excellence. Aden Mövenpick Hotel has certainly acquired a great reputation all over Yemen."

What about the hotel's future plans?

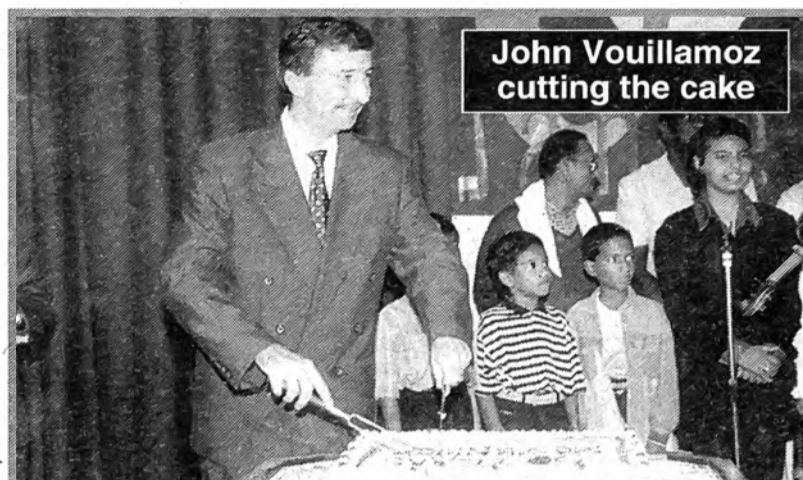
Mr. Al-Hilali answered: "We aim to further improve the hotel's operation standards, in view of the near completion of the Aden Free Zone. A lot of business will come Aden's way. We must be ready for that by providing excellent-quality services at the Aden Mövenpick Hotel."



Some of the guests

About promoting tourism in Yemen, the Deputy Manager explained: "Big efforts must be made by all concerned people in the private and public sectors. Yemen should participate in all tourism promotion fairs and exhibitions held around the world."

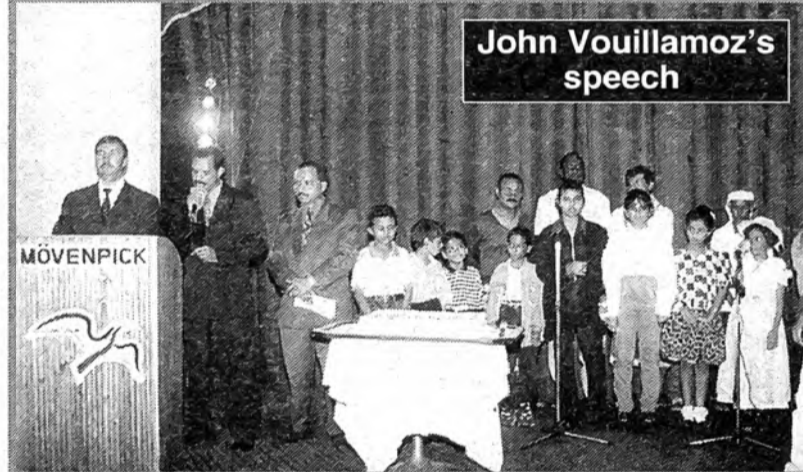
Lastly, Mr. Al-Hilali thanked President Ali Abdullah Saleh for his support and encouragement for investors in the tourism sector.



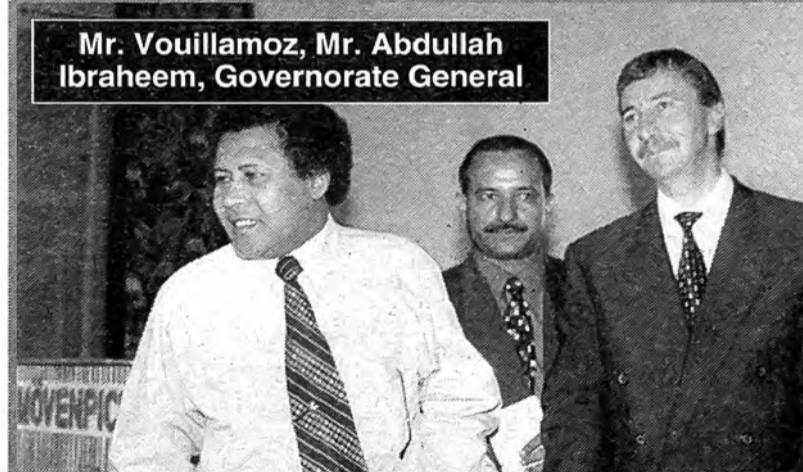
John Vouillamoz cutting the cake



Honoring the employees



John Vouillamoz's speech



Mr. Vouillamoz, Mr. Abdullah Ibraheem, Governorate General



Honoring Distinguished employees

ADEN HOTEL MÖVENPICK



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Aden Hotel Movenpick, P. O. Box 6111,
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Aden, Republic of Yemen
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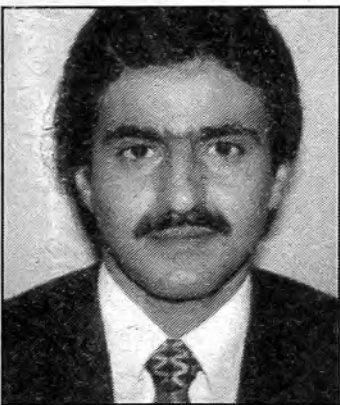
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This is an **OPINION** page.
Every week, a different intellectual writes a **FOCUS** on a pertinent issue!

Politics of Survival and the Structure of Control in Yemen



Ahmed Abdulkarim Saif
Doctoral Candidate, Department of Politics,
University of Exeter, UK

includes illegal methods of removing rivals. Although both the PGC and the YSP used these methods, mainly assassinations, the YSP was the bigger loser because of the involvement of a third party, the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah). The Islah was the ally of the PGC and it was accused by the YSP for most assassinations against YSP members. This gave the PGC a great advantage - to appear as a mediator, although in reality it was jointly running the show.

The tool for control under President Saleh can be termed as the accommodation process, which takes place at two different levels. In the first level, the top state leadership accommodates two kinds of social control. The first, is when local strongmen are allowed to develop social control in order to gain social stability at a local level. The second is through power centres at the national level, in which the leaders conduct their dealings through discriminatory and/or preferential policies.

The second level of accommodation takes place at local and regional levels, where the implementers of state policies, their supervisors and local strongmen accommodate one another in a web of political, economic and social exchange. This accommodation concept contributes to the explanation of the way state policies in Yemen have been distorted and the resources redirected as they filter down to society. The predominance of the politics of survival forced rivals to become involved in the accommodation process.

The PGC and the YSP were competing to consolidate their power and to mobilize people, which led to their strengthening their ties with different influential groups and individuals. Whereas the YSP neither re-incorporated the ex-Southern powers nor achieved loyalty of Northern power centers, the PGC had a well-established network of interdependent military, tribal, commercial and religious interests. Incorporating those southern powers, which the YSP had failed to incorporate or was not interested in, strengthened this.

Nevertheless, the balance between the rivals created a sort of accommodation, bringing-in groups which would otherwise not be involved, but giving them only limited influence. After the threat of the YSP was removed, such groups failed to sustain their privileged relations with the center. These groups included the mid-level sheikhs, local notables in the peripheries, intellectuals, workers and peasants. This accommodation process was not effective because of the modest presence of the state at the peripheries.

Yemeni politics is greatly influenced by actors and groups that emerged as a result of the conciliation between the royalists and the republicans in the early 1970s. President Saleh, who himself assumed power in 1978 reflected the interests of these actors and groups. Therefore, Saleh's victory of 1994 has entailed the continuation of the pre-unification interests. For this reason, Yemen ended up with a situation of a compartmentalized politics, where state

policies were impeded by private interests. This resulted in a strategic compromise, a system of corporate pluralism, which involves endless bargains made between the regime and the leadership of individual groups. Subsequently, this resulted in an increasing incoherence of policies and institutions, but prevented the emergence of strong interest-group coalitions or of a united opposition.

However, a limited development of associations in Yemen allows different interests to be represented through personal contacts, patronage or client ties. Patronage and bureaucratic linkages are not necessarily an alternative, they can go hand in hand. In corporatism generally, individuals and classes do not interact with the state directly, but rather through intermediaries.

The formula of corporatism in Yemen after 1994 gives the appearance of avoiding disastrous conflicts between the PGC and Islah, where it has solved the problem of power distribution and modernization without the sacrifice of society's identity. This formula appears to be convenient for elites wishing to initiate modernization, while controlling its form and direction. Corporatism in Yemen tends to be community-centered. It emerged in conditions of early modernization, representing an attempt to involve pre-capitalist social groupings in which classes were not yet well defined yet. By this means, the consociational/corporatism formula ends with a weak state, which is embedded in its social environment and impeded by constant contradictory interests.

In the Yemeni situation, the military group was dominant and applied a policy of differential incorporation to other groups such as tribal sheikhs and merchants. The PGC was established in the North, at the beginning of the 1980s, as an alternative to party politics. It was intended that local committees should elect regional committees, and the whole would culminate in a national committee structure, which would reflect the will of the people. Very rapidly, however, the system came to work from the top-down, through an elaborate system of patronage, opposite to the intended direction. The state became corrupt, turning into a family business. Power centers developed around the military family, which were strongly linked to the center by interdependent interests. High-ranking army officers, important sheikhs and a few great merchant families all had their hands in each other's pockets, and between them they had the state under their control.

In order to understand how this complex evolved, it should be borne in mind that, historically, in the pre-unification period, North Yemen witnessed two types of economic systems. The first, predominated in Midland Yemen, a semi-feudal system existed, in which tribal leaders owned arable land and tribesmen were obliged under their need to work on this land. This meant that wealth was concentrated in the hands of the leaders, and it explains the spread of progressive social thought in this part of Yemen. The second type predominated in

Upper Yemen, where a pastoral economic system existed, where tribal leaders owned no more land than any other tribesman. In this case, the leader's power was derived from an unwritten code of practice, which was inherited and passed from generation to generation, whereby tribesmen owed loyalty to the leader and were expected to obey and support him. In 1970, the reconciliation between royalists and republicans gave the tribal leaders of Upper Yemen power gained from wealth derived from their access to state resources through their government posts.

Therefore, the tribal leaders of both Upper and Midland Yemen had a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, which is why they have always resisted any program that might restrict their power. This stance has also been reinforced by external support.

When President Saleh assumed power in 1978, he appeared to be continuing on the same broad course that President Hamdi laid out of state building, institutionalization and the leading role of the state in promoting socio-economic development. President Saleh, however, retreated from pursuing these programs of development in order to escape the fate of Hamdi, who was assassinated in 1977. In part, this explains why the nation-state building still lags far behind.

There are two main points, which clarify the structure of military-commercial complex. The first, is that the tribes and the government are not separate entities, where the tribesmen hold governmental jobs, but the tribal leaders are prominent in the state apparatus. Second, the majority of Yemenis are from tribal origins. Today, most of them are deprived, even those whose leaders hold high posts in the state. This means that the co-optation of tribal leaders into the state apparatus does not necessarily lead to benefits for their tribesmen.

During the last decade, a filtration process has taken place, which resulted in narrowing the circle of the complex. In other words, confine the influence of wealth and authority to a smaller number of actors and groups as much as possible. Also, the center has dealt with other actors and groups through intermediaries.

Two results have ensued. The first is that the concentration of power and wealth in the hands of high-ranking army officers, the most influential sheikhs, some senior government bureaucrats, and a few commercial families. The second result was the distancing of the President from his constituents leading to a visible reduction in his popularity as well as the distancing of the major sheikhs from their followers.

It is ironic that heritage and culture were based on morals, which ensured that individuals gave respect and obedience to their sheikhs, even when these leaders sought benefits for themselves at the expense of their followers. This potential power of the sheikhs was the driving force behind the President's attempt to control the army through tightly knit connections. The president's brothers and cousins command much of the armed forces.

North Yemen, therefore, entered unification with this complex ruling structure. After the defeat of the YSP in 1994, this complex retained its efficacy.

With regard to domestic balance, it is naive to assume that the president has the power to implement policies, which might disaffect the power centers. The president has neither the sufficient power, nor the inclination to risk losing the support of local lords, however bad they may be.

Coalescence of the tribo-military-commercial complex has been cemented by two factors. Exposure to an external threat such as that posed by the YSP, and the existence of interdependent interests, where the commercial part of the ruling

complex has managed the assets and maximized the profits of the tribal and military parts of the complex.

Each part of the equation has an important role to play. The commercial bloc has managed the economy. The tribal part of the complex guaranteed social stability, while the military part of the ruling complex provided the tribal and the commercial parts with the needed protection and uses official influence for their own interests.

Despite the successful working of this strategy, there are two factors that could lead to the breakdown of this coalition.

The first is due to the reverse relationship between the power of the army and the power of the sheikhs. As the army grows in strength, so the sheikhs weaken and vice versa. The tribal part of the complex, therefore, is keeping an eye on the army, but lacks the ability to influence it. The sheikhs do believe that once the army reaches a certain level of power, then the president will topple them.

The second, is the economic situation, which deteriorated due to termination of important sources of revenue. Before unification the government had relied on neighboring states which provided financial support. That is no more. Workers remittances which directly helped the low-income groups were also no more. As a result, the level of poverty reached unprecedented levels. This has been exacerbated by the prevalence of corruption and mismanagement.

Therefore, unless economic progress which can alleviate poverty and raise the standard of living is achieved, it will be difficult to sustain a strategy that will retain control of the tribo-military-commercial complex.

Abstract summary of a Ph.D thesis at Exeter University.

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Minister Al-Kumaim at Official Launch of YIF



On Tuesday, December 22nd, 1998, His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Kumaim, Minister of Supply and Trade, officially launched the Yemen Insurance Federation (YIF). The ten companies operating in the insurance business in Yemen have come together to form this new entity. On the occasion, the YIF released the following statement.

The Yemeni insurance market has not yet been utilized and

exploited in a full way. In light of its huge potential, as well as good and promising prospects, the Yemeni insurance market is still undeveloped. This can be reflected by a US\$ 0.85 premium per capita (including Life Assurance), which is one of the lowest in the world.

With the full support of the 10 insurance companies operating in the Yemeni market, and encouraged by the government authorities, the YEMEN



Executive Board of YIF: (from left) Aqil Al-Saqqaf, Daoud El Khatib, Ali Hashim, Tarek Abdul-Wassa, Munim Al-Khafaji

INSURANCE FEDERATION was established earlier this year in accordance with the insurance laws and regulations. The main objectives of the YIF are:

- to improve and develop the codes of conduct of insurance practice in the country;
- to standardize insurance covers and wording of policies;
- to develop cooperation among the local insurance companies in retaining funds and revenues in the main stream of the country's

economic system;

- to promote insurance as an essential security and protection measure to businesses and all various activities, which is one of the major roles of insurance industry in any economy;
- to emphasize the capability of local insurance companies in handling all kinds of insurance requirements and protection to local and foreign investors.
- to cooperate fully with government bodies and authorities to raise awareness of the public regarding the importance and necessity of insurance protection against potential liabilities, and how that would bring peace of mind in day-to-day activities and on the long run;
- to work hand in hand with government bodies and authorities to develop insurance laws and regulations and other laws that directly or indirectly affect the insurance industry, which will serve the interests of the public, the country, and the insurance companies. This will enable all interested parties to meet the challenges of the future in a

world of ever changing concepts and objectives.

The Yemen Insurance Federation, fully supported by the Yemeni insurance companies, extends its hand to the concerned government bodies and authorities to work together to overcome the obstacles that prevent the insurance industry from assuming its full role in the economic and social development.

Yemen Insurance Federation would like to request the various business enterprises and industries benefiting from the liberal economic and investment policies adopted by the government to support the local insurance industry.

YEMEN INSURANCE FEDERATION



Lutfi Abdulhameed Noman:

“The government must work hand in hand with the business community.”

The influx of foreign products into the country, particularly through smuggling, has strongly hit the national economy. This is more visible in Taiz and Hodeidah, two cities which started to develop some industrial infrastructure. Yemeni businessmen all over the country are furious as they watch lifelong investments go down.

To discuss this issue, Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times, Taiz Office Editor, met Mr. Lutfi Abdulhameed Noman, General Manager of Yemen Company for Paints and Derivatives Ltd (YCPD), one of the pioneers and pillars of the national industry in this field.

Excerpts of the interview.

Q: What is the reason behind the difficulties of some national industries nowadays?

A: There are of course some internal as well as external reasons. Internally, we have to re-structure ourselves in order to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

The most important external reason has been very detrimental to the national economy and has resulted in bankrupting some factories. The reasons are:

- 1- Unfair recent customs and taxation policies which give price advantages to imported goods at the expense of the ones produced locally.
- 2- Opening the Yemeni market, without any checks which led to flooding the Yemeni market with foreign products without checks of any kind on quality control.
- 3- Smuggling of goods across the wide-open land and sea borders as the state is unable or unwilling to stop this.
- 4- The bad monetary policy of the Central Bank of Yemen which raised



the interest rates on loans and other credit facilities which increased the cost of producing goods locally and consequently making us unable to compete the foreign goods.

4- Lack of accurate data and statistics that can be used when preparing feasibility studies for new projects.

Q: What should the government do to help the situation?

A: There is no doubt that the government is trying to encourage investors and entrepreneurs. As this will spearhead the development process. But what I would ask it to do is to push for more coordination between government authorities and the business community. This is particularly important when preparing laws concerning commerce and industry. The government also has to fully understand the need to protect the national business activities and industry.

Q: Some people say the real reason is that the national producers do not produce quality goods. What is your answer?

A: Of course, people can say what they want, but that is not the truth.

There are many national industries working under license of some internationally recognized companies. For example, our company is doing business under the license and direction of AKZO Nobel Coating (CROWN Berger Ltd). So, this company would not accept that we produce sub-standard goods under their brand name. The national producers are obliged to abide by the same standards of production and quality.

I am not saying that all goods produced in Yemen are up to international standard, but I am saying that most of the products are world quality and you know that many Yemeni industries have received international prizes and awards for quality.

Q: How can we stop the on-going bleeding of our industries?

- A:** Simply by:
- 1- Government should control its borders by stopping smuggling and punish smugglers harshly.
 - 2- Laws of quality standards should be applied regarding goods produced locally as well as those imported.
 - 3- Coordination between the government and industrial investors when passing laws and when formulating policies concerning trade and industry.
 - 4- Government should provide local products with all means of encouragement as done by all neighboring countries.

Q: Is there a marketing for locally produced goods? I mean are consumers in Yemen fully aware of our products?

A: We are doing some marketing on our own. But the local media has no patriotism or any sense of support for

Yemeni products. This is especially true of the official media, especially the television. If anything, they actually take a negative stand and perpetuate negative rumors. Marketing is an inevitable part of our success. We want to work together on this.

Q: How is the paint business, and how able are you to compete with imports?

A: We, as a company producing paint and derivatives, find that the customs charge on the raw material (input) for manufacturing paint is 10%. On the other hand, customs tax levied on imported paint is only 5%. You see that imported goods are given a price differential which does not allow us to compete favorably. This applies to many other products. Actually, government policy should be exactly the opposite. Thus imported paint today takes up to 50% of the local market. This situation has made it very difficult for the local products to compete.

Q: Is there any dumping practice from which you suffer?

A: Without any doubt, we have been subjected to a dangerous dumping practice which has disastrous results for the national economy. It affects the national economy by:

- Flooding the Yemeni market with low-quality goods due to lack of supervision.
- Government loss of tax and customs incomes.
- Dumping leads to bankruptcy of many national industries, leading to lower national income and tax revenue for the state.
- Bankrupt companies discharge their employees leading to more unemployment.

Aman Insurance Co.

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Yemen-Kuwait Bank Building,
Al-Zubairi Street
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214093
Fax: 209452
E-mail: aman-ins@y.net.ye
Internet: www.y.net.ye/amaninsurance

Taiz:
Iskandar Hussain Ali,
Jamal Street,
Tel: 213358
Fax: 217073

Hodeidah:
General Establishment of
Land Transport (2nd floor),
Al-Minaa Street
Tel: 240354, 218932, 232573
Fax: 240268

Aden:
Being established at
Yemen-Kuwait Bank
Building.

Arab Insurance Company

Sana'a
Head Office,
Al-Khat Al-Dairi (Ring Road)
Tel: 263351/2
Fax: 263350

Taiz
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for Reconstruction & Development
Tel: 224834

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Telex: 2279 YEMTAM YE / 2789
Fax: (01) 206118

Aden:
PO Box 729
Tel: 255668, or 255748
Fax: (02) 255748

Hodeidah:
PO Box 3746
Tel: 217370, 217371, or 217329
Telex: 5519 MAREB YE
Fax: (03) 211510

Taiz:
PO Box 5077
Tel: 222162, 231141, or
231143
Telex: 8846
Cable: YEMTAMIN
Fax: (04) 212326

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Fax: 214012/214007
Telex: 2366 UNISUR YE
E-Mail: unitedinsurance@y.net.ye

Aden:
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Fax: 02 - 240972

Mukallah:
Tel/Fax: 05 - 304845

Hodeidah:
Tel: 03 - 217460
Fax: 03 - 217292

Taiz:
Tel: 04 - 215012
Fax: 04 - 215145

AL-Watania Insurance Company

Sanaa
Head Office:
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PO Box 15497
Tel: 272713 or 272874
Fax: 272924

Hodeidah
26 September Street, Commercial Quarter
PO Box 4577
Tel: 240662, 240665 or 240588
Fax: 240624
Telex: 5638

Aden
Madram Street, Maalla
PO Box 5863
Tel: 242476 or 243490
Fax: 241012

Taiz
Jamal Street (National Petroleum)

Yemen General Insurance Co.

Sanaa:
25 Algiers Street
PO Box 2709
Tel: 265191 - 2
Fax: 263109
E-mail: SAN@Y.NET.YE

Aden:
Madram Street, Mualla,
Tel: 241955

Hodeidah:
Sanaa Street, Tel/Fax 252392

Aden:
Mukallah Street, Tel/Fax 242727

Taiz:
Jamal Street, Tel: 233632; Fax: 233 631

Mukallah:
Jamal Street
Tel: 221561/228903

Yemen Insurance Co

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Head Office, Al-Zubairi Street
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Mukallah
Tel: 304292; Fax: 304293

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Al-Dhali: 532301

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Al-Mahara: 612316

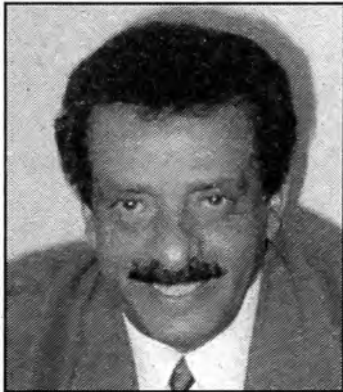
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Hodeidah: 239625

Taiz: 233633

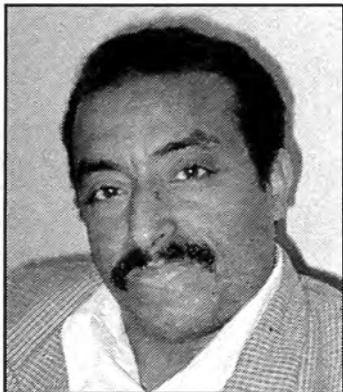
When the Going Gets Tough, the Tough Get Going! A Success Story at CHL

It is true that the level of service to the public by government authorities and agencies in this country is very low. Everywhere, you find neglect and you meet carelessness. As one official goes leaving behind failure, another comes to make things worse. The reason often cited is the absence of accountability and a system of checks and balances. In spite of that, nobody denies the big efforts made by the Minister of Health towards laying down a sound foundation for public health care and medical services in Yemen. In the Central Health Laboratories (CHL), I was pleasantly surprised with the diligence to make the best out of the least available. The new administration, directed by Dr. Mohammed Bin Boreik, Director General of the CHL, are really serious about their responsibility. All over the place, there is a new feeling.



Dr. Mohammed Bin Boreik

You can feel that the staff want to prove that CHL can provide the same level of excellence offered by other laboratories in countries in the region. In the CHL main branch in Sanaa, there are about 165 employees, all Yemenis. Of these, 76 are specialists, 26 medical technicians, and 29 administrators. There are 4 branches for the CHL in Taiz, Hodeida, Aden, and Hadhramaut.



Dr. Ahmed Othman

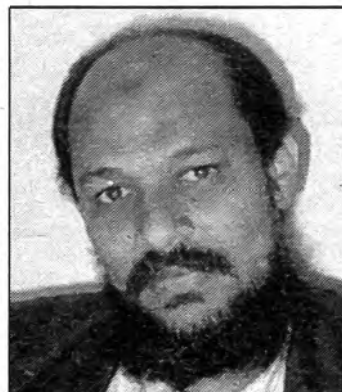
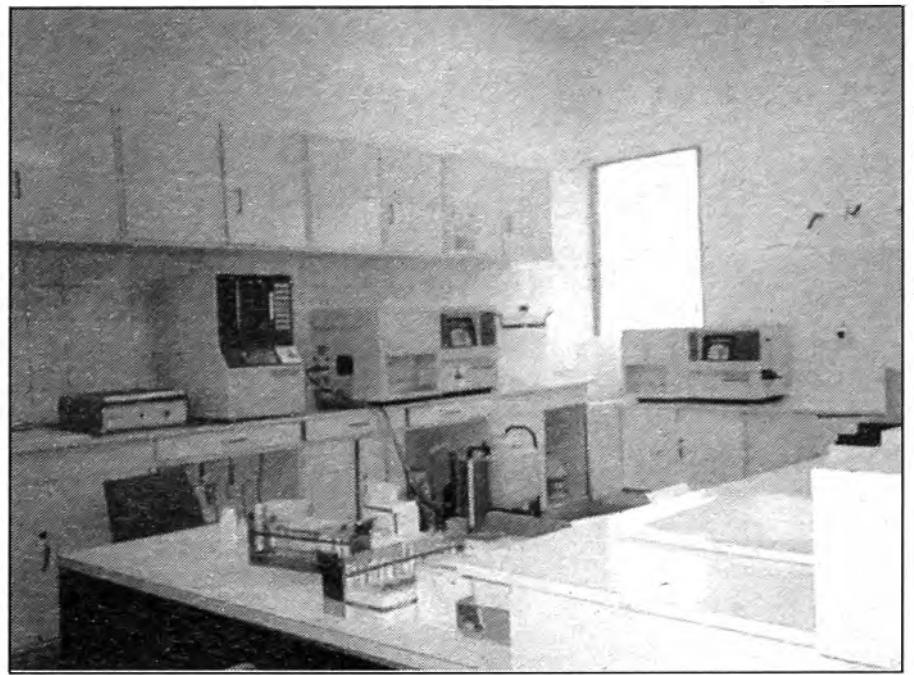
CHL Sections: CHL is divided into 3 main sections (Public Health Laboratories, Medical Laboratories, and Training and Research) which are then divided into 13 departments. The Public Health Laboratories are divided into 5 departments: Microbiology, Food & Water, Virology, Parasitology, and Bacteriology. Nearly 50 employees work in this section, of which 85% are women.

Dr. Khalid Al-Shaibani is the director of this section. He holds an MSc in Viral Hepatitis from Alexandria University, Egypt. "The main thing we do in this department is to check the quality of all foods that are sold in the market and analyze bottled and tap water," he says. "We have good facilities and modern equipment. The only problem is that we sometimes lack chemical reagents," he adds. The Medical Laboratories administration is divided into 4 departments: Biochemistry, Blood Bank, Hematology, and Histopathology. A minimum of 150 samples are received and diagnosed in these departments daily. About 54 employees work in them, most of them women. Dr. Nadim Ali Ismael is the director. He holds a BSc in Hematology from Sanaa University. "In these departments, we check blood sugar, liver, heart and renal function, hormones. Lately we started checking cancer markers in blood and tissue samples," Dr. Ismael says. However, Dr. Ismael complained that the Blood Bank lacks necessary equipment and facilities. "The services are somehow inadequate and need to be done according to much more rigorous scientific methods," he explains. The Training and Research administration is divided into 4 departments: Post Graduate Training, Intermediate Training, the Library, and Quality Control. Dr. Ahmed Mohsen Othman is the director of this administration. He holds an MSc in Micro-

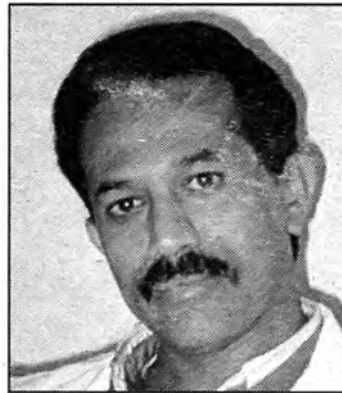
biology from Alexandria University. "What we need is books, training courses and financial support to do more in-depth research," Dr. Othman says. Despite the difficulties, he feels optimistic about the new environment allowing for greater efforts towards upgrading the level of services that CHL offer.

Services: The CHL provide all public and private hospitals with free blood. Blood transfusion services, including HIV, Hepatitis B checks are offered also free of charge. Other check ups are offered for nominal costs. CHL arranges free lectures for university students and other trainees from different parts of the country. Medical researchers and hematologists are allowed to do their own researches inside the labs and they are provided with facilities.

Difficulties & Needs: CHL could do a lot more with additional support. No real budget is allocated for it. The Ministry of Health covers



Dr. Nadim Ismael



Dr. Khalid Al-Shaibani

some of CHL's needs from its own budget. But, even this support is not put at the disposal of the people there. It is discharged through the ministry. Another problem has to do with maintenance. Medical equipment in the labs are not maintained regularly. The World Health Organization supports CHL to upgrade the level of qualification and improve its departments. All the equipment of the CHL are old. The center needs to be provided with new equipment.

In spite of that, Dr. Bin Boreik hopes that they can do much with the facilities they have.

Recent Activities: Lately, the new administration signed some protocols for research work on the health situation in the

country. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD), other Hepatitis markers, Rubella and Measles are to be investigated. The quality-assurance system was introduced lately. Sister shaft process (linking up with other laboratories in the region and outside) is now taking place. I was surprised to see that 90% of the diagnosis made in the CHL were endorsed by the Institute for Standardization and Documentation in the Medical Labs at Free University of Berlin. Concerning continuous education, CHL organizes weekly lectures hosting university professors and specialized laboratory technicians.

Future Plans: Dr. Mohammed Bin Boreik summarized future plans, as follows: "In the coming few weeks, we'll have access to the internet. This will help our self-education approach. We have hopes to equip the labs with new instruments. We hope to open a wholly-equipped section for producing chemical reagents within one year. Another thing that we plan to do is to start producing blood derivatives. "We are now trying to improve blood transfusion services in the five branches of CHL. By the year 2000, we hope we'll be opening other branches in some governorates."

By: Nadwa Al-Dawsari, Yemen Time

شيف

طباخة أظعم

والذ

الشركة اليمنية لصناعة السمن والصابون YCGSI

تليفون: ٢٣٠٦٦٤ - ص. ب. ٥٢٧٣ - تعز/ الجمهورية اليمنية

Embassy of India, Sana'a

Trade enquiries have recently been received from the following Indian exporters. This is published for the benefit of Yemeni importers. Interested importers are advised to get in touch with the concerned Indian party/parties. All norms prescribed for international trade must be observed. To enable this Mission to intervene if anything goes wrong with the Indian party, it would be in fitness of things if every norm laid down for international trade is observed.

Name of the Indian Exporter	Telephone	Fax	Product
Claypso International, Pune	91-212-625500	91-212-624473	Inner Tubes for Motor vehicles
Umedica Laboratories Ltd., Mumbai	91-22-2854715	91-22-2041400	Pharmaceutical
Mathewsons Exports & Imports, Cochin	91-484-343432 91-484-348321	348208	Rice, Spices, Tea & Coffee, Brass Products, Granite & Marble, Iron & steel Products, Other Agricultural Produce, Eng. & Medical Equipments, Stationery Products, Sanitary Wares, Building Materials etc.
M. B. International, Jaipur	91-141-561548	91-141-600909	Precious and semi precious cut and polished stones and beads, Silver and Gold Jewellery, Readymade Garments, Handicrafts
Kumar Impex, New Delhi	91-11-7771999	91-11-7536393	Jute products, Plastic woven sacks, Stationery Items, Pharmaceuticals, Bicycle tyres & tubes, All kinds of electricals/appliances General export products etc.
Golden Castle International, Calcutta	91-33-2231840	91-33-2231587	Cotton & Hosiery made ups like T Shirts, Bed Sheets, Nightware, Undergarments, Towels, Socks etc.
Kundal (India) Pvt. Ltd. Delhi	91-11-2481009	91-11-2481749	Men's Wear, Ladies Wear & Children's Wear
Rajoo Engineers Ltd., Delhi	91-11-7251454	91-11-7415829	Plastic Processing machines
Industrial Boilers Ltd., Mumbai	91-22-4952810	91-22-4937606	Steam Boilers

Victims of 305

Yemenis living abroad must be ware! They better not fall in love and marry a foreigner. To do that they need the permission of the Minister of Interior of Yemen. In addition, the potential spouse will need to present authorization from her legal guardians, no matter what her age.

It doesn't matter that one is a civilian. It doesn't matter that one does not have access to government secrets.

The Minister of Interior's Decree # (305) of 1995 concerning mixed-nationality marriages is out of touch with the world. It is out of touch with our constitution, and with basic human rights. It causes a lot of pain to many families.

YESTERDAY

In the past, millions of Yemenis had to emigrate because of hard times in Yemen. They went to safer and more prosperous lands. Many of them crossed the Red Sea to Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and other East African countries. Others crossed the ocean to India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, etc. Still others travelled to the far shores of Europe and even to the New World.

The holy Quran says, "O mankind! We created you from a single pair (male and female), and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other, not that ye may despise each other." Our emigrants settled in foreign lands. They inter-married with local societies. Some of them now decided to come back.

TODAY

Today after they have come back to their beloved homeland, to help in building a strong nation (Yemen of the 21st century), they are faced with many difficulties. The most dangerous one is breaking up their families,

because they did not ask for the permission of the Interior minister when they decided to marry their foreign wives. As a result, their wives will not be permitted to stay in the country. In this case, they have to choose either to keep them illegally or send their wives and kids back or divorce them, or whatever.

Most of these people are educated and well qualified. They and their children should be welcomed and considered as valuable assets to the country. However, what happens is the opposite. They are harassed by absurd laws, such as the interior minister's decree # 305 on mixed marriages.

It is a painful and humiliating experience to watch a man begging for permission to keep his wife in the country. It is even more disturbing to see semi literate and arrogant officials pushing citizens around.

EXCERPTS FROM DECREE NO. 305

Article (3): Every Yemeni wanting to marry a foreigner should get the permission of the minister before he can conclude the marriage.

This article gives the minister the right to interfere in a very private matter. I really wonder in today's world, in which even close family members refrain from interfering in such private matters. But the minister of interior decrees a law giving himself the right to get involved in private matters.

The stipulation of this article is not only stupid, it also violates article (16) of the human right covenant which Yemen has signed and ratified. It states:

1- Men and women of full age, without any limitation because of race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and establish a family. They are entitled to equal

rights to marry, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2- Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

The minister's decree also violates another article; namely, number (12), which states:

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his/her privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his/her honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article (5) paragraph (4) of the Minister's Decree states: The foreign would-be-wife of a Yemeni shall obtain the approval of her parent and the approval of the concerned authority in her government.

In civilized societies, an adult woman chooses her husband with no unsolicited interference from any person, let alone a politician. Imagine a woman in a democratic country wanting to marry a Yemeni. According to our minister, she needs to get the approval of her government. Now this is problematic, because no such office exists. If the poor woman does approach any office in search of an approval to marry someone, they may call the mental hospital to pick her up.

TALKING TO VICTIMS

I spoke to many Yemenis married to foreigners at the ministry and the passport office. They all have never heard of this law before. They were confronted with a bad situation as the ministry of interior does not recognize their marriage.

"Our officials know that many Yemenis go to India to marry Indians of Yemeni origin. There is no mention of such law on the information board in the consulate in Bombay. Here while processing paperwork, we were told that we should have at least obtained the permission of the

consul. If you try and approach the consulate, they tell you that the approval has to come from Sanaa, which of course takes forever, if it comes at all."

Another victim of this absurd decree said: "We are not against organizing these marriages. But I understand that to mean registering the spouse upon arrival in Yemen or other such formality. But not to get someone's permission."

One Sudanese woman who is married to a Yemeni was in fits as the authorities refused to recognize her marriage. "I was married to this man 26 years ago. I have several children, some of whom are adults. Now this minister says he does not recognize my marriage."

"On Tuesdays, the minister is supposed to meet the public, but we are not allowed to see him. They tell us our problem is small. The future my whole family is not a small matter to me," said Mr. H. B. holding a fat file full of papers.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

The world is getting smaller by the day. Higher mobility leads to more interaction among people of all races. It is only normal that people of different colors and religions will meet, fall in love, and establish families. That is increasingly going to be the order of the day.

The minister's decree has a racist tone because it is based on the belief that the Yemeni race is more pure or better or whatever. That is absurd.

Yemen has signed and ratified the International Human Rights Covenant, and a number of other international agreements. The stipulations of Decree 305 are anathema to all our commitments in those conventions, and to all democratic values that we aspire for. Thus there is only thing thing to do with decree 305 - Scrap it from the books!

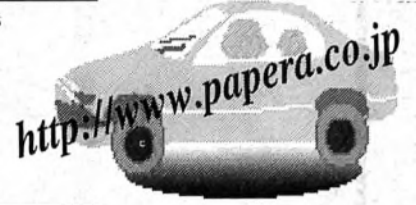
By: **Hatem Bamehriz.**
Yemen Times.

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Embassy of India Sana'a (Commercial Wing)

This is to bring to the information of all interested Yemeni importers that a prestigious exporters' directory, "Tata Press Exporters' Pages" is available on the internet (<http://www.indianexporters.com>).

The website contains a lot of information on Indian exporters. The website would also be helpful for those seeking information on possibilities of joint ventures, technology transfer etc.

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

معرض الأثاث والأجهزة المنزلية

المركز التجاري للاوقاف والوقائق سيئون تلفون ٤٠٥٤٥٤

مركز النجم للتجهيزات الكهربائية - المكلا تلفون ٢٠٢٢٨٦

مركز الأديمي للإلكترونيات، حدة، صنعاء تلفون ٤١٩٣٤١

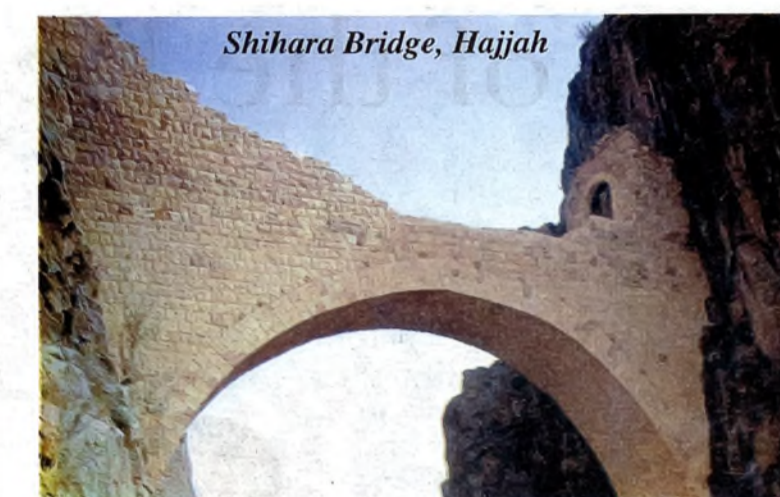
محلات عصيران للكهربائيات، عدن، تلفون ٢٥٥٩٠٧

دار الأثاث - شارع القيادة، صنعاء

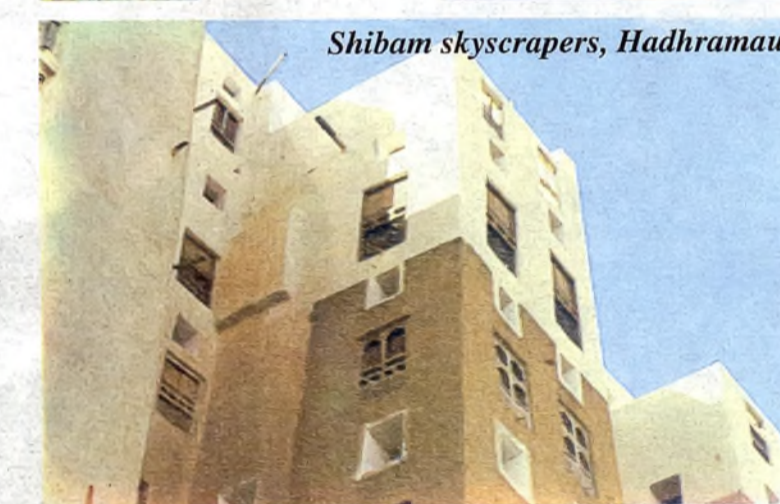
المركز التجاري الأول، شارع مجاهد، صنعاء.

1999 CALENDAR

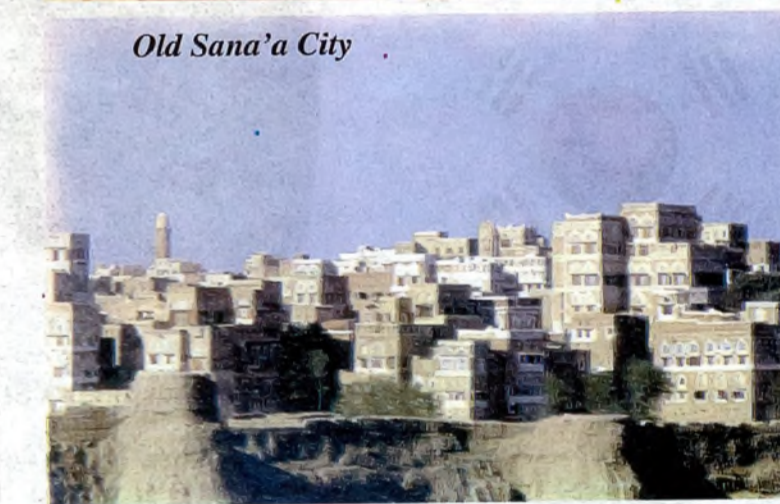
	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Friday	1 <small>New Year Day</small>									1		
Saturday	2				1 <small>Labor Day</small>					2		
Sunday	3				2			1		3		
Monday	4	1	1		3			2		4	1	
Tuesday	5	2	2		4	1		3		5	2	
Wednesday	6	3	3		5	2		4	1	6	3	1
Thursday	7	4	4	1	6	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
Friday	8	5	5	2	7	4	2	6	3	8	5	3
Saturday	9	6	6	3	8	5	3	7	4	9	6	4
Sunday	10	7	7	4	9	6	4	8	5	10	7	5
Monday	11	8	8	5	10	7	5	9	6	11	8	6
Tuesday	12	9	9	6	11	8	6	10	7	12	9	7
Wednesday	13	10	10	7	12	9	7 <small>Victory Day</small>	11	8	13	10	8
Thursday	14	11	11	8	13	10	8	12	9	14 <small>Revolution Day</small>	11	9
Friday	15	12	12	9	14	11	9	13	10	15	12	10
Saturday	16	13	13	10	15	12	10	14	11	16	13	11
Sunday	17	14	14	11	16	13	11	15	12	17	14	12
Monday	18	15	15	12	17	14	12	16	13	18	15	13
Tuesday	19	16	16	13	18	15	13	17	14	19	16	14
Wednesday	20	17	17	14	19	16	14	18	15	20	17	15
Thursday	21	18	18	15	20	17	15	19	16	21	18	16
Friday	22	19	19	16	21	18	16	20	17	22	19	17
Saturday	23	20	20	17	22 <small>Unity Day</small>	19	17	21	18	23	20	18
Sunday	24	21	21	18	23	20	18	22	19	24	21	19
Monday	25	22	22	19	24	21	19	23	20	25	22	20
Tuesday	26	23	23	20	25	22	20	24	21	26	23	21
Wednesday	27	24	24	21	26	23	21	25	22	27	24	22
Thursday	28	25	25	22	27	24	22	26	23	28	25	23
Friday	29	26	26	23	28	25	23	27	24	29	26	24
Saturday	30	27	27	24	29	26	24	28	25	30	27	25
Sunday	31	28	28	25	30	27	25	29	26 <small>Revolution Day</small>	31	28	26
Monday			29	26	31	28	26	30	27		29	27
Tuesday			30	27		29	27	31	28		30 <small>Independence Day</small>	28
Wednesday			31	28		30	28		29			29
Thursday				29			29		30			30
Friday				30			30					31
Saturday							31					



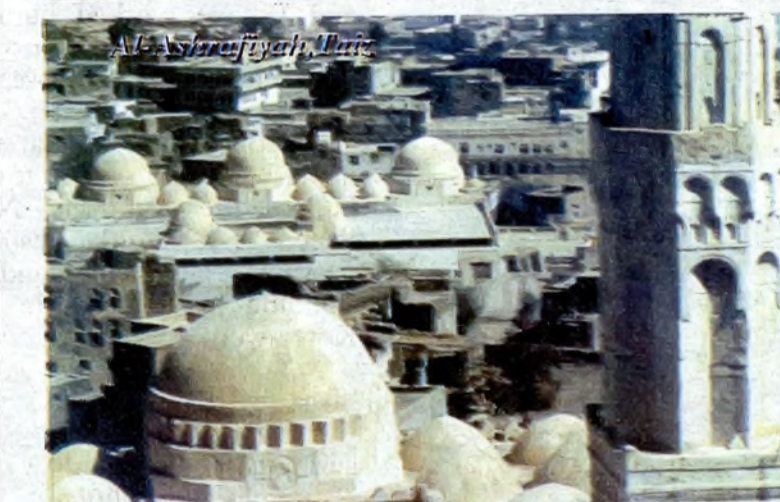
Shihara Bridge, Hajjah



Shibam skyscrapers, Hadhramaut



Old Sana'a City



Al-Ashrafyah, Sana'a



If accurate information is what you seek, get Yemen Times every week!

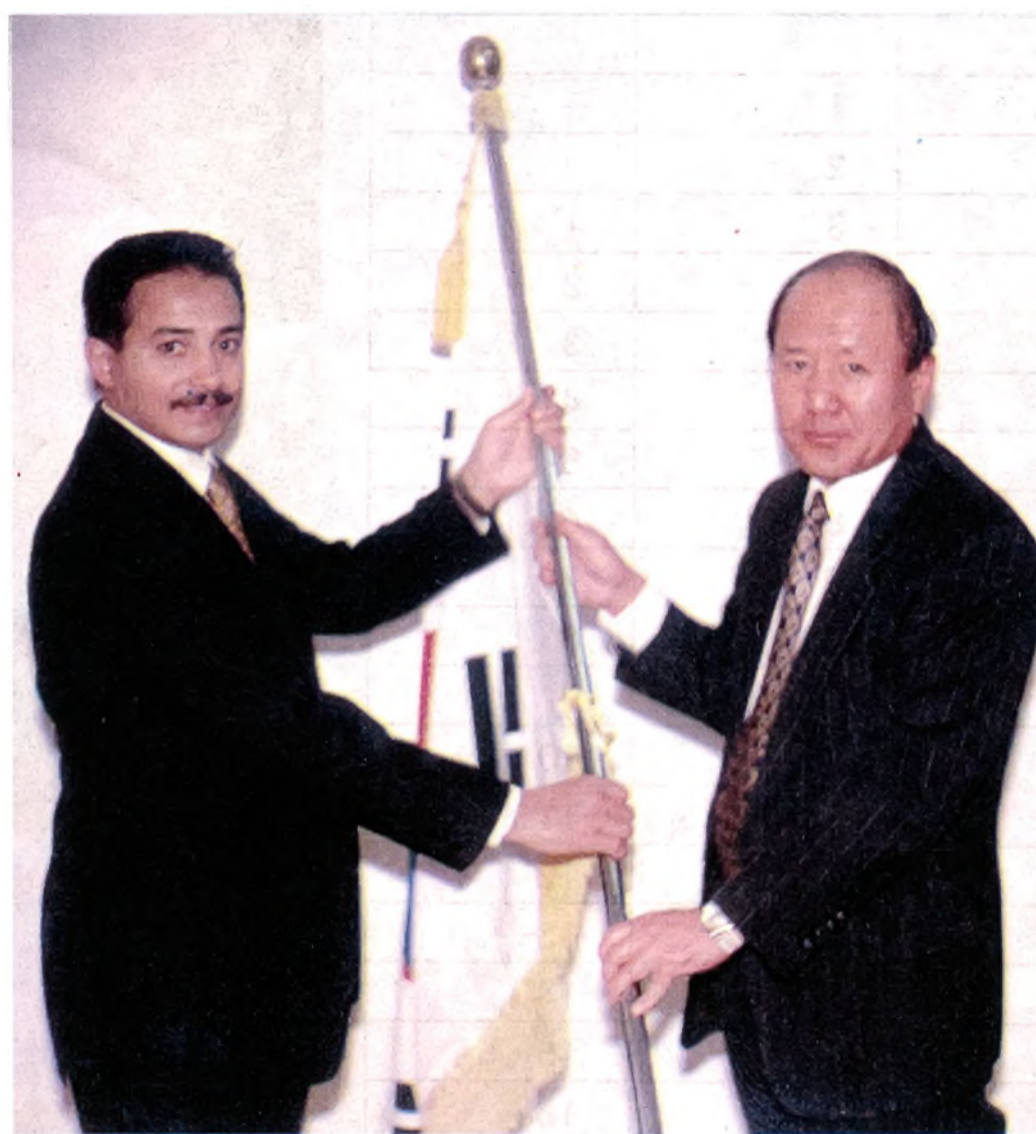
لتعلم اللغة الإنجليزية
داوم على قراءة «يمن تايمز»

Nabil Hayel Saeed Anam

officially named

HONORARY CONSUL

of the Republic of Korea



Hi-Joo Pak:
Korean Ambassador's Statement:

"I leave with a lot of sorrow in my heart. I have grown to like Yemen, and I have worked hard for better understanding and closer relations between Yemen and Korea.

"My consolation is that my country has a very able person to serve as its honorary consul. Mr. Nabil Hayel Saeed is a highly respected businessman and commands a good standing in Yemen. He also knows Korea well.

"It is my belief that he will work to further strengthen our bilateral economic and political ties."



Nabil Hayel Saeed:
Honorary Consul of ROK:

"I deeply regret the decision to close down the Korean Embassy in Sanaa which came due to budgetary reasons. I hope that this embassy will be re-opened soon as economic conditions improve in Korea.

"I am happy and honored to have been chosen as honorary consul for the Republic of Korea. I pledge to work very hard to enhance the interests of Yemen and Korea and to promote closer cooperation between them.

"Finally, I'd like to thank departing ambassador Hi-Joo Pak for all that he has done. I wish him success."

CAR WASH: Business on the Streets

Poverty, which plagues many families in this country, is the main reason for the emergence of car cleaners in the streets of our cities. After all, the average daily per capita income in Yemen is less than ONE US DOLLAR. Even that suffers from a skewed distribution. For the 40% most poor of our society, the average daily income is less than FIVE CENTS.

That leads people to find various odd jobs to make ends meet. It is not only adults, but children and even infants help out meet family needs.

Thus, it is mostly children who work as car cleaners. Despite differences in their backgrounds, there are many common factors, as we report below.

First, Family Circumstances: Most families, comprising between six to nine members, suffer from poverty. This is in spite of the fact their fathers or breadwinners are still alive and do the same or different work by with very low income that does

not meet the minimum family requirements. Those children also suffer from chiding by other remote family members who do nothing to help them.

Second, School Conditions: Some of car cleaners continue their schooling and are able to cope with both studies and work. They go to school in the morning then spend the rest of the day and evening cleaning cars. However, others left school due to inability to meet more expenses either because their father was dead or invalid. They wish to continue their studies but could not due to worsening economic conditions.

Third, Providing Income: Most of them provide the only source of income for their families. They either spend it on their family or save it until the end of the month then transfer the lot to their family's place of residence.

Fourth, Rates: They clean between three to five

cars daily at prices that differ according to the customer and type of service. For example, wiping windows only would cost 20 rials, while cleaning windows and the car's body would cost 50 rials. Cleaning the car using soap would cost 100 rials. Their incomes vary from 150 to 500 rials per day.

Answers by a number of those cleaners revealed that their poor families were behind their involvement in that type of work. They expressed readiness to do any kind of work just to provide a source of income for their impoverished families.

When asked about the nature of accidents that may occur to him, one of them Waseem Abdul-salam Al-Humaidy, 11, said that customers' non-payment, heat of the sun and cold nights were the main difficulties facing him.

He said that he has been in that profession for two years and before that he used to have a bathroom scale (asking people to weigh themselves in return for five or ten rials), but that did not provide enough money.

Waseem said that a car once ran over his right foot and another threw him on his back. He works in two shifts: six hours in the morning and five hours in the evening which makes him feel totally exhausted. However, he does not think of quitting the job because he helps his father meet the living expenses and because he did not find any other job. He said that he brings water condensed from steam emitted by a nearby laundry or buys some.

Hiyam Ali Al-Haimi, 14, left school at the preparatory stage and resorted to cleaning cars to

cater for her eight-member family. Her father is incapable of working while her elder brother is working in a leather factory with a low salary.

Hiyam's younger brother works with her. She started this work only a year ago and before that she begged for money but later she found that cleaning cars was more profitable than begging in the streets.

Asked about her schooling, Hiyam said that her work is a necessity and she could not cope with both. She elaborated that schooling needs expenses that nobody could provide and that she covers a main portion of her family's needs.

The little kid wishes to work as a cleaner in any institution to enable her continue her schooling and at the same time continue to supply her family with necessary funds.

Hiyam works seven hours a day in front of Ford Showroom, and in Ramadan she works from 4 pm to 4 am and buys her food from a nearby restaurant. On one occasion, she refused a free meal from that restaurant. She enjoys a strong character and has the upper hand over her fellow cleaners.

Hiyam said that sometimes she feels dizzy and tired from continuous work under the heat of the sun and complains that a number of drivers tease her. She

refuses the idea of marriage charging that men are not faithful.

Another kid, Salman Ahmad Qayed has been working in that profession for only two months. His father is dead and he is the breadwinner of a seven-member family. The 15-year-old boy studies in the sixth grade in the morning and cleans cars in the afternoons.

His family lives in Makbana, a village in Taiz province, with one of his brothers while the other is a student in Taiz and the rest are females.

He worked for one week in a restaurant in Taiz before he was sacked at the pretext of incompetency. His mother advised him to work in cleaning cars to cover up their needs after his uncle seized his father's money.

Salman saves what he earns and sends it to his mother every month. He secures water from a nearby pump and works for seven hours under the sun heat which left him with severe headache.

Salman, who sleeps in a shop along with comrades of the same

profession, had been victim of a number of accidents as a result of his work in the streets.

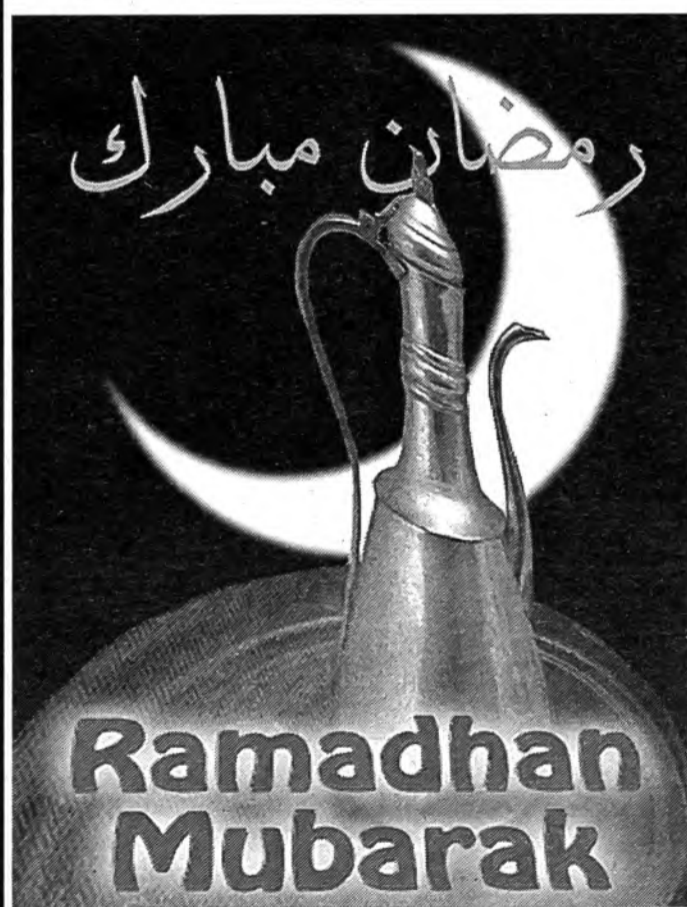
Another lad, Faisal Mohammed Nasser Al-Shameery, 16, studies at the elementary stage and works with his father in the same profession. The rest of the family live in Shameer with the exception of his elder brother, who is an employee with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and another one who works as a caretaker in a Sanaa building.

Faisal started that line of work four years ago, at his father's advice, when he was only 12 years old and had no work. He gives his father all what he earns and he secures water from a nearby pump.

He is always liable to sun strokes and needs a lot of water to drink but he scarcely gets hit by cars.

Finally, those poor fellows are forced to pursue that line of work, in spite of its difficulty, due to their enormous hardships that came about as a result of the country's dwindling economic situation and the escalating wave of soaring prices.

By Habib Al Noman



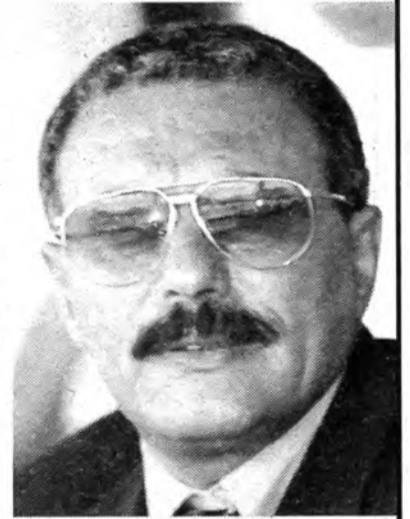
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وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر

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on the occasions of the Holy Month of Ramadhan

and New Gregorian Year

Many Happy Returns

Sodexho

YEMEN

Management Services

Yahya Al-Aruma: "Singer par excellence."

Yahya Al-Aruma is one of the singers who became popular at a very young age. Shortly after the 1962 September Revolution, he gained popularity through songs that expressed the aspirations of the nation.

Aruma was born to a peasant family of Bani Matar, Sana'a, in 1950. His father, Saleh worked as an officer in the army of Imam. Aruma worked with the armed forces after completing his secondary school.

But, the arts, especially singing, soon occupied his time. He is known for serious artistic works and has contributed to the promotion of the Yemeni song.

"Ever since my childhood, my major hobby was singing," he often times explained. He used to wait impatiently for his elder brother who used to bring home the latest songs of famous Yemeni singers. The two lads waited until all their family members went to sleep, then they listened to the songs. Yahya then used to repeat the songs alone, in a closed room.

Following the September 26 Revolution, the young man started to meet with his peers who were also fond of music, including his elder brother. They sang in groups. Soon, they noticed his talent and asked him to lead the songs. They let him sing alone

with a borrowed lute. Finally, he saved enough money to buy one, and started perfecting his skill.

His first appearance before an audience was in the early 1970s, when another renowned singer Ali Al-Sima

asked him to attend a celebration at Tahreer Square.

Aruma was asked to sing. The then Information Minister, Mr. Yahya H. Al-Arashi, who attended the occasion, congratulated him and asked him to join the Ministry band.

Aruma took part in various local and regional artistic festivals such as Qatar's national day in 1982. He also rubbed shoulders with other singers like Ahmed Fat'hi, Mohammed Murshed Nagi and Mohammad Saad Abdullah - all from Aden. "I learned a lot from them," he said.

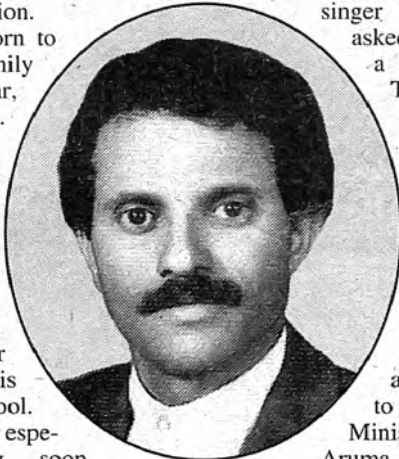
He also participated in a festival in the United Arab Emirates in 1983. In 1985, he represented Yemen in the founding conference of the Union of Arab Artists which was held in Cairo.

Aruma sang for a lot of Yemeni poets, especially the ones who reflected the ambitions and aspirations of Yemeni society. That is why half of his songs are nationalistic and patriotic.

Saleh Abdulbaqi,
Arts Editor, Yemen Times.

Aruma sang for a lot of Yemeni poets, especially the ones who reflected the ambitions and aspirations of Yemeni society. That is why half of his songs are nationalistic and patriotic.

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Arts Editor, Yemen Times.



Women of Sabir

Sabir Mountain, rising high and over-looking the city of Taiz, is fascinating and eye-catching. Visitors and tourists who visit it become immediately arrested by its beauty and charm. The infatuation lasts for a long time, leading to repeat visits.

The women dwelling in the many villages which adorn it are gifted with natural beauty. This is further enhanced by an elaborate ornament of clothes and jewelry. The Sabir dress has many designs and decorations that are unknown in most of Yemen. Finally, the women wear strong and soothing traditional perfumes. They also carry on their head-dress fresh flowers that add to the scent.

As one poet once noted, you feel the approach of a Sabir woman long before she arrives. Famous poets composed lyrics and poems eulogizing the beauty of Sabir women. Many songs carry this theme. But that is not the main point of my story. I want to address the practical and positive attitude of these women towards work. You can see them freely going about their business, not held back by any social taboo. How did they break the social?

Is It True?
There is a funny story being told by folks of the mountain. The men of that mountain used to go down to Taiz to sell products. Given the long journey up and down a huge mountain, they used to come back home very weak and exhausted. The result was that they could not satisfy their wives. The women could not take it any longer, and went to the Imam (ruler at the time) to

Is It True?

complain about situation. Do you know what he decided? He suggested that the women would be more considerate if they were to go up and down the mountain. The situation developed like a challenge. The women said they would shoulder responsibility of the business, and the men - thinking this to be a short-term engagement - told them they can take over. Well, the process continues as women have proven themselves to be up to the task - both physically and mentally. Whether that story is true or not doesn't matter. The point is that those hard working women have taken charge of the family businesses, leading to almost a matriarchal society.

Breaking the Barriers

business mentality. There are many stories about how Sabir women sweet talk their customers into buying their products at above average prices. They sell fresh fruits, vegetables, home-made bread, cakes, and of course, qat. It is easy to recognize them given their distinguished and colorful dresses. They have succeeded in breaking social barriers not only in getting involved in public activity, but also in direct exchange with society. They are so self-confident that openly flirt and engage in extended conversations with strangers. If you stop to chat, you are bound to find yourself buying something.

spoken, they guard their dignity, honor and virtue, very highly. Women of Sabir are productive members of the society, having developed a keen sense of barriers and freely engage in business activity?

working and productive members of our society.

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

Taking Business Seriously

In spite of the fact that those women work in close contact with men, and they flirt, they have never been accused of loose morals. To the contrary, they are seen as virtuous, chaste and straightforward.

A few days ago, I saw a man teasing a female qat seller in an impolite way. She was very furious and tried to hit him in the face. Though the women are soft-

More Courage Needed

It is true that those women are deprived of education, but they are independent and display a practical attitude to life. This is ironic as we do find plenty of educated Taiz women who fear contact with men. These are university graduates and holders of high degrees, but they have a frightened attitude to life. They could not yet free their minds of ghosts of the past while claiming to be educated and open-minded. This should not be understood as prejudice against educated women, but rather a call to them to get rid of negative approaches and indulge in serious work to promote the society. Meanwhile, Sabir women are very active and positively-oriented inside and outside their homes. They are successful both as housewives and businesswomen.

Work is not restricted to a particular age group. Young and old Sabir women indulge in business. Finally let us all hope that a more productive future is awaiting all hard-

working and productive members of our society.

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

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Technical Innovations for Yemen

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hydrogen at room temperature and about 40 atmospheres. The method uses graphite nanofibers that can store up to three times their weight of hydrogen. This is more than ten times what current technologies can achieve. If the researchers were correct in their findings, a graphite storage cartridge would be able to power a fuel cell vehicle a reported 5000 miles (8000-km).

from the hydrogen-fueled vehicles. Yemen has a good reserve of natural gas from which hydrogen can be stripped in the process of production of coke. Hydrogen can be used as fuel for many purposes among which is the use in vehicles. Coke is highly demanded internationally and can be exported very easily. Actually, an export oriented that coke production unit

The automation BMW already has hydrogen fuel vehicles on the road although not for public. The engines in these vehicles can run on both hydrogen and gasoline. The performance of these cards is very good. Power output drops from 210-horse power (hp) with gasoline to 150 (hp) with hydrogen. The top speed reduces to only 130 miles per hour (208 k/h) from 150 mph (240 k/h) with gasoline.

Old technologies use liquefied hydrogen at five atmospheres, keeping it cool with layers of aluminum and glass fiber.

Refueling of hydrogen cars is another obstacle. However, robots are well developed now that they are capable of refueling vehicles. The technology is actually initially designed for gasoline and diesel but could easily be adapted to pump hydrogen by simply changing the type of seal used.

will be very successful. Coke is used in dry battery cell electrodes, tires and as an anti-static additive in the plastic industry. In Yemen, coke is used intensively for cooking in rural areas and for tobacco burning by "mada'a" smokers. Coke is currently made in Yemen by partial burning of wood. This is adding to the increase of the desert of Yemen and intensifying its environmental problems.

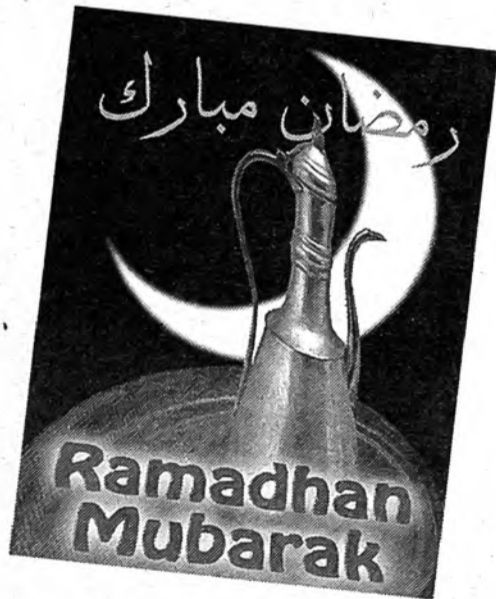
By:
Future Industries Consultants,
Sanaa

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تتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات إلى فخامة الرئيس

علي عبدالله صالح

وحكومة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني،

والشعب اليمني الكريم

بمناسبة قدوم شهر رمضان المبارك

والسنة الميلادية الجديدة

كل عام وأنتم بخير



Yemen Petroleum Company

present its sincere wishes and congratulations to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh,

Government of Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani,

and the Yemeni people

on the occasions of the advent of Holy Month of Ramadhan

and New Gregorian Year

Many Happy Returns



About the Childish Joy of Destroying Other People's Gardens!*

I am the foreign wife of a Yemeni, and have been living in this country for many years. We as foreigners being married to Yemenis see life here quite differently from foreigners like diplomats or development workers. They are always under the protection of their organizations or their employer, who provide them with nice houses and gardens.

At the beginning of my life in Yemen my husband and I lived in Rawdha, when it was still beautiful. It was a green village with gardens of grapevines and pomegranate trees walled by handmade mud walls. There were cisterns with clear water, and many blooming mimosa trees. All the houses were made of mud. No ugly cement bricks or corrugated iron sheets destroyed the harmony of the landscape of green plantations, beige mud-brick architecture with simple white ornaments and the green of the distant mountains.

Then we moved from Rawdha to Sanaa, from the cozy mud tower to a simple stone "villa" as they are called. It was a shock to be surrounded by a gray cement brick-wall and to have dry dirt instead of a garden. With a lot of effort, I turned the small area around the house into a blossoming oasis. From seeds, I grew a huge passion-fruit vine which covered the entrance and protected us from nosy people looking into our house from higher buildings.

Yet one day without any warning the landlord sent workers to dig up my garden, because he wanted to put pillars around the house to support a second floor. This he decided to build without giving us notice, or without lowering the rent.

From one day to another, my quiet life was over. I had to keep the curtains closed all day. Outside, workers dug ditches. I could reach my entrance only by balancing over wooden planks. I often had to carry heavy shopping bags, much to the

enjoyment of gloating workmen, who just stood and watched me. Since my collection of plants slowly disappeared under the heels of the workers, I started to dig up some of them and give them to my friends. Immediately, the landlord showed up. His family was always watching me from behind the curtains of their house next door to report to my husband any "indecent behavior." He claimed the plants to be his property and forbade me to dig them out. I exploded and screamed at him. As a response I only got laughter, being a foreigner and a woman, I was completely helpless.

A Yemeni woman usually has some protection in her house. It is considered shameful that any male outside the close family sees her face, calls her by her name, etc. However, many people seem to think this does not apply to a foreign woman. She can be approached, seen, insulted and as in my case, accused.

The above mentioned landlord accused me of having damaged a wall, of being an alcoholic, etc. On the other hand, it happened many times that the same landlord's son rang our bell drunk, because his father (a qadhi) did not want to let him sleep in his house, so he wanted to sleep in our garden.

After the roof was eventually opened to make way for the staircase to the next floor, we moved out of that house. This time we were lucky to find a nice mud-brick house, but it had no garden. It did not matter because I had sworn never to plant anything anymore in a landlord's garden. Instead I enjoyed a nice view into the tops of pepper trees from our windows. I had saved some plants from my former garden and started with them a roof terrace.

The landlord of this house posed a different problem. He was quite old, and while workers were fixing the outer façade of the house (no great

disturbance), he demanded to come in to watch them. He pretended to be so feeble that he had to be helped up the staircase, just in order to be able to touch me. He also asked me to kiss his ring. I really wondered how strange Yemenis can be!

Finally came the time to move into our own house. It was an old one, which we bought from a senior official. This was another disaster because the former owner regretted the sale afterwards. In his anger, he dismantled everything possible, including a water pump, faucets, electric sockets, even a big tree from the garden which for sure has not survived being transplanted. But I did not mind.

Finally I had my own garden and started to work right away on the devastated piece of land. After a short time, the surrounding ugly walls were covered with shrubs and vines. The berries of a big lantana Camara bush attracted many small birds. A Yemeni lily, collected once from a wadi, finally blossomed, an apricot tree in the middle of the garden grew big enough to sit under its shade.

I thought that now finally I could enjoy my own garden. However, it turned out that the neighbor next door claimed that part of our land was his, after we had already lived there for a few years! First he tried to destabilize our wall by digging halls underneath it.

Finally when nobody was at home he tore down the whole wall which separates his land from ours, destroying all the plants growing alongside it. There ensued shooting in the air, screaming aggression. In our house slept soldiers.

Over the broken down wall, one could see the relatives of the neighbor sitting in a car watching us all the time. Any attempt to rebuild it was hindered with metal bars. The timing was perfect, because my husband is out of the country. I am walking on



top of rubble, a hardened heap of cement and rock-splinters to water the remains of my garden under the eyes of a guard with a machine gun and wait for this problem to be solved.

I have the distinct feeling that some Yemenis love to destroy other people's property - in my case my gardens.

Behavior of this kind is rather childish. If this kind of attitude towards foreigners and their property continues, who will ever want to invest anything in this country.

By: Mrs. Andrea Sabri,
A German resident in Yemen.

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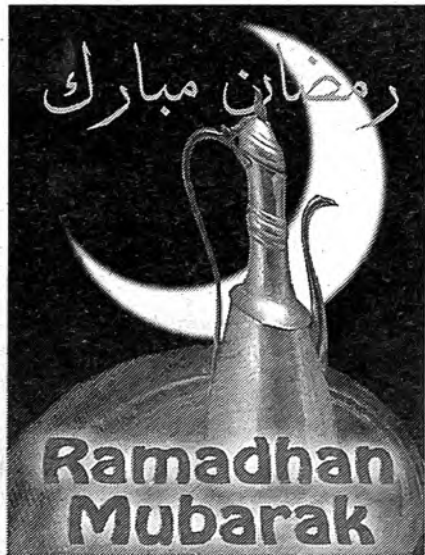
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علي عبدالله صالح

وحكومة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني،

والشعب اليمني الكريم

بمناسبة قدوم شهر رمضان المبارك

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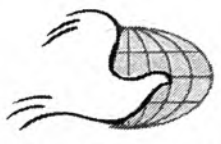
Government of Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani,

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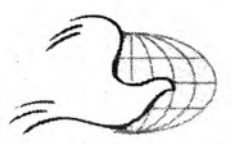
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Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Sameer Farawna

الوحدوي

AL WAHDAWI

Sanaa, weekly 22/12/98

(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

Main Headlines

-The Yemeni government is embarrassed at its failure to secure the release of the four kidnapped German tourists, abducted by armed men from Bani Dabyan tribe in Mareb on December 6.

-MPs from the Unionist Organization have called for boycotting American and British goods in retaliation to the U.S.-British attacks on Iraq.

-Well known businessman Nabil Al-Khamry has escaped a kidnap attempt a few days ago while leaving his office at the Universal Company which he owns. The eight kidnapers, one of whom was killed in the operation, ran away with Khamry's hand bag which contained 116,000 dollars along with a number of personal documents.

-The Interior Minister, Hussein Arab has accused unnamed members of parliament of impeding the security authority's work in a number of security issues.

راي

RAY

Sanaa, weekly 22/12/98

(League of the Sons of Yemen)

Main Headlines

-Classes were again open in Sanaa University following a two-week strike thanks to the interference of the President who ordered those concerned to meet all demands of the on-strike professors.

-Obeidy tribes, in Khawlan, have threatened to explode the oil pipeline that passes through their territory unless the government fulfils its financial commitments towards them.

-Two policemen were injured in Shabwa the week before last when unknown armed men shot at a police patrol.

-Yemeni masses in Sanaa, Taiz, Aden and Hajja hit the streets over last weekend in peaceful demonstrations denouncing the American-British aggression on Iraq.

الطريق

ATTARIQ

Aden, weekly 22/12/98

(Independent)

Main Headlines

-A parliamentary report reveals forgery in a recent circulation by the Cooperative Agricultural Credit Bank on the purchase of fishing boats.

-A critical study of the YSP, prepared by an official in the ruling PGC, said that the Socialist Party should understand and appreciate the reasons that led to the killing of a number of its leaders, during the reign of that party over the southern part of the country, instead of expressing sorrow at their demise.

-A medical team sent by a charitable society to Abyan has examined 608 patients suffering from malaria, typhoid and other diseases.

-Several poor families in Houta, Lahj governorate, complained that the Electricity authority had deprived them from electricity services because they did not pay their bills, without paying any consideration to their difficult circumstances.

البلاغ

AL BALAGH

Sanaa, weekly 22/12/98

(Independent)

An Article Summary

Jauf Sheikhs denounce Allegations

Against Saudi Arabia

A group of Sheikhs from Jauf governorate have issued a statement condemning the blast which targeted the home of sheikh Mohammed bin Shaje in Sanaa recently.

The statement further denounced bin Shaje's claims that Saudi Arabia was the perpetrator of that attack, charging that such statements undermine the fraternal relations between the two countries.

Another tribal council from Bakeel expressed dismay at bin Shaje's statements and asked him to withdraw his charges.

الري العام

AL RAI AL AAM

Sanaa, bi-weekly 22/12/98

(Independent)

Main Headlines

-An armed gang last Monday stormed offices of AL RAI AL AAM newspaper and tried to attack its chief editor Ali Mohammed Al Ulufy.

-Homicide Department elements in Sanaa have recently facilitated the escape of a murderer from prison in response to "higher orders".

-Malaria and other epidemics are still spreading in the Ibb governorate amongst clear shortage in necessary medicines and preventive handling of the phenomenon.

-Strong chemical vapors are leaking from Al Thawra industrial complex, seriously affecting the environment and disturbing inhabitants in nearby houses.

الشورا

AL SHOURA

Sanaa, weekly 20/12/98

(Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines

-Yemeni jews have complained in recent interviews with the BBC that they were harassed by a number of fanatics.

-Oil sources have estimated that the explosions that targeted the oil pipeline in Mareb have caused damage to the tune of 12 million dollars.

-A man, apparently motivated by vengeance, has opened fire at a car in the busy Jamal street Wednesday before last killing three people on the spot.

-MPs bodyguards detained for four hours 20 citizens who were waiting to present their complaints to the people's deputies more than ten days ago.

-More than 150 factory workers in the Aden Company for Plastic Industries are receiving their salaries in the form of plastic

products.

حق

AL HAQ

Sanaa, weekly 20/12/98

(Independent)

Main Headlines

-Well informed sources told AL HAQ daily that Yemeni authorities have release and deported Nabil Qaseebati, Spanish national of Syrian origin. Nabil was supposed to be executed by a firing squad after he was found guilty of perpetrating a number of crimes.

-About 15,000 tourists have visited Taiz this year. The growing number of tourists to that governorate reflects its beautiful touristic attractions and prevailing security atmosphere.

-The U.S. embassy in Sanaa has warned its nationals of probable attacks in Yemen within the current month of Ramadan.

-Banking sources have indicated that Aden banks were suffering from liquidity shortage which led them to make use of the 1,000 rial note to pay the employees' salaries for last month. Recent information had said that the government intended to withdraw the note from the markets due to certain unacceptable printings.

الجماهير

AL JAMAHEER

Sanaa, weekly 24/12/98

(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

An Article Summary

Yemeni Masses Hit the Streets

The national council for the Yemeni opposition parties has condemned the official Arab silence towards the U.S.-British aggression against Iraq.

The statement regretted the fact that the "annihilation campaign" against the Iraqi people took place with the approval of most of the "cowardly" Arab regimes.

The statement further called on the Arab masses to boycott all American and British products and called for the immediate lifting of the siege on Iraq.

Meanwhile, Yemeni masses hit the streets in protest against the aggressions which destroyed several vital Iraqi installations and inflicted heavy casualties.

They called for solidarity with Iraq and asked Arab governments to break the siege imposed by the U.S.-led Security Council.

The Yemeni government and parliament have issued separate statements severely denouncing the attacks and calling for their immediate stop.

الثاوري

AL THAWRI

Sanaa, weekly 24/12/98

(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines

-The Yemeni opposition parties call for international investigation into the aggression on Iraq.

-Military Police shot at two students in Mareb instantly killing one of them, triggering large-scale armed confrontations between the army and tribe of the students.

-YSP secretariat in Hadhramaut is receiving many new requests to

join the Party.

-Secretary of YSP central committee has charged that partisan papers in the country were harassed by the ruling authority's media channels.

-Yafea notables have expressed dismay at the army's recent attack on Sheikh Saleh Haidera Al-Atwi which ended in his arrest.

الصحوة

AL SAHWA

Sanaa, weekly 24/12/98

(Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah)

Main Headlines

-Yemeni political parties called for immediate Arab moves to end American-Zionist-British arrogance and for an oil embargo against the U.S. and Britain.

-MPs demand a speedy solution for the security deterioration in the country in a session attended by the Minister of Interior.

-A number of female students in Aden University have filed a law suit against that university's Administration to protest its decision banning them from wearing veils on campus.

-A recent seminar in Aden underlined that 90% of Yemen's population were suffering from poverty.

-Islah Party has condemned the aborted kidnap attempt against businessman Nabil Al-Khamry and appealed to the concerned authorities to put an end to that phenomenon.

الانفصام

AL UMMA

Sanaa, weekly 24/12/98

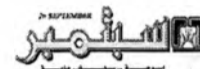
(Al Haqq Party)

Main Headlines

-The Yemeni opposition parties have said that Richard Butler should stand trial for his role in encouraging the American-British air attacks on Iraq.

-Kidnappers of the German tourists have tabled 13 conditions for their release including rebuilding what the Turkish invaders had demolished in their area several decades ago, a cabinet portfolio, four cars, 90 million rials and others.

-A number of Serwah inhabitants, Mareb, have denounced the explosions that targeted the oil pipeline passing through their lands and at the same time condemned the government's indiscriminate shelling of villages and imprisoning of innocent people.



26 SEPTEMBER

Sanaa, 24/12/98

(Yemen Armed Forces)

Main Headlines

-The Health Minister has declared that six million dollars were granted to Yemen to support anti-malaria campaigns from friendly countries and donor organizations.

-The Minister of Labor has announced that a national conference for the promotion of vocational education in Yemen will be held next February.

-The Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen has affirmed that the Yemeni rial had succeeded in maintaining a stable exchange

rate vis-a-vis hard currencies despite crises and disturbances witnessed in various world countries.

-The Minister of Planning and Development has disclosed that European financial support to our country had increased to 33 million European Currency Units (ECU) in 1998 and is expected to reach 36 million ECUs in 1999.

-The PGC's political department head has said that the party was no longer interested in holding dialogue with the Yemeni Socialist Party.

-The Head of the Zakat Department has said that Zakat revenues for 1998 had reached more than two billion rials.

An Article Summary Yemen Pursues Contacts for an Arab Summit

- Arab Foreign Ministers are to meet next Wednesday in Cairo to discuss the Yemeni call for the convening of an Arab summit to discuss recent developments in the aftermath of the aggression on Iraq.

A number of Arab countries had welcomed the Yemeni President, Ali Abdullah Saleh's call on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan.

The President made several phone calls with Arab Leaders to discuss the Yemeni initiative and to agree on a unified stance to secure the Arab Nation's interests.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said that Yemen hopes that the convening of that summit would restore Arab solidarity and that Arab leaders would agree on holding periodical meetings.



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Raging Beauty's Parents: A Liberal Outlook to Females in Sport

Originally from Al-Baidha and due to the political situation, the Girgrah family left Aden in the early 1970s to settle in Canada. With due support and attention and a suitable environment, they prospered. Their daughter Isra excelled in a new sport to the fair sex - boxing. Raging Beauty, as she is christened by the media, is hailed by sports commentators as a new world champion.

Isra Girgrah's upcoming match next March in New York is a revenge one with her formidable opponent Christi Martin. Yemen Times met Isra's father, Mr. Mohammed Abdulqader Girgrah, at his Sanaa home. Despite his bad flu, he obliged with the following interview, conducted in a typically traditional Yemeni atmosphere.

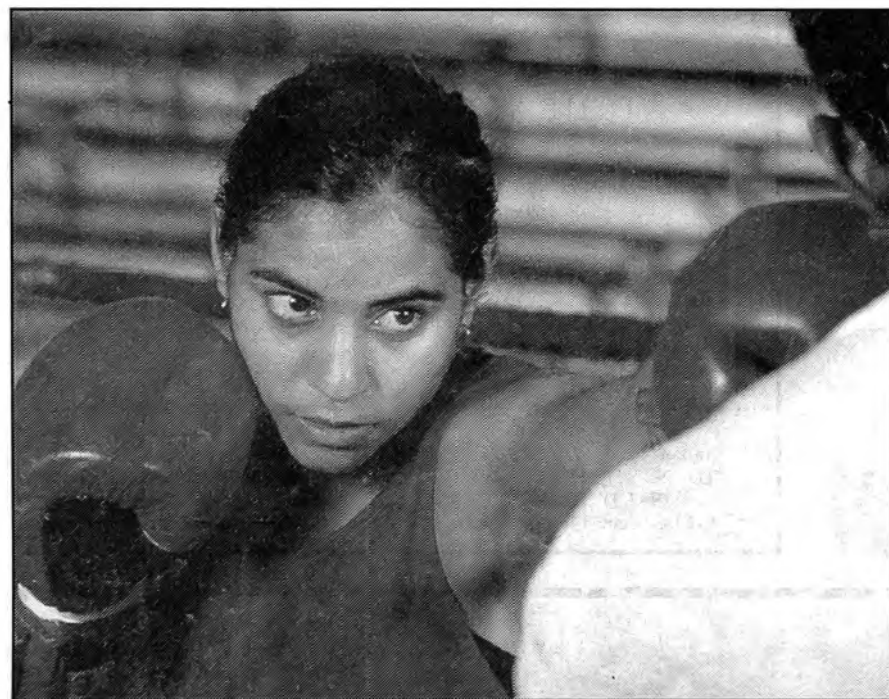


is the winner, hence the coming revenge fight.

Mrs. Sameera Girgrah, Isra's mother also talked to Yemen Times:

"We did not feel that Isra was serious about boxing, just a phase she was going through. But when I visited her in Atlanta in 1997, I

people say about my daughter's ability as a boxer. I attended some of her training sessions, and was astounded at her skill and agility. Her coach even made her fight with male boxers to improve and even show off her strength. "When visited Isra in her room in Atlanta, I found she keeps a copy of the Holy Quran, translated into



studied environmental engineering and now works in Vancouver. After graduating from university, Areej is a social worker. Isra started doing social studies, but she opted out to female boxing and she moved to Atlanta, USA to pursue her career.

Q: When did Isra start boxing, and how did you react to that?

A: She started as a professional boxer in 1995 in Atlanta. Ever since she was a little kid, my

A: We returned to the country because the country has become more peaceful and stable. We largely missed our life and family and friends here. In the beginning I worked in commerce, but now I work with Minister of Health as a coordinator of projects funded by the World Bank European donor countries.

Isra actually visited Yemen in 1996, but had to leave because of her sports engagements. She is very proud of her Yemeni origin.

Q: How does Isra get funds? Do you wish for any help by the Yemeni government?

A: Along with being a trainee, Isra also trains junior boxers. This helps her earn some money to fund her training and living expenses. First and foremost, Isra is a Yemeni champion. We hope that the Yemeni government and President Ali Abdullah Saleh will support her. She can then represent Yemen honorably, just like Naseem.

Q: How much does Isra earn from her boxing matches? And who promotes her fights?

A: She got \$10,000 from her last fight. The reward may rise \$100,000 if she snatches the world title from Christi Martin. Her promoter is the daughter of the international boxing promoter, Don King who organized fights for Mohammed Ali, Holyfield, Tyson and others. This means that Isra has a good chance of winning. Such attention as given her means that she has a great potential.

Many sports commentators has affirmed that her losing the fight with Christi on August 23 was just not fair. She believes that she



was surprised at the high level of training and professionalism she has attained. Her coach told me that she delivers quite powerful punches. She has been able to win several fights. So we started to encourage her immensely.

"Despite being a new comer, Isra proved to be more than worthy contender in her fight with Christi Martin. She would have won, were it not for the referees' unfair decision. But she came out even more determined to win the next fight, which makes me really very proud of her."

"I was really surprised at what I heard

English, and a string of prayer beads. This means that she strongly adheres to her Yemeni and Muslim origins.

"I hope that there will be some support for my daughter's career by the Yemeni government. Our current financial circumstances don't allow us to prived with the necessary funds."

Will the government respond by supporting the Raging Beauty?

Q: Could you tell us a little about your life in Canada?

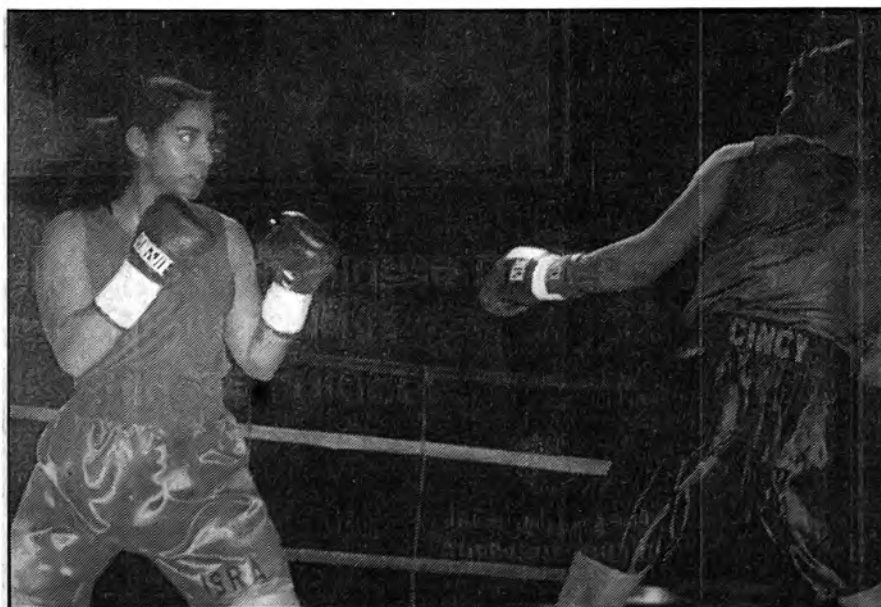
A: When we left for Canada in 1973, Isra was only two years old. We raised our children just like Canadian kids, paying close

attention and adhering to our Yemeni roots and traditions. In addition to their academic studies, our children - Bassel, Areej and Isra - practiced many hobbies. My eldest son, Bassel,

daughter liked to practice sports such as football, basketball, and tennis.

Beginning just like any other hobby, boxing became a passion for Isra, who was encouraged by her friends and teachers. At the beginning, her mother and I were quite concerned and sometimes frightened because boxing is quite dangerous. I advised her to stop, but could not make her do so in face of her great desire to go on. 'I found my self in boxing,' she often says. She has a great ambition to become a world boxing champion.

Q: When did you come back to Yemen with your wife? Why isn't Isra with you?



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Mareb Dam

Historical Background

Historians believe that the Mareb Dam, a symbol of the great Yemeni civilization, was built in several stages. Construction started around 1,000 BC, and was fully completed over the next 500 years during the reign of King Ali Yanouf Bin Dhamar Ali, whose name is inscribed on some of the dam's rocks. Extensive maintenance work was carried out whenever damage occurred, as indicated by rock inscriptions written in the Musnad alphabet. The first repair work was carried out at 100 BC by Yasser Yahanaam King of Sabaa, Dhu Raydan, Hadhramaut and Yemna. Other kings carried out more repairs. The last such renovation was done during the Ethiopian occupation of the country by Abraha Alashram (with a hare lip) in about 557AD.

"Two Paradises"

The Mareb Dam was 18 meters high, 700 meters long, and 20 meters thick. It stores enough water to irrigate farmlands with an area of 10,000 hectares. The area of the lake behind the dam is estimated to had been about 8 square kilometers with a storage capacity of about 55 million cubic meters.

As mentioned in the Holy Quran, the lands on both sides of the dam prospered greatly and were called the "Two Paradises." Farmlands irrigated by water from the Mareb

Dam were able to support 30,000 to 50,000 people. Farmers used to grow maize, millet, barley, sesame, lint, grapes, dates, etc.



Final Collapse

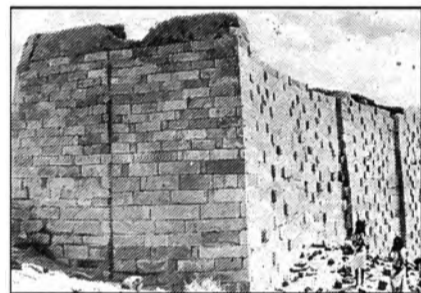
The collapse of the Mareb Dam was quite a momentous event with far-reaching consequences. The incident probably took place just before the emergence of Islam. What was once a green and pleasant land became desolate. Large waves of emigrants from Yemen flooded other parts of the Arabian Peninsula and beyond.

Big Rat

The Mareb Dam did not only become part of Yemeni mythology, but also entered Arab and Islamic lore. Legend has it that a prophecy by the people of Sabaa said the dam would be destroyed by a big rat. Therefore, cats were placed on every floodgate in the dam. However, a huge red rat with iron teeth and claws attacked one of the cats and started digging underneath the dam. The whole edifice then collapsed under pressure of the water stored behind it.

Unique Site

The ancient Mareb Dam was built in the Wadi Adana between the Northern and Central Balaq mountains. They form the last ridge of the eastern highlands



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before the desert between Mareb and Shabwa, where many wadis meet at Ramlat Al-Sabaatain. The place is ideal for holding rain water. Wadi Adana is the meeting point of the largest number of wadis in Yemen, making it the best place for a dam.

How It Was Built

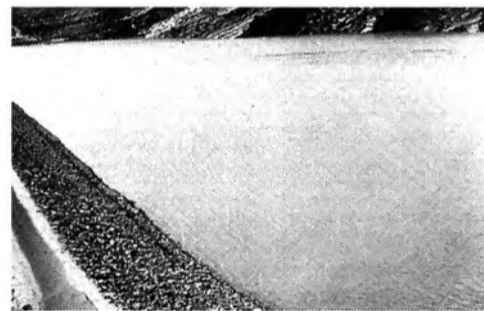
It was imperative that the dam should be solidly built to withstand the force of torrential rain and flashfloods. The ancient Yemeni builders took optimal advantage of the topography of the place.

The dam's foundation was dug into the bed of the valley until rocks appeared. A strong stone base was constructed at the bottom of the valley in a narrow straits to facilitate the opening of two floodgates leading into two irrigation channels on the sides. The wall of the dam was made of earth and covered with rock.

Main Structures

The Mareb Dam consisted of:
- the main body or wall
- two large floodgates on the dam's two sides
- two irrigation channels emanated from the sides of the dam with a capacity of 60 cubic meter of water per second

- a big network of small irrigation gutters leading into the surrounding farms and orchards of Wadi Abeeda. The purpose of the dam was not to



store water for a long time, but to divert the flashfloods' course for irrigation. If the dam were built for holding water over a long period of time, its storage capacity would have decreased gradually due to the accumulation of silt, stones and deadwood. The amount of matter carried by flashfloods every year is estimated at 2.5 million cubic meters.

Once Every Century!

Silt, wood and stones accumulating behind the dam were cleared manually every century. That material was later used in construction work.

Modern Mareb Dam

A modern version of the Mareb Dam was built in the 1980s a few hundred meters above the location of the old dam. It is constructed up-river in Wadi Adana, with a water storage capacity of 400 million cubic meter. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, financed the US\$ 80 million project. However, the full potential of the dam has not been realized because the irrigation channels have not been built.

By Ismail Al-Ghabiry,
Yemen Times

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