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President Saleh's Next Travel Abroad:

MID-MARCH TRIP TO TOKYO

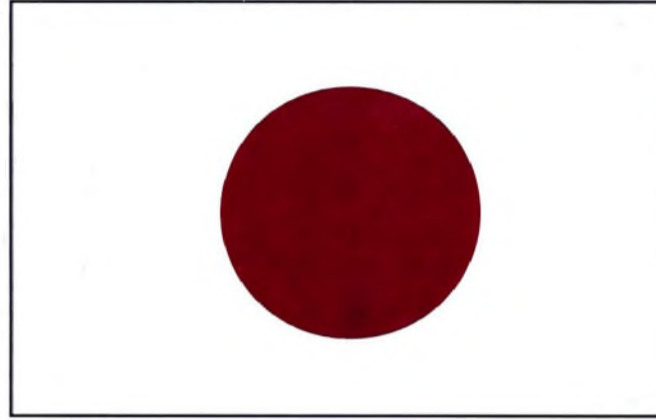
Japanese Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Akira Hoshi, left Sanaa on January 14th on a 2-week consultations visit to Tokyo. The main item on his agenda is the forthcoming official visit of President Ali Abdullah Saleh to Japan.

Plans for the trip had started a year ago, but have recently intensified. "Both the Yemeni and Japanese sides are keenly interested in making the trip a success. I think this visit will be watershed in the bilateral relations," said Abdul-Rahman Al-Hothi, Yemen's Ambassador in Japan. Both ambassadors have been preparing details of possible meetings and protocols to be signed during the visit.

The high point of the trip is a lunch to be hosted by His Majesty the Emperor of Japan and a dinner to be hosted by the Prime Minister.

According to Yemen Times information, the Japanese side is still waiting for the Yemeni authorities to pin down the exact dates of the visit, although a general time-frame of mid-March, 1999 has been agreed upon for the four-day visit.

Another details of the trip that Yemen has yet to determine is the composition of the delegation that will accompany the president. Yemen Times learned that there will be an official delegation of twelve persons. But the total number of the entourage to accompany the Yemeni head of the state is estimated to be excess of 65



persons. The official delegation is expected to include 3 ministers - foreign affairs, planning and development, and industry; 2 deputy ministers - health and trade; 4 members of parliament/Consultative Council, in addition to the secretary-general of the President's Office. The entourage accompanying the president, which will not participate in the official talks, is going to be made up of four blocks.

There are about 15 businessmen representing companies with links to Japan. Then there are nine to ten representatives of the Yemeni media. In addition, there are the protocol and governmental

support staff. Finally, there are the presidential security and airplane staff.

Japan is one of the 3 top aid partners of the Republic of Yemen, along with the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands. Its annual aid allocations to Yemen hovers around US\$ 30 million, depending on the exchange rate between the yen and the dollar.

Japanese assistance to Yemen is focussed on 3 sectors, - health, education/training, and infrastructure. In addition, there is a substantial on-going annual aid relief program.

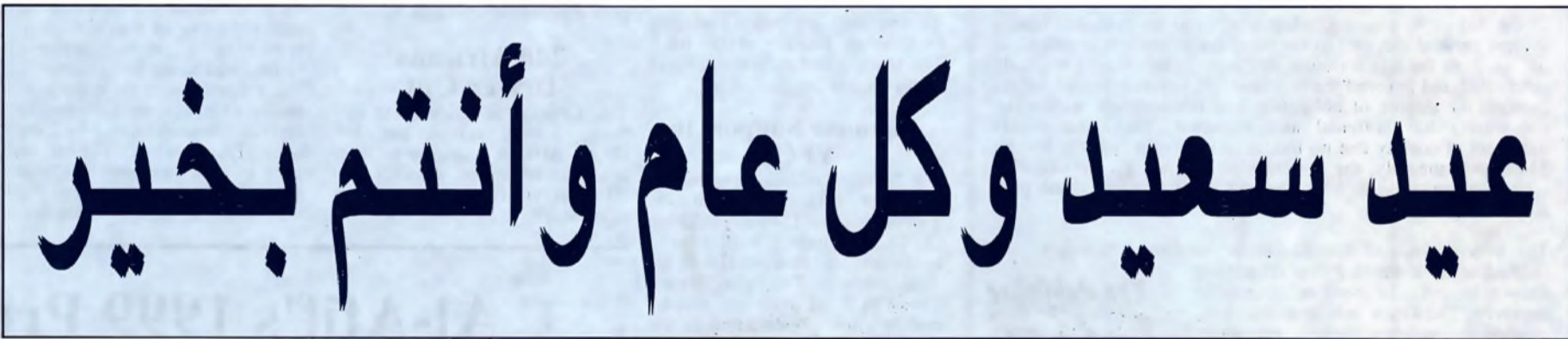
Finally, Japan has steadily expanded its financing of small-scale grass-roots level projects in Yemen. This is administered

by the embassy in Sanaa and is implemented in cooperation with local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Political cooperation and understanding between the 2 countries has also been growing. Japan continues to give full support to Yemen's democratic transformation. "We follow very closely this positive change in your country, and we admire the progress made so far," said Ambassador Hoshi.

On its part, Yemen supports Japan's drive towards acquiring a permanent seat at the Security Council of the UN.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times



President Saleh's Eid Speech:

ON PATIENCE, HOPE & STANDING TOGETHER



On the eve of Eid Al-Fitr Al-Mubarak, an important Islamic holiday, President Ali Abdullah Saleh addressed the Yemeni nation reminding of the virtues of patience, hope and standing together. He asked the people to strengthen and equip themselves with those qualities, stressing that "success was inevitable in our journey of democratization and development".

The Yemeni leader also touched on a number of internal difficulties, notably terrorism and kidnapping that have recently troubled the country. "These activities are alien to the nature of our society and our values. We must shun them and fight against them," he said.

The President also explained that "improving economic prospects are going to follow the reform package that is being implemented". He added that the new budget of the government calls for major investments in services and infrastructure 1999.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Eid Al-Fitr: TIME TO REJOICE!

Right now, over a billion Muslims worldwide are celebrating Eid Al-Fitr holidays. This is one of the key religious occasions that are festive.

For a whole month during Ramadhan, pious Muslims have refrained from indulging in life. During day-time, they have been fasting - no food, no drinks, no sex, no smoking, etc. They have spent long hours praying and trying very hard to dig deep into their inner souls to reach out to God. During Ramadhan, they have accepted an austere lifestyle, though some could afford better.

Ramadhan was a tie to mend fences and to let by-gones be by-gone. It was a time for reconciliation and forgiveness. In short, people were supposed to be more selfless.

Eid Al-Fitr comes with its sumptuous meals, delicious cakes, cookies, and other sweet dishes. Most families would slaughter a sheep or at least buy meat on the occasion.

People dress in new and colorful clothes, or at least clean ones, and become their best - at least in terms of looks.

Eid Al-Fitr comes with its festive mood as people travel around the country, visit relatives and friends. Some go hunting or simply shooting, etc.

There is a lot of merriment, music, dancing, and fanfare.

The celebration extends for three days, but many people extend the festivities a few more days. All businesses - government or private are closed. Most urban dwellers are originally from villages. Therefore, those who can afford the expenses, pack up and go to the countryside. It is a costly venture, but quite worth it if you have the resources. That explains the fall in urban traffic as well as the hustle and bustle.

The enjoyment and fun of Eid Al-Fitr, however, is limited to those who can afford them. For the majority of the Yemeni population, unfortunately, this is all off-limits. The occasion calls for new expenditures which the low-income people of Yemen cannot afford. Some 30-40% of the Yemeni population is already too burdened and cannot afford the ordinary costs of life, let alone incurring new expenses.

In the old days, strong kinship bonds and an extended family system enticed the well-to-do members of society to attend to the needs of the less fortunate relatives. In this way, everybody celebrated and enjoyed the holidays. However, as social values change, the degree of obligation and commitment within our community has softened and loosened. Thus, the poorer members of society can no longer fall back on richer relatives. More unfortunately, the government has not yet developed a social security system which attends to the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

The very essence of Eid Al-Fitr is communal happiness. An individual or a small group of people cannot have fun if most of society is deprived. The key words here are compassion and solidarity among people to ensure harmony and peace in society.

The Publisher


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Charged with Terrorism, Murder & Sabotage

Trial of Kidnappers Started in Abyan

The Abyan Primary Court started on Wednesday 13/1/99 the trial of Zein Al Abideen Ali Abu Bakr Al Mehdhar (known as Abul Hassan), Ahmad Mohammed Atef and Saeed Mohammed Atef on charges of kidnapping and killing foreign tourists.

The trial, in Zanzibar, Abyan governorate, was attended by more than 200 persons - mostly journalists, lawyers and others.

The defendants were also charged with undertaking sabotage operations in Yemen, under an organization called the Aden and Abyan Islamic Army.

Confronted with the charges, Abul Hassan laughed and ridiculed the court. He addressed the reporters saying, "We are launching Jihad (holy war) for the sake of Allah. Do you call that sabotage?"

He then started a long speech on Islamic religion. The judge tried to interrupt, but Abul Hassan insisted on finishing his lecture. He emphasized that he kidnapped the foreign tourists to pressure their governments to stop hurting Muslims in Iraq and the Sudan and to block U.S. and UK efforts

to impose their hegemony on the whole world and to end their bid to humiliate Muslims.

He confessed that he was the leader of the operation and that he was aided by ten members of the Aden and Abyan Islamic Army. Regarding the charge of acquiring weapons and telecommunication equipment, Abul Hassan retorted, "Yes. We are Mujahideen and will continue calling for Jihad against the government" which he said was atheist.

He refused to answer the attorney's question or to cooperate with him, saying the he does not recognize him and preferred the questions to be directed by the judge. He also said that he does not recognize the court because it is not committed to Islamic law. Abul Hassan asserted that the 21st century will witness a battle between the cross and the crescent and that the latter will prevail.

Asked about his army, he said that his army was the first to fight the socialists in the 1994 war and that it backed the state. He refused being described along with his army as a gang, saying

they were Mujahideen organized within that concept.

He acknowledged he had ordered the kidnapping of tourists and that among his conditions for their release was lifting the siege on Iraq. He also confessed using five of the tourists as human shields when the Yemeni forces advanced against them.

He also confessed firing against the security forces.

Asked how the four tourists were killed, he said that after Osama-one of his colleagues - was seriously wounded, he started firing indiscriminately against the tourists and the advancing forces. He added that he had ordered his men to kill all the hostages in the event they were attacked.

On how they had planned to use the explosives, Abul-Hassan insisted that his army did not intend to kill innocent people. "We do not target civilians, but rather government interests. We want to free the people of Yemen from this regime, not to kill innocent people," he said.

The second defendant Ahmad Mohammed Atef said that he does not know anything about

this incident, adding that he received a telephone call saying that his brother was arrested. "I went to look for him, but was dragged into the case."

He said that he was a member of the Islamic Army during the 1994 war but that he left it thereafter.

The third defendant, Saeed Mohammed Atef, 18, said that Abul Hassan had taken him from his village and that he found himself in the middle of the battle.

Abul Hassan interrupted saying, "He had to listen to me because I am the Amir (leader) of the group and he had to obey me."

The court adjourned its sitting until after Eid Al Fitr as Abul Hassan, accused the judge of having a pre-determined verdict. The defendants were kept under strict security measures, fearing that their other elements would attempt to free them.

The attorney listed charges against 14 defendants, out of whom only 3 were present. The rest will be tried in absentia.

Ridhwan Saqqaf + Yusuf Sherif.
Yemen Times, Aden.

German Tourists to go to Saudi Arabia Instead

German tourism agencies began an information campaign to encourage German tourists who are interested in Yemen to go to some Saudi areas (Najran, Aseer, Jaizan) instead. German travel agencies assure that they had to do that after 4 German tourists were lately kidnapped in Yemen. Because the climate, geographical relief and traditional buildings of these areas are similar to those of Yemen, they are much preferred by German Tourists at this time. The tourists feel they are safer in Saudi Arabia.

Japanese Support to YFCA

The Embassy of Japan extended a grant of US\$ 54,304 to the Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA). The money will be used to finance a mobile clinic for rural areas in Taiz governorate. The YFCA already has similar mobile clinics operational in the rural areas of Sanaa and Hodeida governorates.

Agreement to this effects was signed on January 13, 1999, by Dr. Yahya Al-Babili, Executive Director of YFCA, and Mr. Akira Hoshi, Ambassador of Japan in Sanaa. Japan has been steadily increasing its support for grassroots level NGO projects in the country.

190,000 Telephone Lines in 1999

About 20 telecommunication projects were launched in 1998. The total expense of these projects was 2 Billion and 994 Million Yemeni Rials. In 1999, the Ministry of Transportation will implement several projects as well as continue working on 98 projects. 190,000 telephone lines will be launched in cities and directories. The 1999 budget allocated by the government to the Ministry of Transportation is 5 billion and 600 million Yemeni Rials.

The Ministry's 1999 plan of action will include different cities, airports, and isolated areas.

John Brooke Is Free

On Wednesday January 15th, British citizen John Brooke was freed from captivity. He had been held hostage by the Al Jaed Tribe in the Marib area.

PCS Plans

The Popular Charitable Society (PCS) is looking for support to open a training and rehabilitation center in Sanaa. They are working now to open a hospital for mother and child in Aden, to be located in former "Chinese Hospital" in Crater. They have already built and furnished the place on which the hospital will be opened. Supported by some businessmen, the society recently have distributed 20,000 dresses to poor and orphan children there.

740 Africans Driven Out

The General Security Authority have recently driven out 740 illegal African residents to their countries of origin. Another 260 Africans will be driven out in the near future.

FUCHS Agents Go for Omrah

Organized by the Projects Company Inc., agent of FUCHS in Yemen, a group of 35 businessmen as well as FUCHS distributors in the country will go for Omrah. The group will be accompanied by Mr. Aasef Rashid, General Manger of FUCHS CO in the Middle East, and headed by Mr. Said Noman, General Manager of company.

Mr. Said Noman explains that the main objective of this visit is to prepare for a meeting between Yemeni and Saudi businessmen. "We'll discuss with them the possibility of providing facilities to Yemeni businessmen by the Saudi Embassy in Yemen in order to better promote bilateral business relations between the two countries," says Mr. Noman.

Malaria Center Inaugurated in Abyan

The Minister of Health, Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, inaugurated on Saturday, 18th, a malaria center in Abyan. The governorate had been plagued by malaria. The prevalence rate in certain Abyan regions was put at more than 50 for the resident population.

Increase in Commercial Banks' Capital

The first administrative act of the Central Bank of Yemen in 1999 was to demand an increase in the capital of commercial banks in Yemen to one billion YR. This act is expected to be carried out before the end of this year. The decision comes in response to the requirements of capital adequacy ratios.

Al-Afif's 1999 Program

Al-Afif Cultural Foundation has arranged its cultural 1999 program as follows:

January

The opening celebration (on 26th, at 4:30 PM).

February

1. Seminar on Yemeni 21 Encyclopedia (on 2nd, at 4:30 PM).
2. Lecture on Democracy and the New Political System (on 9th, 4:30 PM).
3. Story presentation (on 16th, at 4:30 PM).

March

1. Lecture on Reconciliation and Normalization (on 2nd, at 4:30 PM)
2. Poetry presentation (9th, at 4:30 PM)
3. Plastic artist Exhibition (on 16th, at 4:30 PM)

April

1. Lecture on Education After 2000 (on 6th, at 5 PM)
2. Honoring the singer Mohammed Sa'ad Abdullah (on 13th, at 5 PM)
3. Seminar on "Learning Places in Yemen in the Past", (on 27th, at 5 PM)

May

1. Lecture on Scholarship and Neighborhood in the Yemeni Society (on 4th, at 5 PM).
2. Stories Presentation (on 15th, at 5 PM)
3. Al-Afif's 1999 Praise Celebration (on 25th, at 5 PM)

June

1. Lecture on Gender Issues in International Organizations (on 8th, at 5 PM)

Stories Presentations (on 15th, at 5 PM)

3. Celebrating 25th Death Anniversary of Mohamed Ahmed Noman (on 29th, at 5 PM)

July

1. Poetry Presentation (on 5th, at 5 PM)
2. Lecture on Psychological Affects Caused by Social Changes in Yemen (on 13th, at 5 PM)
3. Stories Presentations (on 20th, at 5 PM)

August

1. Poetry Presentations (on 3rd, at 5 PM)
2. Seminar on Al-Eriani's book "The Yemeni Guidebook" (on 17th, at 5 PM)
3. Poetry Presentations (on 31st, at 5 PM)

September

1. Lecture on Borders Yemeni-Saudi Agreements (on 7th, at 5 PM)
2. Honoring Celebration for the Yemeni writer Ali Mohamed Abduh, (on 14th, at 5 PM)
3. Poetry Presentations, (on 21st, at 5 PM)

October

1. Poetry Presentations, (on 5th, at 4:30 PM)
2. Lecture on Making Culture, (on 12th, at 4:30 PM)
3. Seminar on a Religious Yemeni Book (on 19th, at 4:30 PM)

November

1. Poetry Presentations, (on 2nd, at 4:30 PM)
2. Launching a Plastic Art Exhibition, (on 9th, at 4:30 PM)
3. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Al-Afif Cultural Foundation, (on 23rd, at 4:30 PM)

Mutahar Zeid Mutahar:

“Qat farmers drain most of the nation’s underground water.”

What is a precious resource any where in the world. It is especially critical in the Arab World which is mostly desert land. As a result, water management is one of the most important skills and sciences.

The Republic of Yemen, which is already threatened by water scarcities, has been aware of this problem. Several of our cities are already plagued with water shortages. In addition, uncontrolled extraction of underground reservoirs has depleted this precious resource. This is clear from the falling level of water table. That is why it has created several institutions to harness rain water, better use of water in farm needs, and generally ensure a more efficient management of water.

Mutahar Zeid Mutahar, 40, is a civilian engineer. He has been working with the General Authority for Rural Development since 1988. He currently heads the Irrigation Department at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times talked to him about his duties and water management in Yemen. Excerpts.

Q: What are the responsibilities of the Irrigation Department?

A: It is responsible for numerous issues including:

1-Proposing and executing irrigation regulations, plans and programs in accordance with the Ministry's general policy and water planning.

2-Drafting feasibility studies of irrigation projects in addition to their detailed designs.

3-Encouraging land reclamation and protection against desertification in coordination with concerned parties.

4-Setting proper irrigation methods by way of analyzing the soil and water then determining quantity and quality of water needed by each crop according to the area's climate.

5-Planning and designing irrigation networks and encouraging the use of modern ones.

6-Participating in the preparation of water studies and working out plans for the exploitation and administration of water resources in addition to limiting its uses to cope with the demographic, agricultural and industrial expansion in cooperation with the concerned parties.

7-Classifying agricultural lands and launching topographic surveys and drawing various maps targeting best exploitation of those lands and protecting them against desertification.

8-Working out plans and designs for suitable irrigation methods and offering advice and guidance to citizens in various governorates in the republic.

9-Working studies and research papers on the use of traditional and modern irrigation methods and documenting them.

10-Supervising irrigation activities in all agricultural areas and operating irrigation networks.

The irrigation sector is the biggest consumer of water resources in the country, a main reason of which is poor awareness, causing depletion of most water basins and increasing level of salt. That phenomenon could lead to serious demographic changes that would negatively affect the economic and social development of the population in the rural areas. The Department's policy aim at achieving rational use of available water resources through balancing demand with the available reservoirs.

Q: What are the projects carried out by the Department?

A: The Department supervises the drafting of studies, plans and programs and overlooks their implementation. It further operates existing water installations such as the Abyan Delta and others in Tihama. It is difficult to pinpoint all works launched by

the Irrigation Department but we can give examples for those done in 1998. The Department launched studies and planning of 26 projects, 19 of which for dams and barriers. It executed 66 projects in fields of topographic surveys, including 46 for dams and water barriers. It also designed 165 projects, grouping 116 for dams or barriers and 38 for tanks and one for a canal.

As far as supervising projects under construction is concerned, which is the most important part in our job and entails great efforts due to absence of necessary requirements to cover technical aspects of that supervision. We have three kinds of those projects overseen in the past few years. The first is financed by the dams project, which is an investment program. It includes 30 projects divided into 28 dams and water blocks and two tanks at a total cost of 897 million rials.

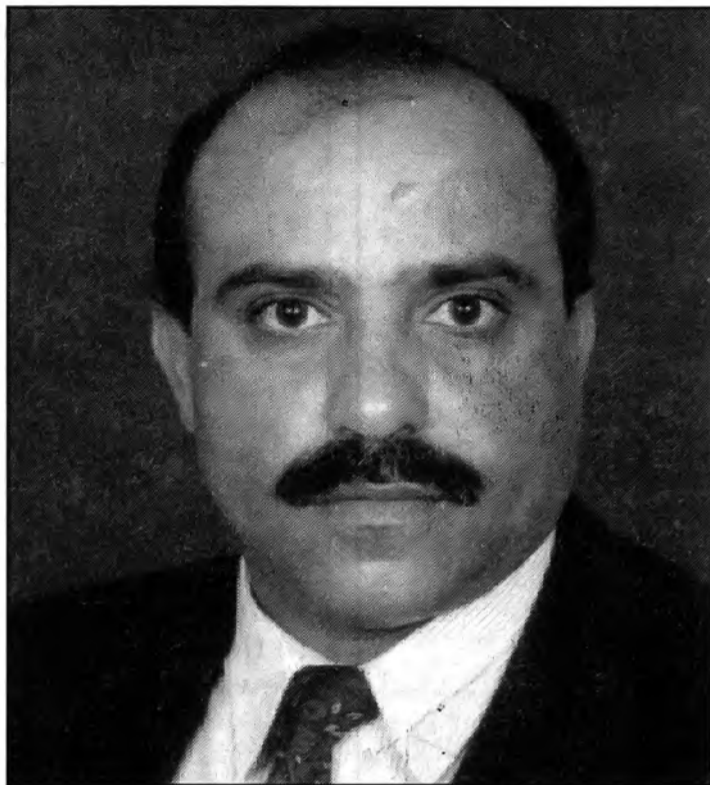
The second model is totally financed by the agricultural production encouragement fund and groups 28 projects also divided into 26 dams and water blocks and two tanks with a total cost of 989 million rials.

The third type is jointly financed by the abovementioned fund and the private sector. Those are simple projects in which the beneficiary citizen is the main factor behind their execution with the state's participation through that fund. There are 43 projects here including 17 dams and water barriers, 21 tanks, 5 irrigation canals with a total value of 443 million rials out of which citizens pay 134 million and the rest covered by the fund.

Q: The President had reiterated importance of building dams, especially with the availability of loans for that purpose and in view of Yemen's water shortage, what do you have to say here?

A: It is true that the political leadership, headed by the President, give utmost concern to the water policy since it is a basic cornerstone in the country's economic development. The President's speeches and statements gave importance to construction of dams since they serve a large sector of the society, helps stability, solves water shortage and refreshes the depleting underground water reservoirs.

Due to the high cost of building dams that could not be covered domestically, the Ministry of Agriculture in coordination with the Ministry of Planning share in covering the costs in accordance with available programs. Around 50% of the agricultural fund's assistance goes to irrigation projects. Hence, it is clear that the



concerned authorities pay much attention to that issue within available capabilities and the country's general policy. However, there should be a comprehensive water strategy that takes into consideration the fact that level of water reservoirs in areas of demographic and agricultural activity is starting to drop which heralds negative social and economic damages. The state must endeavor to draw a national strategy tackling water shortage and the best exploitation of available resources. I wish to clarify here that in a number of governorates, which have large agricultural areas and yield crops important to food security, there are huge water projects such as water barriers that have been constructed a long time ago. Those projects have shared in demographic stability and they should be periodically maintained, but there is no budget allocated for that purpose to ensure their continuation. To put things short, there should be enough financing for the establishment of water projects in accordance with plans and programs of a national strategy and for the preservation of available projects.

Q: The government's five-year plan call for a 7% growth rate in water resources, how can that be achieved?

A: Domestic demand on water has notably risen as a result of the rapid population increase which almost doubled since the sixties. We have an annual population increase of 3.7%, which is one of the highest in the whole world. One of the most affected areas here is water, especially for cultivation, since our water resources are limited, our country is located in a dry zone and has no rivers. Hence, water sources are limited and we have to make the best use of what we have through preserving available water installations and constructing projects that make use of rain water which is currently wasted in the sea. Maintaining old irrigation systems along with elevating irrigation competency through the use of modern techniques and networks should be made in addition to avoiding the cultivation of crops that consume

Agriculture depending on rain should be encouraged and a rational agricultural policy that takes into consideration the water shortage in the country must be pursued in a bid to reach food and water security at the same time. It is imperative here to pass legislations severely restricting exploitation of underground water reservoirs for irrigation. It is noteworthy that out of the 1,663,858 hectares of lands suitable for cultivation in Yemen, 1,154,958 hectares are cultivated and provides work for 50% of manpower in the country.

Q: How can we overcome the problem of using underground water for the irrigation of qat, vegetables and fruits?

A: As I have mentioned before we can limit the drain of underground water through avoiding the cultivation of qat.

Q: Why do think is the reason for the decreasing concern in planting trees?



A: This question should be answered by other concerned parties, but I think that preserving and expanding the country's flora is the responsibility of each and every Yemeni individual whatever his post may be because it is a national duty. It is not the sole concern of the Agriculture Ministry particularly when there is a vast cultivated area that is difficult to follow up

by one party. Cutting trees to use its wood for fuel has notably diminished after the availability of gas, but trees should still be planted especially in big cities in view of its importance for environment and treated water can be used in irrigating those trees and parks.

Q: What about the strategy of rationalizing water usage in Yemen?

A: I would like to point out that the Irrigation Department is not concerned with the drilling or deepening of wells but rather it is responsible for the construction of water installations to feed underground wells and for exploitation of dams as an alternate option for wells. Yet there are many areas which do not have such alternatives and citizens should understand seriousness of draining the underground reservoir and should resort to modern irrigation methods. Our mission here is to offer advice, technical assistance and financial support. We suffer from poor technical and financial potentialities in addition to absence of specialized cadres and the necessary data base to bring about a comprehensive study. We do not have modern equipment that enable us to collect information easily. However, despite all these shortcomings our technicians exert utmost efforts making use of the available potentials.

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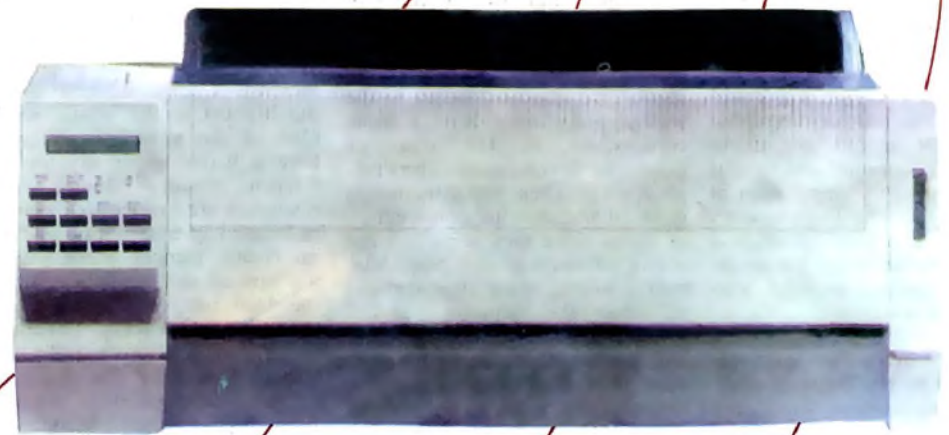


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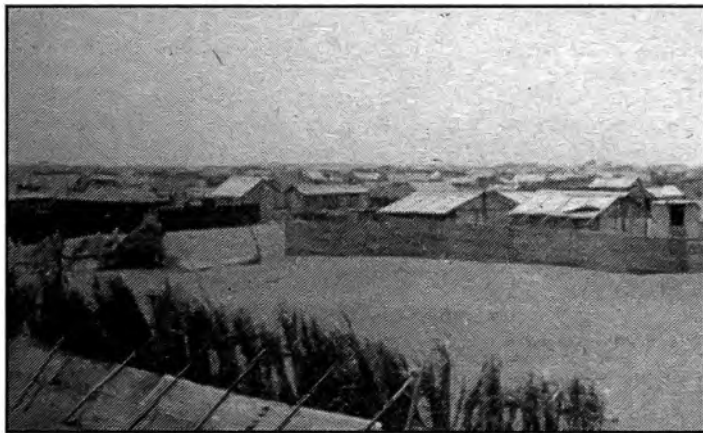
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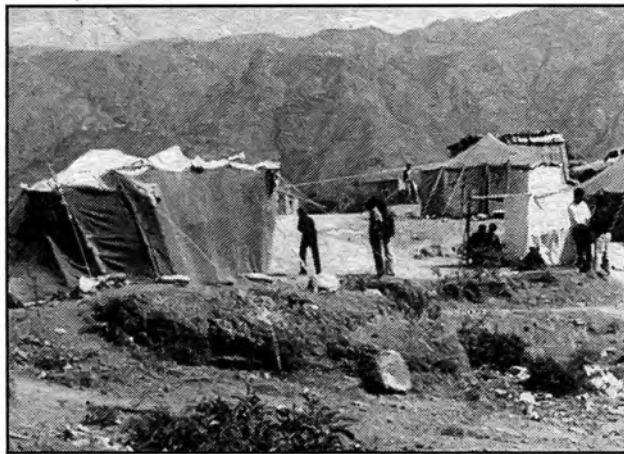
Bearing the African Curse

The status of refugees world-wide is a heart breaking story. Millions of people are separated from their homes, families and their native lands. Almost 22,376,300 people are recognized as refugees, with 7,458,500 in Asia, 7,385,100 in Africa, 6,056,500 in Europe, and 1,294,900 in North America. The rest are scattered in smaller numbers in Latin America and Oceania. Yemen too has its share of this problem. It hosts about 42,956 registered refugees and many on the loose unregistered.

Why Yemen?
Our shoreline is one open stretch. There are no coastal patrol boats and no coastal garrison are available. The absence of the navy encourages the inflow of unregistered illegal aliens into the country. In addition, our refugee problem is precipitated by geography. Yemen is situated facing the Horn of Africa, which is going through a very difficult time. There is a civil war in Somalia. There is tension between Ethiopia and Eritrea. There is a long standing civil war in Southern Sudan. The glitter of the oil-rich Arab Gulf countries also serves as a pull factor. Yemen becomes a stepping stone for individuals looking for better economic fortunes from as far as Tanzania and Zambia. Finally, the humanitarian open-door policy of the government has added fuel to the problem. plus the better economical conditions in Yemen and the presence of UNHCR, all these made Yemen a very attractive place for refugees, to them it is a paradise and a land of opportunities and security.



A clash and a conflict
The In-flux of refugees from Africa to our country because of civil wars there, have a double effect on different aspects of our lives. We look at it from a humanitarian point of view, we feel it is our duty to help them, but how can we help them when we



need help? and for how long?
We should look at it from other angles as well such as social and economical. This in-flux of refugees to Yemen had created a social clash, Yemen was and still is a conservative society many of the refugees are coming from a more or less liberal societies with different ideologies and believes and not knowing much about Yemeni society and its system. These lack of understanding leads to an undesirable and unfavorable misconception causing a social

clash between the two societies.
Economically speaking this in-flux increased the lineaments of poverty and its consequences, many of these people come to Yemen looking for jobs believing that Yemen is a better place to start a living or , UNHCR trains these refugees so they can go out of their camps and earn their bread, which lessens the responsibilities of the UNHCR and increases the problems of the country, Yemen is a labour exporting country, we have thousands of unemployed people, the government is not able to create new job opportunities, which means an enormous competition

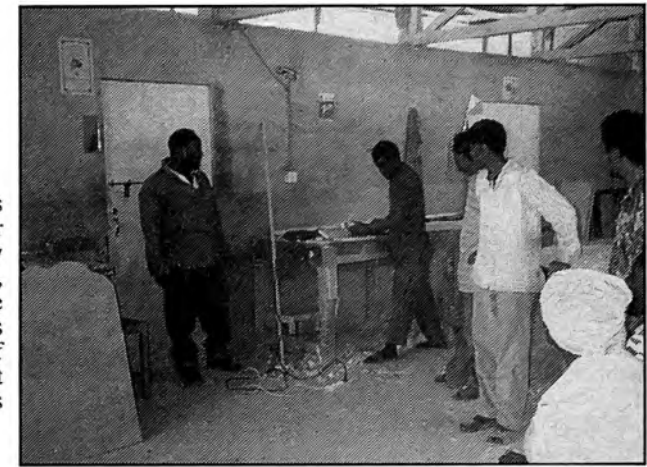
specially in the private foreign companies and service sectors, refugees with their survival instincts are ready to take up any kind of work accepting minimum wages, as a result Yemenis are left jobless on the roads, let alone the spread of diseases which are difficult to control for lack of medical technologies and insufficient financial backing as our officials always like to put it.

What the locals feel?!

Many young people feel that this problem is not going to be solved in the near future, they feel that they will be the ones to pay the price of this immeasurable crisis
"It is our responsibility to help them, as our culture and religion makes it obligatory to help people in need, but at the same time we should not suffer because of this and we should not be deprived of our chances in getting jobs". Said Mr. Murad (A young unemployed Yemeni).
Mr. Anoushiravan Daneshvar - UNHCR Representative in Yemen feels that refugees help in a way by reducing the labour cost and bring skills to the country. Mr. Fuad(a computer professional) does not agree with the Rep he says " It is true that they reduce the labour cost, but who is going to benefit from that? Only the businessmen a small part of the community, where the larger part the labour class suffers unavailability and uncertainty of finding jobs to earn their daily bread".

"We too suffer" Says the refugees.

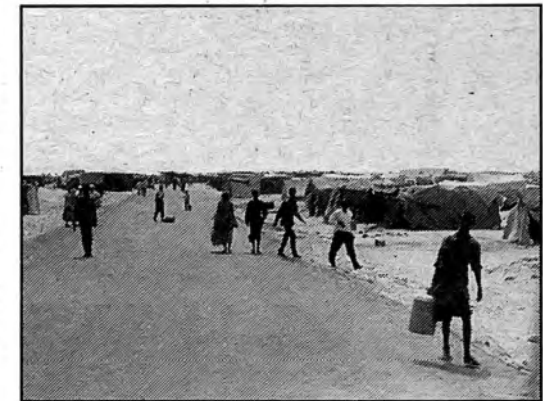
"The quality of food provided in the camps are below the standards, we can't live on such food in addition to that we don't get enough clothing, in winter it gets quite cold in the camp you can see small children shivering, so we as bread winners go out to work to help improve the situation" explained Mr. Mahmood J.
" We don't want a special treatment all we want is to be treated like human beings. I don't want to compare our conditions here with the ones in other countries e.g.; UK. It is going to be a shock to you". said Mr. Timir.
On asking the UNHCR Representative to clarify the above allegations Mr. Anoushiravan Explained
"The basic policy we follow as for our assistance for refugees is that we should not increase the standard of our services to refugees more than the existing local standards, because that will create tension between the refugees and the locals, because they will look at refugees as a privileged



people and the local population living next door not receiving anything so we try to maintain the local standards".
The question is, Is the food provided to refugees really match the local standards?

Accompany us

the refugees problem is a big one, their number is on the increase every day specially during the period from September - April of every year because of the suitable sea condition. A notable number of these people are young guys between the



age group 18 - 30 they are here looking for a better living, a job that can improve there life-styles. The locals feel that they are paying the price of these civil wars in the horn of Africa. the also feel that the International community is not doing enough to solve this problem and they all are of the opinion "If you can not stop a misery try to prevent another one from happening".

By: Hatem Banehriz.
Yemen Times

LAND OF ABANDONED TREASURES

Yemen's tourist industry was recently badly hit by a series of unfortunate incidents. Kidnapping, terrorism and other forms of violence have driven away the visitors.

The sad part in all of this is that Yemen offers many attractions, or what is called 'treasures' Mr. Jose Zoreda, Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of the World Tourism Organization (WTO). Mr. Zoreda visited Yemen twice over the last few weeks. On his second visit, Hatem Banehriz of the Yemen Times talked to him and filed the following interview.



Q: Could you tell us about the WTO?

A: The WTO is an International organization founded by 130 countries which are represented in it. That is the government side. It also has another side which brings representatives of over 400 of the most important companies in the world dealing with tourism and International Association and organizations and major Airlines. The basic

Q: Is tourism a real profitable business?

A: Not many people know that tourism is the biggest job provider industry and in most cases an average of about 10% of the gross national product in over all comes from tourism, in

some countries they exceeded that figure and in some it was smaller, but in average tourism is a 10% of the gross national product in major number of countries.

Q: How do you measure up Yemen with other destinations?

A: I don't have the figures of the tourists arrival in Yemen, although I have heard that you still are working on a reliable manner how to measure the statistics of the number of tourist arrivals. In terms of the product I can say Yemen can be categorized within the countries that provide a mixture of everything, in other words if we agree that tourism is a way of satisfying emotion, I would say Yemen has all the ingredients for satisfying people interested

in culture, those interested in adventures and people interested in contact with people in short Yemen has a lot of potentials, but honestly speaking it needs to improve its product. The cultural heritage that you have is astonishing but also in a very poor conditions, that is the question of bringing together the local communities more into the picture that tourism can be an important source of income for them complementary or substitutely.

Q: What do you think are the problems the Yemeni tourism market faces?

A: The purpose of the council is to bring together the private sector with the public sector in order to make tourism a better recognized industry among society and among other governmental

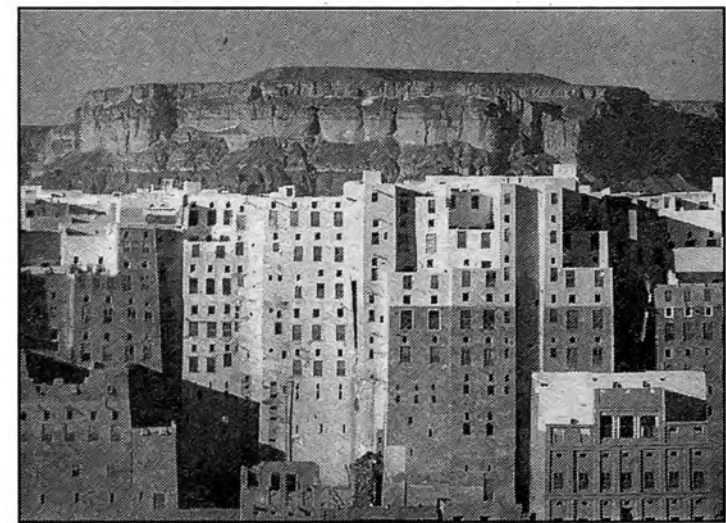
authorities which in some cases lacks understanding of the importance of tourism as one of the major and fundamental sector to encourage development and prosperity.

Q: Is this your first visit to Yemen?

A: Yes, this is my first visit to Yemen. I am on a completely private visit. I came with my wife for a pure tourism purposes, I had heard a lot about Yemen from friends who had come here. My wife is a Historian and we both are very ken in cultural oriented travel trips and Yemen was our missing country to come, I must say that we have enjoyed your beautiful villages, houses and the beautiful small towns and we think Yemen is a country that deserve much more attention in terms of tourism attraction and has an enormous potential if the authorities and the private sector here believe in tourism and put all the efforts so that tourism becomes everyday a more important sector, Yemen has all the ingredients in order to become a very highly successful tourist country if they want so.

Q: Do you have any specific comments?

A: When I was in Shibam (Hadarmut) which is one of the wonders of your country I was touched by it, but at the same time it was extremely dirty. It is



one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen but I must also say it is one of the most dirtiest places I have seen, it is a pity such a wonder is not a little bit more taken care of in a hygienic and cleanliness aspect, which is not very difficult if the local community is educated little by little that a lot more of income could come if we could provide a more appealing environment, where the tourist not only goes quickly and goes back but stays there have a coffee or eat in a nice clean small place with no plastic bags of rubbish all over the town, tourist would have stayed and consumed more and people will see that their income is increasing little by little, imagine I wanted to have a cola but there was no way. Another problem is Visas problem for example take my own case I came here and from here we went for a week to Ethiopia and we came back for a couple of days more I had to organize two

visas, this is not going to help in encouraging tourism to come back and spend more days. All countries are competing with each other, the concept of distance is demolishing the cost of air transport is gone down and Yemen is competing with other countries which may offer the same product, therefore you have to improve the competitiveness of your product. Kidnapping is a very unfavorable issue for the development of tourism, any action that threaten the safety and security of tourism is a very negative threat e.g.: last year the killing of tourists in Egypt had made it loss half a million tourists. Yemen must eliminate these kind of activities in order to have more tourist coming to this beautiful country. I am sure that Yemen is going to suffer in the coming few months of major cancellations because of what had happened. Yemeni government and the Yemeni private sector most believe in tourism.

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

Religion, Secularism & Civil Society

INTRODUCTION:

The connection between religion, secularism and civil society is still controversial in the Islamic culture. There have evolved two attitudes or even schools regarding this matter.

The first tends to be hostile. It sees secularism as a revolutionary philosophy which seeks to unseat religion in the life of society. Proponents of this attitude claim that secularism is not connected to civil society. They believe that secularism is against Islamic culture because it separates religion from social and political life. In addition, they say that the concept and formation of civil society pre-dates the coming of secularism. That is to say the civil society is connected to urban and industrial life.

The second school believes that secularism is not against Islamic teaching. They insist that secular thoughts liberate reason which is restrained by the current misunderstanding of the Islamic heritage. They focus on the rational dimensions of Islamic thought which fits with modern secular values. Furthermore, this group believes that institutionalized religion - like the Church of medieval times - seeks to reap political, economic and social influence and affluence by marginalizing other groups to the extent that many Arab/Muslim intellectuals have become scared of being labelled secular.

In order to be objective, it is logical to go back to historical

Ahmed Mohammad Al-Garady
A teacher of English, Taiz

developments and influences of the relationship between secularism and civil society.

At the same time, one should study systematically the nature of conflict in our society. Though this is not my objective in this short essay, it has a strong bearing on the controversy between secularism and civil society.

HISTORY:

The inter-relation between civil society and the secularist movement came into existence during the end of the 17th century in Europe. The ideology is connected to the ruling system and the sovereignty of the state. The sovereignty of the state was the main principle to control and regulate the interaction among people. Therefore, the principle of sovereignty moved through many significant stages.

It began in the familial authority of early human history. The family was the natural power base of human beings. The father used to possess 'sovereign' powers as he played the role of the ruler and children were the public. Children were raised to abide by the law of the family in order to ensure peace, harmony, and protection.

Nobody could violate this law in order to protect his/her place and rights in the family. Besides, no

one can rebel against this rules. All the members of the family are in need for each other.

But, even this limited and early societal arrangement was colored by man's nature - the urge for freedom, ownership, and all other innate needs. So, even the powers of the head of the family were gradually toned down to allow some room for the natural urges and innate needs.

Then, the principle of sovereignty acquired a new nature, because the sacerdotal system replaced the blood relationship. Priests and clergymen claimed to be mediators between God and mankind. This gave the 'right' or rather power to regulate the affairs of man.

The mediators and representatives of God claimed to have divine and sacred authority. Thus, they exercised monopoly and absolute responsibility to legislate and make laws to rule the people. The common people did not have the right to even select their own legislators and legislative body. If some people decided to rebel or even compete with the divine authority of religious circles, they were presented as standing against the will of God. In Christianity, there are excommunicated. In Islam, they are beheaded. The clergymen, 'knowing' full well what God wants, pass the judgement.

Consequently, people who seek more freedom from the clergymen act on behalf of the devil! The theological class is given this absolute power by their understanding and explanation of the texts of the holy books. They are given this sacred privilege to apply the rules of God. If the will of the people - even if a majority - contradicts with this, it is a fight against the will of God.

This dark stage of humanity was the main reason behind the mind's revolution. It is called the "Reformation".

Religious circles claim authority is granted to them from God. This kind of authority was later bestowed to the political ruler or the state. In return, the sovereign provides the public with security which is most essential to man. But more importantly, the sovereign bestows this security to the worshipers of God, for which he deserves allegiance, support and power.

The most critical stage of historic evolution in the concept of sovereignty of the state was the period of "social contracts". That is the age of forming laws and constitutions.

There were many factors which paved the way for the rise of social contract leading the way to civil society. But the most important among these was scientific discoveries. The world was almost daily inundated with new knowledge that wrecked the old structure and data base.

SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS:

Scientists, thinkers, philosophers and others were working to form new thoughts about the universe, mankind, nature, and God. This approach depended on reasoning rather than on believing. The natural expectation was for this new direction to collide with the old concepts.

Scientists did not have a strong power to replace the old tradi-

tions of the cultural heritage. Thus, in the early stages of this great human transformation, the scientists suffered.

We know just too well what happened to the Italian scientist, Galileo. He carried out experiments leading to inventions of many instruments such as the pendulum, the thermometer, the famous telescope and many other equipment and tools.

Galileo was convinced that the old world's knowledge was important, but he needed to verify most of it. He concluded most of it was untrue. People interacted with lots of concepts and thoughts in a dogmatic way. They accepted inherited knowledge as accurate. And they were not allowed to prove them or even think about them.

Another example is that of Copernicus, a great scientist from Poland. He concluded that our earth actually goes around the sun and not the other way round, as the church teachings stated. Also, Copernicus discovered that the our earth is one of many planets, and it was not the largest. He named five of these planets - Mars, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn. In his book "How things move in the sky", he numerated many scientific facts which were against the religious and traditional beliefs.

He expected human beings to discover many other planets in future. But the church was dogmatically attached to the old facts. One of the church beliefs was about planets. It believed that the planets could not be more than seven because the days of the week are seven and God made the world in seven days. The church's proof was very telling - that man has only seven holes in his/her head - two ears, two eyes, two holes in the two side of the nose and one hole in the mouth.

Galileo moved in many universities to prove the Copernican

discoveries. As a result, he was faced with hostile attitudes and many enemies who spoke in the name of religion and the public interest.

Isaac Newton, an English Scientist added new facts about gravity and the horizons and orbits of the planets. The enemies of the new scientific direction - the church authority - put these scientists and their books on the blacklist. They put lots of them in prison. They executed some of them. They ex-communicated church members who supported and allowed these new thoughts to reach the hands of the common readers.

In short, there was a frantic conflict between the men and women who brought to us the age of enlightenment and the religious circles who insisted on the age of darkness.

The church's medieval position does look ridiculous today in hindsight, as will the position of today's clergies in the future. The fight has really little to do with God or religion or truth. It is a fight for influence and power. It is the same thing today.

CONCLUSION:

In our lives here today, there is urgent need, and there are outcries for reforms. We are in a period which calls for establishing a new social contract which will lead to a democratic and civil society. We must apply reason to address the changes of many new values and concepts such as citizenship, separation of the three authorities (legislative, judicial and executive) and the rule of secularism in this regard.

Then we can move our nation to the spotlight and take our rightful place among the world nations. This conflict has nothing to do with Islam and does not belittle Islam. It will belittle those who use Islam to ride high. It will allow us to focus on the real issues in our lives.



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مجموعة شركات اخوان ثابت

بأصدق التهاني والتبريكات لفخامة

الرئيس علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى حكومة الدكتور عبدالكريم الارياني وإلى الشعب اليمني الأبني



The Construction Industry: MEETING NEW CHALLENGES

Introduction:

The construction business in Yemen witnessed a lot of progress over the last three decades, but notably since Yemen's reunification on May 22nd 1990. The aimlessly sprawling urban centers is a visible proof to this development. However, one of the main obstacles contractors still face is how to reduce high costs, especially of skilled workers and material used in applying traditional design and architecture in new buildings. The components and material used in the traditional Yemeni architecture such as arches are based on time-providen ancient technologies. An example would be the burnt red bricks used colorfully in buildings. Another example is the gypsum and white-wash used to decorate and inside and outside of buildings. But the value of such components is not just for decoration, they also have practical sides such as reducing variations in in-house changes in temperature, strength, durability, etc. As a result, traditional Yemeni architecture became popular among investors. Unfortunately, however, the cost of construction

sides in huge quarrying pits which dot the landscape of Yemen. Rocks in all kinds of density, strength and colors are available. The colors include red, green, yellow, beige, blue, black, white, etc. Rocks are trucked to the construction sites by large lorries. Imported steel plates and bars are twisted and shaped in various ways giving strength and beauty. The skills of Yemeni iron-smiths and welders go back deep into history. It will be remembered that Yemen produced a large share of the swords, shields, arrows, and spears of the Islamic armies that over-ran most the Old World a millenium and a half ago. The gypsum used in construction is a unique Yemeni variety called 'gos'. Yemenis males fantastic shapes or arcs, loops, curves, and of course, the famous qamariyas (glass-windows) from this material. Today, there are three cement plants in the country. These are at Amran (Sanaa), Bajil (Hodeidah) and Mafrag (Taiz). Given the rising level of demand and the resultant gap in supply - now covered through imports, there are plans to build more cement plants in the country.

5. The (extra-light) Green stone: High rate of Andesine is found in Manakha. Furthermore, Granite, which is formed of Quartz, Orthoclase and Hornbland is used in buildings. Secondly, Sedimentary Rocks such as Limestone Ca CO₃, and Sandstone formed by Quartz particles are good for construction. Thirdly, a Metamorphic Rock such as Gneiss formed of Quartz, Orthoclase and Mica are good materials for building purposes. Finally, many Geologists think that the chemical formula of substances in nature give color, shape, and masses, of all various rocks and soil in Yemen.

Contractors:

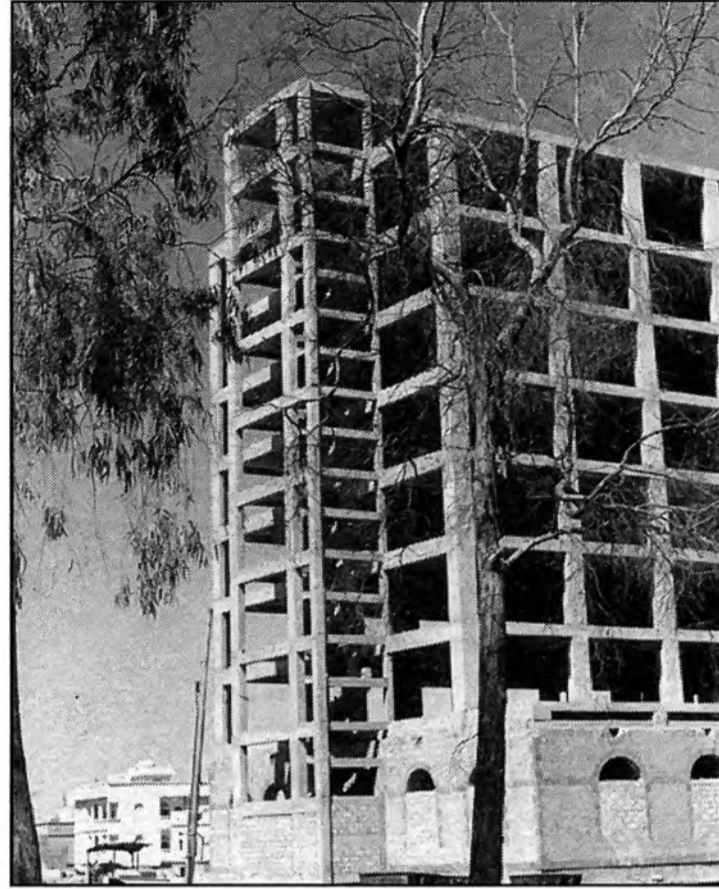
Yemenis have long been in the construction business. The huge ancient dams, the mountain-side terraces, the tall buildings and other monuments are standing testimony to a 'Nation of Builders' as Yemenis have been dubbed.

Thus has been organized through different-size contracting firms and companies. The majority of these are small, and they are organized along family lines. This means a few relatives get together to form a small team. It also means that the contractors work along specialized lines - masons, plasterers, carpenters, electricians, etc. Then there are the medium-size companies which can take full responsibility for the whole construction project. Most Yemenis who plan to build a home approach this group of contractors. Finally, there are the large construction companies. These are multi-purpose construction companies which own lots of equipment such as cranes, mixers, trucks, etc. These companies also invest on their own in constructing residential and office complexes which are then sold over to the public.

The country has also seen the arrival of foreign construction companies. The most famous is Consolidated Construction (International) Company, known more as CCC. This company's origin dates back to Aden in the late 1940s. Other companies include Chinese, Korean and others.

Prices:

Prices of construction material are usually among the most volatile in the country. Even during periods of economic stagnation, construction is one of the least affected fields. The reason is simple. A rapid population growth pushes demand for housing constantly. One of the problems of the construction industry is bottlenecks



of lavish dwellings or villas. These were oriented towards foreigners. Since the mid-1980s and until only a few years back, demand for spacious and well-built residential and office buildings has been high. Foreign companies, embassies, international organizations, consultants and experts have all paid handsomely for good homes and offices. As a result, many large and spacious villas were built, especially in the capital city, Sanaa. Today, many of these stand empty as many foreigners either left the country, or foreign influx has subsided. Ironically, demand for midium and small size houses and apartments continues to grow. This demand is mostly generated by Yemenis who have come from the countryside or from abroad. Thus is there is excess demand for one group of housing, and there is excess supply for another group of housing.

Conclusion:

The Yemeni government can help spur construction of homes if it were to uphold the law on real estate ownership. Many would-be investors are frustrated nby this problem. The government must encourage small-scale housing projects by applying variable taxes. This will entice private projects that is small in size.

By: Ghassan Al-Ahdal, Yemen Times



along the traditional lines of architecture is much higher than the modern cement blocks. That is why architectural engineers have devised a new design which combines old and new ways in construction.

Construction Material:

Yemen is well-endowed with traditional and modern construction material. Except for iron/steel bars and some wooden components, most of the other material is local. This includes the colored stones, bricks, flagstones, cement, cement blocks, sand, gravel, wooden panels, sewerage pipelines, plastic tubes, etc. Stones are cut out from mountain

Geology of Rocks & Soil

There are 5 major kinds of stones known by Yemenis and all local architects. They are categorized first, as Igneous rocks (Rock fragments) of volcanic tuffs (Ashes), its formula contains Pyroxen + Plasioclase and have the following peculiarities:

- (a) The Black Abyssinian stone: is known as Vesicular Basalt, and found almost in all areas.
- (b) The Deluxe stone: is known as Basalt, and found in Dhamar
- The Red Stones: yHigh rate of pure iron is found in Rada'a.
- The Beige (Grayish tan) stone: High rate of Aluminum is found in 'Abasser mountain.
- The White stone: High rate of Aluminum is found in Sa'adah.

in supply. This is especially true of cement, which is often stocked by greedy merchants while awaiting a steep price rise. I have given in the adjacent table some representative price levels of the main construction material and labor.

Yemenis have always felt that real estate is one of the most secure investments. Besides, nobody ever remembers any time when the value of real estate has drastically come down, although it is happening at this moment. Most people who have extra resources, especially in cities, have invested in the construction

Good Investment:



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4	Steam Toilet Complete Set	Connected Parts	W. Europe	U.S. \$ 9,000.00
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9	Big Pebbles (Karri) For ceilings	Full Lorry Freight	Local	Y.R. 10,000.00
10	Small Pebbles (Halsan) For Walls	Full Lorry Freight	Local	Y.R. 7,000.00
11	Black Abyssinian Stones	Full Lorry Freight	Local	Y.R. 5,000.00
12	Deluxe Building Stones (Dhamar)	Full Lorry Freight	Local	Y.R. 40,000.00
13	Flood Soil	Full Lorry Freight	Local	Y.R. 5,000.00
14	Industrial Concrete	30cm.x20cm.	Local	Y.R. 90.00
15	Industrial Concrete	30cm.x15cm.	Local	Y.R. 60.00
16	Industrial Red Bricks	20cm.x10cm.	Local	Y.R. 50.00
17	Amran Cement	50 kg. / 1 sack	Local	Y.R. 550.00
18	Bajel Cement	50 kg. / 1 sack	Local	Y.R. 520.00

How Far Yemenis Believe Contraception is Important



By: Dr. Najeebah Ba-Hubaish,
National Program Officer,
UNFPA

Information on contraceptive use is of particular interest to policy makers, program managers, and researchers in the areas of population and family planning. Providing easy access to reliable and safe methods of family planning increases women's control over their own fertility. This article describes women's knowledge of family planning methods and sources where they can be obtained, use of contraception, sources of information about family planning, and exposure to media messages about family planning. Differentials in knowledge and use are also discussed. In addition, problems with current use, and reasons for not intending to use a method in the future are included in this chapter.

Knowledge of Family Planning Methods and Sources

Family with contraceptive methods and sources for methods are among the prerequisites for the adoption of fertility regulation. Knowledge of methods is a necessary but not sufficient condition for use. The Yemen Demographic and Maternal and Child Health Survey (YDMCHS) provides information on the level on knowledge of family planning methods and providers of family planning services.

Estimates indicate that 84% of current married women have heard of at least one family planning method and slightly less than four-fifth reported knowing a modern method. This indicates a substantial increase in contraceptive knowledge in Yemen since the 1991-92 survey. The most widely known method is the pill, which is known to more than 75% of currently married women. About two-thirds of the women have heard of the IUD, 56% know about injectables, and 48% have heard of female sterilization. Knowledge of other modern methods is much lower: condoms and male sterilization (24%, each), vaginal methods (19%), and implants (6%).

About 7 in 10 women know of a traditional method, mainly prolonged breastfeeding (61%), while periodic abstinence and withdrawal are known by smaller proportion reported in the 1991-92 survey.

Knowledge of sources for specific methods shows that 44% of currently married women know injectables and female sterilization. Sources for other methods are even less well-known.

Only small differences by age exist in knowledge of modern methods among women 15-49; 78 to 81% of women 20-49, and 73% of the women 15-19 have heard of a modern method of family planning.

There is a great variation in the level of contraceptive knowledge by residence and region. More than 9 in 10 urban women know of at least one modern method

compared with less than 75% of rural women. Knowledge of modern methods is much higher in the Plateau and Desert (85%) and the Coastal regions (82%) than in the Mountainous region (68%).

There are substantial differences in knowledge of contraceptive methods by education. Among illiterate women, 76% know a modern method compared with 93% of women who have completed primary education, and 98% of women with secondary or higher education. The differences in knowledge of family planning by education may account, in large part, for the great knowledge of family planning in urban areas and in the Plateau and Desert region, since a great proportion of educated women live in those areas.

Differentials in knowledge of service providers show relatively more variability than differentials in knowledge of modern methods. By age groups, between 53 and 55% of currently married women age 20-44 know a source for a modern contraceptive method. Older and younger women are less likely to know about service providers. The differences are much greater by residence. Eighty-one % of urban women know a source, compared with only 43 % of rural women. Regionally, a woman in the Plateau and Desert region (62%) is more likely to know a source for a contraceptive method than a woman who lives in the Mountainous region (36%). The most striking differences in knowledge of service providers are by level of education. Only 47 % of illiterate women know a source. Among women who have completed primary school, knowledge of service providers is more than 70% higher (82%), while knowledge of a source is twice as high among women who have completed at least secondary school (93%).

Ever Use of Contraception

About 38% of ever-married women have used a method to regulate their fertility at some point in their lives. Twenty-three percent have used a modern method. A quarter ever-married women have used traditional methods (including breastfeeding); thus, the majority of ever-users have heard experience with modern methods, and some have used more than one method. Currently married women and ever-married women have about the same level of experience with ever use of contraception.

The age differentials for ever use among currently married women indicate that the rate for women age 15-19 is only 13%; it increase to 34% for women age 20-24, and to 24% among women age 25-29. Ever-use peaks at 45 to 47% among women in their thirties before declining to 39% among women age 45-49. The modern methods most used by married women are the pill (16%) and the IUD (7%). Overall, however, the most widely used method is prolonged breastfeeding (20%).

Number of Children at First Use of Contraceptive

Fourteen percent of women, or 38% of ever-users start using contraception before having their second child. This tendency to being using contraception early probably for the purpose of spacing births- is most noticeable among younger women, i.e. women under 35 years of age.

Reason for First Use of Contraception

Overall, 82% of ever-users began using contraceptive to delay the

next birth, while 18% started using because they wanted no more children.

The proportion of women who began using family planning to avoid the next birth increases rapidly with the number of children the woman has at the time of first use. Among women with four or more children at the time of first use, 40% reported that they wanted no more children.

The proportion of ever-users who adopted a family planning method for the first time for the purpose of spacing births rather than for limiting family size was higher among urban women than rural women, higher among more educated women than among those who are illiterate, and higher among those living in Coastal region than in the Mountainous region.

Current Use of Contraception

The contraceptive prevalence rate (including prolonged breastfeeding) for currently married women (pregnant and non-pregnant) is 21%. Almost half are using a modern method.

The modern methods most commonly used are the pill (4 %) and the IUD (3 %). One% of women use injectables and the same proportion use female sterilization; 8 % depend on prolonged breastfeeding, 2 % use withdrawal, and 1% use periodic abstinence.

Estimates indicate also the differentials in contraceptive prevalence among currently married women, by residence, region, level of education, the current family size. A large difference in prevalence is observed between urban and rural areas. Thirty-six% of urban women are using a contraceptive method, compared with only 16% of rural women. The prevalence rate in urban areas is more than twice that in rural areas. Prevalence in the Plateau and Desert region is also about twice as high as in the Mountainous region. Pronounced differences in current use exist by level of education. The proportion of married women using contraception increases dramatically for 18% among illiterate women to 32% among those with primary school completed, and then jumps to 49% among women with at least secondary education.

Contraceptive use increases with the number of living children. Current use is negligible among childless women and is 16% among women with one child. One in 4 women who has three or more children is currently using a method of contraception.

Since 1991-92, contraceptive use has doubled in the age group 20-24 (from 9 to 16%) and increased even more dramatically among women age 25-29 and 45-49. Except for childless women, contraceptive use has increased substantially in all groups regardless of the number of children.

Knowledge of the Fertile Period

The most common response, given by 36% of women and 47% of users was that the risk of pregnancy was greater after a woman's period ends. Only 8% of ever-married women and 29% of users correctly identified the middle of the cycle as the time a woman is most likely to get pregnant. Six% of periodic abstinence users compared with 3% of ever-married women believe that the most fertile time in the ovu-

latory cycle occurs just before the period begins. Almost one-third of ever-married women and 11% of users of periodic abstinence say that they do not know when woman is most likely to get pregnant during the ovulatory cycle.

Consolation before Using the Pill

Overall, 71% of women consulted doctors and 6% nurses/midwives; pharmacists were consulted by 4% while 3% consulted friends or neighbors. Eleven % did not consult anyone.

For past users, about 73 % consulted doctors, 5% nurses/midwives, and 4% pharmacists while 9 % did not consult anyone. For current users, the most likely persons to be consulted area again doctors (69%), nurses/midwives (8%), and pharmacists (4%). About 13 % of current users did not consult anyone before use.

Knowledge of Contraceptive Effects of Breastfeeding

About 4 to 10 currently married women believe that breastfeeding does not affect the chances of becoming pregnant. About 20% of women either do not know about the contraceptive effects of breastfeeding or believe that breastfeeding increases the risk of pregnancy. Only 32 % correctly reported that breastfeeding can reduce the risk of pregnancy.

rently relay on breastfeeding as a contraceptive method.

Problems with Current Method of Contraception

Ten % of condom users and sizable proportion of women using injectables, the IUD, female sterilization, and the pill reported having problems with their methods. Around 40 % IUD and injectables users, and one third of pill users reported having problems with their method. Health concerns were the most frequently cited problem regarding the IUD (38%), injectables (38 %), female sterilization (33%) and the pill (31%). One to four percent of women using modern methods reported that the method was uncomfortable to use.

Reasons for Not Intending to Use Contraception

The reasons expressed by women for not intending to use family planning can be broadly grouped into the following categories: reasons related to contraceptive methods, attitude toward family planning, fatalistic attitude, and "other" reasons. The reasons related to contraceptive methods are lack of knowledge, side effects, inconvenience of use, and difficulty obtaining methods. Twenty-three percent of women said they wanted more children and 10% reported that they were either menopausal or sub fecund.

more likely to say they were menopausal. The major differences in other reasons by age was health concerns and husband's disapproval.

Among those who reported wanting more children, the major reason for not using contraception was desire to have more children (around 44%), followed by religious prohibition on contraceptive use (16%). Among those who had experience with contraceptive methods and wanted more children, the other important reasons for not intending to use were the side effects associated with contraceptive use (13%) and health concerns (9%).

Among those who reported wanting to limit family size but had never used a method, surprisingly, 23 percent said they would not use a method because they wanted more children. An even higher proportion (26%) does not intend to use because they believe that religious prohibits using family planning methods. On in seven women either does not know a method or does not know a source for a method.

Discussion of Family Planning with Husband

About 42% of women said they had not talked to their husbands about family planning in the year preceding the survey while 26% had discussed it once or twice and 32% had discussed it more often. Women in the oldest and



Differentials in knowledge of contraceptive effects of breastfeeding by age show that correct knowledge is lowest among women under 20 (40%), and ranges from 32 to 34 % among other age cohorts.

Correct knowledge of the contraceptive effect of breastfeeding is higher among women in urban areas, and in the Plateau and Desert region. Compared with illiterate and less educated women (32-37%), knowledge that breastfeeding can decrease pregnancy risk is slightly higher among those who have completed preparatory education and much higher among those with secondary or higher education (45%) One in five women has at some time used breastfeeding to avoid pregnancy, 8% report they cur-

Only 8% of non users said they would not use a contraceptive method because they lacked knowledge of methods or their sources while 1% mentioned lack of access to methods. Twelve percent of women had no plan to use contraception because of fear of side effects, 1% considered contraceptive methods inconvenient to use, and 1% said the cost of methods was too high.

About 28% of women gave attitudinal reasons. Although 2% were personally opposed to family planning, the remaining women in this category were split between religious prohibition (17%) and disapproval of husbands (9%).

Younger women were more likely to mention wanting more children and other women were

youngest cohorts were least likely to have discussed family planning with their husbands.

In 40% of couples, both husband and wife approve of family planning; in 22% both disapprove. In 12% of couples, the wife approves but the husbands does not, while in 4 percent, the husband approves but the wife does not. There are marked differential by level of education: the higher the wife's level of education, the more likely it is the couple approves family planning. Partly for this reason, couples in urban areas are twice as likely to approve of family planning as those in rural areas. Couples' approval of family planning is highest in the Plateau and Desert region (48%) and lowest in the Mountainous region (29%).

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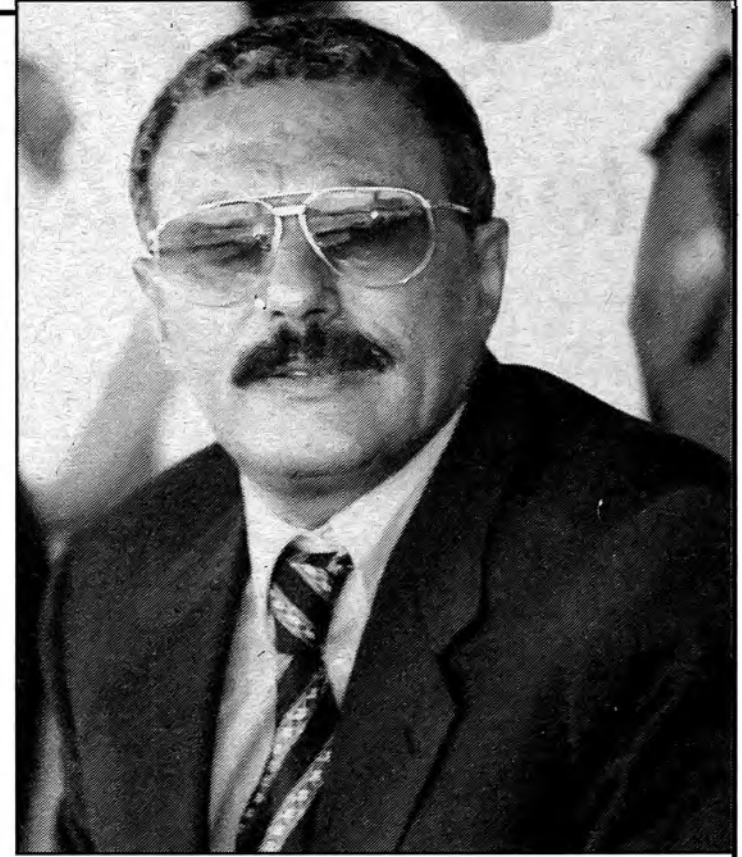
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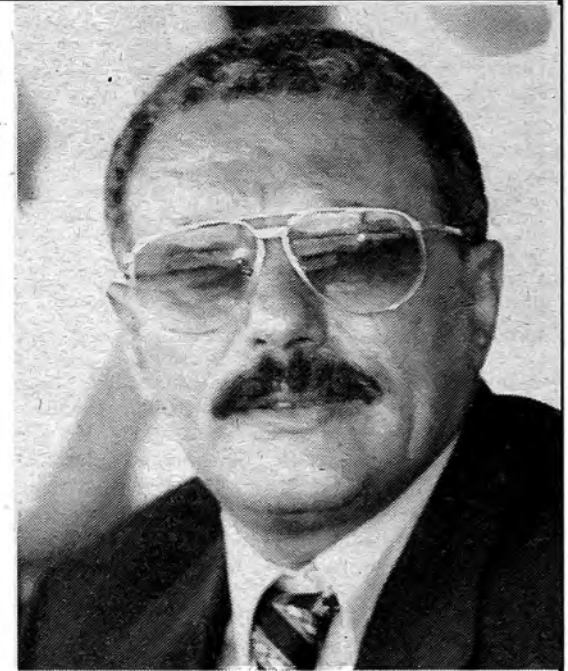
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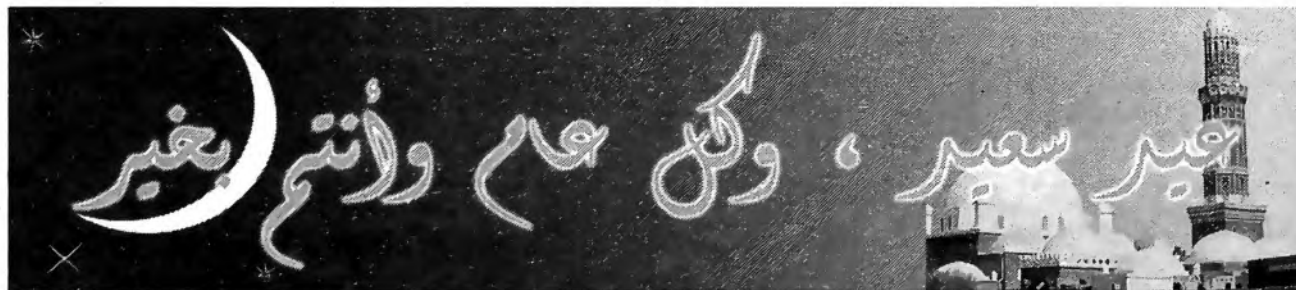
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Sanaa Airport: "love it or leave it"

I was filled with excitement as our plane landed at Sanaa airport in time. I was finally going to see Yemen, a country I have heard and read a lot about and dreamt of for a long time. As we left the plane and approached the airport building I received my first disappointment. The building from the outside was not at all what I expected of an International airport, but I consoled myself by saying that things must be different from inside but it was not to be.

Usually a country like Yemen crying for tourism, should do their best to maintain their airports for a simple reason, visitors' get their first impression about the country at the airport. When I went to use the toilet it was extremely dirty and it was easy to see that it has not been cleaned for many days, I decided not to use the toilet but I wanted to wash my face and bingo! there was no water coming from the tap!

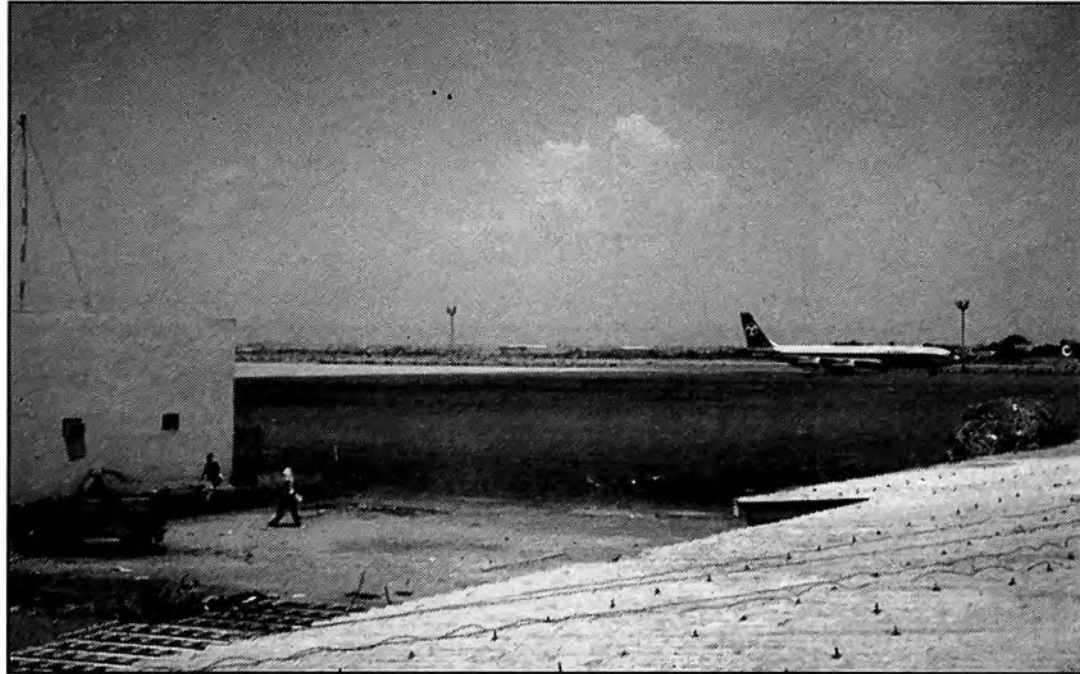
The least I could say is that I was so shocked by this situation. Then we went in line to have the entry seal on our passports. The queue was moving with snail speed. At long last, we were there and we made it. It was our turn to stamp our passports. For a minute, I thought that the officer is examining the documents and registering them manually, you would think you were in some remote country where facilities were not available because of the long wait. When we reached the immigration desk I thought my problems were over, my husband gave

drag our heavy bags all the way to the customs table, which was not far. "Oh my God! Now what will be the demands of these guys?" I thought. But to be honest, we had no problems there.

So we came out of the airport, very few Taxis were waiting. There were lots of extremely young kids who tried to convince us to let them carry our luggage to wherever we wanted, of course, all with its cost. You should have also seen how taxi drivers were pulling our bags. Every driver wanted us to ride in his cab. We finally surrendered to the taxi driver who had already taken half of our luggage to his car in front of our very eyes. Then we were on our way to the city.

Immediately after we have escaped the impolite reception of the airport, we were received by something else: the stinking smell coming out of a swamp, known to be the biggest open sewer in Sanaa. As if that was not enough, I was shocked to see loads of rubbish thrown here and there, and tens of multi color plastic bags flying in the air. For me, it was a new experience. I have never seen so much rubbish and flying plastic bags in a public area. In the beginning, I thought it was Kite Flying Season, but later I was told that these were flying plastic bags!

Yemen is a very beautiful country with lots of historical and touristic locations and many other attrac-



our passports to the officer and he started checking them. I assumed that the officer was there to check if we had a valid visa or not. I was wrong! He was not satisfied with just checking my visa, he also asked for our marriage certificate. My husband and I were surprised to hear the unusual demand "marriage certificate!" My husband exclaimed and tried to explain to the officer that it was none of his business and that I was given the visa on the basis of the marriage certificate, but it was all in vain. My husband's sensible lecture fell on deaf ears. Realizing that the man in front of us did not know his job limits and he appears to be an illiterate, we gave up and revealed our marriage certificate. The officer then held the paper and scrutinized it for a while and then asked his second stupid question "where is the date of your marriage?" My husband burst with laughter and looked at me and whispered, "excuse him. I guess he is not the good in English" and with a smile he told him "It's written on the first line". Even after we have shown all documents needed, the officer still was not satisfied. It was only after a lot of explanation, argument and threats from my husband that he let us in.

You must be thinking that our problems were over by then. Well, you thought wrong! When we wanted to get a trolley for our luggage, there was a young boy guarding them. When my husband tried to pull a trolley out, the boy came to him and said "you have to pay YR. 20" and pointed at a board hanging there. "But I don't have YR. 20. In fact, I possess no Yemeni currency with me at the moment" explained my husband. "No problem, you can pay me in dollars" said the boy. However, the smallest currency note we had at that moment was a USD \$20 note. When we asked him if he had change, he said "sorry". Then we requested him to let us use the trolley and he refused, so we had to

tions. People from all parts of the world come every year to visit this legendary country. It is time we realize that we, the people living in this beautiful land, are responsible for keeping it clean. Visitors judge us by how well we treat them and how clean we keep our beloved country. Just like we clean our houses we should clean our cities. Just as we would like to be treated abroad, we should treat our visitors.

This reflects what we really are.

By: Mrs. Lily Chongthu.

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Najib Saeed Thabet: Excelling Over 25 Years

Najib Saeed Thabet is one of the young singers who climbed to stardom in the Yemeni artistic arena in the 80s and is still shining until now. He enjoys a beautiful, emotional voice that enabled him to excel over the past 25 years.

Thabet, who has a diploma from the Arts Institute, is distinguished from his peers for his use of modern music which introduced a new touch on Yemeni songs.

Thabet was born in Aden in the 60s where he studied until the secondary stage and he was raised in an artistic family. His uncle Iskander Thabet was one of the renowned Yemeni singers.

While at school, he used to sing songs of famous Yemeni singers until he was discovered by Abdou Bohaisy who encouraged him a lot and urged him to go ahead in that field.

In the early 70s a number of musical bands were formed, one of which, Al Anwar, was in the school where Thabet was studying. He joined the band and shared in festivals organized by that band at various scholastic occasions. He later joined a national folklore troupe founded by Jamil Ghanem who had graduated with distinction from an Iraqi musical institute in playing the lute.

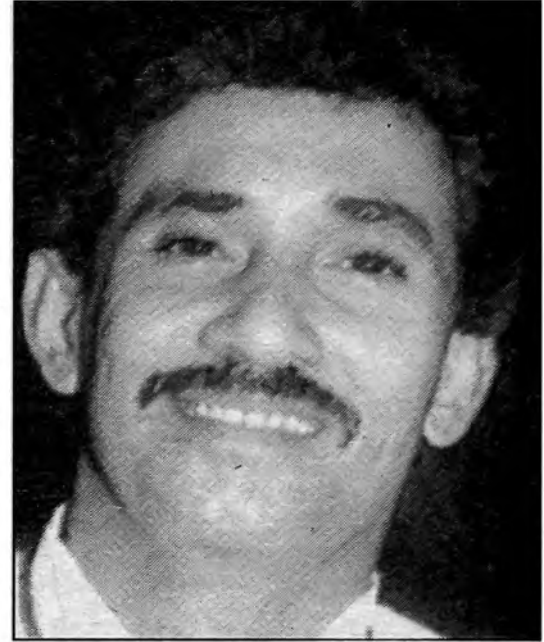
During that period, Thabet recorded his first song at the Aden Radio which represented the first artistic step for the young singer.

In 1974, he joined the Arts Institute in Aden and specialized in playing the lute and he benefited a lot from studying in that Institute.

With the formation of government bands in the early 80s, Thabet was one of the active elements in the Yemeni youth band and he became very famous among the youngsters.

He added his modern touches on various new songs introduced in the 80s which added to his credit. He sang for many Yemeni poets and was very careful in choosing poems that coped with various layers of the society and carried sublime meanings.

In the mid 80s, Thabet was appointed as head of the



music section in the Aden culture administration bureau where he laid down an advanced basis in the Yemeni bands' performance.

His artistic activities escalated since then and he encouraged other younger singers through supplying them with his advice and experience.

Despite many obstacles that hurdle development of arts in our country, yet there is hope in the revival of cultural and artistic activities with the efforts of our distinguished artists.

By: Saleh Abdulbaqi,
Yemen Times Art Editor



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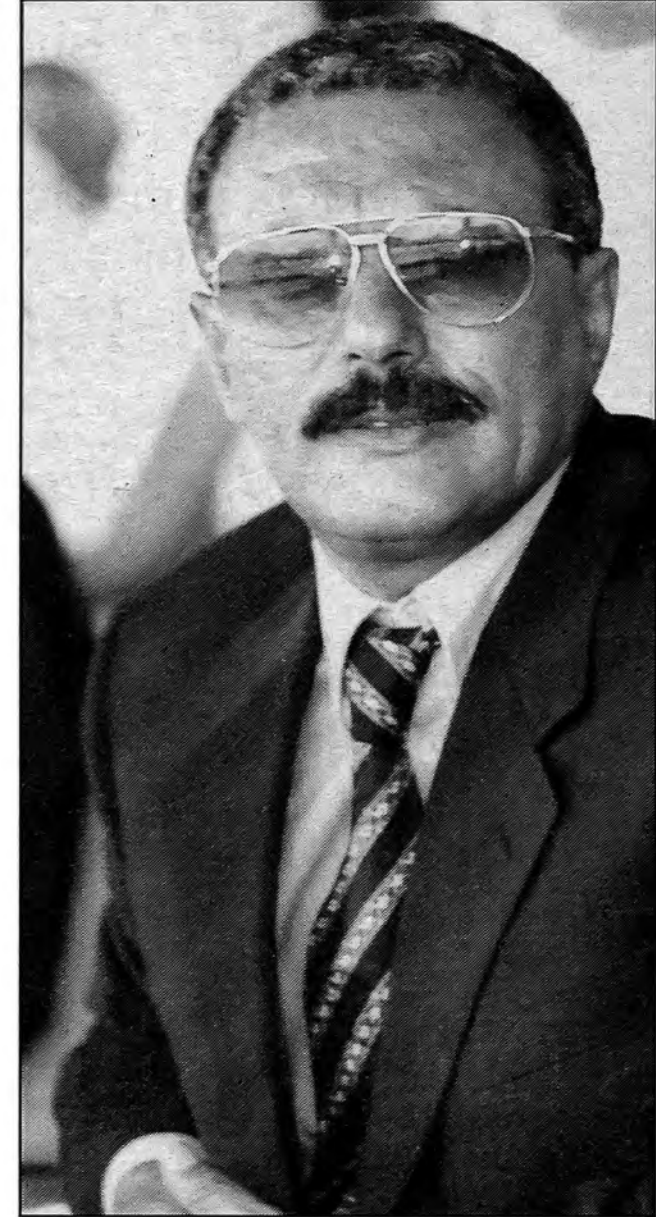
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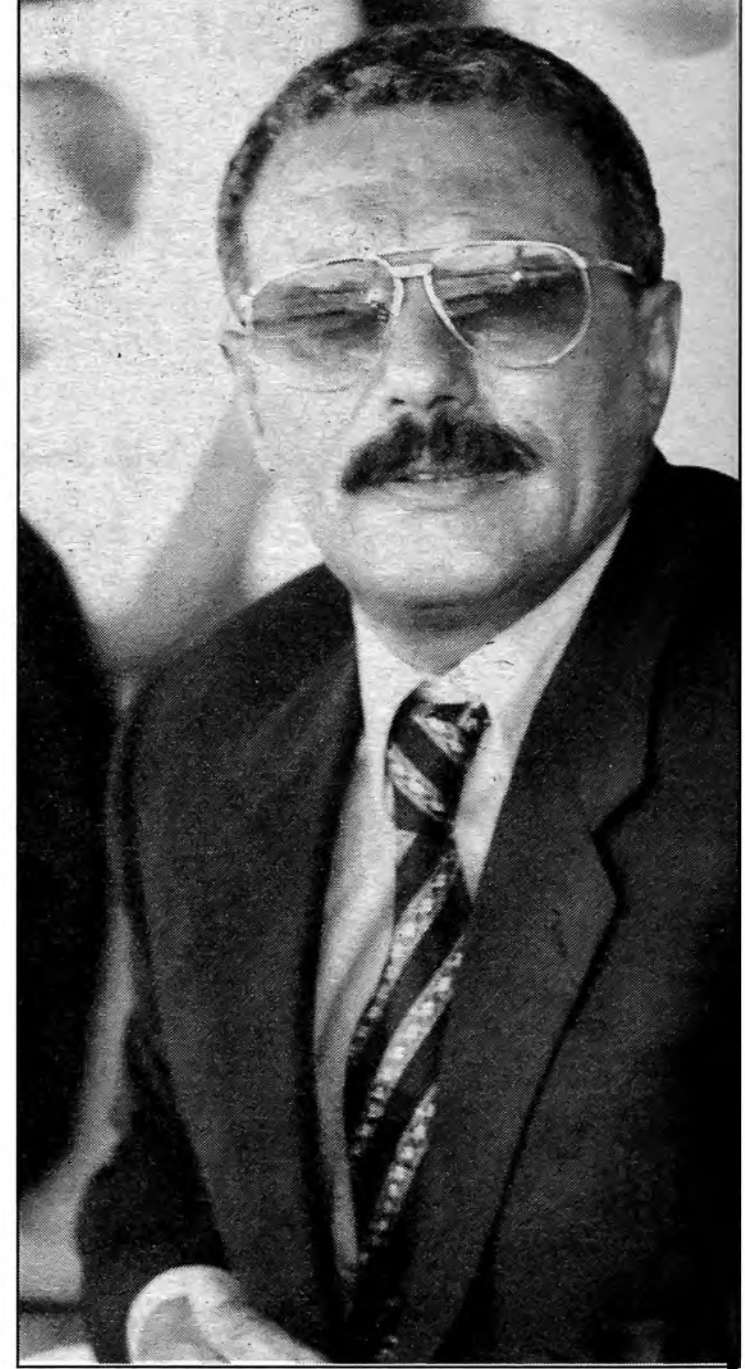
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FOOD, FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT THE EID BRUNCH AT THE NEW BILQUIS

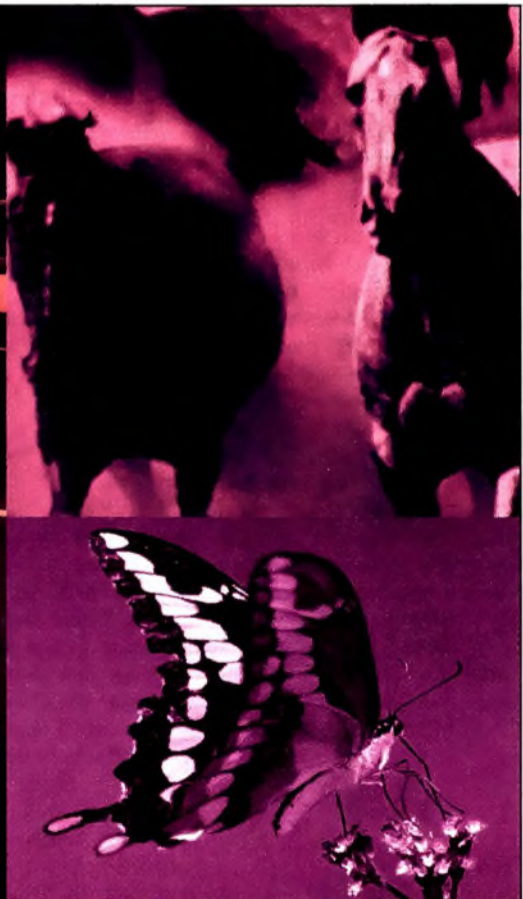
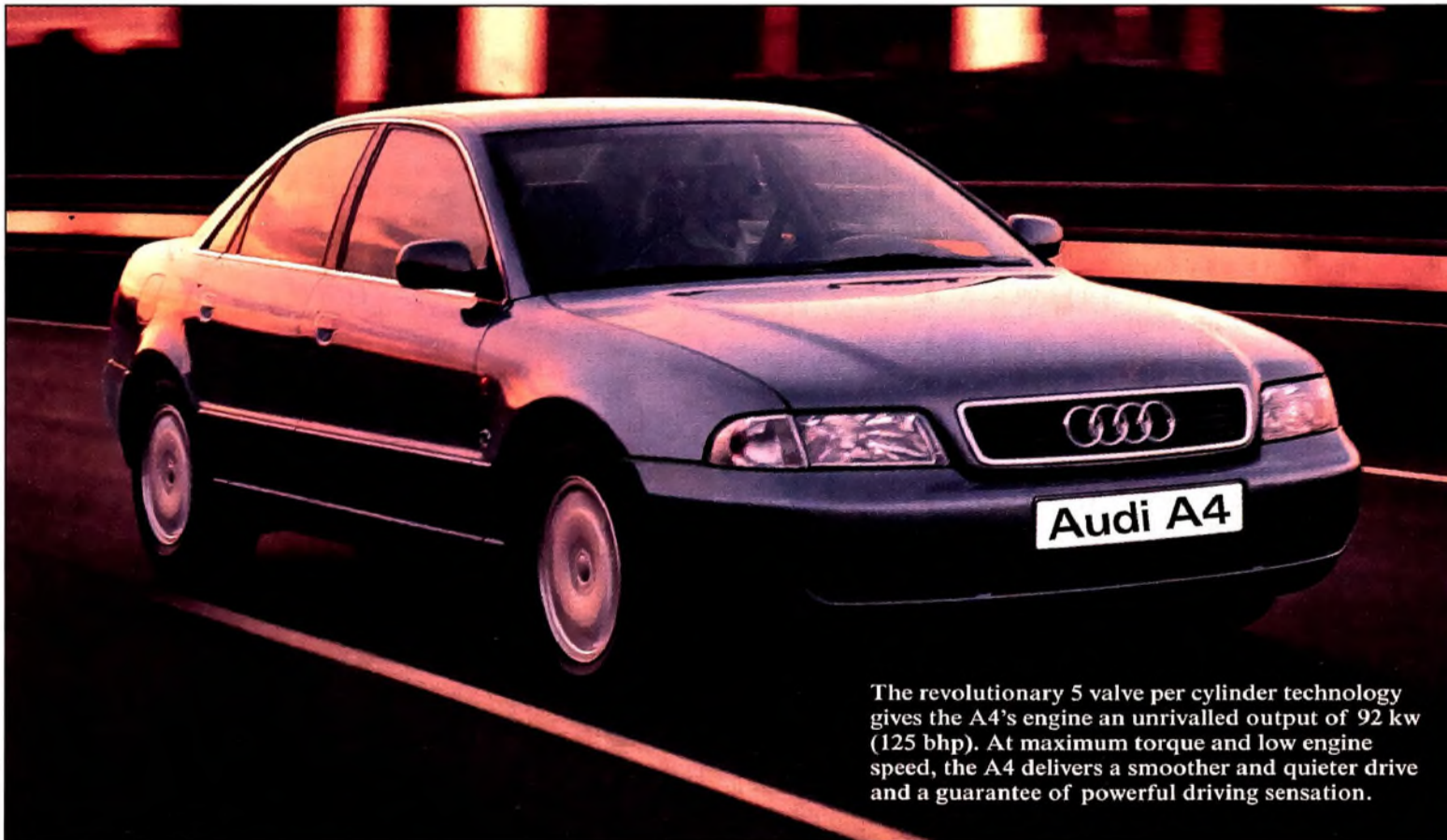
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Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Sameer Farawna



AL SHOURA
Sanaa, weekly 10/1/99
(Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines

-A number of local investors in the Red Sea are being harassed by a number of officials. Local sources said that the investment companies are compelled to pay to those "pirates" to avoid being out of work.

-16 lawyers have volunteered to defend the opposition daily newspaper 'AL RAI AL AAM' that was suspended by the Information Ministry at the pretext of publishing articles harming relations with a sisterly country.

-Unknown armed men fired their automatic rifles at the commander of the ninth mechanic brigade stationed in Jauf governorate more than a week ago. The bullets were shot at the commander's car but he was not in it and one of the soldiers was injured in the incident.

-Minister of Health Dr. Abdullah Abdul Wali Nasher has said that almost one million citizens have caught malaria in the period September-November 1998. He said that 1,552 persons have died from the disease in various hospitals other than those who died at home without notifying the concerned authorities.

-The Yemeni Journalists Syndicate's Central Council has approved the convening of the YJS's second general conference next February 21st.

An Article Summary British Detainees Visited

The British Council in Aden has visited three British detainees in that governorate who were arrested on suspicion of attempting a number of explosions against western interests in Yemen.

The visit was to make sure that all detainees were in good health, according to British official statements in London. The statements underlined that the Councilor was able to meet three of them for a few hours but that he could not meet another two due to bureaucratic problems.



AL HAQ
Sanaa, weekly 10/1/99
(Independent)

Main Headlines

-Western analysts have said that the abduction of foreign tourists in Abyan that ended a few days ago with the killing of four of them is linked to internal problems rather than international terrorism as speculated by the Yemeni government.

-Security forces are still tracing the Jihad elements who

escaped following the bloody confrontation to free the western hostages over a week ago in Abyan but no arrests were made so far.

-Britain has belittled the Yemeni government's step in sacking its investigators from Aden, saying that it was the result of bureaucracy and that they will return there soon.

-A Yemeni citizen got killed by mistake in Taiz ten days ago. The killing took place when a friend of the deceased was cleaning his pistol and a bullet was shot by mistake. Doctors operated on the man for seven hours but they could not save his life.



AL WAHDAMI
Sanaa, weekly 12/1/99
(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

Main Headlines

-The PNUO's central committee fixed coming March 14 as the date for the convening of the Organization's 9th general conference.

-The Yemeni Socialist Party has warned against attempts by the ruling authority to destroy the country's political arena and cited, in this regard, harassments that its members were liable to in the past few weeks.

-The Interior Ministry is still refusing to release seven defendants in the explosion of Al Khair mosque in April last year. No enough evidence justified their continued detention for six months while the constitution stipulates that any citizen should not be detained more than 24 hours without proof of his involvement in a certain crime.

-British diplomats have expressed doubts about confessions of the five Britons arrested in Aden lately, saying that they may have been taken under torture.



ATTARIQ
Aden, weekly 12/1/99
(Independent)

Main Headlines

-Two Americans were stripped of their belongings in Hadramaut last Sunday after an attempt to drag them to an unknown destination was aborted when the driver accompanying them managed to escape and called for help.

-British press reports have quoted relatives to the Britons arrested in Aden recently as expressing fears over life of one of the detained five who looked pale and exhausted. The relatives claim that the five were tortured to force them to confess that they intended to launch a number of explosions in Yemen.

-Director of the taxes department in Ibb governorate was shot at by a group of unknown armed men in front of his house last Monday but luckily

he escaped unhurt.

-The Ibn Khaldoun Hospital in Lahj governorate refused to hand over body of a deceased citizen to his relatives to bury him until they paid 10,000 rials in return for keeping the body in the hospital's fridge for ten hours.

-A number of families have appealed to the President to interfere and secure the release of the kidnapped businessman Abdul Hakim Shamsan who is currently held by the Bani Dhabyan tribe in Mareb.



ATTAGAMU
Sanaa, weekly 11/1/99
(Yemen Unitary Congregation)

Main headlines

-The coordination council for the opposition parties in Aden has condemned the ruling authority's fierce attacks against those parties, warning that democracy was in serious danger.

-A journalist, enjoying support of senior officials, hit a citizen with his car in Mukala, Hadramaut recently, seriously injuring him. The journalist, who was drunk, was released one day after his arrest.

-Qat sellers in Lahj have went on strike to protest the increasing taxes against them, saying that they could not earn enough money to feed their families.

-One of the two Arab Ba'ath parties in Yemen is seeking to sever ties with the Iraqi Ba'ath party and re-establish them with the rival Ba'ath party in Syria.



AL AYYAM
Sanaa, bi-weekly 13/1/99
(Independent)

Main Headlines

-The homicidal department in Seyoun had asked hotels in that governorate to allocate a room or an office for one of its officers to ensure proper protection to the tourists currently flocking into the area. The request was not welcomed by the hotels' administrators who said that they cooperate with the department without the need for a resident officer.

-A senior leader of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah has affirmed to the paper that no Islah member in Hadramaut had shifted to the ruling People's General Conference party. He said that if news were true, that the PGC was using money to lure other partisan members to join its membership, then it should be tried for violating the partisan laws.

-A speeding car, carrying an army plate, hit and injured five people including three children in Attaq, Shabwa governorate before fleeing the scene.

رسالة شكر و عرفان

تتقدم

جمعية الحضارم الخيرية بالحجرية

بأسمى آيات الشكر والعرفان

إلى مقام

سمو الأمير حمد بن خليفة آل ثاني

أمير دولة قطر الشقيقة

وإلى الشعب القطري الأصيل

على دعم الجمعية بمبلغ مائة الف دولار

والذي تم تخصيصه لإنشاء

مدرسة للبنات في المنطقة.



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إلى معالي وزير خارجية قطر

وسعادة السفير في اليمن

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انما تنمو وتزدهر بفضل مثل هذه اللفتات

الإنسانية التي تعمق الود وأواصر المحبة.

كما ان هذه المكرمة القطرية ليست الأولى في المنطقة.

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والله نسأل ان يكلل كل جهودنا لما يحبه ويرضاه

عن الأهالي :

د/عبدالعزیز السقاف

رئيس الجمعية

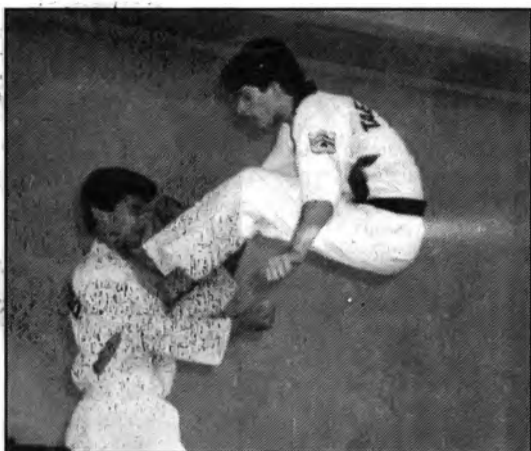
The Conclusion Of 3rd Taekwondo Championship In Amran

The third Taekwondo championship which was held as part of Ramadhan sports activity was concluded under the auspices of Brigadier General Yahya Al-Awdri governor of Amran governorate at the sports hall in Amran last Sunday. At the end of the tournament a presentation ceremony was held to honor the winners. 120 participant divided into two groups to compete in the following weight: 35 kg, 29 kg, 26 kg, 24 kg, 22 kg and 20 kg.

The final result was as follow:

Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Factory	3	1	-
Sports hall-A	2	2	2
Sports Hall-B	1	2	2

Amran governorate organizes a lot of Sports and Cultural activities during the holly month of Ramadhan, where many young people participate from all over the governorate.



The Second League of the Basketball Championship Kicks off on January 28

The basketball league's second leg is to start on January 28 up to March 28 with the participation of ten teams in the excellent division, following a compulsory suspension due to the delay in paying financial dues and the start of the holy month of Ramadhan.

The first leg's 45 matches witnessed hot competitions that ended with the Yarmouk club winning first place with 25 points, followed by Mina' with 23 points, Ahli Sanaa with 23 points and Hilal with 23 points also. Apparently, the championship will not get out of the hands of those four teams while Wehda and Ahli Taiz will struggle to remain in the excellent division. The results have shown the deteriorating skills of the other teams of Tilal, Shaab Ibb and Shamsan.

The first leg matches have displayed a clear improvement in the performance of Hilal, Ahli Sanaa and Yarmouk while Mina', champion of last year's tournament, was not in its usual mood and lost two matches against Hilal and Yarmouk. Yarmouk's performance was also not convincing in its latest matches which paves the way for Ahli Sanaa and Hilal to occupy the top spots due to their stable performance unless Mina' and Yarmouk had benefitted from the temporary stoppage in improving their skills.



Timetable of the second league matches:

Competing Teams	Venue	Date
Al-Mena Vs Al- Wahda	Aden	28/1/99
Al-Zuhra Vs Al-Yrmok	Sanaa	28/1/99
Shabb Ibb Vs Ahli Taiz	Ibb	28/1/99
Al-Telal Vs Shamsan	Aden	29/1/99
Al-Hilal Vs Ahli Sanaa	Hodiedah	29/1/99
Al- Wahda Vs Shamsan	Aden	4/ 2/99
Al-Yrmok Vs Al-Mena	Sanaa	5/2/99
Telal Vs Al-Hilal	Aden	5/2/99
Al-Zuhra-Al- Vs Shabb Ibb	Sanaa	5/2/99
Ahle Taiz Vs Ahli Sanaa	Taiz	5/2/99
Al-Zuhra- Vs Ahli Sanaa	Sanaa	11/ 2/99
Al- Wahda Vs Al-Yrmok	Aden	12/2/99
Al-Hilal Vs Shamsan	Hodiedah	12/2/99
Al-Mena Vs Shabb Ibb	Aden	12/2/99
Al-Telal Vs Ahli Taiz	Aden	12/2/99
Shamsan Vs Ahli Taiz	Aden	18/ 2/99
Ahle Sanaa Vs Al-Mena	Sanaa	19/2/99
Al-Zuhra Vs Al-Telal	Sanaa	19/2/99
Shabb Ibb Vs Al-Yrmok	Ibb	19/2/99
Al- Wahda Vs Al-Hilal	Aden	19/2/99

Al-Shu'lah wins in "Zeid" Tournament

Aden, Shu'lah Club:

Al-In the reminiscence of the fortieth for Late Mohamed Abdo Zeid, a football tournament was held in favor of Aden's clubs last Friday. The event was attended by the Director of Youth & Sports Office, a large number of officials. After strong competitions among the participants, Al-Shu'lah and Shamsan teams reached to the finals.

All participated teams were divided into two

groups. The 1st term group-contests included Al-Tilal, Al-Rawdha and Shamsan. While the second term group-contests included Al-Wahda, Al-Mina'a and Al-Shu'lah. Shamsan took the first place in the first group-contests after defeating Al-Tilal (2/0).

In the 2nd term group-contests, Al-Shu'lah was the best team with its players nice performance. Al-Shu'lah won over Al-Mina'a 1/0, thus taking the second place. In the final championship contest

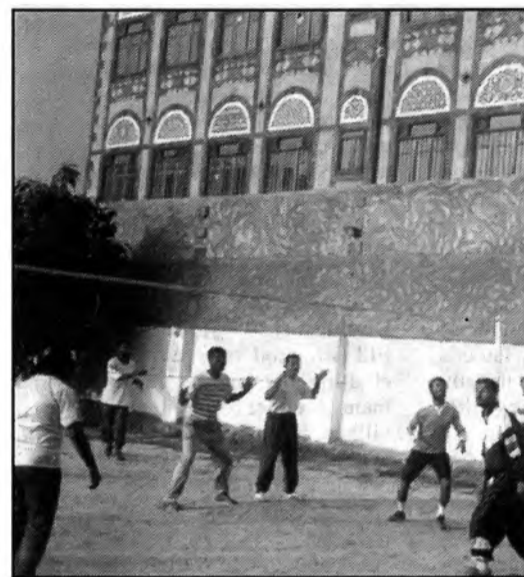
between Al-Shu'lah and Shamsan, who were the best in the tournaments. Al-Shu'lah scored a gorgeous goal in the Shamsan net carrying the championship cup, and followed by Shamsan the holder of the first runner cup.



15 Teams in Volleyball Excellent League

A meeting was held to appoint the participated teams in the Volleyball Excellent League Tournament at the Ministry of Health, January 7. The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohammed Al-Ahjuri, secretary of the Olympic committee, Mr. Abdul-Hamid, Al-Su'aidi, General Director of Associations and Clubs in the Ministry of Youth and Sport; and Mr. Adel Wadi, president of the Yemeni Volleyball Association.

Fifteen teams, divided into 4 groups, will participate in the tournament. The first, second, and third groups include four teams each, while the fourth group include three teams only. The winner of each group will participated in the finals. The tournament matches will be as follows:



The first group, Sanaa

1. Police Team.
2. Hilal of Hodeida.
3. Nasr of Hajjah.
4. Youth of Al-Beidhah.

The second group, Aden

5. Al-Tilal /6. Arafat.
7. Abyan.
8. Al-Intilaq.

The Third group, Taiz

9. Al-Saqr.
10. Al-Ittihad of Ibb
11. Fath of Dhamar./12. Hassan.

Ahli Sanaa Champion of Gamdan Basketball tournament

Ahli Sanaa defeated Al-Zuhra 64/ 54 in an exciting match to win the late Mohammed Gamdan Basketball tournament. The tournament was organized by Ahli club and sponsored by Azal Hospital. Four teams had participated Ahli A, Ahli B, Police and Al-Zuhra. In the closing ceremony the winners and the first runner up were honored. The organizing committee efforts to make this tournament a success were appreciated by huge audience attended the final match.

Al-Hadrani makes a New Record

It took a minute to end the match between the International Master Hatem Al-Hadrani and his contestant Ali Al-Muaid breaking the record in Dowaid Chess Championship organized by Al-Wahida Club part of its Ramadhan activities. Al-Hadrani is considered one of Yemen's most recognized masters. He had represented Yemen in many regional and International tournaments accomplishing good result

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UNITED NATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNDP



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Program(UNDP) is inviting applications for the following two posts in its poverty program in Yemen:

1. Regional Team Leader - As-Sawadiyah(Al-Baydah) Sub-line 17.60
2. Regional Team Leader - Al-Mukha(Taiz) Sub-line 17.61

This position is open to Yemeni national Only

Brief Description

Regional Development is one of the four major components of the Poverty Alleviation and Employment Generation Program. The aim of the Regional Development is to assist local communities in five selected regions in Yemen, to participate in setting-up participatory development institutional framework as a mean of poverty alleviation within the communities. Moreover, communities will be capacitated to undertake planning, implementation and set-up of development funds within their regions.

Interested candidates are requested to contact Poverty Task Force at UNDP Office Sana'a for details and Job Descriptions of the posts. Application should indicate post title and sub-line with detailed Curriculum Vitae, and to be forwarded to:

**Operations Manager, UNDP,
P. O. Box No. 551, Sana'a.**

Applications should be received not late than 31 January 1999.

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

Observing Eid Al-Fiter In Taiz

After a long spiritual journey of fasting during the holy month of Ramadhan, people wait happily for Eid. It is time to say good-bye!

Celebrating Eid is something nice and joyful. There are common rituals in people's celebration of Eid all over the country. However, each city has its own style and ways to prepare for this event. Let me tell you some interesting things about eid celebration in Taiz.

As Ramadhan is just coming to a grand finish, Taiz becomes congested with a good number of people and cars. It is really difficult to walk in the streets these days. People are coming from all around villages for buying



their Eid needs. Others are leaving to spend their Eid holiday in their villages.

Preparing for Eid

During the last few days of Ramadhan, women start making Eid cakes and cookies to be served to guests during Eid. Everything is preferred to be home made, but it is

okay to buy some chocolates. Female youngsters and children start embroidering and stinging their hands and feet with henna. They have their hair dressed and put on make up.

Of course, all family members buy new clothing and this makes Eid something very special.

People, especially children, don't sleep the night preceding the first day of Shawal (Eid). Early on the morning men and boys go for Eid communal prayers. There, children play with fire crackers to show their nice feeling in this event. Men visit their relatives, especially women, and give them their Owada (amount of money given by men to their relatives in Eid). On the other hand, women offer them cakes, cookies, nuts, and some sweets. In the afternoon, members of a one family (married sons and daughters) gather in their father's house. They usually chew qat. Young girls sit together, listen to music and dance.

Crowd in Villages

The same thing, takes place in villages, of course with some differences. Taiz villages become lively since many people leave towns and go to spend Eid holiday there. This makes Eid has a special taste in villages. Eid is a good chance for family reunion. Not only that, people working outside the country visit their families and friends during Eid too.

Since most of the people in the villages have guns, they

carry them during Eid with them wherever they go. They shoot at marked goals just for fun. Men are to meet in the afternoons in qat sessions.

Celebrating Eid usually lasts for 3 days, sometimes 4 or 5 days. The first day is the most joyous day. In the second day, people visit their relatives in far-off areas. Something very nice about Eid is that people forget misunderstandings and problems.

In the past, people used to meet at some place. They go together with bearing dumb to greet sheikh of their village. Sometimes, they used to give him money. Although this phenomenon has begun to wither away in some villages, it is still there in others.

Double Joy

Eid is a good chance for celebrating marriages or engagements, either in cities or village. So, it is a double joy. When Eid comes next time, people remember very special moments of their lives.

As I mentioned earlier that most of people leave cities for their villages. They don't stay there only for 3 days. They have to extend their Eid holiday sometimes to ten days. It is only one chance a year, so they try to spend longer times there. This is why we have the so-called *subalt Al-Eid* (tail of the Eid), meaning extending the holiday of the Eid to more than the time specified by the Ministry of Civil Service.



This happens not merely to Taiz, but also in other governorates. So if one visit the city of Taiz three days after the Eid, he will find the streets more or less empty. This makes the original inhabitants of the city, most of them are remnants of the Turkish colonist, unable to feel the excessive joy of the Eid. I talked to some of them about Eid festivals. They told me that life in the city during the Eid days becomes a little bit boring and dull because most of the residents of Taiz go to their villages. However, they try to enjoy themselves by visiting some beautiful places in Taiz like *Al-Dabab* and *Al-barakani* valleys, *Mocha*, or *Sabir* mountain. Some of them even take their lunch and go to these places.

Is it still there?

By and large, the actual joy associated with the Eid seem to be not existed anymore. People don't feel happy in Eid like before. Rather, Eid has become a nightmare for some poor people who can not who cannot meet Eid's endless needs.

Is *Eid Mobarak* or happy Eid enough to make these people happy?!...

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

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