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**ARBITRATION:**  
Making up for Judicial Shortcomings.  
Page 5.

**The Home Furniture Industry:**  
Grappling with Change!  
Page 7.

**The Story of Advertisements**  
in the Yemeni Press.  
Page 10.

**The Businessman Who Is Left Alone**  
to Deal with Tribes!  
Page 12.

## Trial of 'Terrorists' in Full Swing: Heavy-Handed Interrogation?

The second sitting of the trial of the five UK nationals and one French citizen was held in Aden on Saturday, January 30th. A number of journalists, lawyers, UK diplomats, relatives of the accused, and other interested individuals attended. In the first sitting of the court, on Wednesday, January 24th, the accused individuals took off their shirts and brandished signs of beating and electrification on their backs. There were also visible signs of bruises on their arms. They claim to have been subjected to various forms of torture during heavy-handed interrogation by the authorities. The officials, while categorically denying the charges, could not explain the bruises. The six individuals are charged with plotting to sabotage law and order. The authorities presented several mobile phones, lap-top computers, and other electronic gadgets as evidence. They also showed various weapons such as bazookas, RPGs, explosives and



A full court

light firearms which they say were found in the possession of the accused persons. Media statements by extremist religious elements implicate this group with an international terrorist network based in the UK. In the meanwhile, the authorities announced that they have captured in Shabwah six more individuals who are alleged to be part of the same network.



The accused individuals

At the same time, trial of another group is now underway in Abyan. This is the group that was responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Australian, UK and US tourists on 29th December, 1998  
Continues on page 5

## Yemeni-Egyptian Supreme Committee to Meet Again

# More Talk, Little Work!

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister, plans to travel to Cairo at the head of a large ministerial delegation for a new round of Yemeni-Egyptian talks under the umbrella of the Supreme Joint Committee. The last such talks were held in Sanaa just over a year ago. Egypt's Ambassador in Sanaa, Dr. Mahmoud Murtaza, told the Yemen Times that the coming meetings will be a watershed in the bilateral relations. "Our two countries enjoy a special historic bond. Social, cultural, political and economic relations must develop to reflect the special association between the two peoples and nations." Notwithstanding the optimism of the ambassador, the various rounds of official top-level talks have so far resulted in little substance. During the last round, for example, several agreements were signed, but none have been implemented. The two nations had sought to strengthen economic ties. Towards that end, they signed an agreement to set up a joint bank capitalized at US\$ 100 million. They also called for the establishment of a joint holding company which will supervise joint investments in various fields. One year later, neither project has been launched. Government officials blame the private sector for not following up their lead. But the private sector in both countries has its own agenda and priorities. "We do not need govern-

ment officials to lead the way. We actually want them to stay out of our way," reflected a Yemeni businessman. Even in the field of information exchange regarding terrorists and religious extremists, cooperation has been minimal. That in spite of a bilateral agreement and the visible threat to which both regimes are exposed. Dr. Iryani is expected in Cairo around the middle of February, 1999. The specific dates have yet to be pinned down, although the visit itself, it has been agreed, will take place within 2 weeks. Accompanying the prime minister's multi-minister official delegation will be an entourage of a dozen businessmen. "Although we have become a routine addition to the delegations headed by the president and prime minister to foreign lands, we are not seen as equal partners. We are not involved in the preparations for such visits, or even in the programs. We are just a useful addendum," complained a senior official at the Yemeni Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.



## A Yemen Times Initiative: Sorting Out Airport Customs Procedures

Many international companies operating in Yemen have regularly complained of problems associated with customs clearance at Sanaa International Airport. The Yemen Times took the initiative to contact Mr. Hafez Me'yad, Director-General of the Customs Authority at Sanaa Airport, who expressed immediate interest in meeting with people who have complaints. "We are willing and ready to look for ways to reduce procedures and streamline the paperwork," he assured. As a first phase, Yemen Times decided to invite oil-sector companies to a meeting with the director-general of the airport customs authority and his assistants. This will take place at the Yemen Times at 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 11th. Also attending will be MOMR officials. The meeting is expected to last for about two hours. Ideas will be floated on ways to simplify airport customs clearance. Companies interested in attending are kindly asked to call 268-661, ext. 301 to confirm.

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## Yemen Times Takes its Case to an International Level

After the many brutal attacks on the Yemen Times, and its chief editor, Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, and after the so many aimless accusations from the "26 September" and "Al-Mithaq," newspapers, Yemen Times decided to take this issue to the world. It decided to authorize the following four organizations to take its case to the courts.

- 1- International Organization for Journalists, (IOJ) - Regional Office;
- 2- Federation of Arab Journalists, Head Office, Cairo;
- 3- Reporters Sana Frontiers, Paris;
- 4- Committee to Protect Journalists, New York.

"26 September" is an official state organ speaking on behalf of the military establishment and is managed by the Press Secretary of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. "Al-Mithaq" newspaper is the mouthpiece of the ruling People's General Congress party, headed by President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The two papers have accused the editor of the Yemen Times Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf of being an agent of Western imperialism, of representing the interests of international zionism, of being sponsored and groomed by the Unification Church, and of spreading the message of the international Christian messianic movement. The Yemen Times had published articles demanding accountability for the actions and decisions of the state officials, and asked for better respect for human rights and press freedom.

### German Donation for Hospital

On Sunday, January 31, at 10:00 AM, Mr. Alfred Berger, head of the foreign Trade Department at the Ministry of Economics, Transport, Urban and Regional Development of the German state of Hesse will hand over medical devices for the Al-Sabiin Mother and Child Hospital in Sanaa. This gift, which includes, among others, devices for infusion and transfusion therapy, are donated by the German company CLINICO Group. During his visit, Mr. Berger will have talks in the Ministry of Electricity and Water in order to discuss details regarding an envisaged bilateral workshop on wind energy, solar energy, water supply and sanitation to be held in Sanaa this year. For more than 20 years, the company CLINICO has been a leading producer of medical devices known for its quality and safety in transfusion and infusion therapy. Tool making and extraordinary competence in producing tools for medical devices are the main advantages of CLINICO. The hand over ceremony will be held on January 31, at 10:00 AM at Al-Sabiin Hospital in Sanaa.

### President's Efforts Appreciated by FLAS

In its meeting on January 28, 1999, the Executive Council of The Friends of the League of Arab States Association (FLAS) highly appreciated President Saleh's efforts for holding an Arab Summit. The council members discussed the association's work during 1998 and its program for the year 1999. They also talked about the recent conditions in the Arab World.

### Japanese Debt Relief Support to Roll Back Malaria

The Government of Japan extended to the Government of Yemen a Debt Relief Grant Aid amounting to 379,396,000 Japanese yen, approximately US \$3,300,000.

Notes on this effect were signed and exchanged on January 28, 1999 by the Yemeni Minister of Planning & Development, Mr. Ahmed Soufan, and the Japanese ambassador in Sanaa, Mr. Akira Hoshi.

The government of Yemen will make the best use of this grant for the purchase of products that contribute to the development of Yemen's economy and the enhancement of the welfare of its people. More specifically, it will be used to combat the outbreaks of malaria in many regions of the country.

## Egyptian Government Invites YT Editor

The Egyptian government has extended a formal invitation to Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chief Editor of the Yemen Times for a five-day visit which is expected to start on February 7th. The program calls for meetings with four ministers (including the foreign minister), several other key officials, media leaders, intellectuals, and other personalities. "The climax of the visit is going to be the audience with H.E. President Hosni Mubarak," he said.

In addition, Dr. Al-Saqqaf is expected to give two lectures on Yemen; one at Al-Ahram Strategic Center, and the other at the Arab Organization for Human Rights. The visit, which will take place a week before the Supreme Yemeni-Egyptian Ministerial Committee, is expected to zero in on topics of bilateral concern. The Yemen Times will also raise regional and international issues, and the Egyptian vision and position on them.



## Japan Provides Assistance to Y21F

The Government of Japan extended a grant of US\$ 26,418 to the Yemen 21 Forum for the execution of its project for improvement of NGO capacity in Yemen. The grant comes in the framework of Japan's assistance for grassroots projects which is aimed at supporting small-scale community-based projects.

Agreement to this effect was signed on January 25th, 1999, by Professor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Founder of Yemen 21 Forum, and Mr. Masataka Ishida, Charge' d'Affairs of the Japanese Embassy in Sana'a.

With this grant, together with donations from Yemen Times, the German and UK embassies, the Yemen 21 Forum has been properly equipped to provide logistical support to local NGOs,



including temporary office space and meeting areas.

It is worth mentioning that the Yemen 21 Forum was a recently

established NGO with the aim of helping Yemen move into the 21st century by improving the capacities of NGOs. Its operations will start next week.

### TOTAL Official Presents Plans for Gas Project

In a meeting with the press. Mr. Jean-Marc Hosanski, Yemen LNG Project Director at Total, gave a summary of their operations and plans for the Yemeni gas project.

Total has three operations in Yemen, one is for the production of crude oil in Shabwa with a production capacity of 16,000 barrel a day which will increase to 22,000 bpd at the end of this year. The second operation is a joint oil production concession at Jannah. The third is the US\$ 2.2 billion LNG project.

This last project calls for constructing a 320 kilometer main pipeline from Marib to Bal Haf, a 100 kilometer spur line from Marib to Sanaa, a 26 kms. transfer pipeline, a plant at Bal Haf, and a storage capacity of 250,000 cubic meters - also at Bal Haf. Exploitation of the 10.2 Tcf proven gas reserves still depend on finding markets as financing.

### Royal Jordanian Starts Shannon-Chicago Route

Royal Jordanian (RJ) started last week operating flights between Ireland's Shannon Airport and Chicago using Airbus-310 planes. An RJ official explained use of that section of Shannon Airport as due to operational matters pertaining to the range of the planes. He added that U.S. immigration officials at Shannon Airport can finalize procedures for passengers entering the U.S., thus facilitating travel procedures.

This route is expected to be active because of tourism between the Middle East and Europe and the USA, and because of demand to be generated by the third millennium of the birth of the Christ. The new station will also offer transport services to Irish passengers traveling to the Middle East or the Arab Gulf states via Amman. Jordan signed an agreement with Ireland last September for operating these flights.

## OUR VIEWPOINT

### One More Time: ACCOUNTABILITY

I have written repeatedly about the need for accountability in any system - whether private or governmental. Accountability is not only morally and legally important, it is vital from an economic viewpoint because it increases the level of efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

Accountability is accomplished by using different tools. These include the following:

#### 1) Transparency:

One of the most important tools in achieving accountability is to have a transparent system. If a system is open to the public eye, then the possibilities of wrong-doing, inefficiency, and other shortcomings will decrease. If a system fights hard to keep information from the media and the public, then it must have something to hide. Often, such excuses as 'to protect the national interest,' 'state secret,' and 'preliminary stages of decision-making' are concepts used to hide the shortcomings. Transparency also helps cut down waste in society. This is crucial, especially for poor nations like Yemen.

Increasing the level of transparency of any system will definitely make it morally superior, legally upright, and economically sound.

#### 2) Checks & Balances:

To achieve accountability, a system must have adequate checks and balances. This means that no single individual or group should exercise excessive powers to the determinants of the rest of society. Checks and balances require that there are clear boundaries of authority.

In the case of Yemen, it is the top brass of the military and security, the leading tribal sheikhs, the key government bureaucrats and officials who exercise such uncontrolled powers. These people are not accountable to the law because the organs responsible for law enforcement are weak.

Such a situation leads to continued erosion of the legitimacy and credibility of the system. It also leads citizens who can rebel against state authority to do so.

#### 3) Role Models:

A system of accountability works only if there are good role models, especially among the leaders of the state and society, and those who enjoy high visibility. It is absolutely important to show that all individuals in the community, no matter what their influence, are subject to the same rules and laws.

It serves the nation better if the top people themselves willingly submit to the rule of law, and accept to be held accountable by the system. Unfortunately, this is not true in Yemen today. That is why ordinary citizens hold a grudge against the influential members of society.

#### 4) Publishing Facts:

Most nations publish information regularly about the performance of the various organs and institutions. The Yemeni authorities have consistently shied away from publishing financial, legal, criminal, political and other data. Can you imagine that the Central Bank of Yemen, for example, does not publish monetary information? Facts are important for accountability.

*The Publisher*  
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Ibrahim Abdul-Habeeb:

# “The law is the final arbiter in our relations with the media.”

Relations between the government bodies responsible for controlling the flow of information on the one hand, and the media on the other hand, are at best strained, because of the conflict of interest. That is why the job of the Directorate General for the Press at the Ministry of Information is a difficult one.

It is this governmental body that is often used by the authorities to pin down the press. More often than not, decision is external to the directorate general, but it becomes the conduit to bring pressure to bear on the media.

To shed more information on the work of this department, Ismail Al-Ghabry of Yemen Times spoke to Mr. Ibrahim Abdul-Habeeb Al-Khorasani, General-Manager of the General Directorate of the Press at the Ministry of Information. Ibrahim, 46, is a university graduate from Sanaa University's College of Arts. He also has a long experience dealing with the media since he has been on this job since 1981.

Excerpts:

**Q: What exactly is the duty of your directorate-general.**

**A:** The law regulates our responsibilities. Based on by-law (95) of 1998, the main duties are:

1. To license issuance of new newspapers and magazines;
2. To review the performance of newspapers and magazines in Yemen and report on them;
3. To inspect the contents of foreign newspapers and magazines and regulate their circulation inside Yemen;
4. To inspect requests for ID cards by journalists;
5. To assess requests for opening media offices and distribution points and to approve agency arrangements;
6. To ensure availability (to the authorities) of any foreign newspapers and magazines that are not in circulation in Yemen;
7. To arrange and organize press conferences of the senior officials of the state of Yemen, as well as for visiting dignitaries;
8. To coordinate with the legal department to assure a full implementation of the press law and other relevant laws;
9. To perform other tasks ordered by the ministry.

**Q: How do you assess press freedom in Yemen today?**

**A:** The main problem we have in achieving a meaningful press freedom is the inability of journalists to adhere to the law. Some journalists believe that press freedom is equal to chaos and confusion.

IN my opinion, any right can only be exercised if the corresponding duties are observed. In other words, journalists may print information they can prove in court; otherwise, they can be held responsible for publishing false information or at least mis-information.

Regarding an overall assessment, I can say that many of Yemen's journalists do not have adequate training or even comprehension concerning their role. They abuse their powers to achieve illegal ends. The direct result of this is that many segments of society today look at the media with suspicion. I can even say that some circles are beginning to despise the sector.

Our job is to curb such behavior and to reign in the few journalists who are giving the sector a bad name. We tell them that they have to work within the law.

**Q: Some independent and opposition newspapers accuse your ministry of trying to curb press freedom. How do you respond?**

**A:** This is not true. The law is the arbiter in the relations between the ministry and the media.

We do not mind constructive or objective criticism. We do believe that there may be some shortcomings in our work. We would like feedback to help us improve our performance. But, we do not think that sensationalism helps anybody. We ask editors and journalists to respect the principles of the Revolution, the constitution, the laws and the supreme interests of Yemen. Beyond that, they are free to write as they want.

Let me use an example. The country today is the target of international terrorism and extremism. We expect all Yemenis, not just journalists, to see that this fight concerns everybody. We should all join hands to stand up against these terrorists and extremists.

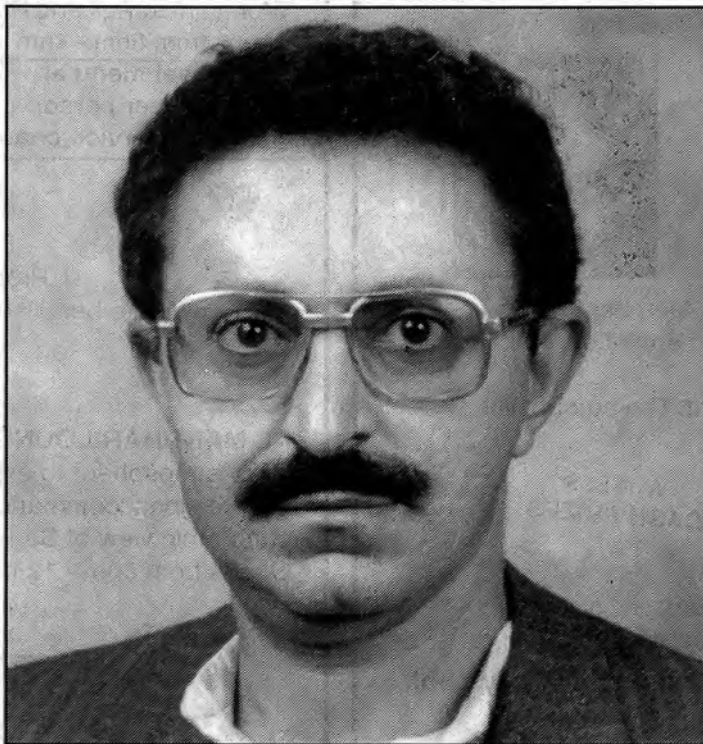
I can give you another example. Nation-building requires a hopeful and positive public attitude. The opposition media almost inadvertently sows the seeds of frustration among our people. Issue after issue, they simply push a bad and negative attitude as if nothing good or right takes place in Yemen. The starting point for them is a confused notion of opposing the ruling regime. While that is legitimate for opposition politicians and their journalists, they end up being in opposition to the nation and society.

What I am saying is that there is a double responsibility that journalists shoulder. There is a responsibility to the profession, and there is a responsibility to the nation.

**Q: The new by-law issued in 1998 is allegedly aimed at reducing the number of newspapers and magazines. How is that implemented?**

**A:** It is hard to argue what the intentions of the laws are. A law is a law and it must be obeyed, even if some people do not like it. But, the by-law number 95 was issued by the minister of information in 1998 in order to clarify some points in the Press Law number 25 of 1990.

Let me refer to some specific



articles in this by-law in order to shed light on the limitations it imposes on journalism, as some people allege.

First, the by-law does not really affect newspapers, magazines and newsletters issued by political parties and NGOs.

Second, Article 5 stipulates the financial requirements for any media publication as follows:

- The paid-up capital of a daily newspaper must be a minimum of YR 2 million.
- The paid-up capital of a weekly newspaper must be a minimum of YR 700,000.
- The paid-up capital of a weekly magazine must be a minimum of YR 1.2 million.
- The paid-up capital of a monthly magazine must be a minimum of YR one million.
- The paid-up capital of an advertisement newsletter is YR 100,000.

Third, Article 9 stipulates that any application for a new newspaper or magazine should provide the ministry with a valid bank guarantee of YR 100,000.

It also stipulates that the applicant should pay 5% of the project's capital to the ministry in order to get the license.

It further stipulates that the annual renewal of the license entails payment of 1% of the newspaper's/magazine's capital to the ministry.

The by-law gives the minister the right to waive in full or in part such payments.

**Q: What action does the law empower you to take if a newspaper is issued without permit?**

**A:** We do not have cases of people venturing to issue newspapers without adequate legal cover. But the basic action is to impound any such publication - by decision from the minister - and then refer the matter to the courts. Article 107 refers to this action as administrative impounding while awaiting a court decision. Furthermore, the property of such illegal publication is confiscated. The owner

may refer to the courts.

**Q: How do you see the growth of independent newspapers?**

**A:** I am afraid the record is not a happy one. We now have many of these independent publications which falter. There are two basic reasons for this:

a) They have an inherent financial difficulty. In most cases, an individual or group are able to secure basic capital to launch a paper, but they fail to generate a steady flow of income from the paper itself. Thus, one issue comes out, and then they skip an issue, and so on.

b) There is a lack of vision regarding the business and how it is managed. Journalism is a very demanding job, and it requires that the papers have a clear vision of what they want to accomplish and where they want to go. This problem is further complicated by the fact that the papers are often managed by people who have many other jobs and responsibilities. I now of some cases

where the chief editor or the top person does not show up at the newspaper for long periods.

**Q: Let me ask you about a specific case. You have suspended the circulation of Al-Rai Al-Aam newspaper. What are the reasons?**

**A:** Yes, we have put this newspaper out of temporary circulation and there is a case pending with the courts on this matter. The judge will decide.

The problem with this paper is that it publishes information it receives from stringers without checking and double checking. Thus it gets in trouble with the law because of the wrong information it carries.

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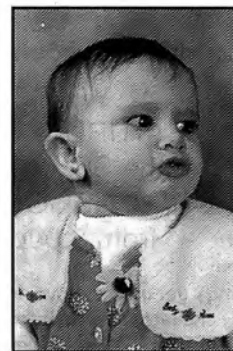
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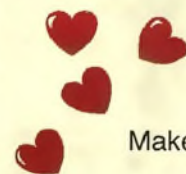
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# Arbitration: PARTIAL REMEDY TO JUDICIAL ILLS?

Considering that reforming the judicial system with separate or unified courts was almost an impossible task, the economists initially started thinking of referring their disputes for post-arranged arbitration. Secondly, jurists within and outside government bodies embarked on a campaign of legislation and activating for the process of attribution and establishing centers for that purpose.

There are certain advantages for the parties to a dispute to refer it to arbitration rather than take an action in the courts, the main advantages are as follows:

- (1) The process can be expedient.
- (2) Details of the subject matter can be kept relatively unpublicized.
- (3) When the dispute concerns a technical matter persons chosen to arbitrate generally possess the appropriate qualifications
- (4) The parties may choose or agree to the law and rules of procedure applicable.
- (5) There can be a saving in costs.
- (6) The parties have the convenience of considering the time and place of arbitration.

In Yemen the statutory definition of arbitration is as follows: "The voluntary choice of two parties, another person, or persons other than the competent court to arbitrate their differences or disputes."

This kind of generalized definition helped those concerned in Yemen to think of arbitration as if it was CONCILIATION, or a sort of tribal arbitration by customs. Conciliation or mediation in Yemen does not need a written agreement, the conciliators are mostly persons not necessary versed in law or even specialists in one field or another. No specific procedure written or otherwise is followed and unless the conciliator or conciliators are men of power and authority, the decision of the conciliator is often ignored.

On the other hand, Yemenis of tribal affiliation think of arbitration, whether commercial or otherwise, as a kind of customary system

Al-A'araf (as it is known among tribes) are commonly enunciated and accepted norms of behavior and settlements of disputes. To give a provisional definition of the term 'custom' observed relatively by tribes, customary law is the body of accepted unformulated rules and principles instituted by human conduct for a lengthy period in accordance with accepted criteria and forming part of the imminent source of law as such certain legislations in Yemen try to introduce some of those rules in law and regulation governing Arbitration.

#### B. First legal Attempt Thwarted.

By reason of the above facts when law no. (33) of 1981 was promulgated with regards to arbitration, it comprised few rules of conciliations and many concerning tribal customs. As in conciliation, the law did not mention the law applicable or stipulated or the procedure to be followed. In article (22) the law envisaged a binding decision of the conciliator and in general used the word arbitrator in place of conciliator.

On tribunal customs, article (a) made it a condition that an arbitrator, if he were acquainted with Sharia, should also be familiar with tribal customary rules. Article (6) went further to envisage a situation where the whole tribe would be the arbitrators. Also article (16) tackled the cases of manslaughter and sedition and finally article (24) left the execution of the award to the guarantors of enforcement.

Thus the relevant statutory law governing arbitration was a blending of traditional rules of conciliation, tribal customs, Sharia and modern provisions and as such was born dead. However, arbitration under different names was practiced as an alternative to ordinary litigation in Yemen. Nevertheless no official tribunals were set up apart from some quasi-judicial committees on tax and customs tariffs. Although the law allowed the Chamber of Commerce to establish a tribunal for settling commercial disputes the Chamber never availed itself of this privilege.

Lastly, it will be interesting to note that in Aden at the time of the British rule arbitration ordinance as early as 19 March 1941 was promulgated concerning voluntary arbitration allowing that any court was enforceable as it was a decree of the court (article 13). However the court may set aside the award if it has been improperly procured. (article 13)

#### C. Call for Economic Reforms.

Yemen, like any other under-developed states, went through most of the economic conditions for a comparatively modern state; the development of non-agricultural society, the influx of some Arab and western capital and entrepreneurs, and the development of light industry. However, it was hindered by



several political and economic factors which threatened its obsolete financial policy and hence its political stability. Since the middle of the nineties, the government has battled with intended reforms for economic and administrative issues. It succeeded somehow in regaining control over the financial situation, but not all of the economic situation reforms were achieved at the expense of the poor and middle-class in the short term. However, the government is reluctant for political and other reasons to go full ahead with administrative and judicial reforms.

To attract foreign capital, Arab and non-Arab alike, especially in the field of investment, the government promulgated acts concerned with the establishment of a semi-independent public authority for investment. The later authority adopted a reasonably hospitable law to investors, Yemenis and foreigners alike. One of the economic problems of Yemen is that Yemeni entrepreneurs prefer establishing limited family companies than the banks and selfishly less courageous to tap long term enterprises. Also there is a lot of unused capital in the country because of the lack of joint stock public companies.

Therefore the need is greater to attract foreign capital, Arab or otherwise. Still, that has to wait for concrete guarantees and facilities. As shown by world bank demand, the first prerequisite was to establish an efficient and just regular judiciary if not specialized system of courts to deal with commercial and financial disputes and with that or without it if that is difficult to achieve, any kind of legal system to settle disputes expediently and equitably.

#### D. New Law: A Leap Forward.

Governmental authorities concerned tried to respond to the first demand, but so far without result. It responded favorably to the second demand but had partial success. At the same time it elected to make a short cut to settlements of disputes and opted to enact a new statute regarding arbitration. The idea was to promulgate a new law for arbitration which will make up for the old law, whence law no. (22) of 1992 was issued. It was a legal piece of diligence as a whole, however it has its pitfalls some of which we mention below:

##### 1) The Arbitration Agreement:

We notice that article 2 of the above mentioned law defined arbitration according to the "Place" and not the "Party" contrary to other countries in the area. In addition the law did not expressly mention the need for mentioning the subject matter of dispute in the agreement. However, this unintended omission has been corrected by the amendment (article 15, law 33 of 1997).

##### 2) Arbitration and Tribunal:

The legislator ignored what are obvious and well-used words in similar legislation, 1 and 2) the word "tribunal" and replaced with the word "committee". Also the law in paragraph (1) article 22 allowed the court concerned to choose the sole arbitrator without giving the choice to the parties, the law also allowed the parties to elect two arbitrators without an umbrella contrary to arbitration usage. Worse than that, article 6 specifies certain qualifications which are legality ambiguous such as "just" and "eligible" which are Sharia terms and needs time and knowledge to explain.

##### 3) Procedure and Applicable Law:

Article 33 did not go into detail of equality of parties and assistants in their presence before the tribunal; "such parties should not be excluded without good grounds or the awards may be set aside." Furthermore, in case of a motion to remove an arbitrator, the request was to be forwarded to the tribunal, while in corresponding laws the request should be sent to the court. Article (45) did not differentiate between the laws applicable with regard to merit and procedure.

##### 4) The Award:

The law did not consider the case of the parties repositioning the tribunal on a merit which has been ignored by the arbitration. Moreover, Yemeni legislators did not grant judicatum to the award in spite of an action. The law also did not stipulate expressly that the award must comply with the submission or that the making of the award not be delegated to another person, "but a legal advisor may draw up the award" (Re Underwood & Bedford Ry 1861).

There are other comments and legal arguments on execution, but this is not the place to go into details. These comments do not belittle the serious attempt by the legislator to enact an up-to-date act of law. To close this article, I advise the removal of certain provisions which make non-Yemenis hesitate to refer disputes to the judiciary or even to arbitration in Yemen. This in turn, makes them

hesitate to invest in Yemen. When executing contracts in Yemen, they often insist on stipulating that litigation takes place outside of Yemen and that the applicable law or interpretation of procedure should be a law other than Yemeni law. Furthermore, it is high time, if Yemen wants foreign capital and investment, to start negotiations of assessment to international agreements of settling disputes and execution of foreign awards. E. Tribunals Arbitration Centers in the Making. A few years ago Yemen had no official tribunal in the ministries concerned. The legal office of the state (The Ministry of Legal Affairs) set up in the seventies two quasi-judicial committees to arbitrate custom tariffs and tax disputes, and a third one to settle labor disputes.

In non-official circles, even though the law regulating the Chamber of Commerce was privileged with the right of setting up its own tribunal or tribunals, I cannot envisage a foreign investor having a dispute with a Yemeni businessman and trusting the settlement of that dispute to an institution set up by colleagues of his opponent in an under-developed country, and a corrupt one at that. Since 1997, there has been a growing awareness of the importance of arbitration. A group of jurists and other professionals in cooperation with the Association of Banks and the Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry founded the Yemeni Center for Conciliation and Arbitration. As this center was doing well, other lawyers set up another center mainly for settling tribunal disputes. In conclusion, I want to say neither the promotion of commercial courts nor the formation of arbitration centers can make up for the inefficiency of the judicial system in the long run. What counts is a persistent effort to make the three institutions run efficiently in a parallel manner.

By: **Husain Al-Hubaishi,**  
Former Minister of Legal Affairs  
for the President and Prime Minister of Yemen

Cont'd from page 1

## Trial in Aden

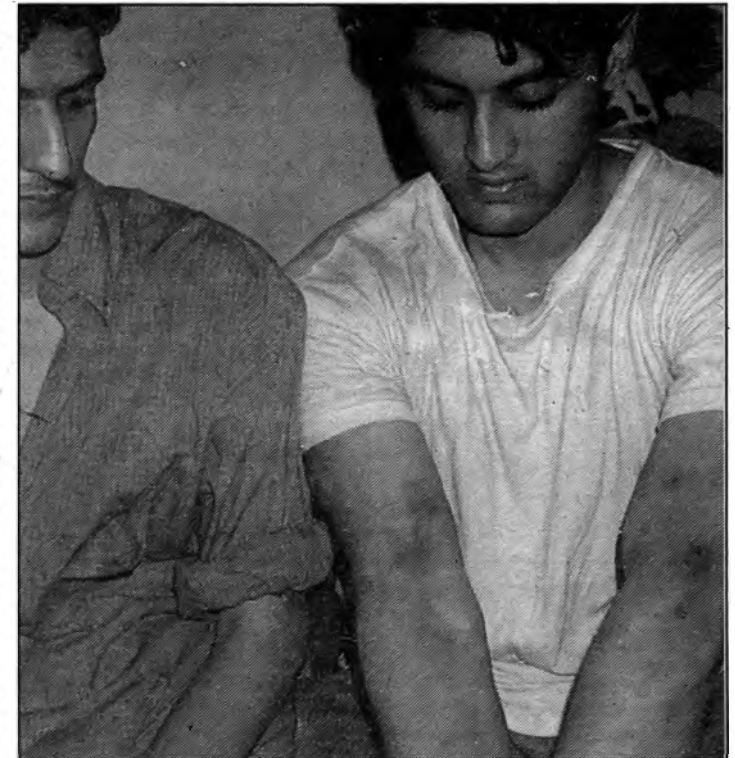
The next sitting of the court is scheduled for the 1st of February.

The case of the government against the accused seems to be strong. But because of transgression against the rights of the accused and inefficiency, it is expected to mismanage its own cards. Already, there is a rising international uproar against the alleged torture and refusal of the authorities to provide the lawyer of the accused the relevant documents.

As a result, the focus will shift from the crimes themselves to the shortcomings of the government in handling the case. That is why many individuals are already poised to intervene to strike a reconciliation.

One such effort is spearheaded by Mr. Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, leader of the Muslim Community in the UK.

He sent the following letter to Yemen Times.



On arrival in Aden, on Tuesday, 26 January, I made the following statement to the press.

"We are glad to be in Yemen. Yemen is a country with a proud history and a long tradition of friendship and hospitality.

We bring goodwill and best wishes from the people of Britain to the government and people of Yemen.

"Ours is a mission of mercy. We are here to find out what is happening to six Britons held in Yemeni police cells. We believe that they are caught up in a web of misunderstanding and confusion - they being at the wrong place and the wrong time."

We would like to cooperate with Yemeni and British officials. We ask that the relatives of those held (in prison) are allowed to spend regular time with their loved ones.

We believe we all have a common goal of fair-play and transparency of justice and our role is simply to facilitate this process.

Britain and Yemen have always maintained a cordial and amicable relationship. We would like to overcome any friction between us. We would like to see cordial relations re-established. We want to re-assure the government and people of Yemen that the Muslim Community in Britain has their well-being at heart and has their progress and prosperity in mind at all time and nothing else?

Earlier, in Sana'a, I gave a letter addressed to Dr. Iryani, Prime Minister of Yemen, through Mr. David Pearce of the British Embassy requesting an urgent meeting to work together to resolve the problem.

On Wednesday, 27th January, the trial started without Defence Lawyers being provided with the charge sheet, witness statements or list of

evidence. Six boys were charged with possessing arms and explosives with the intention of causing damage to property and disturbing public tranquillity. However, the accused shouted that they were innocent and that confessions had been extracted under torture and hence are null and void. Physical signs of torture could be seen clearly on their first appearance in court.

Defence lawyers requested a two-week adjournment of the trial in order to have enough time to prepare for the case. They also requested an independent medical examination to verify claim of physical and psychological torture and abuse. Both requests were rejected. Because of the seriousness of the charge involving fire-arms, it was also requested that forensic examination of the exhibits should be carried out.

Since then, despite various promises, all kinds of obstacles have been raised to prevent the meeting of the accused with their families and lawyers on a regular basis.

Dr. Christopher Milroy, an internationally known pathologist, who was a member of the UN team which investigated genocide and torture of Muslims in Bosnia, is now in Aden, ready to carry out an independent medical examination.

We want nothing but transparent justice for our boys and wish to re-assure everybody that we have nothing against the government and people of Yemen. We hope the matter will be resolved justly and amicably.

**Ghayasuddin Siddiqui**  
Leader of the delegation of families, doctor & lawyers dealing with six Britons,  
Leader of the Muslim Parliament of Great Britain.



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

## To Say 'We have democracy' Is Simply Not Enough!

**Hatem Bamehriz,**  
Columnist - Yemen Times

Some people in Yemen believe that democracy doesn't exist. While to others it's just a dream, a word with no meaning. To politicians it is just lip service, a mere slogan to win votes. At least this is what Yemenis in the streets feel. When it comes to politicians, democracy becomes the glowing fashion that must be obtained in order to pretend they have joined the new world order and to look and feel modern.

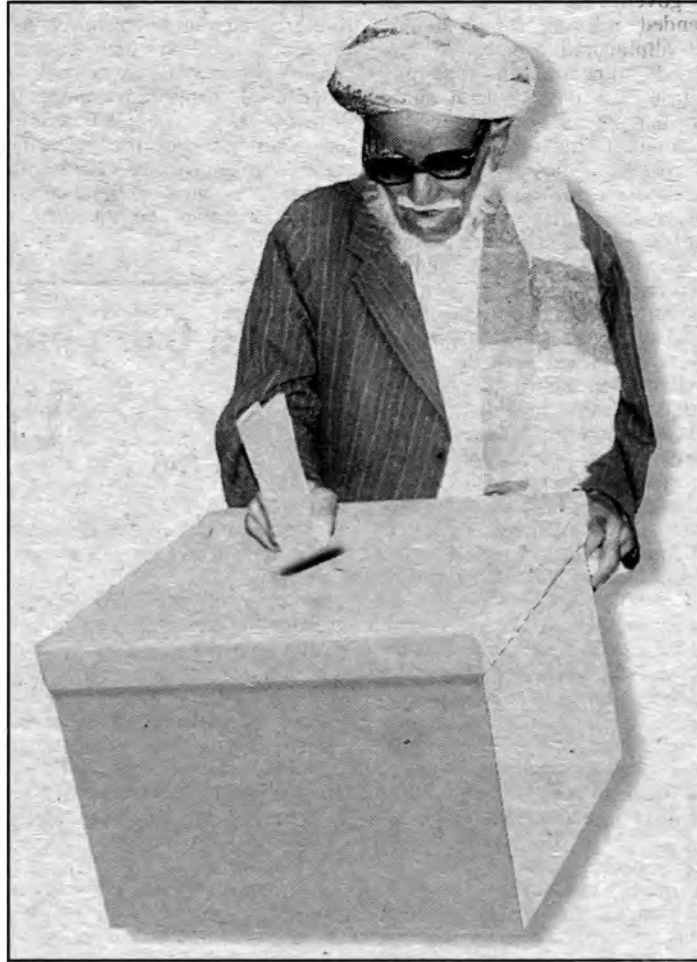
### What is democracy?

What is democracy according to the common man? This question proved to be a very difficult one. Among the people I have directed this question to, many refused to answer for the clear reason that they did not know what democracy is, and they did not want to make fools of themselves by giving foolish irrelevant answers. On the other hand, the ones who actually answered my question gave me almost the very same answer every time. To them democracy is **BOUNDLESS FREEDOM**. Well, this is a very open answer. I tried to get a more credible and logical answer, but unfortunately all I got over and over again was the same answer. This is basically because of the lack of education that they have on democracy. People have not

been educated enough. In fact the only education they have on democracy is during elections, and it is limited to teaching them a single fact about democracy, "Democracy is the right to vote."

### The kind of democracy they know!

Because of the lack of education and information on democracy, people have no clue of even the most basic meaning of democracy. You will be surprised to know what 'boundless democracy' means to a majority of Yemenis. To help you understand let us study this strange and unique case that I have experienced. Once I was traveling in a Dabab (Mini bus) when it was cold. All windows and the door were shut, a young man sitting in front of me lit a cigarette, the person next to him requested him to put it off, since there is no way for the smoke to get out, the young man refused. I decided to interfere and pursue the young man to put out the cigarette. Still he refused, but this time he had given us a reason to why is he not putting it out! He said "This is a democratic country, and I can do anything I want." Well! This answer might appear to be a good and convincing one to some people, but if you read between



the lines, you will be astonished, when you realize that this young

man had no clue about the democracy that he was just lecturing us about. Democracy was never meant to harm people, it gives you freedom, but it's not boundless. Your freedom in democracy has a limit. According to democracy "Your freedoms end when others' start."

Yemen is one of the countries, where on one hand, the leaders and members of parliament are democratically elected, and on the other hand, citizens are constantly being deprived of their basic rights and freedoms. We are witnessing the rise of this diverse, contradicting, and disturbing phenomenon in Yemen. This is because of a lack of understanding of the concept of democracy by the public and the politicians as well. Some experts even predict, in spite of being young, that our unique experience in the Arabian Peninsula is actually walking its way to suicide! For our decision makers "We have democracy" might seem enough reason to boast and

cheer up, but we look at it from a more reasonable and realistic viewpoint. We see that our parliament is not the one ruling the country - when it is their job as the legislative body to do so. As a result some members of the parliament are frustrated by what is going on around them. They feel that they have become puppets to blindly support the government. This is partly due to the partisanship that is evident in almost all parliamentary votes, and partly because of the majority of the ruling party in the parliament. This is in contrast to their main duty of putting partisanship aside and thinking of the nation's interests and worries. Some of our leaders - to some extent - have bypassed the parliament, eroding basic constitutional practices, while security forces are turned on honest journalists who are trying to point out the insufficiency of the system. Sometimes political opponents who might disagree with the government on an issue face the same faith. This disagreement does not make them enemies of the ruling party. In fact this could be a good chance for both ends to meet and discuss, to find the best way to overcome the conflict. This intolerance by officials, shows that our leaders themselves need to be educated on democracy. For them democracy starts and ends with the elections and what is beyond that is not tolerable. Holding free and fair elections is the first step in the direction of democracy, but it is just the beginning. What comes after that is important too. In fact it is more important than the first step.

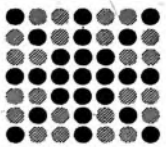
**The meaning of democracy**  
Real democracy means "liberal democracy." In other words real democracy is a political system

which starts with free and fair elections along with the rule of law, separation of powers, and the protection of basic liberties such as free speech, property, and assembly. Democracy is not about the procedures for electing government, but about protecting the individual's liberties and dignity against constraint by the state or the society. It is about creating a framework of law and administration to ensure justice for all.

Free and fair elections are not the only benchmark of democracy. Democracy is a promise and a commitment to ensure the safeguarding of other values as well, such as equality, freedom, basic human rights, and most importantly the dignity of every individual, no matter who he is, or where he comes from.

There are three categories of regimes in the world. The first is the one that declares itself democratic and acts accordingly. The second is the one stating that it is not democratic (like some kingdoms and sultanates). The third is the one stating it is democratic, but which does not implement true democracy. Unfortunately Yemen is in the third category. It is obvious that the third is the worst of all. Simply because the regime fools its citizens into believing that what they get of freedom is the best that can be given, it convinces them that there is democracy, while the truth is otherwise. The wrong understanding of democracy is so widely spread among Yemeni citizens that they are not able to judge whether they are in a democratic state or not. Democracy which is not implemented in a "democratic" country is simply not enough.

**In fact, it is dangerous!**



## The British Council, Yemen

### NOTICE TO ALL OUR CLIENTS

The British Council in Yemen remains open, in both Sana'a and Aden. However, due to security concerns, British Council teaching staff have been temporarily evacuated and there has been a temporary suspension of English Language courses in Sana'a and Aden.

The following services continue:

- Project management in development fields
- Scholarships
- Higher Education Link Scheme
- Library & information
- Educational enquiries
- Examinations
- Cultural Programme

You can get information on these services by phoning or visiting our offices in Sana'a or Aden:

**Sana'a:** Tel: 01 244 121/122/155; Fax: 01 244 120  
As-Sabain Street no. 7  
PO Box 2157

**Aden:** Tel: 02 232 027; Fax: 02 234 868  
Ho Chi Min Street  
PO Box 6170 Khormakser

The offices are open between 08.30-17.00 Saturdays through till Wednesdays.

English Language courses will be resumed as soon as possible. For further information please contact the British Council in Sana'a (Mohammed Ali/Samia Mohammed) or Aden (Mohammed Ma'asher/Atraf Shihab). We apologise for the inconvenience. To compensate for this all our clients and customers for the next British Council English courses will receive a 10 per cent discount on their current fees.

The British Council expects to resume its English course as soon as possible and will keep you all informed.

Brenden McSharry  
Director Yemen  
29 January 1999

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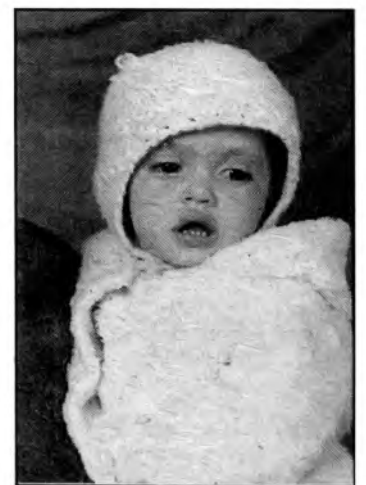
**Application deadline is 2 weeks from date of this advertisement.**

## إلى فاعلي الخير

الطفلة وفاء محمد علي حسين الفقيه، سنة ونصف، تعاني من تشوه خلقي في القلب، وهي بحاجة إلى عملية جراحية عاجلة لتصحيح موقع القلب في الصدر. وقد تقرر سفرها إلى خارج الوطن لإجراء العملية.  
من يرغب في عمل الخير وإنقاذ حياة طفلة بريئة عليه الاتصال على رقم ٦٧٠٠٣٤ أو ٢٠٨٠١٤

Wafaa Mohammed Ali Husain Al-Faqeeh, 1.5 year-old, is suffering from congenital heart disease. She needs an immediate cardiac surgery—which is not available in the country, to save her life.

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## Yemen's Home Furniture Industry:

# THE TIDE OF CHANGE!

### History of Carpentry:

The Yemeni carpentry industry is over 3000 years old. There are ancient engravings and paintings which show craftsmen busy in woodwork.

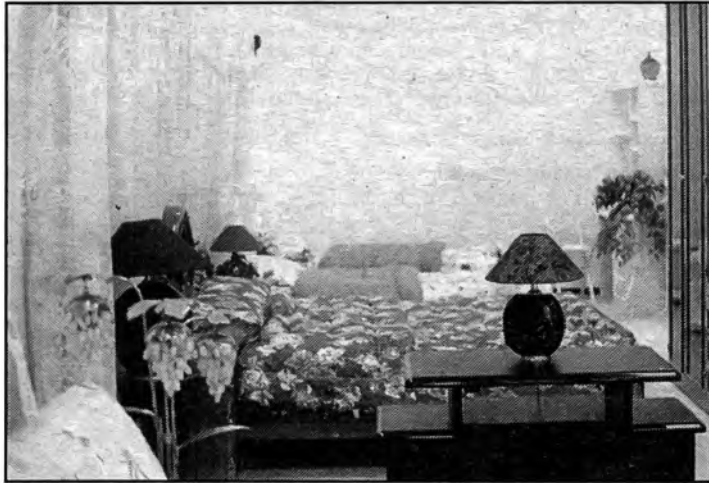
During the heyday of the Islamic civilization, Yemeni carpentry skills spread throughout Arabia, the Levant, Persia, India and beyond; as well as to North Africa, the Middle East, Andalusia, and other territories.

Then for the last 1000 years, a dormant Yemen barely interacted with the world. Mostly shut out from the rest of civilization until the middle of the 20th century, Yemeni carpentry gradually developed some unique features.

Yemeni craftsmen developed lots of skill and talent. Household furniture like beds, stools, chairs, tables, cupboards, etc., were designed and produced. Also produced were doors, windows, balconies, and other protective extensions. Many kinds of tools and simple machines such as hammers, levers, axes, saws, etc., have been developed. Some of them are still in use today.

Traditional wood products are made from local trees.

During the days of British colonial rule of Aden, carpentry curricula were developed and



### Quality & Prices

The kind of wood used in Yemen includes placards (applacash), Swedish, Malaysian meranti, Taiga (tik wood), beech (zan), and luminous light toner wood (taneb). There are many other kinds of wood used depending on quality and budget of consumers. Carpenters usually buy imported wood from wholesalers and general distribution agents. Local wood production today represents less than 10% of the needs of the furniture market. Placards (compressed applacash)

A well-to-do family could furnish its home more elaborately and with ready-made foreign furniture. The cost would then rise to a few million Rials. The cost could further rise if the buyer wants chiselled engravings on first-quality wood.

Room furniture designs are tailor-made based on catalogs and pictures. Sculptors have enjoyed high demand for their skills because of the ever more refined taste of high-income families.

Second-hand furniture stores have become a common feature as many families who want to save on purchases first start there, but the quality is often below acceptable standards.

### Payment Facilities:

In all cases, don't forget to argue about prices. You can often get 5% to 30% discounts on the price for all home furniture. This is especially true if you are paying cash for your needs.

There are two ways of paying in installments. If the goods are purchased ready-made from a show-room, then a system of installments can be agreed upon. Usually, the shop-owner will allow up to 6 months to complete payment of the value of the products. Often, the goods are delivered on the day of the agreement, when an initial down-payment is made. This is usually 50% of the total value. A person can also make a down-payment on goods that are being produced. A customer can agree with a carpenter to make a deposit. Over a few weeks, the carpenter will then produce the furniture, and payment is made as the work progresses.

### Learning from the World:

The Republic of Yemen has started to learn from foreign experience. The learning process is at both ends of the market - supply and demand. On the one hand, our carpenters - whether those who have gone through vocational institutes, or those who have apprenticed on the basis of 'on-the-job training' - have now learned many new skills from foreigners. On the demand side, the taste of Yemenis has changed visibly over the last two decades.

Yemeni carpenters today apply practically Western designs to the furniture industry. The first such input came from China - through specialized Chinese curricula in technical schools. Then came foreign proficient workmanship through Egyptian, Syrian, Indian, and Filipino carpenters. Finally came the professional catalogs. Many Yemeni carpenters also learned the skills in 5-stars hotels, large international firms, oil companies, and other enterprises.

### Furniture Market:

The cost of household furniture can vary steeply depending on the quality and number of pieces.

The first factor is the number of pieces and quality of the furniture. Most families usually demand the following:

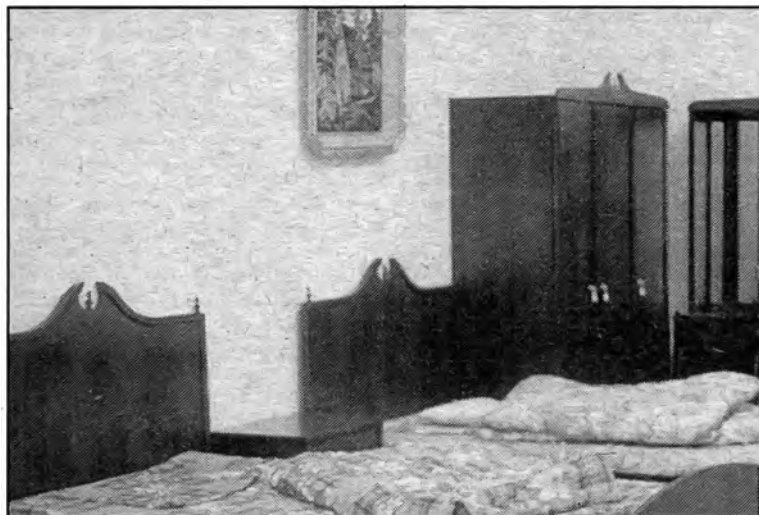
- Sitting (living) room furniture would include a sofa and 4 arm-chairs;

- Bedroom furniture would comprise a family bed, a couple of single beds, a cabinet, and a desk with a mirror;

- Dining room furniture would involve a kitchen table and chairs, and numerous shelves and drawers, and possibly a sofa and accompanying chairs.

A low-income family would invest a total cost of somewhere between YR 250,000 to YR 400,000.

A middle-income family would spend up to a million.



taught in schools. One of the founders of modern carpentry sciences in Aden was the late Mr. Ahmed Sa'eed Al-Masri, a scholar of the British Royal Corps.

But, it was with the coming of the September Revolution of 1962 that the door was opened wide for Yemen to interact with the world.

### The Tide of Change:

Following the Revolution, there was a much higher level of exchange and interaction between Yemen and the rest of the world. Unfortunately, this has had a negative impact on Yemen's indigenous carpentry industry. For all practical purposes, the local industry has disappeared and was replaced by imported furniture and other wood products.

Most furniture today is either directly imported, or the raw materials are imported and local carpenters make the products.

Various efforts to prop up local carpentry through subsidies, tax breaks and vocational training have not been able to make a dent on the foreign on-slaught. To add insult to injury, most families and companies prefer imported finished furniture. These are both of better quality and lower prices. While raw wood is often imported from Malaysia, Indonesia, Sweden, etc. ready-made furniture products are often imported from Italy, Southeast Asia, and other places.

Formal training has also left its mark. The three major technical carpentry schools - the Sanaa Technical School, the Bir Basha Technical School in Taiz, and the Aden Technical School have graduated students who produced a lot of successful works.

On the demand side, most Yemenis have now adapted to modern dining and living habits. Beds are a standard feature. Eating on tables is increasing. Writing and reading on desks and tables is normal. Packing clothes in cupboards is standard. These habits, which were first introduced only a few decades, are today part of the normal behavior of the Yemeni people.

### Yemeni versus Imported Products:

Yemen carpenters now successfully compete with imported furniture products. Local carpenters have proven their ability to meet demand needs in both quality and prices.

Today's local carpenters have tried to append fascinating beauty to the outward appearance, producing modern styles and firmness. One expert carpenter told me once, "We try hard to satisfy the wishes of our customers. We continue to upgrade the quality of our service!"

The success of local products lies

in two factors:

- Blending of local with international styles;
- Using solid wood rather than compressed placards in producing the furniture. This gives the goods longer durability.

### Modernizing the Sector:

Unfortunately, the burden of modernizing and up-grading this sector has fallen almost entirely on the private sector - and a small section of it, at that. Therefore, growth and development have been intermittent and slow.

Financing has not been available to the small and medium size carpentry workshops. This holds back the purchase of needed equipment and machinery.

Government financing and bank credits are not available. However, some entrepreneurs have recently been able to benefit from the Social Fund Program which provides small-scale financing. Loans are given to carpenters for the purchase of machinery, equipment, and materials such as wood.

As a sector that provides employment to a large sector of semi-skilled workers, and generates income directly and through value added and linkages, the state should support the carpentry industry.

### Conclusion:

In my opinion, the carpentry industry needs a lot of development and subsidies from government, public, and private sectors. Our global system takes care about such cases raised from its necessity and importance to the family and society. A civilized nation is being indicated by wealthy life style of furniture,

and luxuries. Therefore, we should keep in our eyes all issues related to the development of efficient management and mass production. Yet, our society still faces various problems, which need deep understandings, piercing sights, and courage stances. A good management with abiding resources ought to accelerate the wheel of development and ease problems created from demography or environment. The country has to make co-operative agreements with regional and international organizations to be provided with data, sustenance, and experience to solve its economic crises. In addition, Yemen needs to issue laws or republican decrees to organize the underwriting of shares to establish new projects to attract foreign investments. I am optimistic about the future of carpentry in Yemen, although necessary steps has to be taken to organize and license the labor force engaged in this occupation. People say, "Organizing carpentry knowledge is 99% of success, while 1% depend on government." As we reached the coming century, every carpenter has to develop a standard quality style for carpentry workshop like products of high industrial countries. It is just a matter of consumer taste of average persons, before they are various volume shapes of wooden sculptures.

By: Ghassan Al-Ahdal, Yemen Times



REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION  
SEEDS AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES PROJECT

## INVITATION FOR BID (IFB), ICB NO. 04/99

- The government of the Republic of Yemen (ROY) has received a credit from the Interim Trust Fund (ITF) administered by the International Development Association (IDA), in the amount of SDR 9.2 million equivalent to US\$ 12.5 million towards the cost of the Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) and it is intended that a part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of Agriculture machinery for the Agricultural Services Corporation (ASC) Sana'a.
- The Seeds and Agricultural Services project (SASP) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of above mentioned goods.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the following address and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

(a) Director of Project Support Unit  
Al-Daeery/Al-Gazaier Street  
Sana'a (ROY)  
Tel. No. 207848  
Fax No. 207848

(b) or by writing to:  
SASP  
P. O. Box 15316, Sana'a,  
Republic of Yemen

- A complete set of the bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible Bidder on submission of a written application to the above address upon payment of a non-refundable fees of USD 50.00 or its equivalent in Yemen Rials at the selling exchange rate established by the Central Bank of Yemen on the date of purchase of documents. Documents may also be obtained by express courier on payment of additional non-refundable fee of USD 50.00
- All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and must be accompanied by a security of no less than two and half percent (2.5%) of the total bid value in a freely convertible currency, in favor of Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) valid for (120) days from the closing date of bids. Bids must be accompanied by the following documents:
  - A copy of valid Tax Card (for local bidders)
  - A trade registration (for local bidders)
  - Catalogue of the manufacturer
- Bids envelopes must be delivered to the main office of SASP, Sana'a, Al-Daeery/Al-Gazaier street on or before 10.00 a.m. on March 15, 1999.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at 11:00 a. m on March 15, 1999 at the main office of the project in Sana'a.

الجمهورية اليمنية  
وزارة الزراعة والري  
مشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية

## إعلان عن مناقصة عالمية رقم ٩٩/٤

- ١- تعلن وزارة الزراعة والري ممثلة بمشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية أن حكومة الجمهورية اليمنية تحصلت على قرض من الصندوق الإستراتيجي المؤقت (البنك الدولي) بمختلف العملات الأجنبية لتمويل جزء من تكاليف مشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية وقد خصص جزء من تحصيلات القرض لمقابلة المدفوعات المتعددة تحت هذه المناقصة الخاصة بتوريد البذور الزراعية لمؤسسة الخدمات الزراعية.
- ٢- يدعو المستفيد من القرض - مشروع البذور والخدمات الزراعية - المتقدمين المؤهلين بحسب شروط البنك الدولي والصندوق المؤقت لتقديم عطاءاتهم مختمومة بالشمع الأحمر لتوريد البضاعة الموضحة في الفقرة (١) من هذا الإعلان ساري المفعول لمدة (٩٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات.
- ٣- يمكن شراء وثائق المناقصة بموجب طلب كتابي إلى العنوان التالي:  
مدير وحدة دعم المشروع  
الدائري - تقاطع شارع الجزائر  
تلفون/فاكس (٢٠٧٨٤٨)  
صنعاء، الجمهورية اليمنية

- ٤- مقابل دفع رسم لا يسترد قدره (٥٠) دولار أمريكي أو ما يعادل بالريال اليمني بموجب نشرة البنك المركزي يوم شراء وثيقة المناقصة. ومن يرغب في الحصول على وثائق المناقصة بالبريد السريع عليه دفع رسم إضافي قدره (٥٠) دولار أمريكي لا يرد.
- ٥- يجب أن يصحب عطاءات المتقدمين ضمان بنكي بواقع (٢,٥%) اثنين ونصف بالمائة من إجمالي مبلغ العطاء أو شيك معتمد مقبول الدفع ساري مفعوله لمدة (١٢٠) يوماً من تاريخ فتح مظاريف العطاءات بإسم وحدة دعم المشروع. كما يرفق بالآتي:

(أ) البطاقة الضريبية مجددة (ب) السجل التجاري (ج) كتالوج الشركة المصنعة

- ٥- آخر موعد لتقديم العطاءات في أو قبل الساعة العاشرة صباحاً من يوم الإثنين الموافق ١٥/٣/١٩٩٩م.
- ٦- سيتم فتح مظاريف العطاءات المختومة بالشمع الأحمر بجلسة علنية وبحضور من يرغب من مندوبي المتقدمين في الساعة الحادية عشر صباحاً من يوم الاثنين الموافق ١٤/٣/١٩٩٩م.



## "Marriage between relatives is a direct cause of deadly hemolytic Anemia"

Anemia can be caused by dystrophy, lack of vitamins and minerals. When you get anemia you become very weak and will probably not be able to think or work well. However, most anemias are curable. Taking vitamins and eating good food could treat anemia. Taking good care of yourself makes you avoid anemia in the first place. But there is one kind of anemia that is very difficult - if not impossible - to cure. That is hemolytic anemia. The unique thing about it is that it is mainly caused by congenital factors. A patient with hemolytic anemia must follow specific directions in order to be safe. Otherwise, it may bring about death.

Dr. Saleh Ahmed Bamashmoos is a hematologist. He took his B.Sc. in Medical Laboratories from Sanaa University in 1982. He received his M.Sc. degree in Medicinal Chemistry from Sussex University, UK in 1987. He has finished his Ph.D. thesis on "Assessment of Renal Function in Yemeni Patients with Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase Deficiency." He will discuss his Ph.D. thesis at Alexandria University.

To shed more light upon deadly hemolytic anemia in Yemen, I filed the following interview with him:

### Q: What is emolytic anemia?

A: Hemolytic anemia can be divided into two groups:

1. Congenital hemolytic anemia: This kind is caused by defects within the red cells; e.g., hereditary spherocytosis, sickle cell anemia, thalassaemia, and favism.

2. Acquired hemolytic anemia: this kind results from:

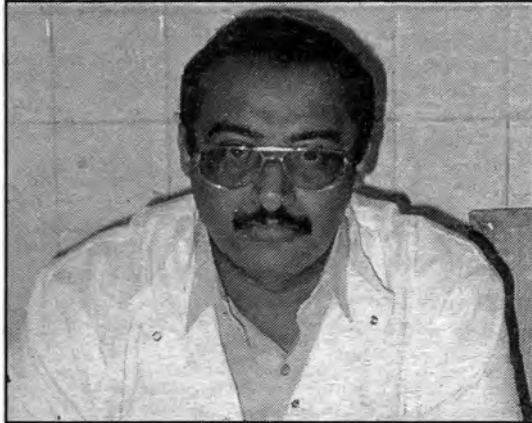
a. An immune mechanism, e.g., hemolytic disease of new born- incompatible blood transfusion, etc.

b. Non-immuno hemolytic anemia, e.g., hemolytic anemia due to direct action of chemicals and drugs.

Congenital hemolytic anemia is more serious than the hereditary variety.

### Q: What is favism?

A: It is a disease caused by a deficiency of the enzyme glucose 6 phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD). G6PD deficiency is a sex-linked congenital disease. It is more common in females than



in males. If a patient with this disease eats broad beans, or smells rose pollen, or if he takes oxidized medicines, he becomes ill within a few hours. Headache, dizziness, vomiting, and running high temperature are basic symptoms of the disease. Later, the patient becomes very pale.

### Q: Can favism be treated?

A: If a patient is not in a serious case, disease symptoms disappear within a few days. However, iron compounds are preferably recommended. In the late stages, blood transfusion becomes necessary, and it gives a good result.

### Q: Are there specialized centers for hemolytic anemia patients in public or private hospitals in Yemen?

A: The Ministry of Health gives good care to patients through providing Central Laboratories with necessary reagents that help in discovering congenital hemolytic diseases. But still there are no specialized centers for hemolytic anemia patients in public or private hospitals in Yemen. They are treated in children's and internal sections.

### Q: Are there specialized doctors for these kinds of diseases in Yemen?

A: There are very few specialized doctors of hemolytic anemia in Yemen. However, internists and children's physicians also can treat patients who have hemolytic anemia.

### Q: What can patients do to avoid disease aggravation?

A: Patients with G6PD deficiency must avoid eating beans and taking dioxide medicines. The Hematology Center in the Central Laboratories gives every patient a card. This card includes the kind of medicines and foods that the patient must not take. Patients must show this card whenever they go to the doctor.

### Q: Are there any factors related to the Yemeni society that cause this deadly disease?

A: Yes. Marriage between relatives is a direct reason behind hemolytic anemia, especially when both parents have the congenital factor. This kind of marriage is the most common in Yemen to date.

By: Nadwa Al-Dawsari,  
Yemen Times

## Health Sector Problem Analysis in Yemen

### a. Deficiencies of the Present System:

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has identified six core system input deficiencies which must be addressed if health care is to improve significantly. Each of these core issues will be directly addressed by the reforms. These issues are as follows:

### Inadequate Management Systems:

This is the key problem of the health system. The current management system suffers from over-complicated bureaucratic procedures, a poor match between resources and program needs, an inability to control the private use of vital public resources such as vehicles, an inability to enforce its lack of incentives to its employees for service improvement and a lack of innovation. The result of these management systems is low output, inefficient use of resources, lack of quality, lack of innovation and lack of sustainability.

### Low Government Budgetary Allocation to the Health Sector:

The Yemeni health care consumer pays 75% of his/her health care costs, with government meeting 25%. Without a larger share of government allocations, the MoPH will be seriously crippled in any efforts it makes to improve health care, especially for the poor. As such, the health sector share of the budget needs to increase. At the same time, the previously intended scope of MoPH services is too large to be affordable by government, even with a greatly enlarged budget. The Ministry must redefine its role and target its services in order to best serve the needs of the population, while handing over some financial and services delivery responsibility to the private sector, NGOs, and the public at large, especially those who can afford to pay for health care. In addition, it must phase its expansion at a realistic pace which takes into account budgetary limitations.

### Inefficient use of resources

A management issue of particular importance is the irrational distribution and use of resources, which has led to inefficiency and waste. Health manpower and physical infrastructure have expanded rapidly in recent years without a similar increase in budget. This has resulted in wastage of the hardware of the system, with low patient to health care provider ratios, and low health facility usage. In addition, the current health system model results in the lack of outreach services and over-dependence on stationary care facilities. This is an unrealistic strategy given the geography and level of health care awareness of the population of Yemen. The geographic dispersal of the population means that they cannot easily reach these stationary facilities for all their needs, and low health awareness means that many remain unaware of the need for preventive and early curative services, and as such need a proactive health service. Also the system has not been able to put in place or enforce a rational allocation of resources, with some parts of the country without health facilities and staff, and other with too many. In particular, resources are over-allocated to urban areas. Finally, the system has encouraged over-allocation of curative over preventive services. These inefficiencies create heavy financial burdens on the system with minimal gains.

### Over centralization of Budgetary and Planning Process, With Poor Community Involvement

The MoPH has made important gains in the decentralization process, by decentralizing the budget as well as decision-making in a number of areas. However, over-centralization of a number of tasks remains, which creates inefficiency in health services delivery, and lack of commitment and responsibility at the level of the service provider. While district level health staff are ideally placed to understand the health needs of the population and to plan for their needs, district health system structures which could make use of this expertise are not in place. Instead, planning financing and supervision of district and sub-district health facilities are managed at a distance from the governorate and national level, leading to many gaps and inefficiencies in service provision. In addition, community involvement is nearly absent except in terms of payment for services.

### Government Policies Outside the MoPH which Have Impact on the Health Sector

Beside lack of adequate budgetary allocations to the health sector, two essential issues outside the MoPH hinder the ability of the Ministry to improve its health care delivery system. These are civil service policies (Ministry of Civil Services) and cumbersome financial guidelines (Ministry of Finance). Civil service policies set salaries below a living wage, forcing public service employees to divide their time between their government jobs and the competing private sector; the mix of civil service employees is incomplete at the administrative and service delivery level; remuneration for overtime



Dr. Nasher, the Minister of Health

and travel is inadequate; gross overstaffing occurs at some facilities, at some levels, and for some categories of staff, creating a huge drain on the health sector budget with very little benefit; and incentives and policies to encourage staff re-location in needy rural areas do not exist. The government's current Civil Service Reform Program is expected to address some of these issues, but will need a strong lobbying effort by MoPH in order to meet the special staffing needs for health. In terms of financial systems, non-transparent and excessively complicated financial procedures cripple the administrative and health service delivery function, with even small items requiring numerous signatures and several days to several months of follow-up in order to process. The Ministry of Finance policy of awarding incentives to its employees if they return part of the budget unspent each year create a further reason to delay the budget. In addition, the budget is assigned primarily on a historical basis, with lack of rational links between level of financial resources and program needs. Both civil service and financial guidelines will need significant reform in order to make them responsive to the needs of a functioning health sector.

### Inefficient Use of Donor Input

The health sector has been the recipient of significant donor resources over the past 20, to 30 years. However, much of this donor input has been wasted. While the hardware provided by donors such as buildings and equipment has tended to remain within the health care system, and training support has resulted in significant amounts of health manpower being put in place, the systems set up by donors have disappeared. This is due, primarily, to lack of an effective and cohesive national strategy into which donor inputs could be set. Coordination among donors has also been weak. Donors have been allowed to carry out their projects in isolation without a mechanism to sustain these inputs and to incorporate them into a cohesive system. This has resulted in low sustainability of donor projects, and low benefit to the health system as a whole. Another key cause of low sustainability of donor projects is lack of long-term coordination of finances to projects.

### b. Effects of Deficiencies

As a result of these system input problems, the following system output deficiencies have resulted:

- Low access to health services
- Low efficiency
- Low quality of services
- Low staff of motivation
- Lack of accountability
- Corruption and leakage of resources out of the public sector
- Lack of sustainability
- Lack of innovation

From "Health Sector Reform in the Republic of Yemen", Volume One, Published in December, 1998

## مستشفى اليمن التخصصي Yemen Specialized Hospital

### Proudly announces:

The arrival of doctor Bernard Lorenceau, period 20 February ~ 7 March.

He is chief of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Unit in Rene Dubos Hospital, Paris.

He got his Doctorate (MD) in Plastic Surgery in 1987.

He is a member of the French and European associations of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

He will see patients and perform various plastic and reconstructive operations such as:

- aesthetic surgery of the brow, face and neck
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- congenital anomalies repair
- hand and limb surgery
- obesity surgery

### Visit or contact:

Yemen Specialized Hospital, Sana'a  
Near Al-Mithaq Institute  
Tel: 224963 - Fax: 222111



## VACANCY

### For a Female Office Administrator/Secretary



ICD (International Cooperation for Development), a British based non-governmental organization is looking for a female Office Administrator/Secretary to be based in its main office in Sana'a.

The office requires an experienced Office Administrator with sound knowledge of office administration and secretarial work. Candidates should have strong organizational skills, fluency in both Arabic and English and ability to work with a team of various nationals.

For application forms and Job Description please contact the ICD office at:

Hay El Seyasi, Street No. 20, House No. 9  
Tel No. 267 366, 267 363  
Fax No. 276 576

Closing date for submission of applications will be at 1 pm  
on Thursday 11th of February 1999.

## ألف مبروك

خالص التهاني والتبريكات للأخ  
مراد محمد قايد  
وذلك بمناسبة زواجه  
متمنين له ولعروسه حياة زوجية سعيدة،  
وبالرفاه والبنين.  
المهنؤون  
خالد علوي السقاف،  
رمزي علوي السقاف،  
وجميع الأقرباء والأصدقاء



# To Greater Heights: Improving English Language Competencies of Yemeni Learners



**Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,**  
Associate Professor,  
Department of English,  
College of Education at  
Mahweet.

Over the past few years, building a language competent society has become an indisputable national priority among the major developing and developed nations of the world. In the context of the approaching 21st century, which brings in its wake new challenges of communication, a majority of these countries have been making a sustained, vigorous and concerted move to boost the language competencies of their learners, learning English as a second or foreign language. Consequent upon the ever-increasing awareness of the pivotal role English would play as the language of wider communication (LWC) in the present age of informatics and cyberspace, marked by rapid and unprecedented strides in communication technology, such efforts have gained substantial momentum.

Curriculum plays a crucial and decisive role to usher in the desired changes in the academic scenario of any country. It defines the short-term and long term learning objectives to be achieved by a given community of learners over a specified period of time, spells out the learning route to be navigated and envisages how the learning outcome can fruitfully be utilized. Hence, a lot of foresight and careful planning has to precede the designing of a cur-

riculum. However, if in the opinion of educational planners and administrators, a given curriculum fails to fulfil the targeted learning objectives, then there arises an abiding need to either replenish it or have it replaced in order to make it a fit instrument of academic change. After all, if we do what we always do, we will get what we always get. Obviously, any meaningful academic change depends on what people do and think. It is as simple or as complex as that.

In this context, the basic question that arises is: If after years of learning English at the preparatory, secondary and post secondary levels, an average Yemeni learner fails to perform the day to day communicative chores in English in his/her personal, professional and social spheres with an optimal degree of competence and confidence, then, obviously, something vital in grossly lacking in the EFL (English as a foreign language) curriculum that needs to be identified, and if necessary, suitably remedied. If Yemen is to remain in the forefront of academic development in consonance with other front ranking, developing countries of the world, there needs to be a close scrutiny of the assumptions underlying the present foreign language curriculum. Its objectives, therefore need to be redefined and efforts need be made for the curriculum renewal in tune with the dominant pedagogic and occupational needs of the Yemeni learners.

The primary objective of teaching/learning a foreign language is to produce in the learners what is called 'functional competence', 'pragmatic competence', or 'communicative competence,' which implies a general ability on the part of the learners to use the foreign language (FL) in a variety of domains. In terms of the targeted learning outcome, the FL curriculum should ideally ensure that an average learner, by the end of the period of his academic training, displays as his terminal behavior, an adequate command of 'what' to say, 'whom', 'when'

and 'how' in the target language (TL). The curriculum should also optimally prepare him to be able to identify the communicative intent involved in a given speech event and to select the appropriate linguistic tool for expressing himself/herself as clearly as he/she can, with, of course, due regard for the grammatical rules of the language. In other words, an average learner's communicative competence would consist of a good degree of socio-linguistic competence coupled with some measure of formal or grammatical competence so that the utterances he/she produces in a range of communicative situations do not lack 'acceptability,' albeit somewhat deviating from the strict canons of grammaticality.

Judged from this perspective, my impressions of the level of Yemen FL learner competence in English, resulting from my interactions with a cross-section of students at Mahweet and Sanaa, has been particularly disconcerting. A vast majority of learners across grade levels have demonstrated, during in-class and out-of-class interactions; a shaky and perfunctory command of English and those, who seem to possess some competence in the language, make frequent violations of the acceptable grammatical norms, rendering most of their utterances minimally acceptable. In so far as most of their utterances are phonologically flawed, they are, to a considerable extent, unintelligible as well.

With this complex and multiple syndrome, the situation appears to be all the more disturbing especially because most of the learners have displayed an unmistakably high level of motivation to acquire competence in English as an effective means of communication and have been painfully aware of their inability to speak English fluently. This ambivalent situation bears testimony to the fact that the FL curriculum has apparently failed to take full advantage of the apparent interest and involvement of the learner.

It also lacks the innate potential to engender in them the requisite

level of communicative competence in English. In addition, the academic ambience in schools and colleges has, presumably, not been conducive enough for an effective and efficient acquisition of the foreign language.

This seems to be a problem of serious magnitude in view of the fact that in the next century, which is round the corner, the bulk of Yemeni student population can't afford to remain insulated from the global mainstream. In order to lead their country to the forefront of advancement in technology, trade, tourism and teaching, they must wake up to the urgency of acquiring the basic linguistic competence in English, which remains the language of opportunity and of upward social mobility. It is also a known fact that English is the chief instrument of access to the world of science and technology of trade and tourism, of commerce and industry, of computers and the electronic media. English is simply the source language opening the window or the international community in the 'global village' and, as such, the passport to progress in every field of human endeavor. Communicative competence in English is, therefore, a social compulsion, if not a political necessity.

The problem is, indeed, multifold and far more complex than what appears on the surface. The failure of the secondary level curriculum in Yemen to equip the learners with the basic functional skills in English is ascribable to several factors. These include ambitious course structure, inherent inconsistencies and incongruities in the text materials prescribed for different grade levels, lack of adequate teacher competence, faulty classroom methodology, lack of scope for 'incidental learning,' wide discrepancies between the secondary and post secondary syllabi, want of opportunities to use English outside classrooms, lack of parental and societal encouragement for a wide use of the foreign language, and so forth.

A close scrutiny of the textbooks prescribed for different grade levels illustrates the situation. The textbook series titled CRESCENT may be taken as a case in point. The series has been prepared and published by Oxford University Press for English language teaching in the Arab world.

But unfortunately, despite their merits, the books have many shortcomings, which render them unsuitable for most Yemeni learners of English. These are not properly graded for teaching vocabulary and structures, do not take into cognizance the entry behavior (EB) or the 'schema' (background knowledge) of the learners for whom they are intended. There are not enough communicative activities to encourage the learners to participate in language games involving productive and receptive language skills. The books abound in words like 'air-hostess,' 'otter' and 'emergency' which most learners are not likely to encounter in their immediate environment. This is sure to hinder their ability to make profitable use of the teaching materials and achieve an effective transfer of language skills. Moreover, if reading is seen as 'a psycholinguistic guessing game' (Goodman), the learners can hardly activate their guessing

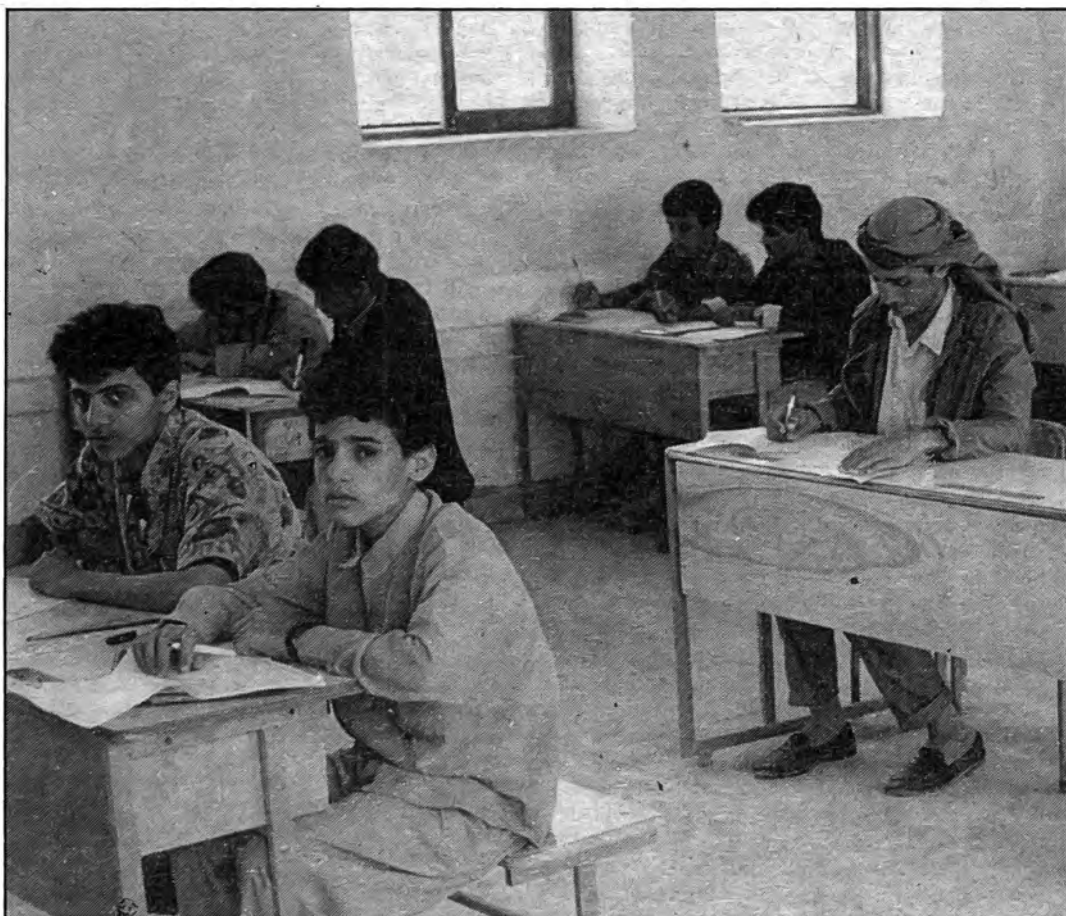
strategies and efficiently manipulate the relevant grapho-phonetic, syntactic, and semantic cue systems to be able to monitor their comprehension strategies due, primarily, to their low lexical competence. The books are, nevertheless, good enough for any group of learners in an English saturated learning environment, but seem to be anything but appropriate for the environment existing in Yemen where English has still to cover a lot of ground.

Any teaching-learning context squarely depends on 3M's: Men, Method and Materials. No set of instructional materials can be expected to yield the desired results unless a cadre of competent teachers capable of adopting an appropriate teaching methodology handle these materials. In other words, teaching English communicatively requires a specialized group of teachers who have not only an adequate level of linguistic competence as good users of the language themselves, but have a well-equipped repertoire of professional strategies to teach English as a 'skill,' not as a 'content' subject.

In order to accomplish this, there has, inevitably to be a well-

developed teacher-training network providing updates in the teaching technology to present trainees and in-service teachers through pragmatically fashioned training modules. Quality teacher preparation courses for on-the-job teachers, administered through apex and nodal agencies, thus ensuring professional enrichment and professional renewal and help create a refreshingly healthy awareness about the new teacher roles as efficient facilitators, monitors, and managers in the EL classroom, not dull transmitters who monotonously 'dole out' information. The classroom would then become an uninhibited arena where FL learners freely and fearlessly 'play' with the foreign language through techniques of pair and group work, role-playing, brainstorming, simulation activities, etc. and incidentally learn to use the language in a variety of contexts.

The FL assessment technique should also undergo a corresponding change, emphasizing skills-testing as contrasted with testing the learners' content knowledge. The need of the hour is to formulate a judiciously designed, comprehensive FL teaching framework in Yemen from the grassroots level focusing on communicational aspects of English so that the learners' competencies develop cumulatively. This calls for a massive rethinking of the goals and methodologies of English language teaching and eventual restructuring of the curriculum in a big way.



## VACANCY

Embassy of Japan  
**Security Guard**

### Qualifications:

1. Yemeni National (Male)
2. Fair in English Language
3. Secondary School
4. At least 2 years of Security Work
5. Valid Driving License

Applicants should submit their papers no later than February 8, 1999 to:

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South West Saffia Zone  
Sana'a, Yemen  
Fax: 215226

## ANNOUNCEMENT

DHL Worldwide Express & DHL Yemen Ltd. hereby announce that Mr. Hussain (Lawrence) Yehia Al-Sayyadi, Yemeni national - also holding British nationality, is no longer employed with them as Country Manager effective 1/1/1999.

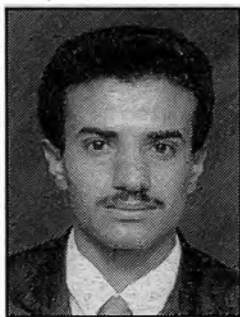


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# Advertising in Yemeni Press



By: Faisal Farhan, Sanaa University Student

This article is a summary based on field research and interviews I did as part of my academic requirements at the College of Journalism at Sanaa University. I investigated the nature, structure, and significance of advertisements in the Yemen press. I covered three categories of newspapers based on ownership - government-owned; political party-owned; and independent newspapers.

Early Advertising  
Fatat Al-Gazeera was the first newspaper to run advertisements. That was in the 1940s in Aden. The first items to be advertised were skin ointment, cigarettes, and beverages. Advertisement of other

### Advertisement Income

The official papers have the lion's share since they are easily distributed in all governorates. They are also available in all government bodies. That is why most advertisements go to these papers. The independent papers receive the second highest volume of advertising business. This is because they have earned it, and because of the readable material they carry. In addition, they are characterized by easy distribution and colorful pictures and advertisements. Newspapers controlled by political parties carry few advertisements. This is particularly true in the case of opposition papers. Sponsors, especially businesses, don't want to be associated with them.

### Advertising Differences

The official paper now tries to use a complete system of computers and specialized administration in advertising so that advertising could be done in a better way. The party paper also tries to make use of the new programs and techniques in computer science. The national paper has a highly qualified and experienced staff. It also makes agreements with the advertiser when styling and organizing advertisements. This is all done according to the modern systems available to the paper.

### Advertisement Designs

The official papers have specialized advertisement designers but most of them rarely have any experience. The party papers have no designers. Most of the advertisements are simply lumped into the space allocated for the purpose. The best design specialists are in the independent newspapers. At the Yemen Times, there are three specialists. This helps their efficiency and competence, which are two main criteria in these papers. This factor alone is one of the strongest appeals of the independent papers to patrons. This also goes hand in hand with the computer hard- and software facilities of the papers. Here too, independent papers stand out.

### Advertising Shaping

There is no real difference among the papers regarding the shape and message of advertisements. But, the independent papers try to make their advertisements more colorful and attractive, in order to be distinguished. The language of advertisements in the newspapers depends on the type of the advertisement. We can distinguish among three groups:

1. Occasion-oriented advertisements which have become a big business nowadays is almost standardized. On a religious or national occasion, a lot of people wish the leadership success.
2. Marketing products or services is a second group of advertisements. Usually the wording and shape of the advertisement is determined by the sponsor or company. In many cases, especially regarding international trademarks, a ready-film is provided to the newspapers.
3. Vacancy advertisements is the third variety. Here, the text is supplied but the shape of the advertisement is left mostly to the newspaper. There are, of course, other types of advertisements.

### Conditions

In the official papers, there are some conditions. Advertisements should not deviate from local traditions, Islamic ethics and the political tendency of the regime. That is why, some hotel advertisements regarding musical and dance entertainments, for example, have to be re-structured. This is especially true of any pictures included. In the party and independent papers, the controls are less stringent, and they are non-existent regarding political appropriateness vis-a-vis the regime. The advertiser faces few conditions, unless the advertisements openly go against local traditions, religious principles, or ethics. The Yemen Times once received an advertisement from a hotel which announced the offer of a free glass of wine for all new guests during a certain holiday season. After consultations, the paper advertised that the hotel was offering a free drink to all new guests during the said period.

### Advertisement Impact

For the official papers, advertisements fill a space, and whether they are effective or not is irrelevant. Most of the times, the advertisement simply come to them for other reasons than impact. The political party papers are similarly supported by sympathetic sponsors. It is in independent papers that the sponsors review the impact of their advertisements regularly. That is why these papers often run readership profiles and surveys. Independent papers are more effective. This can be noticed in the increased volume of advertisements. "Advertisements actually have a considerable effect on Yemeni readers. The impact can be visibly noticed," said Dr. Mohammed Abdul-Gabbar Sallam of the Faculty of Journalism.

### Conclusion

We can conclude that the advertising business has witnessed tremendous progress. It has grown very quickly in all newspapers.



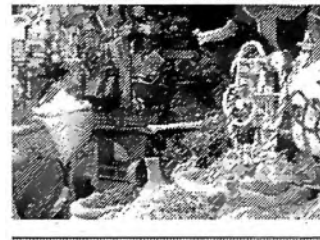
It has progressively changed in substance and style. It has become colorful and attractive using pictures. Competition among newspapers will continue to upgrade the advertising business in the future.

## Market of Taiz

Market in Taiz is much older than any other city of the country. It is a place where you can find everything you need. The market is very busy and full of life. It is a place where you can find everything you need. The market is very busy and full of life. It is a place where you can find everything you need.

It is not even enough to read about the market. A lot of things are being practiced in a way that is not even enough to read about the market. A lot of things are being practiced in a way that is not even enough to read about the market.

Home-made products are a valuable asset. They are made with care and attention. They are made with care and attention. They are made with care and attention.



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# Yemeni Mowashaha

**1. History of the Yemeni Mowashaha:**  
The Yemeni mowashaha synchronized early in the third century after Hijrah with the Arabic mowashaha which flourished in those days in Al-Andalos (today's Spain). After conquering Spain, the Arab people, including the Yemenis, transferred all their cultural and scientific achievements there. They presented to the Spanish people their poetry and music schools. This is mentioned in Saleem Al-Helw's book "Creating the Mowashaha."

the Imamate time, all singing activities stopped. The Imam Yahya, and his son Ahmed, forbade all kinds of singing and dancing. One of the Sana'ani upper-class people, Mr. Hasan Al-Ajami says, "During the Imam's ruling, the Yemeni people were meeting secretly at the house of Sheikh Sa'ad Abdullah, a Yemeni lyricist, composer, and singer. During those sessions, the Yemeni artists were trying to put the new lyrics in a more traditional suit and so preserve the old and join the new. As time went by, disk companies started to appear in



**2. The Yemeni Mowashaha, music and poetry:**  
The Yemeni mowashahas (known in Sanaa and other Yemeni cities as the Sana'ani song) are of highly classical style originally composed by old Yemeni singers and lyricists. The Arabic rhythms such as Al-Raset, Al-Beiati, and Al-Hoseini rhythms highly influenced the Yemeni mowashaha and gave it its organized and traditional characteristics.

Aden. Those companies greatly contributed to the spread of the Yemeni song in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf states, and until today, those songs are the favorites of people there.

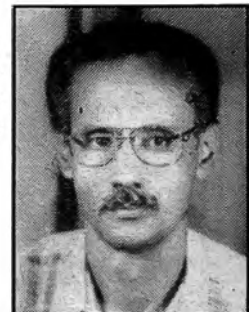
**3. The Rhythms of the Mowashaha:**  
If we made a study of the Yemeni mowashaha in relation to the Arabic mowashaha, we will find that the Yemeni mowashaha is almost independent in its lyrical style and composition. Even though, we find that some words mentioned in the Yemeni mowashaha (Bali bala, Ya lail dana,...) have equivalent terms in the Arabic mowashaha (Ya laili Ya Aini). We also see the same equivalence in its originally-Arabic rhythms. The large "dasa'ah," the small "dasa'ah," and the "sare'a" common in the Sana'ani song are actually the "sama'aeat," "darag," and "york" (Arabic rhythms). This leads us to conclude that the Yemeni mowashaha was derived from the Arabic mowashaha since it has the same accent and the same lyrical word-stock.

**5. What the mowashaha consists of:**  
The lyrics in the Homaimi period deeply influenced and enriched the Yemeni mowashaha. The Homaimi poetry, as Ibrahim Al-Hadrami describes, introducing Al-Ansi's volume of poems, is the origin of all the Yemeni literature. In its poetic composition, the Yemeni mowashaha consists of the following:  
**a. Beit:** it is the first part of a poem, and it's all up to the poet to determine the length of the verses.  
**b. Tawsheeh:** verses that follow the first part of the poem differing in meter and in rhyming scheme.  
**c. Taqme'e:** verse that comes after the Tawsheeh and that is similar to the Bait in meter and rhyming scheme.  
**d. Taqfeel:** Verses that follow the beginning of the poem in meter and rhyming scheme. The whole poem may consist of all these parts or, sometimes goes on the same sequence from the beginning until the end.

products followed later. It should be said that freedom of the press in Yemen was really achieved after the country's reunification in 1990. Since then, both readers and sponsors of advertisements have exercised some options in terms of choice. The official papers had an early start given that press freedom is a new development. They also have a visible edge as they enjoy preference in the field of advertising. This is partly because the government usually advertises in its own media, and partly because even private sponsors want to appease the government and its mouthpieces. But the real advertising business in Yemen started with the Yemen Times. Since its birth in February 1991, this paper has set the pace, direction, standards, and even rates for advertising. Many newspapers today even imitate its format and style. The Yemen Times also achieved another record by becoming the country's first paper to be published in full color.

**Advertisement Importance**  
For official newspapers, revenue advertising doesn't usually play a vital role in the continuation of issuing the paper. As mouthpieces of the state, they are supported by the government no matter what the market assessment of their performance. The same is true of newspapers representing political parties. Their agenda calls for promoting their ideals and ideas, and not for meeting market demand. Therefore, revenue from advertising is an additional bonus which is used to improve the income of the editorial and managerial staff of the papers. Advertising is, however, the lifeline of independent newspapers. This is visible from the situation of the Yemen Times, to which advertising income represents nearly 80% of total revenue. That also reflects the importance the paper attaches to market trends and inclinations, as well as the pro-business orientation of the paper.

By Saleh Abdulbaqi, Arts Editor





## How to Upgrade Public Use of Internet: Need for Leased Lines and Long-Term Planning

Internet has already gained publicity everywhere. It became part of life in the west, and is gradually entering the daily lives of people in developing countries. Yemen too has accomplished significant progress in providing good Internet services. Honestly, it has come a long way in terms of providing connectivity to individuals in many parts of the country.

However, there still are some obstacles facing the growth of public Internet usage in Yemen. Therefore, I think Teleyemen, the company providing the country with the service, should carefully consider some steps. Let me explain one of them.

After visiting Lebanon some 4 months ago, I noticed an extremely rapidly growing sector. It was the sector of Internet cafes. It is the swift increase in the number of these cafes in Lebanon that caught my eye. I asked myself "How can there be this many Internet cafes in Lebanon while there aren't any at all in Yemen?" By Internet cafe, I mean a place where there are many computers - often more than 10 - connected to a network, which in turn is directly connected to the Internet through a permanent connection - called a leased line. It is a place where customers can use computers to link to the Internet and surf the web allowing them to benefit from the biggest information highway imaginable, for as long as he/she wants. Of course there is a specific charge per minute.

I have no doubt that there are many young Yemenis who are curious about the Internet, but do not have the access. They may not have the money to buy a PC or to subscribe to the Internet. In this case, the best way for them to get connected is through Internet cafes. But these cafes - in their true meaning - do not exist in Yemen. After some research, I discovered that the main obstacle is the tremendously high price of leased lines offered by Teleyemen. This does not only apply to Internet cafes, but also to all sorts of organizations like universities, and companies which wish to have leased lines but cannot afford them.

I am sure that such projects as Internet cafes would succeed if they manage to advertise, and attract customers through all kinds of quality services. Many examples of successful Internet cafe projects are evident in Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan, which I

visited lately and found hundreds of Internet cafes serving the public with competitive prices and high quality service. When asked how they succeeded, Internet cafe establishments answer: "Through the support of our Internet Service Provider!"

Indeed, Internet Service Providers (ISP) in these countries have given whoever wants to start a project like an Internet cafe all the facilities possible to make it succeed. They allowed them to pay for the leased lines and routers over a long period of time. They installed the network with minimum charges, and hence, lifted the burden of forcing project managers to get the money to buy and install the cables, hardware, and other expensive equipment that the cafe needs in order to operate. After some time, the cafe begins to attract customers, and gets more profit. In a short period of time, it manages to cover all expenses of the leased line and hardware to the Internet service provider, and manages to pay the rent of the connection per month or year. In a matter of months, profits double, for both the cafe and the ISP. Then after witnessing the tremendous success of the first Internet cafe, the ISP offers the same facilities to another Internet cafe project. After it succeeds, and pays the ISP back with good profit, another Internet cafe comes to life, and then another, and another, until the ISP profits reach record high levels worth millions of dollars.

I think that there is a lesson to be taken from the experience of Internet cafes in Jordan and Lebanon. Why doesn't Teleyemen follow the steps of ISPs in these countries and play the same role in offering the public access to the largest information resource in the world. Sometimes life requires long-term planning for bigger benefits to accrue, not only financially, but also socially.

Historically, the most successful projects over time began with ideas, with sacrifice, with patience and with an initial investment.

Who knows? Perhaps this idea of facilitating leased line purchase might be a milestone for Internet growth in Yemen. And who knows? It also might be the strike of the century for Teleyemen.

Think about it!

By: Eng. Walid Al-Saqqaq,  
Webmaster, Yemen Times.

## Technical Innovations for Yemen Solar Energy

Solar energy is the mother of all energy. It is the main source of energy on earth. All other well-known types of energy like oil, gas, coal, wind, waterfalls etc. are derived from solar energy.

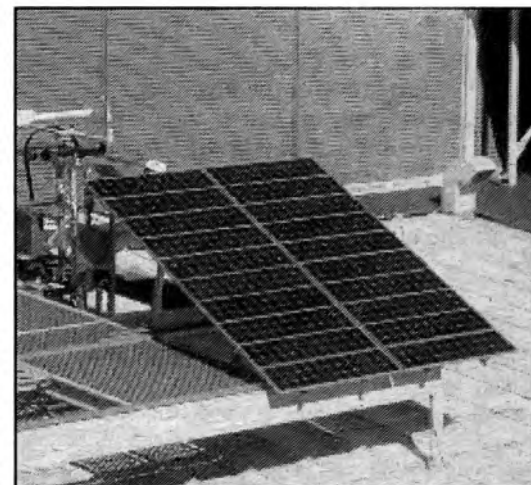
Any small tree on your road is a great factory utilizing free solar energy. In the presence of chlorophyll (the green pigment in leaves) water combines with carbon dioxide in green plants to produce carbohydrates. Carbohydrates are the sugars and starches that human beings and animals live on. The efficiency of this conversion is only about 1%. If this efficiency is increased to 10%, through new technical innovations, the world could extract all of the energy that it needs from the sun. The Arab world will be among the countries to benefit most from solar energy.

Solar energy has been subjected to intensive research and interesting applications have been found in the nineteenth, and during the first half of the twentieth century. Actually, one of the main disadvantages of the discovery and use of oil is that other sources of energy were ignored due to the excellent properties of oil, its cheapness, ease of storage, handling, and transport, and its wide applications and unlimited advantages. Recently, when the dark faces of oil were discovered; the drastic pollution of the earth for example, its high price, and the desire to spare it for the production of petrochemicals and other more important applications, solar energy is the primary choice as a free, renewable, and non-polluting energy.

Intensive scientific technical research is being carried out in the world today to tap the benefits of solar energy. Unfortunately, the Arab countries haven't done much scientific research into solar energy and its applications. In fact, Israel is doing much more solar energy research than all the Arab states together.

The main objective of solar energy research is to convert solar radiation into thermal or electrical energy through a series of operations by utilizing an appropriate energy converting instrument.

Solar energy is used intensively in many parts of the world. Even cold countries that do not have enough sunshine have already started exploring the potential of solar energy. Countries are driven to exploit solar energy due to its being renewable, environmentally friendly and readily available. There are



factories in Germany that are using solar energy to get all their needs for electric current and heat. Germany is a cold country, especially in the winter. It has less than half as much sunshine as Yemen. However, Germans are doing intensive research into solar applications and exploiting it for their local needs. Israel has developed many techniques to convert solar energy into electrical and thermal energy and applied their findings for industrial use. This work has been developed in cooperation with International Research groups and has been sold to American and other factories.

Future Industries Consultants,  
Sanaa.

### NOTE

The article entitled "India's Nuclear Policy" and written by C. Raja Mohan, the Strategic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*, New Delhi, was published in the last of the Yemen Times as an advertisement paid for by the Embassy of India.

## Letters to the Editor

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### VIOLENCE:

#### How Can It Be Suppressed?

Yemen used to be regarded as a peaceful country which did its best to establish and maintain security. Thus, Yemen has not witnessed any kind of violence or turmoil in the past.

In fact, Yemen was the safe haven for many foreigners and embraced a large number of refugees as well. That warm hospitality, added to the attractive weather, goodheartedness of Yemeni people, and splendour of ancient relics attracted tourists who flocked to its various governorates.

But alas, tourism in Yemen is now threatened. There are a number of reasons behind this fact: First, there is no serious effort made by the government to encourage tourism to Yemen; museums are neglected; several tourism sites lack traffic facilities, and many antiquities have been stolen.

Second, which is my prime objective, violence, which we witness nowadays, represents the most serious block curbing the flourishing of tourism to Yemen. The most prominent of which is the tribesmen's abduction of tourists to pressure the government into responding to their demands.

Furthermore, the political plurality seems to be wrongly exercised. The misuse and misunderstanding of a multi-party system has resulted in many horrible acts and social collapse which burdens us with more suffering. The public interests should supersede those of any party.

The situation is apparently tense; people are socially troubled, and the sense of security is at stake. Murder is committed everywhere for superfluous reasons.

Some people may reflect that the economic crisis, which we are experiencing, is the cause of that violence but I do not agree with such a concept. Violence, at any rate, is not going to provide a solution. These painful facts undoubtedly will reduce the tourism influx to Yemen. Hence, I have a focal question which hopefully will find an answer:

What are the government's plans to combat this threatening wave of violence and to restore security?

By: Mr. Abdullah Abdulrahman Al-Huraibi,  
English Dept, Faculty of Arts - Taiz University.

### Hospitals

I'd like to express my deep sorrow for the downfall of the importance of Yemeni hospitals. It seems that nobody cares anymore. Are we all lazy or something? The state of governmental hospitals is ridiculous. If this country has moderate finances now, then don't you think the improvements of hospitals are more important? This should be the first and foremost priority, and action needs to be taken, not talking. Near hospital entrances, you can see beggars, they literally live there. No there's nothing wrong with beggars, but it seems like a pretty morbid place to beg. If most people go to private hospitals, then there's no point in there being governmental hospitals is there? There needs to be a great comeback in improvements. Even the poorest people go to private hospitals. By any means necessary, they'll even sell a part of their land to raise the money for private treatment. In most governmental hospitals, they lack certain responsibilities and health regulations. Toilets are always locked or broken. It really is unhygienic. I've seen doctors actually smoking in the hospital! Hypocrites or what?

It's unbelievable to see a doctor actually smoking in a hospital where it's supposed to be a place of safety from all pollution, a place of hygiene. I really like the way there is a specialist for any illness in every room. For example an arm doctor, a head doctor, a back doctor, etc! The organization in that sense is excellent. Also, unlike England, you don't have to wait for hours in the waiting room. It's very quick here, and that's great. But alas, there is much to be done, and by God, I hope it gets done. One more important thing. Why are all the injured patients just left lying around in the corridors?

By: Miss Waffa Alawi Nasser,  
Sanaa.

### Obstacles Facing Administrative & Financial Reforms in Yemen

Nowadays, attention is being paid to the National Conference on the Administrative and Financial Reform and Development which was held during

25-29 August. This conference addressed the corruption in the administrative apparatus which hinders the economic reform program being supported by the donors. The conference came while the Yemeni people increasingly criticize the corruption in the government bodies and the over-staffed administrative system. Today, there are some one million employees - both civilian and military - on the government payroll, which devours more than 60% of the state budget as salaries as well as dispersing a lot of funds to tribes.

Some studies indicated that the performance of some of the ministries is less than 25% a thing which affects the financial collection. It is worth mentioning that the economic reforms in Yemen have been criticized for being one-sided. They are mainly concerned with raising prices of consumer goods, electricity, water, telephones and transportation, as well as increasing the income tax and the customs and the estate duties. While the administrative apparatus has remained without parallel reforms curbing corruption, or fighting smuggling which has led to conflicting statistical data about the balance of imports volume.

Although, the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform, began a nationwide survey of civil servants, some observers believe that this step needs tangible and practical measures in order to rid the financial and administrative bodies of favoritism and the administrative irregularities. Observers also added that the government needs to adopt crucial steps towards the ministries and authorities who are in charge of improving the public revenues, fighting smuggling, sustaining the customs and tax reforms and reducing the budget deficit. One of the obstacles that hinders the administrative development is the lack of the scientific fundamentals which are necessary for running the works of the ministries and the government bodies. Therefore, the individual factors control the administration in Yemen, and there are some people who direct more than one management without having any competence.

So, could we possibly expect from the National Conference on Administrative Reform and Development to do towards the government bodies which are rife with bribes and bureaucracy? It goes without saying what we can not put an end to the financial and administrative corruption in a developing country like Yemen. However, the govern-

ment can formulate a primary policy of a modern administration through advice and recommendations of the competent officials in order to increase the production and to reform the judicial system. The administrative and financial reforms are the key ingredients in our economic reform process. If some of the reform package goals have been realized, that would be considered a crucial step towards eradicating the corruption from the government bodies.

By: Mahyoub Al-Kamali.

### Problems of the Young Generation

The problems of the new generation are diverse. They vary from social to psychological, economical, and personal. The young generation, that is between childhood and maturity, suffers from the crisis of this transition. At that age, revolt is prevalent against all sorts of administration; whether of relatives or school.

Even those who cross this stage still do not hesitate to throw their accusations on others, and wish to change the situation under which they live, and if you ask them to name their demands, they will fail to give the answer.

Their wish to change the situation embodies an ideal view of life. They want to make the best of a bad situation in order to make this world a better place for all. This ambition is rightful but it is marred by their wish to attain such a conclusion in a jiffy with not enough heed given to the primary stages from which they can derive experience and knowledge.

The young generation always envy the older one but they forget that those men have passed through long years of struggle, hardship, and failure. This is the principal fault of this generation, and even of every new generation that wants to achieve success quickly without exerting much effort.

Yet, they should be patient and know that time will come when they too will be the older generation and will be envied by the newcomers.

By: Murad Saeed al-Ashbat,  
English Graduate,  
Faculty of Arts, Taiz University.



Political Parties Series: # 2

# Nasserite Unionist Party التنظيم الوحدوي الشعبي الناصري

Starting with the last issue, the Yemen Times continues to run profiles of the political parties of Yemen. We print the information as received from the parties. The aim is to inform the public - local and international.

The People's Nasserite Unionist party was founded in Taiz in December, 1965 as an expression of the aspirations and ambitions of the forces of modernization which began formation in Yemen following the 26th September Revolution.

Ever since its formation, the party included representatives of various social strata that were newly rising including intellectuals, academics, workers, and students from various northern and southern Yemeni governorates.

The party has effectively shared in various political and popular activities benefiting from the intensified membership of school students within the country and those sent on scholarships to other Arab countries.

It held its seven general conferences on a regular basis between its establishment and 1982. Prior to each of those national conferences an electoral session is held to elect leaders of the branches and partisan representatives to the national conference, according to the party's bylaws.

In all national conferences, political and general organizational reports are discussed and endorsed in addition to drawing its future policies and electing the central leading body.

Among the most prominent historical positions of the party's march before endorsing political pluralism that were announced with the re-unification of Yemen in 1990 are the following:

1-Rejecting a merger with the ruling party in the former southern part of the country in 1972 and as a result its branch leaders (in the southern part) were arrested and tried. Most of them were executed and the rest were thrown into prison for many years on charges of forming an opposition party under the ruling totalitarian system. However, they were later considered as martyrs to democracy by the Socialist Party's fourth general conference recently held in Sanaa in its capacity as the then ruling party in the southern areas of the country.

2-Forging an alliance with President of the northern part of Yemen, Ibrahim Al Hamdy, in 1974 which developed later in his secret admission into the party in 1976. The party during the short reign of President Al Hamdy, 1974-77, was able to launch a modernization process in the society and lay down the basis of a modern country. It also managed to secure an extraordinary economic development and his rule witnessed one of the best experiments of popular participation in economic and social growth in the Third World. That was the cooperative movement led by Al Hamdy who extended

to it his utmost support and care. He further formed the corrective committees which represented an experiment in eliminating government corruption and administration modernization with the Nasserites being the basic form along with others.

3-One year following Al Hamdy's assassination and a few months after President Ali Abdullah Saleh took over power, the party led a corrective movement in October 1978 that was not successful. Most of the party's central and branch leaders were arrested, tried, and executed.

4-A number of party leaders were able to leave the country for the southern part of Yemen and other Arab countries and formed the June 13 front that practiced political and military opposition to President Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime in the northern areas. The party focused its calls then on Yemen's unity and political pluralism to replace the totalitarian and partitioned regimes which were ruling in both areas of Yemen.

5-In December, 1989 and only few months before the declaration of Yemen's unity and the endorsement of political pluralism, the party declared itself in Aden as a civilian political party and gave up secret political and military activities. It also declared its open, democratic and peaceful methods, thus ending a period of underground work that coincided with the then ruling totalitarian regime and started a new era with the declared pluralism.

During the underground era of the party's history, 1965-89, which coincided with the cold war between the eastern and western camps in both sections of Yemen, the party led violent political and public confrontations with both camps. In Yemen, these were represented by adopting capitalism as the economic system, Islamic tenets as the creed, and severe conservatism as social values, and marxism with all its political and social dimensions. Amidst that acute contradiction, the Organization reoriented itself by adopting socialism and democracy in addition to modern social values. Thus it found itself confronting the major parties which run the affairs of the country.

In 1993, the party held its 8th convention which was the first following the new multi-party system of the country. This was preceded by party elections at various organizational levels attended by 26,800 members.

The convention was attended by 430 representatives as well as guests from a number of Arab parties in addition to senior state officials and other Yemeni parties.

The 8th convention endorsed the party's main documents including the political program and the bylaws which were re-worded to adjust to the new political system.

It also elected the central committee comprised of 89 members and the general secretariat, which is a 23 member politburo.

Abdul Malek Al Mikhlafoy was elected as the new Secretary General in place of Abdul Ghani Thabet who had occupied the post in the period 1990-93.

In preparation for the 9th national convention, with the onset of 1998, a complete party-wide restructuring session was undertaken in which 51,680 members participated. New branch leaders were elected along with 560 representatives to attend the convention.

The convention is scheduled for the end of February in Sanaa. The agenda was determined following discussion and ratification of political and general organizational reports. Furthermore, the bylaws and political program were reviewed in light of previous experience in addition to electing the central leading body represented by the central committee, the politburo and the new Secretary General.

The most prominent highlights of the party's march during its open era:

1-Taking part in the first unified parliament which was formed in accordance with the two regimes ruling both sections of Yemen. It was represented by Abdul Qudoos Al Midwahy the party's political department head.

2- Effective participation in leading the opposition outside the parliament through the partisan formations represented by the parties' secretariat then the opposition's national bloc that was found in a general national conference attended by the party along with a number of other opposition parties.

3- The party shared membership with the higher elections committee that ran the first general elections in Yemen in April 1993. Abdul Malid Al Mikhlafoy was chosen as chairman of the information and foreign relations committees. The party

agreed to join the higher committee despite critical remarks and negative impressions of its work because it was formed out of all parties. The party, however, refused to share in the same committee that was formed after the 1993 elections

because its formation was not balanced and the party had deep-rooted remarks on its formation and method of work during the preparation for the 1997 elections. Those remarks increased on the committee that was formed after the 1997 elections because it was not neutral and lacked the competence and capability that would ensure the integrity and neutrality of the general elections.

4- The organization participated in the first parliamentary elections following unification, receiving 53,000 votes and winning a seat by Sultan Hizam, member of the general secretariat.

5- In the wake of the acute national crisis that erupted following the 1993 elections, the party effectively participated in the national dialogue committee represented by the two members, Abdul Malik Al Mikhlafoy, the Secretary General and Dr. Abdul Qudoos Al Midwahy, the political department head. They signed the national entente doctrine and the first project for the building of a modern Yemeni state.

6- The party adopted a strict, clearcut stance rejecting war and separation in 1994 which enabled it to play a prominent role after the war in stressing the continuation of partisan pluralism and the amalgamation of various opposition parties, including the Socialists, despite the difficult post-war circumstances. It also played a prominent role in forming the higher coordination council for the opposition parties.

7- The party advocated a strict stance, affirming the practicing of the minimum requirements of a democratic process despite all obstacles through its participation in the 1997 elections. Thus it was pursuing a distinctive position from the Socialist party and other members of the higher coordination council which boycotted the elections.

8- The party nominated 90 candidates and won 70,000 votes (including 15,000 supporting nominees backed by the party). It won three parliamentary seats, two in Taiz for Abdullah Mohammed Saleh and Sultan Hizam and one in Abyan for Ali Mohammed Al Yazidy. The later was the first won by the party in the southern areas.

9- It exerted intensified efforts to reactivate the opposition's higher coordination council, bypassing the effects of past positions of members toward the 1997 elections and succeeding in its efforts.

10- The party adopted the call for serious participation on part of the opposition in the first presidential elections which will take place in October 1999. It succeeded in convincing other members of the higher coordination council to declare their agreement to share in the elections with a unified candidate.

11- The party advocated democratic local rule, professional and labor syndicates and non-government organizations in their capacity as the most important democratic processes in Yemen.

12- The party issues a weekly newspaper 'AL WAHDAWI' along with other local bulletins.

13- It shares in membership of most non-government organizations concerned with human rights and democracy on the local and national levels.

In addition to the Nasserite Unionist Party, there are two additional parties that carry the name Nasserite. "These are splinter groups which were encouraged and financed by the Yemeni Socialist Party on the one hand, and the People's General Congress, on the other. With the relative decline of the YSP, their protege splinter group almost died away, while the protege of the PGC continues to muddle through," said Abdul-Malek Al-Mikhlafoy.

In the 1993 elections, the NUP succeeded in sending one member to parliament. In the 1997, it sent three members. "We hope to get 10 seats in the elections," Al-Mikhlafoy said.



## Case of Nabil Al-Khamiry as a Litmus Test

### Businessmen Wait to See If the State Will Provide Adequate protection

On Saturday, January 30th, a group of tribal elders held a meeting with Mr. Nabil Mohammed Ali Al-Khamiry, a prominent Yemeni businessman. The meeting comes following orders by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to resolve the dispute.

The Yemeni business community was in an uproar in 21/12/1998 when a group of armed tribesmen stormed the offices of the businessman on Zubairy Street. They tried to kidnap the man, but his guards fought back killing one of the attackers and injuring another. But the tribesmen were able to get away with a briefcase which contained some money and documents.

"This gives a bad precedence. We already have problems of tribesmen attacking foreigners. Now they have expanded their activities to include Yemeni businessmen," says Nabil.

The tribes now want blood revenge because one of their own was killed in the assault. The President of the Republic responded by providing some twenty soldiers as bodyguards. But of course, this is not a good solution, in the long term.

The business community is waiting for a responsible decision from the state. The next few weeks will show the political will of the state of Yemen.



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## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Sameer Farawna

### البلاغ

**AL BALAGH**  
Sanaa, weekly 26/1/99  
(Independent)

#### Main Headlines

- A Yemeni official has disclosed that the kidnapers of the six Dutch and British hostages will release them soon. He asserted that all six were in good health and revealed that their abductor was wanted by the authorities for armed robbery and murder.

- An official with the UNHCR in Aden has said that Al Jaheen camp currently accommodates around 11,000 Somali refugees.

- The higher coordination council of the opposition parties has issued a statement condemning the ruling authority's practices which attempt to disintegrate those parties and end the country's partisan pluralism.

- An ambitious project is currently under way, with Japanese help, to expand telephone services in the governorate of Aden through installing 50,000 new lines, that could be later expanded, by the year 2000.

#### An Article Summary: Acid Fog Threatens Aden

Chairman of Green Yemen Society, which works for the protection of environment, has warned that a poisonous acid fog was threatening Aden. He attributed the phenomenon to

the people's malpractice of burning garbage in the governorate over the past decades.

He proposed burning it in a far away area to prevent the growing of that fog, which, if left untreated, could lead to serious respiratory problems, especially for children and the elderly due to their weak resistance.

### راي

**RAI**  
Sanaa, weekly 26/1/99  
(League of the Sons of Yemen)

#### Main Headlines

- Victims of mysterious crimes have increased recently in the governorates of Taiz, Aden and Abyan.

- An armed group fired shots at the clinic of a doctor in Dhamar city ten days ago before speeding away in their jeep. The doctor, who was not in his clinic, was at odds with an officer over a land plot owned by the doctor but which the officer wishes to seize from him, according to sources in the city.

- Europe is gradually lifting an embargo on importing fish from Yemen. The European countries had complained that health conditions and technical standards were low in Yemeni fish exports.

- Only 50% of civil servants turned up for work on the first working day following the Eid holidays, according to an independent survey.

#### An Article Summary: Tourism in Danger

Sources in the tourism sector have said that 95% of tourists scheduled to visit Yemen in January had canceled their trips following the rising cases of kidnapping foreigners in the country. They added that the cancellations led to heavy losses on the part of tourism agencies, hotels and Yemenia airlines.

For its part, the League of the Sons of Yemen party has called for a national conference to discuss the kidnapping phenomenon.

The League called on political parties and concerned authorities to attend that conference, noting that the date will be determined later on.

In a statement on the issue, the party said that violence, kidnapping and other security violations were harming the country's reputation abroad in addition to directing a blow to our national economy represented in blocking foreign investments and greatly harming tourism revenues.

### الطريق

**ATTARIQ**  
Aden, weekly 26/1/99  
(Independent)

#### Main Headlines

- Yemen's Attorney General has appointed a new attorney and judge for the trial of the Kidnappers of the foreign tourists in

Abyan-after withdrawal of the original ones fearing vengeance by comrades of the defendants.

-The Director of the 'Gomhuriya' hospital in Aden has refuted a report published by the weekly that his administration had asked for 10,000 rials in return for keeping the body of a deceased person in the hospital refrigerator. The paper, meanwhile, asserted the claim, saying that it possesses documents to back it up.

-Security forces are besieging four of the group that kidnapped 16 tourists in Abyan late last December in that same governorate. The kidnapers have refused to give themselves up and the security forces are allowing more time for tribal mediations before launching any other step.

-Situation of the Yemeni journalists and journalism will be among the important agenda items at the forthcoming meeting of the Arab Journalists Union which will convene on February 9 in Cairo.

#### An Article Summary:

##### Piracy at Sea

A Chinese fishing boat was intercepted by armed men at sea 24.5 miles off Al Mahra shores on Saturday before last.

One of the armed men mounted the Chinese boat and demanded \$5,000 from the captain. When the later refused, the gunman fired indiscriminately in all directions, injuring a Yemeni sailor and damaging a number of the boat's navigation and telecommunication equipment in addition to the boat itself.

The armed pirate fled the boat when the captain managed to snatch the machine gun from him. He later handed it over to the concerned authorities.

### البحر

**AL THAWRI**  
Sanaa, weekly 28/1/99  
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

#### Main Headlines

- The American intelligence played a basic role in arresting the British group by the Yemeni authorities in Aden recently in return for a political bargain between Washington and Sanaa, according to reliable sources.

- The YSP central committee convenes its first session following the Party's fourth general conference on February 10.

- YSP politburo member Ahmad Ghaleb described the Party's newcomers as the "golden members" and told them that they will never regret joining the Party.

- Political prisoners are still held in Yemeni prisons despite assertions to the contrary.

### الصحوة

**AL SAHWA**  
Sanaa, weekly 28/1/99  
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah)

#### Main Headlines

- An Islah official has condemned the recent kidnappings in Yemen and asked the government to initiate security, economic and social reforms in the country.

- Head of Islah political department Mohammed Qahtan told AL SAHWA that his party calls for gradual and non-violent reforms and has nothing to do with radical actions.

- Hadhramaut religious scholars have denounced the Russian circus' exhibitions there.

- Indiscriminate water drainage in Radaa by qat cultivators will dry the project's basin in the area according to a number of citizens, who complained about the situa-

tion.

-New financial violations were recently uncovered in the Yemeni Oil Company's Aden branch leading to the suspension of two senior employees.

-The killing of a leading Islah party member in Qaida, Ibb governorate have led to large-scale public condemnation.

### الجمهورية

**AL JAMAHEER**  
Sanaa, weekly 28/1/99  
(Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party)

#### Main Headlines

- The Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party's leadership has condemned the recent wave of kidnappings and terrorism which was witnessed in Yemen, saying that it greatly harms the country's security and stability.

- The governor of Amran and a leading tribal Sheikh have succeeded in ending an armed dispute between two tribes in the city of Khamr recently.

- Many messages to the paper have lauded its initiative which called for boycotting British and American products following the attacks on Iraq.

### الأضواء

**AL UMMA**  
Sanaa, weekly 28/1/99  
(Al Haq Party)

#### Main Headlines

- Al Haq Party has condemned the explosions that took place in Saada, the latest of which was in late Ramadhan and asked the authorities to unveil the perpetrators of such acts of sabotage.

- A number of Yemeni citizens have asked the U.N. to settle their case with the Yemeni government which could not return their lands usurped from them nine years ago despite repeated appeals.

- An armed group has abducted three German tourists in Amran at a time when efforts to secure the release of six others, reportedly detained by the same group, were a failure.

- Tensions are mounting in the Gabal Thaar mountain area between Saudi Arabia and Yemen after inhabitants there received demands for their evacuation at the pretext that the area was under Saudi sovereignty.

-A Jewish family carrying western passports has visited Al Shahel city twice last year and inspected areas formerly inhabited by Jews there.

### الوحدة

**AL WEHDA**  
Sanaa, weekly 27/1/99  
(Official)

#### Main Headlines

-The Director of the Hodeida-based Yemeni Agricultural Exports, Ahmad Sheikh Aziz has affirmed that the total Yemeni agricultural exports has recently reached 25 tons daily.

-The Higher Tourism Council, headed by Premier Dr. Abdul Karim Al Iryani, has passed a number of resolutions to confront kidnappings and sabotage acts.

-The Governor of Mahra has asserted that the addition of a number of towns to his governorate will help in expanding developmental projects.

-The public funds attorney in Aden is currently investigating a number of corruption cases in that governorate.

### الشمس

**26 SEPTEMBER**  
Sanaa, weekly 28/1/99  
(Yemen Armed Forces)

#### Main Headlines

- The President of the Republic, in an interview with the London-based Al Quds newspaper, calls for the formation of an economic grouping in the Arabian peninsula within the Arab League and reveals that American pressures were made to avoid the convening of the Arab summit at least for the time being.

- Federal Germany's Foreign Minister is to visit Yemen on February 9 within the framework of an Arab tour that will also take him to Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt.

- The Oil Ministry has decreased prices of fuel for domestic and foreign airlines as of January 1st in a step aimed at boosting Yemenia's annual revenues.

- Six "terrorist" elements were rounded up in the Shabwa governorate last week including the son of Abu Hamza Al Masri. The later, who lives in London, had sent them to launch sabotage operations in Aden.

### التفاني القلبية

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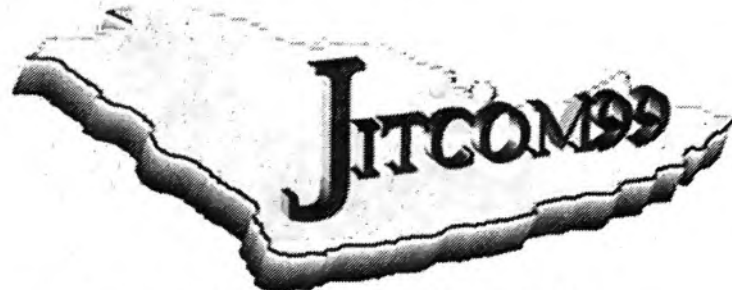
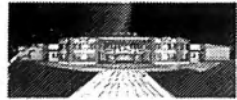
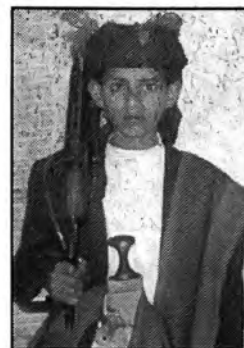
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## At the End of the Fifth Week Excellent Football Tournament:

### Sana'a-Ahli in the Leading & Violence at Ibb Competition

Yet again, Sana'a Al-Ahli Club continued its leading position in the Excellent Football Tournament for the fifth week. After its strong victory against Abyan-Hassan Club, which is known for its stubbornness and difficulty of being defeated, Sana'a-Ahli inflicted on Hassan a hard decisive defeat (3/0) in the contest played in Mortals' Stadium last Friday. It was clear since the beginning of the game that both clubs were seeking for nothing else than victory! Sana'a-Ahli was clearly determined to carry out the match as the leading team in the tournament, and found it necessary to overcome Hassan. Hassan of Abyan is not the kind of club that could squander the results of contests played in its own field and among

its own supporters. The most tense moments of the first half game were the ones full of caution, anticipation, and probe. Hassan was not performing as it used to in front of its own fans. It seemed that the absence of 3 front and back players effected its overall performance. Hassan seemed to be dispersed in defence, weak in attack, and with no efficiency. Very few single attacks were led by Hassan's Jiab Ba-Shafei', who was imposed by severe control by Ahli-Sanaa. In addition, some nice tries were led by Hassan's Ra'ed Hamadah and his colleagues to penetrate the Sana'a-Ahli defense line, which looked tenacious, solid, and strong after the joining of Abdul-Rahman Sa'eed and Ahmed Sa'eed. During the first half, the

Ahli controlled the game completely and launched several dangerous attacks on Hassan's net. The Ahli attacks confused Hassan's defense, and opened many gaps. These attacks passed were organized mainly by Al-Qudeimi, Al-Salemi and Al-Nunu and formed pressure on Hassan's goalkeeper Fawzi Ba-Muheid, who defended his goal bravely. After continuous pressure, Abdul-Rahman Sa'eed scored the first goal in Hassan's net. In the second half, the Sana'a Ahli Ali Al-Nunu scored the second goal followed by a third one by Issam Al-Dhubhani. Hence the victorious Sana'a Ahli became the tournament leader after crushing Hassan (3/0) in one of the hottest games of the fifth week excellent football tournament.

#### Aden's Al-Tilal club defeated Sana'a Al-Majd club (7/3):

After the result of (2/2) in the 1st half between Aden's Al-Tilal Club and Sana'a-Al-Majd, the Aden's Tilal organized its team well and scored 5 more goals in the second half. Then Al-Majd managed to score its third goal by a penalty kick. The game ended in favor of Aden's Al-Tilal (7/3) to raise its points to 6, while unqualified Sanaa's Al-Majd remained in the bottom of the list.

#### Ending the game between Ibb's Al-Sha'ab and Al-Shu'lah with firearms:

The Ibb-Sha'ab and Aden's Shu'lah in Al-Kibsi Stadium, ended with a draw between the 2 teams. The ambitious Ibb's Al-Sha'ab's reputation was saved by the goal scored by its luminous star Fikri Al-Hubeishi to end the match in a draw status (1/1) after almost losing it. Unfortunately, sad incidents of stone throwing and gun fire were witnessed between the supporters of Ibb's Al-Sha'ab and its local rival Ibb's Al-Ittihad. Police forces later intervened and stopped these violent fanatic acts quickly before they could be escalated.

#### Results of last week's football tournament contests:

- Sana'a-Wahda defeated Taiz-Tale'ia (3/0)
- Mukallah-Sha'ab defeated Taiz-Saqr (1/0)
- Ibb's Al-Ittihad defeated ah-Hilal (2/0)



#### YT Weekly Poll

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

#### Question

Did you contact your family members in Yemen on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr?

#### Result

Yes: 91%  
No: 9%



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# CERAMICS:

## Waiting to Make an Economic Contribution

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Yemen Times Aden Bureau, seeking to explore the world of ceramics, met one of its most famous artists in Yemen, Ali Baras. Ali is a co-founder of the Formative Artists Association. Excerpts:

**Q: How did you discover your artistic talent?**

A: When I was a pupil at the elementary level, I had great interest in arts, especially drawing. My family and teachers discovered I had a gift. It just developed instinctively with time.

**Q: Did you get professional training?**

A: I studied at the Applied Arts College in Russia specializing in ceramics. I got an MA degree. I then joined a one-year refinement course in applied arts at Russia's educational arts college. That was followed by real work for another year in a pottery factory.

**Q: What is your present occupation?**

A: I am a specialized teacher at the Aden Higher Institute for Teachers and I teach fine arts and artistic education.

**Q: How developed is the art of ceramics - worldwide and in Yemen?**

A: The word ceramic is an ancient Greek word. It refers to the art of pottery. It was a manual craft in the old times, and its objective was to meet people's needs. With time, pots that were made of clay, were decorated with various shapes and

colors. The industry developed greatly over the years. Today, machines do most of the work. The industry also branched out from simple clay to various thermal, glass, electrical appliances, tiles and decor fields. Let me stress, however, that it is human talent and imagination that drives the machines in their creation of the final product.



**Q: How do the Ministries of Culture, and Education, and society at large support the art?**

A: Frankly, there is no care or attention by either the government, represented by the Culture or the Education Ministries, or the general public.

The government's interest is aroused only when there is a certain festivity or occasion and they invite us to attend. This means that our officials are show-oriented. The general public's interest is driven by market conditions.

**Q: What does the future look like? And what is your role?**

A: As far as the future is concerned, I think we will simply muddle through. As for me, I plan to start classes to teach the art of pottery. I hope to be able to establish a workshop in this field. I plan to draw expertise from schools, institutes and universities. We will give theoretical lessons and



practical training. I am now working on a manual that gives a step-by-step direction on how to use mud, sand and clay to make various forms.

**Q: What can be done to help you in these efforts?**

A: I appeal to the authorities to pay more attention to this art in view of its importance - as a socio-cultural heritage and because of its economic benefits. We can start a major activity that ties in with the tourism business as well as with cottage industry.

The many small-scale project financing schemes in our country today should consider providing support and credit for our efforts. I also hope that some foreign aid can be channelled to our Formative Arts Association, which is an NGO.

I hope someone out there is taking note to help develop this beautiful art in Yemen.

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