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ALAMERY

Dr. Hayat Al-Shiwafi on the **Pharmaceutical Industry.** Page 3

**Complaints of Government** Abuse in the Aden Trial! Page 5.

**Industrialist Complains Free** Trade Does NOT Mean Chaos. Page 7.

Has Yemen Ever Known the Theater? Page 10.

# Yemenis Pay Tribute to the Late King Hussein A Man Who Commanded the Respect of All

feelings of the Yemeni people," said Mr. Fuad Al-The Yemeni people invariably expressed feelings of Batayeneh, Ambassador of immense grief at the passing away of His Jordan in Sanaa. "I would Majesty King Hussein of like to thank H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh Jordan. In the media, in public gatherings, and in for his gracious conprivate homes, the mood dolences. He is the only was somber. The number leader who personally came to welcome home of Yemenis who have Jordanian the ailing King a few days Embassy in Sanaa to pay earlier, and he came back tribute to the late king has for the funeral," Mr. hit record levels. Ordinary Batayneh added. people stood patiently in

The Yemeni leader and people also used the long lines in order to offer occasion to congratulate "I am very touched by the the new monarch, King spontaneous Abdullah II.

decided they will not accept

anything short of unconditional

Eritrean withdrawal from the

disputed areas, or they will go to

Efforts at intermediation by the

UN, the OAU, the USA-Rwanda

ERITRE

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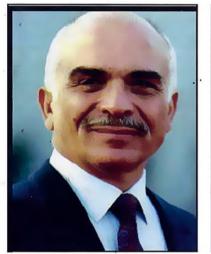
Massawa

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war, no matter what the price.





Initiative, and other parties all failed because of the intransigence of the two leaders. A misplaced sense of pride, together with the strong personal feelings

disaster to the region. Over the last 6 months, the 2 poor nations spent more than half a billion US dollars in preparing for war. Most of the

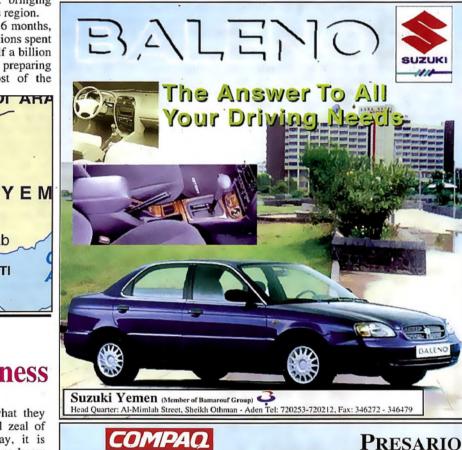
SAUDI ARA

Assab

DJIBOUTI

money went into buying military hardware. Some expenditures were incurred in the drive to win world support and sympathy. The two states will of the revolutionaries turned incur more expenditures in their

internal mobilization effort to meet the needs of waging war and sustaining its costs. Those leaders will bring much suffering to their people, and could disrupt the whole region.



## **Ethiopia and Eritrea Go to War! Stupid Is As Stupid Does!**

AN

Two of the world's poorest nations have gone to war. Ethiopia and Eritrea, Yemen's neighbors across the Red Sea, are now engaged in the beginnings of what could evolve into a fullscale war. It could be a menace to the southern Red Sea and the Horn of Africa. It will also inflict unbearable suffering on the people of the warring countries, and will bring untold damage to their economies.

visited the

their condolences.

and

deep

The reasons behind the inability of the leaders of the two nations to reach a negotiated settlement to their differences is a strong sense of dignity and pride. To be sure, Eritrea's leaders - with their repeated attempts to grab a disputed territory and then negotiate later - created this new instability in the region. But, Ethiopian leaders for their part

**Civilized Governance at Its best:** A Great Nation Rises to More Greatness

Bahir Tana Dar Lake

On Friday, February 12th, 1999, the US Senate brought the trial of President William Jefferson Clinton to a close. The man was found "Not Guilty" on the two impeachment charges that were brought against him.

complained about what they saw as the puritanical zeal of the US system. Today, it is clear that the Americans knew what they were doing. No system on earth can hold its top person to such a level of accountability. Americans have a right to be proud of their system of government.

rulers is fast bringing



But that is not the real story. The real story is that the Americans, building on the wisdom of their founding fathers, are perfecting what is already the best system in the world today.

They have a highly developed sense of checks and balances between the structures of government which can stop the excesses of any one individual, group or authority. Many societies - including Europeans - had



As a Yemeni and an Arab, it is quite frustrating for me to see such excellence in governance

and compare it to the rotten situation back in Yemen. Will there come a time when we Yemenis and Arabs can hold our rulers accountable for even some of their decisions? Think about it.

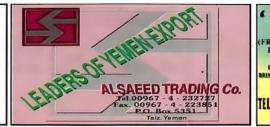


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## Egypt & Yemen: Similarities & Differences

Last week, I paid yet another visit to Cairo. I have to say I was pleasantly surprised by what I saw. That gave me hope in the sense that Yemenis believe that Egyptian conditions and decisions are forerunners for their own. Therefore, if there is progress in Egypt, it is directly copied in Yemen, of course with a time lag. If there are complications in Egypt, again they are copied in Yemen. So, for me, it was heartening to see so much progress in Cairo.

## SIMILARITIES:

Egypt and Yemen are probably most alike in political structure. Both countries have a civilianized military ruler. They profess a multi-party system in which the ruling part has a preponderant and overwhelming domination. In other words, the opposition parties are weak. Both countries have a relatively free press, provided it does not affect the power structure.

The two countries are basically pro-Western, and similarly are menaced by small but effectively disruptive religion-based extremist groups.

The two countries hold various forms of elections, which serve the purpose of legitimatizing the rulers rather than achieving a transfer of power.

There is a certain degree of tolerance, and a margin for various kinds of activities.

Corruption is a shared problem in its existence in both nations. But there is a difference in the way it is addressed. If a person is caught red-handed embezzling in Egypt, he/she is done for. The law applies in full. In Yemen, that is not the case. Newspapers and even government agencies such as the Central Organization for Control and Audit report various kinds of abuse, but no action is taken.

### **DIFFERENCES:**

Egypt and Yemen are different in their economic prospects. Whereas Egypt's economy is growing, Yemen's is shrinking. While Egypt enjoys a substantial international investment (last year it was approaching US\$ 10 billion), Yemen has seen little in the form of international investments, and a similar amount of local investments. As a result, the standard of living of the Egyptian people is rising.

Another difference between Yemen and Egypt is how they prepare for the future. While Egyptians are looking towards the future with hope, and prepares themselves for a vital role, Yemenis are content to muddle through. Thus, Egypt has such giant projects as the Tushka, Media City, the Peace Nile Tributary to Sinai, etc. A third major difference is the level of respect for law and

order. Whatever one says of the attitude of the Egyptian people, one cannot but see how they respect law and order possibly out of fear of the state. The state has an over-powering presence while the Yemeni government is brushed aside, even in casual conversation among ordinary citizens.

The number of tourists going to Egypt is fast approaching the 3 million mark. Given that 95% of the reservations to Yemen for the first quarter of 1999 have been cancelled, it is most likely that the total number of tourists visiting Yemen will be equal to those visiting Egypt over a few days.

Thus, if Yemen is to become like Egypt, even if it takes ten or twenty years, that is a hopeful development.



## Yemen Receives UN & WB Personnel Evacuated from Eritrea

TIMES

15 UN and 6 World Bank staff and their dependents, based in Eritrea, arrived in Sanaa on the morning of last Sunday, 7th Feb., following the armed conflict and hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea. The WB staff, who were on a mission to Asmara, had left Sanaa on Monday 8th, while the personnel remained in UN Yemen. The choice of Sanaa as the Safe Heaven was made by the UN Security Coordinator's Office in New York.

## **UNHCR's** "Protection and Emergency" Workshop

The United Nation High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), in coordination with the ministry of foreign affairs, is organizing a workshop, under the title "Protection and Emergency," at Nashwan Hotel in Aden, during 13 - 17 Feb. 1999. Forty five trainees from the ministry of interior, the ministry of foreign affairs, the ministry of planing, and NGOs representatives will participate in the workshop. Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-gaol Head of the Legal Advisors at the UNHCR office in Geneva will be the guest lecturer, along with Mr. Nabel Mosa from the UNHCR office in Saudi Arabia, Mr. Mazen Abo-Shanab from Aden UNHCR office, and Mr. Nabel Otman Field Program Officer. The workshop will highlight issues such as: Who is a refugee? How to control emergency condi-tions, and provide International protection for refugees? as well as other important subjects concerning refugees e.g., relief, development, and human rights.

### **3rd Regional Meeting for** Future Builders held in Taiz

Organized by the From Child to Child Society, and under the patronage of the governor of Taiz Mr. Ahmed Al-Hajri, the third regional meeting for future builders will start today 15 Feb. at Zaid Al-Mushiky school in Taiz. It will continue till 22 Feb. Miss. Jalilah Al-Shuja'a, Chairperson of the society told the Yemen Times that the meeting will discuss the educational system, and its methods. She also added that around forty persons from other Arab countries are expected to participate in the meeting.

**1998 Tourism Revenues in Taiz** Mr. Mohammed Al-Mujahed, Tourism Office Manager, Taiz told Yemen Times that tourism drive in Taiz was riding high in 1998. Around 30,000 tourists visited the city, where the revenues reached around

\$ 5 million. He also said the number of local tourists coming from other Yemeni cities was 60,000. He added that the total number of people working in tourism in Taiz is estimated at

## **Canadian Physicians Bring Relief to Yemeni Patients**

pain in socially sensitive parts.

Dr. Qais Ghanem of the Depart-

ment of Neurology at the Uni-

versity of Ottawa in Canada,

himsel of Yemeni origin, has

some advice. There are a few

"I think there is a certain degree

of chaos in the health sector. The

country needs a board that will

standardize qualifications in the

profession. Foreigners may be

invited to sit on the board to

Another advice by Dr. Ghanem

relates to the need for more infor-

mation among the public. "If leg-

islation is enacted, and thepublic

is better informed on such vital

issues as hygiene, nutrition, family planning, etc., I am sure

the health conditions of Yemenis

Dr. Robinson asked for better

coordination among the various

governmental health agencies in

order to maximize services for

partners to help. We feel that as

we were fortunate to have

advanced this far, we would like to share our goof fortune with

less fortunate people. We invite

physicians who are of use to

Yemen. This especially relates to services for children, women,

Dr. Allen emphasized the need to

spot promising young persons

and to help them make progress sothat they can help others. "I

have developed a keen eye to

spot promising young people.

and

"We are willing

non-

things that need to be done.

ensure objective," he said.

will improve rapidly.

government

the public.

etc." he indicated.

An 8-person Canadian medical women go through unbearable team from various universities is on a two-week voluntary mission to Yemen to help local patients. This is the 8th year since 1987 that Canadian physicians have been coming to the country to provide free medical service.

PPE PSA

Prof. Martin Robinson, the team leader, is an obstetrician and gynocologist at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario, Canada. Actually, the whole group except two come from the same university.

"It takes about six months to plan and execute this trip. We are delighted to lend a helping hand where such help is needed," Mr. Robinson said. Need is determined by the fact that the Government of Yemen spends less than US\$ 3 per year per capita. "I had the opportunity to read the strategy for the health sector in Yemen. I can say that this report has the vision of what this country should try to achieve in the next 15 - 20 years," he added. Dr. Hugh Allen, Professor Emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology;

explained the local diseases and conditions that require specialized medical attention. These include spinal deformity at the lower nerve system of the back among infants and children, which block proper growth. This could be treated by the inclusion of folic acid in the mother's diet, especially during early preg-nancy. But it is Dr. Allen's fistula operations that are most appre-ciated in Yemen. Many Yemeni

February 15th, 1999



This way, the skill can be passed on to others for the welfare of a larger group.

The Minister of Health, Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, and the director-general of Al-Thawra Hospital, Dr. Abdul-Nasser Munaibari, are delighted with the association. This Canadians provide a valuable service, not only to the patients, but also to the physicians and students.

## Japan Supports National Conference for Elections Admin-

istration An agreement was signed today, February 14, 1999, in Sanaa between the Embassy of Japan in Yemen and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), an American NGO specializing in election support, regarding Japan's support for the National Conference for Elec-tions Administration in Yemen.

The conference which will be organized by IFES during the period from March 15 until March 18 in Sanaa is aimed at enhancing the professional awareness of those who are involved in election processes, including the Supreme Election Council. The fund, which is provided by the Government of Japan under the scheme, called the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project will be spent for inviting election experts abroad to attend the conference.

It is worth mentioning that UNDP, US Embassy and British Embassy also support the holding of the conference.

A Colorful Side of Yemen A painting exhibition about Yemen, by Mr. Mazher Nazar, will be held during 15-22 Feb.

Al-Jazeera Information & **Communication Technology Exhibition '99** 

Apollo International Exhibition Company has joined hands with the Ministry of Communications to host the Grand Al-Jazeera Information Technology and Communications Exhibition. This event will be held at Sana'a Expo Center during 28/2-4/3/1999. The General Manager, Mr. Tofik Al-Nihmy, announced that this show will be organized annually. So far, JITCOM '99 is the largest and first of its kind to be held in the country. He added, "We believe that this exhibition will have a real impact on the local computer market." Conferences and seminars will 'e held during the event at the San'a Expo



Center. These lectures will be presented by International companies' representatives, government officials and other professionals. The companies that have confirmed their participation in the exhibi-

tion are: Acer, Compaq, Epson, IBM, Motorola, Nokia, Philips, Samsung, and many other well-known international brand agents.





An Independent Economic & Political Weekly

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## 3,000 people. Yemen Times Weekly

**Opinion Poll** 

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

Last Week's Question In order to save the deteriorating tourism industry in Yemen, what do you think the government should give top priority to?

### Result

Economic Reforms, which can bring more investment into the tourism sector (%22) - It should concentrate on tourist attracting campaigns in all Yemeni Embassies, and in the Ministry of Tourism (%7)

- All the points above are of second priority.. Establishing security for locals and tourists alike is the first step! (%71)

1999, at the French Cultural Center, Arthur Rimbaud Hall. Mr. Nazar is a Yemeni Painter, who had participated in many exhibitions around and outside the country. In this exhibition Mr. Nazar will explore the colorful side of the rich Yemeni cultural heritage."

**Conference on Nephrology** Under the auspicious of president Saleh, the first national conference on nephrology will be held during the period 16 - 18 Feb. 1999, at the Police Officers Club. More than 380 Yemeni doctors and about 40 foreign specialists are expected to attend. The conference will discuss the various kidney problems in Yemen, its history, old and new technologies used in nephrology treatment, and other issues in connection with nephrology.

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## Dr. Hayat Ebrahim Al-Shiwafi "Pharmacology is a field suitable for working women"

After completing her Elementary and Sec-ondary studies in Kuwait, Dr. Hayat Ebrahim Al-Shiwafi, 28, returned to Yemen and graduated from Sana'a University in November 1993. Then she began working with the well-known PFIZER Company in April 1997. Dr. Hayat is currently the District Manager of PFIZER after recently being promoted from her previous position as a Professional Medical Representative. She is a married Yemeni mother with two young children. She is very hard working, and hence has gone from success to more over the years.

The Yemen Times talked to her about her career and other interests. Excerpts.

when I started working at the Pharmacy Department of the Kuwait Hospital after my gradua-tion from the Pharmacy College of Sanaa University in 1993. I gained managerial experience in regards to medical material through providing medicine to patients. I did this for 3 years.

### Q: What did you do afterwards?

A: Since April 1997, I have worked with PFIZER as a Medical Representative. PFIZER a famous international company that produces medicine.

### Q: By leaving Kuwait Hospital, you chose to work in the private sector rather than the governmental sector. Why?

A: In order to prepare some medicines, working in the governmental sector is not enough due to the lack of medicine and the unavailability of even simple laboratories to be used for the development of primitive medicine products. On the other

Q: Where was your first work experience? A: I had my first work experience when I started working at the scientific abilities which I was almost beginning to loose when I worked in the governmental sector. Another advantage is that in PFIZER, we go through the latest developments in the pharmaceutical sector, and continuously update our knowledge in the field of pharmacy and medicine. Unlike in the governmental sector, in PFIZER we also have the freedom to implement our own ideas and proposals to enhance our performance in medicine and pharmacy. This is besides the huge difference between the salaries in the public and private sector. In the governmental sector of Yemen, promotions are only given to old hand employees. This in turn usually kills the hope in young talented workers of being appreciated for their quality work, and prevents them from further abilities. their exploring However, the private sector gives promotion to employees regardless of how many years they



on their hard work and productivity.

> problems currently international pharmaceutical in companies general? are There A: several problems

company, whi can be summarized as follows: which

smuggling. Some pharmaceutical mercial brand name as ours are being smuggled through borders of neighboring countries. Our company gets affected negatively by these products because they These medicines get stored beneath soil awaiting being smuggled to Yemen, and due to being high temperatures and humidity they undergo, these medicines usually get harmed, and may damage the health of people using them.

Due to the economic hardships Yemenis are going through, their ability to buy our products is weak. This gives the advantage to other pharmaceutical com-panies to sell their cheap but ineffective products. In spite of that, since they are unaware of this, Yemenis continue buying these products which in fact are rejected in many countries.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Health does not deal with pharmaceutical companies depending on their long history or reputation in the field of productivity and research. In other

worked, but based words, the ministry deals with all pharmaceutical companies alike, and in my view, this is unfair.

## O: What are the Q: What about people's awareness of using medicine?

facing A: Awareness among Yemenis in regards to medicine usage in general is very low. For instance, in case patients do not find the required medicine in the prescription given by their doctor, they simply buy any substitute our medicine, and this is wrong! The main reason behind this is the cheaper price of the substitute medicine. Of . course, for the pharmacy owner, marketing the products in his store is more important for him than caring for the health of patients.

## Q: What is the exact duty of Medical Representatives?

A: The duty of medical representatives is to visit doctors and introduce medicine being produced by their companies. Also in case of the doctor's need of any research or study related to medicine, we help in presenting information of our own medicine products. In other words, we are the link between doctors and pharmaceutical companies.

## Q: Is knowledge of a foreign language required in phar-maceutical companies?

A: Knowledge of English is necessary for medical representatives since it is used in dealing with customers, and for our daily correspondence. Students of the Department of Pharmacy Sanaa University study in English. Hence, they usually do not face difficulty when working after graduation.

Q: Are pharmaceutical jobs suitable for Yemeni women? A: Yes. The field of pharmacy is suitable for working women and gives them self-reliance and the ability to deal with people. We as pharmacists mainly deal with doctors, who are an educated class which understands our duty and respects the role of the Yemeni woman and her entrance into this sector.

## Q: What are the job oppor-tunities available for pharmacists in Yemen?

A: There aren't many job opportunities in Yemen for pharmacists. The only available positions for these graduates are working in governmental or private hospitals as pharmacy salesmen, working in phar-maceutical companies, or establishing their own pharmacies. However, the high number of pharmacies in Yemen limits the chance of profitable pharmacy projects. Besides all of this, the limited number of medicine factories and laboratories has limited the number of job opportunities for Pharmacists.

Finally, a few years ago, governmental medicine institutions stopped employing Yemeni graduates, causing many pharmacists to be without work in the governmental sector

## Q: What are the conditions of . admission in international pharmaceutical companies?

A: There are many conditions. The most important condition is to have a personality that can always renew, develop, self-motivate, and bring new ideas. At the end, a very small fraction of applicants usually get admitted.

## Q: When admitted, do foreign pharmaceutical companies play a role in increasing scientific abilities?

A: Yes. As soon as we get admitted, we get trained and qualified by teaching us the information of the structure, efficiency, side effects, and latest researches of every new produced medicine. This information definitely adds to the overall knowledge we learned during our university studies.

Page 3

## Q: Do you think that the number of pharmacists is quite high in Yemen, especially that Yemeni universities graduate so many of them?

A: I do think that there is a build up in the number of pharmacists and other graduates in the public sector who are totally jobless. Hence, the government should encourage and distribute pharmaceutical institutions all over the republic through financial promotion. Another action that could help is to make admission conditions for Pharmacy Colleges stricter in order to increase the number of well-qualified pharmacists.

### Q: Are there foreigners working in Yemen in the same field of yours?

A: There were many Arab pharmacists until the first group of pharmacists graduated from Sanaa University in 1993. Since then, year after year. Yemenis began taking their part in this sector.

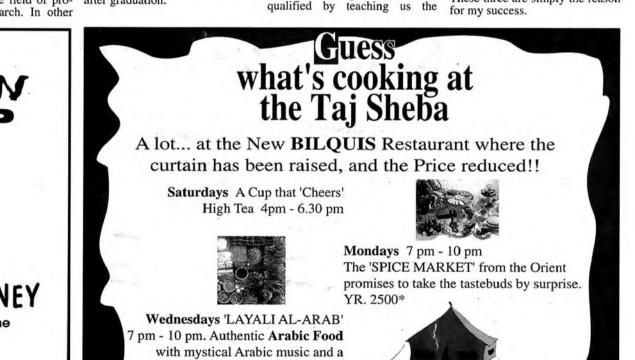
## Q: What are your hobbies?

A: My main hobby is reading. In spite of my busy schedule, I still try to make use my leisure time for reading, especially that there is always new information involving pharmaceutical products.

## Q: Any closing words?

A: I thank my father -may mercy be upon his soul- who always encouraged me and this per-sonality. I also thank my husband who stood by my side everyday, and my mother who is always there for me.

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Political Parties Series: #4

## **Yemen Socialist Party**

Starting with issue number 4 of January 25th, 1999, Yemen Times is running 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 Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) has passed through four main stages since its establishment on March 9, 1979. This came in the unification conference which stated that the YSP is the legitimate inheritor of all of the Yemeni nationalist movements which worked for the nation's liberation and revolution

## The First Stage

The YSP's formation was the result of a union of two groups, one that worked in all of Yemen, and the second that limited its activity to the southern part of the country. The first group included a number of parties:

(a) Al Ba'ath was established in Aden in 1958 and it was split in 1972 into two main groups. The first was either loyal to the Ba'ath party in Iraq or to its rival in Syria. The second called itself the popular pioneering party and followed the Marxist Leninist policies. That party also later was divided into two sections, one in the south and the other in the north which became part of the YSP.

(b) The Pan-Arab Nationalist group which was created in 1959 and indulged in armed struggle for the liberation of the southern area of the country.

(c) The Marxist trend which was weakened due to the Arab Nationalists' hostility. It formed the People's Democratic Union in the north which later merged in the Socialist Party. The second group included six parties that limited their activities

to the southern part of the country, some of which shared in the ruling authority.

## The Second Stage

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The YSP's second stage covered



the sixties and mid seventies during which the world wit-nessed a period of socialist expansion, especially in Third World countries.

In Yemen, only the People's Democratic Union was formed as a Marxist party and later other groupings such as the nationalist front, which ruled southern Yemen, the Yemeni Revolutionary Democratic Party, the Popular Pioneering Party and the Labor Party gradually declared their commitment to Marxist ideology. The leftist parties in Yemen then competed to prove that they were more Marrist than one another.

## The Third Stage

The third stage was the unification one, when the National Front, the Unionist People's Democratic Party and the Popular Pioneering Party signed a unification agreement on February 5, 1975 to establish the national front which was the one and only ruling party in what was then South Yemen. Other leftist parties signed a similar agreement one year later but which later witnessed the withdrawal of the Ba'ath party.

At the same time, leftist parties in Yemen, north and south, opened a dialogue on political activities leading to the revolutionary change and unification of Yemen. They resolved to establish a pioneering party in the south that would struggle for the downfall of the regime in the north and declare the establish-ment of the unified Yemeni state and signed an agreement to that effect on September 12, 1978.

The leftist parties in the north each held their own conference then held their first unification conference on March 8, 1979 which agreed to establish the Yemeni Socialist party in the south and the People's Unity Party in the north that would merge following unification of Yemen

On March 9, 1979, the unification conference was held in Aden, without official announcement, in which two political programs were passed for the south and the north with one party leadership.

The party's main goals in the south was establishing socialism without passing through the capitalist stage as a transitory period. The party's main target in the north, however, was to pave the

## Has the Government Broken the Law? **COMPLAINTS OF ABUSE IN ADEN TRIAL**

As the trial of the six plus four alleged terrorists Dr. Ghayasuddin Siddiqui, continues in heightened pace in Aden, there is Chairman of the increasing frustration in the defence lawyers camp. The ten individuals - the original group of six (five Britons and one Frenchman of Algerian origin), to whom a new batch of three Britons and one Frenchman, again of Algerian origin, was added, are accused of possession of firearms with intent to undertake terrorist activities to sabotage law and order in the Republic of Yemen.

In the sixth sitting of the court, on Saturday, February 13th, the Al-Mina Primary Court read out what is presented as a confession of the crimes by the new group. The defence lawyers and human rights observers who were flown in from Britain expressed reservations regarding the way the trial is proceeding.

Ms. Hanna Siurua of Finland told the Yemen Times that the human rights activists in Europe were pleasantly surprised and reassured by their analysis of the Yemeni constitution and criminal code. We were also happy to note that Yemen has signed and ratified all the major human rights conventions," she said. But she quickly added, "We were, however, shocked to see

the practices on the ground. It is clear that there is a wide gap between the commitments and laws of Yemen, and the reality of the practices on the ground."

Another human rights activist, Mr. A. Shamsy of Germany also reached negative conclusions on Yemen's adherence to human rights. "I was one of the first few people to meet with the accused individuals, right after the first sitting of the court. From the scars and bruises on their body, and from the details of separate and independent accounts of the accused, I could see that

they were subjected to various forms of torture, notably the 'falaqa'. This is contrary to Yemeni law, as well as to international law," he said.



Page 5

Masri. We are now preparing legal action against this man and the organization he represents because of the announcements he has made implicating innocent people in his illegal plans," he said.

Dr. Siddiqui also insisted that the international media, in its drive for sensational reporting, has given Al-Masri and people like him preponderant exposure to the detriment of Islam, the Muslim community in the UK, Yemen and the defendants.

Mr. Rashad Yaqoob, who is the lead lawyer for the defendants has put together a big file documenting the "very" serious breaches of the Yemeni and inter-

laws national protect suspects undergoing a trial process". In meetings with senior officials, he demanded the following steps:

1) Full access to be granted for the defence lawyers to their clients.

2) The complete prosecution file should be copied and be made available to the defence lawyers. In spite of 6 court sessions, the defence team does not have a copy of the charges.

3) The families and friends of the prisoners should be given regular visitation rights, as stipulated by Yemeni law.

4) Immediate medical investigation by independent and specialized doctors regarding the torture allegations.

5) Urgent medical services to those who may need such attention among the prisoners.

6) Visas for relevant individuals to come to Yemen.

## **CANADA: More Generous towards Yemen**

The total Canadian aid to Yemen this year is expected to exceed one million US dollars. Last week, several Canadian delegations visited the country in this light.

Mr. Ian Shaw, Second Secretary at the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh, indicated that his government wants to make sure that whatever resources are made available to Yemen are properly used. "If that is the case, there is no reason why additional resources cannot be channelled from Ottawa to Sanaa in an increasing volume," he said. Mr. Shaw pointed out that there were several funds which Yemeni programs and projects can tap into.

Indeed, Ms. Fatima Ameen, Senior Policy Advisor at Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the official organ through which international assistance is channelled, is also on a visit

women's development projects, human rights NGOs, and to support grass-roots level self-help initiatives," she said.

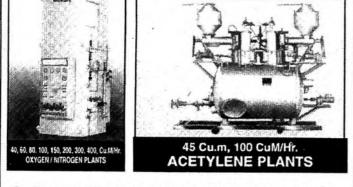
Ms. Ameen is also looking at the broad scope of the list of project funds being dispensed through the Riyadh embassy. "The Canadian government donates funds for small projects in Yemen through the embassy," she explained.

The third aspect of her visit was also to look at possibilities and opportunities in the context of human rights and democratic development. "I want to see what assistance we can provide," she concluded.

Alternatives is a Canadian NGO that has been recipient of CIDA funds to



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## SANGHI OVERSEAS



way for revolutionary changes in the north and establishment of the unified Yemen.

## The Fourth Stage

The fourth and final stage started in 1987 when theoretical changes in the party began including the talks on nationalist merger to overcome backwardness. The Party also spoke of democratic instead of revolutionary change in the north. The Party called for. drafting a new concept for unity of Yemen that benefits from experiments of both regimes in north and south via peaceful means and on a democratic basis. The YSP relinquished the old economic concepts and endorsed the market economy, and democracy and liberal policies became the party's new political path. The YSP's fourth general conference last November endorsed those basic new doctrines.

to study financing possibilities. "This is my first visit to Yemen. My visit has two

purposes, one of which was that the Canadian government had given Yemen assistance in its demining activities. Very early in the process, the Canadian government wanted to send its message of support to Yemen to other potential donors. Canada donated US\$ 100,000 worth of equipment (special demining suits). MED-

ENG, the company that produces the equipment has sent two representatives to Sanaa to discuss implementation. The Government of Canada has also donated Can\$ 950,000 which will be used to carry out a survey of Yemen's demining rehabilitation needs and efforts. The funds which will be dispensed through the UNDP, will also be used to develop a national strategy for demining activities.

"We have also decided to donate Can \$ 250,000 to

project execution. Mr. Soubhi Hamouda, Program Officer for the Middle East at Alternatives, is presently on a visit to Yemen. He has discussed potential projects to be executed with local NGO partners.

"I am here to finalize details

of cooperation on various projects. The first one among these is the Rehabilitation Center (RC) in Aden. We hope to bring Palestinian doctors to do training at the RC. The objective is rehabilitation of the landmine victims," he said.

The objective is to create awareness about the problems of landmines, how to deal with them, and how the community can be involved.

Another project Alternatives is considering is to work with the Yemen 21 Forum to come up with a directory for Yemeni NGOs. Another possibility is to work with centers for training to manage media programs and how to use websites.

The Canadian Government, through the embassy in Riyadh, has also provided Can \$ 50,000 to finance the shipment of medical books and journals donated by Canadian Universities to Al-Thawra Hospitals's library.



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

## The Yemen 21 Forum:

# **BIRTH OF YEMEN'S 1st THINK TANK**



This week, the Yemen 21 Forum starts its operation as the country's first ever think tank. This should be seen as a milestone in the evolution and growth of civil society in Yemen.

As its name denotes, the Y21F is a non-profit non-governmental body that aims to help in the country's strides towards the 21st century. It has a visible emphasis local Non-Governmental Organizations in that it seeks to help in the launch, growth and performance of NGOs.

## The Model:

When one thinks of think-tanks, the American experience immediately comes to mind. Although the philosophical roots and human experiments with think tanks run far back in history, the concept was perfected in its specific contract.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor, Sanaa University.

present format in the American setting. However, Europe and other countries quickly adopted the idea, and practice it to the extent that it has become a world phenomenon.

Today, as the values of democracy, popular participation in public life, multi-polar power structure, accountability and transparency, etc. are embraced by humanity at large, the role of think tanks is steadily rising. That is why the search for models and methodology has become important. Needless to say, there is no single model or standard, but the overall objectives and patterns can be grouped.

## What Are Think Tanks?

The term 'think-tank' was first used in the post WW2 period. It was used to describe research organizations contracted by the Pentagon. As such, the Pentagon carried over the term from its use during the war to describe a secure room where intelligent military and civilian people met to discuss plans and strategies. Soon, the term was used to refer to private groups - usually aca-demicians - that did the thinking for other parties on the basis of a

Today, think tanks have grown to address issues that relate to the public interest. The popular image stands for independent scholarly organizations which do research, advocate ideas and propose decisions with an eye to maximizing the public interest of the country or the world.

In short, therefore, think tanks lobby the authorities by pro-viding information and alternative decision possibilities. In that sense, they have become a reference point for objective and unbiased analysis and assessment of cases and situations.

### The World Experience:

As mentioned earlier, think tanks in their present form are basically an American invention. Therefore, they are most abundant in the USA. It is estimated that there are over a thousand national-level think-tanks, mostly headquartered in Washington DC. In Europe, they are most visible in the Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK, and to a lesser extent in Italy, Spain, and other countries. Think-tanks have also sprung up in the newly democratized nations of East and Central Europe, Latin America, and

leading Third World countries. There is a glaring absence of think-tanks in the Far East, in spite of a democratic political structure. The most important reason for this situation is probably the strong sense of loyalty that individuals and groups have to display for the system. 'Advice' in the East has to be given discreetly. Besides, most companies do their research in-house.

•\_\_\_\_\_\_

In most of the developing countries, the idea is beginning to develop roots. This is associated with the rise of NGOs, and think tanks, themselves NGOs, are beginning to grow as part of this new development.

The reason for the rise of thinktanks in the present world today is the adoption of permeable and porous government decisionmaking structures that respond to external pressure and advice.

### The Situation in Yemen:

Yemen has had various forms of think-tanks in its history. In most cases, however, the input was invited rather than based on the initiative of various special interest groups. Even then, the records of the ancient times offer many examples in which the rulers had a well-structured organization for consulting with specialized groups and individuals on specific matters.

When Islam came, it ordered that decision-makers and the general public get specialized advice from the learned - (إسالوا أهل الذكر). However, the practice was not formalized or organized in a structured way. It was simply left to sporadic use and random applications as people saw fit. In the recent history of Yemen,

public input into government decision-making was very limited or even non-existent. As was the case with most dictatorships, the public was simply told to stay out of the way of the politicians .

But, with the democratization process which is now in progress, many individuals and groups in society are demanding to have a say in the management of the nation. The drive of participation by the people - often called expanding the input into government decision-making - is gaining momentum. This is already clear from the many political parties, newspapers, NGOs, and other organizations which influence public life.

Now, there is a new addition -Yemen 21 Forum, the country's first think tank.

## The Yemen 21 Forum:

For several months now, many intellectuals and public figures have been working on the idea of setting up a mechanism for helping in the country's evolution towards democracy, development and in general more harmony and prosperity. The original core group included representatives of government, NGOs and business. Included Dr.

Faraj Bin Ghanim, Mr. Faisal Bin Shamlan, Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby, Engineer Mohammed Al-Tayyeb, Mr. Mohammed Abdo Saeed, Dr. Mohammed Al-Afandi, Ahmed Saleh Al-Salami, etc. Today, the number of people who will be involved in the Y21F is expected to grow to nearly two dozen.

The official formalities for the establishment of the Y21F were completed in October 1998. But, its organization is still under construction, and will continue to evolve for some time. That is because it is the first of its kind, and it has to adjust to Yemen's conditions.

### Main Tasks:

The Y21F has five main tasks as stipulated in its by-laws and plan of action. These are:

1) To provide office space, meeting room, and basic administrative and information services for the start-up of new NGOs, and for the growth and better performance of different civil society organizations.

To focus on important issues of national concern, study the data, and draw-up conclusions and proposals on alternatives. These research results are then shared with community elders, business leaders, and officials.

3) Offer advice and consultations on pending local, regional and international issues to the authorities and various power centers, and to discuss with them the pros and cons of various decisions.

4) To co-sponsor and promote the establishment of the Yemeni Transparency Organization. This is an anti-corruption NGO which seeks to help in the on-going correction and reform efforts.

5) To publish data and analysis on a periodic basis, and to issue an annual "State of the Nation" report. Another planned research activity includes a visionary study entitled "Yemen 2010". This will study various scenarios of Yemen in the year 2010.

We will have to wait and see how successful Yemen's first thinktank will be.

## **JOB VACANCIES**

The American Embassy announces job vacancies within its organization.

### 1) ANTI-FRAUD INVESTIGATOR

The position is located in the Consular section, of the American Embassy, and is supervised by the American head of the anti-fraud unit.

### **Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Assist the American anti-fraud Assistant with DNA testing program. Coordinate and follow up with Yemeni authorities concerning the Embassy's efforts to sanction impostors who apply for visas and passports.
- Become familiar with types of cases most commonly adjudicated in Sanaa's Consular section, and with fraud patterns and indicators associated with them. Know how to find guidance in FAM and other resources.
- Develop and maintain good working relationship with Yemen officials in various sections.

## **Qualifications:**

Education:	Completion of secondary school required, some higher education is desirable.						
Experience:	Three to four years of progressively responsible experience in security/investigative work, or in consular work.						
Knowledge:	Familiarity with interview techniques, investigative record-keeping and western office procedures.						
Abilities:	Exercise of tact when dealing with the public. Ability to work under continuous pressure.						
Language:	Level III Arabic, Level III English is required.						
Skills:	Must be tactful, possess good judgment, and be able to maintain effective working relationships with outside contacts in a position to assist the consular section.						

## 2) LOCAL SECURITY INVESTIGATOR

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following ports "This position is open to YEMENI NATIONALS ONLY"

## 1. NATIONAL ECONOMIST:

**TERMS OF REFERENCE:** 

- The incumbent will be entrusted with the following tasks: Provide necessary support and advice to the Round Table process and related activities, including preparation for and follow-up to all sectoral or thematic Round Table meetings;
- 2.3. Support the UNDP office in organizing and implementing NATCAP; Provide substantive advice to the UNDP office, and through the office to the Government, regarding activities in the area of economic development and aid coordination, and contribute to ensure the
- relevance of ongoing activities in these areas; Provide substantive support and advice the RR and DRR (P) in the preparation of the Country Cooperation Framework (CCF), is mid-term review and its evaluation )through data collection, 4. compilation of background information and socio-economic analyses), and in the conceptualization and elaboration of program/project documents and other relevant operational frameworks: Establish and economic and financial database on the host country and prepare economic reports on a 5.
- quarterly basis.
- Reporting The National Economist reports to the RR and DRR (P) as appropriate and receives instructions from both of them.

Qualifications The successful candidate should possess Ph.D in Economics and be computer literate. Any

The position is located at the Security Office, and reported directly to the Regional Security Officer. The incumbent will be performing personal security background investigations and special investigations assigned by the RSO. Assists RSO in maintaining liaison with Republic of Yemen police and security officials. Oversees the management of the local guard force.

## Major duties and responsibilities:

- Incumbent is the senior FSN employee of the security section. He acts as an advisor to the RSO, as well as the overall supervisor of the entire section.
- Performs various investigations, some of which are complicated and sensitive, as assigned by the RSO, such as theft and pilferage of USG property, suspected fraud in immigration or consular cases, motor vehicle accidents, and threats or security incidents. Assists in the security clearance briefing when hiring a new employee.
- Maintains effective liaison with Embassy and host government authorities at various levels. Briefs and keeps the RSO informed of police matters and civil and criminal procedures of the Republic of Yemen. Drafts and prepares English/Arabic correspondence using Word processor programs.

## Minimum qualifications:

- Completion of secondary school is required. Possession of a collegiate degree is desirable. Education:
- Level III required, good working knowledge of English. Language:
- **Experience:** From 5-6 years of progressively responsible experience in investigative with a military, police, and private security.

Ability to maintain extensive contacts with officials of various local agencies. Abilities:

## How to apply:

Interested applicants should submit an official form (174) and attached with it a resume, reference letter, etc. related to the above mentioned positions. Applications will not be accepted after February 28,1999.

Applicants who had applied in the supply clerk and supply supervisor positions, which were advertised in Yemen Times on January 4, 1999 issue No.1, are prohibited from applying for the above mentioned Note: positions till they hear a response from the Embassy on their acceptance or refusal.

perienc ment and aid coordination would be preferable Fluency in both written and spoken English and Arabic is essential.

## 2. PROGRAM ASSISTANT:

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE:**

The incumbent will be entrusted with the following tasks:

Collect, register and maintain information on program/project activities by reviewing reports and through first-hand sources; contribute in the preparation of status and progress reports, prepare tables and draft selected sections of it, prepare background material of use in discussions and briefing sessions; arrange for the recording of and administrative processing of government requests for assistance; participate in the identification and formulation of development cooperation programs/projects and participate in the preparation of draft program/project documents; monitor program/project activities through control plans, progress reports, program/project inputs, budgets and final expenditures, etc., maintain, process and analyze information on matters relevant to the organization and on external assistance provided to the country, carry out specific administrative/operators control tasks for program/project activities, when needed, which may include field visits to project sites. The incumbent shall be a focal point for procurement, budgeting and he/she shall be responsible for translation and training database.

Bachelor's Degree, preferably supplemented by technical courses in the field of project management. Computer skills and fluency in written and spoken English and Arabic are Qualification essential

### Experience Five years progressively responsible development work.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with a detailed curriculum vitae to Operations Manager UNDP, P. O. Box 551, Sana'a NOT LATER THAN 28 February 1999. Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply, and acknowledgment will only be sent to applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

February 15th, 1999



## Abdul Hafiz M. Taha Naji: "Free trade doesn't mean chaos."

The current deterioration in the investing economy is forcing many businesses to go bankrupt. The problem is most troubling in the more industrialized parts of the country. Taiz is a good example. The business community in Taiz is constantly reminded of its precarious conditions by the many bankrupt companies, and the many other establishments that are in jeopardy.

Mohammed Taha Naji Sons Group for Plastic Industries is one of the pioneer industries in the country. This group has suffered, as have many other industries, from the bad times. To talk about this predicament, Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Taiz Office Editor, and Mr. Imad Al-Saqqaf met with Mr. Abdul Hafiz M. Taha Naji, the Group's general manager, and filed the following interview.

Q: In your opinion, what are the reasons behind the problems of so many industrial establishments?

A: It is no secret that national industries are facing a number of problems. These include:

1- The heated and often unfair competition between national industries and international companies is the main reason. In my opinion, it is the General Investment Authority (GIA) that bears responsibility for this situation. The GIA should have a clear policy on the industrialization effort in this country. There must be a certain level of commitment to the welfare of the industrial sector of Yemen.

2. Another problem is the unable to compete with smuggled constant change introduced by the state in the laws and business climate of Yemen. Many inves-

projects on the basis of certain realities and facts. For example. we study taxes. customs tariff. market size, and other factors. Then, the government steps in and changes those facts, thus rendering many projects unfea-

3. Third, there is confused understanding of what free trade really means. Many of our officials

sible.

think that free economic activities mean chaos. That is not true. Economic freedom means integration with the world economy with the purpose of optimizing and maximizing your own interests. Look at Europe or even the USA - the heartland of capitalism. You cannot import just about anything you want.

4. Then there is the need for transparency and open-book business deals. Many of the companies licensed by the GIA fronts, are at best simple shops which do not care about standards or proper business practices. The GIA has given licenses to small entities which do not pay taxes.

5. A final serious problem is smuggling. This is a real stum-bling block in the progress of our national economy. We really feel products. This is because they don't pay taxes or customs duties. Let me give you an example. I tors do their feasibility studies for might pay for a raw plastic



material \$80 per a ton while I can get the product made ready at \$70. How come? I don't know. This makes traders in a better position than industrialists.

This doesn't man that we are against fair competition. On the contrary, we are in favor of open trade and free economic activities. But the rules of the game must be fair, to all.

### Q: Many consumers believe local industries don't adhere to international standards. They feel the products are inferior. Is this true?

A: I challenge any person who claims that the national industries are deficient or don't abide by quality standards to prove such allegations. We bring our equipment and raw materials from abroad. And, of course, there are standards which we maintain in producing our products. Many local factories and products have been honored with ISO awards.

I also want to indicate that we export our products to many markets worldwide, including Europe and the USA. If these products were not up to standard, do you think they would allow them in such markets?

I will take you now to my factory

and you will see what is going on. We also welcome anybody who wants to visit us. He/she can without informing come us beforehand.

## Q: Marketing has become one of the problems of our national industries. What can be done? A: Marketing is very important for any business. This is a uni-

versal concern, whatever you sell, including newspapers. want to point out that most

Yemeni industries and companies now pay more attention to this matter. Some have opened distribution centers and branches in the various governorates.

For us, we regularly participate in exhibitions, fairs, and other methods of reaching out to our customers. But the Yemeni people are prejudiced and have reached unfair judgments against national products. This is partly

because of the negative media position, which is not helpful. In addition, we would like our government to react just like Britain did regarding the problem of the mad cow disease. It worked hard and stood by the farmers. In other words, our government should launch a serious campaign to encourage national industries and build public confidence in our national products. Yemen has made a tremendous progress in the field of industry and this has to be protected. In short, we as industrialists feel very disappointed. We worry about the future of our industries which at the moment looks very gloomy and dark, unless something is done fast.

Q: You have not mentioned kidnapping and other terrorist incidents. How that has affected you?

A: We should all condemn such unlawful actions. We must work together to fight against all kidnappers and terrorists.

Page 7

A safe and secure environment is a very important consideration for any investor. No nation can prosper unless law and order prevail. Unfortunately, because of these events, we are now seen as a risky land.

We are directly affected by these incidents because our potential partners in investments are not willing to come. Visitors avoid Yemen thus reducing the market size and total purchasing power of our society. Other businesses decline to invest, leading to lower levels of economic activity, as well as less purchasing power.

Therefore, we are hopeful that president Saleh and the government will take stiff measures in order to put an end to such an abnormal phenomenon.

## **The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Sana'a**

Is looking for a suitable candidate for the position of: Assistant Administrative and Consular Affairs

To assist the Administrative/Consular Section in the Embassy The preferred candidate would have the following qualifications:

- Proven administrative and financial skills.
- Qualities and experience working at a counter during consular opening hours.
- Excellent command of both English and Arabic languages.
- Excellent knowledge of and experience with Windows and Word Perfect 5.2.

Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a recent copy of their curriculum vitae with names and addresses of two references and a brief statement describing their interest in this position with 14 days of this advertisement to the following address or fax-number:

> R.A. Koeleman, Attaché **Royal Netherlands Embassy** P. O. Box 463 Sana'a Fax: 01 - 264 094



الجمد لله على السـارامـة





# كشف بالفائزين بجوائز مهرجان باناسونيك للتسوق ٩٨م

# **Prize Winners at the Panasonic Shopping Festival '98**

In the presence of the company's customers and authorized distributors from different governorates, and with full media coverage from news agencies, stringers and

newspapers - including the Yemen Times, the raffle for the Panasonic Shopping Festival was drawn. The following prizes and winners are kindly announced.

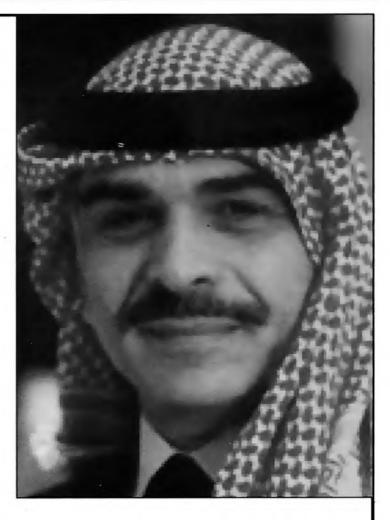
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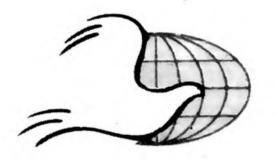
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		NI-320E	13375	73	· · · ·		MK-G20NR	10713	18
		NI-21A	7428	74			MK-G20NR	12672	19
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Mr. Alwan Saeed Al-Shaibani-Chairman, and the staff of Universal Group of Companies

with deepest emotions of sorrow and regret, offer their condolence on the death of His Hashemite Majesty

## King Hussein Ibn Talal to His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn El-Hussein and to the Royal and Hashemite Families

We pray to God to have mercy on King Hussein's soul and may his soul rest in peace in heaven.



# Has Yemen Ever **Known the Theater?**

Human civilizations have been culturally scientifically and interconnected in societies through the centuries. When a nation gains prosperity, other nations make that prosperity their own. This human instinct of solidarity and inter-dependence, if not well directed and controlled, turns out to be a kind of public charge. This means that some feel satisfied with taking from what others have achieved.

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Right from the beginning of life on earth, civilizations existed. Every century presents a different kind of civilization which disappears as the century ends. They come and go leaving behind totally unproductive societies. The new generation have given up creativity, and are contented with their ancestors' accomplishments. From this comes the necessity of searching history.

Yemen's civilization did not vanish with the destruction of Mareb Dam. It was alive inside every Yemeni, though they happened to be ignorant people and wandering nomads. Even nomads had had their own civilization which showed their greatness throughout the Arab Peninsula. Theater had been a feature of the Yemeni culture. Therefore, going through time and history becomes a demand to prove that-(Public Culture, Longitude and Latitude-by Dr. Abdulhameed Younis.)

Theater, as historians depict it, began as a means of carrying out religious rituals. It was also closed due to religious beliefs. Yemen knew all religions, from paganism and nature worship to Islam. One who reads Mahammed Tawfeek's book Jaof Al-Lail (Midnight), about religions in Yemen, will realize that Yemen has had many cultural and literary advances. One of its main cultural institutions was theater.

## Theater and civilization:

For centuries, theater has been associated with some level of civilization. History records that Yemen had witnessed one of the greatest of the ancient civilizations. Although those civilizations were wiped out, they left valuable traces which made their greatness stick in history. Literature, with all its genres, especially theater, had always been a representative of those civilizations. In Ashorian and Babeli civilizations, we find a simple foundation of literary development.



Where fountains and wells streams, all kinds of crops and fruits grow. All the time, Yemen has been famous for that. This natural phenomenon helped to develop creativity and imagination in the minds of the Yemenis. It paid off with •great developments in literature. These developments, in one way or another, are associated in other civilizations with solidarity and independence." Unfortunately, there are not specific historical details about Yemen in the ancient times, and those we received do not tell much about its development. However, all the historians agree that Yemen had witnessed one of the oldest civilizations in the world, in which architecture and agriculture greatly flourished. But, historians still want a clear view of cultural activities in Yemen during those decades. Welfnson says that a country like Yemen, which reached that high level of prosperity and cultural development, must have had a formidable history in literature. Literary development, especially in poetry and theater, was a definite result of the development Yemen achieved in all fields of life. Definitely, it was no less thriving than the political or the agricultural development. Much evidence assures us that theater has existed in Yemen in the past and epics especially were its main subjects in acting performances. This evidence is supported by the Egyptian Sheikh Ahmed Zaki and other contemporary historians and archeologists. In his introduction to Ahmed Shawqi's Al-Sit Hoda or (Miss Hoda), Ahmed Zaki assures us of the existence of

made it one of their holy psalms. That made this text distinguished as an Arabic text. Even the names mentioned in Sifr Ayoob are common for people or nomads who lived in the Arab desert and this attests its Arabic or Yemeni origin. The historians attributed with this fact are, as recorded in (Arab History Before Islam), Dr. Gawad Ali and Ibn Azar, a Jewish scholar in the 18th century. Poems like Mont Gamri, they assert, are actually of an Arabic origin for Arabic is the only language that can competently present such works. The orientalist Mergelion supported this idea by linguistic comparisons. The American scholar Foster also shares the same opinion.

It is a fact that Yemen has distinguished works of poetry which date back to more than 20 centuries B C, before many Greek or Latin dramatic pieces appeared. This leads us to conclude that Yemen used to have a highly developed theater.

# **Ahmad Fathi**

Fathi is one of the symbols of addition to eastern songs, espe-Yemeni song, and is its mes- cially Egyptian songs. I heard senger to the outside world. He this from him myself in a enriched the Yemeni artistic Hodeida hotel during a visit there

The renowned musician Ahmad ever since his early childhood, in Yemen.



## movement with his distinguished in late 1967.

creativity and his brilliance in Similar to other young artists, he started his march in Sanaa and concentrated on playing the lute. tinction from the Cairo higher In the seventies he joined the musical institute in December of musical institute in Cairo and obtained a diploma in harmonic music and specialized in playing the lute instrument.

He sang for the poet Dr. Abdul Aziz Al Makaleh for a period of time after his graduation and their joint production was widely Yemeni music has affected him welcomed inside and outside

In the early eighties, he met with the Yemeni singer Abu Bakir Salem, who lives in Saudi Arabia, in their first song of Yemeni traditional music. That joint artistic work coupled with the new musicial introductions increased Fathi's reputation.

Our singer could not stay out of Yemen for long, and repeatedly visited his homeland. He was interviewed by the Television Space Channel for a show in which he talked about his artistic march and aspirations.

He also shared in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism's artistic festival held in London along with other traditional troupes.

Last year the Culture and Tourism Minister Abdul Malik Mansour decorated the singer with the "Arts Medal" in appreciation of his role in raising the popularity of high Yemeni songs in the local, Arab and International arenas:

Fathi sang in a musical play in the seventies and sang a number of songs for Yemeni TV channel-2 for the poet Mahmoud Al Haj at that time.

Fathi, who is currently living in Cairo, said that he has strong relations with the Saudi singer Mohammed Abdou and that they will jointly sing in a carnival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia later this year.

The Yemeni singer, who won a high place at the international childhood festival in Cairo last year, is currently recording a new album, which includes songs written by Yemeni and Arab poets.

> By: Saleh Abdulbaki, Art Editor, Yemen Times

# **Different Types of Yemeni Tea**

music.

common habits whether in the made only if guests prefers it, she Arab or foreign countries and emphasized. each country has its own traditional way of making and some cardamom before adding drinking tea.

In the old times, people used to said, adding that they do not offer drink one kind of tea but anything beside tea or coffee. nowadays tea is sipped in various Coffee is consumed more than tea tastes that differ from one country because people here feel that it to another according to the fab- represents their traditions which rication method and country of they inherited from the foreorigin.

factory for packing tea. Yemen lined.

Drinking tea is one of the most day and night. Tea is sometimes certain place in the house allo-

"We boil water with sugar and tea and pour it in glasses," she

fathers who did not know tea in In Yemen there is only one the first place, Ruwaida under-

cated for that purpose.

## Marib

However, in Marib there is no definite time for drinking either coffee or tea, according to Aneesa Ali who said that water is boiled along sugar in addition to mint or other tastes before tea is added.

She said that tea is poured in medium sized glasses to guests

country, Bashshar Abdou Al Khawlani, a merchant, said that tea is imported from numerous countries

He singled out, however, India, Sri Lanka and Kenya for their good quality tea. Bashshar underscored that prices of tea differ according to its quality and package.

Tea imported from a number of countries tastes better than that imported from original country of and added that coffee is drank cultivation, he said, adding that more than tea in Yemen because it reflects Yemenis' love to their imported by Yemen which only have packing factories.

There are some ruins of places for acting out performances which we may simply call theaters.

## Yemen, A Source of Civilization:

The Yemeni civilization buried under the ground is a brings many questions. To the moment, it is not explored and there are still so many things to be discovered. The very few uncovered historical features attract the entire attention of scientists and researchers. Israel Welfenson says, "The southern part of the Arabian Peninsula is regarded as the original center of civilization. Geographically, Yemen is a country of hills, high mountains, and level lands. This diversity makes Yemen one of the more fertile countries of the world.

was not unusual that our explora tions in Al-Qahtanyeen land, home of Saba and Hemiar, led us to the remains of a theater near the Mareb Dam. Definitely, theater existed in Yemen, Arabia's center of civilization and development. When the Al-Arem flood came, all was brought to ruin and people left to the north." He says, "If those surface explorations asserted the existence of theater in Yemen in the past, then the coming serious explorations will discover origins of theater activities and other literary texts. Let's take, for example, Sifr Ayoob or ( Ayoob's Book). Some historians assure us that this text was originally written by a Yemeni author in the 20th century B.C. It was written in verse, they think, and then Jews translated it into Hebrew and

theater in Yemen, where people

were highly cultured. "Thus, it

Times asked a number of people

from various Yemeni govern- Hadhramaut orates on their drinking habits.

## Aden

Fatema Abdul Qader from Aden said that people there prefer drinking tea with milk especially in the morning and after lunch. She said that tea drinkers there prefer boiling water with sugar and adding cardamom or others until it tastes before adding tea. The mixture is then left to simmer a while before drinking it with cakes or biscuits. Coffee is not a favorite drink in Aden, she concluded.

## Sanaa

In Sanaa, Ruwaida Saeed said Coffee is only consumed on that the capital's inhabitants certain occasions, she said and prefer coffee which is presented noted that tea preparation is not to family members and guests made in the kitchen but in a

playing the lute.

songs.

Yemeni

Fathi obtained an MA with dis-

last year for his thesis on the lute

and its importance to Yemeni

Our famous singer was born in

Hodeida in the early fifties and

was extensively affected by

traditional

For her part, Amal Abdul Aziz from Hadhramaut said that tea is a must in that governorate after each meal.

She noted that Hadhramaut tea is prepared in a different manner. using either electricity or coal to boil water in a big kettle. A smaller kettle containing tea and some water is then put over the first one until it turns dark, she elaborated.

Amal said that sugar is put in the traditional small glass cups known in Hadhramaut and a small amount from that dark tea, then boiled water from the bigger kettle is added.

country and their coffee.

## Tea Business

Asked about tea business in the



By: Ahlam Al-Khawlani, Yemen Times

أجمل أيات التهاني والتبريكات للشباب الخلوق جلال محمد ألوجيه وذلك بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف. المهنؤون: أكرم عبدالجبار السقاف، عزالدين سعيد الحريبي، هشام الشرجبي، عارف الأصبحي



## **Solar Energy: The New Old Fuel**

have been published in magazines and newspapers about the solar vehicles, solar cars and the unlimited applications of solar energy. A lot of research is being performed to promote the use solar cars and to make their widespread use practical in the future. In some sense, however, all automobiles are solar-powered.

Almost all vehicles currently on the world's roads are powered by a petroleum derivative. Petroleum is pumped from deep in the earth. It was formed a long time ago from dead plants that used solar energy directly. Hence, petroleum energy is a type of solar energy captured in the petroleum petroleum products. When a product, such as gasoline is mixed with air and ignited in a conventional internal combustion engine, that ancient solar energy is released in a sudden explosion of gas that drives the piston and moves the vehicle.

Although we have never driven a vehicle that was not powered by a fossil fuel, the ancestors of the modern vehicle were powered by a variety of energy forms. The steam power was the first

Many stories all around the world used to mechanically drive road vehicles. In 1769, the French Nicolas engineer Cugnot modified a horse-drawn tractor, originally designed to pull a cannon by adding a drive mechanism and a steam engine. It seems that Cugnot's steam-driven tractor was not designed for long trips. Its top cruising speed was two miles per hour, and it had to stop every ten to fifteen minutes to build up steam.

Steam engines work by external combustion. The fuel used for external combustion engines is coal, wood or oil. The fuel is burned outside the engine to change water into steam, which dries the engine. Many steampowered engines are developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, however, they have many serious problems among which is their tendency to explode. It is amusing to note that in Great Britain, in the 1830s, a law required steam-driven vehicles be preceded by a person on a horse, carrying a red flag. Although considered since the seventeenth century, no break-

through in the internal combustion engines were made until

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1860 when the French inventor Etienne Lenoir built a small single-cylinder engine. The engineer N. A. Otto German adapted this design for a fourstroke engine that burned coal gas fuel in 1876. Eleven years later, Karl Benz put the internal combustion engine on the road in a three-wheeled vehicle, driven by chains like those on a bicycle. This was the first Mercedes with a top speed of 13 km per hour.

There were more than seventy experimental internal combustion automobile manufacturers in the United States of America by 1895. Mostly, those were designed to use some form of petroleum products.

Some automobile manufacturers concentrated on electric cars, as they are very quiet compared to the very noisy internal combustion cars and they do not emit any fumes. Electric cars were the most popular cars in America in the 1890s. Their main problem was that they needed recharging after about fifty minutes of driving.

The car with internal combustion engines became the most popular cars after they achieved higher speeds and the assembly line mass production was attained. The electric cars are reconsidered

after the dark face of fossil fuel is unveiled. The serious concern over the fossil fuel supplies, their pollution, high prices and dwindling supplies, caused the engineers to look once again at electric cars. This time new technologies are explored using the same old fuel: the solar energy. For Yemen, the solar energy is the energy of the future.

Future Industries Consultants, Sanaa. Tel: 7916940

## Embassy of China, Sana'a **On Nuclear Testing by India Under Pretext of "Chinese Threat"**

During the Korean War of the 1950's and the Cold War confrontation of the 60's and 70's, China confronted repeated threats of nuclear weapons and nuclear war, which left China with no other alternative than to develop small quantities of limited nuclear weapons for self-defense. On the question of nuclear disarmament, the Chinese Government holds a consistent and clearcut position. Ever since the first day when China came into possession of nuclear weapons, it has unilaterally committed itself to no-first-use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances. Moreover, China has always pledged unconditionally that it will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear weapon states and nuclear weapon-free zones. It is against and has never participated in the nuclear arms race, and never has deployed nuclear weapons outside its territory. As a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. China has always strictly fulfilled its treaty obligations. Being firmly opposed to nuclear weapons proliferation in any form, it does not stand for, encourage or engage in nuclear weapons proliferation, nor does it help other countries to develop nuclear weapons. It maintains that a convention should be concluded to ban nuclear weapons like the ones to comprehensively ban biological and chemical weapons. China will never evade or shirk the nuclear disarmament responsibilities it should duly shoulder and it stands ready to make unremitting efforts for the ultimate complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons. Even though India has conducted nuclear testing, the position of China on nuclear disarmament has not changed.

With the end of the Cold War, the international situation on the whole has been moving in the direction of relaxation. Countries are all trying to resolve differ-ences and disputes through dialogue and gradual progress has been achieved in the international nuclear disarmament arena. The NPT was extended indefinitely in 1995, and in September 1997, the CTBT was concluded and became open for signatures, attracting 149 signatories in the short space of a few months. Against this background, India's flagrant nuclear testing was a defiance of the common will of the international community to comprehensively ban nuclear testing and a severe blow to the international efforts to prevent nuclear weapons proliferation. It will bring grave con-sequences to peace and stability in South Asia and the world as a whole.

China consistently stands for conducting state-to-state exchanges on the basis of the Five Principles of

Peaceful Co-Existence and hopes to establish goodneighborly and friendly relations with all its neighbors, India included. It was in this spirit that China undertook a series of positive initiatives and constructive actions in a devoted effort to improve and develop its relations with India. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to China 1988 started a momentum of a steady growth in China-India relations, and President Jiang Zemin's visit to India in 1996 brought it to a new high. In 1993 and 1996, the two countries signed the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual control in the China-India Border Areas and the Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the China-India Border Areas. The mechanism for the discussion of the border question and bilateral relations has been set up and has worked normally

Page

Regrettably however, while China-India relations were going forward steadily along a healthy path, India flagrantly conducted nuclear tests in contravention of the international trend. Some leaders from the Indian govrnment even openly made repeated statements attacking China and cooking up a slanderous charge that China poses a threat to India's security. India's moves seriously poisoned the current atmosphere of China-India relations and inflicted serious damage to the developing bilateral relations. Nevertheless, proceeding from the overall interests of safeguarding China-India relations, China adopted an attitude of great restraint.

India's claim that China poses a nuclear threat to India is utterly groundless. India is perfectly aware that China's limited nuclear capabilities are not targeted at any country. In internationally making wanton charges against China, India is doing nothing other than finding an excuse for its nuclear testing, its development of nuclear weapons and its attempt to seek a hegemony in South Asia. India should not be allowed to have the "nuclear weapon states" status. Otherwise, that will become a reward for and acquiescence to its nuclear tests, which are neither conducive to maintaining peace and stability in the South Asia region, nor helpful to upholding the international non-proliferation regime and promoting the nuclear disarmament process. Therefore, we call on the international community to continue to demand that India implement Security Council resolution 1172 in its entirety and to join the CTBT and the NPT unconditionally at the earliest possible time.

## **Austrian Tourists Doctors** Visit Some Hospitals in Taiz

dents, tourists are still coming to Yemen. An Austrian tourist group of 18 tourists has recently visited Yemen. They visited Sana'a, Hodeidah, Ibb, and Marib. Among the group, there are 6 doctors. In cooperation with the Yemeni-German Friendship Association, Taiz branch and clinics in Taiz like Al-Buraihy Hospital. The doctors, some of them are heads of hospitals, were very much interested in getting some information about the state of health services and treatment in Yemen. They were also desirous for helping some patients. With the help of some Yemeni doctors, they made some diagnosis for some cases. The doctors were anxious about health services and conditions and said that they would try to offer some medicines to some hospitals when they are back home. They said that they are ready to offer technical services and this visit will keep the two sides in contact for that purpose.

## **Friendly People**

Expressing his impression about Yemen, Mr. Rudolf Forg, leader of the group, told Yemen is a very inte

In spite of the recent kidnapping and terrorist inci- all people here. What I liked is the little kids when they hail to and run with us. Besides, it is through tourism that you are getting better hotels. The food is excellent. We had our food with the people because this is the only way to know the people truly. We had a new experience".

## **Developing Tourism**

Asked about the way to develop tourist drive in the country, Mr. Forg said that the key factor to push tourist drive forward is that the government should ensure the safety of the tourists. "I had a group of 28 tourists who were interested in coming to Yemen. But when they heard about the latest inci-



etters to the Editor

The Right to Respond: February 1999.

and concessional tickets.

Secondly, Security the

wishes to go back visiting my "Nobody anywhere in the world Is Yemen Airways Under Seige? immediate family there, she says makes food similar to that of This is in reference to the topic people were very kind to her and Yemen" she says. I have a lot of "Is Yemen Airways under Seige" treated her like a queen. I par- reasons to be fascinated by Yemen that appeared in the Letters to the ticularly enjoy looking at the and its rich culture. I don't care Editor column of Yemen Times album of pictures my mom treas-vol.IX, Iss. No. 6 on 8th ures from Yemen and wonder may encounter there, it is simply about that mysterious land and because the economy is weak, but We would like to clarify that people once called Arabia Flex! Yemenis are dynamic and are hard whatever has been stated therein (Happy Arabia). "Yemen is a working people when they are by Mr. M. Pierre is totally unique place, it is a planet of its given a chance, e.g. my Dad. I baseless and incorrect. First and own!" -- my mom recites this must be honest. I am verv disthe foremost, Mr. M. Pierre had phrase to many of her family and turbed that some kids I met here in California. She california, their parents are both seeking complimentary tickets for says she regrets that she could not from Yemen and have just came himself and his family which was visit Aden in the southern part of over here a while ago, they make taken care of by granting him free Yemen because Yemen was two fun of their heritage!!!, I ask that separate states at the time we were parents should please correct their in living there. But she says that behavior. Here I am a Yemeni Yemenia had only performed people of Aden that she met are from the father's side and my mom their duties in checking the bright and very hospitable and is 100% American and yet she and identity of personnel gaining plan to visit all over Yemen when us love Yemen, however, some entry into the building which is we all go back again. She prays seem to care less about it. My part of the security measure. We for the unity of Yemen because it mom says Yes, Yemen has a lot of have never had any complaint is for the good of the people. She problems, but it is not that bad, it before from the visitors with remembers her neighbor lady from is merely financial depression regard to the security measures. Aden that used to cry because she which eventually may clear away On the contrary, we have been can't see her family and friends in if Yemen keep being stable for advised by well-wishers to imple- Aden because it was a communist enough time and have no civil ment more stringent security state over there and she lost a wars. I wish to pursue my studies brother that just vanished in a in all fields that would enable me bloody war. I am very eager to to build a network of nuclear see my roots, see my cousins and water desalination plants by the family, especially my grandmother sea that would distribute water Dawlah whom always remember from the long coastal borders to all in Arabic). I am very proud to us with her kindness and cries over Yemen. I want to make have a Yemeni-Arabic heritage over the phone and prays to Allah Yemen as green as possible and for our happiness and prosperity. have people grow foods to have By the way, my dad was going to enough for everybody and export fine father Abdulla Faris who's by the way, my dad was going to chough the conjugation of the end o mixture of generosity, honesty changed his mind because it is make Yemenis and Americans the and courage. I was born in Cal- going to be during the holy month best friends and allies better than of Ramadan. My mom says that any other country in the world, years old and my sister Samira Ramadan is very nice and lively and in turn that would help Yemen (we call her Katie) is 9 years old. during the night especially for be very strong and maintain peace

not overcrowded by tourists but hopefully they will come soon for Yemen is a new country for us. We, tourists, can find in Yemen what we don't find in any other countries. I have been to many countries including Arab, but I am very arrested by the scenery and atmosphere of Yemen. People are very friendly and not shy against tourists. They like us and let us feel that we are their friends. This is very important for people to know that we want to bring our money here so that we can get a better life for



dents they felt afraid. We said it dangerous all over the world and 18 decided to come and most of them are doctors. I said that I must see Yemen now since it is completely new. Therefore, I decided to see it before a big number of tourists come to it. For example, 'sooks', markets, will be commercialized after some time and this is what we don't want. So, I should say that if anybody wants to go to Yemen, he/she should go now." At another level, the tourists said that they had no trouble in touring at all. They said that they had a guard but they went to some places without him. It was very normal.

Mr. Forg-added "For me this is the beginning for I will come with other groups as I liked Yemen very much".

By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Oadhi Taiz Office Editor Yemen Times

measures for the benefit of all.

Yemen Airlines

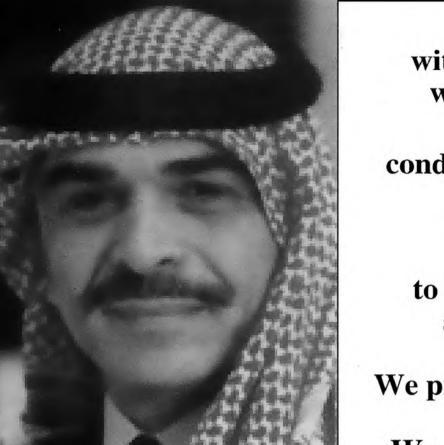
## A Letter from California

My name is Alexander (Eskandar and I am lucky to have such a fine father Abdulla Faris who's ifornia in 1985, I am now 13

I was only 5 years old when I grown-ups because they socialize in the Middle East. lived with my mom Catherine and families get together and they and Dad in Yemen. I don't make nice food and banquets, that remember much about it but my these dishes are delicious and mom speaks highly of it and exclusive to Yemen

Alexander Abdullah Faris alex@faris.com California, USA





The family of the Arab Bank with all its branches in the Republic of Yemen with deepest emotions of sorrow and regret extends its

condolence on the death of His Hashemite Majesty

# **King Hussein Ibn Talal**

to His Majesty King Abdullah Ibn El-Hussein and to the Royal and Hashemite Families

We pray God to have mercy on King Hussein's soul and may he rest in peace in heaven. We are to God, and to God we shall return!

ببالغ الحزن والأسى

تنعي أسرة البنك العربي بجميع فروعه العاملة في الجمهورية اليمنية وفاة حضرة صاحب الجلالة الهاشمية الملك

# الحسين بن طلال رحمه الله

نسأل الله أن يتغمده بواسع رحمته وأن يسكنه فسيح جناته، ونتقدم

لصاحب الجلالة الملك عبد الله بن الحسين المفدي

وللعائلة المالكة والأسرة الهاشمية بأحر التعازي و المواساة، إنا لله وانا اليه راجعون .



# **Arab Bank plc**

SORROWFUL

Branches Working in Yemen Regional Office-Sana'a

Branches in Sanaa City: Zubiri St., Taiz Road, Al-Hasabah

Other Branches: Taiz, Hodeidah, Aden, Al-Sheikh Othman, Ibb, Mukalla البنك العربي ش.م.ع الفروع العاملة في اليمن ادارة المنطقة – صنعاء فروع مدينة صنعاء شارع الزبيري، شارع تعز، الحصبة الفروع الأخرى تعز، الحديدة، عدن، الشيخ عثمان، إب، المكلا





# AL SALAM ESTABLISHMENT



Proudly announces the launching of **MGE UPS** Systems in Yemen with a wide range of Power Protection (UPS) and Surge suppresser Equipments for your PCs, LAN, WAN, and Communication & Industrial equipments.

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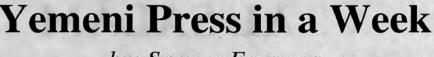






Page

4



by: Sameer Farawna



## AL SHOURA Sanaa, weekly 7/2/99 (Federation of Popular Forces) **Main Headlines**

-A responsible source in the Federation of Popular Forces has refuted claims by daily Al Mithaq, mouthpiece of the ruling People's General Conference (PGC) that a number of Federation leaders had joined the PGC. -Kuwait praises stands of the Yemeni government during the recent Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting in Cairo.

-The oxidization of hydrocarbons and salty soil in Aden as a result of operating a fuel station in the salt drainage area will lead to kidney and liver failures among inhabitants there in the long run, according to Green Yemen environmentalist group.

-Two children were injured in a powerful explosion in Habra area, Sanaa ten days ago.

-The public attorney is still investigating the loss of 1.15 million dollars from the Aden ports authority.

-Extremist groups in Aden held a massive festival in Tawwahi two weeks ago in which speeches were delivered urging the present youngsters to shed the blood of liquor sellers and consumers.

### An Article Summary Yemeni-British Relations Still Strained

The relations between London and Sanaa have witnessed further deterioration in the past week after 20 British teachers were recalled to London and closure of the British cultural council and language institutes in Sanaa and Aden.

The Yemeni government also denied the entry into its territory of four Britons including wife of Abu Hamza Al Masri who had encouraged the kidnap of foreign tourists in Yemen and whose sonwas imprisoned in Aden for his role in one such incident.

The Yemeni government had cancelled entry facilities to Britons lately and said that they should obtain prior entry visas from its embassy in London after it arrested a group coming from Britain and accused them of planning a number of sabotage acts in Aden governorate.



Mohammed in Aden recently United Arab Emirates has preamid reports that it was premeditated.

-The Dental Section in Hodeida Thawra Hospital is still closed for the third consecutive week at the pretext that its administration is not able to purge the Section's equipments which are con-

taminated with the AIDS virus. -The release of eight western hostages in Marib was the result of a tribale mediation and in return for six million rials and a number of expensive vehicles. -The coastal governorates are receiving increasing numbers of refugees fleeing war-stricken areas in the Horn of Africa with no apparent care on the part of

the government.

## ATTARIQ Aden, weekly 9/2/99 (Independent) **Main Headlines**

-The land plot given to an investor in Mimlah area in Aden to construct a petrol station will cost the government one million dollars in lost revenues yearly other than the damage to the environment.

.- The body of a soldier was found in Qaataba, Dali' governorate recently with both hands and feet cut off.

-A committee formed by the Aden oil company is currently investigating the feared embezzlement of millions of rials.

-The Dean of one of the Aden University faculties was caught in an immoral act with one of his faculty's female employees. Overland transport employees in Lahj governorate have been on strike for the past two weeks protesting the non-payment of their



salaries for the past six months.

### ATTAGAMU Sanaa, weekly 8/2/99 (Yemeni Unitary Congregation) Main Headlines

-Head of the YUC party branch in Hadhramaut Abdullah Mohammed Mujahed has been in custody since last February 3rd in Mukala to force him sign a new contract or evacuate his house. -People in Aden are wondering about the increasing anticorruption campaigns in their governorate while Sanaa, which is full of such corrupt elements

sented an ambitious two billion dollars heavy industries project to be built in Aden that would provide 20,000 work opportunities.



### AL BALAGH Sanaa, weekly 9/2/99 (Independent) **Main Headlines**

-Yemen's foreign currency reserves have exceeded one billion dollars, according to the Central Bank Governor.

-Yemen and Eritrea have ended a week ago bilateral consultations on the demarcation of their sea borders.

-Yemen's oil revenues have been slashed by more than 50% from 1.1 billion dollars in 1997 to 453.8 million dollars in 1998, statistics by the Oil Ministry indicated.

-Diplomatic sources said that the British intelligence was plotting a conspiracy against Yemen in collusion with a hostile intelligentsia.



## AL HAQ Sanaa, weekly 7/2/99 (Independent) **Main Headlines**

-A released Dutch hostage has said that Yemeni tribesmen want to kidnap the American Ambassador to Sanaa or any other Embassy personnel.

-Prices of petrol will rise from 700 to 1000 rials per each 20 liters, according to unidentified sources.

-Many people have appealed to the President of the country to reverse the recent Yemenia decision raising prices of air tickets of domestic flights by 20% and foreign ones by 8% especially when it comes less than a year of another price hike of 50% in April 1998.

-Western oil companies in Yemen have adopted extreme precautionary measures and warned their foreign employees in anticipation of kidnap attempts.

-Yemen's foreign debt has been steadily increasing lately and the foreign country's currency reserves have decreased from 1.2 billion dollars by end of 1997 to around one billion dollars at present.

An Article Summary

## 195 others, from both nation- (Al Haq Party) alities along with that of Eritrea, for illegal entry and they confessed planning to infiltrate into neighboring Saudi Arabia.

Hodeida sources said that Some of the escaped prisoners were carrying serious - contagious diseases but they did not elaborate.



AL WAHDAWI Sanaa, weekly 9/2/99 (People's Nasserite Unionist **Organization**) **Main Headlines** 

-A senior level Red Cross delegation is currently on a three weeks visit to Yemen to evaluate services of blood transfusion in

the country. -The Yemeni society for the defense of human rights have called for arresting the culprits who assaulted brother of journalist Mohammed Saleh AI Hadry

-Well informed sources said that Premier Dr. Abdul Karim Al Irvani has been under treatment for the past few days from severe malaria fever. However, other sources said that the Premier was staying at home in protest against pressures exerted on him from influential parties in the state. -Two prisoners in Ibb governorate were killed when they tried to escape the central prison holding a grenade against whoever intercepts their escape. against The guards said that they had to: fire at the two prisoners, who are sentenced to death for murder of four persons of one family last year, to prevent their escape.

-The Ministry of Supplies and Commerce has said that it never sold expired wheat to the public in response to the paper's report in that regard.

-The higher coordination council of the opposition parties, Dali' branch has denounced the army brigade's 35th provocation against citizens in that governorate which the council added contradict democratic values and human rights.



AL UMMA Sanaa, weekly 11/2/99

## **A Social Educational Meeting to Discuss Social services**

for supervisors and instructors of provided for them. social studies, at Khawla school. 52 schools, and 134 specialists from Sana'a municipality and Ibb governorate participated. Ms. Wahiba Ghalib, Social Services Advisor for Curricula and Instructions, at the ministry of education, and the Supervisor of the conference, stressed the important role of such conferences in improving the efficiency of social studies supervisors and instructors. "Social services has become an important aspect of education. In spite of the slow development we are making, regarding social services. Our country too, gives a great importance to this sector," she indicated. The objective of the conference was to provide a chance, to all supervisors and instructors to meet, and discuss the problems, and difficulties social services

**Main Headlines** 

-21 UN and World Bank employees have shifted their headquarters from Asmara to Sanaa last week following the military clashes that erupted recently between Eritrea and neighboring Ethiopia.

-Hodeida fishermen have complained to the governor that foreign fishing boats, mostly Egyptian, were destroying the country's fishing wealth through improper fishing practices.

-Inhabitants of the Nuqum area in Sanaa have appealed to the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh to interfere and end seizure of their lands at the pretext of investment. -The UNHCR is organizing a workshop in Aden in the period February 13-17 to highlight rights and duties of refugees in addition to host countries.



## AL THAWRI Sanaa, weekly 11/2/99 (Yemeni Socialist Party) Main Headlines

-A dialogue is ongoing between the authorities and the Aden Abyan Islamic Army to resolve pending issues. The Army's chief Abul Hassan is currently tried in Aden for the abduction and killing of foreign tourists. -The army exchanged fire with armed citizens in Khawlan area last Wednesday, reasons of which were not known.

-Closure of a mosque and the arrest of 15 extremists in Aden. -House of former Minister of Housing and YSP central com-Mohammed mittee member Saeed Abdullah Hajeb is still occupied by an army brigadier since early last December.



### AL SAHWA Sanaa, weekly 11/2/99 (Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah) 10 ii Main Headlines

-Dhamar is to celebrate its first collective wedding, grouping 80 brides and bridegrooms. -Three students in Amran governorate attempted to commit suicide following weak mid term examination results, but only one

succeeded and the two others were saved. -Armed men from Bani Dhabyan

tribe opened intensive fire at the security department building in Rada' last week injuring two citizens.

-A parliamentary report held the Ministry of Culture and Tourism responsible for the robbery of the country's ancient antiquities and scripts.



**26 SEPTEMBER** Sanaa, weekly 11/2/99 (Yemeni Armed Forces) **Main Headlines** 

-British Prime Minister Tony Blair has affirmed to Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh during their brief meeting at the periphery of Jordanian monarch King Hussein's funeral that recent regretful incidents would not affect Yemeni-British relations. -A Yemeni peace initiative was tabled to resolve the Eritrean-Ethiopian border disputes, according to Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdul Qader Ba Gammal.

The German Foreign Minister has described his talks in Sanaa as "very successful".

-Premier Dr. Abdul Karim Al Iryani is in Germany for medical check ups after being treated from malaria.

-The Dhamar University is to host a seminar on Kidnapping and its effects on the country and citizens in the period February 20-23.

-Tourist groups from France, Italy, Germany and Britain have arrived in Yemen as of this month.

-Apparently confession is no longer a valid legal reason for imprisonment in Yemen. An employee in a Hodeida bank, who confessed to stealing more than 35 million rials from depositors' money, was set free by the police!

-The security authorities have detected 62 explosions or explosion attempts in Aden. Interior Minister Hussein Arab disclosed. He added in an interview with the weekly that the security apparatuses in various governorates were on full alert to prevent future kidnappings in the country.

During 2-11 February, 1999, the face at schools, how to overcome and they don't open up to us. ministry of education organized a them, and what students really Some of them feel that we are conference on social education need, and what should be trying to interfere in their



## Sanaa, weekly 9/2/99 (League of the Sons of Yemen) **Main Headlines**

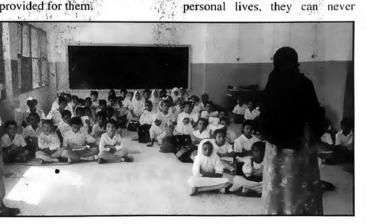
-Investigations are still underway over the huge fire that destroyed house of former President of South Yemen Ali Nasser does not witness any similar moves.

Illegal African Infiltrators on -Sources close to the presidential the Run Security authorities are still palace revealed that the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh will visit tracing the whereabouts of five Tokyo in the period March 14-17 Somalis and an Ethiopian who at the head of a senior level delegation.

-Sheikh Ben Maktoum of the

الحمد لله على السلامة أجمل التهانى وأطيب الأماني والتبريكات نزفها للأخ حسن على مرعي حسن على مرعي بماسبة ارتزاقه مولوده الثاني والذي أسماه «نــدى» الوالد مبارك أحمد بامحرز الحمد لله على سلامة وصولكم إلى الوطن ونتمنى لكم اقامة سعيدة المهنؤون: سلطان حزام العتواني المهنؤون: حاتم، Lily، مراد وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

escaped from Hodeida central prison two weeks ago. They were arrested along with تهانينا القليبة أجمل التهاني والتبركات للشاب الخلوق محمد **العربي** بمناسبة زواجه. نتمنى له حياة زوجية سعيدة وبالرفاه والبنين. المهنؤون: كافة موظفي شركة أبولو



Many issues were discussed such as, kinds of students who need help, the duties of social instructors, the importance of parentteacher relation, and many other papers and researches on different social issues theme. "People look down at our work,

understand, that we are trying to help them. Very few cooperate with us," said Miss Anisa Abdul-Karim, a social service instructor from Ibb.

> By: Ahlam Al-Mutawkil, Yemen Times, Sanaa.

# At the End of the 8th Week of the Excellent Football Tournament **Three Rivals at the Top**

The Ahli-Sanaa team continued its unbeaten streak since the start of the 1999 Excellent Football Tournament, strengthening its position as the best team in Yemen. At the end of the 8th week of the tournament Ahli-Sanaa was able to defeat Hodeidah's Al-Hilal team 0/2 on Al-Hilal's own field and sur-rounded by Hilal's fans.

February 15th .. 1999

In the first half of the match, Al-Hilal made a strong attack on Al-Ahli's goal, which almost resulted in a goal. However, Al-Ahli responded quickly with a goal by Sami Al-Heimi who surprised Al-Hilol's defenders and second the Hilal's defenders and scored the first goal of the match. The tension increased when some players from Al-Hilal said that the goal was scored from offside and argued strenuously against the goal. After the first goal, Al-Hilal players worked hard to balance the score and save themselves from a loss in front of their own spectators, but Al-Ahli was to strong. Not only was Al-Ahli able to resist the attacks, but it also made a very elegant play with the ball that made even Al-Hilal fans shout in excitement at the perfection of Al-Ahli's performance. The Al-Hilal players were confused and frustrated by Al-Ahli's performance, and were unable to make any response. The first half-hour of the match ended with another spectacular goal from Al-Ahli's Adel Al-Salimi. In total shock, Al-Hilal desperately tried to make some attacks of their own, but their unorganized attacks were no real danger to Al-

Ahli. In the second half, both teams' coaches changed their strategies and replaced some players in hopes of scoring. For the first 15 minutes of the second half, Al-Hilal controlled the match in the mid-field area. However, it was not long until Al-Ahli took over. the match again, stopping all of Al-Hilal's efforts during the first minutes of the second half. Al-Ahli then attempted to add to its Ahli then attempted to add to its lead, and had some strong attacks, but to no avail. The tough defense of Al-Hilal killed Al-Ahli's hope of scoring a third goal, and the match ended with a 0/2 win for Al-Ahli. This certified that Al-Ahli is not only strong in attack, but its defense is also powerful. For yet another week, Al-Ahli of Sanaa has maintained its number one ranking in the football tournament.

## Al-Shaab Ibb Gains a Tough Victory

The strongest contender for the first place ranking of Al-Ahli of Sanaa, Al-Shaab of Ibb had to win its match with Taliya Taiz to maintain its hopes of the lead. It was an important match for Al-Shaab, and it had its hands full with the Taliya team, which proved itself a tough opponent. As a matter of fact, Taliya of Taiz had the upper hand during the entire first half of the match. It kept pressing Al-Shaab until it managed to score its first goal in the first half. In the second half, the game was completely dif-

ferent. Al-Shaab of Ibb began to put pressure on Taliya, and after many attempts was able to was. Al-Tilal managed to many attempts was able to equalize the score at one all. Knowing that they had to have a win to maintain their hopes of improving in the standings, Al-Shaab pushed hard for the victory, and got it. It scored its second goal in the last minutes of the match matches the Third the standard the s the match, sending the Taliya players into shock at the complete turnaround of their fortunes. Because of this win, the point dif-ference between the top two is still only 2 points. Al-Shaab of Ibb continues its climb to the top, and nove can only hope that Aland now can only hope that Al-Ahli will lose one of its upcoming matches and the lead. Al-Shaab keeps its hope of becoming the tournament leader alive with this victory over Taliya.

## Al-Wahda of Sanaa Still Vying for the Top Spot

In order to advance its position in the tournament rankings, Al-Wahda of Sanaa had to win the match with Al-Tilal. The first half of the match ended with no score. Feeling the danger of a possible draw, Al-Wahda started the second half with some strong attacks on Al-Tilal's goal. However, Al-Tilal wasn't looking for anything less than a victory. Al-Tilal pressured Al-Wahda's defense intensively, and almost scored. However, Al-Wahda succeeded in scoring in the 11th minute of the second half with a surprise attack Zakariya Al-Qasoos. But everyone who knew equalize the score on a goal by Shula (2/1)

Fathi Jaber. In the 78th minute however, Al Wahda's Nassir Ghazy scored, and Ankad of Al-Wahda scored in the 87th minute. Even though Al-Tilal managed to a second score goal, it was too little too late and Al-Wahda continued its race to the top by winning the match 2/3. All this has further intensified the fight for the top between the three

teams Al-Ahli of Sanaa, Al-Shaab of Ibb, and Al-Wahda of Sanaa. No one knows who will be the leader at the end of next week's matches. All we can do is wait and see.

The match results for the 8th week of the Excellent Footbal Tournament were as follows: Al-Ittihad dominated

Shaab Hadhramaut (4/0) Al-Wahda of Sanaa beat Al-Tilal (2/3) Al-Shaab of Ibb wins against Taliya of Taiz (2/1) Al-Saqr defeated Al-Majd (2/1) Wahda of Aden wins against Al-

By: Jamal Al-Awadi

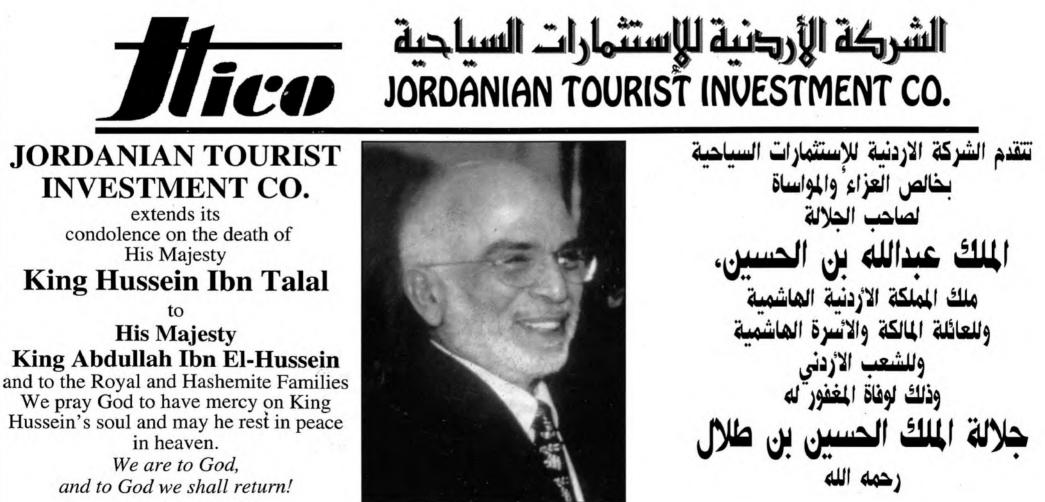
Al-Ahli of Sanaa defeats Al-Hilal (2/0)A draw between Hassan and Al-Zuhra (0/0)

Page

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Team	G	oals	Results			Points
1.5.5.5. S. 6. 11	For	Against	Won	Tie	Lost	
Al-Ahli of Sanaa	17	4	7	-	1	21
Al-Shaab of Ibb	17	8	6	1	1	19
Al-Wahda of Sanaa	17	9	6	1	1	19
Hassan	8	5	4	2	2	14
Al-Ittihad	11	11	4	2	2	14
Al-Shaab of Mukalla	6	7	4	2	2	14
Al-Shullah	. 13	7	4	1	23	13
Al-Wahda of Aden	8	9	3	2	3	11
Al-Tilal ·	18	15	3	1	4	10
Al-Sagr	10	12	2	1	5	7
Al-Hilal	8	14	2	1	5	7
Al-Zohra	5	13	1	3	4	6
Taliya Taiz	5	16	1		7	3
Al-Majd	1	20	-	1	7	1



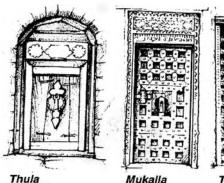
P. O. Box: 18082, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Tel.: 218795 / 207343 Fax: 207870

ص. ب. ١٨٠٨٢ صنعاء، اليمن تلفون: ۲۱۸۷۹۰ / ۲۱۸۷۹۰ فاکس: ۲۰۷۸۷۰

## The old Yemeni Wooden front-doors

My interest in the particular types of frontdoors in your country arose during my first visit to Yemen in 1989. Perhaps I should say that before that time for almost two decades I had been dealing with the old woodworking crafts of Islamic countries and that it was possibly my profession as architect and former teacher of master cabinet-makers that made me especially aware of these evidences of design in woodworking crafts.

However I did not expect to find in the Yemen such an outstanding and old tradi-



tion of craftsmanship, which can be found here in a large number of most impressively designed old wooden doors. The exciting aspect herein is the fact that in the course of history each region and even each town has developed its own kind of doors which can be found there alone. Probably this local aspect in the design of wooden front-doors has formerly also existed in other countries and cultures. Yet during my extensive travels through Islamic countries it was only in the Yemen that I came across this expressive form and state of conservation. But this is exactly where the problem comes in which became

Hodeidah

Jiblah

Bait Al-Faqeeh

the reason for my work about Yemeni front-doors: Their decay proceeds at a worrying speed.

Mainly in the region of the former North Yemen the number of old wooden frontdoors has dramatically decreased and the doors that remain are in a deplorable state. Almost everywhere these doors are treated most carelessly. Almost nowhere are they repaired skillfully and when they fall apart they are normally replaced by metal doors. The observer gets the impression that the cultural value of the more or less skillfully

carved pieces is little known and not highly estimated. Presumably there is also a lack of experts for this kind of woodwork, proper owners.

though it is not yet as clearly observable as in the North because of the much higher number of existing carved wooden doors in the former South-Yemen in the Wadi Hadhramaut and its side-valleys or in towns like Mukalla or Asch-Schechr. However you will see in towns like Shibam or Sayun that old wooden doors waiting to be overhauled are no longer repaired. Instead their parts are sold to tourists by dealers in order to give the former owner at least a small profit. For the Yemen these doors are then lost forever. At least one can only hope that

their property. Yet I am afraid that a change of mind takes too long and that within a few years there will only be fragments of this highly fascinating culture of wooden doors. This development is the main reason why I started a couple of years ago to document

through photos and drawings at least some of the different types of front-doors I came across. I am sure that I have not documented all of them but at least the largest part of traditional types of Yemenite frontdoors

through the interest of the tourists the local

people become aware not only of the

The visit of H.E. the President of State Ali Abdullah Saleh at Bonn in September 1997 gave me opportunity to hand over a small folder containing 25 drawings out of my documentation together with the request for appropriate measures to prevent further damage and decay. I realize of course how difficult it will be to stop the process of advancing decline and I am aware of the fact that the President of the State is at the moment confronted with a lot of more important and urgent problems than the conservation of the old Yemeni wooden front-doors.

Nevertheless I think that it should be possible to make the people in the country aware of the cultural value of their wooden doors. After all, these objects have something to do with their identity as Yemenis. I can well imagine that an exhibition of my drawings might help to change their attitude.

I also think that it is necessary to have a written description of the different types of Yemenite front-doors in a little booklet or in a kind of catalogue to better understand and appreciate the value of these cultural treasures.

Dipl. Gwl. Traugott Wöhrlin, born in 1931, studied architectural engineering and worked as teacher in several vocational trainingcenters of Baden-Württemberg. Since 1964 he

lives and works in Freiburg where he was training young master-cabinet-makers for about 25 years. From 1979 until 1993 he was the headmaster of the "Friedrich-Weinbrenner-Gewerbeschule" in Freiburg, one of the most important training-units for building-professions of all kinds in Baden-Württemberg.

Since 1980 he has made many journeys into several Islamic countries where he began to study all kinds of Islamic woodworking crafts. In 1989 he came the first time to Yemen and after his retirement in 1993 he was for two months student of the Yemen Language Center in Sana'a.



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and where they exist the costs for maintenance or even new doors in the old tradition are far too high for the

Sana'a

Tarim nd The same development has already started,

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