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Syndicate Convention Postponed, Again: Journalists Try to Find a Way Out!

The general convention of the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate was supposed to have been held yesterday, Sunday February 21st, 1999. It was postponed, for the third time. The agenda of the convention calls for electing a new board, as well as restructuring of the by-laws and charter of the YJS. It didn't happen. A major reason for the difficulty is that there is a power struggle over who will control the YJS. The syndicate is, of course, a major power base.

The YJS used to be controlled by the Yemen Socialist Party, which had an advanced propaganda machine and understood the importance of the media in politics. But, with the relative decline of the YSP, the People's General Congress (PGC) is trying to fill its shoes. Today however, there is a new political environment. Independent and opposition party journalists are not willing to let any party take over their syndicate. That is why they are not willing to be party to the on-going joke.

A leading journalist dismayed at the PGC efforts to control the YJS said, "This is a professional not a political organization." Editors of 17 newspapers and as many as 425 columnists will stay away from the pre-determined elections. "The job of the syndicate is to help develop norms and standards for the profession, protect press freedom, and help train professional journalists," said Ali Al-Saqqaf, Managing Editor of Al-Wahdawi newspaper.

Prime Minister Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, also the Secretary-General of the PGC, has ordered payment of YR 5 million from government funds to finance the cost of holding the convention. The PGC has its eyes set on the top post of the YJS. "Unless the PGC sees the light and stay away from the YJS, we will be forced to create another syndicate which will reflect the interests of the profession and its members," threatened Saqqaf.

170 Experts Address Workforce Upgrading:

NCTEVT Starts Tomorrow

The National Conference on Technical Education and Vocational Training (NCTEVT) will be launched tomorrow by President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Nearly 170 local and international experts will discuss 55 papers on various aspects of manpower development and population growth. "The huge developments and changes in science and technology make technical education and training a priority as it is the major tool for preparing and upgrading the work force in order to deal with current and future needs" reads the prologue to the conference. Indeed, the government, business, academia, NGOs, as well as bilateral and multi-lateral donors have come together in formulating and shaping the future strategy for manpower development and upgrading in Yemen. This will all come to a climax during 23-27 February, 1999, in Sanaa.



"We have been preparing for this major event for almost a year," explains Engineer Mohammed Al-Tayeb, Minister of Labor and Vocational Training, and Chairman of Preparation for the conference. The ultimate goal of the gathering is to draft a plan for developing vocational and technical education and training for Yemen for the coming decade.

Several regional and international experiences will also be studied. "We don't want to reinvent the wheel. We are looking at what others have done in order to learn from them," Minister Al-Tayeb added. A leading figure in the Preparatory Committee is Mohammed Abdo Saeed, a prominent businessman and Chairman of the Social Development Fund. "The conference will go a long way to define and specify the roles of government and the private sector in vocational and technical training," he said.

President's Japan Trip Plan Finalized



A Japanese official from Tokyo arrives in Sanaa tomorrow, Tuesday, February 23rd, to discuss the final program of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's March 14-17 state visit to Japan. This is the first trip by a Yemeni head of state to Japan. President Saleh will meet with HM Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Kaizo Obuchi, and other senior officials. On his way to Tokyo, the President and the accompanying delegation will stop over for re-fuelling in Bangkok. They will return to Sanaa, via Mukalla, after re-fuelling in Singapore. "The purpose of the visit is to express gratitude for Japan's contribution to Yemen's development, and to work for continued cooperation," the president said.

Yemen & Saudi Arabia:

END OF THE RAINBOW?

End-game is fast approaching for Yemen and Saudi Arabia. At least that is what Mr. Abdul-Qader Ba-Jammal, Acting Prime Minister, said last week. In spite of 6 years of intensive bargaining and negotiation, the 2 countries have failed to conclude a border agreement. Yemeni politicians constantly say that they have conceded on one issue after another. They accuse Saudi Arabia of attempting to undermine the Sanaa regime and of not really being interested in a border agreement. Saudi officials respond by saying that the Sanaa regime is using

Saudi Arabia as a convenient excuse for its internal difficulties. They also add that Yemenis mix too many issues with the border problem, further complicating the talks. Three weeks ago, a joint delegation visited the Jabal Thar and Ras Al-Mu'waj sites. "There is a small strip of land - some four to five kilometers long, separating the two sides," explained Sheikh Selah Al-A'ajam, who is part of the group that visited the two sites. However, it is not just the difference over the land that separates Yemen and Saudi. Mr. Ba-Jammal carried on

February 16th, a letter from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to HH Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz. "We feel we have bridged the gap. There is a strong feeling in both sides that we really need to finalize this matter quite soon and move on to a more meaningful bilateral cooperation and understanding," Ba-Jammal said. However, the two sides have been close to a final agreement many times before, but failed to take the last few steps. It looks like a change in the leaderships in either country has to happen in order to conclude an agreement.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Official Media: Need for New Role, New Vision

There is no doubt that the media plays an important role in our lives. The influence of the media is greater among societies that are less advanced culturally and educationally because they are not equipped to assess the information passed on to them. In this sense, the Yemeni media has a much larger influence on the public than media in advanced countries where the public is more knowledgeable. This fact adds to the responsibility of the media in Yemen.

There are newspapers that are owned and operated by the army, government, independent companies, political parties, special interest groups, etc. In other words, the written media offers a variety of views and positions. But the state enjoys full monopoly over radio and television stations.

In a society that suffers from more than 50% illiteracy, and in a culture where reading is not a powerful habit, radio and television almost totally dominates the media's influence over the public. That in turn means that the state really has its say with the public, no matter what the independent or opposition newspapers write.

In general, the official media has two over-riding objectives.

1. It has the job of informing and educating the public.
2. It has the job of legitimizing the regime in the eyes of the public and of building support for the regime.

The Yemeni media does more of the second objective. Being too beholden to the politicians in power, the official media has failed to really focus on informing and educating the public. Most of the programs on television and the radio glorify the rulers and constantly remind the public of them and of their efforts on behalf of the nation.

That is all well and good. But a little bit more air time needs to be devoted to educating and informing the public. The country badly needs more public awareness on such issues as population growth and family planning; environmental protection; use of natural resources, especially water; civic education and concepts of human rights and political participation; respect for the constitution and law and order; etc. Those are the broad and general issues. But there are also small things that need to be passed on to the public. Even simple matters like who has the right of way in traffic flow, where and how to dispose of garbage, how to keep records of the family's immunization efforts, the need to interact in the children's education, etc.

It is high time that the official media developed a vision for its objectives. It is also important to develop new ways to achieve its goals, including a changing role in society.

One of the key differences between a dictatorship and a democratic system is the role of the media in general, and that of the official media, in particular. If those individuals in charge of the media feel they are more responsible towards the public than towards the politicians, and perform their job on that basis, then that is a sign of a democratic structure.

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

The public is waiting for a new role and a new vision for the official media.

NOSHATA'A Launched

A group of young men and women earlier this month launched a new NGO called Noshata'a. The word in Arabic means activists, and these men and women are active in promoting human rights and democratic transformation.

More Human Rights Violations

Mr. Showqi Abdul-Raqeeb Al-Qadhi, a teacher, is still in the prison cells of the Political Security Office in Taiz. The man was invited to a friendly discussion on a few points with the PSO in Taiz, Colonel Faisal Al-Bahr in the morning of Thursday, February 18th. When he arrived, he was taken in and put in one of their underground cells for three days.

Friends say that Showqi, who is a preacher in one of the mosques in Taiz, is accused of strongly criticizing the authorities in one of his recent sermons.

USIA Official Visits Sanaa

Mr. Dan Sreebny, Deputy Director of the US Information Agency's Middle East Area Office, left Sanaa yesterday, February 21st. During his visit, Mr. Sreebny met with a number of Yemeni officials, intellectuals and NGO leaders.

"The purpose of my visit is to better orient myself to the needs of the Yemen USIS office, and to understand its needs," he told the Yemen Times.

The Arrival of Aden Free Zone's Bricks

On Saturday 20 February, the last batch of 5700 tons of the five million bricks to cover the Free Zone deck at Aden Port has arrived from Dubai aboard the Dubai Orient. The work is still going on at the port. As soon as the free zone functions, it is estimated to create thousands of job opportunities. According to our sources the Free Zone is to open on the 28th March 1999.

German Government's Gift of Drugs & Equipment to Socotra

On Friday the 19th, the German Charge D'Affaires, Mr. Mathias Kiesler, together with Military Medical Services expert, Mr. K. Strauss, presented medical and special equipment to Socotra Island. "This gift comes in the framework of mutual cooperation between Yemen and Germany," Mathias said.

Aden Free Zone First Phase Inauguration on March 28th

The Yemen Times learned that the first phase of the Aden Free Zone project will be inaugurated on March 28th. Several senior officials are expected to attend. The Yemen Times will issue a special supplement on the Aden Free Zone on the occasion.

Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Last Week's Question
If you were the president of Yemen, what would you start with in healing the country?

- Result**
- Getting rid of most of the army forces which are consuming most of the country's financial resources with no use. (%9)
 - Replacing all of the previous president's loyal men surrounding him with educated, well-trusted and qualified people. (%35)
 - Demolishing any state loyalty to a certain tribe and minimizing pressure of tribes on the state by disarmament. (%8)
 - Implementing the "Law is above all" rule, and fulfilling strict rules on all. (%26)
 - Carrying out true Democracy with Human Rights and Freedom. (%21)

Swiss Red Cross Delegation Visits Taiz

The Swiss Red Cross delegation is visiting Taiz Province to oversee the activities of Blood Banks in the province's hospitals and laboratories. This action was assigned by World Bank to prepare a study that aims to found a blood bank center in the capital and other main cities as a WB funded project. The delegation visited blood banks in Al Thawra, Al Saeed and the Yemeni Red Crescent Hospitals. Deputy Governor of Taiz, Mr. Ali Al Maqdish, welcomed the delegation and expressed the Province's willingness to present all facilities to assist the delegation in carrying out their task.

Tourist-Cultural Movie about the Old Sana'a City

The American Director, Don North, from Northstar Production Enterprise, is on a visit to Sanaa to prepare a documentary movie on Old Sanaa City. Don intends to make a touristic cultural movie to be broadcast on American and Canadian channels aiming to provide information on the old city of Sanaa, its distinguished history, and one of UNESCO's world heritage cities. Such international movies about Sana'a acknowledges the unique architecture of the city in the Arabian Peninsula. The Old City of Sana'a is not just a museum. It is thriving with life for its 30,000 residents.

Arab Guest Workers Harassed

Some 800 Arab guest workers still languish in various prisons in Sanaa. These are mostly Iraqis, Egyptians, Sudanese, Algerians, Palestinians, etc. The interior ministry has been arresting Arabs who live in Yemen because their residence documents and work permits are not up to date. Once in jail, these individuals are then screened for extremist Islamic tendencies and sympathies. These measures are being taken by the government following some threats received by the international community in Yemen.

With the Inauguration of the Minister of Supplies and Commerce Mareb Insurance Company Organizes a Special Training Course on Marine and Engineering Insurance



Minister of Supplies and commerce Abdul Aziz Nasser Al Kumaim Sunday inaugurated the special training course on marine and engineering insurance organized by the

Mareb Insurance Company at the Sanaa Sheraton.

The inaugural ceremony, also attended by Qassem Ahmad Al Sabry the secretary general of the Yemeni Insurance Union, was addressed by Ali Mohammed Hashem, the Mareb Company board chairman, who thanked the Minister for patronizing the event.

He added that the three-day course reflected the growing importance of insurance in our country's economic development. Hashem said that believing in the necessity of benefiting from expertise of other advanced companies, Mareb decided to organize that course with Munich company for insurance and reinsurance which sent some of its experts to lecture in that course.

The Minister, for his part, thanked the Mareb company for its efforts in organizing that course which, he noted, will have positive effects on insurance companies in the country along with navigation firms, banks and commercial institutions. Kumaim also appreciated the German company's step in enriching that course with its expertise and affirmed that the insurance sector in Yemen must cope with international modern developments in this regard.

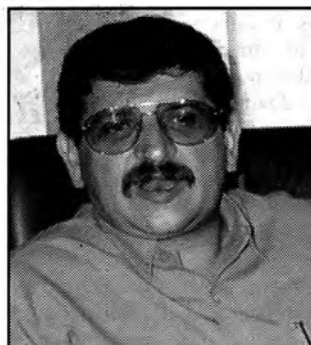
Concluding his speech to the attendees, also grouping representatives of insurance companies and businessmen, the Minister hoped those attending all the best. One of the German experts lecturing in the

course delivered a statement on behalf of his colleagues thanking the Minister for attending the opening ceremony. He expressed pleasure for being in beautiful Yemen and appreciated the Yemeni insurance companies' keenness on elevating performance of their personnel, affirming that he, along with his colleagues, will do their best to make that course a success.

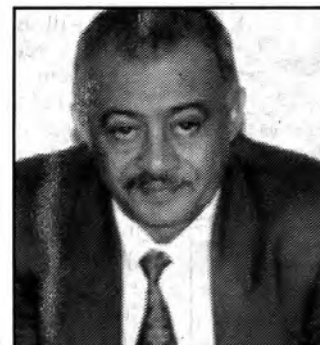
The course will tackle a number of important topics such as dangers of marine insurance, compensation in marine insurance and how to deal with it, importance of engineering insurance and the computer problem for the year 2000.

The course is attended by the most efficient cadres of the following companies: Yemeni insurance companies, Aden refinery, commercial banks,

national cigarettes company, Hodeida port authority, Umery and Baraka company, Aden's free zone, Hashdy contracting company and the international hawk company. The course will include morning and evening sessions benefiting from audio-visual means. Numerous research papers and studies in fields of insurance and reinsurance will be tabled in addition to agenda items. The Mareb Insurance Company was established in 1974 by the Yemeni Company for Investment and Finance along with a number of Yemeni merchants. The Company, with a 100 million rial paid capital, maintains insurance relations with German, Italian, French and Arab companies.



Minister of Supplies and Commerce Abdul Aziz Nasser Al Kumaim



Mareb Company Board Chairman Ali Mohammed Hashem



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Abdul Latif Abu Ghanem:

“Yemen’s postal service has come a long way in meeting public needs.”

The postal service plays a key role in any society. A certain degree of reliability and integrity is required for the proper functioning and growth of society. Though Yemenis have long been a nation of immigrants and travellers, modern postal services in Yemen are a rather recent development.

The first attempts at modern postal services came to Yemen several decades ago through Aden, which at the time was under British colonial rule. Unfortunately, however, the service was limited to the Crown Colony of Aden. Most of the country remained out of reach.

The first signs of widespread postal service came in the 1970s - after the September Revolution finally commanded control over all of the former Yemen Arab Republic, and the former People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen gained its independence. Since then, growth has been rapid.

Today, postal services cover all large and secondary cities. But, it is in the capital city that this sector witnessed enormous growth.

Mr. Abdul Latif Abu Ghanem is the director-general of the Sanaa Postal Region, which is in charge of 14 post offices in the capital city, and about 40 more in the adjacent governorates - Sanaa, Hajjah, Al-Jawf, Sa’adah, Marib, and Dhamar. This makes it the largest administrative postal unit in the country.

Mr. Abu Ghanem has been an employee of the General Postal Authority since 1976. He received his university degree in 1984. He had served in various capacities until 1995, when he was appointed to his present job.

Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times talked to Mr. Abu Ghanem and filed the following excerpts.

Q: What are the most prominent activities in your postal region?

A: Ours is one of the five regions according to which the Postal Authority regulates its work. All five regions offer the ordinary and express postal services along with financial transfers, savings and cashing pensions. Our region’s activities have been enormously successful as reflected in the rising volume of business, level of performance and great confidence on the part of the public.

Q: Let us start with the pension services. How many people use it, and what amount of money are we talking about?

A: We offer pension payment services to around 26,000 persons monthly. The Sanaa Postal Region paid in 1998 about 1.8 billion Yemeni rials to pensioners.

In addition, some YR 600 million rials were transferred between Sanaa and other governorates in the republic in 1998.

Q: What about postal savings?

A: Let me start by saying that the general poverty of the country as reflected in a low per capita GDP

does not permit much savings. Besides, those who save do so in traditional ways - not through banks or postal savings schemes.

Having said that, let me indicate that total deposits and withdrawals from postal savings plans has hovered round 400 million rials including deposit and withdrawal transactions. However, the deposits were more than the withdrawals by about 40 million rials. The Postal Authority introduced new services such as advertisements which distribute and publicize services of various companies via brochures and others. It also introduced the service of carrying goods from one governorate to the other in accordance with special contracts. The Authority further extends an express mail service (EMS) which is witnessing speedy growth that reached 100% last year.

Q: Could you brief us on the postal services in the past. How was the postal message sent?

A: There is a Hadith (saying) of Prophet Mohammed on postal services which ordered anyone wishing to send mail to make it clean and clearly addressed. The word "barid" (post) is an



Arabic word which is derived from "burda" or cloak. Messengers carrying the post in the old times used to wear red cloaks to be distinguished from other travelers. Messages to be communicated among people are a very important necessity. Those messengers were usually carefully selected from among those persons known for their honesty and wisdom.

The postman’s mission is to carry people’s letters to various destinations. This should be done with honesty, accuracy and speed. It should be noted that the fees paid in return for those services do not even cover the actual cost. That is why postal services are a government business. There are areas to which delivering a message costs up to 10 times the amount actually paid for the postage stamps.

Q: Countries issue stamps on international occasions and events or special anniversaries. What has the Authority issued in the past year?

A: The Authority issues stamps on national or international events

such as human rights, Olympic games, the Yemeni revolution and the World Cup. The Authority has a plan according to which it issues stamps.

Q: Is there a special administration for stamp collectors?

A: There is no such administration yet; but the marketing department is responsible for this matter as it circulates old and new stamps in and out of the country.

Q: Does the Authority have a special museum that depicts

development stages of the postal services in Yemen?

A: There is an idea currently being discussed for the establishment of such a museum in future.

Q: How many private post box offices are there in Sanaa and do you plan to expand post box buildings?

A: There are about 18,500 boxes in Sanaa distributed through a number of offices and plans are currently under way to establish a new postal office in Tahreer that would add 800 boxes.

Q: Does the International Postal Union (IPU) present any support in postal fields such as training, rehabilitating, consultations?

A: The IPU is one of the oldest unions in the world and it is the only party that runs postal activities worldwide for its 189 member postal authorities where 6.2 million employees work in 700,000 postal offices. The IPU has supplied Yemen’s postal Authority with a complete computer network. Yemen has enjoyed a good reputation following its reunification in 1990 particularly after introduction of the computer network which enabled subscribers to deposit/withdraw from any office in the country. Pensioners also can cash their money at any postal office in the republic.

Q: How many offices are there in Sanaa?

A: There are 14 postal offices in Sanaa that perform their duty without any complaint and there are a number of postal agencies which extend basic postal services.

Q: There are some complaints that some of the employees are not qualified language-wise and that some messages are opened in the post offices. What is your response to those queries?

A: Dear brother, there are positive and negative aspects to each government institution and our administration does its best to elevate performance of its cadres and eliminate any negative phenomena. We have a special department that follows up on the duties of each employee and there are penalties for any mistakes. We are keen on carrying messages and packages to the given address with all due honesty. However, some addresses are not clearly written and certain letters are sent with only Yemen on it with no mention of any governorate which create great difficulties for us. Yet we do our best in solving that problem.

As far as opening letters and packages are concerned, some are opened due to security reasons as common in any other country and the operation is done in the presence of the custom official and the package recipient. There is a remark that I would like to mention, namely that many express mail letters coming through Frankfurt, Germany arrive torn. We monitored the case and we took one of the shipments from aboard a Lufthansa airplane immediately upon its arrival. There were 16 express mail packages torn, after which we asked the U.S. to send those packages via another route.

Q: Could you tell us about training courses in the Authority?

A: We have two kinds of training, internal and external. Many of the current employees received training outside the country. There is also an internal training center in the Authority.

Q: Is there anything you would like to end the interview with?

A: I would like to thank the Yemen Times for allowing us the opportunity to speak of our work to the Arab and foreign readers.

For the First Time...

Yemen Times Makes Money Through the Internet

Due to rising customer demand on Yemen Times Online, the newspaper has started accepting advertisements on its website <http://www.yementimes.com/>

The Yemen Times received its first income from the electronic service this week. The amount was humble, but it is a major landmark in the paper’s development.

We speak about rising demand for Yemen Times Online.

Our log statistic analyzer shows that for the period from October 25th, 1998 until February 21st, 1999,

the average number of accesses on the Yemen Times website is 13,477 a day and there were more than 1,350,000 accesses for the whole period of almost 3 months.

The highest number of hits was recorded on the 29th of December, when there were 47,927 accesses, and the lowest was on 8th January, 1999, when there were only 1,356 accesses.

Most of the visitors were from the following countries, by order of number of hits: USA, Germany, UK, Canada, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Netherlands, Australia, Sweden, Poland, India, Slovak Republic, Bahrain, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, Slovenia, Italy, Estonia, Austria, Spain, Greece, Malaysia, Bulgaria, Hong Kong, Peru, France, Jordan, South Africa, Hungary, Turkey, Egypt, Ireland, Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Iceland, and the Czech Republic.

The peak hour of access is 1:00 pm, and the lowest access hour is 5:00 am both US Central time - Actually Texas time where the Yemen Times server is located.

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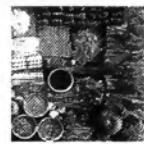
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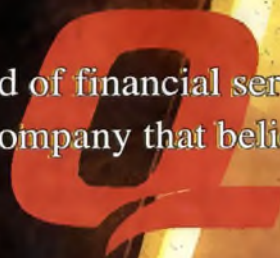
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Political Parties Series # 5

Yemeni Congregation for Reform: ISLAH

Starting with issue number 4 of January 25th, 1999, Yemen Times is running weekly 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 Congregation for Reform (Islah) was declared on September 13, 1990 almost four months after the renunciation of Yemen on May 22 grouping all layers of the society from religious scholars to tribal Sheikhs, students, workers and others from both sexes.

The founders of the party were 18 persons who later more than double to 40 and finally reached 1200 from all Yemeni governorates.

Islah leadership was firstly composed of more than 60 personalities who were elected from various governorates and in turn they chose a political bureau to run the new party.

The party's higher leadership grouped Sheikh Abdullah bin Hussein Al Ahmar as chairman, Abdul Wahab Al Anesi as secretary general and Mohammed Abdullah Al Yadoumi as assistant secretary general.

Five other specialized committees were elected to serve as the general secretariat namely the political and foreign relations, organizational, informational and guidance, secretariat and follow up and finally the economic and financial ones.

Similar committees were formed in various governorates opening membership for wishers.

The Congregation opened its headquarters in Sanaa on January 3, 1991 in a big festival in the revolution sports stadium attended by grand masses from

various governorates. Islah is currently one of the few effective Yemeni organizations in the country that achieved large scale popularity.

The Party's Bylaws
The Party's basic regulations are considered the most important doctrine that serve as its constitution organizing its affairs. The system-groups five chapters along with an introduction. It describes the party as based on Islamic principles in all forms of life leading to a comprehensive reform movement, ideological revival and renewal and is open to all who believe in its goals and committed to its regulations. The system underscores that Islah was not formed on tribal basis or representing a certain faction but rather cooperates for the prevalence of right. It is also committed to the doctrine of shoura (Islamic democracy) which is binding in the passing of decisions. It calls for tolerance away from differences, groups both originality and modernity and believes in serious, constructive dialogue. Islah calls for benevolence and shuns evil and aspires to change the current de facto situation of the society guided by Islamic doctrines.

Basic System
The Party's principles are the ones which the party springs from

to implement its mission and all social, cultural, educational, economical and political activities. Such doctrines are represented in the following:
+ Islam as a creed and sharia that organizes all forms of life.
+ The holy Quran and Sunna of Prophet Mohammed are the origin of all legal rulings.
+ Democracy, bound by Islamic teachings, is a method of rule and all other forms of tyranny or dictatorship are rejected. Shoura should be deepened in the nation.
+ Freedom, in its Islamic concept, is an unwavering right to all humans as granted by Allah.
+ Justice is a must that Allah has committed Moslems to live under its banner in their private and public lives.
+ Yemen, land and people, is a united Arab Islamic country.
+ The Arab and Islamic countries are but one nation, unification of which is an Islamic legislative duty.
+ Benefit should be made out of previous Islamic reforms throughout ancient and modern history.

Targets and Goals
Goals of various parties and organizations differ in accordance with each one's speculations,

beliefs, etc. and strenuously work for their implementation. Islah's general goal is clearly manifested in its own definition namely that it works for reform in all forms of life in the society on the basis of Islam and resorts to all legitimate means to attain its goals.

In the Social Fields
- Reforming the society and maintaining its values and Islamic ethics and traditions in addition to protecting it from corruption.
- Deepening understanding of sharia, protecting religion, life, money and honor and realizing duty of brotherhood among the people.
- Paying attention to the family in its capacity as the main bloc in building the society.
- Giving more concern to the Yemeni woman and highlighting her positive role in all spheres as embodied in the Islamic sharia.
- Other goals include youth and expatriate welfare, respect of work, spread of spirit of cooperation and social cohesion, development of health care and basic services and encouragement of syndicates and unions and respecting their independence.

In the Political & Constitutional Fields
- Endeavoring to attain an Islamic regime based on Islamic sharia and realizes interests of people.
- Actualizing goals of the Yemeni revolution and preserving the republican regime.
- Deepening Yemeni unity and guaranteeing its continuation and seeking Arab and Islamic unity.
- Affirming the principle of shoura and democratic practice, enabling the people to exercise its right in running its own affairs and choosing its representatives.
- Differentiating clearly between the state's authorities, achieving justice and reforming the judiciary.
- Launching comprehensive

administrative reform and finding a modern and effective administration.
- Pursuing an independent and balanced foreign policy.

In the Economic Field
- Building a strong national economy based on Islamic economic doctrines.
- Ascertaining the role of the private sector in the national economy and supporting the public sector's projects in the fields of general services.
- Paying more attention to the country's fisheries and animal wealth and distributing investments in various areas.
- Backing and developing agriculture and making the best use of human resources.

In the Educational and Cultural Fields
- Maintaining the nation's Islamic identity.
- Generalizing basic primary education, intensifying efforts to eradicate illiteracy, improving level of training and linking education to sharia.
- Publicizing knowledge and expanding higher education, scientific research and paying more attention to schools.
- Outlining an appropriate informational policy and upgrading culture and publications.

The Political Program
It contains a prolonged introduction reviewing the general Yemeni situation in the most important historic eras in addition to its origins until the birth of the Congregation. The program is then divided into chapters tackling first the human being, second the state, third the economy, fourth defense and security and fifth foreign policies.

The Organizational Structure:
Islah's organizational bodies are divided into:

-The general conference.
-The shoura council.
-The higher authority.
-The organizational judiciary.
-Local organizational units.

The general conference is the highest authority in the party and currently groups 3000 members representing various administrative units. The Shoura Council was formed in September 1994 and has 117 members, with Sheikh Abdul Majid Al Zindany as speaker, Mohammed Ali Ajlan as deputy speaker, Abdul Rahman Ba Fadl as second deputy speaker and Shaykhan Al Duba'i as secretary. The supreme council is the party's political leadership. It is chaired by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, and includes in its membership a deputy chairman, the shoura speaker, the secretary general, the assistant secretary general, the head of the Islah parliamentary bloc and ten members elected by the shoura council. The general secretariat is the party's executive body. It is headed by the secretary general and an assistant secretary general in addition to nine specialized committees with the task of implementing the party's general policies and other responsibilities as defined by the basic system. The judicial departmenty is concerned with following up judicial and legal issues and adjudicates internal organizational differences in accordance with the party's bylaws. The branch administration units spring from Islah's belief in decentralization to allow more creativity and different opinions.

Islah got 66 seats in the 301-member parliament in the 1993 general elections. Thus it shared in a coalition government since no single party gained absolute majority. In the 1997 elections, Islah won 64 seats.

Iraq's Foreign Minister, Sahaf's Visit to Yemen

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, 1999 the Iraqi delegation headed by Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr. Mohammed Saeed Al Sahaf arrived in Sanaa on a short visit to Yemen. Mr. Sahaf delivered a message to the Yemeni President and stated to the media that he discussed with President Ali Abdulla Saleh and other Yemeni officials a number of issues and exchanged point of views regarding Arab and International matters.

In his second day of the visit, Mr. Al Sahaf met a group of Yemeni political party leaders at the residence of the Arab Baath Socialist Party Leader, Dr. Qasim Salam. There they discussed the latest development in the Arab Arena and Iraq's conditions. They reviewed the Iraqi peoples stand against the continuous violations of the American and the British against their country and the negative stand

of the Arabs towards their legitimate case. During the meeting, Mr. Sahaf demanded Arab nations' support for an issue that represents the Arab and Moslems of Iraq, and he called for a mutual action to lift the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq. Mr. Sahaf left Sana'a on Friday the 19th heading to Syria.



and German doctors together. Many doctors here in Sana'a and also in Germany have very close connections, and they visit each other and exchange their knowledge and experiences.

" At the present we have a very interesting program to support Soccatra Island. We have financially supported Dr. Qadoomi the only doctor in the Island, to come to Sana'a and do some training by working in different hospitals in order to help him gain experience." Mr. Hellmuth added. The GYS is planing two projects here in Yemen. The first one is to celebrate

German-Yemen Friendship Society "Looking for ways to help Yemen overcome the present negative image."

German - Yemeni Society (GYS) was founded in 1970, and there are about 900 members in Germany and all over the world. Mr. Peter H. Hellmuth, the President of the society, along with Mr. Peter Wald, a Journalist and a member of the society are here in Sana'a. The purpose of their visit is to have talks with various people concerned with the society, and to enhance the relation between the two friendly nations.

" We do undertake many activities. One of our main activities is our sincere efforts to promote tourism to Yemen. We provide German speaking tourists with information about Yemen, since there is no other place to provide them information. We also publish a magazine twice a year about Yemen, and we also have published tourist maps of Yemen in four languages Arabic, German, English and French" said Mr. Hellmuth

The GYS have a special program to bring Yemeni



30 years of Yemen- German economical development, in Autumn this year. They also hope to have a chance to participate with some of their activities in the national celebrations of the country. The second project is to educate the people of Soccatra about their Island, since they no nothing about there Island, we hope to present them with a small booklet with fundamental information about their Island.

" I have visited Yemen several times, and I am here after 3 years break. I see that Sana'a is growing very much. On the other side I see that people are becoming poorer, the number of beggars at traffic lights is alarming," said Mr. Peter

برعاية وزارة المواصلات
بمشاركة كبرى الشركات العالمية
في مجال الكمبيوتر والاتصالات
٢٨ فبراير - ٤ مارس ٩٩

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

Yemen & Human Rights: The Gap between the Word & the Practice



Hatem Bamehriz,
Yemen Times Senior Editor

a number of international agreements and conventions. They cover various specific aspects of human rights like the rights of refugees, children, handicapped, prisoners of war, etc.

Human Rights issues in recent years have become part of the political culture of nations, and an important concern and factor in international relations. Countries have been punished with trade embargoes, and other means for not respecting basic human rights, where others were rewarded with soft loans, and economic aid, for signing different international human rights covenants.

Yemen is one of the countries, which has signed almost all human rights covenants. However, it is not enough that we have signed and ratified. What's important is that we are serious about implementing them!

Well, the adherence record of Yemen is not a good one. It is clear that we do not adhere to many aspects of the covenants and agreements.

Violations abound and can be easily seen and documented. It is true our constitution demands the respect of individual's rights, and emphasis on the protection of these rights. It is true that our government says it wants to respect human rights. It is true that our politicians speak nicely about the need to fulfill

our obligations in this field. Unfortunately, however, nothing is being done when violations occur.

I do not argue that it is a government policy to violate human rights, although the fact that many government circles do so at high levels does raise many doubts. But the fact that the authorities are willing to turn a blind eye to these violations is in itself a crime.

In other words, the officials can do more than merely sign the conventions. We want to see them implement the obligations. I don't think what we are asking is too much.

Ideas in politics do matter, but results matter more. Well, I think everybody will agree with me on this point. Now the question is what did our government do to ensure the implementation of basic human rights? Someone answered my question with rather a stupidly funny answer, he said "Well, they have allowed the forming of many human rights organizations." That is true, in fact they have a governmental human rights body. But is the government making the job of these organizations easy? In order to find out I spoke to some of these organizations. They all said that they do face a lot of barricades, and endless problems when they fight a case of human right violation. Now why can't these organizations join hand with the media, to bring forward

such issues? Why can't they involve the media in fighting violations of human rights? This will help the community in a way of educating them, and make them aware of their rights, and it will help the organization to originate a strong public support.

When I asked them what kind of cases you usually come across quite often? Most of them admitted that it is torture cases. Well, let us have a look at this answer, and examine it. On one hand human rights is a new concept to our society and to our police officers as well, they hear the word, but they don't understand what it means, and this is the bottom line of the problem. On the other hand one of their duty as police officers is to get confessions out of the bad guys, and in order to do that they are ready to do anything, this is because they are not well qualified as police officers, and that's why they will go to any extent to prove their capability of making the bad man admit his bad deeds, and prove to their bosses that they were born to be police officers. A huge number of our police men have no clue on basic human right granted by law

and the constitution, in other words they are human right illiterates. Surprisingly it is not only our police men, even citizens are not aware of the subject. To find out if people really are aware of their rights, I decided to ask them two simple questions. My survey covered 192 people belonging to different classes of the society

Q1: What will you do, if a police officer shows up at your door, and asked you to accompany him to the police station?

(a) I will accompany him, with no questions?
(b) I will refuse to go?
(c) I will ask if he has an arrest warrant?

Answers were as follows:

(a) 96 %
(b) 1 %
(c) 3 %

Q2: According to article 48 of the constitution, do you know that you have the right not to answer any question/s without the presence of your lawyer?

(a) Yes
(b) No

Answers were as follows:

(a) 2 %
(b) 98 %

The answers show that we are a

human right illiterate society. They also show that we really need to work harder, better and faster in order to honor our commitments in this field.

I wonder why the government is not trying to create awareness regarding human rights? Why is the official media so ignorant about human rights? So is the independent media?! Our television being a very effective media instrument, reaching to almost every house, could play an important role in educating the public and the officials as well, about their rights if it was really put on use.

Most of the human right organizations in Yemen have failed to emphasize the importance of educating the people, rather than defending them. As the saying goes, instead of giving a man a fish, teach him how to fish.

If our government is serious about respecting human rights, it should start a well designed educational program, through the media, school curriculum, mosques, etc. aimed at increasing public awareness in human rights.

تعازينا الحارة

تلقينا ببالغ الحزن والأسى خبر وفاة
الوالد عبدالقادر عبدالله الشيباني
ونتقدم بالتعازي القلبية إلى الأخ
عبدالودود عبدالقادر الشيباني وأخواته وكافة آل الشيباني
بمصائبهم الجليلة.
رحم الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته
وأهله وأهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان وطيب الله ثراه
وإننا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون
د/ عبدالعزيز السقاف
الشيخ/ عبدالوارث محمد القرشي
الشيخ/ عبدالكريم الأصبحي
وكافة مشائخ وأعيان منطقة الحجرية

Khowlah Bint Al-Azwar Displays Students Work

On Sunday morning, February 21st, 1999, Dr. Yahia Al-Shu'aibi, Minister of Education, inaugurated the Students' Work Exhibition at Khowlah Bint Al-Azwar Girls' School in Sanaa. On display were more than 2,000 items and products which the girls of the school produced. Most of them were school projects in the sciences, arts, handicrafts and other fields.

"I am delighted with the quality of the projects as well as with the diligence and hard work they embody," Dr. Shu'aibi said. He noted that based on Yemen's experience, girls usually make better students than boys.



He also thanked the school's principal, Ms. Nouria Me'yad, who he described as one of the best principals of the country and who is a good model for others.

Mr. Hussain Al-Maswary, Mayor of Sanaa, Dr. Maged Ghanim, Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Nabil Hayel Saeed, Honorary Consul of Korea and one of the leading patrons of the school, several members of the Consultative Council, and other distinguished guests attended the inauguration session.

The school then organized a play in which the students performed. At the end of the event, the Minister honored some of the outstanding students.



إعلان عن توفر عمل مؤقت

في مشروع نظام معلومات مراقبة الفقر

الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء

YEM/97/300-PIMS

يعلن مشروع نظام معلومات مراقبة الفقر في الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء عن حاجته لأخصائي تغذية للعمل مع فريق العمل في الجهاز في إعداد بدائل متنوعة لسلاسل الغذاء تتكون من سلع غذائية خام التي تلزم للإنسان على المستوى اليومي بحيث يستطيع ممارسة حياته الاعتيادية، ويخطط لأن يتم تركيب محتويات السلة على أساس أنماط الاستهلاك الفعلية التي توفرها بيانات مسح ميزانية الأسرة لعام ١٩٩٨ الذي انتهى العمل الميداني فيه نهاية شهر ديسمبر المنصرم. وبشكل محدد يتوقع أن يقوم الراغب بهذا العمل بالتعاون مع فريق العمل المعين بما يلي:

- 1- تحديد حاجة الفرد من السرعات الحرارية اليومية حسب العمر والنوع.
- 2- اقتراح المواد اللازمة من أجل توفير السرعات الحرارية اللازمة في اليوم، بحيث يتم اقتراح أكثر من بديل من مواد الغذاء الرئيسية المستخدمة في أنماط التغذية في المجتمع اليمني لتغطي احتياجات الإنسان الأخرى من بروتينات و فيتامينات وماشابهة.
- 3- تقدير الكمية اللازمة من كل من هذه المواد بحيث تلبى في مجموعها الاحتياجات اليومية.
- 4- تقدير كلفة كل من هذه المواد منفردة ومجمعة للفرد الواحد، حسب عمره ونوعه وباستخدام الأسعار التي وفرها المسح من الواقع الفعلي في الميدان.

المؤهلات العلمية:

- 1- شهادة جامعية في ميدان التغذية
- 2- المعرفة بأنماط المعيشة في اليمن
- 3- خبرة في أعمال البحث
- 4- التوفر للعمل خلال المدة المطلوبة

المدة: شهران وتبدأ من النصف الأول من شهر فبراير
الأجور: يتم الاتفاق عليها في ضوء الخبرة والمعايير

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شارع الحرية-صنعاء، ص. ب. ١٣٤٣٤، فاكس: ٢٢٩٣٤٣

Yemeni Businessmen Ask Authorities to Provide Adequate Protection!

Lawlessness in the Republic of Yemen has risen to unprecedented levels. There are many manifestations of this problem, including the following:

1) Lack of respect for ownership of property, especially urban real estate:

On many occasions, armed groups - some working for the regular army and security forces and some tribal in nature - go and occupy various plots of land and buildings with no proper deeds or right to ownership. Dislodging these thugs is very costly or impossible

2) Kidnapping of foreigners: This is another version of the lawlessness of the land. Over the last few years, there have been over a hundred cases of kidnappings involving over 600 foreign tourists, diplomats or company workers.

3) Bureaucracy grinds to a halt unless you pay:

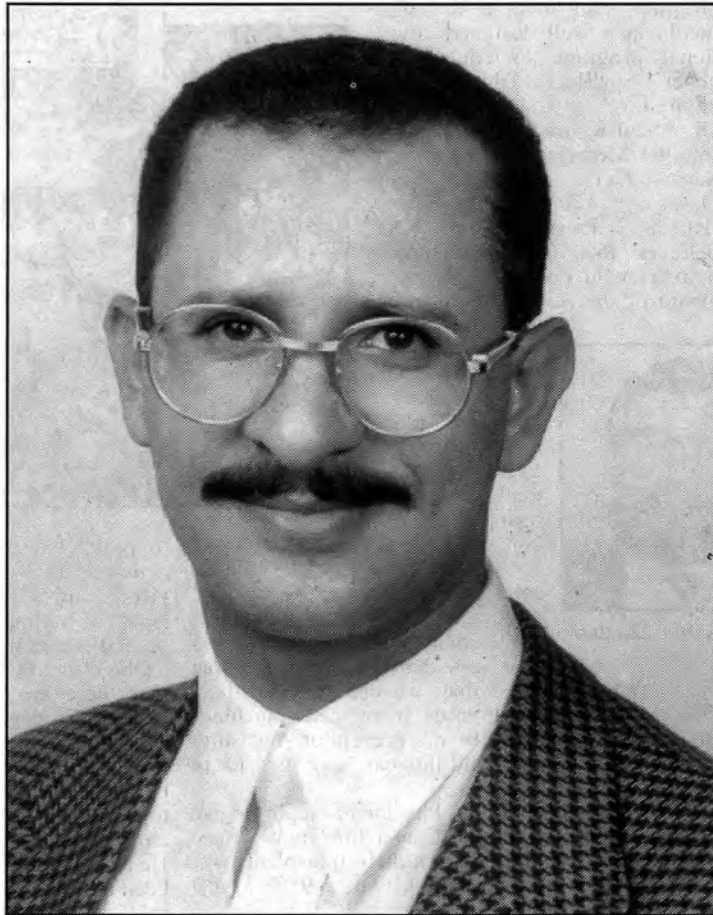
A third representation of the chaos is the impossible corruption that plagues government bureaucracy. It is nearly impossible to get anything done unless you pay up. Given the complicated paperwork, sometimes it takes a fortune to bribe the bureaucrats.

4) Local businessmen are now targeted for kidnapping:

A new and rising phenomenon of the lawlessness in the country today is the number of businessmen who are kidnapped. These are then blackmailed into paying ransom.

One of the cases that is now pending between the authorities, the business community and the tribes involves a well-known entrepreneur, Nabil Mohammed Al-Khamiry.

Mr. Al-Khamiry, whose family has been in commerce and other business activities for a long time, feels he is left alone to deal with unruly tribes who face no deterrent. That is why he feels vulnerable. That is also why he is bitter against the authorities. The story began on December 21st when a number of armed tribesmen stormed his office on Zubairi Street. The group, from



the now famous Bani Dhabyan in Khowlan, say that there is an unfinished business between them and Mr. Al-Khamiry. They say they were cheated out of some business arrangements. Mr. Al-Khamiry denies any business or connection to them. He says he does not know them, and never saw them before. "Besides, I am not the only businessman to be targeted by these tribes. They have attacked other people and always say that there is something between us and we want to finish some unfinished business. It is plain robbery and blackmail," he explained to the Yemen Times.

Then the newspaper investigated any political dimension. There was none. Nabil Al-Khamiry also downplayed any political motives or goals. "I rule out any political dimensions. Yet, those tribesmen may have certain

interests in that they may be paid to damage investment possibilities and development prospects in the country," he added.

How did the authorities react? That is the funny part. The President of the Republic, Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh, called the businessman to comfort him and to show personal interest and support. The president also ordered two armoured trucks to guard the home of Mr. Nabil Al-Khamiry, and several soldiers to serve as his bodyguards. This was the proper answer.

However, firstly the soldiers are now financially bleeding the businessman. It costs him roughly YR 200,000 per day to cover the upkeep of the armoured trucks and guards.

Secondly, it feels awkward for a businessman to go about his work with lots of soldiers

around him at all times. This is especially true of a man who is used to walking all alone. "When I am in my car, I have my driver," he said. Now, Mr. Al-Khamiry has to make a difficult adjustment.

What exactly happened?

Nabil explains: "On the third day of Ramadhan, I was faced with a gang of armed tribesmen as I tried to enter my office on Zubairi Street in Sanaa. Three of them obstructed my way. One of them shook my hand and tried to pull me aside. I tried to free myself. Then seven more armed men came out of a car and which was parked nearby. They started shooting with their automatic rifles. The time was 12 noon. In Ramadhan, there was little traffic at this time.

I knew instinctively that I needed help, and my employees were my best bet. I dashed to the office, which was full of my employees - Yemenis as well as Iraqis, Egyptians and Palestinians. When they tried to help, one of the gangsters hurried to the door of the company and started shooting at random. His comrades also started indiscriminate shooting at the company door."

Nabil continues: "As more and more people came to the scene, and my employees helped, the attackers began to retreat, espe-

Appeal by the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry

إلى: **مجلس إدارة**

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

العرفة التجارية الصناعية

Date: **22/2/99**

Ref: **1997-2-2**

الإخ/ نيسل الخاميري

شهر مبارك وكل عام وانتم بخير

تود العرفة التجارية الصناعية منكم ان تترتب لكم من أسئلتها البالغ للاعداد الامم الذي تترتب له شخصكم الكريم أمس الاول من قبل الذين لا هم لهم الا التسول والتطفل على افلاك امين هذا البلد وابتائه الشرفاء ، ورحمة " قد على سلامتكم ...

وباسم إخوانكم في القطاع التجاري والصناعي نعلم لكم تظاننا ووقوفنا الى جانبكم حتى تظال ندي العدالة هؤلاء العائين .

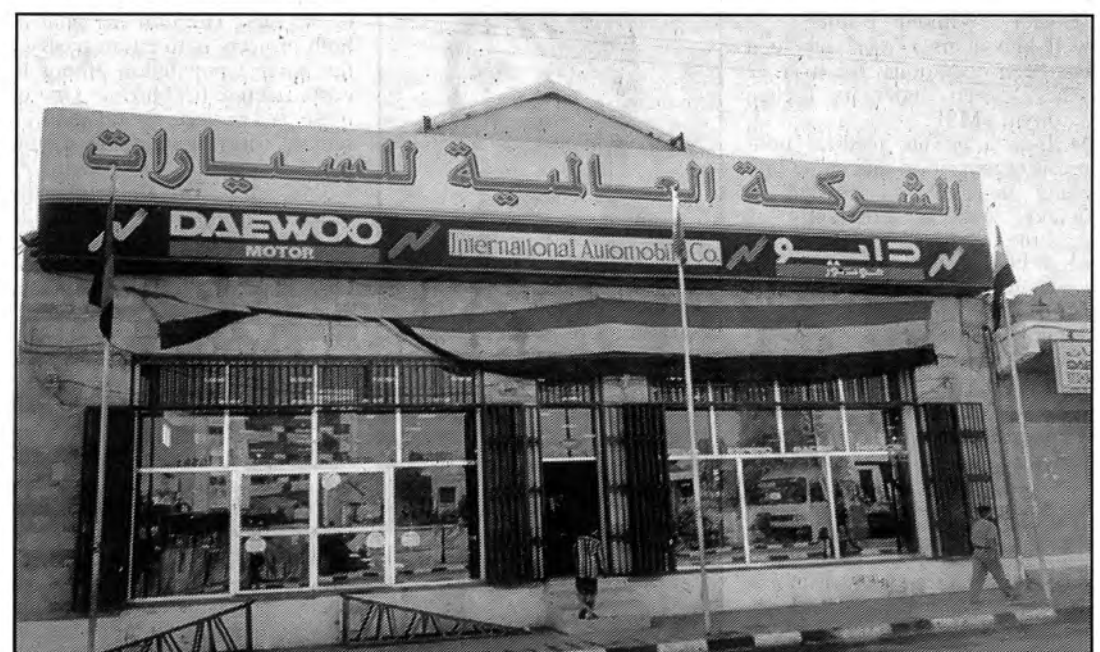
تقلموا خالص تقديرياً ،،،،،

القائم بالأعمال رئيس مجلس الإدارة

محمد حسن الياقوبي

can uphold the law - such as law enforcement agencies and courts, or we don't. Why do we have to revert to tribal mediation?" He insists that tribal mediation on such clear violations actually undermine the state and its modern machinery. It also scares foreigners because tribal ways are for Yemenis, and not even all Yemenis understand them

Many countries are also re-considering their aid program to the country, unless something is done to restore dignity to law and order, and the state. In addition, foreign investments have not been forthcoming. Even local investors are refusing to put their money in the country, in spite of good opportunities. "Look at the Sultanate of Oman and other countries in



cially as one of their own was hurt. But they had grabbed my briefcase which had some money and documents."

Yemeni law stipulates execution or the death sentence to such highway robbers and attackers. The Quran also explicitly outlines that such individuals must be banished from the land or executed.

The businessman is asking the authorities to implement the law. "We pay taxes to the authorities to uphold the law. It is up to the government to protect all citizens, but especially businessmen who are asked to invest their savings in the country. If their own lives are not safe, how can people trust us with their money?" he asks.

Instead of putting the attackers on trial, the authorities have engaged in tribal intermediation. But Mr. Al-Khamiry is not happy with this line of action. "Either we have institutions that

Nabil Al-Khamiry, who is married to the daughter of Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, paramount Chief of the Hashed tribal grouping, did get tribal backing himself. "Many sheikhs have contacted me expressing solidarity and support. They denounced the attack as unbecoming of Yemeni tribesmen," he says.

Kidnapping and tribal attacks on foreigners and Yemenis alike was treated by the local and international media as something romantic. And the government authorities did not treat it as a serious matter. It became a joke. Some people even call it a Yemeni folklore or a Yemeni style of negotiating. But, the latest incident in Abyan turned this tribal romance into a catastrophe. Yemen has lost millions of dollars because the tourist industry simply nose-dived. Yemen is deprived of a major hard currency earning business.

the neighborhood. It is the private sector which is the engine of growth and development," says a senior businessman who is also a leading member of the Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry. "We can do the same and even better if there is law and order," he adds.

It is very frustrating for the victims when they see that their predators are not held accountable or brought to justice. "The authorities have interrogated me ten times. They know my opponents, who are tribesmen of the Bani Dhabyan tribe. They are still free," Nabil complains. Is it a question of inability or unwillingness on the part of the security authorities to arrest the perpetrators? That is the real question.

Reported by:
Mohammed Bin Sallam,
Yemen Times.

إعلان عن وظيفة سكرتيرة
مشروع نظام معلومات مراقبة الفقر
Vacancy for a Bilingual Secretary at
الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء
Poverty Information and Monitoring System Project
YEM/97/300-PIMS
Central Statistical Organization

Duties and responsibilities:

- 1- Act as a full time bilingual secretary for the PIMS project
- 2- Good command with computers and software; Windows 3.1 and 95; MS Word; version 7; Excel and operating system (DOS).
- 3- Typing speed for Arabic minimum 40 words/minute and English 55 Words/minute.
- 4- Organizing and filling and preparing all correspondences related to the project.
- 5- Answer telephone calls, schedule appointments, hotel reservations send/receive faxes and record them.
- 6- Register in-coming and out-going mail; photocopying related documents to the project.
- 7- Coordinate and arrange translation with concerned project personnel.
- 8- Prepare monthly and annual leave records for project personnel.

Conditions:

- Good knowledge of English and Arabic written/spoken.
- Minimum High School certificates.
- At least 3 years of experience in secretarial work.

Send CV's to PIMS-Central Statistical Organization (5th floor)
Tel: 255425 Fax: 229343
(CV's will be accepted until Marc 10, 1999)

Kidney Conference in Yemen Concludes

75% OF THE 6600 CASES OF KIDNEY PROBLEMS IN YEMEN ARE PREVENTABLE!

Yemen's first ever nephrology meeting was held during the period of the 16 -18 February 1999. More than forty Arab and foreign doctors, along with more than 400 Yemeni doctors, shared their experiences and problems. An enormous number of Medicine students attended the lectures and found answers to their question. "It is a chance of a life time to participate in such conferences, because they don't happen very often. I am glad to be here," said Ms. Jamila, a fifth year Medical College student at Sanaa University.

Dr. Abdulla Al-Khadir, Director of the Department of Post Graduate and Academic Affairs, and Director of the Department of Nephrology at Riyadh Armed Forces Hospital.

"Yemen should really pay more attention to preventing diseases, rather than curing them. There are many diseases, such as malaria, bilharzia and gastric problems, which are a definite causes of kidney diseases. All of these diseases I have mentioned are preventable, and can be easily eradicated. If these diseases are eradicated in Yemen, I am pretty sure that incidents of kidney diseases will drop by 75 %." Dr. Khadir said.

In the Middle East kidney diseases occur in the 30-40 age group. These are the productive people, with young families depending on them, so kidney diseases have social and economical implications, and this is another reason for the need to pay more attention to this disease.

"The number of kidney patients in Yemen is on the increase, every year it is estimated at 350 patient per million per year, and the only way out of this is transplantation. In order to do that we must help the

nephritis, a sever renal disease that mainly affects women of child-bearing age. He feels that the conference was very fruitful, because many of the most important topics in clinical Nephrology were covered. "I would like to point out the importance of early and appropriate antibacterial treatment in order to prevent some glomerular diseases which have almost disappeared in Western Europe, while they are still frequent in Yemen. I believe the Yemen Health Authority should make every effort for organizing an effective cadaver transplant program, and involve the mass media in a well designed educational program, to educate the general public," Dr. Ponticelli advised.

Dr. Abdul-Karim Sheiban, Prof. of Internal Medicine & Nephrology, Sanaa Univ. Head of Renal Disease Charitable Society (RDCS), President of NKF, believes that these conferences help Yemeni doctors to be more aware of the serious implications of such diseases, and of the latest treatments. "Our juniors have to take our place, and they have to take over later, that's why we are trying to make a connection, in order to have a post for them in different medical schools," he explained.

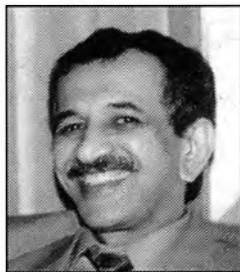
"The budget allocated for health is unspeakably low, \$1.4 million per year less than \$3 per person per year. And I still feel that, we can prevent about 70%-75% of kidney diseases, if we spend our funds in proper ways, mainly on prevention measures rather than treatment, and this can save us a lot of money."

Dr. Faisal Shaheen Cons. Physician, Nephrologist, Director General of Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation. More than 2500 kidney transplant have been performed in the nation, with a 95% 3 year survival rate.

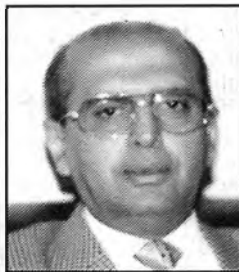
"For a kidney patient, most nephrologists agree that the ideal treatment is transplantation, and not dialysis. Costwise, it is less expensive," said Dr. Faisal.

"The most difficult part of transplantation is finding a donor. We do have thousands of cadavers every year, and if the family of a dead person agrees to donate some of his organs, we will have no shortage

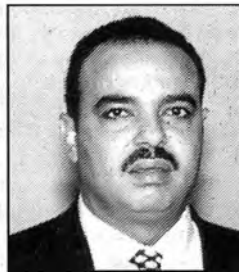
at all. And as far as religion is concerned, it is permitted," he added. Dr. Shaheen final words to Yemeni doctors were to search for financial support from the sources available within the country. Dr. Abo-Bakir Al-Qerbi, Prof. at the Faculty of Medicine Sanaa University, explained that the objectives of this conference were to give Yemeni scientists a chance to present their research papers.



Abdullah Al-Khadir



Abubakar Al-Qirby



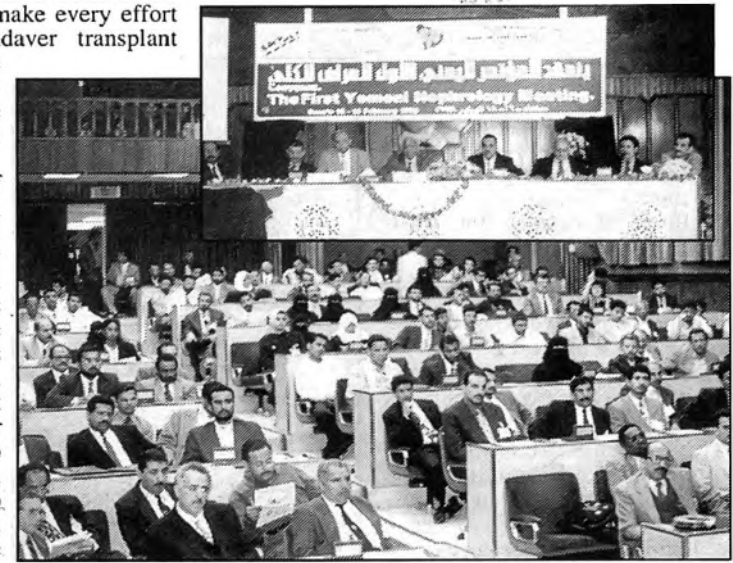
Faisal Shaheen



Abdul-Karim Sheiban

National Kidney Foundation (NKF), and extend all the support needed from the government, the public, the media, and businessmen," he added.

Prof. Claudio Ponticelli, of Maggiore Di Milano Hospital presented a paper on the problem of lupus



MSF:

Annual Assessment Meeting & Change of Chiefs

The French humanitarian non-governmental organization "Doctors Without Borders", is well known in Yemen, where it has been operational for over 12 years known under its French acronym - MSF.

MSF is a private medical non-profit organization that came into being in 1971 to respond as quickly and as efficiently as possible to relieve populations in need, victims of natural disasters, conflicts and epidemics.

Although emergency work remains a top priority for MSF, its scope of action has equally widened, in the course of these years of experience, to include long-term programs. Emergency interventions (as in Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Nicaragua, Sudan) are now running parallel to programs for street children (Madagascar, Guatemala) training (for surgeons in Ethiopia and rural health workers in Peru), support for the public health systems (Laos, Cambodia), together with preventive and curative care for populations in precarious conditions (shanty towns, aids, prison).

However, for whatever type of programs, MSF is always governed by the same principles on which all its volunteers subscribe on their honor. These principles are:

- The respect of medical ethics, which entails delivery of the same quality of care to all people.
- The independence vis a vis political, economic or religious institutions.
- The neutrality and impartiality in the name of everybody's right and humanitarian aid.

Therefore, MSF always claims the complete liberty to exercise its relief duties, which it carries out without any racial, religious, ideological or political discrimination. In Yemen, where MSF first came for an emergency program during a crisis, the organization has ever since developed long-term medical projects among the most vulnerable populations and with full support of the health author-



Catherine



Sophie

ities. The authorized access to populations, within an overall context of stability in the country, helps elaborate health projects involving community members.

Having come to Yemen for the first time during the 1986 coup, MSF stayed for about 8 years, working on the improvement of EPI in all southern governorates. At the time of reunification, MSF, with the backing and support of health authorities, undertook implementation of a 5-year project on the improvement of Primary Health Care in Dhi Sufal (Ibb Governorate). Furthermore, the organization took charge, in medical terms, of the Somali refugee camp (in Aden, then Abyan) from 1992 to 1994. These 12 years of presence in the country has been punctuated by several emergencies: cholera in 90, bloody diarrhea in 93, civil war in 94, floods in 96 and malaria in 98. In 1998, MSF developed 2 new

programs, that had in fact been launched in late 1997 for duration of 5 years. The ultimate goal of both projects is to ease access of the poorest population groups to cost-effective health care. One of these two projects is situated in a remote rural area in the mountainous district of Hazm Al Udayn (Ibb Governorate); the other is in the urban governorate of Aden, with a population that is witnessing rapid growth and facing general impoverishment and increasing unemployment.

On the basis of the existing health care facilities and in accordance with the recent reforms of the Ministry of Health, MSF aims to ensure self-sufficiency of the health centers in terms of finance and drug supply with community participation. The project's target is to improve accessibility to quality health care by means of:

- Sales of drug items (high quality drugs for low price) with a view to regularly purchasing a new stock of drugs.
- Payment for consultation services with the revenues to be utilized in facility maintenance and staff incentives.
- Transparency of drug and money management with accounts being regularly controlled by a population committee.

In the mean time, the organization continues to ensure its technical support to the district of Dhi Sufal, to offer its expertise whenever needed and to respond at the occurrence of potential emergencies (epidemics, conflicts, natural disasters...). Doctors without Borders (MSF) would like to pay homage to the people of Yemen for the warm reception that has always been accorded to them. They gratefully extend thanks to their health partners for the friendly relations that have made the common work enjoyable and fruitful. MSF wishes to continue its medical endeavors on the same ground of mutual confidence and sound cooperation for the benefit of the Yemeni people and in particular the underprivileged.

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oneworld Revolves Around You...

oneworld is an alliance of five major Airlines of the world, British Airways, American Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Qantas, and Canadian Airlines. They came together to set new standards for customers, and redefine air travel for the new millennium.

oneworld is about people, and not planes. It's a way to give a better service. A very understanding customer services providers.

We started this efforts by recognizing that it is all about people. We talked to very important people OUR CUSTOMERS, to find out what they wanted from Airline traveler. We found out what they wanted, they wanted a global airline network, that provides flexibility and choices in any point on earth. Now let's remind ourselves of some key customer benefits that **oneworld** will create:

How will it benefit our customers..?

Together there are 220,000 people in 138 countries working for the **oneworld** airlines. Whenever our customers travel in the **oneworld** network of more than 600 destinations around the globe, we will be there to help. When booking tickets, at check-in, in the

lounges, in the departure area, on board the aircraft, while transferring, at their final destination- people from all our airlines will be available to assist.

Greater rewards for frequent flyers

Now, customers can earn miles in their particular frequent flyer programme whenever they travel on eligible flights and fares of the **oneworld** alliance. In addition, when they are ready to redeem their miles, they can do so to more than 600 destinations worldwide. Qualifying flights will also count towards the maintenance or advancement of their tier status. The **oneworld** alliance airlines provide over 200 lounges across the globe. Customers with premium cabin eligibility and top tier members of our frequent flyer programmes will have access to our lounges prior to departure.

Smoother transfers

We place great emphasis on the services we provide, both inflight and on the ground, especially to customers with onward connections. In key airports, transfer desks and customer services desks will be clearly marked with the **oneworld** logo, and ground staff will be on hand to help customers with their connection

between **oneworld** alliance airlines. On the majority of flights when customers are transferring between **oneworld** member airlines, we can check them, and their baggage, through to their final destination.

A transfer guide will also be available to help customers find their way around our key airports.

More value

The **oneworld** explorer product brings a new simplicity to planning round-the-world itineraries to over 600 destinations. By treating the continents of the world as individual stepping stones, fares are based on the number of continents visited and class of travel. Noting could be simpler.

And that's not all

oneworld customer benefits include:

- Simpler, easier, more convenient international travel.
- Support and assistance from **oneworld** member airline employees from around the globe.
- Enhanced value for money through a range of round-the-world products.
- Easier reservations, greater efficiency, more information.

- Smoother transfers across **oneworld's** global network.
- More routes, more connections to more destinations.
- Greater co-operation between the member airline frequent flyer programmes.
- More opportunity to collect miles and/or points for frequent and loyal customers.
- Wider recognition for top tier customers, and increased access to more airport and club lounges.

"oneworld is based on one fundamental principal: putting our customers at the heart of everything we do."

Truly oneworld revolves around you.

Yet, another member is welcomed to **oneworld** alliance, **Finnair**.

That's how fast we grow.

What one world is...

- Five quality carriers...and counting
- Smooth, hassle-free travel experience
- Expanded Frequent Flyer benefits
- Expanded Lounge/Club access
- global customer support
- 632 destinations...and growing

oneworld at a Glance



Airlines	oneworld	American Airlines (AA)	British Airways (BA)	Canadian Airline (CP)	Cathay Pacific (CX)	QANTAS (QF)
Website address	www.oneworldalliance.com	www.aa.com	www.britishairways.com	www.cdnair.ca	www.cathaypacific-air.com	www.qantas.com.au
Destinations	632	237	255	135	47	108
Countries	138	49	102	13	25	32
Annual Psgrs	174 mil	93 mil	41 mil	11 mil	10 mil	19 mil
Employees	22,986	100,500	60,675	16,111	14,800	28,900
Fleet	1,524	856	330	131	62	145
CEO		Don Carty	Bob Aylin	Kevin Benson	David Turnbull	James Strong
Sales Management		Craig Kreeger, Vice President, Sales	Dale Moss, Director, Sales	Keith Pope, Vice President, International Sales	Peter Beucking, Director, Sales & Marketing	Geoff Dixon, Vice President, Sales
Headquarters		Fort Worth, Texas, USA	London, UK	Calgary, Alberta, Canada	Hong Kong	Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Ownership		Wholly owned subsidiary of AMR Corporation, a publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange.	A publicly quoted company, with shares traded on the London and New York Stock Exchange.	Canadian Airlines Corporation is a publicly traded company and majority shareholder in Canadian Airlines International with 67%, AMR Corporation own the remaining 33%.	A public company listed on the Hong Kong and London stock exchanges with major shareholders Swire Pacific Ltd. (43.9%) and CITIC Pacific Ltd. (25%).	A public company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. British Airways is a major shareholder with 25%.
Related carriers		American Eagle	Air Liberte, Deutsche BA, British Regional, Brymon Airways, City Flyer Express, comair, GB Airways, MAERSK Air, Sun-Air, Longanair, British Mediterranean	Canadian Regional, Air Alma, Inter-Cnadien, Pacific coastal Airlines, Air Norterra, Calm Air, Air St. Pierre, Regionnair		Airlink, Eastern Australia, Southern Australia, Sunstate
History	Formed early 1999	Began in April, 1926 as a mail carrier. American Airways was incorporated in 1930 and changed its name to American Airlines four years later.	Traces its origins back to 1919, following the First World War. Forerunner company launched the first international schedule between London and Paris.	Canadian Airlines International Ltd., the principal subsidiary of Canadian Airlines Corporation, is the descendent of five predecessor airlines. Canadian Pacific Air Lines, Eastern Provincial Airways, Nordair and Pacific Western airlines amalgamated to form the new airline, which announced its name on March 28, 1987. In 1989, PWA Corporation acquired Wardair Canada Ltd. The addition of Wardair's route links and service reputation established Canadian as an important player in the global industry	Cathay Pacific airways was founded in 1946 by two World War II military pilots, one from the United States and one from Australia. The first two planes were two DC3's named Betsy and Nikki. The Hong Kong-London inaugural flight occurred on July 16, 1980	Queensland And Northern Territory Aerial Services Limited was established in 1920



THE DAWSHAN: Dieing Yemeni Tradition

For some time, I have wandered about the Yemen in search of a dawshan, a man as rare and swift as a white oryx and ever moving like a stream. Ranging the tip of Arabia, I tracked him across his ancient habitat, along the coast of the Red Sea, across a desert, through a land that was scored like the soles of a plowman, along paths that gradually rose above steaming valleys to peaks that pierced the clouds, past terraced fields, across gravel plains days distant from the closest settlement. Once, owing to the lack of a clear route, I had to return to the sea to reach the mountaintop where one had been spotted, but he was gone by the time I got there, for the dawshan took trails that I, a stranger, did not see and obeyed instincts that I could only guess at.

For a while I considered abandoning my search, until I recalled the years I had waited to enter the Yemen, whose doors had opened briefly to admit me but might shut again soon. Then on 2 Rajab, after another month of wandering through the maze of riverbeds by which I penetrated deeper into the mountains that hung like layers of curtains between the Empty Quarter and the sea, I reached a castaway hamlet, where I determined to rest for a day. There, at that hour of a winter morning when the sun stirs the mist in a highland village, I saw him perched upon a low wall, which raised him to a height not much above the tallest man in that gathering.

Someone nearby beat a drum. The market, at dawn, that had commenced to mill and mend and chant and spend and bake and barter suddenly paused. Even the mist and the sun ceased their morning frolic as the dawshan cried out in a shrill voice that pierced all the descriptions I had gathered over the years and linked that moment with the cries of his ancestors:

"As the cauldron boils over the potatoes acclaim the wielder of the paddle and the quencher of the flame."

Announcing a truce between two tribes that morning, he came to that market as a herald. On other days, in other villages in which I would later visit him, the dawshan delivered an oral obituary, belittled a tribal foe, introduced the guests at a wedding party, uttered war boasts, and once, spotting nobleman with a pedigree longer than his unwrapped turban, recited his genealogy until the lord's eyes relaxed like a petted cat's.

Protected by the tribes, he moves unchallenged between enemies. Dependent upon the largess of others, he crosses the land in search of a linguistic opportunity: a battle, an armistice, a birth, a death, a bountiful harvest. He relies upon his prodigious memory, his tongue, and his strong legs. His bed is temporary. Occasionally he sleeps on the roof of a patron's house or burrows among some discarded sacks in a caravansary, but more often he pauses between destinations, finding shelter in a brush arbor, beneath a shelf rock, or in the embrace of a dune where he hears and smells with the fennec the approaching sandstorm.

He is everywhere, it seems, and nowhere, a man included by tradition yet socially disparaged, performing a function growing obsolete by the rise of government over tribe and by the illusions cast by more modern means of communication. He is the descendant of dawshin. If he sires a male child, that child too will be called a dawshan. Some say his title is a corruption of (ذو الشان) - keeper of the matter; others find noise (دوشة) in his name.

As I stood there listening, some of his audience began to turn aside, annoyed by his sharp voice, amused at first, then bored by his tedious delivery, confused by his oral gymnastics in which syllables leapt over one another while meaning vanished and reappeared, either not understanding or not caring that the handles of a pot are adan (ears), that words are daughters of our lips. Some, though, continued to listen, perhaps feeling, as I, like a witness of the past, as when one ponders just how many years water has been tumbling off yonder mountain. He spoke as the medieval grammarians intended us to, in an Arabic of standard equations and infinite variables, leading those of us who struggled to keep up past bursting mountains, through a devastated village, into a battle we were unprepared for, and at last to a tranquil valley and the feast of the truce.

For some time after he finished, he squatted upon that wall, feeling the warmth of many gazes, wanting to prolong his hour of attention. But when

he reopened his eyes, he saw that only the drummer and I remained.

After noon prayers I accompanied the dawshan out of the village. He gathered sticks for the supper fire as we moved down the thousands of steps toward a wadi that, after the great heights of the day, seemed like the bottom of the earth. His speech varied with the terrain: gusts of words that had gathered during his solitary climb were now released by our descent, followed by long pauses as we labored toward the next rise. We never conversed, for he would not answer a question directly and rarely asked one himself, though he would respond by stories that in his rambling manner touched upon the subject that I had broached. Whereas before I had passed through an anonymous land, I learned by his tales that most every knob, stream, spring, and hollow had a name, that here a temple once stood through whose columns the wind sounded a somber tone, that there, by that path, in the days of the Himyar, camels laden with incense marched from Zafar. Occasionally he used words in different senses, broadening my definitions of certain familiar terms so that, by his speech, I came to know that a sword has a shoe, and a buckle has a tongue.

Our linguistic excursions within that journey continued over several seasons: through changes in climate, elevation, hunger, and terrain; from one mountain outpost to the next; through provinces seized by drought; and beside *audiya* that bore floods.

One morning as we helped beat, with our shirts, the locusts out of a farmer's crop, I sensed the dawshan's growing interest in what seemed to me an isolated event. Suddenly the insects rose, swarming with those from other fields and flying on before us, darkening the horizon like a cloud's shadow. And so he had filled his stories with local incidents that gathered into broader themes: the cook who added too much *bisbas* to the soup, which aroused an imam's temper and provoked a war; the storm that began with a few clouds over the Red Sea and resulted in a flood that breached a dam, prompting the collapse of a city-state.

From that day forward I began to record the obscure history of his thoughts, which meandered like an underground stream beneath the official histories that I had read. Guided by his attention I began to examine common affairs of life that I might have overlooked: the seeds that dropped from a bird's beak into the crevice between two boulders, the water that dripped like sweat down a cliff's face, the current carrying a piece of driftwood to the Yemeni shore, the desert dwellers who, for no apparent reason, excavated a dune.

Then one day as we traveled east and he was unusually quiet, it occurred to me that he had been leading me all along, in his roundabout way, to a particular spot. That evening we continued walking through a terrific storm. Like two great armies, bolts of lightning clashed repeatedly on a distant ridge. Rivulets appeared around us, converging as they flowed downhill. After a while the rain fell so hard and steadily that it seemed to produce no sound at all. But the dawshan kept moving through that weather, using his cooking pot for a rain shield, glancing behind, from time to time, to see that I still followed.

Finally we halted upon a promontory where, by the lightning, I saw waves of mountains advancing beneath the clouds toward our narrow ledge. By a twisting path he led me to shelter beneath that rock we had stood upon. There he began to build a fire with wood that he or another pilgrim had stored beneath the stone roof.

As the flames illuminated the ground before us, I suddenly noticed a rock structure no higher than my chin, no wider than my outstretched arms, of the kind that Yacoub and Ibrahim raised to the Lord. Following him upon my knees through an opening on one side, he pointed to a stone tablet that had been built into one wall. By the firelight, through the doorway and the gaps between the rocks, I began to quietly study the words before us. But the dawshan, who could not write the first letter of his name, wanted me to read aloud.

"In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful," I began in the Arabic, which I translate here. When my voice faltered, he added sticks to the fire.

"PECKING upon this stone in the year Hegira 1167, I, Qadhi Ayub bin Saif al-Kolani, the most abject of God's scribes, have by His grace survived plagues and wars and [illegible] and exile among a

pagan tribe so that I might record this memorial before I die.

"BEHOLD from this ledge the city of at-Taufiq, a torch raised by Governor Mutahhar bin Tra'ad al-Hawlaani (upon him be peace) by whose light men streamed out of a dark and perilous countryside to find security within the walls he thickened, salvation in the four mosques he endowed, justice before his majlis, occupation in the city lanes and shops, virtue and hope in their lives.

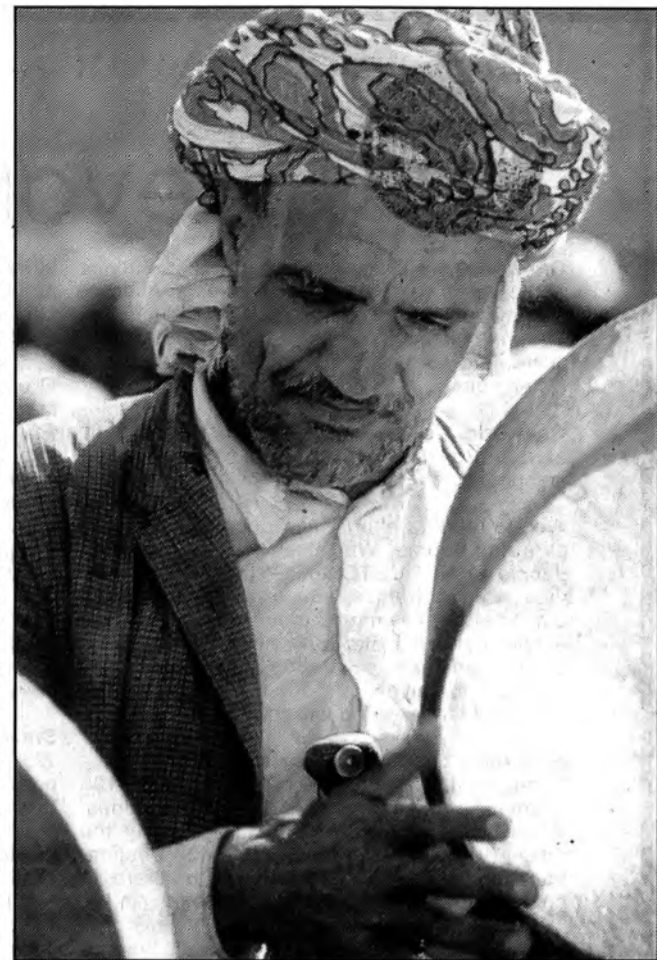
"FOR during his reign he raised a great army and secured the trade routes about at-Taufiq so that all honorable men might pass through the town gate and find within his walls a fair and thriving market, buyers for their products, true scales, standard measures, shelter for their livestock, and wide lanes.

"THOUGH all earthly kingdoms are fleeting, all men, as I, pass, Mutahhar cast his brilliance over this land of many shadows and a few remote lights. For years I have tended his memory, a single flame others have attempted to snuff out, until this hour when, by god's favor, I relight Mutahhar's torch. Now I, an old man, weary but content, lay down my hammer and chisel for my final rest.

"MAY God have mercy upon my soul."

Had I faced the dawshan as well as the tablet, I might have read slower, or paused, but it was not until I turned from the memorial that I noticed the peculiar effect these words had upon him. For some time he stared vacantly into the distance, like a mystic absorbed by a single word. Then his mouth began to twitch as if he were speaking rapidly, but I heard no sound.

Returning to the fire, he began to pass a bare sole over the coals. As I took up his hand and drew him away he suddenly began to talk, though for some time his speech was a stew of confused syntax, obscure and archaic terms, and plain nonsense.



As I sat there listening, too exhausted by our journey to stir, I realized that he was yet leading me, causing me to leap with him, back and forth over the boundary between meaning and sound. Then, as the fire burned out and darkness swallowed the altar and the dawshan, the Yemeni began to speak clearly in his ancient idiom and I commenced my service as one of the scribes of this land. Only now-years, several dictionaries, and many marches later have I, who once so self-assuredly led him away from the fire, felt confident enough to share the curious history I believed I heard that night.

from:

Prologue

in Derek Franck's *A YEMENI PASSAGE*, (Azimuth Press, New York, 1997), pages 1-5.




Request for Auditing Proposals

The UNDP-Yemen would like to invite Auditing Houses to submit their proposals to audit Nationally Executed Programmes/Projects for the year 1998. Qualified auditors may call on this office to collect terms and conditions for such endeavor. Deadline for receiving proposals is Sunday 28 February 1999.

Request for Freight Proposals

The UNDP-Yemen would like to invite Freight and Clearance companies to submit their proposals for one-year contract. Qualified companies may call on this office to obtain further information pertaining to such services. Deadline for receiving proposals is Sunday 28 February 1999.

Att: Operations Manager,
UNDP-Yemen Office
Al-Khorashi Building
Off Al-Siteen Street

Opposite Al-Awkaf Housing Complex, Faj-Attan
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel: 415 505

Technical Innovations for Yemen: NATURAL GAS CARS

When you fill your car with gasoline, it is burned in the engine to produce the energy needed to drive your car. It produces a huge amount of carbon dioxide and smaller amounts of sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide (SOx) and an even smaller amount of nitrogen oxides (NOx).

These gases are the most dangerous polluting gases. Carbon dioxide is causing the green house effect in the globe's atmosphere and is responsible for the continuous increase in the temperature of the earth's atmosphere. Sulfur dioxide and sulfur trioxide are acidic, poisonous and corrosive gases. They cause severe damage everywhere; starting from the car engines where they are produced, to polluting everything on earth. The nitrogen oxides are also acidic,

minerals from the soil.

Many countries have encouraged the use of natural gas as car fuel since it is cheap and does not cause pollution. Pollution is a characteristic of many huge cities at the end of this century. Home pumps are widely spread in Canada, Australia and the United States. Thousands of second-hand gas fuelled cars were sold in the Yemeni market in the last few years. These are brought from



corrosive and poisonous. Together with the sulfur oxides they cause acid rain. The acid rain kills plants, bacteria and animals. It also leaches important

Korea. The delegates of the Olympic games used the cars in 1994. Unfortunately, these cars must be modified to run on gasoline, as Yemen does not have natural-gas filling stations, or home natural gas connections.

For houses with natural gas connections, the car can be refilled in 4-8 hours, usually during the night. An electronic unit will control the gas filling process and close down the gas-pumping machine automatically when the gas pressure

reaches a specific level.

Thanks to Allah we do not have any significant pollution in Yemen; the number of cars is relatively small, although they are not well maintained, to lower production of pollution gases. We do not have many industries either.

We have a good supply of natural gas. When used instead of gasoline to fuel our cars, natural gas will produce no sulfur gases. Pollution will be much lower. We will help preserve the environment and eventually our planet. Also, we will be using the available free natural gas. Yemen will be able to export more gasoline.

An adjustment has to be made to convert our engines to work on natural gas. The government is advised to support the import of carburetors that will allow engines to use both gasoline and natural gas. Why don't we sell them tax-free? If supported they can be produced in Yemen, too. To import the materials is much cheaper than importing the equipment. Everything needed is available.

**Future Industries Consultants,
Sanaa,
Tel: 7916940**

Letters to the Editor

This week, as part of our drive to engage more of our online readers, we dedicate this "Letters to the Editor" section to messages received through the Internet at <http://www.yementimes.com/>

We welcome any letters through e-mail, online forms at our website, and through the normal (snail) mail to be published in the Yemen Times.

Making Yemen a Better Place

I am a Yemeni who loves his country very much. Yemen gave me all I needed: education, values and morals. I feel obligated to help my people wherever they live to get a good education and improve their lives. I miss Yemen. I miss the street where I walked for long hours. I long for its food. I love to hear good news about my country. I'd love to wake up and find Yemen has decided to get rid of qat. I love to see more schools and sport arenas for our athletes. I would love to hear my native home got rid of corrupt politicians. I would like to hear that working hours are extended to 8 hours and working days to 5 a week to give people a chance to spend the two-day weekend with family members and relatives.

I have many dreams regarding improvements in Yemen. I do not just dream. I am working very hard in teaching our Yemeni kids in America so they can contribute to the American society and to the Yemen at the same time. Who knows? Maybe one day these children will go back to their original homeland and turn my dreams into a reality.

I pray to God for that day to come. Amen..

**Abdul-Nasser Al-Hadhrami,
USA**

Words from an American Who Loves Yemeni Cooking

I consider Yemen my second country, because I had such a wonderful time there with the American Peace Corps in 1973-1974, and so many people I love are Yemeni. I especially love my Yemeni mother Muna Ali Hamshari, who now lives in Jeddah, and all of my Hamshari brothers and sisters.

Several years ago, I visited Hafiz Azzubair and the wonderful Yemeni community in the Detroit area and felt as if I were home again. I even had my favorite dish 'Bint al Sahn,' which I like so much. I also chewed qat while I was there and stayed awake for three days!

Yemeni soldiers used to come to Lawton, Oklahoma, my hometown, to receive artillery training, and I tried to take care of them. Unfortunately, the US government got mad at Yemen during the Arab Gulf War because of Yemen's vote in the UN, and have not trained any Yemenis since that time. However, I heard that Yemeni soldiers are coming back for training this summer. Whoever they are, I hope they know how to cook because your brother Boyd is craving Yemeni cooking.

I would like to find Mohammed M. Hamood, who worked with me in Saudi Arabia. He is from Al-Udain, Bani Zohair, Al-Kotah. Of course, I would enjoy hearing from any of my friends or the students I had at Abdul Nasser Secondary School and the Yemen-America Language Institute. I would also appreciate hearing from any other Yemenis. I would especially like to hear from Yemenis in Oklahoma and Texas (especially if you will invite me to dinner - just kidding, sort of).

**Boyd Fisher,
E-Mail: pescador@sirinet.net
Telephone 580-536-5926,
306 SW 75th,
Lawton, Oklahoma 73505-6403,
USA**

A Sad Memory

I am a Yemeni hailing from parents from Southern Yemeni. I was born in Mogadishu, Somalia. The first time I visited my country was on the 15th of June 1985. At that time I was only 19 years old. In the beginning, I felt a little bit strange before I got to know my family. After a short period of time, everything turned out great and I met many of my family members.

But, my serious disappointments started when I visited my sister. At that time, she was living in Sanaa, the capital. On my arrival at Sanaa Airport I was kept for 8 hours in the interrogation room because I was from South Yemen and police thought I was a spy. They sent me to Aden the next morning.

I tried to visit my sister again after two months. Unfortunately, the same two policemen who caught me the first time caught me again and one of them said that this time they were going to put me in jail. My poor sister kept crying until they made her pay 10,000 Yemeni Rials for their pockets just to release me. They let me go but kept my passport and told me if I wanted to get my passport back, I had to go to "Dar Al-Bisha'er" where I was supposed to collect my passport. You know "Dar Al-Bisha'er"? That's where people who committed crimes usually need to go. I did not understand what my crime was? For them, my only crime was being born in Somalia. After some time they started coming to my sister's house to demand more money. I was told that these monsters were originally "bedouin tribesmen" from San'aa governorate.

I couldn't live and watch my sister suffer because of me. So I decided to apply for a Somali passport and to immigrate to Canada. I think that the government needs to aggressively reform not only economical aspects, but also the field of human rights. I remember that several other similar incidents to mine happened when I was there and suffered with my sister. Many people were roughly treated for no apparent reason other than the fact they were born abroad, or look different. I believe I was discriminated without reason. Now I am living a happy life where I am, and I don't think that I will ever come back. How can I come back to a country where its people destroyed the love I had for it in my heart?

**Abdullah Salim Nasser,
E-Mail: Leeholy@hotmail.com
Montreal, Canada**

There is No Place On Earth Like Home!

The reason I wrote this letter was to express the gratitude towards the Canadian people who so far have been very kind to me and to my colleagues.

It's true when they say that being away from your country is hard. We never imagined what it would be like when we left. We thought it would be nice to go into a more civilized society. We will try to change our way of thinking, and we will be more free to do other things.

But now I know how much my country means and how precious it is for me, even if life here offers more amenities. I just wish to wake up and smell the aroma of home-grown coffee. There

isn't any place on earth like home, so don't leave unless you have to. Don't be under the illusion that America or Europe is a dreamland or paradise.

**Hisham Khalid Al-Omeisy,
University of Calgary, Alberta,
Canada**

Living in My Country Secures My Ultimate Freedom

I have been to Yemen three times - in 1983, 1992, and 1995. Being originally from the governorate of Rada'a, I enjoy it a lot whenever I visit my homeland. I really love Yemen and wish I could live there. But as we all know, Yemen is going through some tough times and it is hard for someone to make a good living there. Even though I am in the USA, the country with the most complete freedom and democracy, I still do not feel as free in the USA as I do in Yemen.

In Yemen, I do not feel stress like I do here. I can honestly say that I feel free and relaxed whenever I am in my original homeland. I can walk around in Yemen and easily associate with people. The public is very friendly.

This is to express how free I feel when I am in Yemen. Insh'allah one day, we can all go back and live there. I am looking forward to that day. Inshallah the corrupt government of Yemen will have mercy on its people and let everyone be happy. I would like to have close contact by e-mail with Yemenis across the World. Please write to me if you can.

**Nasr Al-Ajji,
E-Mail: arab1973@aol.com
Buffalo, New York,
USA**

Back to Contribute to Yemen, Next Century!

Currently I am a Senior Registrar in Ophthalmology in the United Kingdom. I am reaching the end of my training in the UK and hopefully I will be back in Yemen in January next century (In Sha'a Allah). I got all my training and higher degrees (FRCSed & FRCOphth) in Ophthalmology in the UK which has been a great country to me. Glasgow is my favorite city, I admire her and I am definitely going to miss her a lot. My subspecialty interests are Pediatric Ophthalmology and Cornea and I am going to spend my last year in training in the above two subspecialties. I am married with two children Hamza and Laith, both born in Glasgow. I like to see football matches in the English Premiership League and I support Chelsea FC.

My dream is to see some real regulations in practicing Medicine and training young doctors in Yemen and I would love to see the day that Yemeni patients will not travel abroad for treatment for common diseases and that the trust in Yemeni doctors is back again. I am sorry it is only a dream!!

Thanks and best regards to all unknown and hard working people living in Yemen who are contributing to make Yemen a better place to live in. But for now, it is sad to say that I am not one of them.

**Mahfouth Abdallah Bamashmus
E-Mail: mahfouth@globalnet.co.uk
Glasgow
United Kingdom**



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Kick Off of a Giant Silo & Milling Plant:

Habbari Embarks on Multi-million dollar Project

Love for one's country is not just words uttered on occasions, or an empty metaphor

Love for one's country must translate into acts and a lot of hard work.

The Yemen International Food Industries Company, an affiliate of Al Haj Ali Al-Habbari & Sons Group of Companies, inaugurated one of its most ambitious projects, and a strategic one for the nation. The project calls for construction of a complex of silos, milling and bagging plants, ship unloading and truck loading, and other facilities.

Located at Al-Salif Port, 62 km north of Hodeida, on a 173,600 square meter area, the complex's two contracts were concluded last week.

A German company, Buhler, will construct the flour mill, the bagging station, laboratory, and the ship and loader. A Swiss firm, Petkos Wuthe will do the steel structures. The Swedish Company Sweco, which is a consulting firm, will supervise the whole project.

The project has been planned for many years, but the first tangible steps were realized last week. On Tuesday, February 13th, 1999, on the premises of the Watani Bank for Trade and Investment, an agreement was concluded for civil works between the Yemen International Food Industries Company and Egypt's Arab Contractors Company. Mr. Yahia Ali Al-Habbari represented the YIFICO while the other side was represented by Engineer Mahmoud Hijazi, the resident Manager of the Arab Contractors National Company.

This agreement calls for placement of ground poles of 45 meter depth on a 50,000 square meter area on which concrete structures are to be erected covering 20,000 square meters, connected with concrete bridges that span 25,000 square meters. In addition, there will be land leveling work, and construction of the plants of the project.

The project consists of two stages, as follows:

First Phase :

1. Installation of bulk grain loading equipment with a capacity of

unloading 144,000 tons of grain per day from the ships to the silos.

2. Construction of grain silos with a capacity of 120,000 tons.

3. Installation of bagging station with capacity of 4,560 tons per day.

4. Loading equipment of bulk wheat onto trucks with capacity of 250 tons per day.

5. Milling equipment with the capacity of producing 600 tons of flour per day.

The Second Phase:

1. New silos construction to increase capacity by 30,000 tons so that total capacity reaches 150,000 tons.



2. Completion of milling plant to increase capacity by 1,200 tons a day so that total capacity rises to 1,800 tons per day.

3. Additional work to produce children's food as well as animal fodder.

Mr. Yahya Al Habbari said that the total cost of the first stage is \$US 50 million, fully paid up through a loan from Al Haj Ali Al Habbari Group of Companies. No commercial loans or investment bank financing was needed. Engineer Mahmoud Hijazi, Resident Manager of the Arab Contractors Company and the managing member from the ACC, stated that the company is keen to develop

economic and commercial relations with Yemen. "We are looking forward to carrying out many other projects in various sectors of Yemeni economy," he confirmed. He said that his company is eager to transfer to the Yemeni market its 60 years of experience in various fields.

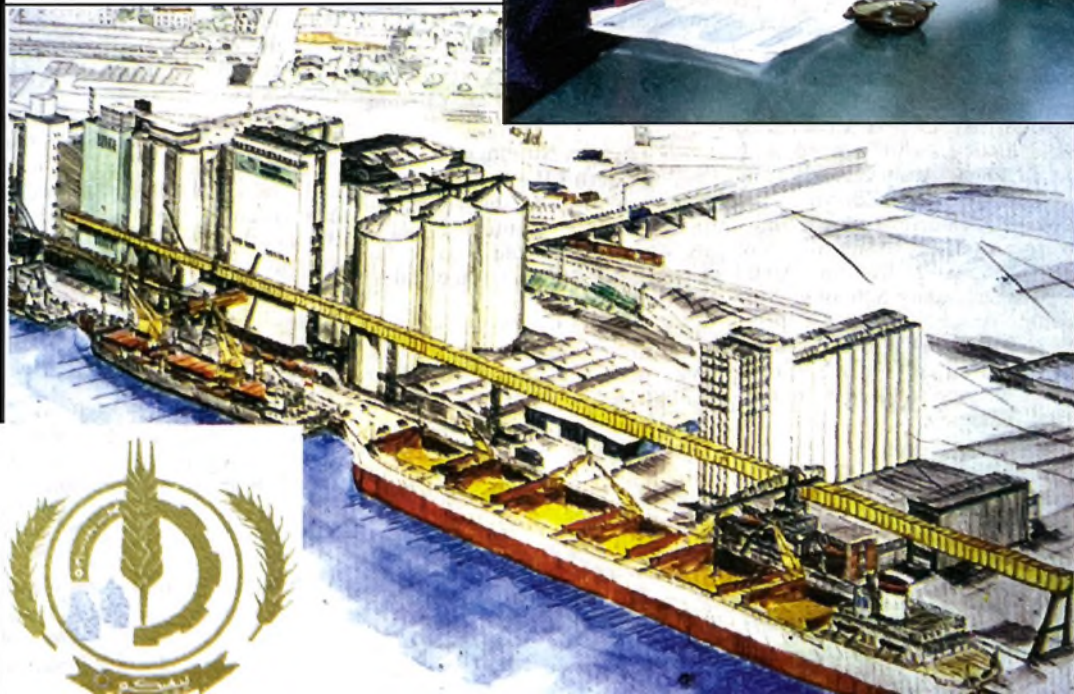
The signing ceremony was attended by Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Kumaim, Minister of Supply and Trade, Dr. Mahmoud Murtaza Egyptian Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Abdul Karim Mutair General Director of General Investment Authority, and Dr. Ahmed Al Hamdani, Chairman of Board of the National Bank for Commerce and Investment.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Al-Kumaim, described the project as a giant investment that will augment Yemen's drive towards food security. "I want to use this occasion to assure Mr. Al-Habbari and all investors that I will work hard to facilitate all their business needs. They can count on my personal support," he said.

The ambassador, with an eye to the upcoming high level Yemeni-Egyptian talks to be held soon in Cairo, said that the project is a clear indicator of a rising level of bilateral cooperation in business. "Businessmen on both sides should avail themselves of the many opportunities that exist. They will find full support from both governments," he added.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Hamdani, a banker who is in high standing with the business community, has played a vital role in linking the groups. "We are eager to fill the gaps in assuring that business deals are closed as often as possible. We will provide financing and whatever skills the business community needs," he confirmed.

Yahia Al-Habbari explained that the foundation stone of the project was laid down by Mr. Mohammed Hatem Al-Khawi, Governor of Hodeidah, in October 1996. "Unfortunately, there were many difficulties which we had to face. But, thanks to the support of President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the other patriotic children of Yemen, we were able to overcome most of them," he disclosed.



"Society Still Doesn't Value Plastic Art"



Art is the soul of human life. It is the only language that can travel across distances and go beyond all barriers. Further, it can be understood by all people in the world. Artists have distinguished outlook to express the meaning of life. Plastic art is one of these arts that can

reflect wide view of human life. This is why the world has given this kind of art a wide scope.

Ms. Widad Abdul Rahman Al-Rumaimah, 25, is one of the talented plastic artists in the city of Taiz. She was born in the village of Hadnan, Sabir. She has a BA in Education from Taiz University. In addition, she is also a politician for she run for the parliament in the latest parlia-



entary election in 1997. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Taiz Office Editor met with her and filed the following interview.

Q: Could you please tell us something about your arts interest?

A: Actually, my interest in plastic art and especially drawing started when I was child in the elementary school. I used to draw on the desks of my classroom. It was my primary hobby. Even after that in the university I kept on drawing. In my drawing I used coal and graphite. In fact, I feel indebted to my family, particularly my father, who helped polish my skill and pushed it forward.

Q: What does plastic art mean for you and what inspires you to draw?

A: For me, art is an influx of deep emotional feelings; its a portrait through which the artist can express his inner feelings. He can embody these emotions in drawings which can be either real or



imaginary. I draw pictures of the surrounding environment with all its beauties and incongruities, and also folkloric scenarios like the rural woman in her beautiful dress as well as the peasant and other spectacles embodying the struggling and challenging spirit of the rural people. The Yemeni environment is rich with many inspiring scenarios. Everything in this globe with its charms and contradictions inspires me to draw. These things can evoke the sense of any artist.

Q: Have you ever participated in any shows?

A: While studying in school, I participated in many school exhibitions in Taiz. I also participated in many activities in the university. I participated in the Arts First Gathering in Sanaa in 1996, which was attended by many Arab artists. My portraits were among these admired by many attendants. Another participation was on the From Child to Child Festival in 1998 in Taiz.

Q: How do you see the plastic art drive in Yemen?

A: Artists are found all over the country. Unfortunately, they are lacking the needed support and drive. This is what is happening to us here in Taiz. Some people intend to dishearten us. They are also working against the founding of any society for the plastic artists of Taiz. The Ministry of Culture should understand the importance of this art and its role in highlighting the originality of our cultural heritage. The society should also help encouraging the artists through holding and attending the exhibitions of our artists. Unfortunately, many people in our society still don't understand what plastic art is.

Q: Any last word?

A: Finally, I would like to thank the Yemen Times, its chief Editor Dr. Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf, the voice of Yemen inside and outside Yemen and all the working staff of the paper. Also, I would like to call all the plastic artists of Yemen not to stop and to explore new avenues in the world of this kind of art for it is only man that makes the history. It is expected that some young artists will apply for the membership in the Yemeni Plastic Artists Syndicate in Sanaa, and we will open a branch for it here in Taiz.

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Yemeni Press in a Week

by: Sameer Farawna

الحدوي

AL WAHDAMI
Sanaa, weekly 16/2/99
(People's Nasserite Unionist Organization)

Main Headlines

-Well informed sources affirmed that Premier Dr. Abdul Karim Al Iryani was not performing his duties following disagreements over last year's economic measures.

-The government is backing an illegitimate conference for the Yemeni bar.

-Deputy Sultan Al Atwani, a Unionist general secretariat member, has charged that all laws issued by the President during the Parliament's recess are illegal.

-A Saudi company is violating the judicial rule banning its products from entry into Yemeni markets.

-Many parliament deputies do not attend sessions due to pre-occupation with private business.

-The fever virus is spreading among the Abyan governorate's animals, so far killing more than one thousand head of sheep and cattle.

An Article Summary of the Threats Against Britons and Americans in Yemen

Extremist Islamic groups have warned the Americans and Britons to leave Yemen within 276 hours starting from dawn Tuesday 16/2/99.

Statements signed by various groups were circulated in the country pledging to destroy all Americans and Britons found in Yemen after that deadline.

They said that people of both nationalities working here were intelligence agents, and charged them with stealing the country's oil wealth with the help of corrupt elements who share-in the profits.



AL SHOURA
Sanaa, weekly 14/2/99
(Federation of Popular Forces)

Main Headlines

-The director of Yemen's Central Bank has said that the country's subsidies to wheat has been wholly lifted as of the beginning of this year.

-An official anti-smuggling committee held a meeting recently to discuss growing smuggling operations especially of cars through Hadhramaut borders.

-Investigations into the death of two prisoners and an officer in the central prison are under way in the Ibb governorate, and into how a grenade was smuggled into the prison.

-Hodeida port sources disclosed

that a large number of expired medicines were stored in the warehouses.

-Security authorities arrested two persons in Hajja governorate on charges of forging the 500 rial notes.

-Gulf specialists have ruled out a for the near future the use of Yemeni manpower in the Arab Gulf countries, saying that political atmosphere of the region must first witness a marked improvement.

الطريق

ATTARIQ
Aden, weekly 16/2/99
(Independent)

Main Headlines

-The security authorities in Sanaa have started a campaign against illegal residents in the country, arresting almost 1000 people so far, who will be deported soon.

-A number of tribes in the Hadhramaut have declared that anyone caught with chewing qat will be fined 10,000 rials and the amount might double on the recurrence of such an act. They said that chewing qat greatly increased following 1990 to the extent that between 40 to 50 million rials are spent daily on buying qat in the governorate.

-A truce was reached between the army and Khawlan tribes last week after a meeting between the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh and a number of tribesmen in a bid to resolve the disputes in which katyusha rockets were used.

البلد

AL BALAGH
Sanaa, weekly 16/2/99
(Independent)

Main Headlines

-Yemenia's marketing manager Abdullah Al Mutarrab has said that the national carrier has lost six million dollars in revenues in the past three months.

-The Education Ministry allocated 15.5 million dollars for construction of new schools for the period 1999-2000.

-Yemen has expressed fears that foreign intervention was behind the flare up in the Ethiopian-Eritrean armed confrontation.

-Six Arab countries including Yemen have lost their right to vote in the U.N. for non-payment of their financial contributions to the international organization.

-A number of newly appointed Foreign Ministry employees were fired from their jobs due to the in-availability of employment degrees.

-Inhabitants of the Aden governorate are complaining about the growing heaps of garbage which are seriously affecting their health

and harm the environment.

-The Culture and Tourism Ministry has asked the city of Sanaa to clean up the garbage in the old Sanaa area before arrival of the visiting German Foreign Minister for a tour in its vicinity.



ATTAGAMMU
Sanaa, weekly 15/2/99
(Yemeni Unitary Congregation)

Main Headlines

-The British Airways have retreated from a previous decision to resume flights to Sanaa, saying that recent kidnap operations had led to a decrease in the number of tourists.

-A recent poll by a local newspaper indicated that 80% of doctors in Yemen barely meet their daily needs due to very low salaries.

-Security authorities in Aden Airport did not allow the brother of the accused Abaz Hussein entry into the country. Hussein is currently standing trial in a primary court in Aden governorate.

-The Defense Ministry has banned entry of bearded military personnel and circulated a strict order prohibiting beards in view of the circumstances, facing the country.

-Head of the Unitary Congregation's branch in Hadhramaut Abdullah Mujahed is still in custody despite the deterioration of his health. Director of Mukala security department insists that Mujahed should first agree to evacuate his home.

An Article Summary of Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani to Premiership

Political circles are circulating strong rumors that Consultative Council Chairman Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani will return to the premiership soon in place of Dr. Abdul Karim Al Iryani.

Another rumor says that former Interior Minister Yehya Al Mutawakel will be appointed as secretary general of the ruling People's General Conference (PGC) party which is another post of Dr. Iryani.

Both rumors point to the presence of deep differences that would make it impossible for Dr. Iryani to return to either posts.

حق

AL HAQ
Sanaa, weekly 14/2/99
(Independent)

Main Headlines

-A three years old child was raped in the bathrooms of one of the Sanaa mosques last January 31st.

-Malaria victims are increasing in Hodeida governorate with medical sources saying that the number of malaria-stricken patients had exceeded 170,000 cases.

-Hundreds of thousands of workers in private companies were sacked in recent months on the pretext of growing recession.

-Security campaigns are in full swing in Shabwa governorate to trace remains of Jihad militant elements hiding there.

الاسبوع

AL OSBO'
Sanaa, 11/2/99
(Independent)

Main Headlines

-Thirty persons have caught the aids virus in Hodeida governorate's Revolution Hospital-dental Department, according to medical sources.

-The general port authority's board of directors had ordered the printing of 10 million rials as a reward to the authority's leaders only three months after a similar move.

-Three leaders of the Islamic Jihad group have cut off relations with the group and received 200,000 rials each as a reward from the government to start a new life.

-Tribal war between two tribes in Naham area, Sanaa renewed last week following failure of mediation to end the three weeks war which left two people killed so far along with the destruction of scores of houses.



AL SAHWA
Sanaa, weekly 18/2/99
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform-Islah)

Main Headlines

-Varsity specialists estimate that 96% of Yemeni families are poor while press reports indicated that 75 billion rials worth of goods have been smuggled into the country 75% of which were medicines.

-Inhabitants of the industrial area in Al Mansoura, Aden governorate have complained that a house in their vicinity was selling liquor with the knowledge of the security authority.

-The group of Hayel Sa'eed companies have fired 70 workers due to poor economic conditions, according to a company source.

-Parliament speaker Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussein Al Ahmar has opined that an end to kidnappings in Yemen is linked to the application of sharia and law.

-A fire in the journalists syndicate Aden branch almost completely destroyed the neglected headquarters.

-A number of politicians have denounced, what they described as unconstitutional procedures adopted by the government in issuing a number of unilateral decisions during the parliamentary recess.

-The stoppage in the Yafe' water project is met with concern on the part of the citizens there. The project, when completed, will serve more than 150,000 inhabitants of the area.

-Yemen hosts more than 150,000 refugees that are expected to increase in view of ongoing armed clashes along the Ethiopian-Eritrean borders. Most of the refugees are from those two countries in addition to Somalia.

-The construction works in the Lahj-Abyan road have come to a

standstill recently after official financial backing was halted.

-Pensioners in Aden are complaining that the down trend of the Yemeni rial's value has greatly affected their lives and calls on the parliament to consider their case when it discusses their new law.



AL THAWRI
Sanaa, weekly 18/2/99
(Yemeni Socialist Party)

Main Headlines

-Armed clashes between central security forces and armed tribesmen in Sanaa last Wednesday halted traffic along the Safya road.

-Unknown armed men killed the son of a Yemeni investor in Hasaba, Sanaa Sunday last week. The killing was reportedly due to differences over a land deal.

-Dhamar has cabled the Vice President that a number of political detainees in that governorate, pardoned by the President in 1989, were still in prison.

-Higher authorities have ordered security men not to track down suspects who are still at large in the Abyan trial. The group, known for its leader Abul Hassan, was arrested for the abduction of tourists in an operation that ended in the killing of four of them following police armed intervention to release the hostages.



AL UMMA
Sanaa, weekly 18/2/99
(Al Haq Party)

Main Headlines

-Formation of a Yemeni committee for solidarity with Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan.

-The opposition's higher coordination council has rejected the elections committee's proposal on the allocation of quotas for each party in various electoral committees.

-Sanaa University's teaching staff syndicate is planning a protest march against continued seizure of varsity lands.

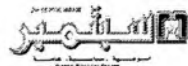
-The American Commander of the joint military operation "Desert Fox" against Iraq, Anthony Zinni is expected in Sanaa soon, according to unsub-

stantiated reports.

-Yemen's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Abdul Qader Ba Gammal's visit to Saudi Arabia last week aimed at easing mounting tensions between the two neighboring countries.

-A Yemeni expatriate living in New York was killed last February 15. Ali Ahmed Kalaz was shot three times by a thief in his shop.

-Tribesmen in Dhamar exchanged gun fire in the city more than a week ago in which one person was killed. They clashed over priority in riding cabs.



26 SEPTEMBER
Sanaa, weekly 18/2/99
(Yemen Armed Forces)

Main Headlines

-Planning Undersecretary Hisham Sharaf has announced that the EC has approved a 19 million-dollar grant to Yemen.

-50,000 new telephone lines will enter service in Aden within the coming two weeks at a total cost of four billion Yemeni rials.

-Security authorities have detained 250 violators of residence rules in Yemen.

-Work on the Yemeni-Chinese friendship bridge in Sanaa is expected to commence by mid March.

-The five-day national conference for education and vocational training is to open on Tuesday 23 February at the police officers club with the participation of a number of Arab and international personalities.

-There will be no power cuts in Aden next summer, according to the electricity director in that governorate.

-Abyan governor Ahmed Ali Mohsen has said that a steel factory will be soon established in his governorate.

-About five thousand Yemenis will perform Haj (pilgrimage) this year, according to Minister of Awqaf (Endowments) and Guidance Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Shaybani.

-The Council of Ministers has decided to fire any employee who is working in more than one government institution after giving him a chance to chose between his multiple posts that ends in April.

تهانينا الحارة

نتقدم الهيئة الإدارية والمدارس
بمدرسة خولة بنت الأزور
بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للأستاذة
سبأ محمد العريقي
بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف على الشاب
طلال عبدالقوي البصيلي
فألف مبروك

ألف مبروك

نتقدم جميع مدرسات
مدرسة خولة بنت الأزور
بأحر التهاني وأطيب التهاني للأستاذة
إبتسام عبده مكرد الشرجبي
على خطوبتها على الشاب
طارق الشرجبي
ألف مبروك

عقبال مائة سنة

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للطفل الحبوب
محمد صالح العنسي

بمناسبة اطفاة شمعة الأولى

ألف مبروك

المهنؤون:

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عبدالقادر محمد،

حسين محمد الحداد،

أفندم/ محمد مثنى

وجميع الزملاء في الشركة

اليمنية لصناعة وتجارة

الأدوية



تهانينا الحارة

أجمل آيات التهاني والتبريكات
للشباب الخلق

جلال أحمد سعيد الذبحاني

وذلك بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف.

المهنؤون:

سليمان الشيباني،

علي عبدالله الشيباني،

عقيل شمسان الشيباني،

بسام السقاف

At the End of the 9th Week of Football Excellent League Tournament

Despite Its Draw with Taliya, Al-Ahli of Sanaa Still in the Lead!

Al-Ahli Still Leads, In Spite of Its Draw with Taliya
The 9th week of the Football Excellent League Tournament witnessed a major decline in the performance of all the top-ranking teams. As a matter of fact, this decline is the worst since the beginning of the tournament, with all three top teams unable to win. In a very disappointing match, the tournament leader, Al-Ahli, played one of its worst games this season. Al-Ahli fans had every right to be disappointed, particularly as the match was between their top-ranked team and the second to last team in the tournament, Taliya of Taiz. However, anyone who watched the last game between Taliya and Shaab of Ibb would have known that Al-Ahli's game would be tough. Taliya proved again on Friday that it can live up to a challenge, especially when playing against tough opponents. So far it has been the biggest surprise of the tournament.

The match began with the expectation that Al-Ahli would easily defeat its weak opponent. However, surrounded by its fans and on its home field, Taliya proved to be tough to beat. During the first half of the match, Taliya displayed better tactics and faster play. It almost scored several times, while Al-Ahli was struggling on its attack. Al-Ahli didn't even come close to scoring throughout the entire first half. The Taliya defense was simply too strong.

However, the second half included many more Al-Ahli attacks on Taliya. Al-Ahli attackers had many excellent opportunities to score that could have saved them from total humiliation, but they wasted them all. There were times when Al-Ahli attackers managed to bypass the first line of defense, but the goalkeeper was too strong to get through. Without a doubt, the hero of the second half was the Taliya goalkeeper, Walid Rajih, who frustrated Al-Ahli attackers throughout the half. The cheers reached their loudest every time the goalkeeper brilliantly prevented what looked to be an unstoppable goal. The incredible play of the goalkeeper made the fans go wild with cheers that could be heard from outside of the stadium.

In the end, Al-Ahli could only manage to pull a scoreless draw out of the game. Besides being Ahli's first draw of the tournament, Al-Ahli lost a good chance for an easy win against a weak team. Al-Ahli was expected to have an easy win that would have widened its lead in the standings.

Having the advantage of the ground and spectators, Taliya seemed to be highly motivated towards proving it is not a team to be taken lightly by any one, even the tournament leader. And it proved its point. With this draw, Al-Ahli of Sanaa maintains its lead with 22 points, ahead of Al-Shaab of Ibb and Al-Wahda of

A Furious Fight between Two Rivals from Ibb

Another major match was between two rival teams from the city of Ibb: Al-Shaab in second place with 19 points, and Al-Ittihad in the fifth place with 14 points. Both were looking for a victory to improve their standards in the tournament rankings. Everyone realized that the match would be a very strong and tense one. Many feared that tensions in the field would cause tensions among spectators, especially after a number of violent incidents that took place two weeks ago. But thankfully, no serious accidents occurred this time.

The match started with a lot of action from both sides. The superiority of Al-Ittihad was clearly evident throughout the entire match. Al-Ittihad showed a great amount of organization, flexibility, speed, and quality attacks. However, in spite of the many attacks of Al-Ittihad players, none of them was capable of scoring a goal. The selfishness of some of the players in trying to score goals alone did not help matters, and gave Al-Shaab the chance to try and score a goal of their own. But Al-Shaab was not on its top performance, and all their attacks failed to score.

The second half showed a more determined attack by Al-Ittihad in hopes of scoring their golden goal. A confirmation of this determination was Al-Ittihad's coach's decision in replacing Khalid Al-Arumi with the Ittihad's star Qassim Al-Usta. Later on this decision paid off, and paid off

well. As expected, Qassim Al-Usta inspired the entire team, leading the way to some of the best attacks of the match. In one of those attacks, Qassim passes the ball to Ahmed Alawi, who in turn passes it to Al-Ittihad's best player Ahmed Al-Bidayr, but before it reaches him, it gets touched by a defender from Al-Shaab, causing the referee to signal a penalty kick. Al-Bidayr then takes the penalty kick smoothly to score one of Al-Ittihad's most important goals of the tournament in the 24th minute of the second half of the match. This goal devastated Al-Shaab and seriously depressed its players. Noticing the state of Al-Shaab players, Al-Ittihad tried to take advantage and launch another furious attack on Al-Shaab in order to score once again. Although Al-Ittihad was close to scoring a second goal, it couldn't, and the match ended with Al-Ittihad defeating its local rival Al-Shaab 1/nil. This score boosted Al-Ittihad's points to 17, while it left Al-Shaab with 19 points.

Second Loss for Last Year's Cup Winner

It was a total shock for last year's cup winner Al-Wahda of Sanaa to get defeated in its own field and in front its own spectators by Shaab of Al-Mukalla. In spite of this loss, Al-Wahda is still third in the tournament rankings following Al-Shaab of Ibb. The astonishing defeat by Shaab was a major set back for a team that could have taken over the second

spot with a win. Previously sixth in the tournament rankings, Shaab gained a significant win, tying it for fourth place with 2 other strong teams, making it another candidate for a top spot at the end of the league. Shaab caused one of the biggest surprises of the tournament with its dominance throughout the game with Al-Wahda and crushed it with a totally unexpected win. Both halves of the match were almost completely controlled by Shaab. Both teams were very cautious and played a defensive game. However, the defensive line of Al-Wahda was too weak to stand withstand the pressure of Shaab's attacks. In the 45th minute of the first half, Shaab's players took advantage of a gap in Al-Wahda's defense leading the way to the goal of the match. Al-Wahda struggled to bring its players back together and try to organize some attacks, but their vain attempts to equalize the score were fruitless, and they lost the game. It was a major disappointment for Al-Wahda, especially as it had promised its fans to do its best to win games in its home field.

Hassan's Climb to the Top Continues

Results and Points of the Teams After the 9th Week

Team	Points	Results			Goals	
		Won	Tie	Lost	For	Against
Al-Ahli of Sanaa	22	7	1	1	17	4
Al-Shaab of Ibb	19	6	1	2	17	9
Al-Wahda of Sanaa	19	6	1	2	17	10
Hassan of Abyan	17	5	2	2	10	6
Al-Ittihad of Ibb	17	5	2	2	12	11
Shaab Al-Mukalla	17	5	2	2	7	7
Shullah	13	4	1	4	15	10
Al-Wahda of Aden	12	3	3	3	10	11
Al-Tilal	10	3	1	5	19	17
Al-Zohra	9	2	3	4	8	15
Al-Saqr	8	2	2	5	12	14
Al-Hilal	8	2	2	5	9	15
Taliya of Taiz	4	1	1	7	5	16
Al-Majd	2	-	2	7	8	21

Having won its match with Al-Tilal, Hassan from Abyan is holding tightly to its 4th position. Although the match was almost entirely controlled by Al-Tilal, Hassan managed to take advantage of two counter attacks and won by a score of two to one. Another factor in this win was Al-Tilal's waste of a penalty kick that could have turned things around. The general excitement level was low, with few god attacks from either teams. But eventually, Al-Tilal lost and Hassan win gives it an extra boost in its climb to the top.

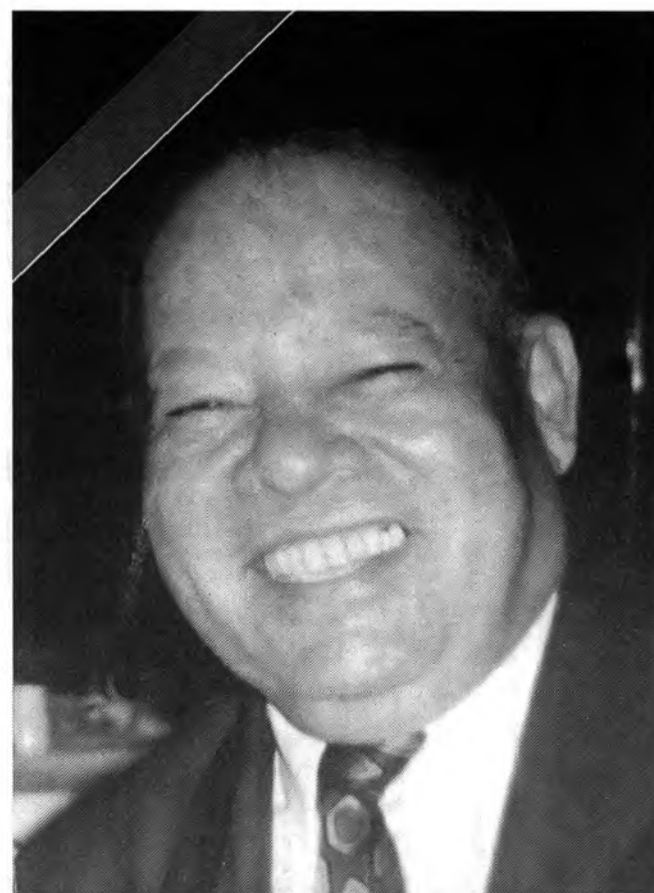
The 9th week of the Excellent Football Tournament included many surprising results. The teams most disappointed were the second and third which could not take advantage of the leading team's. Even though the first four spots did not change, the results of the games were absolutely astonishing. From the scores, it seems that what they say of football "the ball is round" is right and one cannot always guarantee any results no matter how strong the team and how weak its opponent. For now, we have to patiently wait for the results 10th Week of the tournament to see how things will change. Who knows? Like the 9th week, it may also be full of surprises!

CONDOLLENCE

Mr. Abdul Malik Mugahed, his sons, his family and the staff of:
Yemen Ready Mix Concrete Co.
Mugahed Trading Co. Ltd
Abdulmalik Office for Crushers & Parts

With deepest emotions of sorrow and regrets offer their condolence on the death of Mr. Gordon E. Schunker, former Vice President of Bank of America.

We pray to God to have mercy on our brother friend and may his soul rest in peace. We are to God and to God we shall return



Dhamaran Supermarket: The Service Is Now Available in Aden



Dhamaran Shopping Center, well-known for the high-quality products it carries, is now branching out to Aden. Launching from its tremendous success in Sanaa, where its supermarket is on Khartoum Street (formerly Mujahid Abu Shawarib Street), the business last week inaugurated a large Aden branch. This new supermarket is located in Al-Mansoorah, near the circle of the Weaving and Spinning Factory. The telephone number is 346-579, fax 342-223. There is a lot of parking space.

On this occasion, Mr. Abdul-Jalil Jazem, Director-General, talked to the Yemen Times. "We are delighted with the new branch in Aden. We promise to continue to offer the best quality goods at competitive prices," he said. The supermarket is actually a major center for various products. It has several sections for food products, vegetables and fruits, household appliances, electric, and



swimming gear and other equipment for seaside picnics and family outings. "We have also introduced a delivery service to our clients. Families and companies need only call us and order what they need. We are happy to arrange delivery to your home or company," he said. Another facility the supermarket offers is credit for companies that wish to open accounts for their employees.

electronic products, cosmetics, toys and gifts, artifacts, etc. It also carries various



"We have a revolving credit facility for employees and other customers. Accounts are settled on a periodic basis as agreed upon when the account is opened," the director-general explained. The supermarket also offer discounts based on coupons issued periodically for regular clients. "In addition to discounted prices, regular customers can also profit from the raffles that are organized from time to time. The prizes are substantial, rising to hundreds of thousands of riyals," Abdul-Jalil said.

"The thing that gives us the most pride is the satisfaction of our customers in our service. This is truly our greatest reward because we are anxious to offer the highest of quality goods at good prices," he added.

Indeed, Dhamaran carries well-known trade marks and product brands that stand out in markets worldwide. "We represent many international manufacturers and distributors in the USA, Australia, Europe, Saudi Arabia, and other countries keen on high standard products," the general manager concluded.

By: Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Aden Office Manager,
Yemen Times.



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