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YEMEN'S POPULATION MENACE: 20 million in 2002; 27 in 2010 & 40 in 2020

If you are not yet alarmed, you should be.

The annual growth rate and the resultant size of population of the Republic of Yemen offer a scary and menacing picture.

If present fertility rates of 7.2% and an annual explosive growth rate of 3.7% continue, Yemen's present population of 17.7 million will grow to 19.6 million by 2002, to almost 22 million by 2005, and is projected to jump to 27 million in 2010, and to a crashing 40 million by the year 2020.

The situation is further complicated because of a high proportion of young people. Today, nearly 2.5 million Yemenis are under four years old, and another 5 million are between the ages of 5-14 years. Thus infants and children represent 42.4% of the total population today. Moreover, this proportion

will rise to 46% by the year 2005, and to 50% by 2010.

Very little is being done to help control the explosion. In fact, the Yemeni authorities, weakened by inefficiency and corruption, fail to address the issue head-on. Family planning efforts are carried out under various schemes, none of which hit the nail on the head. As a result, the message on family planning is confused, if it is there at all.

Donor attention to this issue has financed lots of studies and meetings. Today, Yemen boasts over 32 documents on the subject. Not bad for a country that has no basic statistics. Officials and experts also continue to meet in meeting rooms and debate in hotel corridors. But the impact on the rate of population growth has been nil.

Yemen's Population

Year	Number
1999	17,676,000
2002	19,607,000
2005	21,851,000
2010	26,648,000
2020	about 40 million

Controlling the runaway growth rate needs two steps:

- Addressing the issue point blank and mobilizing all sectors in the effort.
- Moving to the field by providing the tools for family planning to the public. There is no point in doing media awareness if the people have no access to the tools.

By: Khairiyah Al-Shabibi, Yemen Times.

GUILTY

The Abyan and Aden courts say they have finished their proceedings on two separate cases. The first case involves 14 persons charged with kidnapping and hostage killing in Abyan, and the second one involves 10 persons charged with possession of arms with intent to undermine law and order.

Insiders say a "guilty" verdict is ready for announcement, and could be handed down as early as next week.

Given the many irregularities and violations during arrest, interrogation and trial, the

verdict will not sit well with many circles. In fact, the families and lawyers of the accused have already made complaints against the integrity and propriety of the legal process.

Some senior Yemeni officials have reportedly intervened to prevent further complications in relations with the UK and international human rights organizations. "We should be looking for ways to redeem Yemen's image rather complicate things further unjustifiably," a senior source told Yemen Times.

As a compromise, two lines of action are reportedly being considered - either to water down the verdicts before they are announced, or to offer presidential pardons and/or reductions of sentences soon after the verdicts are announced.

Another totally different approach calls for the postponement of the verdict announcement till after the Eid Al-Adha - in three weeks. The idea is to buy more time, and reduce the level of public interest in the cases - locally and internationally.

President Saleh in Tokyo



Following a successful 2-day visit to New Delhi, President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tokyo yesterday. The president's program includes extensive talks on regional and international issues, as well as on Japan's contribution to Yemen's socio-economic development process.

Yemen Times learned that the President is asking Japan to finance two large projects - an expansion of Sana'a International Airport's runway, and a new electricity plants. However, neither project is on Japan's priority list. Actually, officials in Tokyo are not interested in large projects. They are willing to continue with the present level of support - some US\$ 30-35 million a year for various infrastructure and human resource development projects. But, because this is the first visit of a Yemeni head of state, Tokyo is reported to have agreed to award an additional 20 billion yen.

In India, the President had pushed for more cultural support (read, educational scholarships) and credit lines for imports. Discussions also covered the purchase of spare parts for old Russian military hardware.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Eritrean-Ethiopian War YEMEN MUST STAY OUT!

The on-going war between neighboring Eritrea and Ethiopia is a sad development. Neither society can afford it. But then again, history is full of sad events.

More ominously for Yemen, there are mounting reports that Yemen is somehow implicated through arms-trafficking and gun smuggling across the Red Sea to Eritrea. This is contrary to international law as there is a UN Security Council embargo on arms shipments to the warring factions. Such an action is also contrary to Yemen's interests. So far, no evidence has been presented to prove this allegation. But my stomach keeps churning as I worry about the possibility of some proof popping up somewhere.

The international media have reported stories about gun-runners between Yemen and Eritrea. The most damaging one was by Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, a London-based Saudi newspaper, which was banned from circulation in Yemen. Reputable news agencies like Agence France Presse and Reuters carried the story. Many newspapers within the region, such as the Addis Tribune in Ethiopia, and Qaran and Xogagal in Somalia also published articles to the same effect based on different sources. The London-based electronic daily news mail put out by Eric Watkins also ran the story. In his March 9th edition, Eric writes: "We stand by the story and we will be pleased to send it again to readers on request."

The Ethiopian ambassador in Yemen, Dr. Teketel Forssido, disclosed to the Yemen Times his irritation with this development. "I cannot offer you any proof, but let me tell you of the dismay in Addis Ababa if such a thing is going on in Yemen," he said.

Let me outline my reading on this matter, and then state my thoughts on it.

1. I believe it is impossible for the Yemeni government to be officially linked to this gun-trafficking. It is neither likely nor feasible.

But gun-trafficking is an old business within Yemen. Therefore, it is possible that some of the war-lords - we call them sheikhs and some people who wear military uniforms - could be involved. For money, some of these men would do almost anything. The possibility of moving from the local market to the regional one exists.

Our problems are complicated by the fact that, although these individuals could ostensibly be acting in their private capacity, they are also part of the top management of the nation. They run the country. So, whatever they do in their private capacity spills over into officialdom.

2. My thoughts are that this is a bad war. First, it does not serve the interests of the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea. Second, Yemen should not take sides and must remain neutral. Third, and most important of all; Eritrea, which started this problem, seems to be losing the war. Thus, Yemen's assistance in arming it would only prolong the war, and the misery.

Therefore, in summation, Yemen must stay out of this ugly war.

The Publisher


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Teachers of Taiz Left Without Salaries

Teachers in Taiz are passing through critical moments these days because they haven't received their salary for February yet. It should be remembered that they received January's salary before the end of Ramadhan, which means that two months have passed with their pockets empty. Yemen Times has received many complaints on this issue, as this nagging headache occurs regularly in Taiz.

The bureaucracy of the authorities in the Taiz education Bureau needs to end this problem, and pay people on time.

Aden Free Zone Activities

Today, Monday, a forum on Aden free zone is being launched under the title "Aden: Yemen's gateway to the world." The forum is organized by the chamber of commerce and industry in Aden City. Free Zones Public Authority, Ports Authority, Yemen Vest CO, BA Co. of Singapore and a number of businessmen and investors are taking part in the forum.

Chairman of Aden's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Mohammed Omer Ba Mashmus told the Yemeni news agency that the forum is to concentrate on the following four topics:-

- 1- The worldwide importance of seaports and free zones.
- 2- Other countries experiences in this field.
- 3- General and complete outline of Aden's port in the past, present and the future business prospects.
- 4- The Containers harbor which will begin to receive ships on March 19th, the day of its inauguration, as the first phase in Aden's free zone project.

The Forum will also discuss the free zone rules and regulations, and how best they can serve local markets, investors and business men.

European and Asian Tourists Arrived in Aden and Sanaa

The Saudi Yacht BANAHUM was anchored in the port of Aden on Tuesday 12 March, having taken aboard a number of tourists from the Philippines in Asia and some Norwegians in Europe. They are expected to spend several days in the Republic of Yemen during which they will be visiting a number of historical sites, old towns and markets and other tourist attractions in a number of Yemeni cities. Tourist groups from the Netherlands and Australia arrived in Sanaa for the same purpose.

Yemen Through the Eyes of Others'

"Yemen as Seen Through the Eyes of Others" is the title of a forum organized by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The

Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Question

Throughout history, Yemeni women played important roles in ruling Yemen (e.g., Queen Bilquis, Queen Arwa). Do you think that Yemeni women should become more active in politics, and even apply for presidency?

Result

-Of course they can! (%41)
-No, they should not apply for presidency, but can apply for other political positions. (%9)
-They should be able, but they cannot because of the current conservative traditions. (%15)
-Can what? Give me a break!! (%35)

forum is dedicated to reviewing and debating a book with the same title written by 13 foreign researchers who had traveled extensively in Yemen. The book contains 12 different anthropological studies, dealing with various social and cultural aspects in Yemen. It is worth mentioning that this book was published by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies. It is available in three different languages: English, Arabic, and French.

Cultural Evening at HCC

The Health and Culture Center is holding a cultural evening on Sunday, March 21st, at 5p.m. on the premises of the center. The center is located in Al Raqas Street.

Young staff from "the National Association for Eradicating the Harmful Effects of Qat" will participate in this evening. The evening will focus on the harmful habit of qat consumption and its physical effects on human body, besides the dangerous moral effect these harmful leaves have. It is worth mentioning here that part of the Center's activities are holding weekly evenings that focus on various important subjects.

Another Attempt to Hold the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate General Convention

Today, the 15th of March, the Yemeni Journalist Syndicate (YJS) is holding its second general convention. This will be the fourth attempt by the YJS to

find a way out of the current difficulties with its convention. Observers say the main reason lies in its inability to decide who will be directing it. It is well known that the political involvement in the syndicate is the main obstacle to forming a strong independent syndicate. Partisanship among journalists from different political backgrounds also plays a

major role in its failure. However, being almost totally controlled by the state, it is expected that this convention will face the same fate as the last one because identical circumstances still prevail. Many analysts and observers doubt that the syndicate will be honest in dealing with freedom of press and the latest PSO violations.

A Compilation of AbdulHabeeb's Writings

Democracy: A SOUR WORD

A book by the title "Democracy: A Sour Word," which includes many articles by the deceased Abdul Habeeb Salem Moqbil, martyr of free speech, has been issued. The book includes the articles of Mr. Sale, which he published in Sawt Al-Ummal, Al-Wahdawi, and Al-Shoura newspapers from 1990 until his death in October 1995. It also included some interviews made with the late by Al-Wahdawi and Al-Umma newspapers.

In the book, we can also read a dedication by Mr. Salem's wife to all the people who knew and loved him to trace his foot path. The last cover of the book included the resignation of the late from the parliament on March 28th 1995. Mr. Salem Moqbil left us a good



example of a personality that cannot ignore calling for the truth and even sacrificing for it. He was a model journalist who dedicated his life to what we all think is true and cannot do without.

Truck and lorry drivers fail to abide by the law in loading their vehicles

The Ministry of Construction's Seminar on Truck Overloading

Overloading trucks is one of the main problems effecting our roads. This practice causes the reduction of the estimated life span of these roads. In addition to that it also spoils and damages the vehicles.

Realizing the importance of this issue, the Ministry of Constructions, Housing and Urban Planing in collaboration with the Roads Maintenance Fund (RMF), organized the first national conference, on Tuesday 9th March 1999, to inform people on the negative effects of overloading.

One of the conference aims, was to throw light on the republican decree #23 for 1994, for weight and dimensions for conveyor vehicles.

The law aims to protect the roads from overloading. It also introduces the different weight categories, and their implications. To control and regulate overloading, in order to reduce the risks and damage to the roads and vehicles. Finally, it attempts to regulate the import of vehicles to Yemen.

The conference's concluding Communiqués were as follows:

The conference has reached the following recommendations as a basis to regulate and implement laws for this sector.

1. The establishment of central and mobilized weight stations, in order to cover all the entrances to the cities, ports and airports, within the period of three years. And to staff and use the existing stations.

2. The ministry of construction, in collaboration with the ministry of transport, the ministry of interior and the ministry of commerce, must take the necessary measurements to ensure full compliance of trucks drivers with the Yemeni specifications and standards.

3. The ministry should have supervisory power over the RMF, while the RMF is to supervise the weight stations.

4. In view of the different laws applied to weight and trucks' dimensions from one country to another and to ease transport procedures, it is recommended to take the appropriate measures through the Arab League to unify these laws and regulations.

5. The establishment of proper

statistics methods- recording the number of incoming and outgoing trucks, weights etc.- for the reference of the Republic.

6. Customs officers and other concerned authorities must check the technical specifications of these trucks, and block the entrance of those violating the technical specifications.

7. Organizing campaigns to educate the owners and drivers on the damages caused by overloading.

8. The establishment of a fair tariff for all concerned parties: merchants, owners and citizens.

9. Dues for the damages caused by trucks - loaded or not- and to unify road tax for all vehicles. The RMF is to formulate a layout, as to how to collect these taxes.

10. To set up a follow-up committee to ensure the implication of these recommendations.



Minister Abdullah Hussain Al-Dafi'i

By- Hatem Bamehriz
Yemen Times.



Dr. Ali Al-Mikhlafi:

"Taiz University will start its College of Medicine next year"

Until 1993, the Republic of Yemen had 2 universities - one in Sanaa, and the other in Aden. Then in August of 1993, as President Ali Abdullah Saleh was making field visits around the country, he simply announced the establishment of a university in every major city he visited. So there was a university in Taiz, another in Ibb, a third in Dhamar, and a fourth in Hodeidah. It caught on. That is because cities he did not visit insisted they too had the right to have one. Thus in a short time, there were quite a few government universities.

Not to be left out, the private sector also played the same game. Many private universities were licensed starting in 1993. Thus Sanaa residents joke today by calling Rabat Street, a small road connecting the Ring Road to Hayel Street, "Shara'a Al-Jami'a-at" or Universities Street. That is because three private universities have rented flats on this street from which they offer higher learning.

Indeed, history will say that 1993 had a bumper crop of higher education institutions.

Unfortunately, most of these institutions are sub-standard, and forever plagued with shortages of all kinds. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Taiz Office Editor, talked to Professor Ali Mohammed Al-Mikhlafi, Taiz University Rector for Academic Affairs. Excerpts:

Q: Could you brief us on the establishment of the university?

A: As you know, Taiz University was established in 1993. Its first president was appointed in 1995, because until then he did not have an office to use.

Prior to 1993, there were three colleges - Arts, Education and Science, serving as branches of Sanaa University. Once Taiz University was established, two new colleges - Commerce and Law, were added.

Today, Taiz University has over 25,000 students, most of them in the faculty of Education. It employs 95 Ph.Ds from Arab and non-Arab countries, and 36 from Yemen. These are assisted by 100 demonstrators.

Each college has its own small library. We hope to inaugurate a central library at Habel Salman, on the way to Turbah, in May.

We are still laying down the basic foundations for a university in terms of regulations, educational systems, as well as buildings.

Q: The university is plagued with problems. What are they?

A: I am not going to talk about administrative problems. People will say these are normal in any institution. But, I want to address the issue of buildings. This is our main headache.

We started a university without the buildings in which to hold classes. So, we started occupying

buildings that had existed for other purposes. The first building of the university was an Islamic institute built by Kuwait. That became the college of Education. Then we occupied another building, then a third.

The university is actually suffering from the shortage of proper halls because the buildings we now have were not built for our purpose. Add to that the influx of students. It is this pressure of a large number of students and a lack of adequate lecture halls that made us use a building for two colleges - law and commerce together.

By the beginning of the next academic year (1999-2000), we will solve part of the problem because there is a building which is now being financed by the World Bank. This will be used as lecture halls for the College of Education. This building is spacious and will accommodate 4500 students. It also has laboratories and other facilities.

We have also started construction of the building of the College of Science.

We are also short of equipment and an adequate number of professional staff.

Q: There are accusations that Yemeni universities do not offer a good education. What is your opinion?

A: This is true. I myself have

written a lot about this matter. The last article I wrote was about the university curricula which have to be upgraded and developed. Frankly speaking, I cannot blame the university for this state of affairs. The blame is shared among the university, government and society at large.

The university professors feel they are cheated of what is rightfully theirs - a good salary, social status, and involvement in guiding society.

The government feels university professors do not contribute adequately to development, they are best bookish, and a complaining lot.

The community does not care much about excellence or hard work. Every family wants their son/daughter to simply get a certificate, irrespective of the skills or knowledge they get.

We are trying very hard to bridge these gaps and create a harmonious atmosphere. This can be done by establishing research centers and consulting agencies that could serve the society. This is very visible in the priorities of the university.

But in general, it is true that the role of universities is rather marginal in the transformation of our society.

Q: The question of appointing demonstrators and teaching assistants in Yemeni universities is hampered by many non-academic considerations. What is your comment?

A: Let me start by stressing that I am personally responsible for the appointment of demonstrators and teaching assistants. I insist that no appointment has been made through nepotism, favoritism or whatever else.

But allow me to go back a while. When the university was established; there were no regulations to organize academic work. Actually there was no system, and no preparations for establishing a university. We issued some rules to control the question of appointments of demonstrators and holders of master's degrees. We amended those twice, as we gained experience, and in order to be fair to all.

But we continue to face problems in applying the laws. The criteria for appointments are open to all and everybody can read them. If any person is interested in this process, we welcome their interest. We don't have anything to hide at all.



purpose was held in Sanaa University last June. The College of Medicine at Taiz University will receive its first batch of students next year. Preparations for that are in full swing.

Q: What happened to the university land at Al-Janad?

A: Much has been said about this matter. The president of the university asked me to follow it up with the governor who was really interested in doing something about it.

The location of the university at Al-Janad is very good, particularly as it is at crossroads to Ibb, Dhale' and Lahej governorates. This means that students from all those governorates, plus those of Taiz, of course, can enroll.

A committee made up the university rector, director of Taiz security, and the vice governor was formed in Ramadhan to follow this land. We are planning to make it the campus of the College of Medicine. We have agreed with the University of Ibb that we will accept their medical students.

Q: There are reports you will start a College of Medicine?

A: This college is the dream of all Taiz people. God willing, it will be a reality very soon. For around one year we have been working hard to prepare all the studies for this college. It is the only college for which adequate preparations have been done. Committees for this purpose were established from the university and some members of the medical profession.

Also, a workshop for the same

Q: Habel Salman is way out of town. How do students find transportation to the university at Habel Salman?

A: We are very much pre-occupied with this problem. In the beginning there was even no road to link the university with

the city of Taiz. Now, at least, it is there, though not paved. If it is paved it will alleviate the congestion of Beer Basha road.

I have written many articles in the media addressing this problem and urging the authorities to do something.

With regard to transportation of students, the market has responded to the need. There are minibuses services which transport students.

Q: What is the relationship between the university and the business community of Taiz?

A: We believe that businessmen can help in assisting the university. For this purpose, we have included three important businessmen from Taiz in the University council. These are Mr. Tawfeeq Abdul-Raheem, Mr. Ahmed Hayel Saeed and Mr. Ahmed Abullah Al-Shaibany. Given our experience of their level of cooperation, we have retained only Mr. Ahmed Hayel Saeed in the new council.

So far, nobody in the private sector has shown interest in financing any of the university projects, in spite of the lots of talk in the media. However, we are optimistic that they seriously consider supporting the university, particularly in these days of budgetary difficulties.

In other countries, you know that well-to-do people make donations to universities, foundations and institutions of learning. There are many big businessmen in Taiz, and they contribute.

Q: Any last comments?

A: We started the university in difficult times. The problems have increased because of the financial problems of the state, which is our largest financier. We need to mobilize funds from new and diverse sources. We also need to generate income from our own services.

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Announcement

Yemeni-British Relationship the title of the lecture presented by the Director of the British Council in Sana'a on Monday, March 15, at 12 p.m. at Queen Arwa University

The lecture will be attended by number of diplomats, intellectual concerned in the cultural affairs of the two countries, University Professors and students and some academic figures.

The invitation is open for everyone.

إعلان

العلاقات الثقافية اليمنية البريطانية - ستكون عنواناً للمحاضرة التي سيقومها مدير المجلس البريطاني في صنعاء وذلك يوم الإثنين الموافق ١٥/٣/٩٩ الساعة الثانية عشرة ظهراً في جامعة الملكة أروى.

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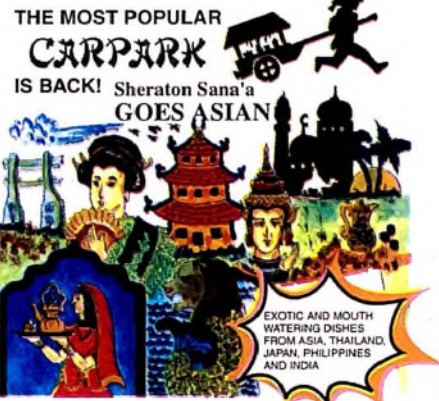


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PASSION FOR PEOPLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 21st

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Sheraton Sana'a Hotel Thula Recreation Center recently organized the Tennis Tournament held on 5th, 11th and 12th of March 1999 for members only. Participants were from the embassies and local businessmen. KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Coca-Cola were the main sponsors for this event.

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Political Parties Series # 8

The Ba'ath Party

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.

INTRODUCTION:

The Ba'ath Party was founded to usher in a new birth of national unity and independence of the Arab Homeland. The very word ba'ath means re-birth, which points to the basic philosophy of the party. It represented a backlash against traditional Arab leaders, and their role in dividing the Arab Homeland.

The founder of the Baath Party, Ahmed Michael Aflak stated in 1943, "We need to bring some creative solutions to enable our nation to turn to glory." The Baathi drive was based on the following concepts:

1. To represent current Arab history against reactionism and fabricated progressiveness.
2. To represent Arab nationalism that expresses the Arab identity.
3. To stand against nationalism in words and to replace it with action.
4. To represent the Arab message against the policy of occupation.
5. To represent the aspirations of the new Arab generation.

Those points were basic to the ideology and philosophic underpinnings of the party. The ideology of the party came to replace various perversities. As Dr. Iliac Farah, member of the national leadership of the party, indicated that the party's ideology forms a reasonable response to the non-nationalist movements.

The setting was prepared. A group of young people believing in these principals met during 4-7 April 1947 in Damascus to change Arab destiny. They began the struggle to carry the Nation's message. The meeting was given the title "The Constituent Conference of the Arab Baath." The charter of the party, its political, social, economic and moral values were legislated during the conference.

The Conference's final communique stated, "The Arab Baath Party is an Arabic, all-encompassing party, and it called for the founding of Baath branches in Arab capitals to deal with regional policies based on the supreme Arab interests."

The conference demanded a united stand of the Arab states in dealing with foreign powers, to open borders among Arab countries, to legislate an Arab charter that permits the Arab people to practice their rights in all Arab nations.

The 1947 Baath charter considered the Arab League an official body representing the governments and not the Arab people. It demanded a cancellation of all customs duties between Arab countries, considering the Arab Homeland as a single economic unit, and its wealth as belonging to the nation. The party spread widely in the capitals of all the Arab states.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE BAATH PARTY IN YEMEN:

A: Aden and Hadhramout: The party found its way in these two cities through students that had studied in Baghdad, Damascus and Cairo. Those students were the contact link with the political, social and union movements that began in

Aden and Hadhramaut, that were permitted by the British. One of the organizations the British allowed was the "Laborer Congress" that expressed the unity of the labor movement in southern Yemen. Baathists played vital roles in its foundation in 1956. They also played the same role in the foundation of the "National Front" movement which issued the Al Baath newspaper, mouthpiece of the movement.

The party gradually began to grow, its political influence expanded in the early fifties with the formation of organized cells in both Aden and Hadhramaut.

The Baath philosophy soon spread within unions and popular organizations' activities. The party had a major role in the Teachers Union in Aden, the Laborer Congress, students organizations, and other public organizations. They had an active role in opposing colonization, and stood firmly against the false "Federal Union" project among the Sultans and Sheikhs of southern Yemen that Britain tried to impose.

The Baath also played a major role in the military struggle through "Liberation Front" and other divisions. The party declared the formation of its armed division named "Fore-runners of the People Liberation War" that participated with other groups in the armed struggle. It presented a large number of martyrs till the ugly face of colonization was eliminated.

B: Northern Part of Yemen:

Underdevelopment was the main characteristic of the time. Thus, spreading the principals of the party was quite difficult in a community controlled by tribesmen. Only in the mid fifties did the party penetrate into the northern parts of Yemen.

Its organized existence began only after the declaration of unity between Syria and Egypt in 1958. It was among intellectuals and some officers who participated actively in the "Free Officers" movement that it first spread. These were later to start the September Revolution on 26th of September 1962.

Yemeni immigrants in Europe and some Arab countries also adopted seriously the ideas of the party. They carried the ideals for the coming generation despite the geographic distances.

PRINCIPALS, CONCEPTS, MORAL FOUNDATIONS, LOGO AND AIMS:

A: The Beliefs:

1. Belief in Arab nationalism as a moral reality.
2. Rejecting division among Arab states because it is an imposed and temporary situation.
3. Belief in freedom as a main concept to revive the Arab Nation and to complete its existence and uprising.
4. The importance of socialist ideas as a vital factor and the best system of the building Arab character. The party visualized socialism as a complete social revolution and Arab wealth belonging to all Arabs.
5. The party connected Arab Nationalism with the socialism, unity and freedom. Together, they represent the main goals of the party.

6. To build a new society, the party believes in moral, scientific, economic and social revolution.

B: The Party's Logo:

The party's beliefs are summarized in its anthem: "One Arab Nation, With an eternal Message".

As a national social party it works on the basis of the following: scientism, revolutionism, realism, struggling, radicalism, all-encompassing, liberty and positivism, moral concepts, humanity and dialogue.

The main characters of the party were complemented by its main priorities: Unity, Freedom and Socialism.

PROGRAM OF THE PARTY:

The Baath Party announced its political program which has the following main features:

1. To defend the Yemen Republic, its unity and independence; to protect its national sovereignty and to give the unity a democratic and developed public concept as a step on the road to Arab unity.
2. Continuous struggle to deepen democratic practices, guaranteeing freedom of political, social and constitutional rights, including the right of organization, gathering and demonstrating; providing a safe atmosphere and solving all differences peacefully; enhancing the value of democratic political struggle; implementation of an independent justice; and peaceful transfer of power.
3. Serious struggle to establish government apparatus based on modern concepts of discipline and justice.

The Baath Party aims:

A: Economically:

1. To follow a clear economic policy that promotes independence of the economic decision of the country, giving a chance to develop and increase production leading to a higher level of self-sufficiency.
2. To follow a financial policy that addresses the past failure and the government's negative role, reduce the budget deficit through better management, fighting against corruption, control prices and quality of products to protect the consumers from exploitation.
3. To build dams and end the random and disorganized digging of water wells.
4. To expand output of agriculture to develop animal and fishery production and to encourage investment in these fields.
5. To obtain trade ships that carry the imports and exports of the country within a strategic national policy.
6. To complete the reform process of the mixed and public sectors and to fight bureaucratic paperwork.
7. To work for Arab economic integration by founding a joint Arab market and activating the economic boycott resolution against the Zionist entity.
8. To expand economic cooperation and ties between Yemen and friendly countries, regional and international organizations.

B: Socially:

1. Each individual has the right



to a job, to social insurance, and to a fair income that can meet his/her basic requirement for a suitable standard of living.

2. To implement the motto "Medical Treatment for All," by expanding health services, raising the level of medical supervision to protect citizens, enhancing control on imported medicines, and fighting pollution.

3. To implement the principal of "Education for All" by spreading educational services all over the country and fighting illiteracy.

4. To give great attention to the teachers. Working hard to educate our people in various fields, giving more opportunities for higher studies.

5. To provide adequate residences for each individual.

6. To pay attention to women giving them a chance to work in various fields according to their qualifications and liberate them from old traditions.

7. To focus on child needs such as nurseries and orphanages.

8. To provide total support for the handicapped and old-age persons.

9. To facilitate the establishment of professional unions without interfering in their affairs, and enabling such unions to function within their rules.

10. To found scientific institutes and technical schools to produce skilled staff who can achieve improvements.

11. To give adequate concern for the youth, supporting their activities and implementing programs that serve national development.

12. Yemeni immigrants are the

party's concern. Agreements should be concluded to insure protection of their rights.

13. To improve the standard of jails and prisoners, to build rehabilitation centers in order to fight crimes, and to build a productive society.

14. To extend efforts in various promotional fields to mobilize the public against vengeance and tribal wars, and work to deepen national unity and stability.

C: Culturally:

1. To build a democratic society requires continuous efforts to develop the cultural and information systems.

2. To revive the national heritage and exert all possible efforts to preserve the archeological sites in Yemen, to establish a national center for manuscripts and valuable historical relics, and to take all possible action to fight smuggling out of such wealth.

3. To pay special attention to press freedom and to the welfare of journalists, to encourage private media so they could serve the supreme goals of the revolution and the country.

D: Militarily:

1. To continue to focus on the military, enabling it to function properly in defending the country and in providing peace and security.

2. To provide national patriotic education to officers and soldiers to develop national Islamic values and loyalty to the country, the revolution and the Islamic Arab Nation.

3. To promote discipline and morale among the officer corps and the soldiers, and in their interaction with other citizens in the framework of respect for military laws and rules.

4. To promote principles of discipline and professionalism in the armed and security forces.

5. To use modern training methods and arms to develop the capacity of the armed forces and their preparedness in order to cope with the new era.

6. The Security Forces have responsibility for providing

security and stability to the citizens.

7. To improve the standard of living of armed and security forces, and providing them with social, educational and medical insurance.

THE WORLD POLICIES:

1. The Baath Party struggles to achieve Arab unity and to get rid of foreign hegemony.

2. To liberate Palestine is a central goal of the party. It rejects normalization and all capitulation policies that aim to bury the Palestinian issue.

3. It calls for lifting the embargo imposed on Iraq, Libya and Sudan and condemns the continuous hostility against Iraq.

4. To liberate all occupied Arab lands including the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

5. To build a strategic alliance among all Muslim powers.

6. To promote democracy, freedom, human rights and justice.

7. To respect the charters of the UN and other international organizations, and to work for world peace and the principles of neutrality and non-alignment.

8. To engage all countries on the basis of respect for sovereignty, independence and non-interference in internal affairs.

PARTY STRUCTURE:

1. The party consists of circles and cells controlled by horizontal populist organizations, distributed according to geographic lines. Such organizations are formed according to a representation system that springs from group conferences which elect leaders according to the size of their constituent bases.

2. The elected representatives make up departments, which are grouped in country conferences. Each country elects its leaders and alternate leaders as well as various committees mentioned in the charter of the party.

3. Each country leadership group consists of 11 members headed by a secretary-general. In Yemen, the secretary-general is Dr. Qassim Sallam.

CC & FES Jointly Organize:

Seminar on Decentralization & Democracy

The Human Rights, Liberties and NGOs Committee of the Consultative Council and the Yemen Office of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung are jointly organizing a seminar on "Decentralization and Democracy" during 17-18 March, 1999.

"The aim of the seminar is address this vital dimension of our democratization process," said Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Chairman of the CC, under whose patronage the event is being held. Towards that end, many documents and studies will be presented, as follows:

A: Yemeni Documents:

1. The final draft of the Local Administration Law, which is now being discussed in parliament.
2. A proposal for the Local Government Law as presented by the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition Parties.

B: Yemeni Studies:

1. The Perspective of the Peoples' General Congress to the Local Authority Law.
2. Relations Between Decentralization and Democracy in the Political System.
3. Two Comments of the Law Draft.
4. Political Evolution in Yemen and the Place of Decentralization.
5. An Example of Delegation of Authority: The Ministry of Education.

C: German Documents:

1. German's Model of Decentralization.
2. The Role of Decentralization of Authority in Reducing the Sufferings of Re-unification.

The above studies and documents, and possibly more will be handed out during the two meetings of the seminar.

As is evident from the papers, there are Yemeni and German experts participating in the seminar.

On the Yemeni side, several key participants in the process will come to shed light. These include the leaders of the PGC and Islah blocks in parliament, representatives of the government, senior politicians from the ruling party as well as from the opposition and many more political scientists, lawyers, journalists and other public figures.

On the German side, a senior official from one of the state governments, as well as FES officials will participate.

"While the German model is quite advanced, it nonetheless represents one of the successful experience in responsible modern government. Therefore, it is useful to at least learn how it works," explained Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, one of the key organizers of the event.

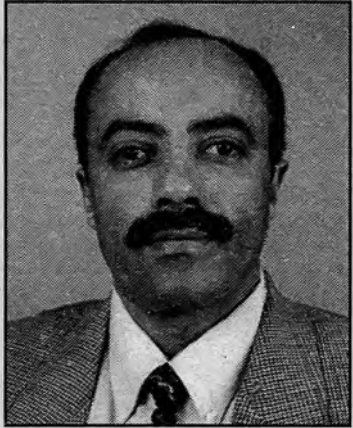
Dr. Abdubakar Al-Qirby, also an active participant, indicated that Yemen has its unique environment and background. "We also have a certain level of decentralization already in existence in Yemen. This will be made clear from the experience of the Ministry of Education," he said.

Many Yemenis as well as foreign circles are expected to attend and enrich the two-day talks.

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam, Yemen Times.

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

A Plead to the President Help Preserve Old Sanaa's Heritage



Ahmad Ghalib
Architect, Urban and Regional Planner

Currently working for the Yemen Cultural Heritage Protection project in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and former GTZ Urban Planning Assistant project coordination manager in the Ministry of Construction Housing and Urban Planning (MCHUP)

could bring about a change of status for Sana'a from a World Heritage City to an endangered city. There is no severe traffic problem in this city nor any other Yemeni city when we compare ourselves to other countries. The present congestion problem actually is a very normal stage in urbanizing

residences, since it is an alien object which people never used in the past. The experience of this bridge will be unconventional and an obstacle to the circulation of traffic and destroy the fabric of the city escape while destroying the few trees which have been irrigated for the last thirty years. This in itself is major environ-

ipated traffic problems, we need to seek the assistance of a professional traffic expert to review the JICA 1988 study and follow their study. In this great city of Sana'a the focus should be for pedestrians, which have been ignored for a long time. It is almost impossible to walk in Sana'a and planning should give the priority for the millions who walk if we want our city to be a safe place to live.

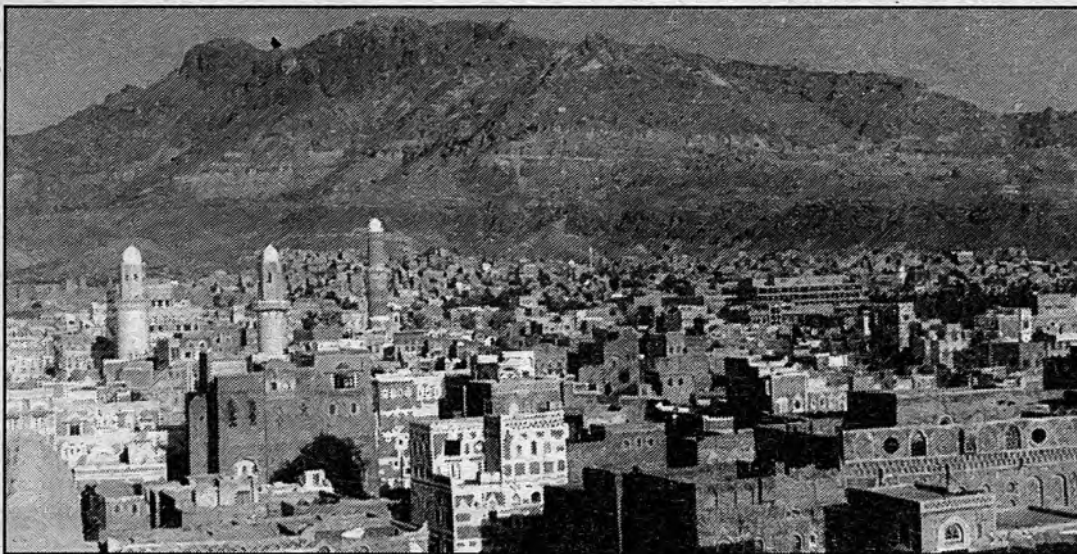
During planning it is essential to think of the regional context of neighboring countries, to plan for future cities to compete for the

I am obliged to write this letter to bring to your attention the currently planned project of building a bridge in the center of Sana'a not far away from the gate of Bab Al-Yemen.

The destruction of the historic value and significance of Sana'a by construction of a traffic bypass bridge in Sana'a at al SHIRAI square will be the serious disfigurement for the image not only of Sana'a but the whole of Yemen.

The construction of this bridge is said to solve the traffic problem. What traffic problem are they talking about? In fact the construction of this bridge will cause more traffic problems than it solves.

The city of Sana'a is registered as the World Heritage City which is being protected by the people, government and international community. In addition the city of Sana'a is considered one of the few remaining living historical cities in the world. Its historical, architectural value and significance is very important not only to the cultural heritage of Yemen but to the whole world. Therefore, we must stop the destruction of our country's



cities anywhere in the world. The 1988 traffic study of JICA summarized the major problem of traffic as being the "behavior of the driver not the number of vehicles or lack of sufficient road networks." In addition, the construction of this bridge is not acceptable to the social and behavior of the local

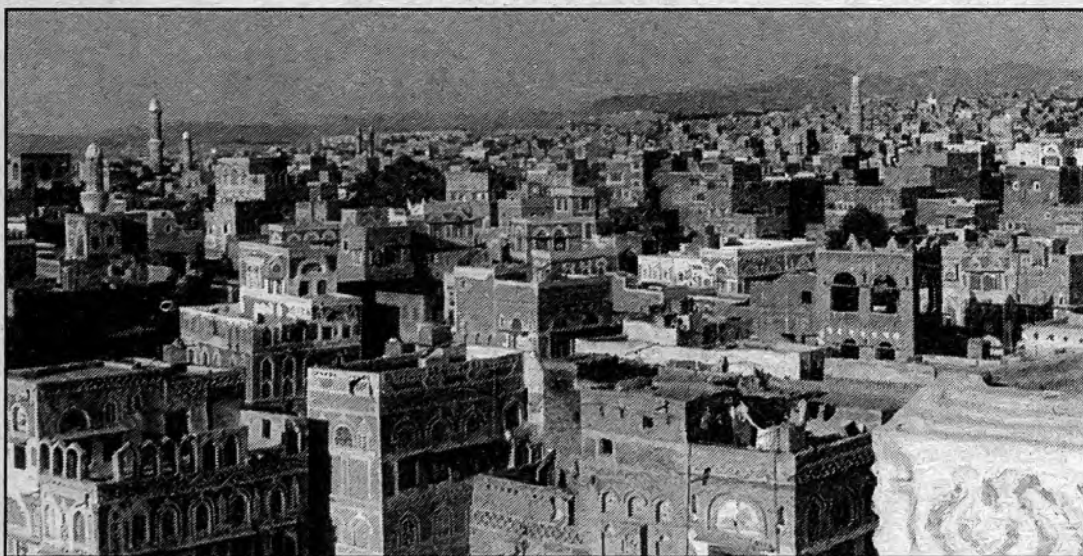
mental destruction. We should save our trees. The objectives toward sustainable cities as stated in the "Habitat Agenda" during the second world conference in Istanbul Turkey should be of an interest to us if we want to create a beautiful environment for Sana'a. If we want to solve the antic-

tourist market and other things or to learn from the other cities to benefit from their past experiences.

Planning is for people. Therefore, we should identify why we are planning and for whom. It has to create a healthy and enjoyable place to live and work. It does not suffice to have only street layouts for the whole city of Sana'a. As residential areas, without understanding the social economic activities and what functions the city has now and what it will have in the future in the year 2030 and beyond.

The dream I have is that this city is to be one of the most beautiful places on the globe. Believe me, it is possible. The potential for it exists right now in our hands. What needs to be done will only take the will of the people concerned with the protection of all existing open spaces to be saved for use by future generation.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere admiration to the president for his dedication and hard work toward building this country to catch up with the rest of the world into the 21st century.



valuable asset which is the object of admiration and respect from every tourist who comes to visit Sana'a.

The construction of this bridge will immensely harm the cityscape of Sana'a. It is also in violation of the Vienna Convention of 1972 which states that "the city limit for historic areas is set at minimum distance of seven kilometers, and any alteration or change of land use should be beyond this distance".

A few days ago, I had the opportunity to meet the regional representative for UNESCO who was visiting Sana'a. He said that if construction of this bridge is implemented in the city center, it



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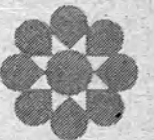
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محافظة عمران

Mohammed Hassan Zubeiri:

“In-fighting within the FYCCI has weakened it a lot.”

The Federation of Yemeni Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FYCCI) is supposed to be a lobby front for businessmen. The very purpose behind its establishment is to promote the interests of the business community, advance its concerns and needs, and provide a forum for discussing and presenting its views. It also serves as a link or bridge with international bodies interested in working in Yemen. That is the justification for the businessmen to bankroll the organization through regular fees and contributions.

Instead, however, the FYCCI has become a tool of the state to manipulate the business community. Today, the FYCCI has even failed to control its own destiny.

Ismail AGhabiry of Yemen Times discussed this matter with Mr. Mohammed Hassan Al-Zubeiri, Vice Chairman of the FYCCI and Acting Chairman of the Sanaa Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Zubeiri is a well-known businessman. He is the Director-General of Zubeiri Trading Company, which has major interests in diverse activities including banking, trade, industry, etc. Excerpts.



Q: Let us start on a positive note. What services does the FYCCI provide to the business community?

A: The FYCCI has done a lot to reflect the views of the private sector. Let me point to one important contribution it consistently made, which is in shaping those laws which affect business. We are involved in amending law drafts and pointing to implications of law drafts. Another important service is in the form of alerting businessmen to various opportunities that arise locally or in conjunction with foreign investors. Finally, the FYCCI is an important forum for meetings, whether for locals, or for visiting business people.

Q: You make it sound like it is an active organization?

A: It is true we not satisfied with its performance. There are many problems including lack of adequate and qualified staff, improper administrative structure, inefficient management, etc. But, I also don't want to make it sound like a dead organization. It lives, but it has its difficulties. Our major problem is how to make the FYCCI in the periods between elections.

Q: Elections? When was the last time the FYCCI and chambers had elections?

A: Well, the elections of the FYCCI as well as the regional chambers have been delayed a few times.

Q: For how long?

A: The elections have been delayed for more than four years now. But the blame is not just on the federation's side. Elections were delayed partly because the new law of the Chambers of Commerce was not issued. During Ramadhan (two months ago) it was finally issued by a Republican decree. We expect elections to be held over the next few weeks.

Q: Can you shed light on the internal fighting within the FYCCI?

A: We have some difficulty in managing the FYCCI. Some FYCCI leaders behave as if this is their personal office. They also have some proteges, thus leading to various camps within the organization. This has dramatically weakened it, and its ability to interact positively within our-

selfes. For example, not many board members care about attending board meetings any more. This is also partly because many board members are not legitimate because they were never elected. They were appointed by the chairman, and he has no right to do that. Our internal squabbles have also affected our relations with the government authorities, as well as with our international partners and similar bodies.

Q: How would you describe FYCCI relations with the Yemeni authorities?

A: There are different levels of interaction. As far as the government is concerned, I have never felt that it wanted to interfere with our work, or tried to affect our views and decisions. But, there are other organs of the state which meddle in our affairs. I can bluntly tell you that one of the FYCCI senior staff pretends that he has a strong link with high people in the ruling party (People's General Congress). Whenever we object to some of his decisions made on our behalf, he refers his decision to instructions from them.

Such behavior casts a dark shadow on the image of the state, it disrupts our work, and frustrates our members. In general, I must say we have a good relationship with the authorities, especially with President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Q: Why would anybody be interested in the FYCCI?

A: Well, there are many reasons. First, the FYCCI is a very lucrative organization. It has a lot of money. In addition to the income from donations and regular subscriptions, it collects 0.015% of the value of all imports into the country. This generates an income of at least YR 15 million every month. The FYCCI is also a conduit for international businesses wishing to work in Yemen. Here is where many agencies are landed, and many representation and joint ventures are finalized. I am sure you know that many senior officers in PSO as well as high ranking officials have secured shares and stakes in many companies through such interference. They have become our sleeping partners.

Q: Let me go to the relations between the FYCCI and the

regional chambers. What do you do for them?

A: As the FYCCI collects all revenue centrally, in theory, it should help finance various efforts, including the construction of premises. This duty was long ago forgotten. But recently, the FYCCI has embarked on many projects - most of them still in the stage of promises. The reasons behind this renewed interest, I believe, is because elections are bound to be held soon, and they will need the support of the regional chambers.

Q: Let us get out of the FYCCI headache. Where does Yemen stand vis-avis the World Trade Organization?

A: The WTO, which is a culmination of the GATT rounds, is a devise in the service of the strong and rich. I believe the WTO will have a negative impact on developing countries, including Yemen.

Integration in the world market means that those countries that are better endowed will run the show. It is as if you push for an open and free race, whereas the conditions of the racers are not the same. Some are well-trained and healthy, some are sick and crippled. In this case, you can tell immediately who will win the race.

Even among the strong, there are many problems. The Banana Trade War between Europe and the USA today is a good example.

However, whether we like it or not is immaterial. We will be forced to join, sooner or later. So, the best line of action is to prepare our economy and to negotiate better terms as much as it is possible.

Q: What is the volume of Yemen's imports today?

A: This is an interesting question. Do you know that nobody knows exactly what the number is. There are two reasons.

First, Yemeni importers engage a lot in trans-shipments. In other words, they do not buy from the producer, they buy from regional markets like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. So, many of our imports actually show in their statistics.

Second, there is the phenomenon of smuggling. A lot of foreign goods flow into the country illegally. Many experts believe the volume of underground imports

is equal to the volume that comes into the country through legal means.

In approximation, I can say that our total imports are about US\$ 3.0 billion a year.

Q: You mentioned smuggling? Why can't we stop this?

A: Smuggling is a serious problem for the economy. The government had tried to control it, it is not easy. The smuggled goods continue to flow in.

I can list the following negative consequences to smuggling:

1. Loss of revenue to the state. No customs duty or taxes are levied on smuggled goods.

2. Unfair competition: As a result of item (1) above, smuggled goods are cheaper than goods legally imported or locally produced, both of which are subject to taxes.

3. Consumers are NOT protected: There is no possibility of enforcing quality control over smuggled goods. They are often inferior and substandard.

Q: Where do we go from here?

A: I think the potential for Yemen is very good. We have natural resources, a hard working population, and a low level of consumption. All we need is better management.

I also believe the investment laws and the Aden Free Zone will play a big role. Again we have to manage both properly to entice local and foreign investors.

YEMEN & GERMANY: Pushing for More Efficiency

A German technical delegation is in town to push for "more efficiency in the use of German resources made available to Yemen".

Yemeni-German development cooperation has been going on for over three decades, and is still going strong.

Dr. Heiner Schmidt-Burr of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and a large delegation from several German donor agencies such as KfW, GTZ are on a two week visit to Yemen.



The group organized several workshops on various fields of cooperation activity with a view to improving efficiency. "In view of receding funds in the future, Yemen-German development cooperation should be made even more efficient. To achieve that, we are organizing different workshops, in order to try to maximize returns," said Dr. Schmidt-Burr. Four different training programs were held in Sana'a and Aden. These were:

1. "Vocational Training, Small and Micro Enterprises & Industrial Development", on 09/03/1999.

2. "Health and Family Planning", on 10/03/1999.

3. "Water Supply, Sanitation, Water Loss Reduction, and Waste Management", on 11/03/1999.

4. "Basic Education, Agriculture, Strengthening of Self-reliance and Cultural Heritage", on 13/03/1999.

The German side is pushing bilateral cooperation to focus on three dimensions - capacity building process among the people; enhancing the professional per-

formance of government and non-governmental organizations; and strengthening state institutions - government, parliament, judiciary, court of auditors and others," he explained.

Actually, the two governments had agreed to streamline the way the Yemeni side uses the German aid packages that are made available to it. The minutes of the October 28-29, 1998 official consultations state: "In view of dwindling funds likely to be made available in the future, Yemeni-German development cooperation should be made even more efficient."

The minutes also indicate that the criteria for German funds to be made available for Yemen are:

- Development-oriented nature of state action;
- Popular participation in political decision-making;
- Respect for human rights;
- A market-friendly and socially and ecologically compatible economic order;
- Certainty of the rule of law.

By: Hatem Bamehiz, Yemen Times

ANNOUNCEMENT of SCHOLARSHIPS

The Ministry of Planning and Development in cooperation with the Royal Netherlands Embassy is pleased to announce the availability of 7 to 9 scholarships at the graduate level (Masters) to commence in the academic year 1999/2000 to be funded by the Training in the Region Project. The Training in the Region Project (TIRP) is a development assistance program funded by the Government of the Royal Netherlands since 1975, the program has annually provide funding for up to 40 to 60 graduate scholarships in the Mid-East region, currently the program funds around 40 scholarships and is planning to fund additional 7 to 9 scholarships for the academic year 1999/2000.

Fields of Study:

The program aims at facilitating majors that are consistent with the development objectives of the Yemeni Government; therefore students in the health sector, with an emphasis on planning, management, economics and business administration in this sector are especially encouraged to apply.

Requirements:

- Candidates must be
- A Yemeni citizen
 - Not older than 35 years old
 - Have a satisfactory level of English Language
 - Willingness to undergo up to 6 months English Language course in Yemen, if necessary
 - Have a B. S. or B. A. or equivalent from an accredited institution
 - have a minimum general grade average of Good or "B"
 - Have at least two years of working experience in the field of specialization.
 - Commitment to return to Yemen after completion of studies and work in the field of specialization for a minimum of five years.

Required Documents:

- Application form filled in English (Application forms filled in Arabic will be disregarded)
- Copy of the university transcript
- Copy of ID Card of Family Card or Passport

Selection:

Selection will be based on fulfillment of requirements, practical experience, field of specialization and relevance of the major to development objectives. A personal essay, part of the application form, will strongly influence the final selection.

Applications and other forms can be obtained from the following address:

AMIDEAST, Inc.
Algiers St., House No. (66)
Sana'a - Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 01-206222/206942
Contact Person: Ms. Gabool Al-Mutawakel

Mohamed Ali Othman School:
near Road Constr. Authority
Taiz,
Tel: 04-211247
Contact Person: Ms. Sultana Sultan

University of Science & Tech.
Airport road Hodeidah, Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 03-238818
Contact Person: Dr. Lutfullah Saad Al-Ferasi

AMIDEAST, Inc.
Khormaksar, Near Dept. of Educ.
Aden
Tel: 02-235069
Contact Person: Mr. Shakeeb Abdul-Hamid

Hadramout University
University Campus, Al-Fowah Area (Previously construction Area)
Mukalla, Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 7952290
Contact Person: Dr. Salim Awadh Ramoda

Application forms and all required documents must be filled and returned in an envelope to any of the addresses above no later than March 24, 1999.

Proximate Determinations of Fertility

Based on a survey of 10,414 women carried out by specialists of Macro International Inc. of the USA and the Central Statistical Organization of Yemen during 1997, this article presents conclusions pertaining to the planning and execution of family planning in Yemen. The survey addressed the factors which affect a woman's fertility. These relate to the chances of a woman becoming pregnant and, thus, they determine fertility levels in Yemen. Specifically, they touch on marriage patterns, postpartum amenorrhea, postpartum abstinence, and menopause.

Marriage patterns have a major effect on fertility because they influence the onset of exposure to pregnancy. Populations in which women marry young are usually characterized by early child-bearing and high lifetime fertility. Postpartum amenorrhea and postpartum abstinence, which determine the length of time a woman is insusceptible to pregnancy following childbirth, affect birth intervals and, thus fertility levels. Finally, the onset of menopause is important because the probability of becoming pregnant decreases as women near the end of their reproductive years and an increasing numbers of them become infertile.

The Statistics

Statistics show that 67% of Yemeni women are currently married, 2% are widowed, 2% are divorced, and less than 0.5% are technically married but are separated.

Some 28% of women have never married. Of these, about 75% are between the ages of 15-19 years, and 25% between 20-24 years. By age 50, almost all Yemeni women are married or have been married. Widowhood increases with age - 6% of women aged 40-44 years, and 8% of those aged 45-49 years are widows.

Among women aged 15-19 years, less than 1% are divorced, but the percentage increases to 2-3% among women aged 20 years and over.

Marriage between Relatives

In Yemen, as in other Arab countries, marriage between blood relatives (consanguineous marriages), usually cousins, occurs frequently. 25% of married women are married to a first cousin on their father's side, another 10% are married to a first cousin on their mother's side, and 6% are married to second/third cousins and other relatives. There are indications that consanguineous marriages are becoming more common in the country. For example, 30% of women aged 45-49 years are married to a blood relative compared with 44% of 20-24 year women - an increase of almost 50%. Women who were married at younger ages and those who were married for shorter periods were more likely to have married a relative.

Consanguineous marriages occur about equally among women in urban and rural areas and are slightly more likely to be found among women living on the coastal area than in other regions. No relationship was established between prevalence of marriage between blood relatives and women's level of education. However, a slightly higher proportion of literate women or women who have completed primary schooling have married relatives than women in higher education categories.

Remarriage

Marriage is not as stable in Yemen as it might appear from the small proportion of women who are currently divorced or widowed; remarriage is relatively common. Yet, a large proportion of women (91%) have married only once.

Not surprisingly, the proportion of women who marry more than once gradually increases with age because of a higher likelihood of divorce and widowhood. The proportion of women who have married at least twice increases from around 5% among women aged 20-24 years, to 11% among 30-34 year women, and then rises to 16% among women in their forties. Dissolution of marriage is as likely to occur among women in rural areas as in urban areas. In the coastal region, the proportion of women marrying only once is slightly higher than in the other regions. Illiterate women are more likely to have married more than once than women who are literate or whose who have completed some level of education.

Polygamy

As a Muslim country, Yemen considers polygamy legal. Islam permits a man to have up to four wives at a time, provided the husband treats all of them equally. In order to collect information on the practice of polygamy, all currently married women in the survey were asked whether their husbands had other wives and if so, what her rank was.

7% of currently married women live in a polygamous marriage. Women living in urban areas and in the coastal region are less likely to have co-wives (4-5%) than women in rural areas and the mountainous region (8-10%).

There is a clear-cut relationship between education and polygamy. Polygamy is most common among

illiterate women and least common among women with secondary or higher education.

The proportion of women living in a polygamous marriage increases with age - from 4% among women aged 15-19 years to 10% among women in the 45-49 year age group. In general, this same pattern is seen for most background characteristics.

Age at First marriage

Among women aged 20-49 years and presently married, 8% were married at age 13, 25% by age 15, 75% by age 20, and almost 90% had married by the time they were 25 years old. The average age for marriage for women 20-49 was slightly higher as compared to the statistics of the 1991-92 Yemen Demographic and Material and Child Health Survey. This points to a slight delaying of marriage age among Yemeni women. Data show that the average age at first marriage rose from 15.7 years among women aged today, 45-64 to 16.6 years among those 25-29 years, and to 18.2 years among women age 20-24.

30% of women over age 30 had married by age 15 compared with 14% of women age 20-24 and to only 6% for women of the age of 15-19 years. Also, 64% of 20-24 year women 24 were married by age 20, compared with 81-88% among those over 30 years old.

The age group 15-19 is not included in the table because less than 50% of teenage women had married by age 15. As noted above, the average ages at marriage for women 20-49 and 25-49 in Yemen are 16.5 and 16.0 years, respectively. The average age at first marriage is slightly higher for urban women than for rural women. In the coastal region, women marry one year later than in the mountainous or the plateau and desert regions. Overall, the higher the level of education, the higher is the average age at first marriage.

Among 25-49 year women, the average age at first marriage for women who are illiterate is 16 years; for women who have completed primary schooling it was 18 years. The difference in average age at first marriage between those who have completed primary education and those who have completed at least secondary school is more than six years.

Age Difference Between Spouses

38% of women are married to men who are the same age as they are, or at most 4 years older. The majority of women are married to men much older than they are. For 33% of currently married women, the husbands are 5-9 years older, and for another 14%, they are 10-14 years older. One in 10 women is married to a man at least 15 years older than her, and 5% to men 20 or more years older.

That the difference in ages between spouses is decreasing is indicated by the lower mean age differences for younger women. The mean difference in husband's and wife's ages has decreased from 8 years for women in their forties to around 6 years for women under 30. Regional differences are small.

Women getting married a second (or more times) are more likely to be married to older men than women marrying for the first time. Although 7% of women married for the second time, are married to younger men, 14.3% of the re-married women have husbands who are at least 20 years older than them. The mean age difference between spouses is 9.5 years for women who have married more than once or three years higher than the average difference for women who have married only once.

In a polygamous marriage, the gap between a husband's and a wife's ages increases dramatically according to rank of the woman. The first wife is, on average, 7 years younger than her husband; the second wife is almost 16 years younger. The pattern continues, although the results are based on a small number of cases.

Ideal Age at Marriage for Women

Adolescent marriages are still considered desirable by a majority of women in Yemen. 6% of all



married women consider marriage at the age of 15 as the most suitable age for marriage, and 5% mentioned ideal age for marriage as when a girl reaches "adolescence." 1% would like their daughter to marry when she finishes school. Almost 25% consider 15 years to be an ideal for girls to marry and another one-quarter think 16 to 19 years is the most suitable age. Only one third of all married women consider age 20 or older as the ideal marriage age for girls.

The proportion of women who mentioned 20 years or older as the ideal marriage age increases with the rising age of women. Those women under age 20 least favor marriage at age 20 or later. Surprisingly, more urban women compared with rural women consider age 20 or above as the lowest suitable age for daughters to marry. The proportion of women in the plateau and desert regions who favor marriage at 20 years or later is higher than that in the other regions.

Education is strongly associated with favoring a late marriage for daughters. Only one-quarter of illiterate women compared with three-quarters of women with secondary or higher education would like their daughters to marry after their twentieth birthday.

How does the respondent's attitude toward age at marriage for her daughter compare with the age at which she herself was married? The majority of women want their daughters to marry at an age that is higher than the age at which they themselves were married; while 14% want them to marry at the same age at which they were married. Overall, less than one-quarter (23%) of women reported an ideal age at marriage for their daughter that was lower than their own age at marriage. It is interesting to note that one-third of women who have at least completed secondary level education consider early-age marriage as ideal. Some groups have a higher proportion of women whose ideal age of marriage for their daughters is later than their own. For urban women it was 63%, for women who have completed the primary level, it was 65%, and for women who have completed preparatory level, it was 71%.

Postpartum Amenorrhea and Insusceptibility

The risk of pregnancy following a birth is influenced by two factors: breast-feeding and sexual abstinence. Breast feeding prolongs postpartum protection from conception through its effect on the length of the period of amenorrhea (the period prior to return of menses) following a birth. More frequent breast-feeding for longer duration as well as delays in the age at which supplementary foods are introduced are associated with longer periods of postpartum amenorrhea. Delaying the resumption of sexual relations following a birth also prolongs the period of postpartum protection. Women are defined as insusceptible to pregnancy if they are not at risk of conception because they are amenorrheic or abstaining following a birth.

These distributions are based on current status information, i.e., on the proportions of births occurring x months before the survey for which mothers were amenorrheic, abstaining, and insusceptible at the time of the survey.

The data are grouped in two-month intervals to minimize the fluctuations in the distributions. The prevalence/incidence mean is obtained by dividing the number of mothers who are amenorrheic, abstaining, and insusceptible by the average number of births per month over the 36-month period.

The percentage of births for which mothers are amenorrheic declines from 93% in the two-months immediately following a birth to 68% in the 2-3 months after a birth. By the period 6-7 months following a birth, fewer than half of the mothers (48%) are still amenorrheic, and by 12-13 months, only one-fifth of mothers have not resumed menstruation.

As in other Islamic countries, many couples in Yemen observe the traditional practice of abstaining from sexual relations for a period of 40 days (*Nifas*) following a birth. Reflecting this tradition, the proportion of births for which mothers are still abstaining decreases dramatically from 76% in the two-months period immediately following a birth to 19% at 2-3 months after a birth.

The combined effects of postpartum amenorrhea and postpartum abstinence are reflected in the period of postpartum insusceptibility following a birth. The duration of postpartum amenorrhea is the major determinant of the length of time a Yemeni woman is insusceptible to the risk of pregnancy. The average duration of amenorrhea is 6 months, as is the average duration of insusceptibility, while the duration of abstinence is less than 2 months. Overall, the proportion insusceptible at any duration postpartum is 1 to 2 percentage points higher than the proportion amenorrheic. The median and mean duration of insusceptibility are 6.4 and 9.4 months, respectively. The prevalence/incidence mean is 9.2 months.

Although the period of postpartum abstinence is about the same for both younger and older women, the period of amenorrhea and the period of insusceptibility are longer for older than younger women. The media duration of amenorrhea and insusceptibility is higher among women in rural than urban areas, illiterate than literate women, and women who have completed some level of schooling. The shortest period of insusceptibility is for woman who have completed secondary or higher education.

Menopause

After age 30, the risk of pregnancy declines with age as increasing proportions of women become infertile. Although the onset of infertibility is difficult to determine for an individual woman, there are ways of estimating it for the population. Eleven percent of women age 42-43 are currently menopausal; among younger women the percentages are much smaller (1 to 6 percent). Menopause sets in faster after age 42-43 and rises to 26 percent among women 48-49.

Adopted and abridged from:
YEMEN: Demographic and Maternal and Child Health Survey: 1997, November 1998.

الحاج محمد مبارك عذبان

رئيس مجلس أمناء جمعية الصداقة اليمنية - اليابانية

ورئيس مجموعة عذبان

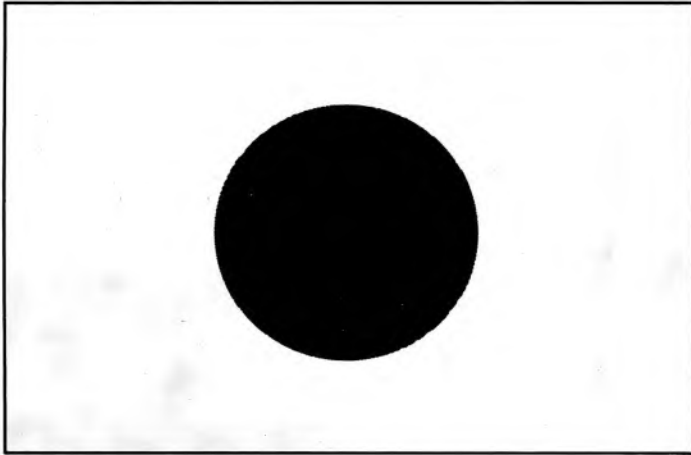
يتقدم إلى

فخامة المشير علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

والوفد المرافق

بأسمى آيات الثناء والتحية بمناسبة الزيارة الرسمية لليابان

معاً نحو تعزيز العلاقات الجيدة والتعاون المثمر بين البلدين



Haj Mohammed Mubarak Adhban

Chairman of the Yemen-Japanese Friendship Association
and Chairman of ADHBAN GROUP

presents

his heartfelt greetings and gratitude to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and the accompanying delegation

on their visit to Japan leading to better understanding & more cooperation

We pledge to work together for stronger ties

Palaces & Temples of Serwah

Serwah is a renowned name in the ancient history of Yemen. History says that the Serwah area was a center of culture during the reigns of the first and the second dynasties of Sheba in the first millennium B.C. It was the most sacred place for the deity of the people and the state of Sheba.

The greatest and most magnificent temples of ancient Yemen were constructed here. Paramount to all was the temple of Al-Makah, the supreme god in the kingdom of Sheba and Dhu-Raydan. Also on this land were built the summer-resort palaces for the monarchs - known as the Mukarebs.

High priests and senior statesmen including the king's entourage, army commanders, community elders and the powerful local chiefs came for pilgrimages.

At the same time Serwah was a meeting place for intellectuals and the highly qualified civil engineers and architects who were famous for constructing monuments, such as castles, fortresses, palaces, temples, government buildings, as well as engineering feats such as dams, irrigation canals, and other public utilities.

For all those reasons, Serwah area attracted the best artists and architects who left their exquisite traces on every historical monuments in the city. They worked creatively on every monument,

leaving their inscriptions to decorate temple arches, castle walls and palace entrances. They also left behind giant sculptures of various shapes - of birds, animals and humans which were scattered through the city squares or were perched on the gates of temples and palaces as well as the reception halls, dancing galleries, and taverns.

GEOPHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AND ANTIQUES:

Serwah, about 100 kilometers east of Sanaa, rises to 1300 foot above sea level. The climate is mild and temperatures do not exceed 30 degrees centigrade in the summer and in the teens in the winter.

It is located at the meeting place between the dry-climate of the desert and the semi-cold weathers of northern and western mountain slopes.

Serwah's geophysical structure is part of the eastern huge mountain geological layers. Basalt and granite layers are most common.

There are many dormant or inactive volcanos which are seen in form of high, black protrusion of sharp-ended rocks, located to the north of Bani-Jabr territory. Not far from the beautiful volcanic scenery, to the north and north east, there abound great quantities of basalt and chalky stones in forms of white and red bald stone.

The long valley of Serwah takes a circular shape and appears to slope down till it meets the outskirts of Athana Valley in Mareb. Serwah valley is surrounded and intersected by high mountains which makes it hard to farm the land on a large scale. However, the small cultivated areas depend on ground water for irrigation, although the relics of man-made waterways testify to the use of artificial irrigation by the people of Sheba.

History is very much alive. Modern ways have yet to make their ways into the Khawlan clans who till the land. About the only reminder of the modern times are the Hunt sub-stations which pump oil away to the coast.

The people, sturdy and rugged as the land itself, are as hard as human beings can get any where in the world.

PLACES OF MONUMENTS IN SERWAH

The scenes and views become even more beautiful with the presence of many monuments. These are major attractions to thousands of foreign tourists. Unfortunately, they are as yet unknown to the outside world as it still remains a well-kept secret. The unruly people and rugged terrain does not help either.

There are many places full of antiques in the form of stone



tower stands on top of the entrance and appears to be a side gate which in old times must have lead to the temple's courtyard before it collapsed. Most of the temple's sides are still standing, of which perhaps the most remarkable are the walls in the eastern side which are still supported by some pillars. Of these walls, there are only five left intact and take the shape of a single mass of stone. They were only a part of the courtyard front wall. The eastern wall of the temple also remains intact.

It is completely built of granite stones carefully cut and polished. The higher parts of the wall are decorated with heads of ibex. The height of the wall is about 10 meters high. Its architectural style reflects the classical design of old Yemen. The rule in this style is the horizontal stone-coupling. This rule achieves maximum stone connection.

The temple has an outside fence built of two wall close to each other. The space between them is filled with small pieces of stone. Some inscriptions can be seen on this fence. The most important inscription found here is the one known as the Great Triumph which tells about the glorious victories of the King Kareb al-Weter. The story begins at night when this king decided to bring the small fragmented fiefdoms in one national state under one supreme political leadership and with one capital - Serwah. This inscription was discovered by Glazer, a French scientist and explorer in mid 19th century.

pieces inscribed in Musnad calligraphy or decorated in crossed lines. The tourist will also find engraved images of javelins and animals wherever his/her sight falls.

However, there are three main sites that must be visited. Locals give these sites the following names: the Building (Al-Bina), the Palace (Al-Qasser) and the Ruined site (Al-Kherbah). There lie buried inside these three sites the nicest and most magnificent architectural relics in the region. Initial archeological excavations have produced a variety of artistic pieces.

Some scientist once said, "Serwah territory is the greatest antique stock in the civilization of Sheba and Dhu-Raydan."

This statement is true because this territory has been an outstanding center of civilization for many centuries in the past. It was the seat of a long list of monarchs from the Sheba and Dhu Raydan dynasties.

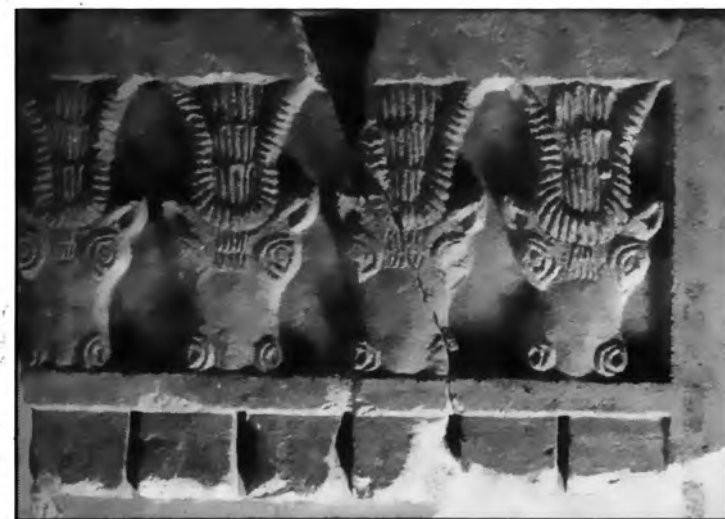
For this reason too its fame reached the later generations in Yemen and every one was impressed by its magnificence. It became a song for the poet and a subject of speculation for the scientist. Al-Hamadany, the great Yemeni scientist and author of the illustrious books "Al-Ekleel" or the Wreath, and "Description of the Arab Peninsula" once said, "Serwah has no equal among cities."

Some of Serwah's palaces and temples were immortalized in a poem by the great poet of Khawlan in the sixth century after Hijrah, A'amer Ibn Ahmed Al-Qushiby. In one of his poems he glorified his ancestors' everlasting achievements in Serwah. The first three lines of this poem say:

They reigned...
for a thousand months.
And in Serwah they built,
the edifice of the South Wind.

The three sites - Al-Kherbah, Al-Qasser, and Al-Bina, occupy one topographical line in the center of

the circular valley. Al-Kherbah is located in the middle of this line and up to the north is Al-Bina site where there can found at about 900 meters from the site, ruins of an old water dam. Al-Qasser occupies the southern territory of the line near a village which has been built in recent times inside a castle. The castle dates back to the middle ages,



and was apparently built in a style different from that of Sheba. The first thing one notices when surveying the Al-Kherbah is a high rocky hill on which it was built. On top of this hill are relics of stone buildings which rise in some places to 18 meters. The total area of the site is 260 x 240 meters. Relics of some temples can be seen with inscribed stones scattered here and there. The nearer one approaches, the more relics lie around. So far these relics remain unveiled secrets. However, the most important thing that attracts the visitor's attention is the divine temple of Al-Makah and some parts of a once big palace named by the locals the Palace of Bilqis. A group of granite pillars can also be seen in the area.

Al-Makah, a symbol of the chief divinity worshipped at the time of Sheba and Dhu Raydan, is a temple which extends over a wide area. The temple entrance is located in the south. A small,

The text is composed of 86 lines inscribed on a big marble stone. At Al-Kherbah site, only the front face of inscription that occupies an area of about 7 meters remains. The other half of the inscription was taken to an unknown place until in 1952 it was, by sheer accident, Dr. Ahmed Fakhery, an Arab archeologist noticed the inscription thrown in a stable room in someone's house. Later it is said that this part of the inscription was taken to the authority of Archeology in Sanaa.

The historical value of this inscription was appreciated after it was deciphered. It conspicuously revealed the significance of the civil war king Kareb led to fulfill his ambitious dream to reunify the whole country. This step, which took place in the 5th century B.C. has been considered by the contemporary historians a watershed in the political and social transformation of Yemen.

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ALL OVER YEMEN:

Celebrating Women's Day in Different Ways

In Sanaa:

Women in every society have an important role to play. The question is what are the fields through which the Yemeni woman can be trained in order to become an active member in her society?

Unfortunately vocational training for the woman in Yemen is like a neglected child which has not been trained or educated. In fact the whole process of vocational training in Yemen occupies only an insignificant place in the entire structure of education at a time of urgent needs for such education. Vocational training is a vitally important source for supplying the labor market with skilled force. Technical and vocational training must be built on a firm foundation which embraces both men and women.

What is the extent of the progress made in the vocational training in Yemen and what are the social responses to the female involvement in this kind of education?

The following report by Ahlam Al-Mutawakkil attempts to answer this question.

The employment of the Yemeni Women has become a solid fact. More specifically, employment for the woman living in the urban areas means a lot to her. It means independent income, job satisfaction and social position. All this bears significant effects on the woman socially as well psychologically. A recent psychological study on representative samples of women indicates that woman's employment has enabled her to break through psychological barrier which had prevented her in the past taking part actively in all fields of life.

Males, especially in rural areas, are luckier than females in getting paid employment, while females in urban areas are more fortunate than their counterparts in the countryside in finding paid job opportunities. The main occupations of Yemeni women are concentrated on the field of public service, i.e. government and

administrative jobs. This is due to the benefits given to women related to her female gender as a wife and a mother. This is also due to the lack of an adequate vocational training that would enable them to enroll in other relevant occupations either in the public or in private sectors. However, the teaching profession records the highest female concentration not only as teachers but also as clerks, school headmistresses, and educational and social inspectors.

Progress in society is strongly dependent on how far the women in the society are advanced. The battle of development requires comprehensive rallying of human energies. Therefore, it is a responsibility of the community to provide integrated care and attention to women and to facilitate their educational and vocational training.

It is also important to adopt the policies necessary to encourage the female enrollment in the labor market and to create a better atmosphere in job opportunities, wages, and management.

To create the best environment for woman's active involvement in social as well as economic development is the most important thing included in the national strategy for population. This naturally should begin with the basic education and illiteracy eradication with specific emphasis on the following:

- Efforts should be multiplied to focus on the females interrupted education by minimizing the instances of sneaking out from school.
- To open the door for women to enroll in technical and vocational training centers with the proper continual improvement in the programs of this training so that the outputs of vocational education can meet development and labor market needs.
- To enrich woman's experience with the updated interests and expertise in order to strengthen her abilities in the following: Business administration, projects management and in any other fields of highly developed skills.
- To encourage civil society insti-

tutions (NGOs and the Private - Sector) to cooperate with the government in creating female training centers to enable her acquire skills and knowledge commonly demanded in the labor market.

- To reactivate the existing female training centers. This can best be done in two ways:

- a) providing these centers with the necessary machines and equipment, and
- b) enlarging the extent of female training so as to allow for more practical training instead of the existing traditional training which focuses on out of date programs.

- To assign qualified staff in women's training centers which are employing recent and inexperienced female graduates. Care should also be exerted to improve performance of the existing staff to guarantee better training.

- To allow women to take part in designing development plans and programs, especially those related to women. The woman naturally knows what is best for her and she is better aware of her own problems.

- To achieve delicate balances in employment between men and women or at least to establish justice in employment. Sometimes women are not employed based on trivial and unconvincing pretexts.

Woman Vocational Training: Facts and Figures.

Except for nursing, almost all forms of vocational and technical training are male-domains. The female in Yemen can not have complete access to modern technology as the male can. Even learning how to drive a car is not that easy for Yemeni women to get. I am speaking from personal experience as I one day needed training in car driving but I did not know where to go. This is just an example to be considered by female training associations in order to incorporate in their training courses practical programs instead of wasting time on the manual skills which have almost become instinct.

A 1998 report on the status of woman in Yemen shows that female enrollment in technical

slow, and in some cases, there is even proof of regression," she pointed out.

Yemeni women are also eager to open up new opportunities. "The world of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) is most suitable for women. This is especially true in light of the positive attitude of international donors to the cause of women," explained Ms. Ishan Sa'ad.

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf,
Head of the Aden Bureau,
Yemen Times.

The paintings were snatched quickly as visitors capitalized on the reduced prices of the art-pieces. By the 3rd and last day of the exhibition, no painting was still in place.

"We would like to see a more aggressive role for women in public life," Ms. Sa'ad added. Indeed, she was pointing to the fact that the ability of career women to penetrate into the modern sector was hampered by lingering socio-cultural attitudes and values. "I regret to say that the pace of progress is rather



At the same time, an exhibition of the work of 17 artists, some of them female, was on display. "We are trying to mobilize all sectors and build linkages. Efforts of women's groups should be coordinated for maximum impact," explained Ms. Ihsan Obaid Sa'ad, Chairperson of the FYW in Aden.



and vocational training in the year 1990 was 13.4% female against 86.6% male. This rate rose to 33.9% female in 1996 although it concentrated in business and nursing fields.

There are many female training centers and institutes in urban as well as in rural areas. These centers/institutes provide short term training (few months or weeks). However a great number of trainees in these centers are

poorly educated, and can only read and write.

The thing that should be reasserted and attended to is finding the best way to encourage women to be integrated in the vocational and technical training. This will definitely lead to fruitful outcomes as a result of the female participation in a balanced and continuous economic, and social development. To attain this we should

first leave behind us, the traditional ideas and views on the woman's role and duty. It is time for all of us, men and women, to work together and introduce positive orientation to get maximum use of women potential and energies. It is my belief that the development of women's vocational and technical training depends on the society's acceptance of the fact that the long tradition of male dominance must come to an end.

In Taiz:

To coincide with the International Women's Day - March 8th, a group of women organized a charity bazaar on 11-12/3/1998 at Mohammed Ali Othman School in Taiz.

"The idea of the project was first came up several months ago. Several rich women got together and popped the real question - 'What to do to help less fortunate Yemeni women?' Thus the idea of the bazaar was developed," explains Ms. Ilham Haiderah Saif, one of the zealous leaders of the Taiz women's movement.

The seed money came as contribution from the rich folks. That in turn was converted into small projects assigned to many groups. The end-result was the products and goods exhibited in the bazaar last week.

In addition, a lot of rich women also donated many clothes and other goods in kind. These were also sold in the bazaar.

"I would like to use this occasion to thank also the businessmen and merchants who participated in the event. They gave many prizes which were used in the raffles," Ilham explained.



At another level, several women said that having read in the Yemen Times about the efforts of Sanaa women to clean their city, they too followed their lead.

A group of Taiz women got together last week to discuss ways and means to participate in cleaning their city. "We hope to come up with a plan of action to replicate the efforts of the Sanaa women in Taiz," one of them explained to Yemen Times.

The Taiz Women's Charitable Society was also active last week. They visited the orphanage in the city and offered gifts. The society had also organized an exhibition during Ramadhan (two months). The proceeds were used to finance voluntary and charitable activities in the city.

Imad Al-Saqqaf,
Taiz Office,
Yemen Times.

Al-Mahara

ASSESSING DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

Under the title "The Project for Evaluating Development Requirements of Al-Mahara Governorate," a workshop was held during the period 6-7 March 1999. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Hassan Al-Ahdal, Governor of Al-Mahara and sponsored by the International Fund for Development (IFD).

The workshop discussed three main potential areas of development in the governorate: agriculture, livestock, and fishery. The papers endorsed on these three areas of development highlighted the importance of these areas, and how to improve a well designed strategy to support and protect the wild life from being an extinct.

The final remarks of the workshop were as follow:

1. To improve and support the fishery associations.
2. Building a factory to can and export fish. The factory to be

financed by the World Bank.

3. The participants had pointed out that the workshop did not address the Khuboot storage problem, where fish are usually stored.

4. They also discussed the problems of the ships and the fishing equipment, this problem is been there for many years without a solution.

5. Fishermen need soft loans in order to improve their equipment, and the quality of their business. These loans to be provided by the World Bank and International organizations.

6. Fishermen need to be protected, and a law to regulate fishing has to be implemented. The also blamed the International organization for neglecting the governorate.

7. Women's welfare associations in the coastal, country and the interior parts of the governorate need to be supported and

equipped to help them carry out their work.

8. Roads are in a very bad shape all over the governorate, they need to be repaired, to improve marketing activities and guarantee better and faster deliveries of various products.

9. Eggs are very costly, YR. 15 an egg, and that is because there are no Poultry farms in the governorate.

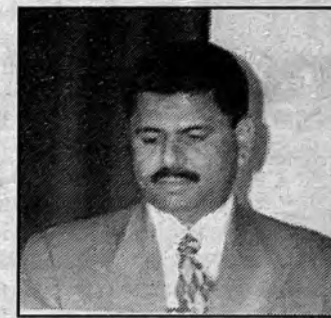
10. Unavailability of veterinary medicine and doctors, causes a huge loss in livestock.

11. Scarcity of water, due to the absence of modern technology in irrigation, results in people switching professions from farming to fishing. The governorate needs dams and means of preserving water resources.

Saad Ali Muhsain
Yemen Times Correspondence
Al-Mahara.



Royal Jordanian Honors Travel Agents



Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ) held on 10th March, 1999, a ceremony at Aden Movenpick Hotel to honor its outstanding ticketing agents in Aden, Taiz, and Ibb. The occasion was attended by Mr. Abdul-Jaleel Al-Abbadi, Regional Manager of RJ in Yemen, Mr. Tajammul Khan, Sales



Mr. Alwan Al-Shaibani, and the Vice Chairman and Managing Director Mr. Omar M. Omar in particular, the aviation officials, and Yemeni officials in general. It is fitting that I should convey my gratitude to President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Aden Governor Taha Ghanim. With my gratitude go my congratulations on the upcoming inauguration of the Container Terminal at the Aden Free Zone, he added.

RJ has four flights to Yemen. It also offers suitable and direct connections to Europe and the USA, Middle East, Far East, and Indian Sub-continent.



Travel Agents Award List

A) Golden Certificates	Location
1. Mansoor Agency for Travel and Tourism	Aden
2. Huraish Travel Agency	Aden
3. Abu-Yaser Travel and Toursim	Ibb
4. Bin Maadan Travels and Tourism	Aden
B) Silver Certificate	
1. Bilqis Travel Agency	Taiz
2. Al-Tayser Travel Agency	Ibb
3. Brothers Travel Services	Aden
4. National Travel Bureau	Aden
5. Hadramout Agencies for Travel and Toursim	Aden
6. Alsarahi for Travel and Tourism Agency	Aden
C) Bronze Certificate	
1. Alkhubani Travel Agency	Taiz
2. Bin Mahfoodh Travel and Tourist Agency	Aden
3. Alaseel Travels and Tourist Agency	Aden
4. Aldhale for Travel & Tourism Agency	Aden
5. International Travel Agency	Aden

Manager, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, General Manager of Aden, Director of Aden Airport's Security Office, Director of the Airport Customs Authority, and a number of travel and tourism agents and representatives.

Mr. Taj Khan briefed the audience on the successes of RJ worldwide, and the new facilities it is introducing to service passengers. He also outlined new safety features and comfort-oriented equipment. We

are also planning to bring in rapid service arrangements for passengers, he said.

Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf told Yemen Times that honoring the best agents is an annual tradition. This event is to honor agents on the basis of 1998 performance, he indicated.

Mr. Abdul-Jaleel Al-Abbadi sounded up-beat as he handed over the certificates of recognition to the travel agents. We have three levels of recognition or prizes based on the volume of sales. These are the

golden, silver and bronze levels, he explained.

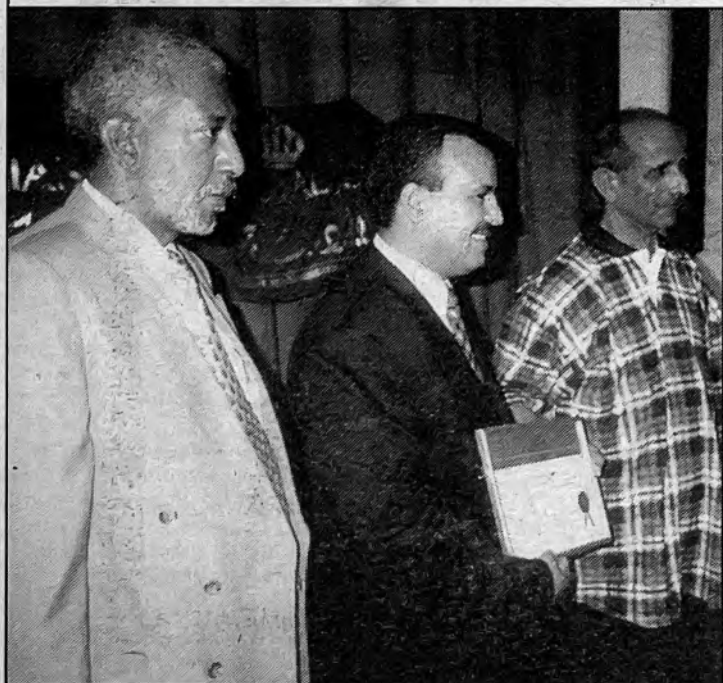
Thus Royal Jordanian handed out four golden awards, six silver awards, and five bronze awards.

I would like to take this occasion to thank all individuals and companies who have cooperated with us. Most of all, I would like to thank our passengers for choosing to fly with us, he said.

Mr. Abbadi also used the occasion to express gratitude to GSA Universal Group of Companies, Chairman

Schedule

DAYS	RJ	DEP	ARR	STP
ADEN / Amman				
6	717	0205	0500	0
SANAA / Amman				
14 (DAY 1-320)	709	0500	0715	0
Amman / ADEN				
5	716	2035	0055*	0
Amman / SANAA				
37 (DAY 7-320)	708	2245	0250*	0
* Next Day Arrival				



After Its Remarkable Success at JITCOM99 Engazat Trading Co. Given the Award of Originality and Distinguishment

After participating in Al-Jazira Information Technology & Communication Exhibition from the 28th of February to the 4th of March 1999, Engazat was given the *Award of Originality and Distinguishment* by Apollo. It was a clear mark that Engazat succeeded in its campaign of introducing its products and in a creative manner. The award was handed during the ceremony in the 11th of March to the Marketing Manager, Mr. Majdi Al-Masri.

Through its tremendously dedicated work at JITCOM99, Engazat among all other participants, was seen by visitors as the most influential company in the whole exhibition. JITCOM99, which was a milestone in the introduction of new technologies to the Yemeni public, honored Engazat with this award after witnessing the pace and excellence of the presentations



Mr. Majdi Al-Masri Engazat's Marketing Manager receives the Award of Originality and Distinguishment

and well organization of Engazat's participation during the exhibition. Also, a prize draw organized by Engazat for JITCOM99 visitors took place in the same day. The first prize winner was Mr.



Mr. Majdi Al-Masri Engazat's Marketing Manager hands the prize to Winner, Ahmed Ameer

Ahmed Mohamed Saif Ameer, who received a brand new top quality Compaq Deskpro Pentium II computer. The award to Engazat only confirms the fact that it aims to be the leading company

to market technology solutions. Being the fastest growing Computer Company in Yemen, Engazat has become the first candidate for many technology solution seekers. It continues to bring the most efficient software and hardware products to the Yemeni market.

Mr. Fahmi Al-Wahashi, the Division Manager of Engazat Trading Company had also expresses his satisfaction with the company's participation at JITCOM99. He also stressed that the company would do its best in continuing to provide the latest technology solutions obtainable in Yemen, and will continue to preserve its place as

the fastest growing computer company. Once more, Engazat Trading Company-Information Systems Division, proved to be the most committed company to information technology services in Yemen.

An Appeal to All Responsible and Patriotic Yemenis:

Save Our Youth Before It Is Too Late

With all due respect, I would like to thank you for your interest and appreciation of the many obstacles and problems that face the youth; that obviously represented in your issue No.2 of 11/1/99. Though you shouldn't be thanked because it is your duty and it is the duty of all honorable Yemenis who are concerned with the interests of Yemen by thinking about what is happening in children's circumstances, showing up the violations of the laws, exploring the social imperfections and looking for solutions.

There is no doubt that youth are the backbone of any nation; they are the country's ammunition and horsepower in the face of future and they are the main pillar for the growing process of any country in reaching for prosperity. That is only if they find real care, support and orientation; especially the well educated and qualified youth.

In other words, the government must take care of their youth, develop their capabilities, and adopt their energies and potential in order to promote improvement. That is as a matter of course, nobody denies that and nobody can ignore the youth.

But it is a pity that what we are seeing in our home is that our bureaucracy do deny and ignore youth's capabilities and energies, instead of developing and adopting our capabilities and exploiting our

energies and potential. We find them simply and absurdly judging by stopping employment and gaining of wealth from our energies and potential. At the same time, what is absurd and laughable is that our government sends young people to study in various overseas countries and spend so many millions of dollars upon them to make them qualified, and in the end they threw them out onto the street jobless, with useless qualifications and even without any benefit from the huge amount of money that was spent upon them. If they do use them, they usually misuse their qualifications and waste them power of their youth, as in the case of the Geologists and oil graduates. Consequently, the whole thing leads to frustration and inhibiting the youth's enthusiasm and killing their ambitions and capabilities.

The excuse is that there is a deficit in the budget and there is economic stagnancy. Well, if that is so, can we ignore the youth and take them away? Is this the only right decision which would save the budget and refresh the stagnant economy? How marvelous, losing the youth's power and kill their aspirations is the only right decision to solve all our problems, that is ridiculous.

Supposing that may help, then we have to search for substitutions for those idle poor youth who turned a hand to studding, took pains to be qualified and

enthusiastically graduated hoping to serve their home. Have our governors discussed or even thought about what to do with the youth who have been educated in this system? Certainly not, that is clearly showed in their daily practices and their failure to solve our economic problems and create alternatives.

That is to say, as long as our regime can not recruit the youth and employ their potential, so they have to sustain the private sectors and support tourism and protect, enhance and encourage foreign support, protect, enhance and encourage foreign and local investment to participate in and invest their money in Yemen, definitely that would create lots of job opportunities for youth and somehow would help in solving the problem. In the meantime, it goes without saying that investments and tourism require security, protection and application of the law, that is only logical. Unfortunately the current insecurity is certainly caused by the weakness and failure of our regime and because of corrupt and useless bureaucracy. Who would come to see or invest anything in Yemen under these circumstances? The state of our country is a very disappointing and depressing thing.

I'm trying to say that the ambivalent and unclear policy of our government together with the unaware, careless, and corrupt government are

decidedly responsible for our civilization's insecurity and the ruining of the country economically. The economic stagnancy and lack of government effort is causing our youth to become hopeless and aimless, without purpose. Even the well educated and qualified students are becoming hopeless, and others stop studying, because they see that it brings them nothing.

So, the problem is how can we rework the regime and convince our governors of the importance of youth? How can we assert our rights and call their attention to our qualifications and capabilities in the course of constructing a bright future and making a more prosperous Yemen? That is the problem, to make people aware of the usefulness of youth in Yemen's future.

And when we succeed in doing that, I mean reworking our regime, reforming the authorities within the administrative hierarchy and renewing the governor's conscience, i.e. making them really careful, loving and innocent in their work for Yemen. If we could do this, we wouldn't find any young people committing suicide or aimlessly prowling streets as a result of frustration and despair of finding a job opportunity, and we would find them very hard working, persuasive in studying and very optimistic about the future.

This is my opinion and thanks again for your help.

Ali Abdullah Seenah,
Geologist - Geophysicist,
Ain shams Uni-graduate
Unemployed at this time.



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Yemeni Press in a Week

Given the importance of this page to our readers, responsibility for it has been moved from one editor to a group. The newspapers' editorial is also translated.

الوحدوي

Al-Wahdawi,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Nasserite Unionist Party,
09/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Extreme Secrecy About the Constitutional Amendments.
2. New Leadership for Aden Islamic Army which has Declared War on the Government.
3. 180 Yemeni Prisoners Inside the Prisons of the Zionist Entity and the Foreign Minister Refutes Any Contact with It.
4. Journalists Refuse to Participate in the Illegal (Syndicate) Conference.
5. Lawyers Seek to Block a New Lawyers' Law.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The savage policies and steps of the authorities have no explanation but their bankruptcy - both financial and spiritual. And when a certain power falls to this dual bankruptcy coupled with exposure to the outside world, it usually suppresses the impoverished people it claims to represent.

It is certain that what triggered the recent oppressive measures and economic hardships is the illegitimacy of the system, as the nation has become a jungle which is dominated by pirates, highwaymen and killers. Only such law of the jungle explains the recent actions of the authorities. Take the following examples - closing down newspapers, jailing of journalists, unilaterally preparing for the syndicate's conference, unannounced increases of prices, and sidestepping the constitution and laws. Only one word explains the attitude of the authorities - treachery.

The ignorant authorities that are used to falsification of facts have no enemy but democracy, and more specifically, press freedom, which is now under siege.

Today, we not only face totalitarian authorities, but corrupt ones as well. It is a small minority of Yemenis who are abusing their military power and financial prowess, which is scared that it does lots of damage. It is no wonder therefore that all its decisions are spontaneous and refuse any form or level of participation from others. It is also this that explains the dozens of laws the authorities issue without going through parliament. But the forces of modernity should come together armed with knowledge, and law and order.

الوحدة

Al-Wahda
Sanaa Weekly, Official,
10/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Sheikh Al-Ahmar Meets Members of the National Islamic Conference.
2. Discussion of the Elections Law Project Focuses on the Structure of the Supreme Elections Commission.

3. The Federation of Popular Forces Has Not Completed Its Legal Procedures and Has Not Been Licensed.

4. The PM: "An allocation of YR 7 billion for maintenance of road network."

5. The New Passport Cannot Be Forged.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Whatever is left of the Yemen Socialist Party's leadership may have forgotten the fact that their very existence is at risk. This happens at a time when the party believes it still exists, and that it alone has the right to exist. Today we see the leaders of this party which leave their places in the Politburo and the Central Committee leaving only dust behind them, and a party that decided to boycott democracy and elections.

When we say this, we are not against the YSP or its unitarian leaders, but we regret the fragmentation as a result of its miserable decision to secede. This has resulted in the departure of many YSP key persons.

Today, the top leadership of the YSP pretends to call for democracy, but in reality are monopolizing decision-making and are unable to listen to their own rank and file. This is clear from the way this leadership behaved in the documentary round of its general convention. In truth, the leaders of the YSP today are coordinating with the secessionist leaders-in-exile of the party. That is why, group after group of the party top persons have left their place in the party.

رأى

RAY
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
Rabitat Abna'a Al-Yemen.
09/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Arrest of Kutbi and Al-Ghareeb, and Trial of Jassar and Bashraheel.
2. Kidnapping of Businessman in Taiz, and Abul-Hamza Threatens to Attack American and British Interests in Yemen.
3. Delegation of MOWJ Discusses Yemeni Crisis with the European Parliament.
4. The National Local Government Project in a Consultative Council Seminar.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The last two weeks have been the worst for press freedom in Yemen since the nation's reunification and the acceptance of a multi-party political system. The steps taken against the media cannot but be seen as an effort to further shrink an already limit margin of press freedom.

The chief editor of Al-Shoura was arrested, in spite of the law, and the newspaper was stopped, after it had earlier been cloned.

Two chief editors were also arrested, in addition to a columnist and a lawyer in a way that is demeaning, and of course unconstitutional.

More journalists were called in for interrogation and intimidation at the prosecution and in courts.

It was, like a slaughterhouse. The intellectuals and opinion-makers were lumped with common criminals in the Criminal Investigation jails. Journalists negotiate their views with the authorities using the pen. But Yemen's authorities have other more primitive means, as the events of recent days have shown. Indeed, some members of our power structure have become very confused.

الطريق

Attariq,
Aden Weekly, Independent
09/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. The Attorney-General and the Minister of Interior Order Investigations in Private Prisons in Ibb.
2. Today.. Islah Holds Its Second Local Convention in Aden.
3. Wide Popular Support for Bashraheel and Al-Ghareeb.
4. The Aden-Abyan Army Threatens the American and British Ambassadors.
5. RSF Pleads for President Saleh's Intervention to Protect the Press.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Efforts were recently mounted to further reduce the freedom of the press, rights which are guaranteed by the constitution. Such efforts culminated in stopping several papers, imprisoning several editors, and interrogating many more. The list of victims of these actions is long, and it includes notable persons like Haitham Al-Ghareeb, Abdul-Latif Kutbi, Noman Kayed Saif, Hisham Bashraheel, Dr. Abdubakar Al-Saqqaf, Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Saqqaf, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, and others.

Such steps of infringement on press freedom comes in total contradiction to the announcements of our officials and government, and in contradiction to the international conventions our government has signed.

The illegal actions of the state have resulted in an uproar - locally and internationally. Many pro-democracy individuals and lovers of press freedom courageously stood up to these actions. Can we expect an end to these violations which hurt Yemen's image?

العقبة

As-Sahwah:
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Islah Party,
11/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Islah Continues to Hold Local Conventions in the Governorates.
2. The Moudiyah Court Starts Trial in Absentia of Those Accused of Killing Foreign Tourists.
3. The New Election Law Has Many Shortcomings.
4. The Secretary-General

Receives the Lebanese Ambassador and Expresses Support for the Resistance.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The issue of Rani juices imported from Saudi Arabia continues to draw more question marks, especially in light of the official announcements and the press reports.

The statements speak of violations of trade mark laws, of court decisions, and of circulars by the customs authority not to allow such products into the country. Yet, tens of containers carrying this same product have been allowed in. To add insult to injury, most of the products carry expiry dates long gone.

The questions are: "For how long will we continue to endure such violations? Why should a whole nation fail to decide on a small thing like this?"

The world is approaching a stage of complete open-door trade policies in which mafia dinosaurs will smuggle anything for profit, even if at the expense of the health of nations.

الجمهورية

Al-Mithaq,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the People's General Congress,
10/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Continued Branch Conventions, and Elections of 156 Branches Completed.
2. Administrative Structuring is an Important Tool for Translating National Goals.
3. The PGC Expresses the Aspirations of the People.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The third stage in our administrative plan builds up on the previous stages. All stages showed the level of discipline and devotion of all our party members. We expected such behavior, and it re-enforces our confidence in a better tomorrow. It also proves the ability of our party to lead the many great changes which will ensure a better future.

The main point in all of this is to build roots for democratic behavior within the party rank and file. It is the only party whose internal structures are based on democracy that can also push for democracy at the national level.

In my mind, the localized elections of our party rank and file is a milestone towards the Sixth General Convention of the party. It is clear that the PGC now has a good track record and a long experience

الإحياء

Al-Ehya'a Al-Arabi,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Ba'ath Party,
08/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. The Coordination Council (of the Opposition) Condemns Stopping Al-Shoura Newspaper
2. Kutbi Is Released from Jail, And a Savage Slaughter in Sa'adah.
3. Cohen Is Life Taker, the USA Is a Swift Terror, and the Dirty Smell of Arab Money.
4. Saddam Hussain Receives a Letter from Dr. Ismat Abdul-Majeed.

B: Issue's Editorial:

What is behind the tour of Mr. Cohen (US Defence Secretary) to the Gulf region? Is it not legitimate for Arabs to ask what the USA wants after it has destroyed, bombed, intimidated, blackmailed and plundered? For all its power and might, Abdullah Ojlan and Osama Bin Laden continue to haunt the USA.

Cohen says the purpose of his visit is to discuss the security of America's partners in the region. Actually, the aim is how to conspire against Saddam Hussain and the Iraqi nation and to plunder more money from these regimes. The message of Cohen, the American Zionist, is so hard on Arab mind and soul that the Emir of Bahrain died a short while after hearing it. We should expect more Arab leaders to perish as a result of the psychological and moral pressure of the US policy.

Yet, in the same visit, Cohen goes to Israel to offer more support, more arms and more concessions.

Let every Arab know that Cohen's rounds of visits are simply to deliver bills for the US actions against Iraq, though he refuses to disclose the amount of the bills.

الرجوع

Al-Thawri,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Yemen Socialist Party.
11/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Condolences on the Passing Away of Mr. Abdul-Warith Al-Ibby.
2. Broad Campaign Against Oppression of Journalists.
3. Mystery Over Effort to Assassinate Captain Saeed Yafiee.
4. Entering and Staying in the YSP Brings No Benefits, and Leaving Brings No Punishment.
5. The Court Summons the Minister of Information on Al-Shoura's Case.

B: Issue's Editorial:

When I receive news about the death of a dear friend, I enter something close to a coma. I cannot weep, I cannot even express my sorrow. I become numb.

Fortunately, I have this problem only rarely, because I do not have too many dear friends.

Last week, I was hit hard when an old friend, a brother, a father... passed away. It was Abdul-Warith Al-Ibby.

Death can actually become a saviour when it claims those free and great to me. Many people die every minute, but it is only a small few that leave with us tears flowing for a long time. For me, Abdul-Warith was one of them.

السلامة

Shibam,
Mukalla Weekly, Official,
10/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Mukalla Receives 12 Tourist Ships, and More than 2 billion Riyals in Hadhramaut Revenues.
2. The President Talks to King Fahd by Phone.
3. The Prime Minister Receives a UNHCR Official, and Attends the Seminar on Road

Damages Because of Vehicle Overload.

4. A Branch of the College of Education in Al-Ghadhah.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Since the launch of the September and October Revolutions, the right of the citizen to a good and full life was the paramount objective of the revolutions. A major milestone towards that objective was achieved on May 22, 1990, with the re-unification of the country.

The leadership, under the guidance of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, has attended to the ways and means to improve the living conditions of our people. An important part of this improvement is in opening the opportunity for political expression and organization within our democratic system. This commitment decorates the political scene of our country.

Unified Yemen has strived to legislate laws that guarantee political freedom. It is true there are some shortcomings, but we plan to overcome these through more democracy, which makes our experience unique in the region.

The on-going discussions on the amendments of the elections law is part of this process. But what is disturbing the meaningless noise that comes from certain quarters which seek to distort the picture and Yemen's image.

The whole world, including the UN's Human Rights Commission in Geneva, have hailed our country's effort to build a system that respects human rights, a nation that enjoys peace and tranquility, and a political culture that shows a lot of tolerance.

الانصاف

Al-Ayyam,
Aden 3-times Weekly,
Independent
14/03/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

- 1- A threat to Yemeni representatives in the USA by extremist group.
- 2- President Saleh starts an official visit to India and Japan
- 3- Journalists refuse joining the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate convention on Monday 15 March.
- 4- Court considers the appeal of Al-Shoura newspaper against the accusations of the Ministry of Information.

B: Issue's Editorial:

By Qaid Driyan

I just wonder how wealthy people in our country can be so ignorant to the conditions that poor people around them are going through. I once saw a citizen was pleading a millionaire businessman and asks for an insignificant amount of money to save his sick child from death because of malaria. Then the market owner turned his back saying that his income is low and has no extra money to lend. However, what really made me feel upset was when I saw an official coming in to the businessman asking him with a praising tongue for money to organize a special occasion. The businessman then with a wide smile grabbed a YR500 note bundle and simply gave it to the official, stating that this was his duty. The official happily went away with the money. No wonder why glorious days don't seem to be lying ahead are not ahead. We should first clean our souls to know why.

The Visit of the Sports Minister to Taiz and Ibb

Building Sports Facilities & Supporting Women Sports

The minister of youth and sports Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah made a visit to Taiz and Ibb this week, the first of its kind. During his visit, the minister set up foundation stones for various sport projects and facilities. The purpose of these facilities is to provide an infrastructure for clubs and sports organizations in Taiz & Ibb. The building of commercial facilities, attached to and managed by these clubs, will help the clubs raise more funds. Hopefully this will enable them to become self-supporting, and give them the funds to support and increase their

activities. The projects, as well as the minister's visit, brought comfort to the youth and enthusiastic cheers from sports lovers in both governorates.

The projects were as follows:

In Taiz Governorate:

- The building of 12 commercial shops, with parking facilities, in the area of Al-Ahli's club quarter. Some indoor sports stadiums will also be built. The total cost of this project is YR 20 million.

- To build head quarters and ten shops for Al-Taleh club in Al-Hoban area, at a total cost of YR

ten million.

- The building of two commercial units, for Al-Saqer club, at Bier Basha area, with a total cost of YR twenty million. The Hael Saeed Group will contribute to the financing of this project.

In Ibb governorate:

- Building a headquarters for Itihad Ibb club, and 12 commercial shops. This will have a total cost of YR 20 million.

- To build 12 commercial stores for Shaab Ibb club, the cost of the project is YR 20 million.

Supporting the Women Sports in Taiz.

During the Minister of Youth & Sport's visit to Taiz, he met with Mrs. Amat Al-Rahman Gahaaf, the President of the Women's Sports Association (WSA) in Taiz. She briefed the minister on the various activities of the WSA, and discussed its aims of establishing women's national teams in various sports, such as volleyball, handball, table-tennis and chess, to participate in the national, regional and International competitions. The minister extended a support of YR. 200,000 to the women sports association, for their upcoming programs and activities.



Mr. Shankar Bharadwaj

"Strong Positive Feelings on Yemen Tourism"

After his recent visit to the 'BIT' Tourism fair in Milan and the 'ITB' in Berlin we met Mr. Shankar Bharadwaj by chance at the Sana'a Airport and interviewed him on his tour to Europe.

Y.T How do you feel coming back to Sana'a

S.B Facing the reality !! back in Sana'a, my base for the past 3 yrs. I look forward to being back to work and join my Family.

Y.T Does Yemen have a very positive image overseas ?

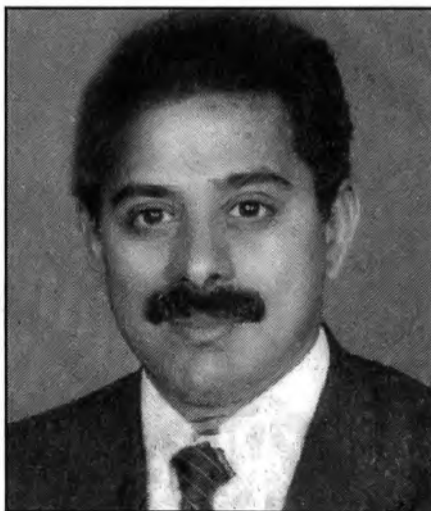
S.B With the recent happenings like the killings in December which has left a very bad taste in the minds of the people we met, 'A very fine destination to market otherwise... if the safety of the Tourists is taken care of, they all said.

Y.T Who are the other people with you during this trip and where all you went?

S.B The Taj Sheba hotel was represented by me and our G.M Mr.Mayank Mehta, the Yemen Tourism has the stand with the Minister of Tourism H.E Mr.Abdul Malik Mansoor and his deputy along with some major tour operators from Sana'a, and the Yemenia Airline represented by some of their Snr.Managers. We went to Madrid, Milan, Rome, Frankfurt and Berlin.

Y.T Do you think that the European tourists will return?

S.B I am positive for Yemen, provided there is no major incident in the next couple of months. The people whom we met have assured us of their positive response in including Yemen on their next brochure which would be in print by the end of June for the season beginning October. The Yemenia office in Rome and Frankfurt with the



new Marketing Manager in Sana'a Mr.Abdalla Mutareb are going all out to get the tourists arrival back to old days.

Y.T Who are the people you met?

S.B We met most of the major Tour operators who promote Yemen out of Milan and Frankfurt and a few individual holiday makers from all around the world who visited our stand and showed interest to travel to Yemen.

Y.T Compared to other Middle -East destination where does Yemen stand?

S.B I personally feel leaving apart Egypt, which has much more to offer and is being marketed well, Yemen is the best saleable destination for all the tour operators overseas.

Now with the interest generated internally in the country for the promotion of tourism and the Ministers involvement by giving press statements and attending the International Fairs, the day is not far away when we will see an inflow of tourists in large numbers back into Yemen.

Y.T The Taj Sheba has always retained the position of the Best Hotel in Sana'a, do you feel all the credit is due to the contacts you build overseas?

S.B Our contact overseas is a trade secret, however our rating as the Best Hotel is judged by the local community here in Sana'a who are happy with the service provided and the special care and attention given to all their guests. However the credit is to our team the management and staff who work hard to serve the guests. We wish to thank all our guests who repose such confidence by staying with us and the locals/expat community choosing us as the 'BEST HOTEL' in Sana'a.

YFF Decides to Punish Participators in Fan Violence

The Yemeni Football Federation (YFF) had an exceptional meeting headed by Ali Al-Ashwal, director of the YFF last week to discuss the latest fan violence in football stadiums, which occurred between Al-Hilal and Al-Tilal, and between Al-Ahli of Sanaa and Al-Shaab of Ibb. The YFF has decided to suspend the coach of Al-Hilal, Ahmed Ali bin Ali, his assistant Fadheel bin Ali-Sunna, and four Al-Tilal players for one year. The YFF also issued a warning to Al-Hilal's admin-

istration and fined it 30,000 YR. They also ordered the team to fix everything that had been damaged during the violence at Al-Olufy stadium in Hodeida.

On the other hand, the YFF issued another warning to Al-Shaab of Ibb's Administration and fined it 20,000 YR. The YFF budget allocated for both teams was redirected to be spent on fixing the damage caused during the violence at the Ali Muhsin Stadium in Sanaa.

Sports Glimpse

Basketball

Shab of Ibb had secured a berth in the excellent league, after defeating the visitors Al-Tilal of Aden 75 /63. The match was played in Al-Shahed Mohammed Saif. The stadium was full to capacity with supporters of both teams. The match was a tough one for both the teams. The first half ended in a tie 37/37, this had set the second half aflame, both the teams were keen in winning the match, with the final whistle Shab Ibb players had the last laugh.

Inter-school Championship

As part of the inter-school championship, organized by the School Activity Department, at the Ministry of Education, the volleyball tournament will start today, in Aden. Many schools from all the governorates are taking part in this tournament.

Girls' Chess Tournament in Taiz

The Chess Association Taiz branch is planing to hold a chess tournament for Taiz school girls.

" The tournament will start as soon as the preparations are over" said Mr. Hailan Al-Rabai, the President of the Chess Association Taiz branch.

Latest Positions of the Excellent League

Teams	Played	Won	Tie	Lost	Points
Ahli Sanaa	13	11	1	1	34
Shab Ibb	13	9	1	3	28
Wehda Sanaa	13	8	1	4	25
Wehda Aden	13	7	3	3	24
Hasan	13	6	3	4	21
Shula'a	13	6	2	5	20
Itehad Ibb	13	6	2	5	20
Shab Mukalh	13	6	2	5	20
Tilal	13	5	3	5	18
Al-Zahra	13	4	4	5	16
Al-Saqir	13	2	5	6	11
Al-Hilal	13	2	2	9	8
Talih Taiz	13	2	1	10	7
Al-Majid	13	1	2	10	5

JITCOM99 Honoring and Prize Ceremony

In continuation of the brilliant successes of Al-Jazeera information technology & communication exhibition 99, the Apollo company for International exhibitions organized a ceremony to honor the companies which took part in the exhibition.

Mr. Omer Al-Nhami, the Marketing Manager of Apollo Co. delivered a speech in which he welcomed and praised the role of the participants who made the exhibition a success. Mr. Al-Nhami also pointed out to the intention of organizing such events on an annual basis. He also thankfully acknowledged the cooperation extended by the Ministry of Communication. Engineer Abdullah Al-Akwa member of the preparatory committee in JITCOM 99 emphasized in a statement the importance of maintaining and continuing the

successes achieved here. On behalf of the participants, Mr. Ahmed Zabarah expressed great satisfaction and thanked Apollo Co. for the well organized event.

At the end of the ceremony, Mr. Tawfeeq Al-Nahmi, the

General Manager of Apollo Co. distributed achievement certificates to the outstanding participants and companies.

A draw for the exhibition visitors was held, and the winners were announced as follows:

1. Mr. Abdullah Ahmed Al-Salami- COMPAQ Computer- presented by Al-Salam Est.

2. Ahmed Mohammed S. Amir- COMPAQ Computer- presented by Engazat Trading Co.



يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء باصدق التهناني القلبية للاخوين
عبدالرحمن
و
خالد عبدالله الحوري
بمناسبة زفافهما الميمون مع اطيبة واسعد الامنيات لهما بالرفاء والبنين وأدام الله السرور.
المهنون:
رضاء وهياف عبدالرحمن السقاف
علي السلطان, عبدالمعز عقلان,
اسماعيل النهاري, خالد النهاري,
وليد المعاف, عز العرب الاصبحي,
حسن سريع, هشام المسوري, منذر العلفي,
وكافة موظفي البنك العربي



المهنون:
عبدالوهاب الهنار وإخوانه,
عبدالله الهنار,
رشاد الهنار
وكافة الأهل والأصدقاء

أجمل التهناني والتبريكات مقدمة للشباب الخلاق
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بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي
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سعيد وإخوانه
خالد نشاف سعيد
عبدالجبار غالب
وجميع موظفي شركة ناتكو
قطاع السيارات

Sanaa by Night

Sanaa nowhere compares to the glittering skyline of large cosmopolitan cities worldwide. It cannot afford it, if only because of the shortage of electricity. But then again, it is not just the lighting that gives beauty. I have found that the variations between bright and dark spots, and the creeping shades of both, gives a spectacular view.

Sanaa by night also offers a calming, almost soothing feeling. The temperature is invariably cool, and you can always count on a refreshing breeze of air caressing you as you stroll the streets or just sit down in one of the cafes.

Yes, that is another thing. The city has seen a tremendous growth in the number of places that individuals, families and groups can go and relax at in their evening outings. It need not be some fancy place. It is the atmosphere that counts, not the value of the chair on which you sit.

I am not normally a night



person. As a workaholic and an ardent Calvinist, I also did not understand how people can afford to simply sit down for hours and gaze into the yonder.

Sanaa is blessed with several mountains around the city. Drive west to Asir Mountain - some 4 kilometers away. Go to the Monument of the Unknown Egyptian Soldier or

the Chinese Cemetery - both perched on elevations that overlook the city.

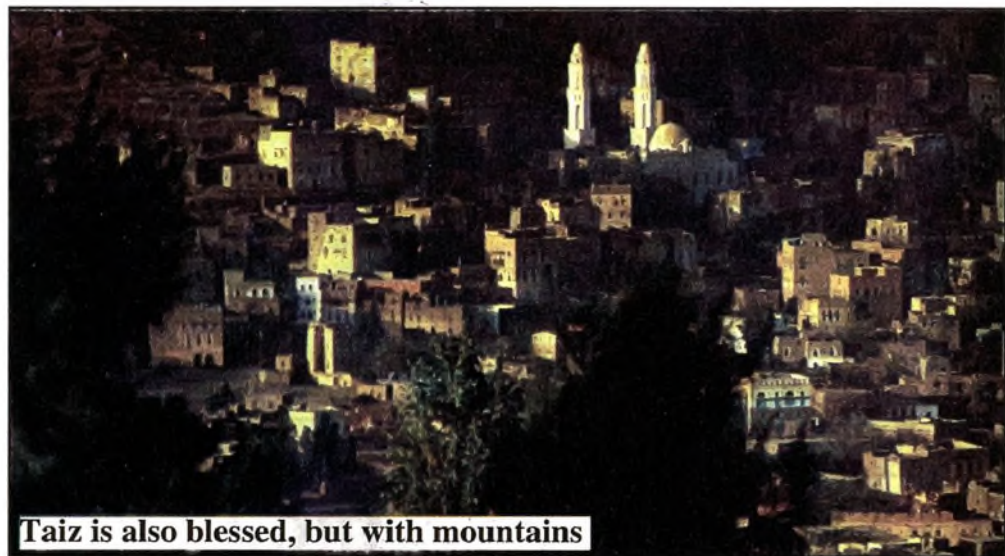
It is the company that counts. Take the family or friends. Don't go there alone! Also remember to take your own snacks and drinks. There are no services. It is amazing that investors have not yet opened their eyes to these enormous business opportunities.

It is not just Sanaa that has the lofty and majestic mountains around it. Most Yemeni cities - Aden, Taiz, Ibb, etc., are blessed with neighboring mountains that offer lovely night outings for its residents and visitors.

Unfortunately, the Yemeni people have not enjoyed these natural facilities in the past. There are two reasons for this. Historically, Yemenis are not night people. The cities of Yemen sleep early. Until three decades ago, Yemeni cities had gates which were closed at sunset. Second, there is this evil habit of qat chewing. After a long chew, most adults are not in a mood for outing or company.

This leaves non-Yemenis, or at least non-chewers, to have it all for themselves. If I were a tourism promoter, I would make such evening outings a part of the visit program.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor,
Yemen Times.



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