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• SANAA • April 12th, 1999 thru 18th, 1999

Vol. IX, Issue No. 15 • Price 30 Riyals



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DED Celebrates 20 Years of Service in Yemen. Page 5.

Are You Myth-Informed? The Supernatural in Yemen. Page 9.

Consultative Council Hearings on the Role of Emigrants in Development. Pages 12.

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When the Armed Forces Turn Against the People

They shot at the people and chased them into the mountains. They burned and pillaged the homes. They looted the belongings. They killed the livestock. They horrified the children...

No, we are not describing events in Kosovo. No the attackers are not Serb soldiers, nor are the victims Kosovar Albanians.



A burnt-down home



A torn-down home

It happened on Sunday March 21st. The attackers were soldiers from the para-military Central Security Forces of the Republic of Yemen. The victims are Yemeni citizens in Sa'eed Village, Sabah District in Al-Baidha governorate. It lies about 25 kilometers south-west of Reda City.

A Yemen team visited the place and was deeply shocked.

Read more on page 11

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During 27-29 June, Yemen Hosts Democratization Leaders

Preparations are underway for a gathering of political, civic and economic leaders of several democratizing countries, according to the event's organizer, NDI. "Managing the Twin Transitions: The Politics of Democratic and Economic Reform in Emerging Democracies" is scheduled to take place in Sanaa during 27-29/6/1999.

Senior officials, political and human rights activists, leading businessmen and other prominent public figures from Benin, Bolivia, El-Salvador,

Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Macedonia, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, and Yemen will participate. Mr. Dwyer Kendall of NDI says that the meetings will discuss shared experiences and challenges, and will formulate common approaches. The forum is expected to come out with the following:
1. A Common Statement identifying shared challenges and potential solutions;
2. An Action Plan for the group to serve as follow-up on the issues; and

3. A Summit Report.

The Yemeni team coordinating the effort with the NDI is headed by Engineer Mohammed Al-Tayyeb, Minister of Labor and Vocational Training. He is a leading member of the ruling PGC party. He has just left for Washington to finalize arrangements with NDI.

The effort is being financed through contributions from the UNDP, the Government of Japan, the Netherlands, the UK, the US, and Yemen.

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The Prince Wins, But...

It was a tough match. Both contenders were getting tired as they danced in the ring. But at the end, Prince Nasseem Hamed won, in the 11th round.

It was a knock-out. The English challenger was a strong and well-trained fighter. Paul Ingle was able to punish the Prince. He made him fall. And he made him bleed.

The Yemeni public that followed the game was a strong attachment was gripped with anxiety, expecting the worse, as the game dragged on.

Full story on page 15

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Visible Improvements in Sanaa's International Airport

As a frequent flyer, I interact very often with Sanaa International Airport. I pass by the place at least four times a month and therefore, I can see what is happening to it.

Over the last few months, I can see signs of definite improvements. Let me specify:

1. Cleaner Airport:

One of the most important improvements is that the airport is a lot cleaner today. Even as the airport welcomes all kinds of people, it has become steadily cleaner. You can see local assistants sweeping the floors, wiping the walls, and doing all kinds of cleanup work.

2. Better Passport Control:

I remember a few months back when one young officer moved swiftly to help the arriving passengers make different lines. He asked us to move to the counter one by one, and the next in line should remain behind the line. I was impressed by him. I was even more impressed by the ability of our people to quickly fall in line and respect the law. The officer did another thing which was good. He made sure several passport counters were open to speed up the process.

3. Customs Has Improved:

The most glaring revolution at the airport must be with the customs systems. A few weeks back, a declaration system was introduced. There is now a red exit, and a green exit. For passengers who had nothing to declare, the formalities were much reduced. Of course, people are subject to random inspection, but that is normal and acceptable.

4. Better Management:

It is clear that the management of the airport, in general, has matured a lot. Even the security apparatus, a very difficult job to start with, seems to have made progress. Unlike the days in which there were several security organs at work in parallel, today, there seems to be a more coordinated effort. The impression you get is that somebody has a better control and a better understanding of the job.

Yet, before I conclude, I have two pieces of advice that I want the airport authorities to consider.

1. Is there any way arriving luggage could be handled more quickly? Sometimes it takes more than an hour, sometimes, two hours if several flights arrive close to each other, to unload the baggage. This is too much time. It is common knowledge that arriving passengers want to go home as soon as possible. Therefore, they are not psychologically tuned to do much waiting, at least not patiently. I believe the authorities need to address this matter in order to further enhance the service of the airport.
2. Why don't the authorities levy a fee for people who want to bid farewell or receive passengers? A YR 500 per person could be levied. The money would be useful to finance more improvements, especially in light of government budgetary constraints.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the airport authorities for their efforts.

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Yemeni Assistance to Kosovo Awaits Shipment

A plane loaded with 40 tons of blankets, tents and kitchen utensils is parked at Sanaa International Airport awaiting the green light for take-off to Kosovo. Dr. Abdullah Abdul-Wali Nasher, Minister of Health, who spearheaded the effort, said that the UNHCR coordinates the shipment of such humanitarian relief. The UNACC (UN Air Coordination Cell) based in Geneva gives the authorization for flights. "Given the war zone, it is important to coordinate flight schedules and timing."

The minister also indicated that another shipment of medicine is being coordinated. Towards that end, the minister meets today, Monday, April 12th, with many businessmen.

The whole effort is financed through donations from local sources.

International Human Rights Law Seminar in Aden

The Law College of Aden University, in collaboration with the ICRC, are organizing a seminar on international human rights law on the 19-20 of April. Dr. Abdul-Wahab Shamsan, the seminar coordinator, stated that many experts, lawyers and civil organizations are going to participate.

Ouzounova Art on Display

On April 19th at the French Cultural Center, an exhibition of paintings, aquarels, and lithographs by Ms. Neli Ouzounova will be kicked off at 1700 hours. The exhibition is hosted by the International Cultural Circle (Halaqa). All art lovers are invited.

Foreign Minister in Iran

Abdul-Ba-Jammal, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, leaves Sanaa for a 3-day visit to Tehran on Saturday, the 17th. "My visit comes to follow-up agreed-upon steps in bilateral coordination and cooperation," he told the Yemen Times. He also mentioned the importance of Iran for regional stability and peace. The Foreign Minister also plans to visit Kuwait, once "I receive a formal invitation." The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister told the media that an invitation to his Yemeni counterpart was on the way. "I welcome the news, and plan to respond positively as soon as it comes in," Ba-Jammal told the Yemen Times over the telephone. During his Kuwait visit, he will re-open the Yemeni embassy, which had been closed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Question

Do you think that the Government should now begin to fight qat with all the strength it has? If "Yes", How?

Results

- Yes by strictly forbidding its planting and chewing, and issuing severe punishments in case of violations (32%)
- Yes but through a long run plan of increasing taxes and through plans that could prevent farmers from planting it and redirects them to other useful plantings (53%)
- No, I can't imagine Yemen and myself without qat one day, let's just keep on chewing it! (15%)

Hayel Saeed Awards Announced

Ali Mohammed Saeed, Chairman of the Hayel Saeed Group of Companies, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Hayel Saeed Awards for Sciences and Arts, held a press conference on Sunday, April 11th. "I am happy to announce the decision of the academic committees for the studies which competed for the prizes and awards for 1998," he said.

The committees found that none of the studies presented for the five fields for which prizes are awarded were up to the standards required. Therefore, some honorary awards were given to the following people:

1. Medical Award:

Each of the following scientists were awarded a prize of YR 200,000:

- a: Salim Mohammed Ba-Najeh,
- b: Ali Mohammed Al-Sabri,
- c: Mohammed Taha Al-Maqtari.

2. Agri-Environmental Award:

A YR 200,00 prize was awarded



to Dr. Abdul-Rahman Ali As-Selwi. Mohammed Thabet.

3. Economic Award:

A YR 200,000 prize was awarded to Mohammed Abdul-Rasheed Zumailan.

4. Humanities/Social Studies:

A YR 500,000 prize was awarded to Mr. Abdul-Jabbar Abdullah

5. Islamic Studies Award: A YR 200,000 prize was awarded to each of the following: a: Ismail Bin Ibrahim Attayeb, b: Abdulaziz Sultan Al-Mansoob, c: Abdul-Karim Sharaf Fare'.

Many officials and academicians attended the event.

Murder in Al-Mahweet

It has been an uphill battle. Trying to get information on the death - or rather the murder - of Mohammed Al-Kowkabani in Attaweelah, Al-Mahweet Governorate has been nearly impossible.

Three weeks ago, Mohammed was arrested for theft. The 18 year lad was charged with stealing a television set. He denied the charge, but to no avail. He was told to confess, and when he refused, various forms of torture were applied.

The young man died.

There was panic at the office of Director of Security. Part of the reason is that he is from Abyan - somewhat out of the northern tribal structure. The director slept on the bad news, and tried to make a deal with the relatives of the dead man. They refused to collect the body, and soon word of the murder was all over the small town.

It was six days later that the Attorney's office took charge of the case. Mohammed Al-Qatta', District Attorney, is now investigating. "We have not completed our investigations

and we want the media to stay away," he threatened. But the Director of Security (whose identity the paper won't disclose for safety reasons) was arrested and taken off the job, for now.

The Yemen Times contacted the family members of the dead man. They want full retribution. The two sides - the family and the paper - collaborated in putting together a file on the case. This was presented to the attorney general, and if there is no swift and comprehensive action, it will go to the human rights organizations.

3rd European Film Festival in Sana'a

The third European film festival will be held from the 5th to the 10th of June, 1999. Several European diplomatic missions and cultural centers representing Great Britain, Poland, Italy, Germany, France, and the Netherlands, in cooperation with the Yemeni Ministry of Culture and Tourism, have already taken the necessary preparatory steps for this event. The European Film Festival has already become an annual tradition in Yemen. There was one in June, 1997, and a second in May, 1998 - both at the Yemeni Cultural Center, with the participation of six European countries.

The Yemeni public showed great interest and enthusiasm. Preparations are in full, and they proceed in several stages.

Singaporean Carrier Anchors in Aden

The Singaporean container ship, *Dragon Shana*, anchored on Friday at the Container Terminal in Aden's Free Zone. The carrier came from Fujairah, in the United Arab Emirates, carrying more than one hundred containers, each about 20-40 feet long. It is 158 meters long, and 9.5 meters wide. It was unloaded in two hours by giant cranes now in operation at the port's dock. With the arrival of this giant carrier, the total number of containers that have unloaded in Aden has exceeded 3000, brought by several vessels of various nationalities.

Seminar on Chambers of Commerce Performance

On Saturday, April 10th, a performance improvement seminar organized for the Chamber of Commerce was initiated at The Elephant Bay Resort at Aden's University campus. Members of Aden's Chamber of Commerce, General Directors of Aden's executive offices, interested businessmen, along with American Professor Douglas Marsh, will participate in the two-day seminar. This seminar was organized in coordination with the other Chambers of Commerce all over the country. The conference was an attempt to keep people up to date on the latest developments. Mr. Marsh has met with the chamber's board of directors and reviewed a number of economic issues with them, especially those related to the role of the private sector as well as concepts and approaches in a free zone context. The meeting also touched on the chamber's relationship with its members and services that should be extended to the chamber's members. Mr. Marsh then listened to a number of views and ideas on different topics and management-related problems in the commercial sector. He exchanged views on them, and shared concepts on the chamber's areas of interest and activities. He described the chambers of commerce as a base for business, and said they are a channel and link between the government and the private sector. Sources in the Aden Chamber of Commerce said more seminars are planned.

KLM Discontinues Flights to Yemen

The drop in the tourism business has resulted in many casualties. Many hotels are operating at low capacity as occupancy rates have dropped dramatically. Yemenia, the national carrier is having financial difficulties. The aircraft industry and travel related small activities have sustained tremendous losses.

Now, the various airlines operating in Yemen are cutting back on services. Several of them have already reduced the number of flights to Yemen.

KLM - Royal Dutch Airlines, decided to totally discontinue flying into Sanaa. "The last KLM flight will be on June 15th," according to an official memo from the airline delivered last week to the Yemeni Authority for Civil Aviation.

Abdullah Okasha, the KLM Area Manager, told the Yemen Times that many factors have come together to force the decision. "The main factor is the loss of business," he pointed out. The country's travel industry was badly hit following a series of kidnapping incidents in which tourists and Western residents in Yemen were victimized. But the incident that hurt the most was the killing of 3 Britons and an Australian on December 30th, following a botched-up rescue effort by the security forces in a hostage situation in Abyan.

KLM used to run 3 flights a week, and they reduced that to 2 flights two months ago. With the termination of the KLM service, Lufthansa is the only European carrier flying into Sanaa.

YEMEN TIMES

Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly



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April 12th, 1999

Abdul-Rahman Dhaiban:

“We work hard to meet the managerial needs of the government bureaucracy.”

One of the major bottlenecks of Yemen's development process has been the inefficiency of the bureaucracy of the state. As many local and international assessment reports indicate, management has never been a Yemeni strong point. As a result, the Government in cooperation with the World Bank and the IMF, is now launching a comprehensive administrative reform.

The only body responsible for manpower training in the public sector is the National Institute for Administrative Sciences (NIAS). Headquartered in Sanaa, it has various branches and offers many training courses in management skills at different levels of the bureaucracy. It also offers training to the management support staff such as secretarial services.

Mr. Abdul-Rahman Salem Dhaiban has been the dean of NIAS since June 1997. The Indian-educated Dhaiban, started his government work exactly thirty years ago, in 1969. During this long career, he worked in many capacities, including Minister of Labor and Vocational Training (1990-93), and General-Manager of the Prime Minister's Office (1993- 97).

Abdul-Rahman, 49, is married. He has four boys and one girl.

Khairiyah Al-Shabibi talked to him and filed the following interview.

Q: Could you give us some background on the Institute?

A: The Institute was founded in 1963 under the name of the Institute of Public Administration and Secretariat. In 1974 it was renamed as the National Institute for Public Administration. After reunification of the country in May 1990, the two counterparts institutes in Northern and Southern governorates were merged into one institute under its present name - National Institute for Administrative Sciences (NIAS). Its duties and responsibilities are specified under a republican decree issued in 1991.

Q: What exactly are these duties and responsibilities?

A: Basically, NIAS functions as a house of expertise and consultation for the government apparatus in the field of

administration. It works to improve the overall system of management and administration of the government bodies. Thus, its duties are to help upgrade government personnel through training and re-training.

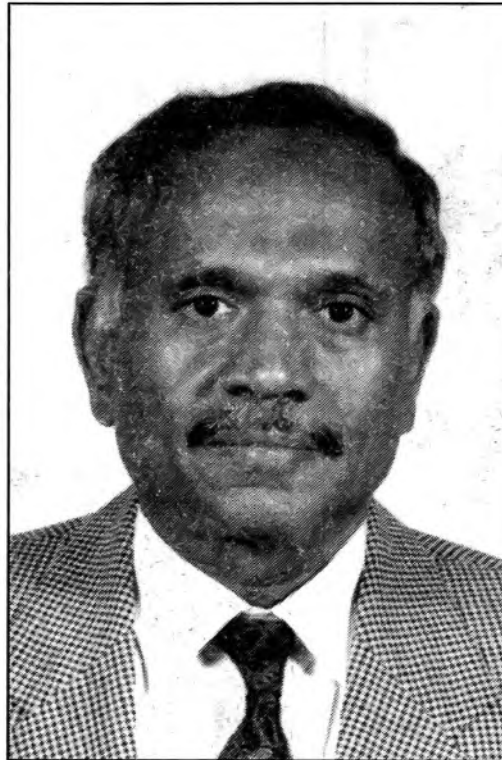
We also accept enrollment of non-government personnel in our programs as we believe we need to help up-grade the whole system in the country.

Q: What are the main training programs?

A: The Institute has many long, medium and short term programs. I would like to outline some of them.

1- A one-year qualifying program to obtain post college high diploma in Administrative Sciences.

2- A two-year qualifying program to obtain post secondary school intermediate diploma in the



following areas:

- Computer Sciences;
- Accounting;
- Management;
- Library Skills.

3- Short term intensive training programs in different administrative skills.

4- Special tailor-made training programs designed according to the need and requirements of the requesting authorities.

5- Organized seminars, meetings and workshops to equip personnel with the latest administrative techniques.

6- Carry out specific research

have?

A: NIAS has five branches, one each in the following cities - Aden, Taiz, Hodeidah, Ibb, Mukalla. Of course, these are in addition to the NIAS headquarters in Sanaa.

Q: How many trainees are enrolled in your programs. For example, how many are there today?

A: The number of trainees enrolled varies depending on how many courses are executed at any particular time. Sometimes, it is in the thousands, and sometimes

it is in the hundreds.

At this time, the total number of trainees in our programs are as follows:

- Sanaa:
- Aden:
- Taiz:
- Ibb:
- Hodeidah:
- Mukalla:

These trainees come mainly from the civil service - government bureaucracy. But there are also many who are employed in public and mixed-ownership corporations, private companies, as well as job-seekers.

Q: Does the institute provide any hands-on-the-job training?

A: The studies offered by the institute are many and different, and they are as practical as they can be. We do have a limited hands-on-the-job programs, but mostly, management is a theoretical concept.

Besides, most of the experts and trainers have an extensive and long experience in the fields of their responsibilities.

We are now pushing for arrangements to assign our interns and training for work in various establishments. This is part of our future plan.

Q: Do the students engage in any projects?

A: There are many projects and studies carried out by the students enrolled in the post college diploma program. These studies are administered and supervised by able staff. There are also studies carried out by the trainers in their various areas to meet the needs of certain administrative units. Often the institute organizes meetings, seminars and workshops in which some of these studies are discussed.

Q: How satisfied are government departments and the public sector with your work?

A: Our relationship with the government bodies is good. We

faithfully seek to meet their needs. We do surveys to identify these needs and then discuss possible programs with them.

Recently, the institute held five meetings devoted to the issue of administration development in which the main focus was how to better serve the government bodies. We look forward to further such steps.

Q: How about your relations with the private sector?

A: In the past, this relationship was rather restricted and small. The institute directed its activities and services in a focused way to the public sector and the state's different institutions.

Lately, we have opened up communication channels with some companies in the private sector and executed some training programs for them. We are committed to doing our best to promote this relationship.

Q: Do you have cooperation relations with counterparts in foreign countries?

A: Yes we do. We have signed more than 20 cooperation agreements with institutes in the Arab world, Europe and the USA. We are now working on ways and means to activate these agreements.

Q: In spite of your efforts, the government bureaucracy continues to show signs of inefficiency and carelessness. How do you explain that?

A: Our job is to equip people with the necessary managerial skills to be used in their careers. How they use, or whether they use them at all, is a matter of the individual's values.

In addition, management is something that changes a lot. A concept and approach that is useful in a certain context, may be rendered useless with time, and in other contexts.

Finally, management works within a whole system. Unless there is a healthy environment, it is hard for any skills to succeed.

Q: What are your future plans?
A: The main future plan of the institute can be briefed in the following:

- To diversify our training programs so as to respond to the changing market needs and to meet the requirements of the administrative and financial reform effort.

- To expand the institute's activities by opening new branches.

- To up-grade training methods and tools by constantly bringing-in modern technology. We are also pushing for more hands-on-the-job training.

- To improve skills and abilities of our staff to focus on concepts of transparency & accountability.

- To set up specialized units at the headquarter and branch offices which will focus on issues of local administration and rural development.

- To further expand the institute's foreign relations with counterpart institutes.


- To look for local and foreign sources of support and finance to enable the institute to carry out its message satisfactorily.

Apology

Yemen Times presents its apology for the printing mistake that occurred on its issue number 13, dated March 29th - April 4th in page 3, an interview with Mrs. Amatal Razaq Yahia Jahaf, head of the Women's Development Center (WDC).


The correct figure of the center's income is YR 600.000 (YR six hundred thousands) not YR 6.000.000 as it was mentioned in the interview.

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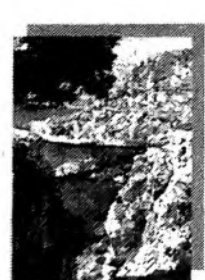
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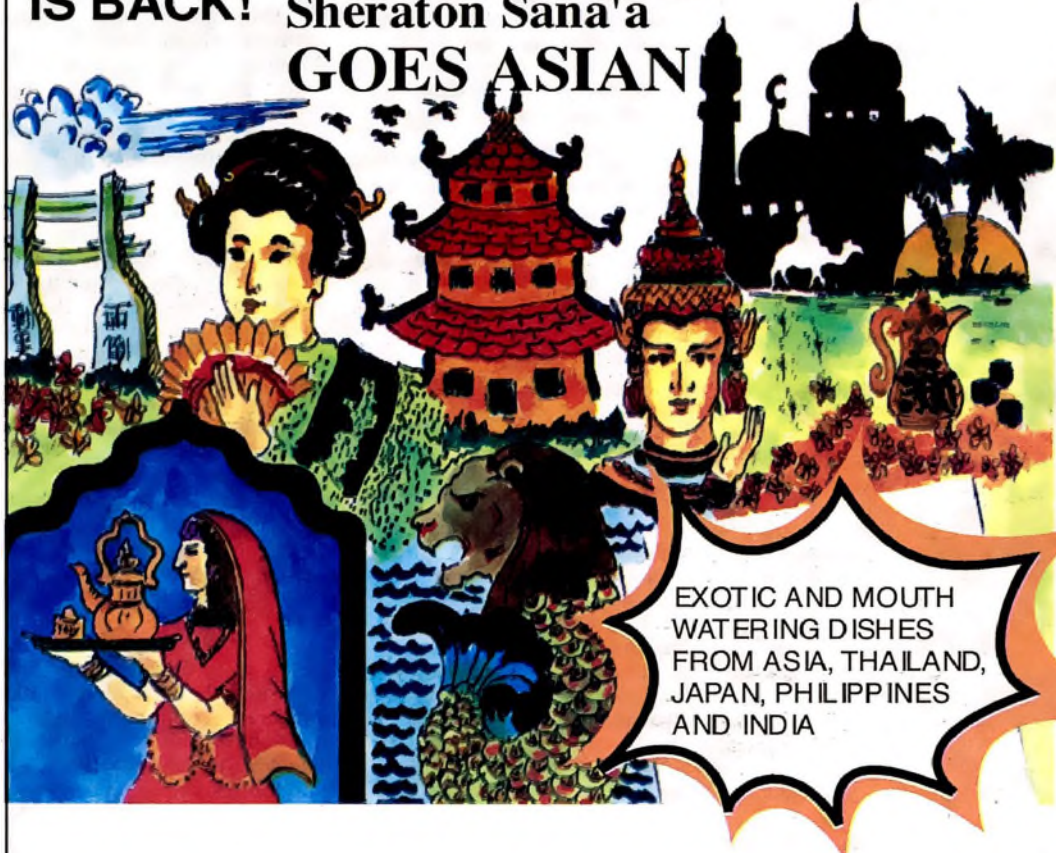


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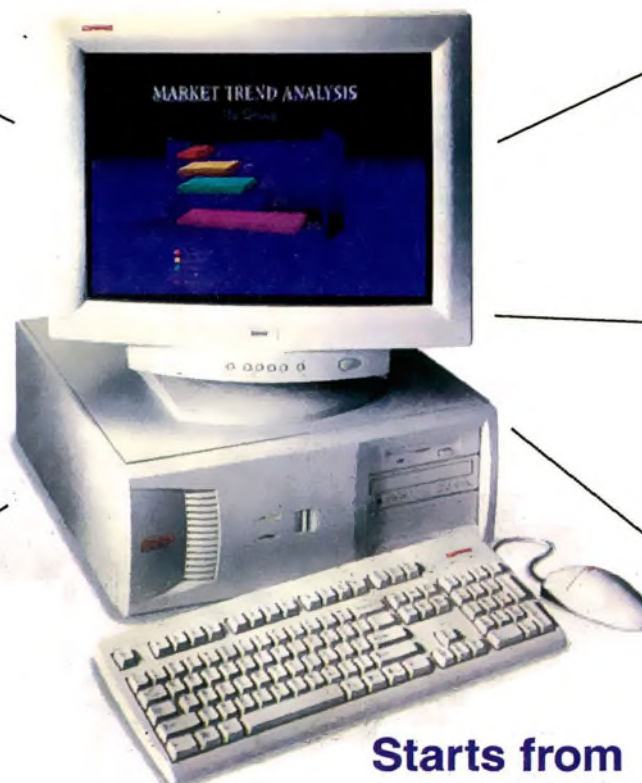
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DED Celebrates 20 Years in Yemen

DED representative, Mr. Gerd Winkelhane, spoke in a press conference on the German Development Service (DED) and its activities in Yemen. "We go back 20 years," Mr. Winkelhane stated. The occasion was further highlighted by the visit of the General Manager, Mr. Juergen Wilhelm.

"On this occasion, I would like to thank all our Yemeni partners for their great cooperation," he said. He mentioned that during the last twenty years of DED activities in Yemen, over 200 experts and workers engaged in various developmental fields. Though the average number of experts at any one time has fallen to thirty, the organization is doing its best to increase this number to the much higher previous levels.



German financial support to Yemen is mainly from three main organizations - the German Bank for Reconstruction specialized in financing projects, the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) which specializes in technical cooperation, and DED - the German Development Service which specializes in training development staff.

DED activities concentrate mainly on health services, technical/vocational training, and water and sanitation sectors. In addition, DED has been involved with the General Authority for Preservation of Historic Cities.

The General Manager of the DED, Mr. Juergen Wilhelm, then talked in the press conference. He started with a short briefing on his meetings. "I concluded meetings with Yemeni officials whom I found very understanding and appreciative of the DED's activities. "Relations between Yemen and Germany are long standing. We also share similarities in our recent historical backgrounds. Germany and Yemen were both divided into two parts. Both countries were re-unified in 1990."

He then hailed democratization in Yemen. "Germany encourages the political transformation and economic development of Yemen." He indicated that his organization works hard to improve the level of local development cadres. "Such efforts cannot be accomplished without heeding the priorities of the Yemeni people. It means that DED has no special programs or priorities of its own. DED supports development projects of benefit to the Yemeni side."

He also pointed out that the DED development workers are highly qualified persons. They are enrolled in social rehabilitation and orientation courses, most of them have experience in the work they perform in foreign countries, and all of them speak Arabic.

"As a friend, I would like to mention my administration's first concern for safety. The kidnapping of one of our workers that took place in January in one of the medical centers shocked us, and it reduces the support we need to continue the service. Then there was the following question and answer session:

Q: You just said that you follow the Yemeni government's priorities and

that you don't have your own. How accurate is that?

A: We consider ourselves not to create our own priorities or projects. We are partners. It is the Yemeni side that defines and identifies the priorities of our cooperation. The local partner can write us a request through the German Embassy or directly through our representative in Sanaa, Mr. Winkelhane. We will take that into consideration. We then discuss whether and how we can meet this demand. We do not sit in Berlin, or our representative in Sanaa, and thinking of ways to create projects. We only react to the demands of the Yemeni side whether governmental or non governmental.

Q: The health sector is in shambles. Do you have ideas to improve the health sector?

A: Yes of course, there is a continuous dialogue between us and our partners. We can make suggestions and give advice based on our long and worldwide experience. Sometimes we even have to say no to certain proposals. However, finding the right answer to Yemen's needs is not our job. Yemenis themselves must develop ideas and solutions, and we help them in implementation.

Q: I saw on the map that you concentrate on a small part of Yemen. Do you plan to expand your services, say like going to Al Mahara?

A: We would like to do so. But up to now, we have not received any request from the Yemeni side concerning this region. I must say that it is quite difficult to reach such a remote area. We also have to consider the matter of security. But generally speaking, it is a matter of proper arrangements. We do not mind working in other regions. I must say that we come from a foreign country, our policy is not to complicate local sensitivities. We answer questions and react to requests.

Q: If you get an invitation from Yemeni government to visit this region would you go?

A: Yes of course. We will respond to such a request and go. A remote area and less accessible might deserve our assistance more. Personally I have never visited that area. DED is specialized in remote

areas. Our people are not brought here to stay in the capital city's five star hotels or to sit in air-conditioned rooms: It is the other way around. Some 80 to 90% of our development workers are far away from the capitals and large cities.

Q: In how many countries do you work?

A: The number varies from time to time. Now, we are engaged in 48 development countries - Yemen included.

Q: You said that one of your workers was kidnapped. Can you tell us how that affected you?

A: It affected us because your colleagues worldwide starting from writers, TV and newspapers announcers reported for two weeks about this kidnapping act. At one stage, they confronted us with 3 TV cameras in my office in Berlin and it was on the front page of so many newspapers. So, the German people got the wrong impression that Yemen is a very dangerous place for German civil persons or development workers, to go.

This is the case, in all West European states. It is not just in Germany.

I have pointed out to the Yemeni officials that Yemen is a wonderful country that we love it and prove this fact by 20 years of cooperation. We haven't withdrawn our people although we were asked to do so. I hope that the Yemeni government will resolve such matters and we leave everything as it is. We hope that there will be no more such unpleasant accidents to our workers or to any foreigner/s in Yemen. I would like to be optimistic. I have been asked about the situation in Yemen, and I would like to say the truth. My understanding generally is that it is very safe. But I have responsibility to my people. We came back and we are still here and would like to stay here and I am quite optimistic that we will stay here and continue our projects.

Q: If something like this happens again, what will you do?

A: I am not a speculator, and will not answer a speculative question.

Reported by: Mohammed Bin Sallam Yemen Times.

Japanese Official Hails Yemen's Democratization

Mr. Masataka Ishida is the Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of Japan. He is soon to complete his term of assignment in Yemen. On this occasion, Ismail Al-ghabri of Yemen Times filed the following interview:-



Q: What is your new post?

A: I'll be Counselor and deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Japan in Doha, Qatar. So I'm shifting from one Arab country to another.

Q: With what impression do you leave Yemen?

A: Yemen is geographically as well as historically a very attractive country. This country also has an important part of human heritage. At the same time, Yemen is an up-to-date country. It has good resources to support the whole nation. I am impressed with the democratization process and the efforts to strengthen cooperation with the rest of the world.

Q: What changes did you witness during your service in Yemen?

A: I have stayed in Yemen almost four years. During this time, I have noticed many changes for the better. First, you have economic reforms. The government is trying hard to raise the level of economic efficiency. It is also tackling political transformation leading towards a more democratic government system. I was glad to be involved in those changes as the Japanese Government is one of the major donors for Yemen. I was also fortunate to attend as a representative of my government two major donor conferences on Yemen. First I attended the The Hague meeting in 1996, which was organized by the Dutch Government, the World Bank and the IMF. We discussed development issues. We reached a number of recommendations. Then there was the Consultative Group Meeting which was held in Brussels, Belgium, in 1997. Again I was chosen as a representative of my government.

Q: How do you assess bilateral relations?

A: I always wished that the troublingly long distance between Yemen and Japan was shorter. Even then, relations continue to grow and expand at many levels. I have a strong feeling that more Yemeni people should go to Japan, and more Japanese people should come to Yemen, not only as tourists but also for political dialogue and economic exchange. I hope that the two governments will further promote bilateral relations.

Q: What is your assessment of President Saleh's visit to Japan?

A: Both sides said that the visit was very successful. It was also very special as it was the first visit by a head of state of Yemen. I think that the visit opened the way for further enhancement of the bilateral relations. But, I do see the need to follow up the results of the visit.

Q: Have you and your wife had much contact with Yemenis during your stay here?

A: You know that the husband is always trapped in the office environment, so I should admit that my contact with the local Yemeni people was limited,

against my wish. My first priority was work. So my wife was able to make up for my shortcomings. She participated in teaching young Yemenis the Japanese language. The chairman of the Yemeni-Japanese Friendship Association, Haj Mohammed Adhban, lent us space for this purpose. My wife was the only Japanese teacher in this program. This activity provided her with many wonderful associations with the Yemeni people. We also organized some sport events like soccer, basketball, volleyball as well many other games in addition to social parties. My wife, children and myself enjoyed Yemen a lot. Yemen has such nice weather, environment and landscape.

Q: How many Japanese people live in Yemen?

A: There are about 40 Japanese persons in this country. Some of them are here to study and some others are for other purposes. It is a strikingly small number compared to the activities of the Japanese government here.

Q: Can you give us an idea about Japanese assistance to Yemen?

A: Japan is one of the top aid partners of Yemen. We are glad to see a good reaction of the Yemeni public to Japanese assistance. We certainly shall continue our effort. Japan concentrates on manpower development especially in such fields as health and education. We also provide aid through our grass-roots level activities to NGOs.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I like Yemen. My stay in Yemen has been the longest in my whole diplomatic career and I hope to come back to Yemen in the future. I would like to see Yemen by then more developed and improved. I hope also to keep in touch with my good Yemeni friends.

تعازينا العميقة

نتقدم بخالص العزاء وصادق المواساة لزميلنا
الأستاذ محبوب علي - نقيب الصحفيين اليمنيين
بوفاة والده المغفور له
الذي ندعو الله ان يشملهم بواسع رحمته
ويسكنه فسيح جناته
كما ندعو الله ان يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان
وانا لله وانا اليه راجعون
الأسيفون
د/عبدالعزیز السقاف ، علي سعيد السقاف
احمد الحاج ، محمد بن سلام ، حافظ البكاري
جمال العواضي ، وكافة الزملاء في يمن تايمز

This is an *OPINION* page.

Every week, a different intellectual writes a *FOCUS* on a pertinent issue!

Housing Cooperatives in Yemen: Benefits and Problems

By Architect: Kamal Haglan
MA in Housing Studies
University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.



and the determination of rights, duties, and liability of the members. If the cooperative is not officially recognized as a legal body, it is neither able to perform its duties and carry out its obligations towards others - including its members - nor are the members bound by any agreement with the cooperative.

The public sector, in many developing countries including Yemen, and in accordance with housing policy being executed by our institutions, encourages and supports partnership as leading to the establishment of cooperatives, along well-defined guidelines and principles.

Although the Government of Yemen does recognize the importance of the role of housing cooperatives, that is not sufficient, and doesn't offer a practical contribution towards finding solutions for the housing shortages in urban areas. That is why there are still many difficulties and constraints facing the performance and functioning of cooperatives.

Before outlining some of these difficulties, some positive aspects of such cooperatives will be highlighted first.

The desire and willingness of many people to be members of housing cooperatives emanates from their hope and awareness that this is a feasible and achievable solution for securing housing for themselves and their families. Such a positive attitude is largely based on the positive factors that could lead to a peaceful and secure home. Amongst these factors are the following:

1- Housing cooperatives most

likely represent the cheapest and most affordable way to have access to adequate urban land. This is, on one hand, because the purchase of land is usually made in collective form. Thus, the purchase naturally covers a large chunk of land. Consequently the landowner or owners, under the temptation of such an opportunity to sell a large area to one purchaser, are willing to reduce the unit price of the whole area. This is especially true, if the land is located in the suburbs, and not in well developed parts of the city.

2. When a cooperative society is formed, a bank account is opened to which the members are asked to deposit their shares of the project cost, in installments. The deposit slips are their documents of membership.

Many members find installment payment an acceptable and rational means of paying, as it is within everyone's financial ability. Even in the case the would-be members do not have the required installment amount available, they make ceaseless efforts to find it. In some companies or ministries, the amounts are advanced by the organization, and are then deducted from the employee's salaries.

3- Since the purchase of the land is made in formal and legal ways, it gives the members assurances, through the government's approval, that they can develop the land by incorporating it in the urban land-use plan. This approval, which is given by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, not only guarantees legal title, but also gives it a

formal character and entitles the area, at least to be developed as housing.

4- Another positive aspect of such a cooperative is the fact that they give the members the possibility of living in better environmental conditions and within a community that is already familiar with each other. As the people who purchase land and houses already know each other, and they are mostly friends, their living in close proximity leads to better social interaction and promotes a spirit of good-will amongst the residents of the new area, which undoubtedly will positively affect and improve the living environment.

Despite the above-mentioned positive aspects of cooperatives, there are many problems and constraints facing them in their efforts to achieve their goals. It can be said that part of the problem is related to the mechanisms and procedures of the cooperatives themselves. This is particularly true during the process of gaining approval and recognition by the relevant governmental institutions. The other part is related to the complications in the process of land purchase.

An additional problem emanates from the long process of adopting land use plans - which in some cases could take years - due to the tedious bureaucracy of governmental bodies. This land-use plan is a pre-requisite for many of the activities of the cooperative, and is even needed to gain formal approval for its establishment.

This delay is often justified and

explained by the need to take the necessary steps to approve the housing construction plan. These steps include a technical review, analysis at different phases to ensure that the cooperative's plan contains all the necessary elements required in urban planning, and many other points. In addition, the plan generally should be in harmony with the overall urban master development plan of the city and should not contradict it in term of the urban development trend. This delay also might be the result of the bureaucratic approach and practices of the government bodies in order to overemphasize their own roles. Although these are the most common reasons and justifications for the delay, it is possible to hear, informally, speculations that there are some other reasons which many are familiar with.

Obstacles related to the land purchase process are many. The search for a proper and suitable location, and most importantly at an affordable price is essential for the cooperatives members. This usually is time consuming. Even once a good location is found, several other problems related to finalizing the deal crop up. These include price negotiations, authentication of ownership, making sure all the deeds are in order and that they are turned over, and that ownership is formally and completely transferred.

Since the size of land to be purchased in such cases is large in order to meet the demand of all the members, difficulties are inevitable in finding someone who owns sufficient land. This will likely make a purchase from multiple people necessary, an extremely difficult task. Also inevitably, the problem of overlapping ownership claims arise given the uncertainty of land tenure and registry in Yemen.

In addition, further complications could be caused as many mediators and their parties get involved in the purchase, leading to more loss of time and resources.

It could also be said that some problems which consequently lead to delays in the purchasing process, could occur from the differences in points of view of the persons representing the

cooperative. The leading members will argue over the choice of the land location, the price, and other factors. This is mainly due to the personal benefits each can gain from different scenarios. However this cannot be generalized in all cases. Thus, the performance and efforts of the cooperative representatives will largely depend on their credibility and sense of responsibility and awareness of the commitments they made to the members and depend on the degree of understanding and harmony they have. They should strongly believe in their responsibilities and in the voluntary nature of their commitment.

Governments, all over the world, recognize the role of housing cooperatives, especially in circumstances of acute housing shortages. That is because cooperatives can indeed offer good and effective solutions. It is thus extremely important and necessary for the government institutions responsible for housing issues, to facilitate the work of cooperatives. This may require new laws, and steps to adopt and maintain proper legislation and a legal framework.

With close cooperation and coordination with other concerned parties, including the cooperatives themselves, adequate and simple procedures can be enacted which in turn will have satisfying impact on the concerned beneficiaries and will raise efficiency of the work. Therefore, the first step should include a comprehensive review and analysis of the current housing situation, and the present role of cooperatives. This will clearly identify all constraints and obstacles that hamper their performance and efforts. It will also offer some potential solutions.

The proposals for solutions must emphasize removing all constraints, particularly the unnecessarily long bureaucratic procedures. That will enable cooperatives to operate smoothly and achieve their objectives in a reasonable period of time. This will contribute toward solving the housing problems of public employees as well as the general public.

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Attention Yemen Artists !

AMIDEAST
اميد إيست

AMIDEAST Sana'a is pleased to announce a local art competition to promote Yemeni culture. Yemeni artists are encouraged to submit a drawing or picture of traditional Yemen to include scenes from the Old City, antiquities, and village life. Submissions are due by 17 April, 1999. One winner will be required to paint the submission at AMIDEAST, will be invited to attend the formal opening of our new offices, and will receive a monetary prize. The winning design will also illustrate a brochure on AMIDEAST.

All sketches submitted become the property of AMIDEAST Yemen.

Our office is located on Algiers Street, #66, near the intersection of Baghdad and Algiers Streets.

AMIDEAST... promoting understanding and cooperation between Americans and the people of the Middle East and North Africa through education, information, and development assistance programs.

April 12th, 1999

To successfully promote tourism; We Have to Fight Terrorists, Abductors, Garbage and Dogs

Maria Hardwick, a Tourist Guide from Australia, and a very well known name in the world of clothes and fashion in Australia, was in Yemen again last week.

When she first heard of Yemen, she had an average tourist's drive. It was innocent curiosity to see a new place, a different people and their culture. It never crossed her mind that she would be infatuated with Yemen to the extent of defying her government's ban and warnings. She never thought she would become a tourist promoter. Her love for Yemen and Yemenis changed her life, as she says in this interview with Yemen Times.

Q: When did you first visit Yemen?

A: I visited Yemen five years ago. I had travelled a lot before Yemen, but this place really left a strong impression with me. So when I returned to Australia, I went through a series of different options, and ultimately became involved in promoting tourism to Yemen.

That was a change. My background is in the fashion industry, as I have had a very successful fashion business for over 20 years in my country. Australians travel a great deal and I feel there is a good future for tourism to Yemen.

Given the potential, my marketing abilities make me feel that there is a rich potential here.

Q: How far have you come?

A: It took a while for take-off. I brought my first batch of visitors to Yemen last year, in October-November. The long lead period was due to lack of knowledge and lack of material on Yemen.

Q: How many people in that group?

A: Fifteen people. I call this the boutique approach to travel. The reason is simple. You have to have a good mix between the number and quality of people in the group.

Usually, the people who come here are a particular type of tourists, those who have traveled a lot in other places but want to come to Yemen for its unique characteristics. Jacque Herbert, a French writer who wrote a book about Yemen, genuinely believes that Yemen has some unique characteristics that you cannot find anywhere else. I believe the same. I don't really promote tourism for commercial interests, it is something I do because I have a passion for this place. I feel a great deal of affection for Yemen. So I enjoy what I am doing because it is something that comes from my heart.

Q: Would you not say that the Abyan events have interrupted your efforts?

A: Yes, we were very dismayed by the event that happened at the end of last year. There was a great deal of negative publicity and enormous media coverage in Australia on this sad incident. That was a huge setback for any person promoting Yemen. Any potential visitor from Australia was put off because there was an Australian killed. It is very difficult to change people's mind about that sort of publicity. So it makes my job almost impossible as no Australian tourists will agree to come here at the moment.

As I said Australians do travel a lot, but there are many places in the world to choose from. If there is a black mark on a country's safety record, it will simply be taken off the travel map.

Q: Is the negative impact to last year's tragic events beginning to change?

A: No, not yet. No one is willing to come here, as yet. When I started off on this trip only one month ago, people thought I was foolish to come here. In fact, my husband said that I wanted to be kidnapped and that's why I was coming to Yemen. Of course that is all exaggerated.

Q: What attracts you to Yemen?

A: I like this place very much, especially the old city of Sanaa. Living in the old city is a completely different experience for any Westerner. The contrast is so strong. Life here is simpler and slower and there are no distractions. There are a lot of nice aspects of Yemeni life, though it would probably be difficult for the Yemenis to understand what it is that appeals to us in coming here.

We in the West have almost gone the complete circle. We feel the pressures and distractions of a modern life style which has come at the expense of the traditional values. Here in Yemen, we are able to go back to the values of a traditional culture. When I first came here, I was able to compare our culture to yours. I was struck by the simplicity of your lifestyle and your culture in general.

In Yemen, you don't have to make decisions for every single minute of the day, as is the case for us back home. This pressure actually becomes a burden on us. It is very wearying. Life for us has become too complex, and too demanding. The rat race of keeping up makes us miss living our life.



So I come to a place like this, especially the old town of Sanaa. Its charm, harmony and simplicity is attractive. I know what my day will be, the prayer calls give it a rhythm and structure.

Q: Are you saying you feel safer in Yemen?

A: No, and that's not the point. I am talking about how fully you live.

When I first came here, I found myself curious and nervous. Then, this place became familiar and I felt affection for it. So, I came back, even with the bad publicity we received. People in the West are very negative about the Middle East, any how. I underestimated this negativism when I embarked on this business. The negativity you have before you begin, for the whole region, is just a blanket. So if you add this disaster to it, and the amount of the incredible coverage we had on the sad event, you can imagine how difficult it is to promote tourism to Yemen.

Q: The passion you have for Yemen, is it just for the Old City of Sanaa or for the whole country?

A: The whole country. As a tourist, you talk about Yemen as a relatively small area which offers an amazing diversity. You can speak about the mountain villages, or about the souqs, or the beaches, or the history, etc., all are very spectacular. Every day during the usual two weeks around the country tour, tourists see something different. It is enthralling for someone just landing here. Nature is very dramatic, and the people are very nice, and don't forget the beautiful architecture.

Q: We talked about things you liked, tell us about the things you didn't like about Yemen?

A: It is mostly the garbage. You know we in our societies have been so successfully indoctrinated against garbage. We wouldn't even drop one small piece of garbage out of the window, we would get fined and there is constantly a huge public awareness campaign. So what I am highly sensitive to in Yemen is the out-of-control garbage. Obviously, the people here are less sensitive to it, but I'm giving a perspective of people who come to this country. I hear tourists often say 'What a great shame that this beautiful place, especially the old city, should be so littered with garbage'. I think that the place could be so much more enhanced if more attention is paid to cleanliness.

The other issue is partly related to the first problem. It is the problem of stray dogs. You know that tourists like to walk, especially in the old city because it is wonderful. Therefore, people's first impressions, which are always strong, are important. What inevitably happens is that you come across stray dogs. The stray dogs are not pets, and they can be harmful.

In addition, they sleep all day and they make such annoying barking at night! In the old Sanaa city, you can't get a good night's sleep because of barking dogs. This is hard to stand, especially when you are tired or exhausted.

Q: What is next?

A: For me, the next step is clear. I will go back to Australia and work on convincing more people to come. I have already rented a house in the Old City of Sanaa, which will be my base for work. It is also going to be my home when I come back.

By: Hatem Bamehriz
Yemen Times

Will Hiding Its Head in the Sand Help the Government

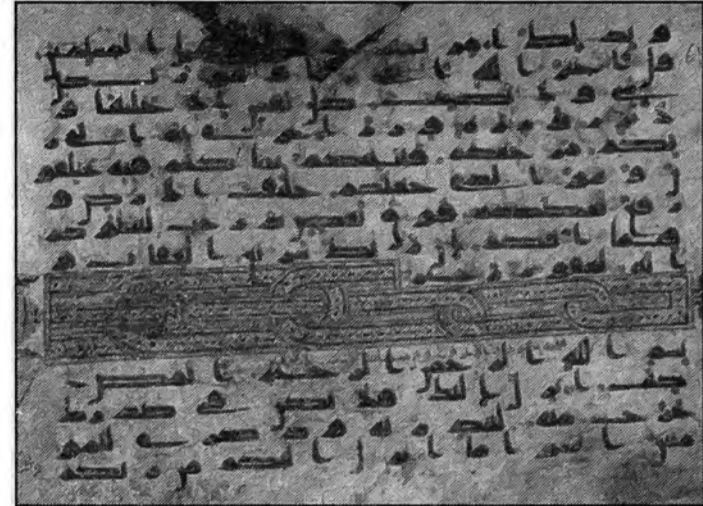
For hundreds of years, the roofs of the Great Mosque in Sanaa had been a safe place for thousands of manuscripts and antiquated scrolls of the Holy Quran. These manuscripts were rediscovered in recent times. Efforts to classify and catalogue them started in earnest. The German-financed effort resulted in the Manuscripts' Library.

Recently, however, someone decided to break into the mosque and plunder the scrolls and manuscripts. As usual, the authorities first denied the action, then said that nothing was stolen though there was a forced break-in.

satellite television channels and radio stations stated that a great number of these singular manuscripts and scrolls had been lifted. An independent Yemen Times investigation led to a somber conclusion.

1. There is a disgusting level of carelessness in regard to the safety of these historical documents.
2. Over the last two years there were five attempts to break-into the mosque to steal the documents.
3. Three weeks back, there was a successful break-in.
4. The authorities are refusing to disclose what is missing.

It would only take simple and modern steps of registering, cataloging and computerizing of the manuscripts and scrolls to protect them. Researchers and other experts will have access to photocopies or



electronic versions of the manuscripts. Photocopying the original papers, as is the case in most countries, is simple and inexpensive measure. But unfortunately none of this was done in the libraries of the Great Mosque.

Nor are the authorities able to apprehend the culprits. They keep talking big and give themselves the right to monopolize the information and the right of access. Nonetheless, the responsible persons are never held accountable.

These include the Ministry of Endowments which is in charge of the Great Mosque. Then there is the Ministry of Interior which is responsible for safety and security. Then there is the Sanaa Municipality. Then there are the people directly responsible for the mosque. Most Yemenis find the attack

on this sacred place offensive and barbaric. They also find the action of stealing these treasures for sale in foreign lands something very cheap.

To keep pretending that nothing has happened makes many people lose whatever credibility the authorities may still have had. To shout on television and to print in large letters that nothing had gone wrong is in itself a crime. The real menace may be that we have incapable officials who continue to shield themselves by talking big.

Accountability is an important component of any system. Unless that is applied, nobody will do his/her job as required by the law.

By: Ismail Al-Ghabiry,
Yemen Times

Bekanntmachung Für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Europäischen Parlament

Am 13. Juni 1999 findet die Wahl der Abgeordneten zum Europäischen Parlament aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und im Bundesgebiet keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u.a. Voraussetzung, daß sie

- 1.1. seit mindestens drei Monaten in den übrigen Mitgliedstaaten der Europäischen Gemeinschaft eine Wohnung innehaben oder sich mindestens seit dieser Zeit dort gewöhnlich aufhalten (auf die Dreimonatsfrist wird ein unmittelbar vorausgehender Aufenthalt in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland angerechnet)

oder

- 1.2. a) in Gebieten der übrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarates leben oder
b) in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltag seit ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland¹ nicht mehr als 25 Jahre verstrichen sind.

und vor ihrem Fortzug nach dem 23. Mai 1949 aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland mindestens drei Monate in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben;

2. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 24. Mai 1999 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§17 Abs. 1 der Europawahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter können bei

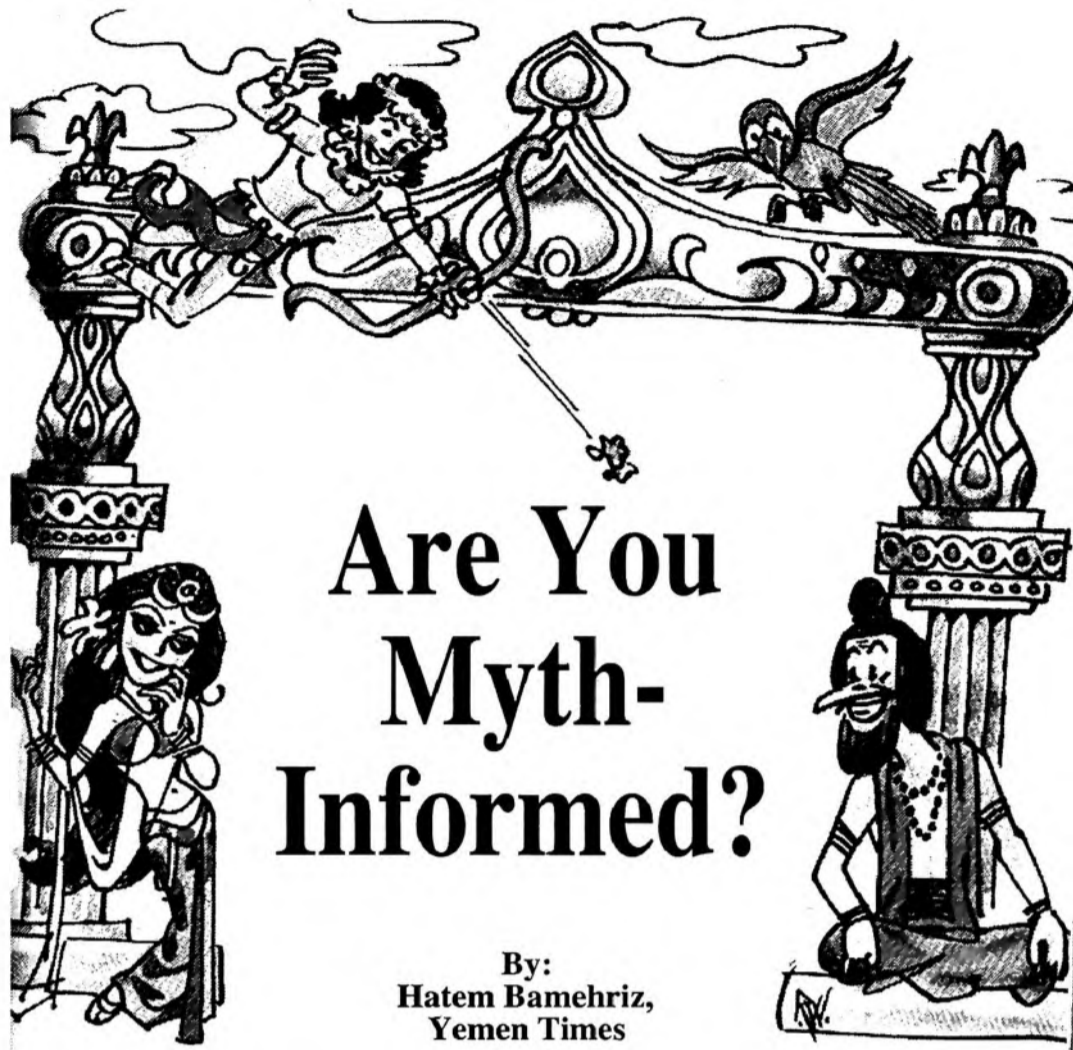
- den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
- dem Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, 65180 Wiesbaden,
- den Kreis- und Stadtwahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilt die Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland, Sanaa, Dienststunden: Sonntag bis Donnerstag von 09.00 Uhr bis 12.00 Uhr.

Sanaa, den 07. April 1999

¹ Zu berücksichtigen ist auch eine frühere Wohnung oder ein früherer Aufenthalt in dem in Artikel 3 des Einigungsvertrages genannten Gebiet (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thüringen zuzüglich des Gebietes des früheren Berlin (Ost)).



Are You Myth-Informed?

By:
Hatem Bamehriz,
Yemen Times

The world of the supernatural is more important in Yemen than in many other parts of the world. It is embedded in our everyday lives, and it is intertwined in everything we do.

If you see a wealthy man, he may be carrying some form of protection against evil. You may see a lovely young woman, who may have just coughed up a good part of her savings to a witch who promises to get her a good husband. You may see a young student who is seeking 'assistance' to pass his exams. You may see a sick

person going to some jester who takes the sick man's money in return for kicking the devil out of his body.

Many factors contribute to this reality. First, there is the long and rich heritage of our civilization. This lends itself easily to a blend of reality and legend. The silver lining to this is our deep and rich folk culture.

The second factor is the backwardness to which the nation has fallen. With more than 60% of the adult population suffering

from illiteracy, the nation is gripped by an oral culture. Word of mouth is less ably controlled, and often leads to exaggerations and, yes, to belief in the super natural. Whatever the cause, Yemen is a nation that boasts a vast and often almost endless backlog of superstitions. So, how well myth-informed are you?

Abdullah Al-Baradoni, probably this nation's current greatest writer, wrote a book about the superstitions and legends of this country. It is worthwhile reading. But let me tell you about a few of the prevalent beliefs.

During the rule of the Imam - prior to the September 26th Revolution, 1962, almost the whole nation believed in the super natural powers of the monarch. In fact, they used to call him "Ahmed Ya Jinnah" as if he controlled the jins. It was one of his most effective instruments to control the people. He convinced them that he controls the super natural world, and they reported to him any citizen who was not loyal. At one time, he ordered all his citizens to put tar on their forehead, otherwise his evil spirits would come around to all homes and kill those who are not 'protected'. For a while, the whole nation had a black mark on the forehead.

One of the beliefs of that era is rather a funny one. The Imam convinced the people that this earth is placed on the horn of a huge bull, and that he controls the bull to keep the earth balanced. If somebody made the Imam angry, he would shake the world by stirring the bull.

You will still find people today swearing in the name of Ibn Alwan. They say he was a pious man, but people's beliefs have pushed him into legend. The legendary Ibn Alwan still has a shrine some fifty kilometers south of Taiz city, which people still visit to be blessed and relieved of various curses and ailments. People believe that the man performs miracles. A sick person would go to touch his tomb to be cured. A barren woman would go to be blessed with fertility. A person who lost some valuable property would go there in order to discover who took it.

The shrine is surrounded by lots of strange people who capitalize on the ignorance of the "believers".

Wives often complain of a sudden change in their husbands' behavior. They attribute that to an evil spell "sihr" or evil eye "hassad" cast on them. In an effort to save the marriage, such wives routinely refer to many witches or sorcerers who have certain powers. They always get the same answer. "Yes, there is another woman who is after your husband, and she is using a very strong spell to separate you. But don't worry, I can remove the evil spell and replace it with a love spell for you." In Sanaa, there is one famous exorcist, there is another one in Sa'awan, and a third one in Bani Matar.

If you try to visit Al-Owbaly in Redaa, you will have to stand in a long queue. He is famous for treatment against spiritual ills. An old man who has been traveling across the country with his son, looking for a cure for a mysterious illness, said, "My son is possessed by an evil spirit. He becomes violent and uncontrollable. He came to Owbyaly but of course, the lad was not cured.

Some women read the palm, others read the future through playing cards or what is left in the coffee cup.

Shrines all over the country are filled with mystery and awe. The "believers" have so much faith in their "masters" and are willing to part with their lifelong savings in return for services from the supernatural.

Arabic (traditional) medicine is often confused with such myths. Religion itself is intertwined with various shady practices by shadowy figures.

At the end, it is a world of ignorance and lack of modern knowledge. In Yemen, there is plenty of both.

#1 of a series:

Career Women DEALING with the Public!

Women make up about 6% of the work-force in Yemen's modern sector. It is still a man's world out there. Of course, rural women do work, but their work is neither remunerated, nor even considered in our national accounts.

I thought I would address the situation of career women in a series of articles. I start with two case studies in this article.

1. Asmahan Azzam: Telephone Operator:

To get specific telephone information, many people in Yemen turn to switchboard telephone operators. The nation does not have a government support system for obtaining telephone numbers. You can try it. Just grab the phone and call a telephone operator and ask for assistance. Usually it is a woman who will answer, and she will give you the number if she has it.

The task of operating a telephone switchboard is not an easy one. It requires patience and accuracy besides putting up with the various annoying people that may turn up every now and then.

Handling such an occupation daily, especially by the fairer sex that represents the minority of workers in the private or public sectors, is a daunting task. Some jobs like telephone operators, airline hostesses, etc., look glamorous from the outside. But they are very demanding professions.

Asmahan Azzam works in a travel and tourism agency (private sector) as a switchboard operator. Asmahan, 27, holds a BA degree, but had to accept this job due to the difficult labor situation in the country. "If I waited to get a job in my field, I might wait too long for a good opportunity." She said her job does not require much physical effort, but brings lots of stress.

Asmahan had previously worked in a private company, but left it due to the long working hours and the two shift work schedule, and a very low salary. Then she decided to find a single shift job. She has been in this job for two years.

And when I asked her about the difficulties and annoyance she faces in her job, she replied, "All jobs have difficulties, especially at the beginning. Gradually you begin to learn, gain experience, and fully adjust."

Asmahan said that such a job requires firmness and willpower. Dealing with people by phone can be tough. Her conversation with clients are

about procedures in ticketing, reservation confirmation, and generally providing information on flight schedules, etc.

Asmahan thinks the the job requirements include proper education, good manners, and the ability to communicate.

About her parents reaction regarding her job, she said that her family members are quite understanding and they did not oppose her employment. They trusted her and allowed her to work, which brought emotional stability in her life, though she is not married. "I do hope that my future husband will be as understanding as my family and allow me to continue to work."

2. Hayat Al-Mahbashi: Government Clerk:

Then I talked to Ms. Hayat Al Mahbashi, 23, who works in the Central Bank. She has a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. Hayat said that she preferred a government job so she could guarantee a continued career in the future. She started her job four years ago. She is quite happy and satisfied and has no regrets. Ms. Al-Mahbashi pointed out that after those years, she has gained sufficient experience to feel at ease with her work.

About the conditions to obtain such a job, Hayat said that first you should be educated, and well mannered besides the other conditions known to everyone. But her main advice to female career persons is to quickly gain confidence, and "not to let your male colleagues or any person from the public push you around".

Yet, she herself talked about various difficulties she faces in her work. Hayat spoke about the lack of manners in communicating as if a female employee has no dignity or rights. "It happens almost on a daily basis. People do not think a woman can be responsible. They sometimes go to my junior and ask him to tell me to get one thing or another done. Of course, I let them finish and wait for them to come back to me."

Regarding personal annoyances she said they were not many, and that she tries to ignore them. And when I spoke about her family's reaction to her work, she was glad to state that her family was very helpful and understanding. "I was brought up well, and they gave me a good education. They have nothing to worry about. I will show them I deserve their trust," she concluded.

By: Ahlam Al-Khowlany,
Yemen Times.

PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT SANA'A

CONDOLENCES

The director Eng. Saeed Abdo Ahmed and all staff of Public works project extend their deepest condolences to Mr. Gianni Brizzi on the death of his dear Mother.

May God rest her soul in peace in Heaven.

PROJECT DIRECTOR
ENG. SAEED ABDO HAMED
ALL STAFF OF PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT

Results of YT Survey

The best way for the Yemen Times to serve its readers, is for it to know who the readers are, why they read it, and what they want to read. Towards that end, every now and then, the paper runs "Readership Profile Surveys". Sometimes, these are extensive, as was the case last month, and often it is limited.

The questionnaire was printed in one issue of the hard copy newspaper, and was in electronic version for two weeks on www.yementimes.com. We were very pleased with the response. Though we started doing the analysis with 1720 answers, the responses keep coming, albeit hard copies through snail mail.

The following analysis, unfortunately, is limited to the first 1720 responses, with a solid 62% received from our electronic readers. That is why the following answers include questions specially tailored for online readers.

SEX OF READERS:

79.88% = Male; 20.12% = Female

AGE OF READERS:

Younger than 25 Years = 4.20%
25-34 Years = 31.95%
35-44 Years = 22.49%
45-54 Years = 14.79%
Older than 54 Years = 8.23%

NATIONALITY OF READERS:

Yemeni = 46.15%;
American = 21.30%;
German = 6.51%;
United Kingdom = 5.33%;
Canadian = 3.55%;
Dutch = 1.78%;
Eritrean = 1.78%;
Swiss = 1.18%;
French = 1.18%;
Argentinian = 1.18%;
New Zealander = 1.18%;
Finnish = 1.18%;
Indian = 1.18%
Other nationalities mentioned for more than 0.5% include Yugoslavians, Spanish, Indonesians, Australians, Vatican, Hungarians, Norwegians, Singaporeans, Japanese, Austrians, & Ethiopians.

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:

University Degree and Higher = 51.42%;
High School Degree = 29.53%;
Other = 19.05%

OCCUPATION:

Business/Private Sector = 42.01%;
Student = 23.08%;
Government (Yemen & Foreign) = 17.16%;
Academia = 11.54%;
Other = 6.21%

YEMENI PAPERS YOU READ ONLINE?

Yemen Times = 65.80%;
Al-Ayyam = 14.79%;
26th September = 11.24%;
Others = 8.17

HOW DO YOU GET YOUR COPY?

From the Newsstand = 42.01%;
Subscription = 23.08%;
Borrow it, get it free, etc. = 17.16%;
From hotel, airlines, etc. = 11.54%;
Other = 6.21%

HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ THE PAPER?

Regularly = 71.01%;
Sometimes = 24.26%;
Rarely = 4.73%

HOW MANY PEOPLE SHARE YOUR COPY?

Two more persons = 56.21%;
Four more persons = 19.38%;
Just Me = 11.83%;
I have no idea = 12.58%

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

We got the names of 322 cities in Yemen and worldwide.

WHY DO YOU READ THE YEMEN TIMES?

Its clear stand on the issues = 42.60%;
Its frankness and daring attitude = 39.64%;
It tackles social problems = 37.87%;
It is the only English newspaper = 34.44%;
Its breaking news = 28.99%;
Layout and format = 18.93%;
Its approach and methodology = 17.75%;
My long relationship with the paper = 13.02%;
For the employment advertisements = 13.02%
I like the pictures it uses = 10.06%;
Adds up to over 100% due to multiple ticking.

YOUR RATING OF THE VARIOUS PAGES?

The Front Page:

Good = 53.25%;
Excellent = 39.64%;
Fair = 4.73%;
Poor = 2.37%

View Point:

Good = 49.11%;
Excellent = 35.5%;
Fair = 11.24%;
Poor = 4.14%

Local News:

Good = 60.36%;
Excellent = 17.16%;
Fair = 12.43%;
Poor = 10.06%

Women's Issues:

Good = 48.52%;
Excellent = 19.53%;
Fair = 19.53%;
Poor = 12.43%

Social Issues:

Good = 50.89%;
Excellent = 24.85%;
Fair = 16.57%;
Poor = 7.69%

Business News:

Good = 46.15%;
Fair = 21.3%;
Poor = 16.57%;
Excellent = 15.98%

Culture:

Good = 53.85%;
Excellent = 26.63%;
Poor = 10.06%;
Fair = 9.47%

Law and Diplomacy:

Good = 50.89%;
Fair = 21.89%;
Excellent = 20.71%;
Poor = 6.51%

Press Review:

Good = 44.97%;
Excellent = 27.81%;
Fair = 18.34%;
Poor = 8.88%

Sports:

Fair = 39.64%;
Good = 38.46%;
Poor = 12.43%;
Excellent = 9.47%

Features:

Good = 52.66%;
Fair = 21.3%;
Excellent = 20.12%;
Poor = 5.92%

Favorite Columnist:

The Chief Editor = 65.8%;
Political Editor = 12.43%;
Business Editor = 4.73%;
Women's Editor = 4.73%
Others ... = 12.59%

DO YOU FIND THE NUMBER OF PAGES OF THE YEMEN TIMES ADEQUATE?

Appropriate = 71.6%;
Too Few = 18.93%;
Too Many = 0.59%;
No Idea = 8.88%

HOW DO YOU ASSESS THE VOLUME OF ADVERTISEMENTS?

Too Much = 52.66%;
Appropriate = 12.43%;
Too Little = 4.73%;
No Idea = 30.18%

WHAT IS LACKING IN THE YEMEN TIMES THAT YOU WANT ADDED?

More Local News = 43.79%;
Latest/Breaking News = 41.42%;
More Social Trends Issues = 39.05%;
Economic/Business News = 30.77%;
More Educational Stories = 26.63%;
Women's Issues = 26.63%;
Islamic/Religious Affairs = 22.49%;
Science and Technology = 19.53%;
Cartoons = 13.61%;
More Features = 13.61%;
Other = 12.43%
Adds up to over 100% due to multiple ticking.



WHEN DO YOU USUALLY GET YOUR COPY OF THE YEMEN TIMES?

Issue Day evening = 39.64%;
Issue Day afternoon = 38.46%;
Next Day morning = 15.43%;
Other times = 6.47%

WHERE DO YOU BUY YOUR COPY OF THE YEMEN TIMES?

Book shop = 52.07%;
Grocery Store = 27.81%;
Street Vendor = 14.2%;
Other = 5.92%

DO YOU FIND DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING YOUR COPY OF THE YEMEN TIMES?

No = 82.3%
Yes = 12.4%
No Idea = 5.3%

WHERE DO YOU USUALLY READ YOUR YEMEN TIMES?

At home = 39.64%;
At work = 38.46%;
In qat chews = 15.43%;
Other places = 6.47%

DO YOU READ THE YEMEN TIMES IN ONE SHOT OR IN INTERVALS?

I scan the whole thing = 44.97%;
I read it installments = 27.81%;
I come back to it = 18.34%;
I throw it away after the first reading = 8.88%

HOW MUCH DO YOU SPEND WITH PAPER?

About 60 minutes = 53.85%;
About two hours = 26.63%;
About 30 minutes = 10.06%;
A few minutes = 9.47%

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE YEMEN TIMES ONLINE AT www.yementimes.com?

Yes = 71.6%; No = 28.4%

We have also received hundreds interesting and thoughtful ideas and suggestions from our readers.

On this occasion, the publisher would like to express his gratitude for the strong response and the useful feedback. Thank you all.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Embassy of India
SANA'A

Announcement

Yemen International Trade Exhibition '99

INDIAN PAVILLION

Sana'a International Exhibition Centre (Taiz Road) is holding "Yemen International Trade Exhibition 99" from April 12 to 16, 1999 at their Exhibition Centre in Shumaila District. A large number of Indian exporters would be participating in the exhibition with the following products:

PVC Products; Stationery for office, school & Computers; Plastic products Metal Grill; Textiles; Cotton Fabrics; Readymade garments; Pump; Laboratory & Surgical Instruments; Chemicals; Glassware and allied products; Blankets; Detergents; Soap; Toiletries; Plastic Household goods and furniture; HDPE & PP bags; Cotton Voile Fabric (Dyed/printed); Bed sheet/Pillow cover; Towels' Pharmaceutical products; Hose pipes; Rubber sheet commodities; Weighing Scale; Kitchenware; Handicraft; Greeting cards; Construction Material; Leather garments & articles; brassware; Hospital equipment; Packaging Machineries; Physics, Chemistry & Biological Equip. for school Laboratory; Hospital Steel furniture; TV; paper sacks; tea; household consumer goods; Stainless Steel & Aluminium Utensils; Tobacco products; spices; Rice, Agro products; Pressure Cooker, etc..

A buyer-seller meeting is also being organised at the Exhibition Centre, for which Mr. E. Martin, Embassy of India, Sana'a (Tel: 264873 Fax No. 243439) may be contacted.

This is for the benefit of all concerned Yemeni importers.

Hiam: A Yemeni Girl Makes an Australian a Celebrity

Every young Australian writer dreams of winning the Australian Virgil Literary Award. A promising young Australian writer, Eva Sallis's dream came true, thanks to Hiam, a Yemeni girl, and the influence Yemen had on the writer.

Here is what she told Hatem Bamehriz of Yemen Times.

Q: How did you start writing about Yemen?

A: I am now writing a second book about Yemen. My first book, Hiam, is a novel. It won a major literary award in Australia and because of that I became quite well known. This particular book was part of my experience as a researcher in Yemen, and in the Middle East while I was doing some research for the University of Manchester. My area research was initially Arabic Stories like 'Alf Laylah Wa Laylah' - One Thousand and One Nights. But this developed into a major interest in culture because I studied Arabic in Yemen. I came here twice, each time for 7 weeks as part of my Ph.D. dissertation and program.

Q: What is the award you got for the book?

A: It is the Australia Virgil Literary Award. It is an award for writers under the age of 35 and it is the most prestigious award in Australia for young writers. It was also very nice as a subject matter with an Arab dimension.

Q: What is the story of Hiam?

A: I think the most important aspect of the book is the cultural conflict between Islam and the secular West in Australia, as manifested in the experiences of individual immigrants and their experiences in Australia and how that affects them. It tells the story of a particular woman, her life and her family, and the way her daughter grows up more Westernized than she is, which creates a generational gap between herself and her daughter. At the same time, she is increasingly distant from her husband as he settles more and more into depression.

The wife, dealing with the cultural conflict tries to shut out everything including her family. Her approach to dealing with the cultural conflict is by trying to pretend that everything will be all right in the end.

The story begins with all of that having failed, and a tragedy having fallen on her family. She drives across Australia alone and in grief over everything that has happened in her mind.

In the course of this journey, she not only finds herself, but she also senses her own identity as a Muslim, something which she had lost. She discovered a sense of belonging in any country, whether in Australia or the Middle East. There are flashbacks from her childhood in Yemen, as it relates to the differences between her and her husband.

Her husband is a Palestinian and his childhood was deeply unhappy so when he is in trouble he has no inner resources. Her childhood was in Yemen, and was much

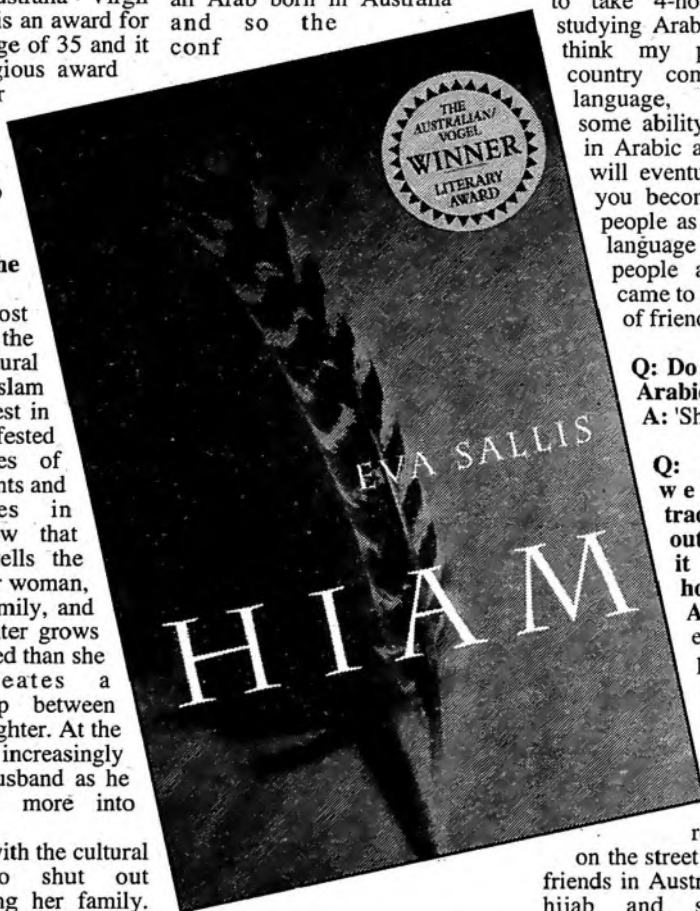


Eva

happier. So when she looks inward, she has something of a resource to fall back on, call it her inner spiritual health, if you will. Some of that comes back through memories of Hadhoor and Bait Bos.

Q: Is this a true story or an imaginary one?

A: It is entirely imaginary, but in it I was able to bring together many of the ideas, observations and experiences I had with cultural conflict. My husband is an Arab born in Australia and so the conf



lict his experiences growing up with his parents having a more traditional outlook and he having a more Westernized outlook. These sort of things became very familiar to me and I used them in my stories

Q: What are the other countries in the Middle East that you had visited?

A: I also visited Jordan and Egypt. But when I like to visit the Middle East, I prefer Yemen best. I chose Hiam, a Yemeni woman in order to use the images and the memories I had of Yemen. For some strange reason, Yemen and Australia resemble each other in some respects. The trees you have on the streets, many of them are Australian. Also some of the wildness of the countryside here gives you the feeling of openness which is also very Australian. I wanted to use this so that in the

end, on a symbolic level when Hiam comes to terms of being in Australia, she's also gone through the process of regaining her sense of belonging to Yemen in Australia. At the same time it was fun as a writer to use description or experiences I have had in many different places and use them together in an emotional context to this character.

Q: Could you describe your experience here in Yemen?

A: For the first two terms, I had to take 4-hour daily classes studying Arabic language. So I think my passion for the country comes through the language, because having some ability to communicate in Arabic and to read books will eventually end up with you becoming fond of the people as well. So first the language and second the people and each time I came to Yemen my circles of friends grew wider.

Q: Do you get to speak Arabic often?

A: 'Shwaiah'. A little.

Q: I see you are wearing the traditional Yemeni outfit. Do you wear it back there at home?

A: In Australia even most Muslim people don't wear the hijab (head scarf) because the wider public attitude to the hijab is so negative. It is really hard to walk on the street wearing it. I have friends in Australia who do wear hijab and some of their experiences are really unpleasant. It puts great distance between them and the people. I wear it in Yemen because of my long hair, and to show respect to the Yemeni culture and the Yemeni religion.

Q: Is there anything you want to add?

A: Yes, at the moment I am writing a book which is set in Yemen. I hope that it will present a richer and deeper picture of Yemen. It has also the theme of the cultural conflict of the European-Arab exchanging experiences. But in exploring all of this, I am exploring the process of reconciliation to the central character. I hope to publish this book by the year 2000.

Note: For a copy of Hiam go to: e-mail: drift@camtech.net.au website: <http://www.adelaide.net.au/driftw/indexz.html>

French Culture Comes to Sanaa

Chef Jean-Pierre Moggia, flown in from Marseille, will participate in the French Week held at Taj Sheba Hotel. Together with Chef Christian Aquisto they will present Provence with culinary traditions from this region, starting from 12-15 April.

Q: Would you please introduce yourself?

A: My name is Jean-Pierre Moggia, I am originally a lecturer, and I hold exhibitions in France on Provence cuisine and I work with some colleges, but working at such big hotels as this one is my first experience. I am used to doing a lot of things with restaurants because I work with some institutions in Marseille with the Mayor of Marseille, under the Department of the region. I have been working in this branch for 20 years, I have my own restaurant in Marseille. Also I work for the Ministry of Education and it is important for me to show the French children taste, of the real French food and French Cuisine, because presently children lose the real taste of the French food. It is an association that combines thousands of Chefs in the region. One of the association's goals is to maintain the culinary traditions of Provence.

Q: What kind of food are you going to introduce in Taj Sheba, and from which part of France is the food?

A: The specialty is the Mediterranean cuisine and of course, special meals from Marseille, I brought some original products that I can not find here, such as original pastry from Marseille.

Q: Which kind of food would Yemeni people and foreigners residing in Yemen would prefer to have in Taj Sheba during the French week?

A: The purée, which is fish soup, is very tasty and prepared with olive and you can find some fish fillet inside and also a lot of olive oil, basil and garlic. Mixed oil as a sauce and a lot of cooked vegetables. I care to produce the real taste of the food and not to add a lot of spices and aromatic flavors because they usually omit the main flavor of the product.

Chef Aquisto is a member of this association and he arrived with a lot of ideas. Because he needs many ingredients in pastry making, he brought some special flavors, especially almond, lavender and truffle mixed with chocolates, also lemon cream, hazelnut and many other things.

Q: What is your main source of income?

A: I give pastry courses and exhibition. I also own a bakery and a pastry for 35 years now, I can prepare all kind of French pastries and sweets. I would like to mention that I am used to working in large amounts and quantities, for instance 3 thousands fresh pastries a day.

Q: Would you tell us your impressions of Yemen, the land and the climate?

A: The climate is really good and I am touched with the hearty welcome. I am happy to be here. But what I would have liked is more freedom in the management of the French Week. Our cuisine eaters have to be impressed by our manners, and that is really important for the team. It is not only what you have in your plate but also other French styles.



Chef Jean-Pierre Moggia and Chef Aquisto

As soon as the pastry chef arrived in Yemen he found interests in the people, the climate and the countryside are wonderful, he has the impression that Yemeni people have the wish to learn a lot. He discovered that the people he met are really happy they are really happy to have him here. Apparently they are ready to learn quickly, and it is a pity the time here is very short. He is prepared to come back again.

The French Painter, Jean-Marc Haroutounian, from Marseille, has arrived in Sanaa two days ago and plans to exhibit some of his works in the French Week at the Taj Sheba

Q: Please introduce yourself to Yemen Times readers?

A: I am Jean-Marc Haroutounian, 34, living and working in Marseille. I started painting when I was 12 year-old. I completed part-time school, and then started preparing exhibitions with some galleries in Paris. I am also a musician.

Q: Is Painting for you a profession or just a hobby?

A: For a long time it was professional work but after a while I decided to stop for a while because I could not find interesting subjects that could inspire me or new things that I could express through my paintings. I used to practice a lot but after a while it was too much for me. For me painting is like a passion and I prefer to paint when I want to. I need some time to take a break.

Q: Do you do other things or you only paint?

A: Presently I am concentrating on my musical performance rather than painting. I am an artist but also a musician. I alternate between singing and painting.

Q: Your daily income, is it from painting or from music?

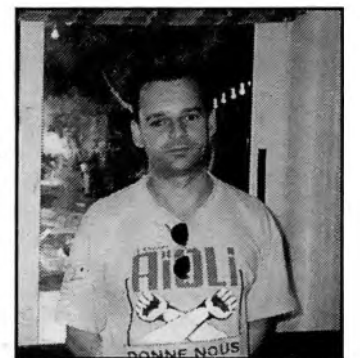
A: As I just said presently I am living off of my music performance. I have a daughter, only 1-year-old, so I prefer to work now on music because painting requires a longer time; my daughter has priority in making this decision.

Q: Your paintings to which era they belong, classical or modern art?

A: They are more contemporary instead of modern, to avoid any confusion of the image of the painter in front of his paintings and just reproducing the images I can see with my own eye. Even the fact that these paintings are figurative it is not really the reproduction of reality but behind the painting there is a certain idea or concept.

Q: To which school do you belong?

A: I was influenced by the impressionists because I follow that art. However, I would like to add something else; if we stay always on the same level we can not advance. We don't have the potential to produce a revolution in art, but I would like to be recognized so usually my touches are uniquely from myself and from the art world. For example, one of the first pictures in my book has a title that comes from a great painting, a classical one, but my paintings has nothing to do with these classical. This is a kind of joke and always with a little smile



Jean-Marc HAROUTOUNIAN

adding some respect for the artist.

Another painter that I was inspired by is Renoir, the joke is when I reproduced this piece I wrote a sentence that Renoir gave me this paint, a little smile to Renoir. Always you find a discrepancy between my own paintings and the paintings from which I take the inspiration.

Q: How many paintings have you done so far?

A: I really don't know the precise number is approximately two thousands. Here I will exhibit 200 pieces.

Q: Have you participated in international exhibitions?

A: Yes, I participated in the general exhibition with great French and international artists. Also I exhibited in Venice and Budapest.

Q: Does your collection include any Yemeni landscapes, or something close to Arabia, or are you planning to do so?

A: This is my first opportunity to visit an Arab world country. I loved Arab music maybe because of my origin, coming from Armenia.

Q: Any particular place in Yemen inspired you?

A: Arriving in Yemen only two days ago I just went to the old city, I am really marked by the people. A good atmosphere, the quite and softness. I don't know the reason, for feeling good, the people are not very rich but they look happy and peaceful.

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam, Yemen Times

Continued from page 1

8 Days of Savage Destruction in Saeed Village

The dispute started over a piece of land located on the eastern side of the village. The land was bought by Salah's grandfather long ago. Salah was cultivating half of the land, but the other half was unused. Recently Hassan Ali Al-Montaser claimed that the unused land was theirs, despite being presented with proof to the contrary. He was told that the whole land was sold by his grandfather to Salah's grandfather, but he brought a tractor and attempted to farm the land anyway. He was stopped by the rightful owners of the land, but he then went to Radaa and brought back four constables with him. Salah was not there, so they took his nephew and they threw him in jail at Raada. The next day Hassan came back with more policemen, Salah and a relative ran away - they don't have enough money to bribe the police to leave them alone- The policemen started firing randomly, and only later did they realize that a policeman had been shot. Mr. Aziz said, "Of course, we are sure the fleeing persons did not kill the policeman, because they did not fire a single shot." The policemen took their comrade's body and returned to Radaa. Around 4:30 p.m. they came back with about 7-8 cars, and 12 policemen

to a car. By evening more policemen had arrived, bringing the total number of cars to 16. The village was under siege. The policemen were heavily armed with weapons normally reserved for wars: 12.7 mm guns, 14.5 mm guns and 75 shotguns. More reinforcements arrived the next day, despite the fact that villagers had put up no resistance. They began to destroy some of the houses and shoot out the windows. They set Salah's house on fire, and several other houses as well. They looted nearly all the houses, of which there were around 55. The young people fled the village to the surrounding mountains to avoid trouble, while the policemen abused and insulted the old people who remained in the village. They took away 150 goats and 5 cows, which they sold, and they ate about 80 goats during their occupation of the village. The gold they stole is worth millions of Rials, and even the mattresses were taken away, nothing was left. Some of the villagers hid their mattresses, but the policemen found and burnt them. They did not even leave the school, they broke down the gate, chairs, desks and windows, they pulled out the trees. The mosque was also robbed, they took away the amplifier and broke the speakers and



microphones. The only source for clean drinking water for the whole village was a small pond, and they filled it up with rocks and sand to make the villagers confess and disclose the whereabouts of the wanted men. Dogs and donkeys were shot dead.

A small child, about two years-old, had fallen sick with a high fever because he could not bear seeing his father being beaten up and dragged away in front of him, but the police did not allow them to take him to the hospital. The child died within a few days.

A 12 year-old kid was questioned by them, and when he did not give them the answer they wanted to hear they shot him on his knee. When his grandmother tried to aid him she was kicked and the constable called her a bitch. The boy's mother had a gun jammed in her mouth when she tried to help.

The police force occupied the village for eight days, and sent the inhabitants out of their houses so that they could stay in them. They left the village just two days before Eid. On hearing the news, some of the village inhabitants came back to spend their worst Eid ever in the village. They were trying to give emotional and mental support to their families, but the police returned and surrounded the village and arrested eight of its inhabitants. Their only

crime was that they belonged to Saeed village. They were jailed to blackmail the fugitives into turning themselves in. These men are still behind bars. If every case was solved in this way, half of Yemen, if not more, would have been behind bars.

The inhabitants feel that Ahmed Nasser Al- Dahiri, the Commander of the Central Security Unit, who is under the Director of Security Ali Ahmed Al-Shaaz is behind all this. The policemen had acted on their own without orders from the central security or the general security offices.

The people of Saeed village have lost everything, they don't even have mattresses to sleep on. Some of them are living the lives of refugees, after their houses were leveled to the ground. Salah has disappeared. His family has lost everything, including their house, and are currently living in relative's homes. After losing everything, the future means nothing to them.

Will there be someone responsible enough to bring justice back to this village? And can anyone assure them and the whole nation that the law will be upheld so that no one can get away with such barbarous activities?

By: Mohammed Bin Sallam & Hatem Bamehriz
Yemen Times

The Artist Basuwaid

Basuwaid is a well known Yemeni artist, with his distinguished career contributing much to Yemeni music. He has always been much appreciated by audiences, and his artistic style has spread to other Yemeni artists, particularly in Aden.

Mohammed Bin Mohammed Basuwaid was born in Aden in 1938. He was born into a well to do family, and his father was a cloth-dyer. He was going to follow in his father's work, but he became famous after writing the poem "Al Zamel." He was a poet before his singing career, but he soon became better known as a singer than a poet.

During his childhood, Basuwaid listened to many old Yemeni songs performed by first generation classical singers. These were mostly performed in wedding parties near his residence area in Shiekh Othman. Therefore Basuwaid was influenced by singers such as Shiekh Ali Abu Baker, a pioneer of such parties for his beautiful voice and his great performances of Mowashah (Sanaani songs), as well as the singer Shiekh Ibrahim Al Mas . Sana'ani songs filled the artist's passion, besides other common songs.

The artist began to sing traditional songs, both Lahji and Sanaani, at the age of twelve. He was somewhat of a child prodigy, and his art and singing abilities became evident early on in his life.

When he was twelve, his passion to practice his hobby forced him to save money so he could buy a lute. Shiekh Abdo Sief, a lute maker in Aden, told us that when the boy came asking for a lute, and actually had 75 shilling (the lute value at that time) with him to purchase it, he realized that the boy could very well be something in the future. The artist began teaching himself on the lute, imitating the Sanaani and Lahji songs which were so dear to him - a clear mark of his coming artistic path. I would like to mention here that the artist was a singer, a musician and a lyricist starting with his



first song that he performed with his beautiful voice titled (Al Maana Al Kowkabani) . Basuwaid was once asked why he doesn't sing any one else's songs, and he replied, "Although the musical world is full of poets, I couldn't find a writer that suited my particular tastes, so I decided to write my own poems." His songs were very successful when he first began singing in wedding parties in 1950.

At one point, when working conditions were hard

in Aden and he could not find a job, he left Aden to perform in Saudi Arabia, but with limited success, and his main work was still performing in wedding parties and private gatherings for Yemeni immigrants in Jeddah. However, Jeddah Broadcasting Station heard of him, and after he recorded some songs for them, he became famous throughout Saudi Arabia. His success in Saudi helped him to spread Yemeni songs abroad. His estrangement from his homeland ended after after four years, and he returned to Aden. Basuwaid became famous there with the song "Abu Zaid", a famous traditional Lahji song.

His first participation in a singing Festival At a time when song festival were widely spread in Aden the artist participated in a festival given by the artist Ahmed Murshid Naji in 1961 during a wide competition stage, Basuwaid sang before audience for the first time, a matter of judging the artist by public, his first song he participated with was (Ahbat Raba Sana'a) one of the traditional Yemeni songs, which were very successful and a main reason to become professional in the art of Yemeni singing.

In the early 1960's Basuwaid was called upon by Aden Broadcast Station to record some of his work. This was a major part in his songs spreading locally and internationally, and he recorded several of his other songs in Beirut within a few months.

In the mid 1960's, Basuwaid stopped all his singing activities due to the sickness of his spouse. Other artists donated a singing festival's profits to help him in obtaining enough money to treat his wife.

He returned to his artistic work in the 1970's, with more great songs, and shows that his fans loved. He began making journeys inside the

country, visiting Sanaa and recording some of his original songs in Sanaa's Radio and TV center, songs that have his special artistic flavor. They were in the same direction and style as the traditional songs he chose, while he was trying to develop his work in the specific direction of traditional music.

In the Seventies the artist made several trips to Kuwait and Egypt to record some of his songs. He also performed in a special singing festival in Kuwait for Yemeni immigrants.


Briefly, that was the journey of the artist, 43 years of giving his best in songs and music that still remains in our memory with his distinctive style.

In 1997 Basuwaid died, after a long struggle with illness. He is well remembered by the renewed Yemeni song artists and the Yemeni artistic movement.

By: Saleh Abdul Baqi
Art Editor, Yemen Times.

ألهم مبروك للشباب الخلق
ياسين صالح الياضي

بمناسبة الزواج
تمنياتنا له بحياة زوجية سعيدة
المهنزون
عصام عبدالله التهامي ،
سامي علي أحمد عصدة ،
وليد الصريمي ، مروان علي الجنيد ،
عبدالكريم الشامي ،
يوسف الشريف
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء



Counting on Emigrants for Development

The Consultative Council concludes today, Monday, April 12th, a 3-day hearing on Yemeni emigrants and their role in nation-building. Coordinated with the Ministry of Emigrants' Affairs, the CC heard from various experts.

"We have discussed the factor of emigration across time. You know, we are a nation of emigrants," said Abdulaziz Abdulghani, Speaker of the CC. He was referring to the ancient waves of population movements out of Yemen. Indeed, most Arabs today trace their ancestry to Yemen.

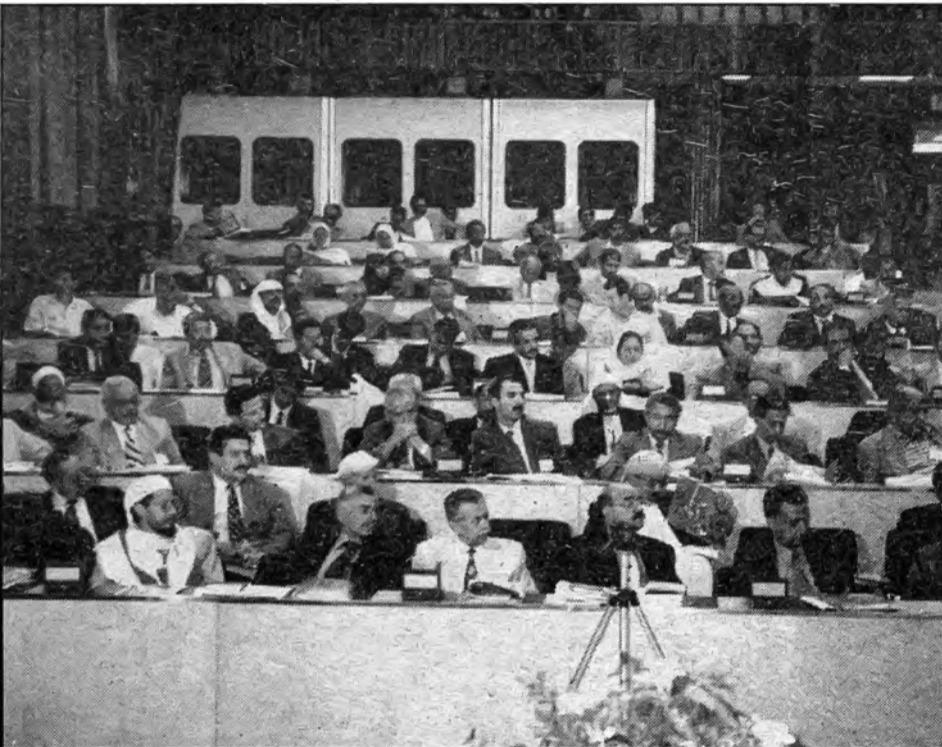
The speaker pointed to the visible contribution of emigrants to Yemen's development process. "A very high percentage of all investments in Yemen are undertaken by emigrants," he disclosed. Indeed, some 80% of all projects licensed under the Investment Law are financed by emigrants.

In addition to the economic dimension, the CC hearings also addressed the social issues involved in intermarriages among Yemeni emigrants and their host populations. In some cases, some level of discrimination has resulted, especially against the children of Yemeni emigrants born of African mothers. That has become a focal point as the nation tries to grapple with the issue. "All relevant authorities have been alerted to interact on the basis of the law," he added.

Mr. Abdulghani indicated that many successful Yemeni emigrants have ploughed back large amounts of money to the homeland. He also indicated that many people of Yemeni extract now occupy ministerial and other senior government positions in such countries as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Djibouti, Comoro Islands, etc. "These people still hold love and affection for Yemen and come to visit every now and then. They are an important bridge for understanding, cooperation and international harmony."

The speaker indicated that the CC holds many hearings on issues of pertinent importance to nation-building. "We held similar discussions on fishing, health, population growth, security and vengeance, etc. In all cases we draw up recommendations and conclusions and pass them to the President of the Republic. He then refers them to the government and other implementing agencies," he said.

Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari, Minister of Emigrants Affairs, described the hearings as an important prelude to the First National Conference on Emigrants which



will start on the 15th of May, 1999. He described the coming conference as an important link-point between the country and the Yemeni diaspora.

"Our conference comes at a time of major upheaval in societies in which large Yemeni immigrant communities live. You realize that large immigrant Yemeni communities live in such countries as Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, and other parts of East Africa, as well as in Indonesia and elsewhere. These places have witnessed major changes which require that we remain informed of the conditions," the minister said.

He also indicated that representative delegations from all the diaspora will come for the May 15th conference. "It will be a chance to show them the political and economic transformation of the nation, and how they can play a role in such evolution."

Towards that end, there will be many meetings for the delegates with various officials. "We seek to present the true picture of the situation here at home, and to discuss ways and means to facilitate the full and positive interaction of the emigrants with the homeland," he said. Indeed, Dr. Al-Bishari and a team of support staff from fourteen different ministries and government bodies have been preparing for the conference for over a year now. "All the forty or so presentations made at the hearings with the Consultative Council will be put together in a book that will be printed in time for the May 15th conference. This is the basic data on which the interaction will take place," he said. Speaking about the relations between the hearings at the Consultative Council during 10-12 April and the First National Conference on Emigrants to start on May 15th, the minister pointed out that the hearings address the issues and propose

recommendations. Hopefully, these are then transformed into solutions to be adopted before the conference. As examples, the minister pointed to the difficulties associated with the issuance of passports and identity cards. "For example, the new law requires that no family members are added to the same passport. Every individual, in spite of age, has to have a passport if he/she is travelling. Imagine the cost of getting a dozen or so passports for an emigrant family? We have obtained an initial 25% reduction in fees, followed by another reduction to be worked this week, just for emigrants," he added.

Another example has to do with the difficulty of obtaining identity cards. "Since we do not have a complete civil registry, and as the nation is flooded by waves of refugees from East Africa, it is natural that some strict requirements are applied. Even

then, we have now agreed to develop a joint form which will be used by the community elders in the diaspora to introduce members who are interested in obtaining Yemeni identity cards or other documents," he said. He also said that there was an earlier experience on which new arrangements can be built. "Under instructions from President Ali Abdullah Saleh, delegations had twice visited the Yemeni communities in East Africa to issue identity cards for them. We can build on that experience."

Dr. Ahmed Al-Bishari then pointed to the large number of studies and documents that have been prepared in the CC hearings. "These documents show the continued attachment of Yemenis to their original homeland. Even when they emigrate to affluent societies like the USA and the UK, they retain their attachment to Yemen, and come back in their

old age," he pointed out.

He also indicated that the Yemeni diaspora contributed heavily to the freedom movement in the south, and the revolution in the north. "That is why holding the First National Conference for Emigrants on the 15th is very timely. The delegations will be on hand to participate in the anniversary of the 22nd of May - the day the new Yemen was re-born," Al-Bishari said.

Many delegates will be received in audience by senior government officials, including the President of the Republic Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the Prime Minister Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani. Some of them will be honored for their patriotic roles. But the thrust of the May Conference will be to discuss the economic prospects and business opportunities. That is the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Aden Free Zone Authority are in full play. In addition, different parts of the private sector, especially the bankers and investment houses have been brought in to become full partners in the preparations for

the conference.

With respect to the CC hearings on emigrants, forty studies and documents were presented in four major sections, as follows: A: The Historic Dimension; B: The Economic Investment Dimension; C: The Media, Culture and Social Dimension; D: The Board of Emigrants Dimension. One of the major developments during the CC hearings was the announcement of the establishment of an NGO to help better integrate the children of former emigrants into society. The "Charitable Society for the Children of Emigrants" is a new NGO whose mandate is to assist the children of former emigrants in adjusting and in obtaining proper official documents. The Preparatory Committee for this NGO opened its registry for membership applications and announced that elections of the board of trustees and the discussion of the charter will take place before the date of the start of the conference on May 15th.

By: Ahlam Al-Mutawakil, Yemen Times.



Situation Vacant

Sana'a Turkish School is looking for qualified and experienced Teachers and other personnel for the following positions:

- English teachers for grades 1 to 4 (also to teach math's and science as class teacher).
- Arabic teacher (for Elementary and Secondary Classes).
- Pre-school teachers for Nursery and KG.
- Secretary

Candidates should preferably be female and have a good command of English (spoken, written) with at least 2 years of experience. Salary and other benefits will be as per exiting rules of the school. Interested candidates are advised to apply personally or send their resume along with experience & educational certificates and a recent photograph to the following address on or before 25 April 1999.

Sana'a Turkish School
E-mail: sts.yemen@turkey.com
Web: <http://www.y.net.ye/sts>
Tel: 267644 Fax: 264187

FOR SALE

The following items are for sale, in total or individually:

1. Billiard marble table in excellent conditions, 2 Nos.
2. Billiard wooden table in very good conditions, 4 Nos.
3. Italian Tennis table of good quality, 2 Nos.



For further information, please contact Mr. Abu Sai on the telephone number: 412752 (between 15.00 - 18.00)



**National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Limited - Aden (NCMI)
An Economic Giant in the Yemeni Market**



**A New Agreement between NCMI
and Rothmans International
Aims to More Development and Modernization**

The famous businessmen, Sheikh Saleh Salim Bathawab, first established the NCMI in Aden in June 22nd, 1973. He was the person who built, structured, and took care of the company until it had become a well-known economic giant, which contributes to the budget of the country with its huge financial resources. On another level the company continues to have an influential and distinguished role in employing a large amount of local labor.

Realizing that modernization must always be in parallel with construction, Sheikh Bathawab made an agreement between his company and Rothmans International for modernization and development. One year before officially opening the company, Sheikh Bathawab had an agreement with Rothmans International, which is a world wide famous company in cigarette manufacturing. The aim behind the agreement was to benefit from the support and expertise of Rothmans International and to have it evaluate the quality of its products. He continued to renew the agreement, which made him have the award of excellence in June 1980 and in May 1991.

At the end of last year, specifically on the 8th of December 1998 in Dubai-UAE, the Chairman of NCMI, Sheikh Bathawab made another agreement with Rothmans International that lasts for 5 years. The agreement, which the administrative board had approved, will continue to be renewed every five years. Sheikh Bathawab headed the delegation to Dubai, which included lawyer Sheikh Tariq Abdullah, the law consultant of the



**Signing the new agreement between NCMI and Rothmans International
Sheikh Saleh Ba Thawab and Mr. Ian E. Muir**

company, along with its Technical Manager Hassan Ahmed Al-Saqqaf. The delegation then went into in-depth discussions with Rothmans about the final draft of the agreement. The Rothmans delegation included Mr. Ian Muir the Manager of the Middle East and South Asia, Mr. Andrew Burnip the Regional Manager of Yemen and Levant Countries, Mr. Tony Goodchild the representative in Sanaa, Mr. Graham Tanner the legal consultant, Mr. Bert Jones the

economic consultant, and Mr. Tony Lear the Quality Manager.

On the demand of the NCMI, the agreement declared that PallMall to give marketing and technical support in the production of Cigarettes with increasing quality, and enhancing quality control capabilities to improve the company in all aspects. The agreement also proclaims that consultations, technical programs, statistical analysis mechanisms, marketing schemes, and advertising strategies be given to the company. The agreement also emphasizes the importance of providing managerial and technical support to the company.



The delegations of the National Cigarettees and Matches Industry Ltd. Aden & Rothmans



MADE IN REPUBLIC OF YEMEN ADEN



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.



RAY,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the League of Sons of Yemen,
06/04/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Quraish, Jahannamiyoon, Commandoes 99, Al-Jawarih.. All Youth Gangs Attack Schools and Teachers.
2. The UK Asks Yemen to Allow a Medical Doctor for the Ansar Al-Shariyah, and the Government Plans to Cancel Pay Raise.
3. The Supreme Elections Commission Will Carry Out Registration of Voters Without Participation of Political Parties.
4. The Civil Service Ministry Threatens to Cancel Names Listed in Multiple Payrolls.

B: Issue's Editorial:

That the authorities attack the right to free press is expected. That the authorities work to narrow the margin of democracy and liberties is expected. That the authorities work against any person who does not toe their line is expected. That the authorities close down newspapers and arrest journalists is expected. All those and other forms of oppression can be justified from the authorities' view point. But what cannot be justified or understood is why journalists become

the tool of limiting press freedom and oppression. Journalists have participated in the syndicate's conference which enjoys little credibility or legitimacy. They have approved a charter that makes it illegal to form another organization, or to even refer to the courts. May God forgive the authorities because they do know why they oppress others. Our colleagues do not even know why they do what they do.



Al-Mithaq,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the People's General Congress,
05/04/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. The Vice President Starts Today His Visit to Pakistan.
2. The Supreme Supervisory Board Approves the 20th of April as the Deadline for All Branch Elections of the PGC.
3. The Security Officers Were Able to Abort a Theft Attempt at the Grand Mosque.
4. The foreign Minister of Ethiopia Visits Yemen on Friday.

B: Issue's Editorial:

The Kosovo Albanians are caught between the NATO strikes against Yugoslavia and the Serb attacks. The situation of the Kosovars is indeed getting more tragic as the violence continues.

They have been murdered, their homes and villages have been pillaged and burnt down, they have been evicted, and they have been exposed to all kinds of dangers and humiliation. All the hopes of the Rambouillet accord that will guarantee self-rule within a democratic structure in Kosovo need to be strengthened and renewed. The time factor is extremely important in what is happening, and a review of the approach is necessary. At the same time, the international community has to increase its emergency assistance on humanitarian grounds.

Although the assistance of the European countries is not adequate, the Muslim countries which can provide assistance should do so. A whole nation is subject to genocide, and continues to die from hunger and lack of shelter.



Al-Belagh,
Sanaa Weekly, Independent,
06/04/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Resumption of Trial of the Accused Persons in Aden and the Withdrawal of the Defence Team.
2. Libya Hands Over the Accused and Kofi Annan Suspends the Sanctions.
3. The President Welcome Czech Investments in Our

Country.
4. About 1.5 Million Yemenis Suffer from Malaria.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Finally the Libyan policy has prevailed over the bullying of the USA. In dealing properly with the Lockerbie issue, Libya proved that it cannot be pulled into a trap. Even at this stage, however, the Libyans should be wary of the Americans and British. The days have proven that these two countries are enemies of the Arab and Islamic worlds. Their acceptance that the trial take place in a third country was the result of the successful Libyan policy and the ability of African leaders to break the sanction. The nation must be aware of this reality, and must work to gather the reigns of power. Our countries must join together. This will put our nation on the right course towards strength.



Al-Ayyam,
Aden 3-weekly, Independent,
07/04/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. The President: "We hoped the Supreme Elections Committee would be neutral, but it worked along political lines."
2. Sheikh Tareq: "Our withdrawal from the court is due to irregularities in legal procedures."
3. Opposition Parties Beseech the President to Stop Onslaught on Ittihad Al-Qiwa Party.
4. Dr. Qassim Sallam: "We refuse to engage the PGC accusation of unpatriotism."

B: Issue's Editorial:

The Education Office in Seera District in Aden Governorate took punitive measures against a number of administrative staff of Shamsan School in Al-Aidarooos Quarter. That was prior to Eid Al-Adha holidays, and they are still held, because the school headmaster has gone on the Hajj. While we support measures to strengthen the school system, our question is whether such measures will be universally applied.



Al-Sahwa,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Islah Party,
08/04/1999.

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Half a Million Repeat Names in the Elections Registry.
2. Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar Receives Party Leaders and People's Delegates.
3. The Government Tries to Cheat Teachers of their Pay Raises.

B: Issue's Editorial:

Elections are a practical democratic tool to achieve peaceful transfer of power. They allow the people to choose their rulers and to hold them accountable. Therefore, any efforts to cheat on elections are really means of taking out the substance of the whole democratic process, putting the whole nation in jeopardy. That is why we should all work to ensure the integrity of the elections and to be fulfilled in accordance to the letter and spirit of the constitution. Correcting the list of the elections registry thus represents the cornerstone to a fair and free elections.

The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) has taken all legal and peaceful steps to achieve just that. However, in spite of court decisions, and various agreements and understanding, corrections were not made.

In the same light, the Second General Convention on Islah - First Round, in October 1998, demanded that the elections

registry be corrected. The various appeals and letters of the Islah to other parties and to the Supreme Elections Commission have all strived to achieve this goal. In our opinion, the corrections are simple and do not require more than true desire and earnest effort at implementation.



Al-Wahdawi,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Nasserite Unionist Party,
06/04/1999

Front-Page Headlines:

1. Ben Bella and Leaders of the Pan-Arab Movement will Attend the National 9th Convention of the Party.
2. The Antiquities Mafia Plunder Thousands of Manuscripts from the Grand Mosque.
3. The Libyan Jamahirriyah Hands Over the Two Suspected of the Lockerbie Incident and the UN Suspends the Sanctions.
4. Following a Meeting with the President, Many Differences with the SEC Resolved.

Al-Thawri,

Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Yemen Socialist Party,
08/04/1999

Front-Page Headlines:

1. Sheikh Mohammed Aziz Abu Nashtan martyred.
2. There are Efforts to Cancel the Role of the SEC, and the YSP Holds Fast to the Laws.
3. The Opposition Parties Appeal to the President to Stop the Onslaught after Ittihad Al-Qiwa Al-Sha'abiyah.



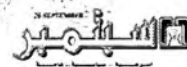
Attariq,
Aden Weekly, Independent,
06/04/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. Expectations that Aden and Hadhramaut will Be Gates for Normalization with Kuwait.
2. Tony Blair Demands that Yemen Allow an Independent MD to Diagnose the Eight Accused Britons.
3. Ba-Own Demands that the YSP Take a Clear Stand on the Coming Elections.
4. Sheikh Tareq: "We will not participate in the proceedings until the court responds to our demands."

B: Issue's Editorial:

Our differences with the colleagues who called for the second convention of the syndicate was regarding their mobilization of people outside the profession (journalism). More specifically, the People's General Congress brought many people to the convention in order to determine the election results, given its desire to control the syndicate. But, we were surprised by the reaction of the other side, which first called for an alternate body, and then moved to call for a league for journalists. Moreover, the people who assumed leadership for the alternative body are themselves not journalists. They are employees in various government offices. Thus we see the old mistake being repeated. We call on the true journalists to hold fast to their position on the second journalists convention, and we call on them not to support the new bodies of the opposition which are presented as an alternative. We should all come together to agree on conditions for defining who is a journalist according to the law, and to work to serve the profession.



26th September,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of

the Armed Forces,
08/04/1999

A: Front-Page Headlines:

1. President Saleh to the Leaders of Political Parties: "Democracy is a comprehensive system, and mistakes have to be corrected with speed."
2. Resumption of Field Teams in Yemen-Saudi Border Negotiations, and Next Round Is in Saudi Arabia.
3. The Vice President: "The results of my visit will be translated into work on the ground soon."
4. Yemeni Humanitarian Assistance Plane for Kosovo Muslims.

B: Issue's Editorial:

At a time when the NATO strikes against the Serbian regime are intensifying, because Slobodan Melosevic refuses to accept the right of the people of Kosovo to their self-rule, the plight of the Kosovars seems to increase. Indeed, the whole region of Kosovo seems to have been emptied of its people, as part of the ethnic cleansing tactics of the Belgrade regime.

The human suffering of the refugees, whose numbers are fast approaching one million, has also reached tragic levels, with no relief or solution in sight.

Now, some intriguing questions come to mind. If the goal of the NATO air strikes are to guarantee the safety and security of the Kosovars, what can we say about their conditions and predicament, which can be described as genocide. The conclusion is that the Kosovars have not found the safety and security the air strikes were supposed to achieve.

We can say that the air strikes have proven to be inadequate in achieving the objectives outlined.

The Republic of Yemen, as it follows these tragic developments with anguish and concern, calls on the Islamic nations to carry out their human, moral and religious role in supporting the Muslims of Kosovo, and not to let them stand alone against the barbarism they are exposed to, which is displayed on our television screens.

It also calls on the world community to quicken its emergency support in order to reduce the pain and fear on the faces of the Kosovars. The world should also apply pressure to the Belgrade regime to stop its bloody campaign and ethnic cleansing, and to come back to the foundations that will bring stability and peaceful co-existence among all groups of people in this explosive region.



Al-Thawrah,
Sanaa Daily, Official,
10/04/1999.

Front-Page Headlines:

1. Consultative Council Starts Discussing 40 Studies on Emigrants and Development.
2. Djibouti Lives the Dream of Change through Presidential Elections.
3. Bangladesh and Vietnam Support Announcement of a Palestinian State.

أجمل النهائي وأطيب الأمانى نزهة للشباب
الخلوق
عبدالصمد عبدالقادر السقاف
بمناسبة الخطوة وعقد القران
فألف مبروك
المهزون
والدكم عبدالقادر محمد السقاف .
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وجميع موظفي صحيفة يمن تايمز
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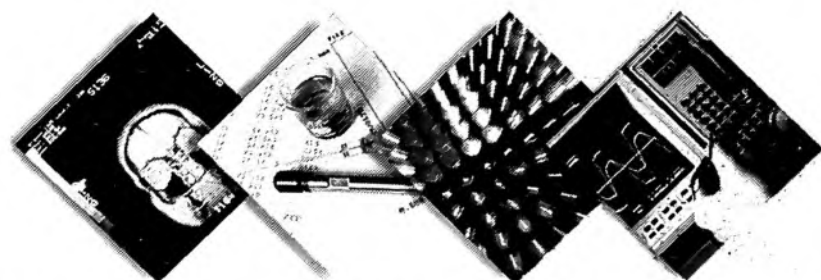
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Cont'd from p. 1:

NASEEM'S DIFFICULT WIN

THE FACTS:

The Manchester Boxing Ring witnessed a very exciting match on Saturday night, April 10th. It was organized by the World Boxing Organization. At stake was the World Featherweight Championship.

The contenders were the current champion, Nasseem Hamed, a British national of Yemeni origin, and Paul Ingle, the challenger and champion of Europe and the Commonwealth.

At the end of the match, round 11, the Prince was able to knock-out his challenger. But it was a long and hard fight.

For the first time, Prince Nasseem was exposed to direct hits, and there were occasions when there was a feeling among his fans that he could lose the match. "Many of us were gripped as the challenger put up a good fight, and badly hurt the Prince on several occasions," said the sports editor of Al-Thawrah newspaper, Mr. Khaled Al-Sowdy, and a passionate fan of the Prince.

This fight reminded me of the match between Muhammad Ali and his challenger Joe Fraser in the world heavyweight boxing



were subjected to severe punishment. The bell saved the day, at the end of the 9th round.

In the 10th round, though the Prince tried to launch an attack, there was a quick counter-attack with some hits reaching the face of Nasseem. Ingle was almost in full control of the ring. Following one attack, the Prince fell to the ground, forcing the referee to stop the game as the nose-bleeding continued. Again the bell saved the day.

The 11th round saw dramatic developments. Ingle, trying to end the match went on his attacks pushing the Prince to a corner. In his push, he forgot to protect himself adequately, thus giving the Prince a golden chance to land a deadly blow. Long experience prevailed over sheer power. Prince Nasseem landed a hook hitting the jaw of Paul Ingle, and throwing him to the floor. It was a powerful knock-out.

That gives Nasseem his 32nd win.

THE ANALYSIS:

Paul Ingle is probably the strongest challenger to face the Prince. It was also clear that he had studied the tactics of Nasseem and prepared for them. That explains the Prince's ineffective efforts in the early rounds of the match. That also explains why the champ re-directed his attacks to the sides rather than the face. In two occasions, two direct rib hits affected the breathing of

his opponents.

Manuel Medina and Juan But the Ingle trainer quickly detected the new tactic and his tactics and prepare warned his fighter to protect himself accordingly. He has to keep improving his style

Nasseem has to understand that and approaches and constantly as his star rises, many upgrade them. contenders and challengers like

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بمناسبة دخوله القفص الذهبي.



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بمناسبة عقد القران وقرب الزفاف
فألف مبروك

championship, some decades ago.

In the first round, Nasseem started by bouncing around feeling out his opponent. He also kept his distance while trying for openings. But it was clear that Paul was ready.

In the next three rounds, the Prince continued to attack, but was not able to break-through. In fact, Ingle fought back ferociously, and for the first time, it was clear that this was an even fight.

In round five, NAZ tried to change his tactics and style. Instead of attacking the face, which was protected, he started attacking the sides, hitting the ribs. At this stage, Paul was satisfied to cover himself and tire out the champion.

In the sixth round, Ingle changed his defence tactics and began to attack. This allowed the Prince managed a direct hit, sending his opponent to the floor.

The seventh round witnessed a lot of activity. Ingle was attacking from all sides. Nasseem was barely defending himself from the on-slaughter.

The fight between the two boxers was getting more fierce in the 8th round, though they were more careful. But, Paul Ingle obviously had the upper hand.

In the 9th round, in front of the eyes of his loyal fans who see him as an unbeatable boxer, Nasseem was staggering as his opponent, Paul Ingle, laid on him repeat attacks. The Prince was bleeding from his nose, and many parts of his body

أجمل التهناني والتبريكات للشباب الخلق

محمد أمين درهم



بمناسبة زواجه الميمون المتهنون
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خالد وصفوان ووائل عبد الرب
خالد ونجيب القرزعي
نجيب الحروي،
خالد الهمداني
قائد عبد الملك، محمد قائد
يحيى هاشم وهيثم ووليد وائل
وعامر عبد العزيز وهاني ستاح
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

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وذلك بمناسبة الخطوبة وعقد القران

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- 1- Cash payments for purchase of above vehicles is required.
- 2- The last date for receiving offers is 17/4/1999.

Cars can be inspected at the company's branch office in Sana'a-Rabat St. (Formerly 24th St.) on 14/4/1999 from 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 3:00PM-7:00PM.

- 3- Offers must be made in sealed envelopes to the company's offices in Sana'a or the plant in Taiz.
- 4- Offers must be addressed: Attention The Accounts Manager.
- 5- Specification of the vehicles can be obtained from the Sana'a Branch Management (request the spec. sheet).
- 6- A bid guarantee of YR 50,000 must be made in cash or certified check. If offer is not accepted the amount will be refunded in full.

General Managers Distributor Conference for Xerox "First Convention for newly Structured Region"

The last week of February saw the first General Managers' Convention for Xerox, following the recent restructuring of the region to incorporate the Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa distributors. It focused on the organization's leading global position as a digital solutions provider.



Mr. Nofal Saad, General Manager, Shaher Trading (Xerox Yemen distributor) receiving the Award for Outstanding Performance in 1998, from Mr. John Drinkwater, Managing Director, Xerox Middle East & Africa, at the Xerox MEESA General Manager's Conference in Dubai on 19 February 1999.

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attained in 1998 and to consolidate marketing and sales strategies to lead Xerox into the new millennium.

"As a company, Xerox has witnessed enormous changes in recent years and we are now more focused than ever before," said Jean Gignoux, General Manager, Middle East, Eastern and Southern Africa Region. "We believe that we can offer companies in our region the solutions necessary to streamline and manage their business and applications more efficiently."

Xerox is leading the digital document revolution in the Middle East and Africa region as more and more businesses recognize the extensive benefits of digital technology. Digital installation and equipment sales grew by 50 per cent in 1998, with overall revenue growth in the region posted at 17 per cent.

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