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# YEMEN TIMES

• SANA'A • April 19th through 24th, 1999

Vol. IX, Issue No. 16 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals



Mr. Mahmoud Marouf of Arab  
Qods talks to the Yemen Times.  
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Service after WB's \$50 Million?  
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Yemen TV On Trial.  
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Bring The World Together  
Through a Fashion Show.  
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## Yemen & Eritrea Try to Kick Off Bilateral Border Talks

Officials from the Republic of Yemen and the State of Eritrea have been holding talks over the last few weeks regarding the maritime boundary between the two neighboring countries. This is the second phase in sorting out their border dispute. With the direct talks, the officials are side-stepping the lawyers and the court of arbitration in London. The court handed down its verdict on the first phase of the dispute last year. It decided that Yemen had total sovereignty over the Hunaish archipelago and other islands in the Southern Red Sea. The second phase has to do with the maritime boundaries. According to Yemen Times sources, the talks are proceeding in a very cordial atmosphere, reflecting the rising level of confidence between the leaders of the two countries. In fact, the two sides, while using the

International Maritime Law as the benchmark for their positions and claims, have been able to entertain certain considerations from each side in their talks. A final deal is expected to result from the talks within a few weeks. By going ahead with bilateral talks, the two countries have saved the enormous costs of lawyers' fees and the court's deliberations and proceedings. On this issue, an official at the Foreign Ministry spoke to the Yemen Times: "The Eritrean Arbitration committee had forward an appeal to the International Court of Arbitration, and as the Yemeni Government, we did the same. We are currently engaged in preparation to respond to the Eritrean appeal, which will be presented to the court later on." When asked if there were any committees trying to reach an out

of court settlement after negotiators agreed on all issues except for two disputed Islands, he said "We have passed the stage of negotiations on major Island issues. Now we are working on maritime boundaries lining. I hope we can succeed in this. There are two phases regarding this issue. The first phase is sovereignty over the Islands, which we have already legalized and passed. The second phase is the maritime boundaries lining issue. Within phase two we are working on two different lines. One is through the court, and the other is the amicable solution." "We both have submitted an appeal to the court on the 9th of April. Now both sides are preparing their responses to each others' appeals. In July, the trial procedures will start. The final judgment is expected to be passed in October," he added.

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## Horror Stories Continue... Murder in Aden by Gunmen

It seems that no single day passes in our country without hearing of an atrocity or murder committed by uniformed gunmen against citizens. How did lawlessness reach a level, where murder incidents happen so frequently?

The latest such incident happened in Aden. It was a horrifying murder by some gunmen, against an ordinary civilian, who was only defending his property. For doing that, he had to take a 12.7 mm gunfire shot in his body. The misery does not end here. It is saddening to know that the young man's life could have been saved if he had not been left bleeding for

almost one hour while his home was being destroy. It is horrifying, but true.

Continued on Page 2



This is what remained after the armed forces  
crushed the house

## Yemen Day in Canada

On Monday, April 19th, the Canadian International Development Agency, the foreign aid branch of the Canadian Foreign Ministry, is holding a one-day information session on Yemen in Ottawa. It is expected to be kicked off by Dr. Norman Cook, Director of the Priorities and Special Needs Department of CIDA. His assistant, Fateema Amin, who was responsible for the arrangements, explained that they are interested in providing more information on Yemen's twin transformation - political democratization and economic reforms, and the needs that arise as a result.

The participants in the session are officials from the Foreign Ministry, CIDA, businessmen, and representatives of the NGO movement and the media. A briefing was given on the on-going Canadian aid to Yemen, which totals US \$1.1 million for 1999. Most of this money is earmarked for the demining effort, although some allocations are made to support human rights and NGO activities in Yemen. Dr. Robinson and a group of MDs, who have been visiting Yemen to offer short-term training and specialized medical treatment, will also brief the audience. They will be showing slide

pictures of the country. The keynote speaker, Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Chairman of the Human Rights, Liberties and NGO Committee of the Consultative Council, gave a presentation on the progress made in the transformation process. "Although a lot of progress has been made, the process has not reached the stage of being irreversible. That is why it is important to continue to positively engage in the process," he said. He explained that Yemen has met all the priorities that Canada has announced for qualifying for a meaningful level of assistance.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### The Agony of Being Left Behind

I have just participated in an international technology conference held in Montreal. The pace of change and growth in this sector left me baffled. But more importantly, it left me worried about the fate of my country, Yemen. The Republic of Yemen continues to grapple with the issues of people's basic illiteracy in Arabic. Today, half of the population cannot read in Arabic. Yet, the rest of the world is moving forward towards technology that is beyond imagination and comprehension, even for those of us who are attempting to keep up with the progress of technology.

What will be the fate of societies like Yemen that are being left behind?

And mind you, we are not alone in this. About 80% of the world's population is still unable to keep pace with the revolutions in the computer and communications world. But, some 40% of the world can catch up in one way or another. It is the fate of the remaining 40% of the world that is hanging in the balance. Yemenis are part of that 40% which has no reasonable chance of catching up, in any foreseeable future. Education is the most obvious and logical ticket to the future. But here we have another problem. Our educators themselves have not been able to catch up. So, there is no chance that they will teach the young folks how to keep up. I think one of the solutions is to start small, short-term training programs.

Forget about the universities and other giant institutions. We must focus on small training and educational organizations, which can quickly adapt to change. The efforts of the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training can help in this regard. Technology is the lifeline of our future. In many countries, political leaders and parties have made it a point to start small training centers for the youth. They call them cyber cafes or youth clubs or whatever. In Yemen, this has not happened. I am calling on Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister and Secretary-General of the People's General Congress - himself a computer-literate person - to consider establishing such centers. It will help the country, and it could also help his party. International donors can also help by starting simple, grass-roots level efforts in this regard. It takes a small amount of money to establish these centers, but their impact can be enormous.

I hope this will happen soon.

*The Publisher*  


**Second International Al-Shaam Conference on IT**  
The Second International Al-Shaam Conference on Information Technology focuses on identifying information technology with high impact potential on the socioeconomic development of developing countries. It also looks at both the methods and requirements of implementing the technology. The conference addresses policies, resources, skills and the management of change, and includes papers, panels, round table discussions, workshop, demonstrations exhibits, teleconferences and a symposium held by the UNDP.

Dr. Jassim M. Jirjees, from Sana'a University is taking part in the conference. In his paper, he is discussing the role of technology in media (Internet), using the Yemen Times Online website ([www.yementimes.com](http://www.yementimes.com)) as an example.

#### Hael Saeed Anaam Award for Science and Art

A press conference attended by Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed Anaam, Chairman of Board, The General Secretariat of the of the HSASA, general Manager of HSASA of Saeed group of companies was held to honor the winners of the Hael Saeed Anaam Award for Science and Art. A mistake occurred regarding the data of the officials decision on the works result and the arbitration committee. Nothing was mentioned regarding the prize for Environment and Agricultural science for the year 1998 to Dr. Abdul Rahman Ali Mohammed Thabit for his research on the dangerous effects of insecticide on environment. Other areas, such as medical, economic, social and Islamic sciences were correct. We hope that a correction of such information will be made soon.

**General Zinni's Visit to Yemen**  
The Commander of the U.S. Central Command Force, General Anthony Zinni, is expected to arrive in Sana'a in

April the 26th, 1999 on an official visit. He is expected to hold many talks with senior Yemeni officials over the two days, as well as inaugurating the new building of the Demining Center, located near the American Embassy in Sana'a.

On the 27th of April, General Zinni is expected to inaugurate the new building of the Demining Center in Aden - Dar Saad area. The American Commander will observe the training process of the military forces who will take part in demining operations in the planned areas.

Also, the Commander of the Marine Forces of the Middle East will arrive in Sana'a on the 1st of May on a short visit to Yemen for the purpose of overseeing the new training course of the project. The training team will be based in Aden, besides overseeing the task of demining in the planned areas.

#### A Journalist Harassed

On April 14th, the office of the Yemen Times received a fax message from Mr. Khaled Muhssen Dallak, Chief Editor of Hagarn newspaper, member in the former Journalists Syndicate. Copies of the fax message were also sent to a number of senior officials in the government including the Prime Minister Dr. Al-Iryani. In this message Mr. Dallak is appealing to the concerned parties in the government and in the NGOs to "promptly interfere to put an end to the frequent acts of violation and harassment against my freedom, financial dues, personal belongings and employment," as he puts it in his letter. Mr. Dallak accused Brigadier Ali Al-Shater, Chief Editor of the weekly 26 September newspaper, as the person behind it. The dispute, as Mr. Dallak points out, arose for financial reasons when Khaled Dallak, a former staff member in the 26 newspaper, was denied his financial rights for the services he rendered to the paper during his employment with the paper. He said that after successful assignments, he was charged with promoting the paper's advertisement policy along with performing the paper's technical editing. It was agreed between the two sides that Dallak should get a 30% interest in case of a rise in the paper's financial gains resulting from his new assignment. However, when results began to appear, he was denied the percentage increase previously agreed upon. Instead, he was fired, and charged with fabricated and insubstantial accusations. He was also subject to illegal detention several times, with no legal proceedings being taken against him. And finally, his personal car and a \$1000 camera were taken away from him. Mr. Dallak concludes his message by asking that his dispute with Brigadier Ali Al-Shater should be settled through a court of law that can establish a fair and honest justice. Is he asking too much?!

#### Hijacking a United Nations Vehicle in Sana'a

On Tuesday, April 13th, on Djibouti Street, only a few meters from the World Bank building in Sana'a and near the Central

Office of the Political Security, a group of armed men attacked the driver of a 'Land Cruiser' Model car belonging to the National Council of Housing and Population, a division of the UN mission to Yemen. They stole the car and ran away. The UN Office immediately informed the Security Forces. Within less than an hour the forces surrounded the building in which the car was parked, an incompleting building that belongs to a Minister in the current government.

Sources say that the gunmen were hosted by the building's guard. They say he assisted them in changing the vehicle's plate number into a military plate number.

The security forces confronted the thieves and one of the armed men was killed, while two others were seriously injured. Two civilians who were passing through that area at the time were wounded.

#### Yemeni delegation Arrived in Iran

Official talks between Iran and Yemen took place in Tehran on the 17th of April. The Yemeni delegation, lead by Vice Minister Abdulqadir Bajammal will be discussing issues of mutual interest with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamal Kharazi and other top ranking Iranian officials. Political observers see this visit as a preparation for President Ali Abdullah Saleh's visit to Iran, which is expected to occur next month. Iran and Yemen are known to enjoy political, historical and cultural ties which could serve as a prelude to expansion of the already excellent relations between the two countries.

#### Royal Jordanian Awarded the "Arch of Europe"

The Selection Committee, headed by Business Initiative Directions (BID), a company specialized in evaluating quality and international management chose Royal Jordanian for the "Arch of Europe for Quality" Award. The committee based its decision on evaluating Royal Jordanian's services and continuous improvement that deserved the ISO 9002.

Mr. Malcolm Plaeger, President of BID, invited Mr. Nader Dahabi, President & CEO of Royal Jordanian, to attend a ceremony to be held in Paris on April 12th 1999, where he will receive the "Arch of Europe for Quality" Award. Prominent leaders from different business fields, economists, arts and corporate image professionals, quality experts, as well as academic personalities and representatives from the diplomatic corps will also attend this ceremony which will be covered by international media.

The International Arch of Europe is awarded to each company as an entity, for corporate achievement, to recognize quality and excellence within customer satisfaction, leadership, communication strategies, planning and decision making, managing human resources, continuous education and staff training, evaluating productivity, and entitlement to the ISO 9000 and TQM Certificates.

Business Initiative Directions selections selects the annual awardees after gathering information and feed back from the media, advertising agencies, trade fairs and exhibit, chambers of commerce and embassies.

*Continued from Front Page*

## Murder in Aden by Gunmen

The act of murder took place in Aden, Hujaif mountain, the victim, Abdul Salam, was only 23 year-old.

A police force in Aden surrounded the house of Al Murshidi and destroyed it. Nobody acknowledged the identity of the attackers.

The owner of the house, Sheik Abdul Qadir Ahmed Salim Al Murshidi, 35 years-old, from Yafee, has recently returned to Yemen. He has lived with his family in the house since 1990. The last time his home was destroyed by was around 4 months ago. Abdul Qadir claims that this land was given to him by Ali Mohsin Al Ahmer and that he has all documents that prove his right to the land.

The family was surprised to see their house surrounded by police cars with 50 soldiers. Abdul Qadir's brother, Abdul Salam, fled to the mountain and shouted: "kill us but don't take our property". A soldier fired in the air to frighten Abdul Salam and force him to climb down, but he did not. Then a group of policemen climbed the mountain and confronted Abdul Salam with their machine guns. They shot him with a 12.7 mm heavy machine gun which is a weapon usually used for shooting tanks and other military targets. He fell on the ground without shooting or fighting back. Not only did the armed men leave the victim on the ground bleeding, but they also didn't allow his own brothers to save him, and instead took them to jail.

The house was destroyed once before around 4 months ago and rebuilt, and now the house has been destroyed again, but this time with one of its occupants.

The whole area is confused, the Al Murshidi family has documents of ownership of their land from Ali Muhsin Al Ahmar, and nobody knows the source of the attackers. People around have lived in this area for 20-30 years, and nobody claims ownership of these lands.

Recently, Ali Mohsin Al Ahmar formed a committee to investigate the facts; another committee was formed by the Yemeni Immigrants in Saudi Arabia and the United States for the same purpose. Yafee people said that if the government does not submit the murderers, they would get revenge for this murder by themselves.

*Radhwan Al Saqqaf*  
Yemen Times  
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### Yemen Times Weekly Opinion Poll

Yemen Times Opinion Poll  
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The results only reflect the portion  
of people who use the Internet and  
submit their votes online

#### Question

Why do you think, Naseem had a tough time beating his English opponent Paul Igle in his last match?

#### Results

- The main reason is that he trusted in himself too much, and thought he could defeat everyone easily (%33)
- The problems that happened to him with his previous coach, and the inefficiency of his new one are the main reasons. (%5)
- Since he was married, he began to become less reliable in his defense, and weaker in attack. Marriage played an important role in his low level lately. (%14)
- His opponents was simply too strong to beat. (%12)
- All of the above reasons made him struggle before winning the match. (%37)



Palestinian Journalist, Mahmoud Marouf of Al-Qods:

## *"It is saddening to see Yemen's economy declining, while it has huge potentials and rich resources"*

The Arab Homeland has become an almost obsolete term in today's Arab culture. It is almost impossible to meet anyone who still retains the belief in this notion. Mr. Mahmoud Marouf, a Palestinian Journalist, is one of the few Arab intellectuals who, when you talk with him, leaves you with an impression that the idea of one Arab homeland is still alive, and no matter how bad the situation is, hope survives.

Mr. Marouf is a regular visitor to Yemen because he feels "strong attachment" to this country. Mohammed Abbas from the Yemen Times met with him and filed the following interview.

**Q: Would you introduce yourself to our readers?**

**A:** My name is Mahmoud Marouf, an Arab Palestinian. I was born in Lebanon and I have been a resident of Morocco since 1980. I chose Morocco of my own free will when I worked as a press correspondent for Al-Qods Press Services Agency. I also worked as a correspondent for a number of Arab magazines and newspapers until I transferred my entire activity to the management of the Arab Qods newspaper upon its foundation in 1989. I am still holding this post.

**Q: Why Morocco?**

**A:** For both professional and personal motives. On the professional level Morocco in 1980 was believed to be "an unknown territory for the Eastern part of the Arab homeland," at least from a journalistic point of view. So as a journalist I found it a good opportunity to provide the Eastern Arab countries with the necessary media services that cover the Western wing of the Arab homeland. On the personal level, I was attracted first to the area by the good things I heard about it. The many Moroccan friends I had then, besides the amiable environment of the region, were also strong reasons for my choice. It is very important to live in a place where one is not alienated or looked down upon. The mere feeling that you are different makes you feel that you don't fit in. In Morocco I found none of this and that's why I felt at home in Morocco.

**Q: You are visiting Yemen, can you tell us about your visit?**

**A:** I visit Yemen from time to time. I am proud to say that I feel a strong attachment to this country. Because of this inclination I carry out occasional visits to see my friends in Yemen and also to be closely aware of what's going on in this country. Of course, I keep myself informed of the developments in Yemen through reading or watching the different

media. But you know this is not enough. It's not like actually being present in a place.

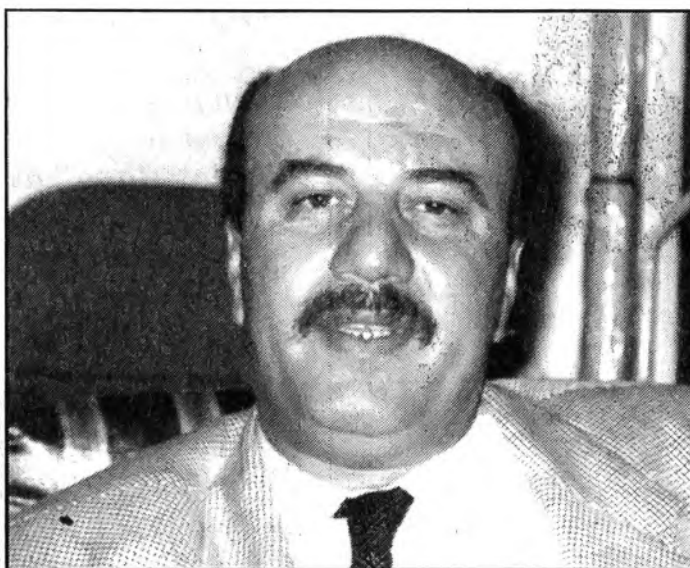
**Q: You mentioned that you keep yourself informed of the developments taking place in Yemen. How do you read the current situation in this country?**

**A:** I always observe what's going on in Yemen not as a journalist but as a person who feels that he belongs to this place. The first thing I notice and would like to stress is the determination of the political leadership to proceed on the march to democracy through respect for the constitutional dates of maturity. However, we must also point out that this march is stumbling. This could be related to the character of the Yemeni political movement since the early days of the Revolution and Independence, plus what happened in Yemen back in 1994 which believe, was directed by outside powers that were anti-Yemen. In my opinion, this event left a negative impact on the march to democracy in Yemen. On the other hand, I noted that the progress of the Yemeni parties is less than it was a year and half ago. I really feel sad about that and perhaps this recession is due to the engagement of these parties in preparing for their regular conferences. Also, the absence of any major events which can provoke the parties to action is also responsible for this weakness.

**Q: Do you mean that these parties are waiting to respond to someone else's action, instead of taking the initiative?**

**A:** Well, I think this is a general characteristic of Arab societies. It is not restricted to the Yemeni political parties or even to the Yemeni society alone. For decades, the Arab societies have been trying to find a path and meanwhile they remain unable to influence the course of events. Being part of their societies, it seems that these parties are lost on this path. That's why we haven't seen them capable of taking the initiative to deal with the public issues seriously. In my belief, a public issue is not the construction of a particular school or highway. Rather it is the entire system of education or the entire infrastructure that matters. Parties should not focus on the smaller parts and details. But I am sorry to say that this is the prevalent mentality.

On an economic level in Yemen I saw a considerable decline. It is saddening to see Yemen's economy declining, while it has huge potentials and rich resources. These potentials and resources are certainly essential to build a stable and progressive country. But you have first and foremost to focus on building up men as



the corner stones for development. In economics it is said that the poor are those who have potential but don't know how to use it, while the rich knows how to invest his potential. So I think Yemen should invest its utmost capabilities in the building of the Yemeni individual. With all the resources and assets in Yemen I think it is capable of being an outstanding country on the level of economic stability.

The current economic crisis of course reflects itself in social life, and this is seen in the security problems taking place occasionally in Yemen. But the situation here can't be more serious than it is in the rest of the Arab countries. These problems are especially highlighted because of the interest paid to Yemen by the rest of the world, as well as the transparent character of the Yemeni society. Because of this transparency, any problem or event easily shows up on the surface. Security problems do exist in many places but aren't widely heard of, whereas in Yemen a single event might be heard of all over the world. Political transparency is an echo of the social transparency.

**Q: How do you read the current situation in the Arab Homeland and in Palestine in particular in light of the world's major changes?**

**A:** In looking at the Arab scene we must look at two important phases:

- 1- The collapse of socialism which led to the disappearance of the old world order.
- 2- The second Gulf War.

The effects of the first phase were huge. One of these consequences was the spread of democracy and human rights. Unfortunately this hasn't reached us in the Arab Homeland. So far, we are still stumbling over the issues of democracy and human rights, though we can't deny that some progress has been made in a number of Arab countries, e.g. Morocco, Yemen, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Qatar, UAE, and to some extent Syria. Of course, the progress is not identical in these

lining in what happened during this phase: The Arabs stayed geographically intact. The many instances of states breaking up are unknown in this part of the world. On the contrary, Yemen was reunited during this stage.

As for the second stage, namely the second Gulf War, I think it did not end the collapse of the old Arab order. Rather it exposed the essence of this order. Hence the transparency not only in Arab-Arab relations but also in Arab-International relations. The war unveiled the hidden side of these relations, though it had also left deep scars on the Arabs. The huge economic effects of this war are felt in many parts of the Arab Homeland, especially in oil-producing countries.

**Q: Do you suggest that the Arab man has become disillusioned with the Pan-Arab dream of unity which prevailed during the 60s?**

**A:** No, that's not what I meant. The dream of unity still exists, though this is one attempt to distort the Arab vision. Let me say that this dream has experienced a number of nightmares starting from the failure of Egypt-Syria merging in 1961, the 1967 catastrophe, the Palestinian's troubles in Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, and the frightful quake in the Gulf War. But in the meantime the Arab unity was never an illusion for the Arab man who is aware that the existing Arab regimes are unable to fulfill this dream. The only difference

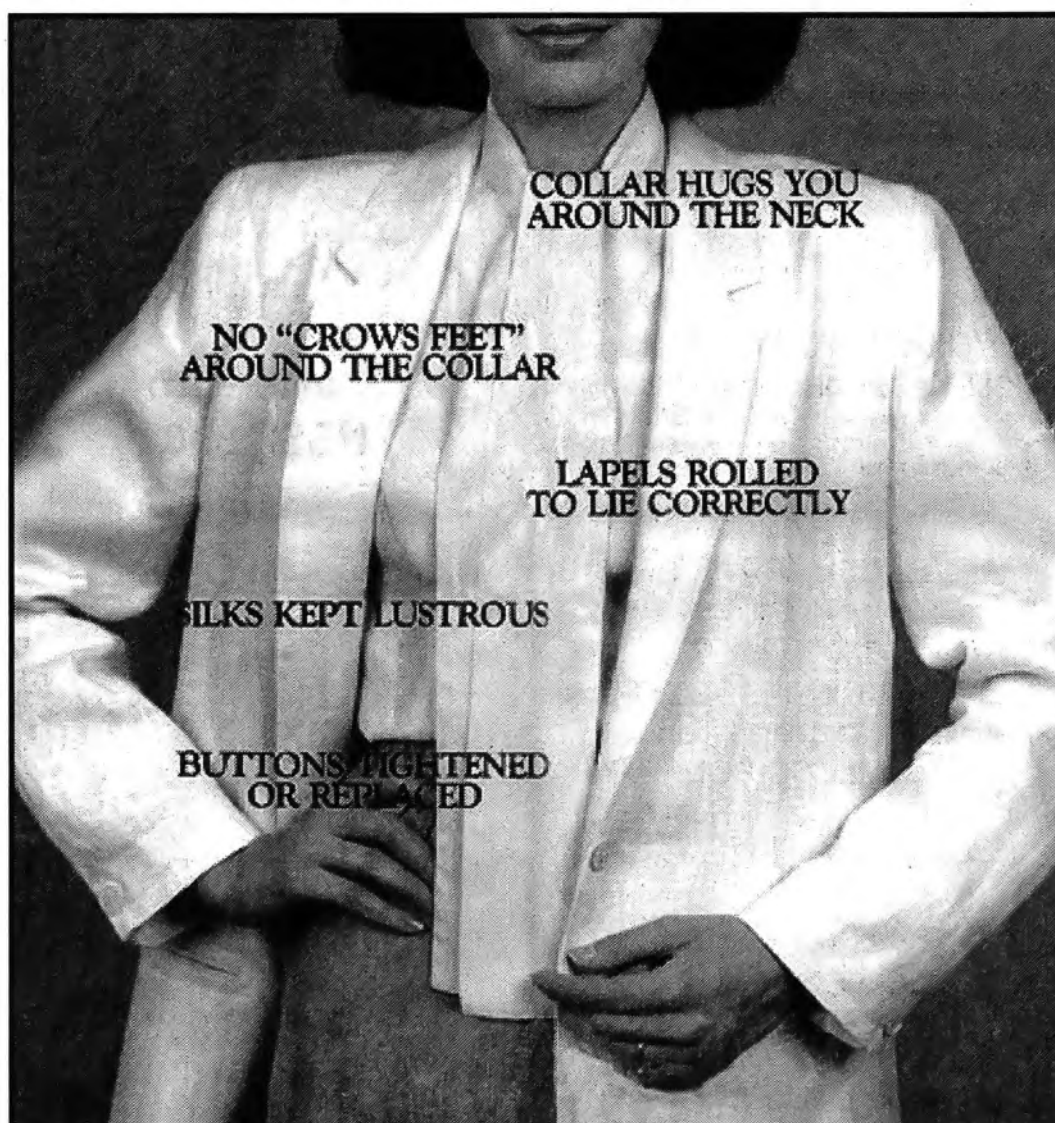
between now and the 60s is that the dream of unity is now more down to earth. Back then we were calling for a Yemeni style unity, while now our demand is to establish a common Arab market, to cancel entry visas, and to open borders for a profitable exchange. In other words let us achieve the unity of interests and economy and then move onward.

**Q: What about Palestine?**

**A:** No one can argue about the hard times we Palestinians are passing through. I believe we were led into this by the choice made by the Palestinian leadership in 1991 which was a huge mistake. The separation of the Palestine from the other Arab nations has given Israel a unique chance to serve its own interests.

Anyway, I think the Palestinians should leave all this behind them for it is useless to cry over split milk. There are a number of responsibilities the Palestinian leadership should take care of:

- 1- It must ensure the people's unity. The present peace track can only lead to political division and fragmentation.
- 2- It should halt negotiations with Israel till it can see the final Israeli peace position.
- 3- It should not allow itself to fail in its plan for development of the self-rule territories. The Palestinians are in dire need of this plan in order to raise their living standards, so their leadership must support this plan and move forward with the peace process.



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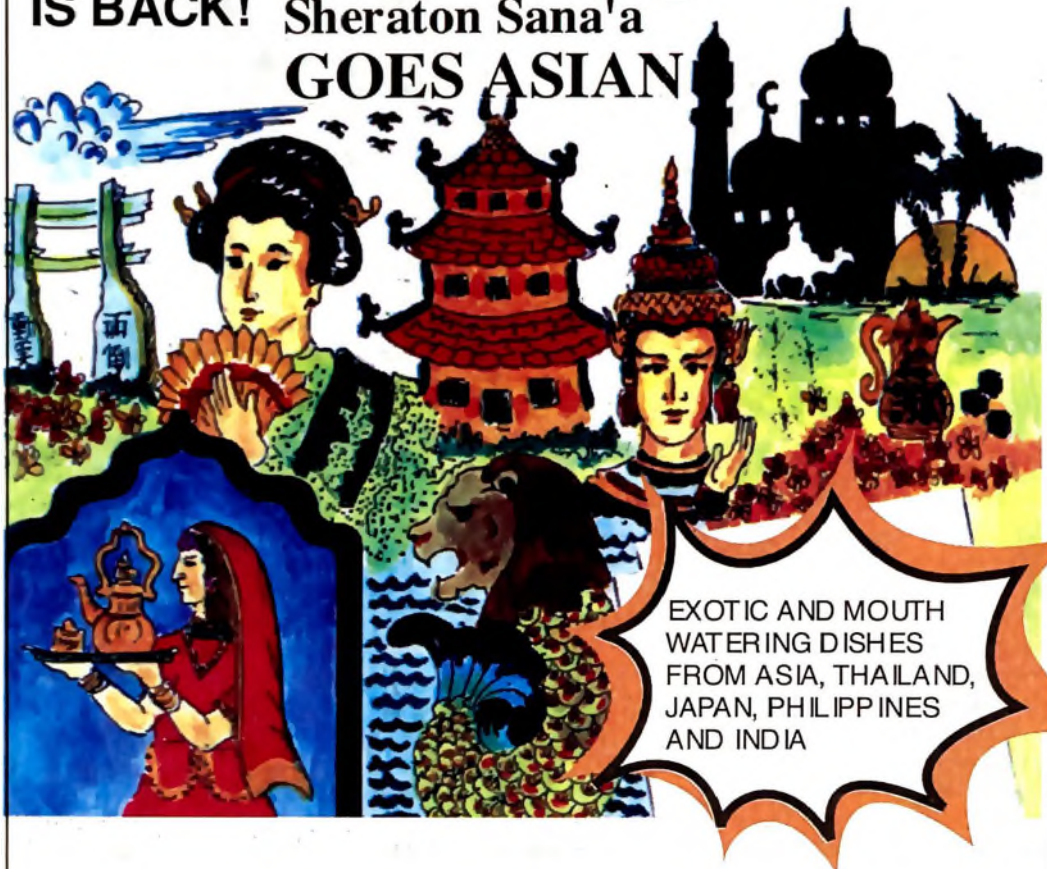
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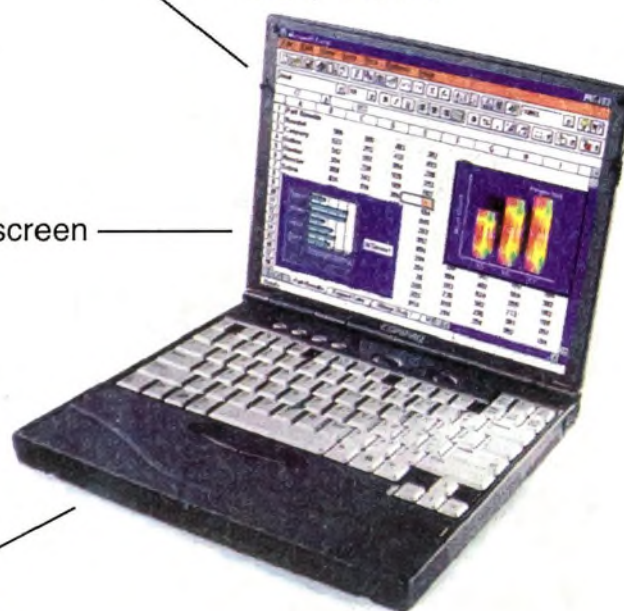
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# After the Emigrants Seminar is Over Words Have Been Spoken, Now Deeds Must Follow

## "Immigrants are The Main Source of Continuing Development" 10-13 April, 1999.

"Emigrants are the Main Source of Continuing Development" was the title of a seminar held recently by the consultative council and the Ministry of Emigrants Affairs. It ran from 10-13 of April, 1999. 49 papers were discussed during the seminar that discussed various issues and contributions of immigration and expatriates in 4 areas: Historically, economically, socially, and culturally. These aspects were comprehensively discussed by the members of the committee, and they came up with many constructive notes that aimed to increase the role of emigrants and make their lives easier. The Consultative Council stressed the importance of holding the Emigrants First Conference in mid-May and mobilizing everyone for the purpose of holding this important conference, which calls for participation on the part of emigrants. They also stressed that they would provide all facilities to help the conference achieve its goals, and implement its resolutions so that they can serve the country's interests as well as the citizen's.

The Council stressed the importance of completing the Yemeni emigrants survey abroad which was started last year by the Ministry of Emigrants Affairs. The purpose of the survey is to take part in providing welfare and services to the emigrants, make use of the development programs inside the country and give the emigrants a practical participation in the investment and economic development process. The council hailed the great efforts of the Yemeni emigrants in supporting the national movement and the process of development.

Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, Chairman of the Council, pointed out that the country had depended heavily on emigrants assistance before the discovery of oil. Their participation, through the transfer of money to the country, are still vital to the national economy and the investment and development process in the country.

In a paper presented by Dr. Mohammed Rajih Najad, on the rights guaranteed by the Passports and Citizenship Law for Yemeni emigrants, he mentioned that this law includes many privileges and rights for Yemeni emigrants such as:

1. Any Yemeni emigrant in any part of the world can have a Yemeni passport without any complications that other countries impose for the purpose of limiting passports issuing from inside.
2. Reduction of passport fees, the last reduction occurred in 1998 within the Cabinet resolution No. 268 that states the following:
  - The fee for a Yemeni emigrant passport is \$80 instead of \$100.
  - The fees for Yemeni students or dependents of a Yemeni emigrant is \$25 instead of \$100
  - The fee for other Yemeni emigrants descendants (apart from students or dependents) is \$ 50 instead of \$ 100.
3. The Yemeni citizenship law included some advantages to the Yemeni emigrants, especially those that permit him/her to hold the citizenship of the country he/she is living in, besides having the full rights of Yemeni citizenship.
4. Yemeni emigrants marrying foreign spouses from the country they are residing in can obtain Yemeni citizenship for their spouses after four years of marriage.
- Children of Yemeni emigrants by foreign mothers obtain Yemeni citizenship according to the law as long as they have documents to prove the identity of their Yemeni father such as a birth certificate, passports of the father or the mother, or the ID of the father.
5. Yemeni emigrants with foreign passports are not required to obtain entry and exit visas; the Immigration, Passports and Citizenship Authority

issues such visas free of charge.

A paper was presented by Dr. Ali Ohood Baabad Dr. Abdulla Saleh titled "Hadramout; a Relationship of Homeland, Sorrows and Estrangement." The paper indicated that the Unification State paid special care to Yemeni emigrants, and a special ministry was founded for his/her affairs, projects and troubles. But still the relationship between emigrants and the country's institutes requires more coordination of efforts and laying down necessary plans for communication to guarantee their active participation in the development plans. Both Dr. Baabad and Dr. Saleh mentioned in their papers that living as emigrants does not mean a perfect situation, but the country benefits from them by receiving hard currency inside. Besides their participation in economical and social development and in many other aspects. Many risks arise, for instance a state of less self-dependence in solving society's problems and implementation of development programs plus a reduction of local manpower and the loss of highly qualified people.

They concluded their paper by saying: "Despite the country's concerns over emigrants we find that the capital investments of Yemeni in general and Hadrahmis in particular has not been enough, especially since they have huge amounts of capital abroad, are less than the expected level."

Such a matter requires a serious joint stand from the government and the people to guarantee positive and practical participation of emigrant capital in the total process of development of the Yemeni country on the level of small or large projects.

Dr. Abdul Wali Al Shemeri, Director of the Creativity Institute for culture and arts, presented a paper on famous Yemeni emigrants, Dr. Shemeri mentioned number of well-known Yemeni figures who emigrated to various places in the world.

Chairman of the Board of Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sheik Mohammed Omer Ba Mashmouh, presented a paper titled "The Role of the Private Sector in Comprehending the Emigrants Investment." Sheik Ba Mashmouh stated that: it is time to attract emigrants' capitals to invest in their homeland. Such an act will represent a perfect solution for the Yemeni economical difficulties, and the best way to connect Yemeni emigrants with their country. Establishing a suitable investment atmosphere in Yemen will attract emigrants' capitals, as well as having a private sector willing to comprehend emigrants' investment demands. The following factors are necessary as a preparation of the investment atmosphere:

1. Providing the private sector inside the country with all facilities and removing obstacles.
2. Reconsidering certain laws and legislation.
3. Control corruption, as the President of the Republic has stressed in fighting corruption and corrupted people
4. Improve and activate the role of governmental institutes to reach a level of holding responsibility.
5. Rehabilitate qualified cadres and employ them on the Republic's entry gates (air, land and sea) to welcome emigrants. The first thing the visitor sees is the ports of the country where he can make his first impression.
6. Sheik Ba Mashmouh mentioned that the Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry worked hard to promote investment in Yemen and held many seminars and conferences, visiting many countries aiming to urge emigrants to have more ties with their country.

Mrs. Mahasin Al Hawati, Chief-Editor of Al Watan Newspaper, presented important and sensitive cases. One was a confrontation with the negative acts towards emigrants and their children. Mrs. Al Hawati's paper was on the pri-

orities of the journalistic issues addressed to emigrants within the last ten years (Al Watan newspaper as an example). An analysis of the newspaper articles during the last ten years was included. During the first five years (85-90), the period before the unification of Yemen, 62% of the articles were focused on land violations and private property, 20% on cultural and sports materials and less for other subjects. During the second five years, (94-98) the newspaper's priorities changed, investment and economical cases occupied first place with a percentage of 55% of total articles and materials. The Chief-Editor of Al Watan newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Ministry of Emigrants Affairs added that such seminar has a positive role and wide audience, while the negative affects have minor role. The seminar was supposed to present a main paper by the Ministry of Emigrants Affairs, its past, present work and future plans.

The speech of the Minister of Emigrants Affairs, Dr. Ahmed Al Bishari, clarified the efforts of the ministry to solve all emigrants affairs, he indicated that there are many plans laid down by the ministry that looks forward to bring them to pass through cooperation with various concerned parts. The Minister stressed the importance of the participation factor for continuous development for all, inside and outside the country, and the emigrants have a basic role in the development process.

Great concern was shown by the political leadership towards the emigrants sector, the ministry holds great expectations on the coming conference on the investment sector, promoting a suitable atmosphere for the country. Many parts are cooperating with the Ministry to guarantee success for such a conference, besides other groups aiming to solve emigrants' issues.

Mrs. Al Hawati added that many cases were presented regarding the emigrants' difficulties, especially the ID case which many emigrants suffer from and which should be resolved soon. Besides the case of nationalized lands, where the Governor of Hadramout, Mr. Saleh Obad Al Kholani, solved this matter for a citizen of the province successfully. Other provinces such as Aden and Yafee still need solutions and their citizens are looking forward to get a decision on this regard the same as in the Hadramout. The seminar presented many useful ideas such as:

- Laying down certain mechanisms to deal with emigrants.
- Solve the current emigrants' issues.
- Finalize the cases of providing more facilities to emigrants and the ID issue, besides having more discounts on passport fees.
- Foundation of a study and data center at the Ministry of Emigrants Affairs. Some people called such center a database that could assist in the process of scientific researches regarding the phenomenon of immigration.

Mr. Hisham Ali Al Saqqaf, General Manager of TV and radio Production in Sayoon, presented a paper titled "Emigrants Participation in Development Projects in Hadramout". He stated that emigrants coming from Indonesia and East Asia bought many lands and held beneficiary projects such as Al Nahdha Schools in Sayoon, Terim Tie, Al Habashi Tie and Dar Al Sadaqa in Terim. The profits of these lands provide a continuing source for the projects. Other developed projects in Hadramout valley between the period 90-98 after unification were things such as building roads and hospitals, as well as other projects for rural development.

The paper was concluded by offering the following recommendations:

**First:** The great privileges of Investment Decree No. 22 for the year 1991 did not attract much investment by emigrants, or convince them to employ manpower and provide profit to the country, some obstacles stand in the way, such as:

1. No efficient infrastructure services as electricity, communication, etc.
2. No efficient correct information and data to study the benefits of investment projects.
3. Delaying investors cases as soon as they reach courts.
4. Clashes in investment law implementation with some concerned taxes and customs Authorities, such acts would form a doubtful image for the investor regarding the law.
5. Bureaucratic procedures with concerned institutes.
6. Having no industrial bank specialized in lending investment projects.
7. Amending the law of income tax no. 31/91, which is unsuitable to the privileges of the investment law.
8. Required comprehensive plans of investment areas in each province (agricultural - fishery - industrial - tourist) to be provided to the investors.
9. Preparation of studies on economical profits besides the provision of plans in various investment areas and promoting such variety among emigrants and investors.

**Second:** Some offices of the Ministry of Emigrants Affairs in some governorates have to be activated, besides finding a useful mechanism to deal with emigrants affairs inside and outside Yemen, a rec-



ommendation to open a minister's office in Hadramout and the desert.

**Third:** It is quite important to activate the role of our embassies abroad with Yemeni emigrants and tighten their relationship with their homeland, these embassies should be the main source of detailed information regarding issues related to investment and development of the country.

**Fourth:** The government should take some procedures that aim to strengthen the emigrants relations with their homeland such as:

1. Exempting emigrants' children who study in Yemen from residence fees, AIDS Test fees and other fees.
2. Provision of scholarships at Yemeni Institutes, Colleges and schools of higher education for the emigrants' and expatriates' children.
3. Delegating Yemeni teachers to travel abroad in Asia and Africa for the purpose of teaching Yemeni emigrants' children.
4. Holding periodical cultural festivals in these countries to introduce Yemeni civilization and folklore. This would aim to assist in promoting Yemen among emigrants and foreigners.



This is an OPINION pae.

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## English Language Teaching in Yemen Need of the Hour

**Dr. M. N. K. Bose**  
Dept. of English, Faculty of Education  
Hodeidah University, Hodeidah

In English teaching in Yemen, the need of the hour is neither revamping or revising the curriculum nor safeguarding Shakespeare or Milton; it is teaching the 'English-thirsty' Yemeni learners useful and simple English more sincerely and more efficiently than is perhaps being done at the moment.

Those who may be surprised about the 'English-thirstiness' of Yemeni learners are referred to the many letters to the Editor of Yemen Times whose writers express sincere hopes that their future generation would prosper with English. Moreover, a small survey some of my students undertook in 1997 showed clearly that students in the post-secondary level were really 'English-thirsty' and those at the secondary level were not against learning English. The girl students at both levels were madly in love with English, though they didn't know why! Why is there, then, a steady increase in the number of students seeking admission to English courses in the Faculties of Education?

Yemeni students need English in order to understand and be understood by their non-Arabic speaking teachers as long as they are in the university; later, they need English to understand their colleagues in the office, bank, factory or wherever they work with non-Arabic speakers. As businessmen they need English to advertise their goods, transact business in the international market, if they are importing and exporting goods; as industrialists they need English in order to promote their business in the international market, to deal business partnership with international companies, to recruit

men and women from non-Arabic speaking countries and supervise their work; as common men and women they need English in order to identify the labels of medicines they are buying in pharmacies or locate the shops some of whose name boards are in English in cities like Hodeidah, Sana'a, Aden or Taiz. Even a motorcyclist or a taxi driver needs English in order to understand the better-paying customers who do not know Arabic. The other day in a tailor shop, a Yemeni youth was struggling hard to make the tailor understand the design of the trousers he was ordering similar to the one he watched on the TV, for want of a simple English word; when he got the word from me, he was glad to use it in his Arabic description. And I remember a girl student who picked a quarrel with her teacher because she couldn't understand the difference between 'smiling at' and 'laughing at'. I am not arguing that Yemen will come to a standstill if there is no English, but we should acknowledge the fact that more and more Yemenis are realizing that they need more and more English in the days to come.

In this scenario, all our efforts should be pooled to see that useful English is taught at all levels - preparatory, secondary and post-secondary. The responsibility is greater at the Faculties of Education, where teachers of English are prepared for Yemeni schools. The activities which

take place in our classes should provide opportunities to the teacher-trainees to improve their English and develop in the abilities to create similar activities in their classes when they teach English in the future. Loading them with novels, whether Western or Eastern, or pumping into them Transformational generative or the Phrase Structure rules will not do the needful in their direction. What they need to develop is a set of skills to listen to speak, read and write, skills to refer to a dictionary or an atlas when necessary, to follow lectures in English, and skills to give responses in English suitable to questions, suitable to persons and suitable to situations. As teacher-educators we will be unfair, if we lose sight of this essential aspect in the teacher education courses calling in ELT bandwagon or whatever. One may suspect that it is a sour grape syndrome!

The literary jargons and advanced literary criticism may be useful to a small number of learners even on the literature courses conducted in the Faculties of Arts in a few universities, where most of the learners are struggling to read and understand the original works of modern writers and write continuous texts about what they read. Students on the Postgraduate course of this Department in our university find it difficult to cope with the six or seven novels they are expected to read and 'digest' on their course.

The English courses in the Faculties of Education should be geared to meet the challenges mentioned above. Unfortunately this is not happening in many faculties/universities in this country. The Hodeidah University recently revised the English course in the Faculty of Education with this important responsibility in mind, tailoring the content, to a large large extent, to suit the real needs of the future teachers. The focus of attention now is to develop the teacher trainees' proficiency in English through skill-based courses, grammar and spoken English course and a few courses in literature and their professional abilities through course which center round classroom teaching of English.

The curriculum change will eventually take place under pressure from the society as the change of materials came into effect recently. Having used ENGLISH FOR YEMEN for the last 15 - 20 years the government of Yemen thought it fit to replace it with a new course

called THE CRESCENT ENGLISH COURSE FOR YEMEN in 1994-1995 since they realized the need for teaching materials with new ideas and better outlook, presumably as a result of demand from teachers, parents, educationists and others who are interested in the English education of the children in this country. The new materials are colorful, attractive and they do 'catch' the children but they do not usher in the ideas of communicative teaching as most people think; THE ENGLISH FOR YEMEN course had a number of activities based on such idea. The new course has plenty of interesting tasks for learners to do on their own and in pairs, colorful pictures or photos to go with the reading texts and useful activities for developing all the necessary skills. But, as some of the teachers I talked to point out, the information content is heavy in Books 4 and 5. There is little doubt that the cultural context of the entire series needs rethinking. Creating an awareness of the culture of the target language is justifiable but the amount of time, space allotted for this purpose on a course and the usefulness of such information have to be kept in mind, especially on a course meant for school learners in an EFL (English as a Foreign Language) setting. Whether the Yemeni learners should be told about the Marib Dam or the Sabre Mountain more or about the Hadhrami's wall and the Lake District more is a careful decision the authors have to take. I understand that such a concern was voiced by the school inspectors who met in Sana'a in a workshop to review the new course books recently. When the government of Yemen is seriously planning to boost tourism in the country in the years to come, it is necessary that the school students should get more information about their own tourist places in their English books to prepare them to join the tourism industry if they choose to, rather than spend time to understand why black ravens hover over the Tower of London in England. The priorities have to be fixed carefully; it does not matter much whether 'air hostess' is introduced or 'railway station' in the book. No one can find fault with introducing Fuad Hassan and Paul Archer as neighbors (Course Book 4) but Mukalla fisherman who escapes drowning can be Hassan Omar instead of Jim Duffy (course Book 4).

### The Right to Respond

#### A Reply to Last Week's "Housing Co-operatives in Yemen" Focus Article

I take this opportunity to refer to the Article that was published in your esteemed paper on opinion page No. 15 dated 12th April, 1999 by Architect Kamal Haglan on the housing co-operatives in Yemen.

I have gone through this Article and am of the view that it is more theoretical rather than practical.

Despite being the senior most lawyer in Aden, I have not taken part in the negotiations and formations of the housing co-operatives. It happened that I was in the office of the legal counsel at the Little Aden Refinery and by coincidence I heard one of the laborers shouting at the top of his voice about being deprived of his moneys in the housing co-operatives and that laborer was saying, although they were luckier to have a plot of land and yet this land has its own problems and nothing seems to happen that shows any progress in the right way towards to achieving their desired goals.

With due respect, Architect Kamal Haglan, though a duly qualified graduate of the Newcastle University- upon Tyne U.K. seems that perhaps he has - with my apologies - insufficient knowledge about the actual facts of the problems being faced by these Housing Co-operatives. Hence I would advise him to pay visits to some of these housing co-operatives and find out the progress alleged to have been achieved and the mess they are actually in and to advise them as to how to solve the problems in order to achieve their desired goals.

We all know that hundreds and thousands of employees have contributed in these housing co-operatives and yet those amounts contributed are still meagre and yet such amounts will glow bigger and bigger with a hope always that eventually in a couple of years or so they will be having a suitable accommodations of their own a dream that shall Insha'alla becomes true. I repeat that the employees and the housing co-operatives are in the same boat, that is because the scheme was not properly studied and administrated by qualified persons. Some of these co-operatives are completely varnished into thin air and no one seems to be held liable and the others have not achieved any useful gains and in some cases no one seems to be accountable to submit proper audited account annually.

For your information, my Law Firm is prepared to render any legal assistance and we may be able to render and I shall allot two of my assistants to see that help is rendered and I hope that Architect Kamal Haglan will not refrain from participating as an expert to give his expert opinion and render assistance whenever and wherever possible.

Mohamed Shafi A. Karim.

The need of the hour, let me repeat with stress, is teaching simple useful English to the well-motivated Yemeni learners in schools and preparing Yemeni teachers of English for this job. Let us realize the need and meet the challenges. Happy English Language Teaching!

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# People Await Better Public Services After the US\$ 50 Million of the WB

The World Bank approved a credit of the equivalent of US\$ 50 million to support a Public Sector Management Adjustment Project last month (March 23, 1999). The credit will support policy actions designed to improve the public sector's performance in Yemen. The availability of this financing will mitigate the negative impact of the sharp fall in oil prices during 1998 on the balance of Yemen's debt repayments.

The reform of the public sector is the next critical phase in the ongoing economic reform program the Government of Yemen has been implementing since 1996. The first phase of reforms successfully lowered inflation, stabilized the currency and introduced crucial reforms in liberalizing trade, as well as improving the working of the financial sector and the environment for investment.

"The credit is the first in a series of public sector management adjustment operations," says Inder Sud, World Bank Director of the Middle East Department. "This operation supports specific actions in two major areas. First: supporting the program of the civil service reform, which includes focusing the roles of the Government ministries on crucial functions, reengineering selected public agencies, and restructuring the public sector labor force. Second: the program supports the restructuring of public expenditures, which involves creating an improved project data base, prioritizing sectoral expenditures, and making adequate provisions for operations and maintenance budgets. In addition, the reform program also supports improvements in the budgeting process and broadening the tax base through the introduction of a generalized sales tax.

As an integral part of the program, the World Bank is supporting measures to assist the poor during the adjustment period. A second public works project is being implemented and the operations of the Social Fund for Development (SFD) have been expanded. The SFD, supported by the Bank, finances microenterprises which create employment amongst the poorest people of Yemen.

The credit, whose documents will be signed on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 at the Ministry of Planning and Development, will be disbursed in a single payment of US\$ 50 million. The credit is on standard IDA (International Development Association, which provides financing on highly favorable loans for the world's poorest countries) terms with a 40-year maturity, a 10 year grace period, and 0.75% service charge.

It is worth to mention that the World Bank stated that it is willing to lend Yemen up to seven-hundred-million dollars over the next three years if the government continues an economic reform program. The Middle East director for the bank, Inder Sud, said in Sanaa that the loans would be allocated for improvements to Yemen's local and national government administration systems; to the water supply, education and health sectors; and to encouraging private enterprise. Inder Sud called on the Yemeni government to stick its reform policies, which had enabled the World Bank to increase its funding compared with the four-hundred-and-twenty-million dollars allocated over the past three years.

Hatem Bamehriz of the Yemen Times attended the World Bank Press Conference related to this latest credit to Yemen last Tuesday, the 13th of April at the Ministry of Planning and Development, and interviewed the following people.

Mr. Inder Sud, Director of the Middle East Department of the World Bank.

**Q: What are the World Bank's commitments to basic issues of employment, poverty and meeting the needs of people?**

**Mr. Inder Sud:** First of all, we have not forgotten about the basic issues of employment, poverty and meeting the basic needs of people. These things are part of the package that any government must continue to deal with, and without growth you can not look after the social needs and the improvement of public administration. This is a package of programs that we certainly want to support it fully. What I said in my statement is that in the next three years, besides continuing with things like social funding, and public works that we are working on, we would like to pick a few areas where we can make a big push. It seems to us in Yemen that the education of children and women is very important. That is why we give the matter prominence, but it does not mean we forget about other areas. It is just to point out that in the next few years we will be giving a greater push in this area.

**Q: What is the expected percentage of growth in 1999?**

**Minister:** We hope that in 1999 we can achieve 5.3% growth in the gross local production according to market prices. But I feel that, due to the sharp fall in

oil prices which are an essential part of our exports, if we reach 3.8% or 4% it means that we have achieved a minor miracle. Achieving such growth in production, not only in the Arab areas but in most countries of the world is not an easy task; but we hope that our country can achieve such growth. Of course, we will do our best to achieve this number and we will definitely publicize the results. We expect that in the year 2000 our growth will be about 4%, in 2001 the figure could be 4.5%, and in 2002 we could reach 5%, which are reasonable figures. It means a lot to us to achieve higher growth rates.

**Q: Would you please give us statistical information on unemployment, inflation and the gross national product?**

**Minister:** I would like to state that the concept of indicators has two meanings: expected indicators and achieved indicators. When you talk about an indicator, it refers to an expected indicator and by the end of the year we hope to come to the estimated figures, maybe slightly more or less, which is the normal case. Regarding unemployment percentages in Yemen, which is still high, there is no annual data on this subject. We are keen to fix this problem, but during the population census of 1994, the unemployment level reached 27-30%. There are new concepts in specifying the meaning of unemployment, but I think that within

year 1999 in November and December, but during implementation there were some disappointments, now our expectations are much better than in November and December. The deficit might decrease greatly; the loan we have signed today with the WB will assist the government to reduce the budget deficit expected for the year 1999. The planned gross products, despite the fact that there is no way to achieve a planned gross product, but if we manage to achieve a certain growth percentage that is 4%; it is a good indicator. If a lower percentage is achieved it means a reasonable level of success. The inflation percentage achieved in 1998 was about 6%.

**Q: What is the expected budget deficit for the year 1999?**

**A:** The budget deficit that we were expecting for the year 99 during preparation of the budget was about 3.8 %. But we hope now that such a deficit would decrease to reach a better figure than in 97 and 98. At the end of the year I could tell you the exact figure.

**Q: What are the issues you concentrate on? And how do you utilize these loans from the World Bank?**

**A:** The basic issues that we deal

improvement of the implementation and quality of the administration apparatus.

These are some of the most important issues that we are looking forward to achieving with the extended efforts of the concerned parties at the ministries. In this framework we concentrate on basic issues, for instance, what has been implemented during the last few months regarding essential matters we deal with daily. In one such case, the issue of Sanaa's sewage, a very vital case related to the public health, the ministry of electricity and water, the general authority of water sanitation and the ministry of planning and development worked jointly to increase the efforts toward dividing the expected loans and grants from the Arab fund and the World Bank. Now we guarantee reasonable amount to enter this aspect soon in 7-8 areas in the capital. Besides Al Mukala, Al Hoddeida and Taiz sewage water, there are projects that are estimated at US \$ 270 million within the coming period. The main directions in this period is laying out future strategies and improving the implementation of all projects institutions.

**Q: What are the targets achieved by the reforms**

Frankly, the concept of administrative reform does not mean only the reform of prices, it is much wider. We think that we have almost finished the prices reform. Regarding construction and management reform programs, such tasks require sustained efforts and widespread procedures as improvement of the various institutional performance and improvement of services. The citizens experienced some changes, some have benefited while the others have lost, such as one employee who had 4-5 jobs and received many salaries. Definitely there will be a huge affected portion describing this phase as a painful one, which is not, on the contrary it is a useful one.

**Q: Is the agreement with WB conditional?**

**A:** Conditions; a financier or a loaner should lay down certain conditions, as a matter of course. When you go to the bank to borrow some money, the bank will ask things such as what is the purpose of this loan, especially if the loan is a facilitated one with a 40-year maturity and an interest of less than 1%, like a grant.

**Q: What is the expenditure value of the loaners for their consultations?**

**A:** We should realize that any



the coming years we will have accurate annual and semiannual data to deal with this matter. Our database is still limited in Yemen. The inflation rate that we are expecting to encounter for the year 1999, is approximately 5%, but we might reach a lower figure. We are quite optimistic, the implementation level up to now indicates good potential. There was great optimism during preparation of the expected budget deficit for the

with are those necessary issues of civil services, improvement of judicial implementation, and dealing with our troubles and difficulties such as population growth, qat, security, and weapons. These issues the government deals with require some support from various public and political institutions, for instance the political competition. Such matters require a unified vision regarding qat, merging women into the society, education, the

**process so far?**

**A:** The taken procedures aimed to improve the level of implementation on such various aspects as reducing the outlay on imported grain led to many advantages. First, it enabled Yemeni farmers to compete with the imported quality, secondly it improved the government's ability to redirect funds that used to go into subsidization into real investment aspects, such as the education and health sectors.

project requires certain directions from other nation's experiences, and our own experiences. When we talk about privatization, the transportation sector for instance, such a matter needs a clear vision and examples of privatization, studies and researches, these things require certain capabilities that we do not have. As a government we are trying our best to deal with these projects effectively, and implement our development goals.



# Demining Efforts Continue

Yemen and its people have suffered a lot from the mines that were planted during the conflicts and wars between former North and South Yemen, and especially during the latest civil war against secessionists in 1994. However, things are being done, and tangible results are now evident. A meeting on this matter, coordinated by the Yemen 21 Forum was held on Tuesday, 13th of April 1999 between Qassim Abdulsalam Al-Sheybani, the manager of National Demining Program and the Canadian Alternatives for a Different World Organization representative, Mr. Hammouda Sobhi. Mr. Sobhi has just completed a visit to Yemen that was aimed to get a clearer view of what is being done about demining in Yemen. During his visit, Mr. Sobhi obtained a complete overview of the efforts of the National Demining Program and the stages that have been completed, the stages remaining, and future plans. He was also given information about how long the program is expected to last, and how effective it will be in clearing all dangerous mines in the areas where they had been planted all over the country.

The purpose of the demining program, which is being directed by the national demining committee, and is being implemented by the technical implementation unit, is to spread awareness of mines and how to avoid them, help mine victims in all possible ways, and to seek out hidden mines and removing or destroying them. As one of the first 40 countries that signed the Ottawa Agreement, which prohibited the use of mines, and aims to destroy what is left of them, Yemen is now increasing its efforts in this regard. Al-Sheybani also displayed the contributions of NGOs and international organizations and the government to the demining program. He specifically stated the main foreign contributor was the United States of America in qualifying and training Yemeni personnel, in providing the equipment and facilities necessary for the demining fieldwork, and in rebuilding some of the establishments that are used to administrate the demining work. Besides the USA, Japan, Canada, the UN, and the Swedish Rada Barns Organization have also contributed to the demining program. Mr. Al-Sheybani emphasized the Canadian role in supporting the program on both the governmental and non-governmental level, which reflects the strengthening relations between the two countries.

On his behalf, Mr. Hammouda explained the activities and course his organization is taking to assure its effectiveness and functionality on all

fronts regarding demining efforts. His organization's goal is to encourage public participation in developing the local society and in building a communication network between communities on an international level through various NGO. In fact, "Alternatives" is about to start helping several Yemeni rural areas improve their health services through direct coordination with local NGOs in those areas. Initially, there are four villages in the southern governorates the organization will be starting with. In two of them, there are already a large number of handicapped and disabled people, mostly due to the mines planted during the 1994 civil war, and some due to the explosions of some of UXO bombs near their villages. Several volunteer doctors and Aden's training center plus other organizations will be participating in this demining program through offering medical attention and special equipment to help the handicapped in walking, etc.

Mr. Hammouda also expressed his organization's willingness to give more attention to the national demining program, and to further cooperate with the program's administration on all levels to through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh, and the permanent consul of Canada, Mr. Abdulmalik Zabara. Unlike other organizations, Alternatives does not operate from permanent establishments out of Canada, hence it encourages communication and cooperation with NGOs with various interests. In this regards, a deal has been struck initially between the two parties, the Alternatives Organization, and the National Demining Program to leave communication lines between them open to be as effective as possible in dealing with the essential needs required to implement the demining program efficiently. The two parties also agreed to work on increasing awareness among citizens, and to train personnel on dealing with mine related incidents and other explosions, and to perhaps open prosthetics and physiotherapy centers that could provide support appliances, wheelchairs, knee sockets, artificial limbs, etc. for mine victims.

The Canadian government had provided the National Demining Program 10 protective suits worth almost US\$ 100,000 through MED Engineering. Another contribution of the Canadian government is the major financing of the mining social, economic effects field study which is being promoted by the United Nation through D.KO-UNMAS project, which will start later this year, and which is expected to cost more than USD 1.3 Million. On another level, there is correspondence between the National Demining Program and the Canadian Organization ADRA, which will be carrying out several health and social activities in a number of rural areas in Tihama (Western coast of Yemen). Other than that, CIDA also is contributing to the same field.

It is worth mentioning that last February, a Canadian delegation containing members from the Canadian Development Agency and Med-Engineering, along with representatives of the Canadian Embassy in Riyadh had visited Yemen. The delegation then met with the National Demining Program administration along with the National Demining Committee and led to the agreement on the contribution Canada will be offering for the ongoing demining program in Yemen.

By: Mohamed Bin Sallam  
Yemen Times



## Aiming to Care for Our Elderly in These Difficult Times

# The Ministry of Health Celebrates the International Health Day for the Elderly

A gathering took place in the Cultural and Health National Center in Sanaa on Monday, the 12th of April 1999 on the occasion of the 7th anniversary of the International Health Day, which is celebrated on the third of April of every year. The gathering met under the theme "The Elderly's Health Depends on The Continuation of Their Activities."

The Health Minister, Dr. Abdullah Abdulwali Nashir, opened the gathering with a welcoming speech to all participants and attendants. In his speech he mentioned this day as a day when we honor the elderly and encourage them to continue their life and their active and important role in society. He also added, "Elderly people are our parents. Our religion, Islam has always encouraged us to take good care of them, and to provide them with all they need to live a happy and healthy life." The minister also called for all welfare associations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to contribute to the government's efforts to build several health care centers in Sanaa and in other Yemeni governorates. He also pledged them to try their utmost to help the elderly cope with life in the difficult

conditions our country is going through. The minister expressed gratitude to the World Health Organization (WHO) for its humanitarian role in society, and for its strong support for all health, cultural, and educational activities in Yemen.

Following the welcome speech, the representative of WHO, Dr. Mohamed Al-Khateeb gave a statement thanking the Ministry of Health -in spite of its economic difficulties- for its tangible efforts in trying to enhance and improve health services for the elderly. He also stated that elderly people should never be neglected or ignored, but should always be cared for because they are an

important part in society. Mr. Seyf Al-Shamy, the Manager of the Cultural and Health National Center also gave a welcoming speech to all of the guests and indicated that most elderly Yemenis are still working in their fields, and are still serving society in numerous ways. He also asked media organizations to give greater coverage to this issue, and asked them to try and spread awareness among Yemenis of the importance of providing help and caring for the elderly, who are an indispensable part of society. At the end of the gathering, the Minister, along with the participants including the UNDP and WHO distributed various gifts to guests attending the gathering.



## UNITED NATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



UNDP

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following post in its project YEM/97/300 in Sana'a

### This position is open to Yemeni national ONLY

Accountant - Project Accounts Components NCSSN+NAPPE and Capacity Building.

#### Duties and Responsibilities:

under the overall supervision of CTA, Minister of Insurance & Social Affairs and UNDP act as a full time accountant to carry out the following duties:

1. Develop and operationalise auditable and transparent accounting and administrative procedures line with the above project;
2. Carry out the accounting work with the project activities and other related subproject components;
3. Elaborate a simple, yet accountable and transparent system of management for the operations of the following component NCSSN/NAPPE Capacity Building and Productive families;
4. Monitor the accounts of the project and its various components;
5. Carry out the regular reporting of financial transactions and account status for the project, including online reporting... etc;
6. Any other duties involved.

#### Qualifications/Experience/Skill requirements:

Certified accountant status excellent knowledge of Arabic and English and minimum of 5 years of experience in dealing with accounting issues of high-pressure, high efficiency, results-oriented international projects, and familiarity with UN, Government, and NGO accounting procedures, pleasant, humble, honest and co-operative personality makes up the rest of the reach requirements for this post. Familiarity with and ability to use accounting, spreadsheet and database software will be also required.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with detailed curriculum vitae in English to:

National Poverty Alleviation Programme  
Opposite Al-Mankal Restaurant  
Building No. 31

Tel No.: 206271 / 216222 Fax No: 400384 - Attention: Secretary Shams

- Applications should be received no later than 25th April, 1999;
- Applications received after this date will not be considered.
- Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgement will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the post.



# Yemen TV on Trial

Media plays an important role in the different areas of the life of the people, particularly in our modern age, where the cultural communication between nations has become very close. In other words, it has a paramount role in shaping the public opinion, educating as well as entertaining the rank and file. In short, this age is described as the age of information and media. However, the pivotal role of the media can be visibly noticed in democratic societies, where it is honored with the position of "fourth estate", for it works very hard to correct misdeeds. To make this easy, the TV / RADIO media in a society like Yemen where the illiterate people rate is staggeringly estimated at 87% and around 70% of the population live in the countryside where the written media doesn't reach, is still having a top priority in shaping the public opinion. The Yemeni TV is my concern here. It is lashed by a large number critical remarks from many people. I will leave the evaluation of its work to its audience, who seem to be wholly fed up. Some people are blessed with the other Arab and international TV channels, yet some others are still troubled by the terrible programs of our TV. I should say that I am not interested in criticizing for the sake of criticism, rather I have tried to see the Yemeni Satellite TV channel's audiences' opinion of their TV. It is these people who can judge it well and their constructive comments that might help improve its work if these notes are taken into account. This is because the TV in is still monopolized by the government which should either improve the performance of the current channel, or let independent TV channels be launched.

In short, I talked with different Yemeni people who candidly and openly gave their comments as follows:

## 1- Abdulrahman Al-Huthaifi Taiz University

To call a spade a spade, one must say that the Yemeni Satellite TV channel has made few strides ahead since it was established. But, there are certain shortcomings which I think can be avoided easily if the people in charge are willing to do it. The first thing is that some of its announcers are not well-qualified and the result is a poor performance. What is unfortunate is that if any announcer tries to distinguish himself as a talent, he/she is taken over to another rich Arab channel.

Under the pretext of encouraging talented persons, the Yemeni TV is unconsciously doing harm to our great heritage of Yemeni songs by presenting persons wrongly called singers whose performance gets on our nerves, while ignoring very famous ones who have made great contributions in promoting Yemeni songs.

Another point is that all serials are taken from other channels where they have been already presented. Thus only those who are not blessed by the satellite can see them for the first time. This is a problem, for we have directors and actors who could do wonders if they are given chance.

## 2- Rafeeq Musleh Ad'Dubais Student

In spite of the improvements made by Yemeni TV so far, we have some reasons that are separating us from it. The people operating the Yemeni TV do not consider the audience at all. Let me tell you how. In addition to their boring pro-

grams, they even say something and do something else. To be more clear, they something announce that they will present a particular program after, for instance, the 9 o'clock news.

This makes us wait for it, but surprise, we get to watch a different program. What do you call this? Carelessness, indifference or what? Isn't that disappointing and disgusting too? Another thing is that the Yemeni TV broadcasts its programs to its audience in Yemen for a specific period of time, they can watch it only after 2:00 p.m. which is completely different from other Arab satellite channels which broadcast for both local and overseas audience equally. Besides, some programs have a good start but unfortunately, after some time they become boring and monotonous.

## 3- Nada Yahia Qanber Student

In my point of view, the Yemeni TV has made some good steps recently. This is if we compare it with how it was in the past. However, it is not able to complete the other Arab and international TV channels. In fact, it doesn't reflect the real picture of Yemen. The choice of the programs is supposed to attract and draw the audience. Rather, the programs are very boring and are not innovative. This makes people search for their solace and distraction in some other channel. In other words, it seems that there is not a well-thought out plan for the people in authority for creating programs that could educate our society, which badly needs a real information and cultural revolution. The entertaining programs, moreover, are not presented in appropriate times. The announcers, who are not less important than the programs themselves, lack many qualities that are necessary for announcers to talk smoothly, easily and coherently on television. Watching them, one really feels unhappy because they are not educated fully so as to be able to illuminate and enlighten the society. The reason is that most of them join the TV through favoritism and nepotism, the two main headaches of a country that has lost many talents.

## 4- Ibtihaq Mahdi Abdullah Karate Player

I think that instead of talking about the pros and cons of any TV channels, we should talk about the potentials and factors of success of any channel, comparing it with the others. Actually, I am not very much interested in watching the Yemeni TV for longer periods of time, since we have been arrested by the highly delighting, entertaining and diversified programs of the other channels. I believe our TV could make some good strides ahead if it considers the following notes:

1- The kind of decoration that is suitable for each program. We find that in our TV no attention is given to this thing which really affects the presentation and efficiency of the programs.

2- Another point inviting the attention of the people in charge of our TV is that the announcers should be very qualified should they can attract the people to our TV.

Unfortunately, most of our announcers seems to be unaware of how improve their potential and skills. If one watches them clearly, he/she can notice that they commit many linguistic errors. They can't talk easily and often have to refer to the text in front of them.

3- Improving the quality of the programs and avoiding repetition of very old ones which people are very much fed up with.

4- We also notice that the amount of news items is very abundant. Moreover, the presentation of the

news is very monotonous for they start with the local news. In other words, they do not consider the importance of the event or the news item.

## 5- Ibtihaq Ahmad Al-Adimi Student

As a matter of fact, when our TV started satellite broadcasting, we expected that a radical change would take place. To the contrary, we have missed a good many useful programs like Malaga Atalfazyon, Ikhtarna lakum, Surah, Alam Ageeb, Akhtaber Malumatak Wa Gawaz, etc. which I hope will be rebroadcast again. These programs delighted us a lot.

Our TV is plagued with many problems like the repetition of the programs, films and serials, the huge amount of frequently repeated news items, inefficient and unqualified announcers who help in raising the boredom of the audience. To be more frank, I sometimes prefer the Second Channel which presents useful programs. Even Al-Barnamaj Al-Maftooh has become very boring.

## 6- Nasim Abdulhafiz Al-Qadasi Student

I think everybody who watches the Yemeni TV channels and other channels can see the difference. Our TV programs are very poor with their cultural and scientific content. The way they are presented is also very poor. This makes them boring and hence the audience starts looking for a better alternative and, of course, they can find it on the satellite. Therefore, they watch their own TV, picking what they like, but ignoring the Yemeni TV.

I feel certain changes have to take place so that our TV can live up to the level of the other channels which have fully succeeded in conveying their messages. That is, our announcers should be chosen from among the elite educated people. It has also to be provided with some equipment like cameras, decoration and light. New programs have to be invented. It is only in this way that our TV can flourish and be a real media instrument.

## 7- Dr. Ghazi Mansur Ameen Vice Dean, Faculty of Arts, Taiz University

I no longer feel interested in watching the Yemeni TV since I found my solace in other channels which consider the interest of the watchers and are conscious of the priority of the news items. But our channel does not consider this matter.

Another point which has to be raised here is that language of the announcers on our TV is very weak and unacceptable. They are also not confident while talking or reading. This makes the audience feel disgusted to see such things and repeated language mistakes. They sometimes give news items without photos, which means it might as well be broadcast on the radio. A good program that has won my interest is Sahrat Al-Khamis. But in some other programs, like Mann Al-Masool or Who Is Responsible? we find that the presenter of the program speaks more than he should. He wants to show that the government is not responsible for the misdeeds while in reality it is. So, the Yemeni TV needs a lot of innovations and amendments. It should also reflect that we are really in a democratic country and that democracy

is a living practice. The room given to the opposition and independent thinkers and opinion-makers is not there at all. It has never hosted people like Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf, Dr. Abu Baker Al-Saqqaf or Mohammed al-Maqalih etc. Recently, we wanted to see why some of the most famous journalists have not participated in the Journalists Conference. We want even to see some silver lining, that there is an improvement in the democracy of the media in Yemen. I think the media is a real translation of the one-track mentality of the government. The only way out is the privatization of the media in Yemen. The government should be liberal in economy, politics and media.

## 8- Bushra Al-Maktari A short story teller

I feel sometimes forced to watch the Yemeni TV because I have no other choice. There are no other options easily available to me. Yemeni TV's serials are frequently repeated and monotonous. It applies the policies of the government totally, and it doesn't consider the interests of the people. It lacks all the means of making its programs very exciting for the viewers. It does not serve the society, since it is not interested in discussing its ordeals and problems. We do really feel that it is not meant for us. Sometimes it copies other channels even in their social issues which are not necessarily like ours. I think only the ordinary people watch it for educated people can not find the new information or interesting and amusing programs that can quench their thirst in the age of information and knowledge.

## 9- Dhya Hamoud Razaz Student

First of all, I thank you for you have brought a very important topic for discussion. We wanted this to be done by the Yemeni TV itself, for it is only through such questions that it can improve its work. The people in charge of the TV should understand that we are living in an era of information influx where it can no longer exercise a black-out on information. With the blessings of the other Arab and International channels which present everything new, Yemeni TV is being left behind. On our TV, news items, for instance, are very old and are repeated many times. Sometimes, they even cut off broadcasting of a live program or match, like what happened with Nasim's last match, to present an outdated news item. I believe the Yemeni TV could achieve some progress if its announcers were well trained and well paid. They should also pay more attention to the question of producing local serials.

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

الف مبروك  
نهنيء ونبارك للأستاذين/ عبد الجبار حزام عبده  
ومنيير احمد محمد  
بمناسبة دخولهما القفص الذهبي فالف مبروك  
المهنؤون :  
فيصل عيادي ضيعان الأستاذ/ سلطان عبدالله مقبل  
الأستاذ/ زياد مجاهد، الأستاذ/ طارق مجاهد احمد  
محمد عيادي ضيعان

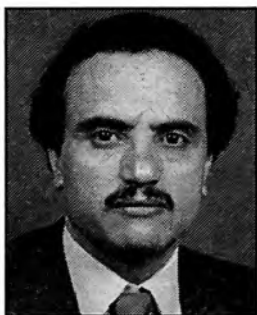


## On the occasion of the international day of theatre Theatre in Yemen, Experience and Ambitions

Theatre is the nations' language; the much concern it receives the higher the society could rise. Theatre, criticizes bad habits and offers the good ones. For live nations it represents a school to educate generations for the vital art that awakens conscious and opens minds. As a nation that still traces the past we need more than one theatre to enhance the important of its message.

In the past, theatre was founded as simple as possible to express man's drama resulted from confrontation between him and natural powers that were difficult to be understood besides controlling such powers and subjecting them to his interests and desires. Talking about theatre in Yemen we should reply to two questions with loyalty and objectivity, they are:

1. Have theatre in Yemen succeeded as an experience and achieved its ambition?
2. What are the necessary steps



By- Ismail Al-Ghabiry  
Yemen Times

and substantial basis to have a developed theatre movement in Yemen?

For the first question, we could say that theatre experience in Yemen, for professional or immature, has accomplished many achievements and success through its long journey started in 1910 up to 1987. This experience gave its role in forming number of playgroups, official and private, and introducing this art to the public where the later began to visit such shows and reacts with them.



Despite the long history of this experience and its huge achievements, theatre was not given its fair chance or practiced its real rights. Theatre remained unstable, between success and failure; it did not pass the stage of experience to a stage of practical construction and development. Therefore theatre couldn't reach its goals or achieve its moral, social and cultural ambitions besides finding wide understanding audience to acknowledge its abilities and to create a case of initiation.

It is quite obvious that the incapability of theatre in Yemen to achieve its ambitions has some logical reasons within the whole

case of obstacles, they are as follows:

1. Bad programming and planning

Having no regular well planned theatre seasons besides inefficient periods of time for the plays limits the creative abilities of the actors and the directors which affect the play negatively and create an obstacle against audience who could feel the theatre's cultural and artistic reality.

2. Plays usually submit to official occasion:

Having no regular play programs and usually connecting such shows with official occasions and publicity purposes. A basic factor of creating a theatre crisis and disabled its activities and development. Therefore such situation should be changed and the connection between plays and official occasions should be stopped. Only then the theatre could reach the audience and develop its performance and reaction with the people.

3. No specialized places for plays equipped with basic necessary facilities.

There is no doubt that well equipped play centers play an important role in the success of the show.

4. Officials could not understand or comprehend the real role of theatre.

It is well known that nations civilizations are measured with their sciences, acknowledgment and arts, theatre represents one of the civilized faces of nations, but unfortunately misunderstanding the real concept of theatre and its important messages caused fatal withdraw of the literary and cultural movement.

5. No official concern or care are paid to theatre where it could achieve its ambitions, such matter resulted many things such as:

- No encouragement to artistic groups to participate in Arab festivals whenever there is a chance.



• No encouragement to literary writers and authors.

- No permission to create immature groups with total independence.

• Theatre subject is not included among educational programs, besides no play groups formations in schools with special festivals at the end of each studying year.

6. No plays criticism. Objective play criticism based on accurate scientific bases would perform an important and active role in improving the level of writing, raise the level of creation and support the theatre message with all human and social concepts.

While the second question's answer would be: If theatre movement in Yemen needs to be improved and take its pioneering role in renewing the national culture and revolutionary acts, or to stand on developed artistic basis the following factors has to be provided:

1. The State and concerned officials should pay more attention to theatre, directing this move to implement active roles in educating wide audience to achieve their ambitions and dreams of social construction and moral improvement and civilized progress. Such terms are featured in the following:

- A. Laying out well-planned annual program to organize theatre seasons guarantee a case of continuousness with audience and apart from publicity purposes.

- B. Need to form people's play group and another one as a travelling group with a task of presenting plays at the rural areas of Yemen.

C. Necessity of having a child theatre for the importance in the upbringing and education process.

Stressing on the idea that theatre represents science, culture and civilization, not as some narrow minded considered such art as a distortion and an act of the devils.

D. Play Groups should have more freedom in moving from one place to another for the purpose of presenting their shows in all over the country and not limiting their performances in the capital and big cities.

In conclusion theatre movement in Yemen can take one the following contradictory paths:

Either taking the direction of commercial theatre depending on clowning and joking for the purpose of fast material gain which resulted into a weak-structured theatre with no potentials to achieve its ambitions and goals. Or take the direction of serious national theatre basing on real mature tradition and moral concepts aims to improve the level of Yemeni citizen, connecting him/her with the human heritage and express his/her feelings of pain and sorrows, trying to solve daily problems that imposes the development process he/she look forward to obtain, destroying backwardness ties and change the false reality resulted from the influence of colonization before the revolution. This will lead to constructing a developed Yemeni theatre movement.

## How Islam Views The Relationship between a husband and a wife!

I was having an intensive course in "Teaching methods and language improvement" in England. There I came to meet many people from different countries and of various religions. WE used to chat and hold debates on the similarities and differences among religions and cultures. We mainly focused on marriage conventions and both the rights and roles of men and women in society. Actually, at the beginning they accused Islam of treating women unfairly. They said that women in Islam are considered to be inferior to men. They also alleged that women are wronged and enslaved by their husbands.

In fact these people drew this unfounded conclusion about Islam due to the poor knowledge they had about it. this in turn let them to persist in misunderstanding Islam. However, if they had penetrated deeply into this great religion, they, themselves, would have absolved it from those complete faulty and lying accusations and would have realized that Islam is infallible.

As a Muslim caring for his religion, I am presenting this article to all those who may mis-comprehend the reality of this true religion, I will mainly focus on how Islam plans and views the

relationship between a Muslim husband and a wife and how to make strong bonds between them.

The fact we all have to understand is that Islam is an entire way of life which offers guidance for us in all matters. Allah who is the all-knowing and the all-wise has taken account of everything concerns mankind. The solutions to all of our problems have been included in Islam and nothing has been overlooked. The marriage life as a vital aspect in our life has been carefully assigned great importance.

To make marriage a success and prosperity, both partners must take it seriously. They have to come together to tackle any problems. They also assist one another and sacrifices in order to get returned pleasure and peace. To reach this Allah has designated specific roles for both a husband and a wife which harmonize with each one's natural abilities. Of course the corporal, spiritual and mental formation of both men and women has been given a considerable importance. Only when these roles and rights are observed and their obligations are fulfilled, can security surround them in their success. Islam confirms that if husbands

or wives do not honor and fulfill their duties, the household surely becomes a living hell.

In Islam both partners should enjoy some characteristic that help them to make their life more fruitful. They should firstly possess fear of Allah and piety of the heart that lead to forming a strong foundation for manners, morals and good deeds. This fear must impact upon their relationship and reciprocal dealing.

Among the most important responsibilities of Muslim husbands and wives towards each other is to help obeying the commands of Allah. If one of them exceeds the limits of Allah, the other should advise and prevent him/her from doing so. Also if one of them is more knowledgeable about Islam, it becomes his/her duty to teach the other partner what he/she knows. Since husbands and wives spend a lot of time together, they get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses well. For this reason both can be the best advisor for each other in even hard situations.

Islam always encourages making a strong bond and true cooperation between a wife and a husband. At home for instance, most

of the time women care for the house and children. However, this does not mean that it should be her responsibility alone. A man has to appreciate and realize the amount of effort that goes into keeping the house clean, children cared for and the meals prepared. In other words, what a wife does at home must not be treated with contempt. Finally, each Muslim husband should remember that our prophet, Mohammed, peace be upon him who represents the most excellent example of conduct used to actively participate in the house work. It was never a problem for him though he was the ruler of Madinah commanding general of the military and Allah's chosen messenger. Muslim wives, on the other side, must remember the unexampled lives of our prophet's wives who represent the best examples of conduct towards husbands.

By: Abdullah Saleh Hussein  
Alhashedi

### OPEN HOUSE

AMIDEAST  
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Friday, April 30, 1990

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# Letters to the Editor

## I Want To Not Chew Qat When in Yemen, But How?

I was born in Al\_Aarok, a rural area in the Taiz governorate. I lived there until I was 12 or 13 years old. Then, we moved to our new house in Taiz. I can say living in the countryside is a completely different type of life. So, my new life started when I moved to Taiz. I love Taiz more than any city in the whole world. I left on December 10th, 1996. I have been in USA for two years and four months so far. I live in Texas, and I have not been to Yemen since, and I feel very bad because I could not go back since I left. At first, when I came to USA, I hated it so much, but I am now used to the life here, and it is okay. I am in my second year of study in management information system. It is a field about business and computers. I am planning to go back to Yemen inshaallah someday in the near future. I am a residence here, and three years from now, I will be American citizen. However, I am willing to going back because I can't live far from my country, Yemen. When I was in Yemen, I used to be addicted to Qat, but when I left I stopped chewing that evil plant. Of course it is a bad plant. Almost half of the Yemeni budget goes to consume Qat. The problem of Qat in Yemen is not limited to a few people, but it is a problem, for the whole society, which should be solved by the government, before it is too late. Of course I hate Qat, but you can't go anywhere in Yemen. All people there chew it all the time. So, I used to chew Qat while study. Now I thank Allah I don't chew it anymore. But I am not sure whether I will chew it when I go back to Yemen. If I don't chew Qat, where can I go? I studied in Taiz in Nasser school. I finished the high school and came to USA. We are thinking to move to New York with the family. Currently, we live in Houston, Texas. I wish I could go to Yemen next Ramadan. For people who are can connect to the Internet, why don't you all join us in the Yemen club? The web address for the Yemen club is [www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/yemen](http://www.clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/yemen). It has many good things like Yemen radio, all Yemen and Arab newspapers, Yemen and Arab songs, and much more.

**Jamal Mohammad Al\_Araki**  
USA  
Email : [gamos2@yahoo.com](mailto:gamos2@yahoo.com)

## There is No Where Like Home, Even San Francisco

I currently live in San Francisco in the west cost of the United States. I am a senior in Marketing at SFSU San Francisco State University. I have been here for almost four years. From my first day of stay in the USA, I have not talk to any of my friends who used to study with me in school in Taiz.

I hope one day I will receive e-mail from any one of them. I am sure that I will miss San Francisco when I go back to Yemen the city that have a lot of my memories. San Francisco is a very beautiful city and it is worth a visit. I can spend hours talking about how nice, beautiful and great this city is, but it still won't be enough to express my true love to this city. I have been to other cities inside the US but I have not see any thing like Taiz. I am really so fascinated by the city I am living in. If you have visited San Francisco please let me know what you think. Yemen is a totally different world you no matter where you go or live it still have its place reserved in our heart. But I do hope Yemen will become much better in the future.

**Anam, Ramzi ABDULWAHED**  
USA  
[Ramanam@aol.com](mailto:Ramanam@aol.com)

## Of Qat and its Addicts

*The green soft leaf  
Is most sought after stuff  
An object which its pursuers  
Hardly treat with cavalry disrespect  
For those loyal to it  
Qat is as necessary as victuals  
Facilitator of schemes to build  
Splendid castles in the air  
Castles that collapse apace  
As soon as the pulverized  
chunk of the "leaf"  
Is unloaded from the bulging  
cheek  
"It is most sought-after" an  
addict contended  
"Because it stretches my imagination"  
To which a comrade-in-addiction added:  
"It keeps our worries at bay."  
Only temporarily, if so.*

*A most preferred drawing-card  
A shaker of both deep and half-  
empty pockets  
Craving for the "leaf" compels  
an aged chewer  
To buy a tomato mincer  
Not to let Qat consumed teeth  
fail him*

*Inducer of insomnia and other  
ailments  
O Qat! Don't you get tired of  
Injecting the bad habit of over-  
sleeping  
Into the hearts you conquered  
aeons ago?  
Should you disappear in our  
midst?*

*Few will lament your humiliat-  
ing departure  
Withdrawal symptoms may  
pierce the jaws of addicts for a  
while  
Aren't you a killer minus "L"  
in Arabic?*

**Liban Abdikarim**  
Refugee Studies Programme  
University of Oxford  
England

**Will Yemen Appreciate My Efforts When I Come Back?**  
I am a Yemeni, who is currently studying in the USA. I miss my

country a lot. At the moment I am a student in the United state of America. I have been here for almost 2 years. I am still single. The reason that I came to the United States is to get my education in the field of Electronics Engineering. Now, that I completed two years of study, I am working on getting my certification as a computer technician. Another aim of my stay in the States is to increase my knowledge in technology aspects. We all know that the USA is the fastest growing country in technology aspects. I spend a lot of time in technical reading books related to programming, troubleshooting computer problems, upgrading, repairing, and networking. To be honest with you, I always say that the great thing in this world is not where we are, or where we are from, but in what direction we are moving. As soon as I complete my education, I plan to go back to my homeland and try to use my experience and knowledge to participate in developing Yemen. But if conditions in my country don't get better, and if I realize that my efforts and experience is not being appreciated, I think I will go back to the States. I will then continue my studies and obtain two major in the fields of Electronic Engineering and Business Management.

I hope that my country by the time, will be ready to receive me along with thousands of other Yemenis living abroad and wishing to contribute to their country.

**Akram Abdulla Rashed**  
Yemen

## Swimming Suits in Yemen, Between the Briton and the Legitimacy

When you intend to swim at the golden Moor you should wear a swimming suit. Same as other Lebanese, Egyptian, Tunisian or Briton, since the Briton entered the Golden coast (extend from Al Mandab to what is called today the Yemeni Club) you would realize that visitors of this area usually wear pairs of shorts made especially for swimming. The oddness of the case, especially that Aden is on its way to become a free zone area (despite the fact that the districts of the city's land are turning rotten due to the drainage water). How would those tourists react when they see police officers wandering at the beach wearing civil uniforms not securing the area but telling the people that their costumes are shameful. Think about it, wearing a swimming suit is a shameful act according to the officer, it is not our fault that the officer did not like our suits but he can not force us to dress according to his taste. They use one white shorts for swimming, sleeping and going out, but they are free in wearing

what they like. If the Briton taught us a civilized way of dressing swimming suits it is because we were convinced that the man's attitude and culture comes from his appearance and behavior that is acceptable to all nations.

The officer's opinion in the swimming suit being a forbidden thing, he wandered the third day of Eid with his gun on his shoulder shouting: shameful, shameful. What does he expect people to wear when they go swimming at the Al Arousa Club after completion, their full cloths?

The strange thing is the officer's behavior imposing on people his opinion, even if his acts relates to narrow minding and ignorance, his instruction should be obeyed otherwise there will be no law to defend those who ignore his orders. Is it freedom or colonization of modern type? it is a farce, those who lived during the era of the British colonization and the current days could realize that there is something inherited that imposed itself severely and pulled us back to the middle ages with the concept that Huddeida is the last point on earth.

It is quite obvious that those who forbid the wearing of swimming suits when they go for swimming do believe that Huddeida is the last point on Earth.

**Abdulaziz Mohammed Saeed0**

## A Yemeni, a Singaporean, a Musician, and a Student!

I am a 25-year-old Singaporean originally from Hadhramaut in Yemeni. Yemen Times Online caught my eye, and I was quite impressed with it. I liked it a lot. I have never been to Yemen, although both my Grandparents were born in Hadhramaut. I have no plans to visit Yemen in the

near future, but I am looking forward to know and possibly meet any Yemeni from the same Hadhrami tribe as mine (Bamheidh). I am a musician in a rock Band and a part time student as well.

**A Riyadh Bamheidh**  
SINGAPORE  
Email: [elchemist@hotmail.com](mailto:elchemist@hotmail.com)

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**Sana'a Water Supply & Sanitation Project (SWSSP)**  
**Project Management Unit (PMU)**  
is inviting applications for the following post:

### Executive Secretary (BILINGUAL):

Act as full time secretary, type and prepare correspondence, documents and reports in Arabic and English, file correspondence, reports and documents, arrange appointments both internal and external, draft correspondence of routine nature, receive visitors, place and screen telephone calls, and attend to routine requests for information. Typing speed at least 40 Arabic word per minute, and 55 English words per minute, and perform other tasks as required.

### Qualification / Experience / skill Requirements:

1. Completion of secondary education;
2. Accepting work in the afternoon and evening time;
3. Thorough knowledge of computer/word processing and modern office experience preferably with UN/International Organization. Translation from Arabic to English and vice versa is necessary.

Interested candidates are requested to send their application with detailed curriculum vitae to:

**Sana'a Water supply & Sanitation Project (SWSSP)**  
**Project Management Unit (PMU)**  
P. O. Box 7112, Sana'a

Application should be received **no later than 30 April, 1999.**

## TUG AUCTION

Yemen Ports Authority announces its intention to sell the conventional screw tug "14th October" by auction. this tug, built in 1968, is as described below:-

<b>- Builders</b>	<b>M/S. Scott &amp; Sons (Bowling) Ltd. - Dunbartonshire (UK).</b>
<b>- Length</b>	<b>96.0 ft. BP.</b>
<b>- Breadth</b>	<b>27.0 ft. MLD.</b>
<b>- Depth</b>	<b>13.0 ft. MLD.</b>
<b>- Bollard Pull</b>	<b>25 Tons</b>
<b>- Gross Tonnage</b>	<b>208.23 Tons</b>
<b>- Engine Type</b>	<b>Ruston</b>
<b>- Engine Power</b>	<b>740 HP each @ 600RPM.</b>
<b>- No. of Engines</b>	<b>Two</b>

- Any local or foreign person or company wishing to participate in this auction should submit to YPA a security payment, in cash or by bankers guaranteed cheque, for the sum of USD. 2,000.00 (US Dollars two thousand), or the equivalent amount in local currency, as security for his bid. No bid will be considered unless it is so secured.
- The security shall be raised, as necessary, to 30% of the amount of the successful bid, payable in cash or by bankers guaranteed cheque at the end of the auction.
- Securities of unsuccessful bidders shall be returned to them at the end of the auction.
- The auction will be held at 11.00 a.m. on 12th May, 1999 at the following address:

**Yemen Ports Authority (Port of Aden),**  
**Head office, Tawahi, Aden.**  
**Tel.: 967-2-202669/ 204638**  
**Fax: 967-2-205805**

Bidders wishing to participate in this auction are invited to inspect the tug lying at the Technical Department of the Port of Aden, and should contact the secretary of the tender committee at the Planning Department of the Port on Telephone NO. Mentioned above to make the necessary arrangements for their inspection.





Aden

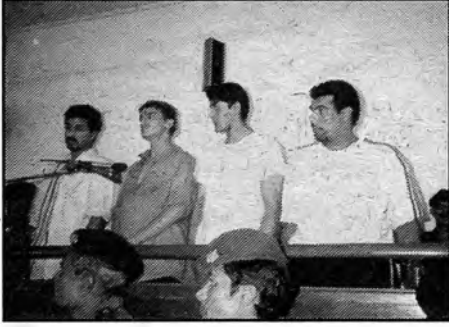
## Doctors to Examine Torture Claims

After many claims stating that the 10 suspected militants were tortured, a doctor will finally examine them. Eight of them are Britons of Arab and Pakistani origin and two are Algerians currently being tried for attempted terrorism, illegal possession of weapons, belonging to a militant group, and conspiring to bomb British and US owned properties in Aden.

The court decided to permit a team of doctors to be allowed to examine the suspects, who have alleged they were tortured in prison. The court, which is currently trying the extremists, said that the team of doctors should report back in two weeks. It said the foreign doctors, who should be chosen by lawyers, should be from the United States,

the Netherlands, Germany or France. The three doctors should also be approved by the Yemeni Health Ministry. The defendants have been accused of forming a militant group to carry out terrorist acts in Yemen. Nine have denied the charges. The tenth, Mohammed Mustafa Kamal, son of a London-based extremist activist, has admitted to forming an armed group, but denied the other charges. Some of the defendants in the terrorist trial had alleged they were subjected

to torture, and rejected a report by a government doctor who had examined them and said he did not find any evidence to support their claims. Appointing neutral doctors to examine the 10 had been a long-standing demand by defense lawyers, who on Wednesday appeared in court after threats that a court-appointed team would take over if they failed to attend. The defense lawyers had withdrawn last month from the case as they had



fundamental differences with the prosecution and the court, "We would not return until a fair trial was guaranteed," said the defense team last month. On Wednesday the defense team repeated a request that confessions obtained by investigators should not be read in court or taken as implicating evidence as they had been taken under torture. The request has been strongly disputed by the prosecution.

Rada'a

## A Call for Accountability after the Sa'eed Village Horror

Angry repercussions for the brutal incident that took place late March, in Sa'eed village, Rada are still raging. (See last issue of the Yemen Times) This week, the Parliament sent a formal letter to the Minister of Interior requesting that he answer the questions related to this tragic incident. The questions were sent by Mr. Mohammed Najy Alaw, a lawyer and a member of the Parliament. In this letter, Mr. Alaw listed the crimes perpetrated by elements in the para-military Central Forces. The latest violation in the list is the rejection by the Central Forces of the Attorney General's orders to release the detainees from Saeed village. The poor villagers are being held as hostages until the alleged shooter turns himself in to the Central Forces. So far, there is no evidence that the soldier was killed by any of the villagers. On the contrary, the villagers confirm that he was shot down by a more sophisticated weapon that is commonly used by the army and Central Security forces. In any case, as Mr. Alawa points out, the central forces have no right whatsoever to punish the whole village of Saeed as the accountability for any criminal act is exclusively personal. The collective punishment has resulted in the follow-

ing intolerable crimes:

- Firing at innocent villagers.
- Burning down houses.
- Looting private possessions.
- Killing the villagers cattle.
- Creating panic among the public and exposing the social peace to danger. All these are in addition to similar atrocious acts such as the death of a child because he was denied medical treatment by the attacking Police Forces.

Mr. Alaw is requesting the Minister of the Interior to take prompt action to put an end to the disgraceful brutality, reminding the Minister that such acts are not only in violation of the country's existing Criminal Procedures Act but also an affront to the Constitution, a thing which could damage the country's reputation in the issue of Human Rights and public liberties.

We of the Yemen Times hope that Mr. Alaw's request will raise the Minister's sense of responsibility to attend personally to the tragic situation in Saeed village.

By: Mohammed Abbas  
Yemen Times

Taiz

## Taiz University Curriculum Workshop

Organized by Taiz University, a workshop on evaluating and developing curriculums will be held during the period May 18-20. Dr. Ali Al-Mikhlafi told the Yemen Times that Taiz University will invite all Yemeni universities in addition to some other experts from Arab countries to this gathering which will try to address this important academic issue. At another level, the university was visited recently by a team from the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Holland. It discussed with the university administration the possibility of facilitating academic coopera-

tion between the two sides. As a prelude to the seminar, the Faculty of Education of Taiz University kicked off a 3-day seminar on Tuesday, April 13 to discuss their situation. They also discussed means of education and types of curriculums, and how to keep abreast of the modern age of technology and science. Many university professors from Aden and Ibb universities participated. The recommendations of the participants will be a spotlight in the process of promoting and developing the university curriculums.

## Al-Saeed Holds Cultural Activities

The Hayel Saeed Awards for science and Arts were announced last week on Sunday, April 11th. The Award giving day is Thursday, April 22. But before that, Taiz will witness some cultural activities for three days starting from today, Monday April 19. The event will include poetry recitation by some famous Yemeni poets like Ismail Al-Wareeth, Sultan al-Suraimi, Shawqi Shafiq, Abdul Karim Al-Razihi, Mohammed Hasan Haitham, Ali Al-Maqari, Ahmad Al-Awadi, Ibrahim Al-Hadrani in addition to some young poets like Ahmad Al-Shalafi and

Salwa Al-Qadasi, Ahmad Al-Flahi and others.

A seminar on the papers and experiments that won the Awards will be held on Wednesday, April 21. Dr. Yasin Abdul Aleem Al-Qubati, winner of 1997 Award, and Dr. Abdul Rahman Thabet, winner of the 1998 Award will participate in this seminar. All these cultural activities will be held at Al-Thulaya Hall, Faculty of Arts, Taiz University.

By: Mohammed Al-Qadhi  
Taiz Office Editor

# Congratulations

Represented by its General Manager, Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Sa'eedi,  
**The National Water and Sanitation Authority**

Extends its Deepest Greetings and Warmest Congratulations to  
His Excellency, The Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

**Mr. A.J. Meerburg**

**On the Occasion of the National Queen's Day**

الدكتور / محمد أحمد السعيدى مدير عام

الهيئة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي

يتقدم باعمق التهاني القلبية واطيب الأمنيات

إلى سعادة سفير المملكة الهولندية بصنعاء

السيد / أ.ج. ميربوغ

بمناسبة اليوم الوطني للمملكة الهولندية



# A World Without Borders

Truly this world has become a small village, many people of different cultural backgrounds, different languages, different looks etc. could live together in a comparatively small city like Sana'a. I am

how to do it. All these thoughts have crossed my mind while I was watching the fashion style show successfully organized by Sana'a International School. The different beautiful traditional outfits of different nations, made me think of us as a community living together with no much useful contacts with no real symbiosis grounds. To live without contributing to the society you live in is indeed a useless existence.

Remember the area where you live in is a world where borders don't exist, and where you come from doesn't matter.

We could really make a different if we want to, we could make the world a better place for you, me and for the entire human race, only if we wish to.

By- Lily Chongthu



Yemeni Traditional Dress



Oriental Traditional Dress

not talking here about the many uses of modern technology such as planes, telephones, etc. and how they make our lives easier and distances appear shorter than they usually are. I am talking about us, the people who live in the same city may be the same street or the same building.

It never crossed my mind to ask myself, how many different nationalities live in my area, my street or my building? And what did I do to help my society benefit maximum out of this chance? The chance to make more friends, to know more of my neighbor's culture, country, food and life styles, to learn from their experiences in different fields, such as their successful drives in cleanliness, and in return teach them something about our culture and ourselves that they don't find them in books. We together can form small welfare societies in our prospective areas, to look after our areas immediate needs and requirements, to ensure a good, clean and cooperative environment, help the needy ones. This way we grow more independent to take care of our area and ourselves, we will be able to make suggestions and redirect the government's responsibilities as to what our area's immediate needs are and



South Asian Traditional Dresses (Sarries)

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## Yemen Press in a Week

By: Mhammed A. Abbas



RAY, issue 155, 13/4/1999.

**Sanaa Weekly,  
Mouthpiece of the League of  
the Sons of Yemen,  
Main Headlines**

- The League of the Sons of Yemen calls for the creation of a sound atmosphere for the success of the first presidential election in the country. A statement released by the League criticized the turning of the issue of the electoral committees distribution into a major problem, affirming that such a course reflects the absence of trust and a comprehensive national vision.

- The Yemeni Organization for Human Rights Protection (YOHHP) denounces the ongoing human rights violations in Yemen.

- A group of Journalists visit the pillaged Saeed village upon request from Mr. Mohammed N. Allow, a lawyer and a member of the Yemeni parliament.

- Dr. Al-Iryani gives instructions for the security insurance of the Grand Mosque Manuscripts library, but too late.

### The Editorial

The superficial handling of such a weighty issue as the presidential election, which is the first of its kind in the history of Yemen harms this young experience and exposes politicians in this country to all kinds of censure. The issue of the presidential election concerns our future and our national expectations and ambitions. To work towards this future we should see that these expectations are based on a firm and sound ground. The normalization of political life is therefore the first step to make this structure sustainable. The normalization of the political life can be realized through a real and effective political reform which can leave the past behind it and look forward to the accomplishment of a healthy political balance. It is only through this mechanism that all national assets can be exploited in every area of creation and achievement. Through this mechanism our national decision will be made by every one and for every one. Therefore the first step in the long-desired reform is to ensure a comprehensive participation in the decision making through a broadly-authorized local government.



**Al-Belagh,  
Sanaa Weekly, Independent  
13/04/1999**

**The Main Headlines**  
- Sources in the Foreign Ministry and the Public

Authority for Investment informed Al-Belagh that a number of Malaysian businessmen of Hadrami origins are applying to the concerned authorities for investment facilities in Aden's Free Zone and Sumatra Island. More than 35 Malaysian businessmen are applying for licenses for the construction of electronics and energy plants as well as tourist compounds and resorts.

- The joint Yemeni-Saudi boarders Demarcation committee has concluded a meeting held last week here in Sanaa. The meeting, the 14th between the two sides, discussed the Field Teams works as was directed by the two political leaderships.

- Diplomatic sources said that the Yemeni Foreign Minister is to visit Kuwait next month as he received a formal invitation from his Kuwaiti counterpart.

- The World Bank credits Yemen \$50 million to boost reform in the public sector. The loan is to be reimbursed in 40 years with a ten year grace period and at an interest rate of 0.75%.

### The Editorial

What is happening in Kosovo is absolutely shocking and out of any human context. Although NATO is using the protection of the Kosovar Muslims from Milosevich's brutal genocide as an announced objective to strike at Yugoslavia, the appalling situation of the Kosovars has become much worse now than at any time before. The Yugoslavia forces are demolishing the region, raping women and murdering whoever comes their way. Thousands of refugees are now caught between homelessness and displacement on the one hand, and hunger and humiliation on the other. There is also fear that the NATO strikes on Yugoslavia might have other unforeseen objectives, one of which is to end the Muslim gathering in Kosovo. The United States and the West in general are apprehensive that the Muslim gatherings in Europe might in the future pose a dangerous problem for the Christian Continent. Hence the NATO strikes which resulted so far in the driving off of two million Muslim Kosovars from their homeland. However we sincerely hope that these fears are only hunches and the displaced Albanians will soon be back home. Till that happens, it is our human as well as religious duty to extend a generous hand of assistance to our Muslim brethren in Kosovo. The President's decree to create a Kosovars Relief Committee comes within this human and religious consciousness and we expect the business community in Yemen to positively interact with this initiative and donate

whatever they can. This will at least comfort the afflicted Kosovars and make them feel that their Muslim bothers are not deserting them in this time of need.



**Al-Wahdawi,  
Sanaa Weekly,  
Mouthpiece of the Nasserite  
Unionist Party,  
13/04/1999**

### Main Headlines

- The Party's Central Committee carries on arrangements for the Nasserite Unionist Party's 9th convention amid Arab and local interest.

- In Attweelah, Mahweet, Mohammed Kwakabany, 18 years old, was tortured to death by the office of security in the town. The head of the security office, criminal investigation officer and four security personnel were arrested to stand military trial for the charge of torturing to death Mohammed Kwakabany. The victim was tortured to confess to a theft, but he passed away in the process.

- The House of Representatives (the Parliament) commences the debate on privatization draft law and the MPs are asking the government to provide them with a clear feasibility study and reasons for privatization.

### An article summary

During the opening session of the Consultative Council's Hearings on the Yemeni Emigrants last Saturday, an officer in the Political Security office threatened to arrest a member of the council. Why? Because the member did not clap hi hands when the name of the President was mentioned. The officer insulted the member and threatened to make him a "guest" at the political security compounds. Now the question is: Is it compulsory to clap? Is the Political Security authorized to keep an eye on those who don't like clapping?"



**Al-Thawry,  
Sanaa, weekly,  
Mouthpiece of the Yemeni  
Socialist Party,  
15/4/1999**

### Main headlines

- Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, the YSP Secretary General, has pointed at a constitutional problem preventing the opposition parties form nominating their candidates for the presidential elections. Mr. Obad said that according to the Constitution, the candidate becomes legal when 10% of the Parliament votes for his

nomination, an impossible requirement for many candidates in the opposition. Mr. Obad recommends a constitutional amendment to solve the issue.

- Most electoral registry committees are in the control of one party.

- The YSP has refuted the statement of the "official security source" related to the assassination of the YSP Central Committee member, Sheik Abu Nashtan, and affirmed that Abu Nashtan was killed for his political character.

### An Article Summary

Acts of violence and terrorism have become unacceptable everywhere in the world. Backward societies in the Arab and Islamic world are apropos for such unwelcome behavior. In our country violence and terrorism can find a place for a number of reasons. Paramount of all is the economic hardships suffered by the majority in this country. Second, the fragile structure of the state and people's lack of respect for law and order. The unbalanced concoction of the state structure, largely made up of tribal and family groups, is also a major factor for the dominance of violence in our society.

Given the above background, the state in this country is practicing terrorism from different angles, especially terrorism that assails the people's security, stability and bread. If the state continues to deal with this issue in such a blind way, terrorism will become an uncontrollable social phenomenon, especially in our society where almost every house is a small arsenal of different illegal arms.

In recent years our country has experienced more acts of violence. It started with political assassinations which targeted some opposition parties of democratic orientation. The Yemeni Socialist Party was a main target given its leading role in the reunification, democratization and modernization of Yemen. The process continues and is taking on new forms. Kidnapping and group massacres committed by the state against its citizens in Dhala'a, Mareb, Al-Jof and other parts in the country.



**Al-Sahwa,  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
Islah Party,  
15/4/1999.**

### Main headlines

- Following the President's instructions, the Election Supreme Committee is to begin the correction of the voters' charts with cooperation with the Islah Party and the other opposition parties.

- Privatization Draft Law raises hot debate in the parliament due to the Government's headstrong position against any amendments to the Law. Many MPs are voting against the privatization of service sectors which are closely related to the basic needs of the people.

- A widespread concern in Attaweelah district, Mahweet, over the ongoing investigation of police brutality leading to the death of a citizen.

### An Article Summary

In a side line of the current debate on the draft law of privatization, one of the MPs referred to some dispute between the Minister of Communication and the Minister of Planning over the selling of the General Corporation of Wire and Wireless Communication. It is said that the corporation will be sold for \$ 100 million at a time when it is engaged in executing a \$ 50 million project in Aden. Also, the cost of the corporation's machinery is over \$ 100 million, let alone its assets and buildings scattered all over the country.



**Al-Mithak,  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
the People's General Congress,  
12/4/1999**

### Main Headlines

- During his meeting with Arafat, the President of the Republic reiterated Yemen's solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian People to establish their Independent State over their National territories with Al-Qods Jerusalem as the capital.

- In an interview with the paper, the Djibouti President Elect expresses his country's desire to further promote the relationship with Yemen to a more comprehensive stage of cooperation.

- In a statement to the Paper, Ba-Jammal says that the international decision to close the Yemeni Human Rights File renders any relevant accusations null and void.

- Expressing her appreciation for our country's efforts in Human Rights protection, the US Ambassador to Sanaa hails the democratic atmosphere in Yemen.



**Al-Ayyam,  
Aden 3-Weekly, Independent,  
14/4/1999**

### Main Headlines

- Mr. Douglas March, a US Professor who recently visited Aden, describes Aden's commercial future as promising and growing. However, he affirms that real development will not take place unless the law is respected by everyone.

- A press report says that Cairo is to open a court file under the name "Coming from Yemen" in reference to the "fundamentalists" handed over to Egypt by the Yemeni Authorities.

- Writers and intellectuals in Yemen's Union of Writers call for correcting the situation in the Journalists Syndicate. The Union describes the current division in the Syndicate as a negative phenomenon.

### Article Summary

Real and not formal democracy can never be realized, nor can it become a way of life without being practiced openly, and embraced and respected by an open society. In other words, freedom is the only answer to turn democracy into a road of social and cultural growth. Real democracy is a public will expressed through institutions and organizations, directed by the country's Constitution. Law and Order must exist mainly to protect the rights of the people as individuals or groups to live in honor and dignity. It also means everyone's participation in decision making, specifically in national issues related to the country's destiny. It's not just an outlet for pressure or anxiety as far as it is the willingness to accept others and to be able to conduct constructive dialogue with them.



**26 September,  
Sanaa, Weekly, issued by  
Yemen Armed Forces,  
15/4/1999**

### Main headlines

- In a press interview with the Bahrain's Al-Ayyam newspaper, the President of the Republic says that Aden's Free Zone will become an important ground for the national economy. In a reference to Yemen's relationship with the Gulf countries, the President describes this relation as excellent expression of Yemen's appreciation for the resumption of diplomatic ties with the State of Kuwait.

- A Yemeni Relief airplane flew to Tirana, Albania, carrying 40 tons of food stuffs to be presented to the Kosovar refugees from their Yemeni brothers.

- The Cabinet of Ministers approves \$25 million to finance a Sanaa Water and Sanitation Project. The loan is credited by the International Development Authority.

- Mr. Abdulla Barakat, Chairman of the Supreme Election Committee says that the SEC has finalized the necessary procedures to begin with the revision and registry of the voters charts.

- The Minister of Defense meets separately with the Ambassadors of France and India and discusses with them aspects of mutual cooperation. The meeting also touches on enhancing the relationship between the Yemeni Army and the Army in the two friendly countries.

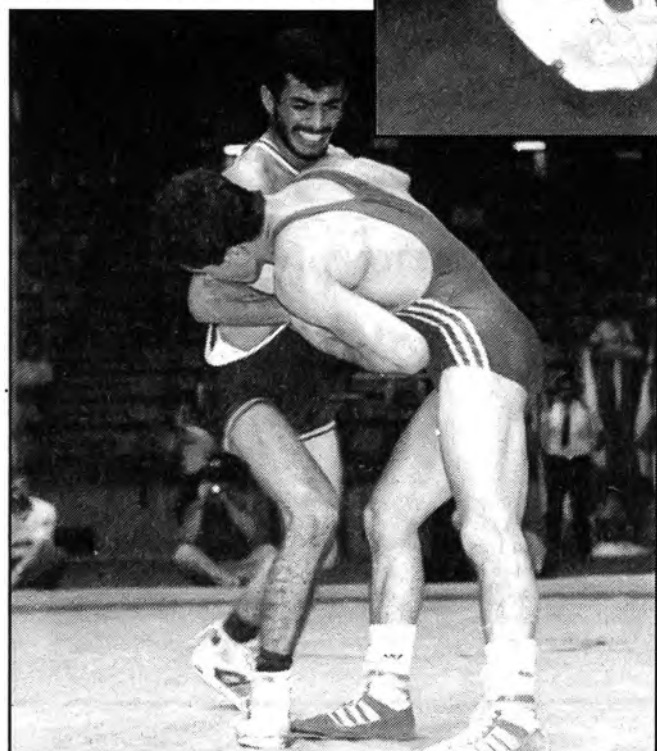
### Apology

Although late, Yemen Times presents its apology for the mistake that occurred on its issue #52, dated 28th December 1998 page 14. The singer Yahya Al-Aromah did not learn anything from Ahmed Fat'hi, Mohammed Murshed Nagi or Mohammed Saad Abdullah. He met them only once in Qatar, where they all represented Yemen.



## Rigorous Training for TAE-KWON-DO Player Wada'ah, Al-Azzani Prepare for World Cup Wrestling

Yemeni Tae-Kwon-Do star Wada'ah Abdulmalik Alwan started an intensive training program last month under the supervision of the national trainer, Mutaahhar Al-Odhari. The intensive training is in preparation for the international championship, and in hopes of qualifying for the Sydney 2000 Olympic games. The Yemeni national team will also be participating in the Tae-Kwon-Do World Cup in July 1999, and the gold



medalists in this event will automatically qualify for the Sydney games. In another sport, Yemeni wrestler Abdullah Al-Azzani has also started his training under the supervision of his Iraqi trainer Ra'ad. Al-Azzani will be participating in Wrestling World Cup, which will be held in Uzbekistan this September. Again, the winner of this championship automatically qualifies for the Olympic games in Sydney. There will be other chances for the players to qualify for the Sydney Olympics, but this is the first big one, and it is a major competition in its own right. The athlete's training program is being sponsored by the International Olympic Committee in order to boost Yemen's efforts in preparing for the 2000 Olympic Games in Australia.

## Al-Wahda of Sanaa Team Ranks 4th in the Arab Chess Championship

After a vigorous competition with the best Arab Chess players, the Chess Team of Al-Wahda Sanaa was able to attain 4th place in the overall Chess rankings of the first Arab Chess Championship held in Al-Sharqiye Club of Egypt last week. Al-Wahda of Sanaa was the only team representing Yemen. Ten teams representing ten Arab countries participated in the championship. These teams were:

- 1- Al-Sharqiye of Egypt
- 2- Beirut University - Lebanon
- 3- Dubai Chess Club - UAE
- 4- Doha Chess Club - Qatar
- 5- Al-Wahda of Sanaa
- 6- Al-Majd of Syria
- 7- Olympic of Algeria
- 8- Post Service Chess Club of Egypt
- 9- Royal Jordanian Club
- 10- Palestinian Jerusalem Employees Club

The competition was held under the Swiss rules, where every

team had to play 9 games. Ahli Sanaa was able to earn 17.5 points in their nine games, which earned them a tie for fourth with the Syrian Al-Majd Club. Al-Wahda might have been able to reach second if not for the professional Russian chess-masters who were playing for the Dubai and Doha Clubs. These clubs have sufficient resources to hire professionals, which none of the other clubs did. The International Master Hameed Al-Qadhi, a member of the Yemeni team, won second place and the silver medal in the individual competition. This is the first medal that Yemen has earned in 1999. However, Zindan Al-Zindani lost his chance at the bronze medal due to mental exhaustion from playing two rounds every day. This was something that the Yemenis were not prepared for, and it hurt several of the players. Yahya Faraj of Al-Wahda was able to obtain a draw with mighty players such as the

Russian professional chess-master Von Joltiny who plays and trains in Doha Chess Club of Qatar. He was also able to gain a draw in a game with the Syrian Imad Haqqi, and defeated last year's Egyptian chess champion, Wala Tharwat.

The head of Al-Wahda Club Chess Team spoke to the Yemen Times:

"The competition in this championship was quite strong, especially for us Yemenis, who had not had much experience with this system of two rounds per day. Each round lasted more than 5 hours without a break. I think that if not for the harsh system and the professional Russian players, we could have gained a much better result. As it was, we did quite well. But of course, the most fascinating thing about this championship is the wonderful coordination and love I witnessed from my other Arab brothers."

## Arwa University Organizes a Sports Festival

Arwa University will be organizing a special marathon on the 27th of April for students from Arwa University, Sanaa University and various high school students. This effort is made in coordination with the School Activity Administration in Sanaa and Sports administration of Sanaa

matches. Currently, Arwa University is in heavy preparation for this marathon as well as the other events, and the organizers are collecting the prizes that will be distributed to the winners at the end of the marathon and the other sports events.

University. Arwa University will also be organizing a number of Sports Events such as football, volleyball, Ping-Pong, and Chess

Abbas Al-Madoomi:

## The Need For More Support and More Training Centers is Urgent

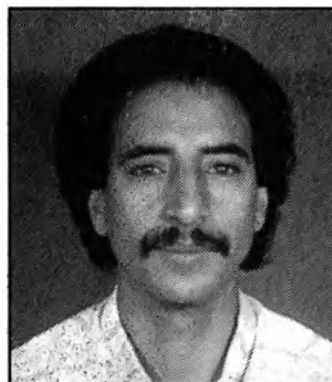
The Youth and Sports Office in Sanaa is suffering a lot of problems that are creating obstacles to any improvements of sports in Yemen. Not only is this the case in Sanaa, but it is the case in all other areas in the republic. Many sportsmen are complaining about the mismanagement and the poor position of sports in the current government. They are dissatisfied with the insignificant budget allocated by the Ministry of Sports for sports activities. This leads to a deteriorating level of sports in Yemen as a whole, and particularly for athletic sports, which are not given enough attention.

Abbas Al-Madoomy, the manager of the Youth and Sports Club in Sanaa is a young and ambitious person. He is trying hard and struggling to achieve the best he can in spite of the lack of financial resources, and other important elements. His only option in trying to improve the sports services, is only workable if he concentrates on the sports events that he handles, and works very hard for their success.

In an interview with Yemen Times, Mr. Al-Madoomi explained his ambitions, and the problems, role, and ambitions of his office in all details. Excerpts:

**Q: How do you assess the role of the Capital Secretariat Sport Office (CSSO) compared with the other offices in the governorates in developing sport activities?**

A: Given its near location from the main headquarters of decision making in the Capital, the CSSO plays an important role in improving sport activities not only in the Capital but in the whole Yemen. The office is closely related to the different Sports Clubs based in Sanaa. The office has paid a number of field inspections visits to these clubs and has found them facing many problems. Take for example Alwahda Club, one of the leading clubs in Sanaa. Yet this club doesn't have even the minimum required number of halls and playing fields. Al-Zuhra Club is also struggling to take possession of its state-granted land and now this Club has been warned to move from its present location. The situation is not much better with Al-Sha'ab, or Al-Majid Clubs. However there are Clubs which have their own resources and therefore were able to build their sport facilities. Al-Ahli of Sanaa is doing very well in this



regard thanks to its excellent administration. Al-Yarmouk comes second as a self financed sports club. Other clubs like Hemyer, Kadissya and Majd are fighting to survive because some tribes often occupy their own pieces of land. It is bad to see the youths playgrounds turned into battlefield.

**Q: What are the steps you have been taking to improve the situation?**

A: We have submitted some proposals to the Minister of Youth and Sports and we are working on bringing them into effect. The most important proposal is the construction of training centers for the different sports. These centers would be covering several governorates and the Sport Unions would supervise them. In fact the costs of such construction are not very high and they can be financed through Youth and Sport Assistance Fund. I think this step is the right one to begin with.

**Q: Is there coordination with the Ministry of Education to back sports infrastructure through arranging joint sport activities and School competitions?**

A: When Dr. Yahya Shu'aybi became Minister of Education he did a lot of coordination with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to refresh School Sports. In many countries in the world school is the first cell for sport activities. Many of the world famous athletes were discovered first in schools. In the Capital Secretariat, we did some cooperation with School Activity Department in the Ministry of Education and we were able to discover a number of different games. Some of them have already become members of national teams in sports like basketball, boxing and others.

**Q: How do you overcome the problem of inavailability of sufficient stadiums and sports halls?**

A: Well, we train in shifts, with

evening and morning classes. In spite of our limited resources, our ambition knows no limits. Sport has not improved even after forming the Ministry of youth and sports. Sportsmen suffer from this carelessness, they need to be sponsored. We are quite optimistic about the future.

**Q: What is the role of the Youth Aid Fund in developing sports?**

A: Frankly speaking, the fund carries out many good projects for clubs all over the country. At the moment they are concentrating on establishing commercial projects for clubs to help them finance their activities and become self-sufficient. But if you look at the Yemeni sports in general, it is a very sad story. We hope the sports minister will respond to the importance of building sports complexes, and encourage young people to make use of these complexes, so that we can have a good base of young sportsmen, who will be the future champions of Yemen. Young people should become our first priority, if we really want to uplift the standards of Yemeni sports.

**Q: Do you think foreign coaches and trainers are the solution to promote Yemeni champions?**

A: You see, even if we try to bring the best coaches in the world he will not be able to do anything to lift up the spirit of our players. Sincere efforts by our sports authorities, such as giving the sportsmen the care and the attention they deserve can do wonders. We have to provide players with basic facilities first. What can a good coach do if he doesn't have fit players and no proper place and facilities to train them? Many of our promising young sportsmen leave their clubs for financial reasons. For example, I was the General Secretary of the Table Tennis Association in 1985, during that period we had real champions, like Ahmed Zaid, Ahmed Zubara, Al-Damari and Ali Qassem, all these people won golden and silver medals in the Arab competitions. Today we participate for the sake of participating, and not to compete and win.

**Q: Is there enough support for the centers activities?**

A: Each sport association gets YR. 10,000 to hold activities and organize tournaments. This amount does not cover the players' transport cost, so what do you expect? Now you can imagine where Yemeni sport is going!

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