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مرحباً 22 مايو - أكبر أعياد اليمن

Call to Free Electronic Media from State Monopoly

Sponsored and organized by the Yemen Times, a seminar was held on Thursday, May 13th, to discuss means to implement the decisions of the Sana'a Declaration, of January 1996. The said declaration, which came following a UN-UNESCO seminar on "Promoting Independent and Pluralistic Arab Media" was adopted and approved by the UNESCO member states, including Yemen. The Declaration states:

"International assistance in Arab countries should aim to develop print and electronic media independent of governments in order to encourage pluralism as well as editorial independence..."

"... Creation of independent news agencies and private and/or community ownership of broadcasting media, in rural areas as well as towns and cities, should be encouraged."

Some thirty participants in the seminar, including chief editors and journalists of leading newspapers; announcers and reporters for television, radio and press agencies; the dean and professors of the College of Journalism at Sana'a University, and many politicians and public figures.

Professors Mohammed Abdul-Jabbar, Mohammed Al-Houthi, Ahmed Ba-Sardah, and Khaled Al-Hamdani made presentations on why the nation must allow the private sector to operate radio and television stations. Ahmed Al-Kibsi of the Foreign Ministry and Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby of the Consultative Council led the call to end the state monopoly over the electronic media. "But there is need to issue laws to regulate this matter," they warned.

Yemen Times will provide a full report of the proceedings of this seminar next week.

Bani Hushaish Attorney Beat Up

Mr. Faisal Obad, Attorney of Bani Hushaish District, was beat up on 11/5/99 by Sheikh Yahia Al-Qadhi and 5 of his men. The group planned to assault the judge. But as they were unable to find him, they beat up the attorney.

Khowlan Judge Imprisoned

Mr. Yahia Al-Mansoor, judge of the Khowlan Court, was imprisoned for six days earlier this month by the sheikh of Al-Harr. The judge decided to stay at home until the government is able to bring respect to the system.

UK Foreign Office Declares:

"Random armed kidnapping is common in Yemen!"

On May 10th, the Yemen Times quoted the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office as having announced "Random armed killing is common in Yemen" in its May 5th travel advisory on Yemen. That sentence appeared in the daily electronic newsletter, Yemen News, produced by Eric Watkins from London, in its May 6th dispatch, reproduced on page 12.

Yes, I erred, because the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's travel advisory states "Random armed kidnapping is common in Yemen".

The mis-quotation, of course, did not start with

the Yemen Times, as explained above.

Acting on that, the UK Ambassador issued a circular to the media. He also sent to me a protest letter copied to several senior officials in government. The ambassador was thus able to divert the anticipated angry Yemeni reaction from the FCO's travel advisory to the Yemen Times story. Several government newspapers lashed out at us.

Now that the dust has settled, many Yemeni officials have awoke to express their dismay with the UK travel advisory.

The Editor

هل نستطيع أن نتعلم منهم؟

اليمن ولم تقل القتل العشوائي كما جاء في خبر «يمن تايمز».

الذي نريد التأكيد عليه هنا ان خبر الصحيفة استند إلى مصدر بريطاني في لندن، كما أوضحنا أعلاه.

ونريد التوضيح أيضاً ان السفير باثارة الموضوع بهذا النحو نجح في تحويل رد الفعل اليمني من تحذير الخارجية الذي يسيء إلى اليمن، إلى الصحيفة اليمنية التي كانت مجرد ناقل للخبر.

فهل السفير ذكي جداً أو صحافتنا الرسمية غبية جداً أو كلاهما معاً؟

وزع سعادة سفير بريطانيا في صنعاء تعميماً نشرته الصحف الرسمية اليومية الثلاث بخصوص موضوع سبق ان نشرته صحيفة «يمن تايمز» في عددها بتاريخ ١٩٩٩/٥/١٠ حول تحذير صدر عن وزارة الخارجية البريطانية يصف اليمن بأنه بلد غير آمن وينصح السواح بعدم السفر إليه.

أشار تعميم السفير إلى إختلاف في حدة التحذير إذ يقول ان وزارة الخارجية البريطانية إنما قالت ان الإختطاف العشوائي والمسلح هو المنتشر في

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OUR VIEWPOINT

Relations between Democratization & Development

There has been a constant debate between various schools of thoughts about the relationship between democratization (political transformation) and socio-economic development (including market-oriented liberalization). Some people argue that rapid economic development can take place even within an authoritarian political system. They point to the examples of the Far East Asian nations - the so-called Tigers. The Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and others have achieved spectacular growth levels under dictatorships.

The new wisdom, which is the driving force of the New World Order, insists that a democratic set-up is imperative to achieve sustainable development. The basic argument, even using the present difficulties of the Far East Asian Tigers as examples, is that a democratic framework, given the requirements of transparency, accountability, and a constant and regular transfusion of new blood into the system, is a prerequisite to development.

Today, the world is adopting the so-called parallel or twin approach. Democratization goes hand in hand with economic development. While political transformation is necessary, it will not succeed with empty beliefs, so to speak.

The Republic of Yemen is an example of a nation trying the twin transformation. Democratization proceeds along with economic reforms. Unfortunately, the perception is that the economic reforms are not doing well. Unemployment, especially among the young, is growing; poverty is hitting hard leading to serious malnutrition; the infrastructure is falling apart due to lack of maintenance; inflation continues to haunt Yemenis, especially the fixed and/or low income people; etc.

Many countries in the West are touting Yemen as a model for the region, in terms of political change. If this model is to succeed, then the economic performance of Yemen must also succeed. Otherwise, the whole experiment may go down the drain. That is why, I believe, the Western nations which value Yemen's political transformation, should come to the support of the development process of the country.

The Publisher


New Hole in YHOC's Oil Pipeline

During the early hours of Saturday, May 15th, the Yemen Hunt Oil Company pipeline near station 2 at Serwah, 50 kilometers west of Marib city, was blasted. The YHOC people are busy trying to seal the leak, which is the 26th time that there has been a breach in the Khawlan section of the pipeline. The line runs from Safir to Ras Issa, north of Hodeidah on the Red Sea. Jahm tribesmen are blamed for the most recent sabotage. The 25th hole was fixed only one week ago.

Tribesmen have been disrupting the flow of oil as a way of settling disputes with the authorities.

1000 Applicants to YJS

Wednesday 19th, 1999, is the deadline for applying for membership to the Yemeni Journalists' Syndicate. "So far, we have received 982 applications," disclosed Mr. Mahboob Ali, Chairman of the YJS. He also said that, starting from the 23rd of May, a committee will screen the applications to decide which ones qualify for membership.

The YJS has introduced four kinds of memberships. Full members, those who enjoy all rights including voting and candidature rights. Non-performing members are for journalists who presently hold other jobs. Non-Yemeni journalists are called affiliated members. New graduates of journalism are Apprentice members.

Workshop on Co-operative Management Training

On Saturday, May 15th, Agriculture Co-operative Union along with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) started a Workshop on Co-operative Management Training. On its opening day, the workshop included a seminar on understanding co-operative organizations, how they function, how they are managed, and their benefits. On the second day, another seminar on organizational development was concluded, along with a useful case study. The workshop is scheduled to continue for three more days until the 19th of this month, where there will be more seminars and representations about co-operative management, finance and communication.

Right of Response by the Central Bank of Yemen:

"The Yemeni Rial is doing fine!"

In the editorial of May 3rd, Issue 18, Volume IX, the Yemen Times pointed out that monetary policy was going from bad to worse. We totally disagree, because the opposite is true, i.e., monetary policy has moved from good to better.

The Yemeni rial has not deteriorated against the US dollar, as you claim. It is actually the US dollar which has risen against all currencies, including the Yemeni rial. During the first four months of this year, the Yemeni rial has appreciated against the Euro, the Deutsche mark, the French Franc, the Swiss franc, the Brazilian rial and the Russian Ruble, etc. You therefore cannot say that the Yemeni rial is a weak currency.

Since 1996, Yemen has been pursuing a floating exchange system, which has served the country quite well. The exchange rate of the Yemeni rial is determined by market forces on a day-to-day basis. As a consequence, we have avoided the pitfalls of a pegged currency.

During the first 4 months, inflation as measured by the consumer price index has been negative, i.e., prices are falling. Real interest rates in the country are very positive, strengthening public confidence in the national currency. As evidence, the public now holds more treasury bills than the banks.

Raising interest rates last March and requiring banks to keep more of their foreign currency deposits with the Central Bank without remuneration is a well calculated monetary policy which has paid dividends as judged by the International Monetary Fund. You see, a few years ago there was no monetary policy in Yemen. Now we have one and it is flexible and effective. The principal objective of the Central Bank is price stability and it uses its monetary tools to promote this objective.

You mentioned that low dollar interest rates in Yemen are driving people to transfer their foreign currency deposits abroad. There is no evidence that this is happening, as foreign currency deposits with local banks have been rising in March as well as in April.

Similar to all oil exporting countries in the world, Yemen has suffered from a sharp fall in world crude oil prices in 1998. Fiscal and monetary measures were taken to contain the damage by the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Yemen and other concerned authorities. Thank God, oil prices have recently started to rise and we believe that with the will of God, 1999 will be a better year than 1998.

The Central Bank of Yemen

Germany Commits Additional 3.8 Billion YR to Yemen for Development Cooperation

As the end of negotiations between the Republic of Yemen and the Federal Republic of Germany, which took place in Bonn on May 5 and 6, 1999, it was agreed that Germany would commit an additional 45 million DM, appr. 3.8 billion YR, as grants within the framework of the Yemeni-German development cooperation. Out of this sum, 25 million DM (appr. 2.125 billion YR) will be allocated for financial cooperation for water supply and sanitation projects, implemented by the kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) among others, in the towns of Bajil, Beit Al-Faqih, Ibb and Sa'adah. Furthermore, 20 million DM, appr. 1.7 billion YR, will be utilized for technical cooperation projects, for agriculture and health among other things, and, a new project, for the Central Organization for

Control and Auditing (COCA).

The Yemeni delegation, headed by the Minister of Planning and Development, Mr. Ahmed M. Sufan, met with the German Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms. Heidemarie Wiecek-Zeul on May 5. It is expected that she will visit Yemen in November of this year to mark the 30th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations and of continuous cooperation between Yemen and Germany.

The total volume of financial and technical cooperation between Germany and Yemen from 1969 to date amounts to 784 million DM (appr. 66 billion YR) and to 450 million DM (appr. 38 billion YR) respectively.

Immigrants' Conference Ends Today

A 3-day conference entitled the First National Immigrants' Conference will conclude in Sanaa today. About 250 persons representing delegates from 30 countries of the Yemeni diaspora have participated.

Yemen Times will run a full account on this issue next week.

Taiz Cultural Week Inaugurated

Organized by the writers union, Taiz branch, and in cooperation with the cultural and sports offices, and Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and culture, the Taiz 3rd cultural festival started on Saturday, 15th May and will continue for one week. The ceremony, which was kicked off with a carnival procession of kids, scouts and sportsmen, will include a large number of activities such as poetry and short story recitation, music and play shows, plastic art exhibition, a book fair and many other activities. A good number of literary men will be honored. The event was attended by many writers and artists from all over the country.

President Inaugurates Projects on May 22nd

President Ali Abdullah Saleh is pushing government officials in charge of Aden to finalize implementation of some of the key

projects in the governorate. Top priority is given to the Aden Free Zone, which the President will visit on the occasion of May 22, anniversary of the Re-Unification of the Nation. The President will visit the Container Terminal, which has recently become operational.

Another important project is the Socotra Island Airport. The Minister of Public Works, Eng. Abdullah Al-Dafee and a number of his assistants are working around the clock to meet the

22nd May deadline to inaugurate the airport. This is an important facility, as the island is cut off during the summer months because of tidal waves and monsoon rains.

A third key project to be inaugurated is the Safer-Hadhramaut which cuts through the Empty Quarter (Rub al-Khali), thus linking the Marib region to Wadi Hadhramaut.

There are several other projects in various governorates that are expected to be inaugurated on the

**YEMEN
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Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly



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YEMEN TIMES ONLINE Weekly Opinion Poll

Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is found weekly at:
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The results only reflect the opinion of the portion of people who use the Internet to submit their votes online.

Question:

Whom among the following do you see fit to run for presidency against Ali Abdullah Saleh?

Answers

- President Ali Abdullah Saleh is my only candidate (4%)
- Sheikh Abdullah Hussein Al-Ahmar, Islah, Parliament Speaker (1%)
- Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, PGC, Prime Minister (3%)
- Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanem, Independent (77%)
- Abdo Rabbo Mansoor, Vice President (2%)
- None of the above, not even President Saleh (12%)

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Taha Yassin Ramadhan:

"We shall survive these hardships."

Iraq, a nation destined to greatness only a few years ago, agonizes today under sub-human conditions. Malnutrition, joblessness and a deep sense of betrayal and frustration permeate society at large. The country went to war with Iran for most of the 1980s, and for all of the 1990s, it has been reeling under sanctions from the UN Security Council.

The end result is that the nation has lost its best. Many have died, and more continue to die. Many have left, and more are looking for ways to leave. A nation of proud men and women are now broken down by a self-righteous leadership that has made too many mistakes.

The Iraqi people, heirs to one of humanity's greatest civilizations are today a pariah nation in world relations. They gave the world its first alphabet, and they gave it its first code of laws. They gave the world its first hanging gardens, and they gave it its first farm-irrigation equipment. They gave the world its first chariot, and they gave it its early steps in the sciences.

Today, Iraq continues to suffer. A cruel system of sanctions is bringing a proud nation to its knees. And there is no end in sight. Whatever Iraq does, it is not good enough for the masters of a unipolar world. Nothing short of full submission and total humility will do. The suffering of the people of Iraq is destined to continue as their leaders are not ready to submit.

Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times had an exclusive interview with the Vice President of Iraq, Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadhan. Mr. Ramadhan is a native of Nineveh, Mosul Governorate. He is a well-published author and a long-standing Baath ideologue. He is today the Commander of the People's Forces.

Excerpts:

Q: An international conference was recently held under the theme "The Aggression and Embargo Against Iraq: An Arab and International issue." What do you expect to achieve beyond the strongly-worded communique?

A: I can't say much in this regard. The people who had attended the conference represented different political parties, movements and non-governmental organizations. They drafted the final statement after days of discussions. You have attended the sessions. There was no pressure or interference from any one. The drafting of the final statement expresses the judgment and opinion of the participants.

What happens next is up to the participants. Whether they will push their governments to implement the stipulations of the final statement depends on many factors. The fact is that the Iraqi issue is an Arab issue before it is an international one. We witness great differences between what is said and decided in conferences and the actions following such conferences. Yet, I have no doubt that the participants will convey the outcome of the conference to their governments and this is a helpful step.

We are not counting on this conference to have a magical effect on decision-makers worldwide. But, it is an eye opener to help the world realize the problems and sufferings of Iraq and to help people see the falsifications and wrong allegations against us.

Q: Do you feel Iraq has complied with all UN resolutions? How do you feel about the position of Arabs vis-à-vis the sanctions?

A: Every Arab individual opposes the unjust sanctions imposed on Iraq. We need to stand firm together.

I feel that Iraq has lived up to its

commitments to the UN. But the other side (read, US, Britain) has a strong media and monopolizes the flow of information in the issue. They create false pictures and spread fabricated lies to confuse the international community. Some of the leaders say, "We are with the Iraqi people. We call for the removal of sanctions. But at the same time, we call on the Iraqi Government to comply with the UN resolutions." These leaders don't even know what the resolutions are and they were never involved in making them. They just repeat what America says. They say they are with the Iraqi people, yet their decisions starve the Iraqi people.

But the Arab people have constantly gone on demonstrations and the Arab media supports Iraq. That is a consolation to us. We have great confidence in the Arab masses.



An Iraqi Child:
An Example of the Victims

Q: What do you think is the price for lifting the sanctions?

A: Five or six months ago, (US President Bill) Clinton had said there will be no lifting of sanctions as long as this government (of President Saddam Hussain) is there. He said there will be no dialogue with this government.

The Iraqi issue has nothing to do with the UN resolutions. All they

want is to overthrow the present government and they are ready to do anything to achieve that.

Q: Are you saying Iraq is singled out and unjustly targeted?

A: Exactly. Let me give you examples of what I mean. Article 14 of UN Security Council Resolution 687, regarding disarmament clearly states that "disarmament of mass destruction weapons must be applied to all the countries in the region". This includes Israel which has a huge arsenal of chemical and nuclear weapons. But you never hear any person speak a word about this. Not even the Arab rulers.

Let me give you another example. They talk about international law, and international legitimacy. The US and UK do not seek the consent of the world community to carry on aggression against Iraq in the so-called "No-fly Zones" which are not sanctioned by the UN. So, can we believe those two countries respect international law and the world community?

The US brutally attacked Sudan and could not prove anything. They even did not have the decency to admit a mistake.

I ask you, "Can we trust the fate of humanity to such people?"

Q: In the conference, voices have called to reinstate the role of the UN. They have proposed an alternative body to be formed to counter-balance the preponderant US influence over the world. Is that a serious alternative?

A: Observing the current world affairs situation, we see that there is rule of law or fair treatment. If you are a friend of the Americans, you can get away with anything. To us Arabs, Israel is the nearest example. The Israelis are armed to the teeth, they colonize more Palestinian land every day, even as they hold peace talks. They demolish Arab homes on the pretext that they were built without a permit, and of course, they are not given permits when they ask for them.

The US - like a drunken cowboy, pushes everybody around. But this situation cannot remain like this for ever. We all know that change is inevitable.

So, even if an alternative world body is not formed, a balancing power bloc is needed. We will reach out to any nation or group that is interested in making this vision a reality.

Q: You mentioned the Arab media. Do you think you can count on them supporting your case?

A: It is not a matter of supporting our case or not. It is not a matter of agreeing with us or not. I am proud to see Arab journalists and media who do not cower under Western influence, or for that matter, under pressure from Arab rulers. In a sense, independent journalists are the biggest assets of our Arab people.

They may not have adequate information flow, and they may not see the full picture. But, if a journalist is independent and he/she has integrity, you can always see how they will be a beacon of beam of light for their society. I use this occasion to tell you that we follow the Yemen Times. I can see that the people behind this paper have guts. They do not cower under for any person or power bloc - local or foreign. Whether you agree or not, you have to respect such professionalism.

Q: What is the internal situation in Iraq today?

A: You have been here for a few days, and you have freely moved around. Of course, we have big problems, especially in the field of medicine. Unfortunately, there are some varieties of drugs that we do not produce locally. This has had a devastating effect on our people because we are not allowed to import them.

The oil-for-food/medicine agreement is turning into a big joke as the Americans and their clients

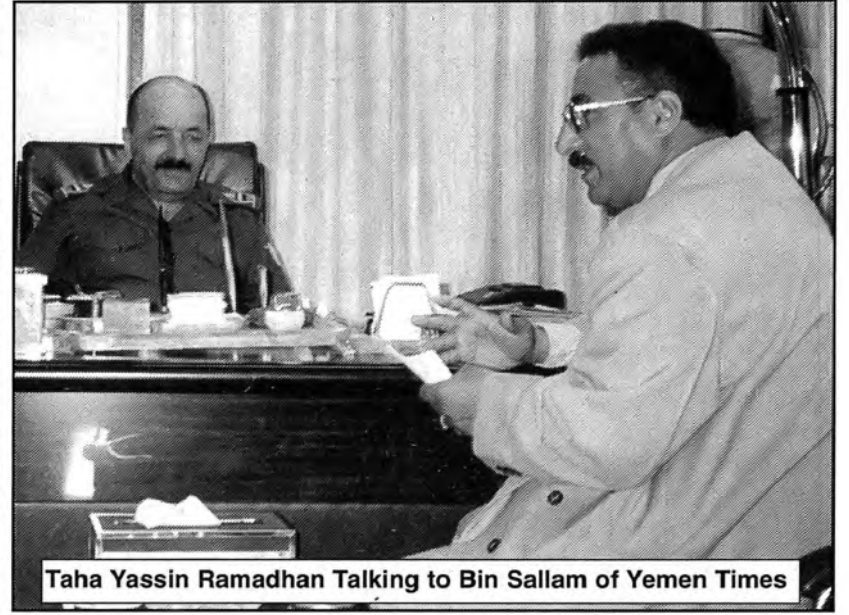
are able to block the UN procedures. At this time, less than 12% of total applications have been processed. So, the internal situation is hard as far as certain sectors are concerned.

At the same time, there are many sectors in which we have done

question. I don't have much to say.

Q: How about relations with other Arab countries?

A: Relations with many Arab countries are improving. Even those states close to the US, they



Taha Yassin Ramadhan Talking to Bin Sallam of Yemen Times

fine. For a country that has been subjected to this kind of embargo, I must say that our people have proven they are durable and have shown a lot of ingenuity.

Those people who thought we would wither away or succumb don't know the Iraqi people.

I assure you that we can withstand the difficulties, and we shall win this showdown.

Q: Let us talk about bilateral relations between Yemen and Iraq. What can you tell us?

A: I wish you did not ask this

now see the futility of their approach and position.

In some cases, some Arab regimes say they do not want to back down in front of Iraq. At the same time, you can see these regimes even sleep under when they are ordered by their masters. Today, the Arab people are waking up to see their rulers in their true form. The momentum is on the side of the people.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I believe salvation from these hateful sanctions is near.



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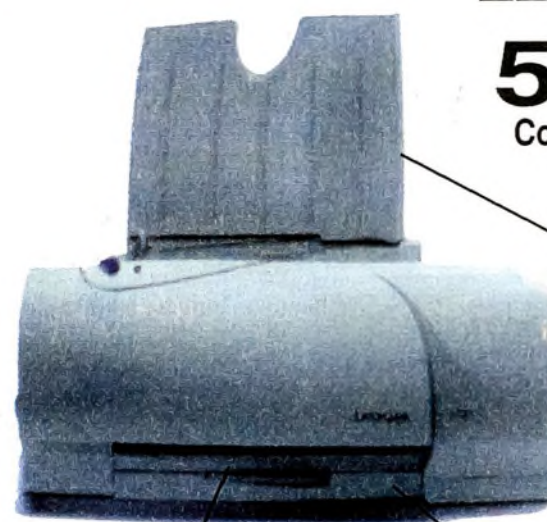
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An Interview with Ibtisam Al-Hamdi: First Yemeni Woman with Plans to Run for President

I was compelled to close my business in Yemen, but continue with my interests outside Yemen.

Q: When did you start thinking of running for the presidency?

A: The idea came to me in 1993 and I did apply for the presidential nomination at that time. However my application was turned down because I was underage.

Q: Why is it important that you run for these elections?

A: My desire for this nomination is for two important reasons: First, as women we are lucky to have a constitution that acknowledges the right of women to hold such posts. So as a woman, I would like to see the gap bridged between what is written and the reality. I would like to establish a tradition for exercising this constitutional right by women. Second, I will believe that we have democracy in Yemen only when I see a peaceful transfer of power. I am working to see this happen. Frankly, I would like to see power in the hands of civilians. My personal conviction is that when politics is run by the army, things get very messy. You can see this in every place where unelected military people run the show. Political change cannot take place under the muzzle of a gun. The army should be institutionalized and controlled by the parliament. What's worse in this country is the fact that the army is at the service of the ruling party. Now we have a golden opportunity to start changing that. More than ever before, the people of this country are in need of the power of the Word not the Sword.

Q: What was your experience back in 1993?

A: The reason I sought the 1993 nomination was that I found some of the more qualified women shy away from exercising this right. I said, 'Why not do it myself?' At the time, the idea was not fully developed.

Q: What do you think will happen, this time?

A: I am really sure. As the saying goes, there is nothing certain in Yemen. I am playing it by the motto "Wait and see". A lot of people are supportive. I may receive all kind of verbal support, now. But on the real day of election, I may end up with no one around me. Being a female nominee makes it harder. You know that in this country, the dominant male culture makes people's attitude towards women negative. Yemeni men look at women as subordinate. Most women are unable to have a say over issues that are so vital to their lives. In most cases it is the men who take decision for us. Of course, the situation is not the same in all parts of Yemen. For example, women in the southern and central governorates are far better off than they are in the northern and north-eastern governorates. The level of education plays an important role.

ish those periods because they brought a lot of prosperity.

Q: You know that you'll have to pass through the screening process in parliament. There is the issue of "wilayet al-mara'ah" which means there are limitations on certain senior state positions which women cannot occupy. What do you think will happen?

A: I think this is an impediment, but I'll do my best to get past this barrier. I know that there might be some serious questions raised against my gender as a female in what is known as "wilayet al-mara'ah". My situation is further complicated because of my last name - Al-Hamdi. You know that my uncle was a former president of this country.

In any case, however, I am relying on my constitutional rights to pass through any hurdles.

Q: Still "religious scholars" say that it is religiously prohibited for a woman to rule. What do you think of that?

A: Nobody argues with Islam and its teachings. But I want to say that some of our respected religious scholars use Islam and interpret it in ways that are politically expedient. Even worse, they project a distorted understanding of our faith. Religion should not be used as a political tool to deprive people from their equal rights.

History tells us that Yemen was ruled women. We Yemenis cherish

Q: What will happen if your candidature is turned down?

A: If that happens, I'll ask for an explanation and proceed accordingly. I may go for a legal battle, and I will show that our system discriminates against women.

Q: What kind of campaign agenda do you have?

A: I think the first thing I should do is to correct the distorted image of Islam. The idea that discriminates between man and woman is not part of true Islam. The main outlines in my election program are as follows:

- 1- To end the reign of the military and give power back to the civilians.
- 2- To establish social justice.
- 3- To fight for law and order.
- 4- Equality of people in front of the law.
5. Finally and above all, to work for a better standard of living by fighting corruption, nepotism, favoritism, etc.

Q: How will you finance your campaign?

A: I will rely on my own financial resources. Once my nomination is endorsed by parliament, I will attend more closely to the question of financing. But let me add that I don't count on assistance from the state. I believe there are a lot of decent people who will support my effort.

Q: Do you think independent candidates will have equal access to the official media?

A: The ruling politicians thoroughly control the official media. I don't think the principle of equal access is applicable in the coming elections. A self-financed campaign is the only alternative for independent candidates.

Q: Is there any coordination between you and opposition political parties to support you?

A: I think the opposition parties will stand by me. It is better for the opposition parties to have one platform and one candidate if they don't intend to nominate a candidate themselves. I warn opposition parties, however, not to thinly distribute their power base by nominating too many candidates.

Q: Do you plan to approach opposition parties to secure their backing?

A: This is the first step I will take once I go through parliament. Next month, June, parliament will receive applications.

Q: What happens if the opposition parties agree on another candidate?

A: If the majority of opposition parties decides on another candidate, and he/she stands a better chance, I will bow out.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I want to tell Yemenis that our present conditions are the result of the mismanagement of the present rulers. It is time for change.

By: Afra'a Zubair Ahmed
Yemen Times

Canada Delivers Demining Suits

Colonel Kassim Al-Shaibani, Head of the National Committee for Demining, officially announced the reception on Tuesday, May 11th, of five of ten demining protective suits. He added that the rest of the suits will be sent soon. On hand for the hand-over were Mr. Fouad Gohery of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Mr. P. William Dysinger, Country Director of Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA) Yemen office.

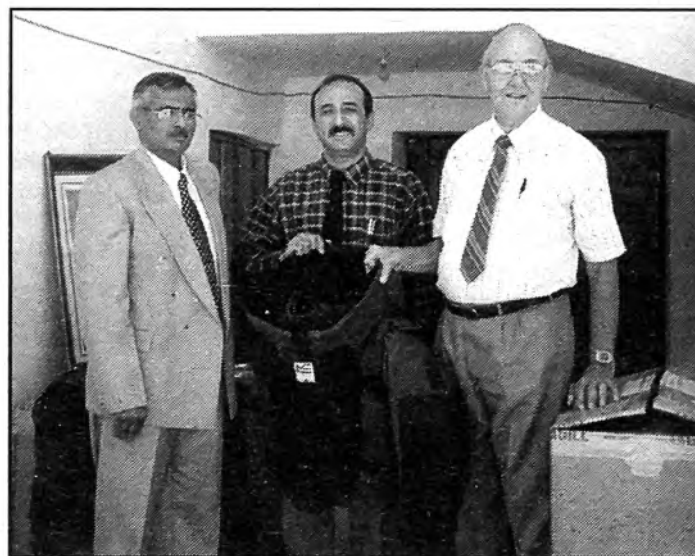
The Canadian government has played a prominent role in leading world efforts to stop the production, distribution, stockpiling and use of anti-personnel land mines. The Canadian drive has now shifted focus to help countries worldwide clear land mines and rehabilitate victims.

Yemen is one of the recipient countries of such Canadian assistance. The assistance is channeled in one of two ways. Direct bilateral assistance - such as the protective suits - are handled in collaboration with the National Committee for Demining through ADRA. "Our country has good relations with Canada and we hope that the Canadian government will continue in this useful assistance."

The other channel for Canadian assistance is the multilateral program which is managed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Mr. Fouad Gohery said that the Canadian government contributed approximately Can\$ 600,000 from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to the UNDP-managed demining effort. The money will be used to survey land mine victims and propose action plans to help them.

ADRA is an international NGO that has been operating in Yemen since 1994. ADRA is primarily working in programs to improve the health and welfare of the Yemeni people. During the past four years, ADRA has concentrated its effort in three districts - Hais, Khokha and Jabal Ras - all in the Tihama plain of Hodeidah governorate. It works with the local offices of the Ministry of Public Health to improve immunization, control of diarrhea and nutrition programs for children under five years, and to assist mothers in improving literacy, health knowledge and home economics. This is done through a small loan program for women.

ADRA/Yemen became involved with the demining program by



serving as a vehicle to channel assistance to the National Committee for Demining. Through its office in Canada, it has become the recipient of a grant to provide assistance to land mine accident survivors. This will primarily be in the form of community based rehabilitation to victims of serious accidents and referral of the most serious cases to orthopedic centers for reconstructive surgery, prostheses or other appliances, and medical rehabilitation and vocational training. ADRA will later assist the survivors in integrating back into their communities as productive citizens.

ADRA/Yemen received the five very sophisticated protective

suits on May 10 and turned them over on May 11th to Colonel Kassem Al-Shaibani. The suits were immediately transported to Aden where they will first be used in a training program on their use. Mr. Al Bennett, from Med-Eng Company in Canada was in Aden during May 10-13 where he provided training to the Yemeni demining engineers.

At another level, Canadian non-resident Ambassador to Yemen, Mr. Daniel Hobson, is in Sanaa to further push bilateral cooperation. He has seen a number of senior officials in this regard.

By: Yusuf Sherif
Yemen Times.

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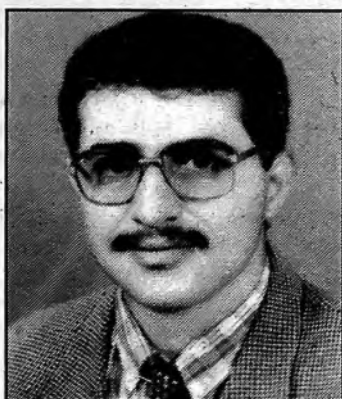
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This is an **OPINION** page.

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

Education in Yemen: To Be or Not To Be



Mohamed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Taiz Bureau Editor, Yemen Times.

ing in the era of the computer, internet, and intranet. The volume of science courses is too small in comparison with the theoretical courses. Besides, there is hardly any hands-on training and experiments.

In most countries, there is a periodic review of the curricula in order to upgrade the information the students receive. In Yemen, this is lacking. That is why some of the things taught in our classes are rather funny, if not absurd. Even if the syllabus is good, the teaching aids going with it are not available. Let us take an example. The English Crescent series is provided with good recorded songs and dialogues that could make learning very exciting. Unfortunately, the tapes and recorders are not available in schools. Conditions in schools in the countryside are even more pathetic. Over 120 students cuddle up to each other in each small classroom, and often must sit on the ground.

Sometimes, the people in charge of restructuring educational plans and amend syllabuses are not among the most capable educators persons. The committee appointed by a republican decree a few weeks ago was largely composed of people who are qualified in religious matters rather than in education. The people included in the list were those who made the most noise, but not those who were the most qualified.

Unified Educational System:

Another nagging problem is the issue of unifying the educational system. There are still two educational systems today. The first is controlled by the government, and the other by the Islah Party. In spite of heated debates regarding the issue of unifying the school systems, nothing has been done. Politics is standing in the way.

Education should serve the development process, and not the political interests of parties. The question of unifying educational systems should be the main concern of the government, whatever its political colors. The existence of two educational systems in one country will lead to different results among many of the children. It means having two generations of different beliefs, attitudes, and tendencies towards national issues. It creates a chasm between our students.

Private Education:

Private education has spread remarkably in the last few years due to the privatization drive. In theory, this is a good thing, as the state has been unable to provide high quality education to all. In practice, however, some businessmen have found they can

make a lot of money by investing in private schools. Unfortunately, given the lapse in adequate supervision, these "investors" have cut too many corners in the way they manage their investments. So, some flats were converted into schools. The children of rich families also discovered that "money talks" even in schools. Thus, certificates have become available on sale!

There are already 300 private schools all over the country today, mostly in the large cities. The Ministry of Education claims it has licensed less than 30% of this number. Yet, they are all in operation.

In the continued absence of the supervision of the Ministry of Education, private schools will exacerbate an already bad educational situation. Privatization should not mean chaos, especially not in education, which is the lifeline of our future.

To add insult to injury, we now have private universities which offer BA, B.Sc., MA, M.Eng. M.Sc. and other degrees. We have 7 private universities and preparations for establishing another in Lahej are in full swing. But can these be labeled as true universities?

Some investors rented flats and buildings and converted them into universities. Just pay a visit to Al-Rabat Street in Sanaa, you can find three universities on this small street. These investors have also come up with ingenious new ideas. Students who are busy with some other business, can just pay the tuition, and come at the end of the term/year to take the exam. They are basically assured of success. And because the government is oblivious to the long term impact, it is very easy for a person to "BUY" a license to establish a university.

I was once discussing this issue with a rector of one of our new universities. He told me that he is not satisfied with the situation of the undergraduate education, let alone the higher study. He said that he was against the idea of establishing universities all over the country. Even the large state universities in Sanaa, Taiz and Aden, are lacking in many of the proper facilities. They do not offer appropriate academic services, especially not in research and laboratory work.

Yemeni universities focus on humanities and theoretical studies. Enrollment in the hard sciences in the academic year 1997-1998 was estimated at 16% of the total university student body.

Are we aware of the fact that only vocational and technical education can generate the skills our country needs? Are we aware that there are thousands of university graduates who are unemployed today because they do not have employable skills?

I once read a fine article in the "Focus" page of the Yemen Times, issue 14 by an American expert, Bob Sherman. He noted that Yemen would be better off if it applied a "community college" approach.

University Curriculum

The question of university curricula is another pitfall facing university education. It is clear that there are no strategic or long-term plans for post-graduate education. Everything moves erratically. University education is different from that of schools, for the former depends mainly on researching and referencing. Universities are places for discussing issues. This is why university education becomes the principal factor of development.

Due to the lack of reference materials, some teachers either copy from books or summarize books into hand-outs. It is unfortunate to find that some teachers engage their students in memorizing their hand-outs, and require them to reproduce them on exam sheets.

Students' lives now revolve around their hand-outs. Imagine, some students spend more than four years in college without even having stepped into the library. In this way we produce parrots rather than scholars who

can repay their nation.

Examination-oriented syllabuses make students receptive rather than interactive.

There is a workshop on curricula planned for 18-19 of May at Taiz University. I hope this gathering will address this issue fully.

The question of university curricula is very important. It must be undertaken by educators who have experience in this field. It is not wrong to fallback on the experience of others, but I believe indigenous solutions are necessary.

Let me give an example. The government adopted the idea of establishing institutes for teacher training from Jordan. That is fine. But, letting Jordanian edu-

cators work out the syllabus for these institutes in Yemen is not fine. Why? Because these people do not understand our educational situation well enough. This makes our syllabus a carbon copy of the Jordanian one, which does not serve us well.

I believe Yemen has enough educational experts who, if given a chance, could work miracles for our educational system. But, may be because everything is measured by political considerations, fools have become scholars.

To conclude, the question of education should be given top priority by the government and the public, because it is our ticket to the future!

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Telephone Operators: Unappreciated Workers!

One of the cornerstones of any company, government office, school, or whatever organization you can name is its communication lines. It is, in fact, its life-line. In most organizations, this is done through the switchboard. In a survey of 38 organizations carried out during April 1999 in Sanaa, we found that 94.8% of the switchboard operators were women. Thus, this is a job dominated by females.

"The reason is that women are generally more patient," says Intissar Al-Ammari, operator at Adhban Company. Tayyibah Al-Khayyat of the Yemen Bank for Reconstruction & Development. She also thinks the reason is that 'women are more courteous'. Haifa Abdul-Jaleel of Al-Huraibi Hospital believes it is because of the soft voice of women. Ikram Abdul-Wali of the International Bank of Yemen feels women can save awkward situations by taking the blame. When the boss forgets to answer a call, it is

because the operator forget to tell him. Khadijah Tayghoor of Interwood Company believes women can put up with a lot more than men. That is why it has become a female-dominated job.

Telephone operators can never aspire to be rich. This is a low-paying job.

The lowest salary for a telephone operator was earned by Fathiyah Al-Mahfadi at Yemen Gas Company. She earns YR 7000 per month, and the highest in the sample went to Hana Ali Ahmed of Trust Insurance and Re-Insurance Company at YR 30,000 a month. By far, the majority carry home around YR 13,000 a month.

But the salary depends on many factors, length of service, ability, and efficiency.

Most switchboards are an enclosure, which one can call a room tucked away somewhere in the building, often on the ground

floor near the main entrance. The lighting is often dim, and the room is small and comfortable.

The job has many problems.

First and foremost, there is no directory that the operators can refer to in their work. That is why they have to create their own directories. To meet this problem, telephone operators have established a network of friendships among themselves which they tap for getting numbers they do not know. But the main trick in doing the job is to memorize as many numbers as possible, especially those that are needed frequently.

"I know by heart over 600 numbers," says Hanan Ahmed of the Yemen Commercial Bank. The majority of operators remember between 150-200 numbers off the top of their heads. Wafa Ad-Duwais of Al-Watani Bank says she has successfully used 118, the communications telephone directory. But many of her col-

leagues said they were not as successful in using 118.

One of the most difficult aspects of this job is the pressure that comes with it. "When the boss wants someone immediately, my heart starts beating faster than normal. If I have the number, the job is easier. If I don't, I start a number-hunt. Sometimes, you are not lucky, the number is busy or it is out of order, or has been changed. The pressure I endure until I put my boss through is enormous," said an experienced operator.

Another one has a different set of problems. Najat Salim of Yemeni Company for Group Land Transport says, "Some people call for fun. They hold the line, and they flirt. It is my job to handle them in a way that does not hurt my company's image. It takes a lot of skill, and a lot of sweet-talking."

Indeed, nearly 79% of the tele-



phone operators surveyed complained against idle talk by people who make random calls.

How has technology affected this field? Most switchboards are a simple telephone set with multiple lines. Some companies like Universal Group of Companies have computer sets to help in storing numbers. But the telephone set itself has yet to be con-

nected to the computer to place a call. Other companies have automatic answering machines for those who know the extension number of the person they want to reach.

"Technology cannot replace us," the operators agree.

Ahlam Al-Khawlanly,
Yemen Times

Lufthansa: Keen on Developing Yemen Market

Lufthansa - German Airlines, has just installed a new country general manager. He is a person who has over three decades of experience, having served all over the world. Mr. Jurgen Dohne has just been transferred from Cyprus. He replaces Mr. Sadik Elmas, who is headed for Khartoum.

At the same time, the airline is also transferring its regional hub general manager, Mr. Michael Wurche, who was based in Cairo. He is now moving to Lagos, Nigeria, where he will develop the West Africa hub.

On the occasion, Khairiyah Al-Shabibi and Yusuf Sherif of Yemen Times spoke to the Lufthansa officials and filed the following joint interview:

Q: We understand you have asked for more capacity for your airline?

A: Yes, now our planes are going more than 90% full. That means we are refusing some passengers. Lufthansa now flies ten times a week to Cairo. Of these, three flights continue to Sanaa with A300-600 Airbus planes that have a capacity of 200 seats. About two thirds of these are assigned to our Cairo office, leaving only 200 seats for Sanaa, which is not enough.

Our chairman has agreed to increase our flights to Cairo to 12 flights a week next year. We have a choice to add one flight to Sanaa. In addition, Lufthansa will fly bigger planes the A340-300.

Q: Have you raised this matter with the Yemeni authorities?

A: We will have to discuss this with the national carrier, Yemenia, with whom our relations are excellent because we are both trying to expand the market. While we are competitors, we do engage each other in a fair way. We hope we can arrive at a mutually acceptable solution.

Q: Is the Sanaa runway adequate for the larger plane?

A: I believe this is up to the Civil Aviation of Yemen to decide. The runway may need some minor expansion where the plane makes the turn.

Q: Lufthansa has been privatized. Is it true that it is now making money?

A: World wide, Lufthansa is making money, but return to investors is still very very low. Within the Middle East region, the airline has been losing money over the last ten years. It is only last year that we started to show profits.

Q: Is that due to privatization, and what did it change in the company?

A: I am sure it is the main factor. Privatization means more competitive performance, better savings on expenditures, cutting down on staff, increasing productivity, improving services and decreasing prices. It is a solution against global competition.

Q: Lufthansa has been building airline partnerships. What is the philosophy behind that?

A: Yes, Lufthansa and a number of first-class airlines have built the 'Star Alliance'. This gives the

passenger the same attention and services wherever he/she is. Together, these airlines serve more than 700 airports worldwide.

Q: How do you assess Lufthansa in Yemen?

A: We are very happy with the cooperation we get from Yemenia and from the Civil Aviation authority. We are going to build further on this cooperation.

Q: But the ticketing agencies and travel offices complain that you are cutting back on their commissions?

A: In the past, the intermediary used to account for almost 20% of the cost of the ticket. As we cut back on expenses and on fares, we feel that this cannot continue. Travel agencies can still collect their 9%, but we have to be competitive. This requires that the passengers get the best fare.

Q: Will you consider flying into Aden?

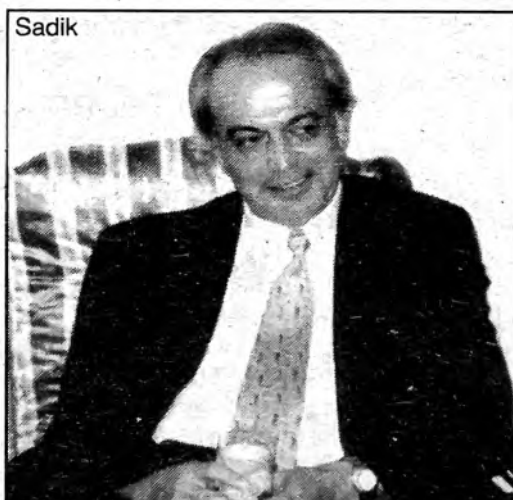
A: In fact, we are thinking about this. It is still a long shot. We hope we can fly into Aden via Alexandria, Egypt, and onwards to Frankfurt. We will discuss this with Yemenia.

Q: Why hasn't computerization come to your system here in Yemen?

A: That will come this year. A passenger will even be able to make his/her own reservation. In addition, Yemen will also be included in the regional website of Lufthansa.

Q: Are there many "Miles and More" members in Yemen?

A: Yes, there are about 400 members and we hope the number will increase in the future.



Amery Wins First Battle to Protect BASF Trade Mark

Abdo Sallam Al-Amery has been waging a battle against the imports of imitation goods into Yemen. "Many importers are driven by the incentive to make quick profits by forging world-famous trade names of BASF products, especially in pesticides and fertilizers," he said. That is why he has started a long fight to stop this practice.

"For the last two and a half years, we have been fighting legal battles in courts, and we have blocked entry of large consignments in various entry ports. I am happy that we now have a legal order from the court to block the entry of any imitation product," he said. He is talking about Legal order 71 of 1999 dated 24/03/1999.



Legal
Trade mark

Fake Trademark

The Sanaa and Aden Commercial Courts have been the site of legal battles between Al-Amery and many of the imitation importers. The Deputy Chief of Mission, Mr. Mathias Kiesler, and the Commercial Attache at the German Embassy were involved in the matter. "They have helped us by lodging a complaint with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Agriculture, which licenses the imports of the imitation goods," he said.

But getting a court order is one thing, and actually succeeding in protecting the patent rights of the German company whose goods Al-Amery distributes is another thing, as this businessman found. "I am now compelled to assign a representative to all import ports to block the entry of forged goods," he added. He also indicated that most of the forgeries take place in cheap outfits in South Asia, and then they are brought into the country. "These goods are then sold at a third of our prices," he indicated.

By: Anwar Al-Sayyadi,
Yemen Times.



"Yes, Sir. We apprehended a citizen who has no guns."

TUG AUCTION

"for the second time"

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:-

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

- 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 successful bidder shall pay custom duty as per regulations prevailed, and 1% fee for the Governorate Bureau to be paid too.
- The auction will be held at **11:00 a.m on 6th June 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 of Telephone No. mentioned above to make the necessary arrangements for their inspection.

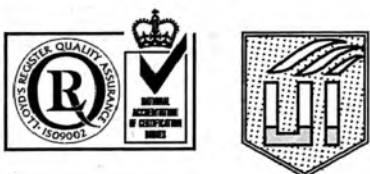


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This accomplishment is proof of Yemen's
industrial progressive movement.

Wishing them every success
for the future.





PSA

نتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات

لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

المشير علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر

وإلى المجلس الاستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبد الغني

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني،

وإلى الشعب اليمني البطل

بمناسبة ذكرى قيام الوحدة اليمنية المباركة

كل عام وأنتم بخير

مجموعة شركات هائل سعيد أنعم

علي محمد سعيد أنعم، أحمد هائل سعيد أنعم

Our heartfelt congratulations & felicitations to
President Ali Abdullah Saleh

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmer

and all members of Parliament,

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani

and all members of Consultative Council,

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister

and all members of his Government,

and the Yemeni people

on the anniversary of 22nd May -

Yemen's Unity Day.

on behalf of

**Hayel Saeed Anaam
Group of Companies**

Ali Mohammed Saeed Anaam

Ahmed Hayel Saeed Anaam



#1 of a series

Yemen Times Reveals the Secrets of "Al-Khallool" Said to be the Oldest Musical Instrument in Yemen

Based on research in Hodeidah, Zabid and Al-Garrah, focused on the cultural and social Tihama arts, I came up last week with a startling discovery. In Hodeidah city, I met some of the people interested in arts, literature and education. At the Cultural Forum, I met Sheikh Mansour Wasel, member of parliament and adviser to the Forum, and Ahmed Salem Bajil, head of the Cultural Forum. They and many others, helped me understand detailed aspects of Tihama art, which I will explain in a series of issues of the Yemen Times.

Let me start with one discovery that truly amazed me, and which had a magical effect on my whole journey. It was an instrument called "Al-Khallool". At the first glance, I thought that this instrument was some kind of cudgel for protection, or a stick used for herding sheep. But I soon discovered that this one meter long stick was actually a musical wind instrument, i.e., a flute. Not only did it look too large or long to use, but it only had two large holes far away from the opening for blowing in. My amazement increased as the scene unfolded in front of my eyes. The owner neatly held it with his hands, and played it, producing melodious music. The instrument was so long that in order to keep both his fingers on the two holes, he had to lean his head a little to the left to be able to blow through it. It seemed like an awkward task, but he managed, perhaps because he was used to it.

The mystery of Al-Khallool was not reported by any other newspaper or any other media. I really felt sorry that such a historic and melodious instrument was ignored. This flute is said to be the oldest ever in Yemen.

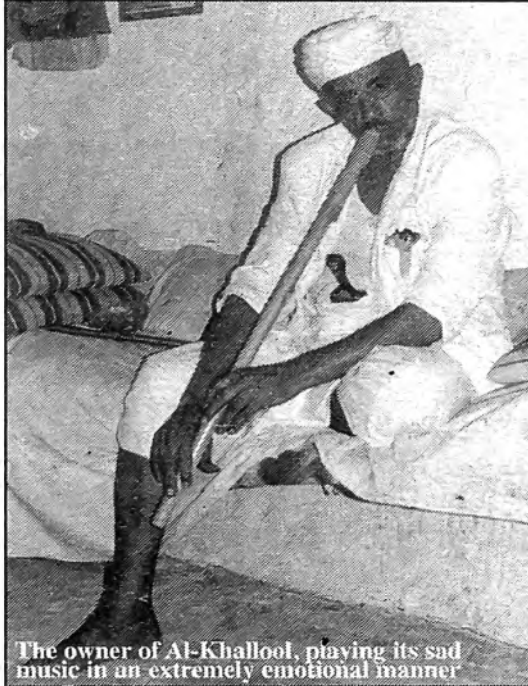
Everyone I met assured me that the Al-Khallool indeed is the oldest musical instrument in Yemen. They claim that it is one of the oldest musical instruments in the history of mankind.

References to it go back some five hundred hundred years - to the time of the Turkish conquest and the wars between them and the competing Portuguese forces.

Unfortunately, no one knows where the instrument originated. This instrument was used by the farmers and the Tihama people in their festivals, celebrations and entertainments. It was quite puzzling to hear that this instrument has been in use even long before the Turkish conquest. In fact, the owner claims with surprising confidence that the flute in his hand is of the same type used by the Prophet David around 3000 years ago. There is no way to verify such claims. Scientists will have to test the actual age of the instrument. What we do know is that this strange instrument has become the base of various social Tihama arts the dances of "Alhaqfa", Al-Saif Al-Yamani (The Yemeni sword), the Camel Dance, etc. Since these dances have evolved over a long time, the instrument must have existed for along time.

This instrument was used in nightly entertainment which often lasted until the next morning. The exciting thing about this instrument is that it produces excellent music, with a sad thick sound that can not be separated from the poetry. Once I listened to its music, it gave me a feeling of the past, the memories, the old history, and the simplicity of the life of the Tihamian people. While playing with its tones, the Tihami person using it had been trying to get a sound like "Da'ood" which is the name of Prophet David in Arabic. It was quite

that he had inherited this instrument from his deceased father, who taught him how to use it. We asked him how you would make a similar instrument? He simply said that not only would no one from the new or previous generation know how to construct one, they would even not be able to use it. When I calculated his and his fathers age it was around 150 years, he also said that he will pass it on to his son and grand son as he has inherited it from his father and grandfather. This drives us to make a very important conclusion about the artistic position of this instrument, which should be studied so that we can discover the secrets behind it. I concluded that even with only its documented history, Al-Khallool is still a very old and valuable instrument



The owner of Al-Khallool, playing its sad music in an extremely emotional manner

true, it did speak the word "Dawood" in a sad and magical manner. Al-Khallool was also used by many people who used to travel on camels. It has been said that when the camels listened to this music, they shake their necks and walk for extremely long distances. Tihamians claim that this is how the camel dance actually originated in the Tihama. This instrument has been distinguished by its strange length and the holes and grooves, as I saw it with one of Tihamian citizens who told me

ment in the world. Some claim that this indicates that this instrument was made in the old ages when musical scales were not known. It is a historical musical instrument that produces previously unheard magical tones.

Al-Khallool is an important part of Yemen's heritage from the old ages through which the Tihamians found their own cultural music, which they see as essential to pass on to the next generation. This instrument has a unique progression through its possessors in Yemen. No one was able to correctly identify its age and explain its workings.

Al-Khallool is not widely known today because of the difficulty of its use and its inability to generate today's music tones. This leads to ignorance and a shift to the new flutes produced and used today.

In the end, one cannot help wondering how this instrument came all the way from Israel and the Prophet David, to the coast of the Tihama. Could it be that what we call Al-Khallool today is in fact the same instrument the Prophet David used? I can never describe how tears filled my eyes when I heard the music of Al-Khallool. It wasn't only music that I heard. It was history itself being played in a sad way. The sound of Al-Khallool will definitely stay in my mind forever, reminding me of the sounds of the past.

Saleh Abdul-Baki,
Cultural Editor,
Yemen Times

Mosaic Carnival: A Show of Cultural Exchange

MOSAÏQUE موسايك

The Mosaic Carnival, Alfusaifisa, was one of the most lively festivals of the first half of the year 1999. This organizers chose to go south. The events took place in two places simultaneously: the French Mediterranean coast, and also in the southern Arabian Peninsula - here in Yemen. The carnival is a cultural, artistic, musical and dancing show directed at the francophones everywhere. It was initiated in Yemen lately, organized in the open in public places.

This festival is further confirmation that France will always remain a unique haven for cultural exchange. It also underlines the importance that France attaches to

cultural exchange with Yemen. "We are quite confident that such events would further broaden the scope of the mutual cultural appreciation between Yemen and France," said Mr. Benoit Tadie.

For Yemen, it is the first time that a musical festival is organized in which a large number of foreign artists participated. Alfusaifisa festival was coordinated by the French Cultural Center, which invites lots of artists and Franco-Arab artistic groups to Yemen. The center also sponsors perform-

ances and exhibitions of other art forms, including, painting, poetry, music, film showing, etc. Many Yemeni artists also participate in the events.

Last Thursday a festival was organized at Aldhurafi Stadium which lasted for more than 3 hours in which many artists participated. That was the Euro-Freesia - a Euro-African and Asian group enchanted the public. The multi-cultural group performed a number of times during May 5th through 9th. Their first show was held last Wednesday at the Sheraton Hotel, an event inaugurated by the French Charge de Affair and officials from the Ministry of Culture. "This festival reflects the strong will to strengthen artistic relations," the French diplomat said.

Khairia Al-Shabibi
Yemen Times



JOB VACANCY

The American Embassy announces a job vacancy for a "VOUCHER EXAMINER" within its organization. The position is located in the Budget and Fiscal Office, American Embassy, under supervision of the senior Voucher Examiner, Financial Specialist, and the Administrative officer. Incumbent serves as voucher examiner for all routine vouchers, maintains the control log for vouchers and transmittals to RAMC Paris, and prepares the weekly pouch.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Reviews and processes all routine vouchers for all Agencies and variety of sources to insure conformance with terms of original purchase order, contracts, or authorizations.
- Follows up with the authorizing officer to obtain corrections or clarifications as needed.
- Consults regulations and determines the validity of the requested payment.
- Checks all computations on invoices and supporting documentation for accuracy.
- Prepares and types vouchers for payment, including fiscal data, and details of purpose of payment.
- Replaces the payroll liaison clerk in her/his absence, preparing the regular time and attendance, and in resolving any questions or problems related to payroll.

Education/Experience:

Completion of secondary school and specialized training elementary bookkeeping required. One to two years of experience in a commercial or international organization's book-keeping or accounting office.

Language proficiency/Knowledge:

Level III English required. Knowledge of PC-based data bases, spreadsheets and word processing programs is strongly preferred.

Desired Skills/Abilities:

Level I typing in English. Ability to use desk calculator.

Salary:

The minimum starting annual gross salary for this position is YR 566,822 of which one third is paid in U.S. Dollars.

How to apply:

Interested applicants should complete OF-174 (Application Form for Employing Foreign Nationals) attached to it a C.V., and contact the Embassy Personnel Office, American Embassy, Dhahr Himyar Street, Sanaa, Tel. 238-842. No application will be accepted later than May 28, 1999.

PS: Applicants are requested to give a current and correct telephone number.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Yemen Times,

I really can not express my feeling when I go to your web site. Your site is the best Yemeni web site I have ever visited. Let courage you in all of the things that you add to the web.

I have a couple of questions. Do you announce the results of the survey in the hard copy as they are shown in the e-copy? How long it takes to update the information of the results? I wish you all the best.

Raskhan Al-Kaderi
Araskhan987@hotmail.com

Thanks for your compliment. We do publish the same results of every poll question every week. It only takes a few minutes to retrieve the results from the online version to the hard copy, but we leave the question up one single week before we update.

-The Editor

Dear Editor,

I'd like to express my thanks to you, for your newspaper, which is full of good news, and expresses our determination for a brighter future. I wish you all the best of success.

Yours faithfully,

Abdulahim said
Pune - India

Dear Editor,

I could not hide my increasing dismay over the tribal violence and mayhem in Yemen, which I read about in the Yemen Times. I was once welcomed in Yemen in

October '98 by strangers in Sana'a and Taiz and have nothing but the warmest feelings for the Yemenis that befriended me. Having traveled extensively in Asia and the Middle East, I was very impressed with the spectacular scenery and culture of Yemen.

I do not have any ideas for quick fixes of any cultures' struggles with a changing world, but retreating into medieval religious isolationism as expressed by the kidnappers/murderers of the Abyan tragedy is no solution.

The world is becoming smaller whether we like it or not, and a free exchange of ideas is necessary for everyone to survive. There is no reason for everybody to agree on differences that just may never be bridgeable, but all peoples need to respect each others' cultures and beliefs as much as possible. Everyone needs to be mature enough to realize that sometimes there is no accommodation. But in the end, for the sake of true humanity, we all must live together. Extremism never really helped anybody. Tribal vendettas must become extinct if anybody wants to evolve past barbarity.

Education and literacy will go very far towards helping Yemen, and may be the only real solution.

Alan Suits
asuits@stlnet.com
USA

Dear Editor,

I am an Italian-American married to a Yemeni man from Ibb. Taiz. I try to read your on-line newspaper as much as possible. It allows me to talk with my husband regarding current events in Yemen. Thank you so much for bringing to America a viewpoint of the Intelligent Yemeni.

I've read a lot about Yemen and it has a beautiful history (Queen of Sabaa) and I believe was called "Arabia Felix" by the Romans. I've seen many photos of Yemen from my husband and from various websites.

I've noticed that lately there has been a lot of opposition towards chewing QAT. My husband chews it on Holidays, however I do not join him. I am not against him chewing it because it is not a habit for him. I know of people hear in America that chew it while working and spend up to \$150 a week for QAT. To me, that is unreasonable. I read Asir Al-Soudani's article on the Pro & Cons of QAT. He has a point about the livelihood of people who produce and transport the plant. It's a simple case of supply and demand. And if Yemen wants to reach the 21st century they will have to supply a lot of so-called "undesirable products" that people demand. Every country that becomes modernized eventually loses a lot of its tradition, culture, family values, and eventually religion. I am a first-

hand witness about this because it happened to my father's hometown in Italy. It has happened to every so-called modern and capitalistic country. It's sad but true. But will it happen to Yemen?

Thank you

Raffaella Iosue
riosue@actny.uscg.mil

Is President Saleh Applying Again?

I was very surprised when I heard that President Ali Abdullah Saleh is applying for another period of presidency. This is because the constitution that his government approved limited the presidency periods to two consecutive terms. Also I have read and heard that he promised not to run for the presidency another time.

I hope that this is not true.

Masoud Qabili
masq@ue.eti.pg.gd

There are Internet Cafes in Sanaa

I would like to send the Editor & Staff my salutations from here in Canada. In your most recent online issue of the Yemen Times (Issue 19 - May 10th through May 16th 1999, Volume IX), I encountered an error. I was reading the editor's viewpoint section, which is where I found the error. I would like to first state that you're views are quite interesting, truthful and make me realize some aspects which we, as Yemenis (at home or abroad), most of the time overlook. In

your accusations towards the city of Sana'a, which I found true for all but one, are good points. The only point which I saw as false, was the Internet cafes. You stated as one of your examples "Can you believe that this city does not have one Internet cafe! There are no adequate efforts to promote the use of computers, the Internet or other modern information technologies." In my most recent visit back home, which was just about 3 months ago, I found an Internet cafe up in the Hadda area (Madinah Sakinia intersection with Hadda Rd. (now named Damascus Rd.)) Around that area is located the Hadda Internet Cafe. I personally visited it just once. Why just once? Well for one, the people who work there hardly have any knowledge of the Internet. When asked about the speed of their transfer rates, they just looked at me in a most puzzled manner. They lack proper guidance (which I didn't need) in setting us up at a computer. They failed to mention that there was either a 150 or 300 rial connection fee when asked what exactly are their rates. They were still charging 12 riyals per minute even though the (per minute) charge was decreased to 9 riyals per minute by Teleyemen. There were about eight computers in a room, and only 2 customers (including myself) at that time. It lacked a computer or Internet atmosphere. Just out of curios-

ty, I asked them a technical Internet related question which their employees were unable to answer due to their inexperience. I (on purpose) played with one of the settings on the computer and then asked for technical assistance, which was useless. So therefore I had to attend to the problem myself (which was just a very minor adjustment). There were also some membership per month & year (I don't see how they could last that long) rates which I don't exactly remember what they were but all I know is that the rates were preposterous. So as you can see, physically there is an Internet Cafe, but in reality it has no backbone to support it in any way.

Well, also the way I look at it, is that there is a huge and remarkable lack of introduction, teaching and following up on the World Wide Web of the Internet (which in my opinion has become a universal phenomenon in connecting the world to each other) to the Yemeni population. This could be a good focus to look on in the Editor's Viewpoint written by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. I am personally thinking of writing an article on it. At the end of this, I would just like to tell you all at Yemen Time to keep up the good work.

Tareq Gohery
taralws@usa.net
Ottawa, Canada

When Corruption Invades Our Lives!

Introduction

Since administrative corruption has invaded all sectors of the Yemeni state, it has become difficult to deal with these sectors unless one is an influential person. Corrupt behavior involves innovative illegitimate and unlawful vehicles like bribery, nepotism, and favoritism - the so-called wasta in Arabic, in the business of government. These vehicles facilitate the accomplishment of certain bureaucratic tasks for a certain people. Often, these tasks are illegal or by-pass the rights of others. Not all people can get such facilities, as they are limited either to those who pay, or to those who have influence or power.

In our area of the Hadrahmaut, we are not used to such practices. It takes us a long time to adjust to unfamiliar and illegal behavior. The inhabitants of my district have skeptical attitudes towards crooked behavior, even if it is presented as useful to them.

This is what happened recently as the people of Mukalla could not play along in procurement arrangements. For example, up to now there are no computer or even fax machines in government offices that would have served the people and save time

and reduce bureaucratic measures. In the same way, any procurement takes a long time - maybe double the time it takes in other districts.

A long time ago, if you had any paperwork to complete in any administration, one faced a highly bureaucratic system which demanded that you fill up all sorts of information. But today, our government administration is in the formative stages of an epidemic of "administrative corruption". Work is in full swing to install the requirements of this set-up that serves only the people in charge.

There are additional requirements to get the job done. Flattery, hypocrisy and other twisted mouth-service is fast becoming our religion. It is also clear that the top people in charge of the country do not control the lower bureaucrats. Here I will give examples of the problems we have to put up with.

Disadvantages of Favoritism

The features of favoritism that are biased towards a few people and against many people. This implies a prejudice against the majority and in favor of a minority. Absolutely, the judgment of majority is always correct.

Moreover, as you know the purpose of it is to upgrade and prefer the favorite person to get the priority and privilege in the intended direction. Unfortunately, some of our people in charge want to help their relatives and influential persons but they have gotten adverse reactions. In this state our folklore proverb attested "He wanted to kiss her, but he lost her eye." In this respect I have two short episodes about this stupid partiality.

In the hospital

The waiting-room was crowded with patients waiting their turn to meet the doctor. Suddenly, an influential man came, and he said "Oh! It is impossible to wait among these people," just made a gesture to the doctor, the doctor informed the receptionist to permit to him to come in. The doctor stood up, I don't know whether it was because of his position or for his filled-pocket. Then he explained his malady to the doctor and wanted to get a fast and effective cure. The doctor wrote a prescription with many pills and dosages. The ordinary man stayed on the bench waiting his turn and got a simple prescription written quickly. Who is the profitable one, the ordinary or

the influential? Of course the ordinary. The mixed and stuffed prescription has an effect on the influential man. Both the doctor and his friend forgot the ability of Allah.

In the Education Office

The people in charge of it, especially in our district, don't appreciate the circumstances whatever the conditions. Each year they change and substitute the teachers in every school. Not all the teachers are liable to these alterations. Since I was employed as a teacher my annual substitution was in a remote village and the influential ones remain in the same school of their towns. This year, I went to my school. The boys are few in each class and my proportion of periods are few as well. My influential peer in the nearby school is bothered by the over-crowded classes and over-load of periods. Adding insult to the injury, he is responsible for some of the activities within the school.

Conclusion

We are looking forward to a program of administrative reform to cover all the districts of our governorates of Yemen and to reach to ours as soon as possible. I

would like to have decisive devices to eradicate every corrupt member immediately. I call on the good people to pave the way for this program to perform its mission in its entire form. We don't want...

* Our public interest violated on the account of the private interest
* To quote an Egyptian proverb; "If you have a pound, you equal a pound, have not, you are dud. We want to hear "the right man in the right place."
* To carry a filled envelop to a

greases palm. We want justified and hard circumstances to be under consideration

* To disfigure the picture of Yemen we want to gain more testimonies of world organizations.

Mohammed Ali Basaif
Hadrahmaut

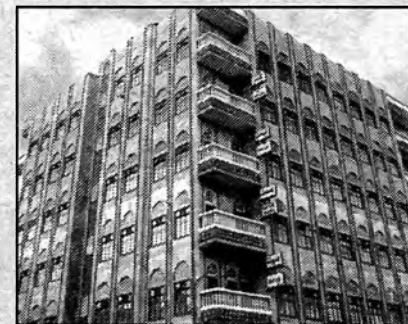
Apology

We regret that due to editorial oversight, some errors have remained in the article titled "Catch them Young" by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu on page 11 of Yemen Times last issue.

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ROTHMANS PRESENT PLAQUE TO HAYEL SAEED ANAM FOR I.S.O 9002

Rothmans International Tobacco a company recognized for its high quality product, pay tribute to H.S.A. on the achievement of their manufacturing plant in Taiz U.I.C. for obtaining I.S.O. 9002 accreditation.

In 1998 Rothmans and H.S.A. celebrated 40 years of business together. The celebrations continued that year when in Oct. 98 the U.I.C factory were audited by international auditors who deemed that

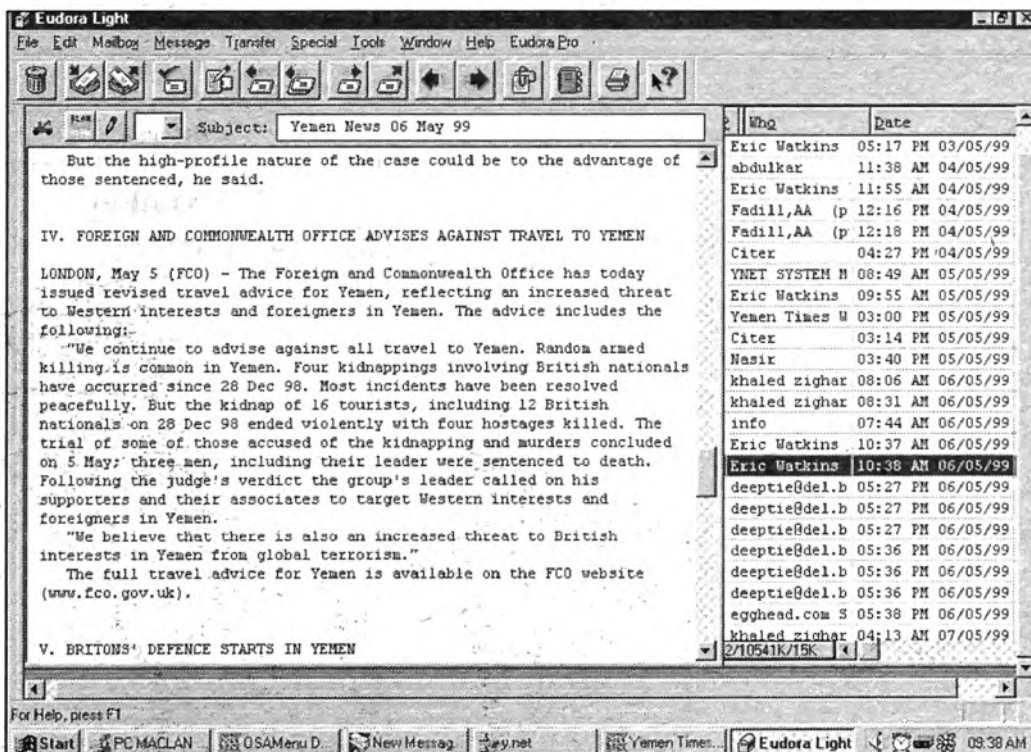
the factory systems within the Taiz plant were up to I.S.O. 9002 standards.

The plaque was proudly presented by Mr. A. Burnip, regional manager of Rothmans to Mr. Ali Mohammed Saeed (H.S.A. Chairman) during April 99. The General Manager of U.I.C. factory Mr. Mohammed A. W. Tarish and the U.I.C. factory Manager Mr. Stan Radley of Rothmans expressed their pride in the workforce in achieving such recognition.



Continued from Page 1:

Eric Watkins "Yemen News" Newsletter Sent by E-mail to yementimes@y.net.ye



Eric Watkins is a London-based reporter who issues the daily "Yemen News" Newsletter. A copy of this transmission will be handed to whoever wants it.

Al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture Announces the Accepting of Nominations for the Hayel Saeed Anam Award for Sciences and Arts



The Al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture and the board of the Hayel Saeed Anam's Award for Sciences and Arts have announced the accepting of nominations for the 1999 Award. All experts, researchers, literary persons and specialists in the field work of medicine, technology, development and artistic creation are invited to apply. This is to follow the steps of the late Hayel Saeed and to achieve his wishes and dreams of promoting the life of his society.

Awards are given in the following categories:

Medical Sciences:

- 1- Bilharzia
- 2- Hepatitis

Environmental & Agricultural Sciences:

Qat and its impact on environment and agriculture:

- A- Water, Earth, Insecticides
- B- Solutions and Alternatives

Economic Sciences:

- A- Private sector: Between Reality and Ambition
- B- Globalization- world trade treaty: its concept and impact on the third world countries (Yemen as a particular use)

Humanity and Social Sciences:

- 1- Technical education and vocational training
- 2- Population explosion and development

Islamic Sciences:

- 1- Family planning in Islam
- 2- Islam: Religion of forgiveness

Artistic Creation:

Short story and novel

Conditions:

- 1- The competition is open to all professors, researchers, experts, literary persons and specialists who have made a distinguished scientific research or has a social value and literary creation. They must have through their experiences given the Yemeni society lofty services.
- 2- The researcher must be of a Yemeni nationality or an Arab individual residing in Yemen.
- 3- The contender should not have won an award for the submitted work from any other body. Included in this are thesis for high diploma, masters and Ph.D.
- 4- The Foundation accepts individual applications and nominations submitted by universities and scientific establishments that involve scientific research and studies.
- 5- A previous winner of the Hayel Saeed Award for Sciences and Arts may not take part again. Those who did not win in previous participation may enter the competition with new research or studies in addition, to satisfy the conditions.
- 6- A nominee to the award must submit the following:
 - a- Scientific record;
 - b- A personal CV and the reason for being nominated for the reward;
 - c- Three copies of all other documents and information mentioned in the form supplied by the Award's General Secretariat, which must be filled in according to the set of conditions.
- 7- Three copies of the research submitted for winning the award must be submitted.
- 8- The submitted work is not returned to the participant, whether being a winner or not.
- 9- Objections to the Foundation's decisions regarding the awards are not accepted.
- 10- Nominations are accepted until 23 November 1999.

Judging:

The work entered into the competition is presented to a judging committee-comprising specialists with the status of professor or those who enjoy recognized competence and long experience and objectivity in their field of work. The members are chosen for each category. The decisions of the committee are considered final after being endorsed by the Board of Trustees.

The Awards:

The Foundation allocated each category mentioned above a prize of one million Yemeni rials. A certificate and the award shield are also presented to the winner in a ceremony under the auspices of the President of the Board of Trustees and his deputy. The award winners will be announced in the media. The Foundation also hosts the winners and bears the expenses of their travel and accommodation when they come to receive their awards.

Nominations should be sent to:

Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture,
The Board of Trustees of the Hayel Saeed Anam
Award for Science and Arts,
The General Director, Award Secretary-General
P.O.Box 5302,
Taiz, Yemen
Tel: 227167
Fax: 212334 or 221559

هنئ الأخ سهول إلياس الضلي

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عبدالله قطابش، خالد السماوي،
محمد المسعودي، محمد العريزي،
وكافة موظفي شركة BP

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بمناسبة حصوله على درجة الماجستير
في اللغة العربية بدرجة امتياز.
المهنيون: والدك حسين النقيب،
نبيل وشوقي ومنصور النقيب،
وكافة آل النقيب



شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

تتقدم بخالص التهاني والتبريكات

لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

المشير علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني،

وإلى المجلس الاستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبد الغني

وإلى الشعب اليمني البطل

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Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar

and all members of Parliament,

Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani, Prime Minister

and Members of his Government,

Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani

and all members of the Consultative Council,

and the Yemeni people

**On the occasion of 22nd May -
the anniversary of Yemen's Unity Day.**

Many Happy Returns





Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas



Al-Ayyam
Aden 3-Weekly,
Independent,
10/5/1999, 12/5/1999

A- Front-Page Headlines.

- 1- An Egyptian and another Algerian were arrested for trying to obtain Yemeni Passports. Al-Ayyam sources knew that the two suspects are members in the "Islamist" groups wanted by the Egyptian authorities.
- 2- On its own way of celebrating the World Day on Press Freedom, the Yemeni government is suing 6 independent newspapers including Al-Ayyam.
- 3- Al-Mina primary court bailed out a British suspect for health reasons.
- 4- A member in the Parliament demands the immediate resignation of the government and asks for the whereabouts of public funds.
- 5- Veiled armed persons break into the house of the Chief Editor of Al-Shumu'u independent newspaper and brutally assault him.
- 6- An oil pipe line is repaired in Wadi Habab, Mareb, after being damaged in an explosion last Thursday, May 6th.
- 7- The Netherlands intends to stop aid to 60 countries, though Yemen is not included.
- 8- Rabita Party in Hadramout denies withdrawal from Mukala rally.
- 9- Mr. Jarullah Omar, member of the YSP Politburo, told Al-Ayyam that the opposition parties will participate in the presidential elections even if its candidate comes in third.
- 10- The YR rate against the US Dollar keeps declining and Mr. Saleh K. Al-Juhaid, a member of the Parliament, attacks the Minister of Finance for his irresponsible financial policies.



Al-Shoura
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Federation of the People's Forces,
(FPF) 9/5/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines.

- 1- Once again, Al-Shoura is facing the Court and its chief editor is summoned by the court for further hearings.
- 2- The FPF Secretary General highly appreciates National, Arab and international sympathy with the FPF and its newspaper Al-Shoura.
- 3- Members of the US Congress show anxiety over political harassment against the FPF.
- 4- Once again, an oil-pipe line has been damaged by an explosion in Mareb.
- 3- In Attawelah, Mahweet, the

death of a citizen under torture has become a major public issue.

5- Active smuggling intensifies along the country's sea and land borders.

B- Issue's editorial

One of the most prominent problems in our society is the neurotic control of the past on our present life. It appears as if this past is so established in our present as to leave no way out. This past, with all its sad and happy memories, haunts every one of us not only as memories but as a set of values or rather as a telescope through which we see our present and our future. Hence our inertia not only to search into this past but also to set ourselves free of its tormenting dominance. We have given the past the chance to corrupt our thought and therefore many of us have been led into misinterpretation of even the nearest events in this past. Take for an example our interpretation of the Revolution. Some of us would say that the revolution was a crime and some others would defend it as a virtue. In some way or another, many of us are still living in the past or living on the past and have become unable to face the present or to know how to deal with the future.

Unless we shake the dust of the past off our shoulders, we will ultimately end up with the utter state of decay, stagnation and loss. But to liberate ourselves from the past we should first be disillusioned of the clumsy belief that the past was all spotless or was all foul. Let us first of all begin with a fully developed recognition of our past with all its defects and achievements. More importantly, let us grasp the past as experiences and lessons so as to be adequately armed when confronting the future.



Al-Haq,
Sanaa weekly,
Independent,
9/5/1999.

A- Front-Page headlines.

- 1- Financial violations in 14 October Press Corporation in a public attempt to purchase printing papers.
- 2- Distinction between the ruler and the ruled does not exist in democratic governments.
- 3- The draft law of local government, proposed by Rabita Party, has been widely discussed in the governorates of Aden, Lahj and Abyan.
- 4- During his visit to Aden, US General Anthony Zinni surprised the accompanying delegation with his excellent knowledge of street directions from Khor Maxer to Be'r Ahmad.
- 5- Two burglars kill a woman

inside her house in Jabal Habashi, Taiz governorate.

6- In Dar Saad, Aden, a number of drunks were arrested for opening fire and throwing hand grenades that created a state of panic to the area's population.

B- Issue's Editorial

We would like first to ask the prime minister Dr. Al-Aryani who has been in different ways dealing with the economic issues in this country for a long time whether he is implicated in any way in the current devastated economy of Yemen? We ask this question because all of us know why the former prime minister, Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanem resigned. Unfortunately, the political schemes to win the loyalty of certain powerful groups was the only apparent reason for that memorable resignation.

So, the problem lies first and foremost not in the economic reform but in the political reform which should be started with reanimating the question of poetical accountability. We believe that this accountability should not be restricted to wrong policies of the present but also of the past, especially in our case where examples of irresponsible policies abound. However, the present government is unwilling to admit acts of transgression so as not to expose those in the government who are really responsible for the ongoing deteriorating economic situation in Yemen. In this time of the so called financial and administrative reform program, we are still unable to discover those law-breaking officials who are placing the entire future of the nation at stake.



Al-Belagh,
Sanaa Weekly, Independent
11/5/1999.

A- Front-Page headlines

- 1- Following the Court's decision of death sentences to a number of terrorists, the Minister of Interior and other officials in the government receive threats of assassination from Abu-Hamzah in London.
- 2- An official source describes the above threats as meaningless.
- 3- Shiekh Al-Ahmar calls for integrity and transparency by the Supreme Election Committee.
- 4- A delegation from the Foreign Ministry flies to Kuwait in preparation for the re-opening of the Yemeni Embassy in Kuwait.
- 5- Our country hails the borders demarcation accord signed between Oman and the UAE.
- 6- A group of journalists, lawyers and doctors announce an initiative to create an inde-

pendent body for the purpose of defending Public rights and liberties.

7- In Jahm, Mareb, an oil pipe line explodes as a result of tribal clashes.

8- In Mahweet, the trial of the accused in the barbaric killing of a young man proceeds.

B- Issue's Editorial

The open and blatant war that's being launched nowadays in Turkey against the Freedom of Faith clearly manifests the narrow-minded mentality of the military institution and the secular regime in Turkey. The recent ferocious war against the Islamist Party of Virtue, which was launched because those "dupes" in the military can not tolerate seeing a veiled woman in the parliament, is in reality a war against Turkey, its rebirth and the will of the majority of the Turkish people.

Those Secularists in Turkey could have acted wisely had they not blocked the way in front of the Islamic current which in all cases can not be abated.

Muslims in the world who have seen through the TV screens the despicable brutality the Turkish soldiers inflicted against the defenders of the persecuted member of parliament (the veiled woman) can realize to what extent this Secular regime can go in its hatred and aggression against Muslims and against Islam.

As we strongly condemn the antagonistic activities of the Turkish government against The Party of Virtue and against the Freedom of Faith, at the same time we appeal to the Yemeni parliament and government to send a letter of objection to the Turkish government through the Turkish ambassador to our country. Such a step should give new life to ties of sympathy among Muslims all over the World. As for Islam as a faith we are quite confident that it will ultimately triumph over cruelty and aggression and the those secularists are fighting a losing war. "Thy Lord is watching."



Al-Mithaq
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the People's General Congress,
10/5/1999

A- Front Page Headlines.

- 1- Chaired by the President of the Republic, Chairman of the PGC, the General Committee in the PGC discusses on Monday a plan of political and organizational action for the coming period.
- 2- In a statement to Al-Mithaq, the Minister of Construction, housing and urban planning says that a number of strategic projects are to be inaugurated during our country's celebration of Reunification Day.
- 3- "Islam's vision of civilization is based on tolerance," says Mr. Abdulmalik Mansoor in his word to Tehran conference of civilizations dialogue.
- 4- Preparing for a Yemeni Financial Market, the Central Bank issues new treasury

bonds of various values.

5- Our country is to host the Meeting of the Arab tourist ministers at the end of June.

6- Mr. Yahya Al-Motawakel the PGC Secretary General meets with the Netherlands' new ambassador to Yemen.

B- Issue's Editorial

It is a truth firmly established that our country rejects terrorism and condemns all acts of extremism and crime. This fact stems from the principal attitude which calls for the enhancement of security, stability and peace through the complete eradication of terrorism everywhere.

In this regard, the verdict that has been issued by Abyan Primary Court in case no 1 for the year 1999 against the suspects involved in the kidnapping and killing of foreign tourists has come to reassert this attitude to fight the powers of evil and hatred under any circumstances. This verdict, based on strong evidences that condemn the suspects, was concluded on the spirit of a fundamental principle of Justice in Islam. No matter how lousy the yelling of the devil's agents is, the hand of justice will prevail and those who are now threatening revenge can never escape condemnation.

Just as the security authorities had been able to arrest terrorism in the so called Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, they are at the same time on full alert to confront every blood sucker who, disguised under the name of religion, are taking sacred innocent lives that were God's gift.



Al-Wahdawy,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Party,
11/5/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines.

- 1- In Kasser Al-Shyah village, Khamer District, Amman governorate, four people were killed and ten others were injured. The massacre took place inside the village's mosque when one of the villagers opened fire at the prayer gathering. The culprit is said to be psychologically upset from social frustrations.
- 2- Following his release, Ghulam Hussain's family proceeds to sue Abul-Hamazh in London.
- 3- In Qabaitah District, Lahj, seven people were killed in a land mine explosion.
- 4- The trial of the accused in torturing Al-Kukabani to death resumes on Thursday.
- 5- Sheikhs in Mahweet and PGC members in Dhamar prevent elections committees and sub-committees from proceeding on their duties.

B- Issue's Editorial

As the Zionist gangs are preparing to compete in the recent elections between the Likud and the Labor Party, regimes in the Arab countries are pleasing themselves by nourishing the hope and gambling with the odds that these elections would come up with the government of the so called "doves" and that there would be no more hawks in the Zionist state. It seems that these disgraced regimes are still unable to assimilate the lessons of contemporary history which show that there can never be doves nor hawks among the Zionist gangs. The truth is that these gangs are all vultures which have been for a long time taking the sadists delight in devouring the bodies of men, women and children of the Arab people in Palestine.

The apparent political disparity between the Zionist Rightists and leftists by no means suggest that either one of them is willing to concede even one meter of the seized land to the Palestinians. We, supported by historical facts, are strongly convinced that the internal conflict between the Likud coalition and the Labor Party regarding the issue of the Arabs is a conflict over means to achieve exactly one goal: namely, how to secure a homeland for the Zionist gangs who have been pouring into Palestine from every corner in the globe. Therefore, the Arab rulers who bet on the winning of the terrorist Eyhoda Barak over the other terrorist Netanyahu are very much like the person who prefers to be slaughtered by a golden knife than by an iron knife.



Al-Thawray,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party,
13/5/1999

Front-Page Headlines

- 1- Opposition Parties discuss their election platform and the endorsing of the presidential candidate.
- 2- The Supreme Election Committee bows to powerful groups and reshuffles members in the elections committees.
- 3- The YSP Central Committee is to convene on Saturday to touch upon political and economic developments, the presidential elections and the correction of the voters lists.
- 4- In Ibb, Jarullah Omer, YSP Politburo member attends mass gatherings and says that the opposition is seriously concerned with running in and winning the presidential race.
- 5- The Journalists Defense League denounces the assault on the Chief Editor of Al-Shum'u newspaper.
- 6- The Committee for the Defense of victims of peaceful struggle warns of oppression on public liberties.

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Today, Monday 17th, Ahli of Sanaa is to play against Wahdah of Sanaa in a Althowrah Sports Stadium. The match is being played for the Prince Naseem's Cup which will be handed over to the winner by the World Featherweight Champion himself, who has been visiting his country. Prince Naseem along with family members arrived in Sanaa last Thursday in a several day visit during which they will take part in the Emigrants First General Conference.

In a statement to the press, Prince Naseem expressed his thanks and appreciation to his fans inside Yemen for their sincere interaction with him in all his boxing contests. He also said that every new victory is dedicated to every Yemeni in the world.

Prince Naseem disclosed that he is preparing for a coming contest with a new challenger from the United States of America.



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وذويه الصبر والسلوان.
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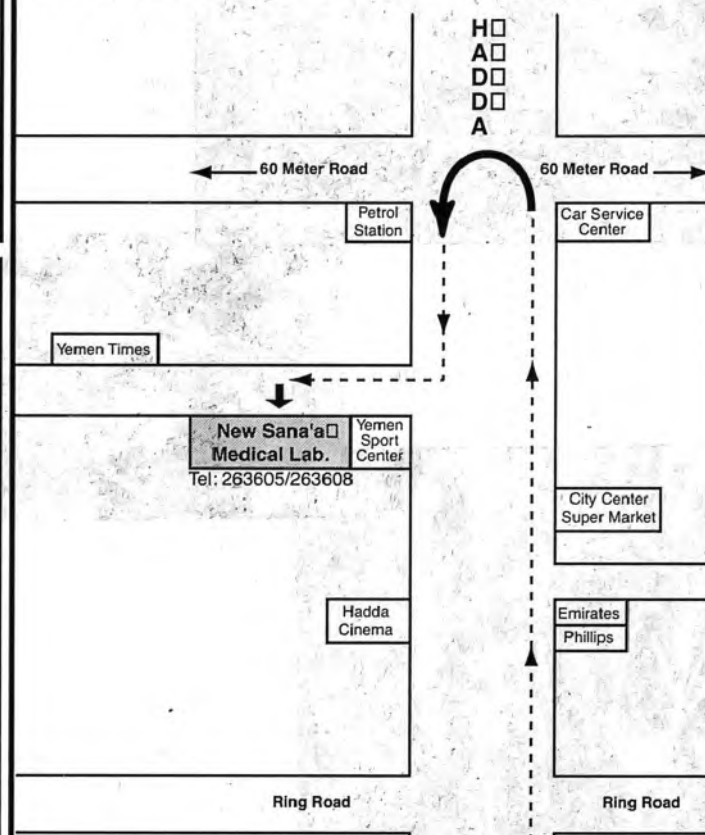
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Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity problems	177
Telephone enquires	118
Aljumbury Hospital	274285
Athawra Hospital	246366
Kuwait Hospital	283282/3
Red Crescent	203131/3

BANKS

Yemeni Banks:	
Central Bank	274310/1
Commercial Bank Sana'a	213662/6
Hodeidah	217040/3
Int'l Bank of Yemen	272920/3
National Bank of Yemen	275373
YBRD	271623/4

BRANCH OF FOREIGN BANKS:

Arab Bank Ltd.	276592/3
Bank Indosuez	272801/3
United Bank Ltd	272424

GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

Foreign Affairs	202544/7
Interior Affairs	252701/7
Immigration	250761/3
Tourism	271970/2
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	332001/2
Radio Station	282061

INSURANCE COMPANIES:

Y. I. & ReInsurance Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sana'a:	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General Sana'a:	265191
Aden:	241171
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Ins. Co. Sana'a:	272890/2
Taiz:	215012
Hodeidah:	217292
Aman Insurance Sana'a:	214093
Hodeidah:	240354

AIRLINES:

Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways (Sana'a)	267929
British Airways (Aden)	241534
Cathay Pacific	272432
Egypt Air	275061
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	265274/75
KLM	278747
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	213400
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	272540
Sabena	285865/925
Sudan Airways	279210
Syrian Airways	272543

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Sunday evening 16/5/99



EMBASSIES & Consulates

Sana'a:

1. Embassies:

Algeria	206350
Bulgaria	207924
China	275337/340
Cuba	417305
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	415985
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	268888
Germany	413180/413174
Hungary	263586
India	243440/248343
Indonesia	414633
Iran	413552/4
Iraq	269571
Italy	269165
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	413275/6/7
Korea (Rep)	245959/60
Kuwait	268879
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	267636/4
Mauritania	264172
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	264080/78
Oman	208857/4
Pakistan	248813/4
Palestine	264236/66
Poland	413523/4
Qatar	269654/7
Romania	205515
Russia (FR)	278719
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885

Syria	414892
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	263476/241395
U. A. E.	248777/78
U. K.	264081/4
U. S. A.	238842/52
Vietnam	415985

2. Honorary Consultants:

Austria	266725
Belgium	286965
Canada	208814
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215171/2
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
Spain	208745
Sweden	207595/470
Switzerland	414844

3. International Organization

FAO	207331/607
UNDP	415505
UNHCR	201856
UNICEF	211400/1/2
WHO	252220

Aden Consulates:

China	233115
Egypt	231270
Germany	232161
Japan	232219/233282
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Russia (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	233009
Somalia	241101
U. K.	234117

Universal Travel (HO)	275028/9/30
Universal-Zubeiri	245888
Universal - Bonia	272861/2/3
Universal Aden	221146, 243475
Universal Taiz	225383/4
Universal Hodeidah	226980
Universal Mukalla	(05)354842/4/5
Bazara Travel	78093/270879
Ilias I. T. T.	273338/275554
Al-Nasim Travel	270750

Hodeidah (03)	
Bristol	239158
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	239336
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Yazan	217997
Mareb (063)	
Bilquis Mareb	2666/2371

YEMENI BRANCHES:

Abdul-Mughni	274698
Haddah	204538/550
Shaub	250833
Zubeiri	260834/5
Head Office	232381/9
Reservations	250800/1
Airport	250868/831

HOTELS:

Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Plaza Suites	209074/209903/205483
Hadda Hotel	415212/4/5
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Gold Mohur	204392

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	Aden: 255333
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FedEX	Sana'a: 412604
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Yemen's Medical Herbs

Today, Monday, May 17th, a 3-day scientific conference comes to a close in Dhamar, some 100 kilometers south of the capital, Sanaa. Organized by Dhamar University, the conference discussed the fauna and flora of Yemen, notably herbs, plants and brushes of all sorts that have medical properties.

"The Republic of Yemen, given the diversity of its terrain, boasts a wide range of

famous herbs include lavandula, mentha, melissa, chamomilla, myrtus, salvia, styrax liquidus, juniperus, rosmarinus, and many others. The roots, stems, leaves, and flowers of these herbs, brushes and plants have long been used in Attib-Asha'abi (local medicine, sometimes known as Arab medicine) to create concoctions which have proven to work wonders on patients. "They relieve pain, heal wounds, treat ailments, and even address mental and psychological disorders," according to the conference papers. Professors at medical colleges in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Sudan, the Gulf States, as well as Yemen, who participated in the conference, gave presentations on the various kinds of medical herbs and their use in the Arab World.

He was referring to the decision last year to start a medical college at Dhamar University.

According to sources at the Ministry of Agriculture, there are more than 3,000 herb varieties in Yemen which can be classified within the category of plants which have medicinal properties. These will be the



Rosmarinus



Chamomilla

herbs which have been known since ancient times. "After all, the frankincense and myrrh caravans used to criss-cross Yemen in various directions carrying the valued goods to



Salvia

"Here in Yemen, the possibilities for a strong drug industry is enhanced by this wealth of herbs," explained Dr. Abdullah Al-Mujahid, Rector of Dhamar University, himself an agriculture specialist.

Dhamar University decided, at the end of the conference, to undertake a nationwide survey of all plant-life which could have medical applications. Already, effort is underway in different parts of the country to collect and document data on fauna and flora. But, a more focussed endeavor will be launched later this year, according to the statement of the conference.

"This direction of events falls nicely with the university's plans," the rector stated.

focus of Dhamar University's coming research efforts.

Hatem Bamehriz,
Yemen Times - Dhamar.



Lavandula

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