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# YEMEN TIMES

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## Momentum Increases for Sanaa-Hosted Summit of Democratizing Nations

The pace is picking up. Preparations for the summit of 160 delegates are in full swing. Already, there are confirmations from 100 participants, including several heads of state and government. But, the jewel on the crown is Hillary Clinton - also confirmed.

The event, slated for 27-30 June, 1999, is being organized by the Washington-based National Democratic Institute. The Yemeni Government is more than glad to host the officials and pro-democracy activists from Benin, Bolivia, El-Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Macedonia, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, and, of course, Yemen. Yemeni officials are trying hard to play their cards right on this occasion which is an immense public relations opportunity.

Several steps have been taken in this regard.

First, the political spectrum of Yemen was brought in to participate. The Yemeni official delegation of ten persons includes representatives from the ruling PGC party, some of the larger opposition parties and well-known pro-democracy activists. Second, the general public is being informed of what the event is all about. A major information drive is in the works to explain who is coming, why this group will be here together, and what it all means for our people.

Third, and most important of all, President Saleh is reaching out to key local media personalities. He is making a plea on the basis that "We are all in this together." Not everyone has been won over yet, but he has made several attempts, and is expected to make more over the next weeks.

Meanwhile, Sanaa is busy getting ready to receive its many distinguished guests. Kendall Dwyer, forum coordinator, has already arrived. She will stay put till the end of the event.

Yemeni officials are worried about the large number of support staff and media personnel coming with the delegates. "Where to put them and what kind of facilities they will need is a major concern." Mrs. Clinton alone is coming with some 60 assistants. Already her pre-advance team of security and logistics personnel have paid a quick visit to Sanaa.

Some of the heads of state/government will have a similar number of people in their entourage. The major hotels in the city are fully booked. Visitors not associated with the conference will have to stay out of Sanaa during the second half of June.

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## Cabinet Takes Measures to Pacify Farmers: Over 33,000 Animals Dead

Some 9,474 cattle, and 23,918 sheep and goats have died during the last 5 months, according to a survey conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture last month. The animals are infected with foot and mouth disease (FMD), a highly contagious viral disease causing fever, vesicles, bullae and blisters in the mouth, hoofs and on other parts of the animal.

The ministry's reports say that a total of 336,838 animals suffer from the disease. Ibb governorate is the worst case, accounting for almost 45% of the total cases. Other governorates affected include Hodeidah (18%), Abyan (10%), Taiz (9%), Dhamar (8%), and Mahweet (6%).

The farmers are in an uproar. They have already stormed the ministry twice. Once, they left the cadavers of their dead animals at



the ministry's entrance. "We are not oblivious to the problem. The ministry has presented an urgent status report which was discussed by the cabinet in its meeting on May 26th, 1999. It was the basis for important decisions," said Mr. Abdul-Malik Al-Arashi, Deputy Minister of Agriculture. The cabinet decided to apply for Yemeni membership in the Office International des Epizooties, an anti-epidemic livestock world organization. "It also approved a 3-phase program for vaccination of Yemen's livestock. About YR 60 million has already been allocated for the first stage of the effort," the deputy minister said. Meanwhile, the only solution now is to quarantine the sick animals. Yemeni farmers fume with anger as they stand by helplessly and watch their animals die.

## Positive Response to President Saleh's Qat Initiative

The Yemen Times received a torrent of favorable response, by electronic and snail mail, to the story about President Ali Abdullah Saleh's decision to quit chewing qat. "I have decided to quit too" is a sentence that appeared in many letters from Yemenis here in the country and from abroad. They all found something they can identify with in the president's position on qat. Several senior officials also confirmed that they too have quit this bad habit.

As the summer approaches, the Ministry of Youth and Sports is preparing many programs. "1999 is the Youth Year in Yemen. We have embarked on projects to create alternatives for our young people," said Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports. Sports clubs have undertaken programs and activities for young people. "In July, the Ministry will announce the President Saleh Youth Prize. In August, Sanaa will host the Arab Youth Forum. We are engaging the youth," he said.

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# OUR VIEWPOINT

## Presidential Elections: Need to Avoid Bi-Polarization

The presidential elections, no matter how you look at them, will be an important political exercise in our nation's democratization process. But there are also problems associated with this process.

One of the most troubling aspects of the exercise is that it could lead to a bi-polarization of the nation along north-south lines. It is sure that current president Ali Abdullah Saleh is going to be the leading candidate. My worry is that the leading challenger will be a southern person - possibly a member of the former ruling oligarchy in the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. If this were to be the case, national unity and cohesion for Yemen will be tested one more time.

I want to hurry to announce that everybody has the right to run for the presidency, as long as he/she meets the requirements and conditions. There should be no veto against any single person.

But, I hope that the people of Yemen will not be pushed into a corner by being forced to vote along north-south lines. I just wish that the final list of contenders does not lead to that predicament for us. I hope the final list of serious candidates is not limited to a choice between two - a northerner and a southerner.

It doesn't really mean much for Yemen's unity if President Saleh wins, primarily by northern votes. That is, if the southerners mostly vote for his challenger.

So, if for example, the Yemen Socialist Party and its allied opposition parties nominate a well-known southern person to run against President Saleh - and that is their right - I hope a third candidate emerges to blur the north-south divide. The Yemeni Congregation for Reform Party (Islah) could possibly fill this gap. The idea is to nominate a well-known person that has an appeal to contingencies in both north and south, and who will offer a third alternative.

Whatever happens in the elections, the nation must be spared the agony of being pulled to either the north or south by feelings and sentiments. Our politicians must nurture a sense of belonging to the whole nation among our people. National unity and cohesion is an important factor in our future prosperity, peace and harmony.

**The Publisher**  
*Signature*

**Newspapers on Trial**  
Yemen Times, Al-Shoura, and Al-Thawra will appear before Judge Al-Raimi in the Southwest Sanaa Primary Court tomorrow. The three newspapers are being sued by the authorities for slander. A fourth newspaper, Al-Ayyam, is also on trial in Seera Primary Court in Aden, for 'inciting separatist feelings.'  
A fifth newspaper, Al-Haq, is on trial in the North Sanaa Primary Court for printing what the press prosecutor termed 'sensitive information.'

The authorities are tightening the screws on the media, even as the nation prepares itself as a model for democratization within the "Emerging Democracies Forum" to be held in Sanaa during 27-30th June, 1999.

**Display of Force in Yemen**  
The authorities are bringing out heavier guns which are displayed in street intersections in Yemeni cities. In Sanaa, as well as in Taiz, Aden, Hodeidah and Mukallah heavily armed men have manned the intersections for several days in a row now.  
The display of force is meant to discourage any demonstrations and protests which were expected as a result of the new round of price hikes. The average cost of living is said to have shot up by an average of 8% last week alone.  
The price of basic foods - such as bread, cooking gas, vegetables, etc., rose by a margin ranging from 20% to 100%.  
An already impoverished populace continues to bear more burdens. Yemen's average per capita income is less than one US dollar a day. To further complicate the picture, the distribution of income is badly skewed.  
No major incidents were reported.

**President Saleh's Talks with UAE President**  
President Ali Abdullah Saleh paid a one-day visit to Abu Dhabi on Saturday, May 28th. Informed sources said the Yemeni President discussed the stalled negotiations in the Yemeni-Saudi border talks. Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Aal Nahyan promised to raise the issue with Saudi officials.

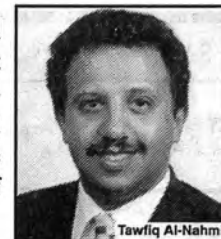
**Sanaa City Gets A Zoo**  
The Yemeni capital, Sanaa, witnessed the inauguration of its first zoo on Sunday, May 29th. Most of the animals on display were brought from different parts of the nation. The zoo will give Sanaa residents a good outdoor activity.

**YEMEN TIMES ONLINE Weekly Opinion Poll**  
Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is at: <http://www.yementimes.com/#poll>  
The results only reflect the opinion of the portion of people who use the Internet to submit their votes online.

**Last Week's Question:**  
Do you think that the president's decision to quit chewing qat and make efforts in fighting against it is a good development?  
**Results:**  
Yes, I think the president should be applauded for his stand. (56%)  
I need some time to see if he will truly fight qat. I can judge if he has done well or not when I see qat forbidden by the state. (20%)  
No, I think that this is just another tactic to win more votes in the presidential elections or for a private purpose. (23%)  
I don't know! (%1)

## Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition Concluded

The first Medicine and Medical Equipment Exhibition was concluded last Wednesday 26th May. Mr. Tawfiq Al-Nahmi, GM of Apollo International Exhibition Centers, told the press that the exhibition was visited by large groups of professionals, doctors and businessmen.



Expo is planning to organize more specialized International exhibitions during the second half of 1999. It is worth mentioning that Expo Center was established in late 1998, and the center has organized many successful International exhibitions.

**Bazaar to Raise Money for Refugees**  
With the goal of providing opportunities for refugees in Sana'a to earn supplemental income by selling handicrafts and other goods, Partners for Development (PAD), a Yemeni non-governmental organization is organizing a bazaar during the period 3-4 June at the Refugee Community Center on Dieri Road (Ring Road.) East African cultural dances, music and food will be part of the bazaar's activities.

**In Aden City: Painting Fair Inaugurated**  
Commemorating Yemen's National Day, Mr. Abdulkarim Sha'ef, Aden's Assistant Deputy governor, along with Mr. Mohammed Abdullah Ghanem, Chairman of the PGC branch in Aden, have inaugurated a Hotel exhibition for Plastic Painting and Arts in Aden. This was organized by the Syndicate of Painting Artists, in cooperation with the PGC branch in Aden. 27 artists participated in the fair with more than 65 paintings. Yemen Times has met with Mr. Shwuki Abdulhamid, vice chairman of the Painting Syndicate who told the paper that the Artists in the city of Aden have chosen to commemorate the glorious 22nd of May through this Fair, which provides the artist the opportunity to manifest the artist's vision of his/her country's realities. He also pointed out that the Yemeni Artists' Syndicate was established to bring all the Yemeni painting artists together so that their creative efforts are streamlined.  
Mr. Abdulhamid revealed that the Syndicate has issued a bulletin which will cover the artists' problems as seen by the artists themselves so as to enhance their role in social enlightenment, adding that the Artists Syndicate has been accepted as a member in the World Artists Association. He described such event as an important achievement and has come to crown the Syndicate's success in organizing local as well as international fairs.

**Complaint of the Teachers Syndicate is heard in a Capital Secretariat Court.**  
A South-Eastern Capital Secretariat Primary Court is to hear charges submitted by the Teachers Syndicate against the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs. The court panel, chaired by Judge Abdul-Mone'em Al-Iryani, has summoned the Ministry's representative to be present at the court's hearing on Sunday, May 30th.  
Khaled Al-Anssi, a lawyer from the office of Attorney Mohammed Naji Allawo is representing the Syndicate, which is asking the Ministry to renew the Syndicate license and to super-

vised the next round of elections. The Syndicate is also demanding compensations for the material and non-material damages resulting from the illegal stance taken against the Teachers Syndicate.

**Conference of National Health Accounts Held in Sanaa**  
On May 29th, the Prime Minister inaugurated the First Conference of the National Health Accounts in Sanaa. The conference offers new techniques in studying and analyzing financing sources and expenditures. The Conference pays special attention to the following two issues:  
1- Fair Distribution of health services.  
2- Mechanism of assessment of different programs.

A number of ministries are taking part in the conference, including the Ministries of Finance, Planning, Local Administration, Interior, and Defense. The donor organizations are also represented by the UN, World Bank, and the World Health Organization, in addition to a number of NGOs.

**Increase in Wheat Prices Lead to Doubling Bread Prices**  
A few days ago, the price of a loaf of bread rose from 5 to 10 YR. The reason behind this increase is the recent increase in wheat prices. Many citizens feel frustrated by this rise, especially since the government promised not to implement increases until 2000. Demonstrations over this matter are expected.

## Vacancies at Sam School

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Hassan Qassim Al-Zubairy:

**"I wish to further develop my studio so it may, one day, rise to world standards."**

Hassan Qassim Al-Zubairy is one of the few Yemeni professionals who have contributed much to the growth of music and stage performances in Yemen. Although Hassan was unable to complete his academic studies in the field of sound engineering at the University of Cairo because his scholarship was cancelled during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, he dedicated himself to working in this field with the knowledge he had gained.

Hassan, 35, is the father of two boys and a girl.

He started by working for the national TV in 1990. He was the principal figure behind the annual "Ramadhan Children's Contest" program on Yemeni TV.

But soon, he discovered the government sector was not for him, given the many constraints. He wanted his free spirit to fly, and to try new ideas. He moved to Taiz, where he built a small studio for recording songs and oral plays. Last year, he moved to Sanaa. Mohamed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times visited Zubairy at his work place to learn more about his work, his contribution, his future plans, and the problems he faces.

Excerpts of their talk.

**Q: How would you describe your line of business?**

**A:** Basically, I develop music and record the singing of various talented musicians. When a promising young man or woman feels he/she has something to offer, we get together and check it out. For that purpose, I have constructed the first up to-date sound-proof studio ever to exist in Yemen.

**Q: How many songs have you recorded?**

**A:** I don't know exactly. I can tell you that no professional Yemeni musician has made it without passing through my studio. Since establishing the studio, I have produced more than 150 songs for both male and female Yemeni singers. I have also done a lot of TV work, such as the Ramadhan Children's Contests, TV and radio series, and national songs.

**Q: How did this entire music studio project start?**

**A:** It started with some simple recording machines and equipment. We used the radio studio to record songs. The task was very hard and awkward because in order to record a song, we had to gather all the people who take part in the song - drummers, pianists, flutists, oud players, singers, chorus, etc. - at one time to record the song live. If a mistake occurred, we had to go back and do it all over again from square one. On the other hand, today when recording in my studio, we can simply record each instrument separately. If there is a mistake, we redo a small part of one piece. It saves much time and effort. It is also amazing that one person can sometimes be the whole orchestra if he/she can play the various instruments involved. Let me give you an example. How many people do you think perform in the Ramadhan Children's Contest? Believe it or not, it is the work of just one person!

**Q: How many people work with you in the studio?**

**A:** I have my own musical team consisting of 8 talented musicians who play various musical instruments. They have no formal training. They began their

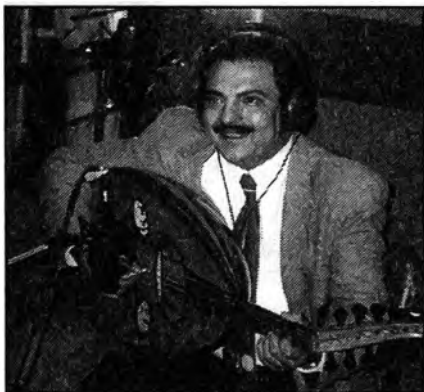
career in the local arena, depending on available local facilities. Like me, they are self-trained. I also have another sound engineer as my assistant.

**Q: Do you do all your work in this studio?**

**A:** Actually, I started the studio in Taiz, Yemen's most intellectual city. But six months ago, I decided to come to Sanaa, the capital city, which is a much larger market.

**Q: How much investment have you put in your present studio?**

**A:** It cost more than 8 million Rials. I financed the whole project with my own money. If I had had more resources available to me, I would have done wonders.



I have not benefited from what is called the investment law or any other incentives.

**Q: How many cassettes have you recorded now?**

**A:** I cannot count at the moment because all Yemeni singers who have established themselves in this market actually do not know any studio other than mine. They all had their cassettes recorded here.

**Q: How do you usually discover talents?**

**A:** I really don't know, it just happens. I have no system. Usually, the singer who wishes to show me some of his/her singing contacts me. I always have time to listen, and then evaluate. If I see his/her talent as promising, I immediately make contact with one of the music production companies.

Today, there are around 21 such companies that provide financial support, and undertake distribution marketing job.

But production companies often

do not make much money. It is a big risk.

**Q: Why is that?**

**A:** Unfortunately, there is no respect for patents or copy rights in this country. The Ministry of Information is not doing its job in this.

Yemen is one of the few countries in the whole world which does not protect the rights of writers or artists. There is no law that forbids the duplication, reproduction or imitation of artistic work.

There are times when thousands of copies of a new song are made and sold on many cassettes. These are sold in stores without the knowledge of the original author.

Abroad, there are strict rules that prohibit this. Duplicating a cassette for the purpose of selling it is considered a crime punishable by law. In Cairo for example, there was an incident when one imitation copy of a new song was discovered by the Ministry of Information. The store was closed down.

This way, the rights of the author, singer, producer, and everybody else, including the buyer, are protected.

We are in a country with a population of 18 million. If a singer is able to sell 100,000 copies of a cassette tape, with a profit of 5 rials per copy for the singer, he/she will get around 500,000 rials of income. This is good income, and this sector will flourish. What happens in reality is that the income to the singer is around 40,000 rials - less than 10% of the expected income. Most of the money actually goes to music stores, which have illegally duplicated hundreds or thousands of copies. This is truly shameful.

**Q: Where are the legal copies being made?**

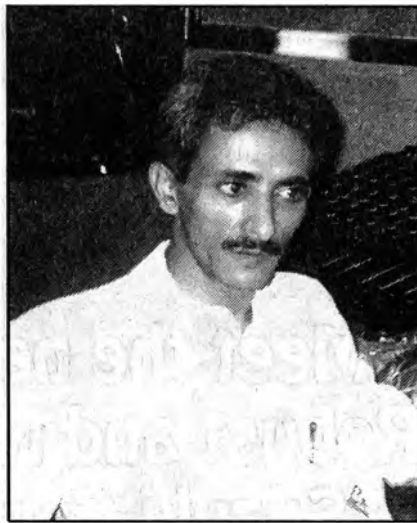
**A:** Every music production company has its own cassette copying machines. We are studying a proposal of having a joint official cassette printing house which will be ultra modern, and which will allow consumers to tell which is the original version, and which the cheap duplicate.

**Q: What is the cost of producing a music cassette?**

**A:** The rental costs for registering a cassette tape vary from as low as YR 35,000 (about \$ 230) to as high as YR 300,000.

**Q: How many talented young singers make it every year?**

**A:** The number varies from one year to the next. I can say that the annual average is around 10 new singers. It is worth noting that only a very small fraction of the Yemeni singers are female. The musical arena is dominated by male singers.



**Q: Why is that?**

**A:** I think it has to do with our culture. It is sad to note that whenever a new talented female singer comes to the spotlight, she stays visible for a very short time. Within a few years, sometimes months, she disappears. I do not know what the reasons are, but maybe social pressure forces them to shun the spotlight.

**Q: How many professional singers are there in Yemen today?**

**A:** There are many singers, but the real professional ones are few.

You see, the Yemeni market is quite fragmented along main lines of dialects.

That is why any Yemeni singer

who sings in the formal (classical) Arabic language hardly sells any copies. You have to sing in the local dialect for people to identify with you and buy your songs.

**Q: What is the common dialect that sells the highest number of copies?**

**A:** As I said earlier, the market is fragmented. Every area has its own dialect, and hence its own singers. For example, in the Sana'ani dialect, Fuad Al-Kibsi stands out. For the Taizi dialect, there is Abdulghafoor Al-Shameeri, Ahmed Mahyoub, Abdulbasit Absi, and most famous of all, Ayoub Tarish.

In Aden, Ja'afar Hassan Qufi, stands out. Of course, there are many more such as Abood Khawaja, who has one of the most beautiful voices I have heard from Aden. We also have Awadh bin Sahib who is quite promising. However, we also have old but respected singers from Aden such as Badwi Lazubair, who is a well-known singer in his region, but unfortunately he has yet to become known on a national level.

**Q: We saw that the famous singer Ibrahim Hussein is in your studio at this time. Where does he stand?**

**A:** Ibrahim Hussein is a talented singer. In fact, he is in a class of his own. He gave a lot to the singing profession in Yemen and he hasn't gotten much back from it. He is a person who has sacrificed a lot to improve the arts.

**Q: Are there surprises in this business?**

**A:** Yes, of course, there are surprises. For example, we pass judgement on what will sell well, and what won't. Sometimes, our judgement can be so wrong.

An example of that is the tape of Ali Innaba who surprised us all with the sale of 300,000 tapes in the market in a short time. This is the official number. If you add the illegal copies that must have been sold, you will have an even higher number.

On the other hand, there are professional singers who were not very successful and sell a disappointing number of tapes. Yemenis mostly favor the rural type of songs, because most Yemenis live in rural areas. I suppose this explains the high sales of Ali Innaba.

**Q: At the end of the interview, would you like to add anything?**

**A:** I hope that my country can develop in all sectors, including music. This is a field in which we can excel. It is also an important foreign currency earner, if properly developed.

I also hope that the private sector will invest in music producing companies. These need to grow bigger and become more independent.

I also wish that our parliament would enact laws to protect the rights of artists and production companies. Finally, I hope to further build and develop my studio so it may one day rise to world standards.

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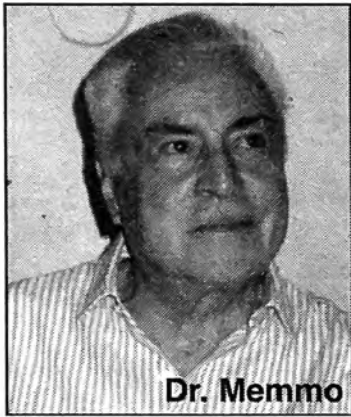
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## Yemeni-Italian Cultural Cooperation

# THE QUEEN OF SHEBA GOES TO ROME

The famous exhibition "Yemen in the land of queen of sheba" which is going around the capitals of Europe since two years finally it will go to Rome after Munich for the year 2000. The year 2000 in Rome its one of the biggest event of the century where millions of tourists from all over the world will meet there. The Memmo foundation one of the most active and famous in Europe is the promoter and the sponsor of the exhibition together with CINS (Italian Cooperation North south), an NGO which is very active in



Dr. Memmo

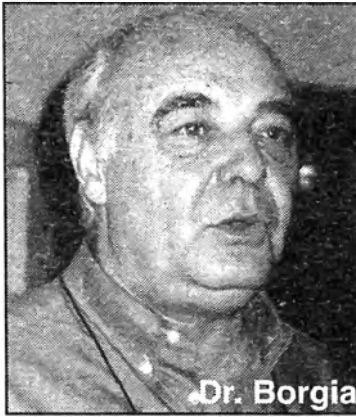
Yemen this days .  
The exhibition will be held in

Palazzo Ruspoli one of the oldest and most beautiful palaces in Rome.

Dr. Memmo, his daughter princess Patrizia Ruspoli visited Yemen during this week to finalize all agreement with Yemen authorities and they were guest of the minister of tourism Abdul Malik Mansoor.

The guest visited the most beautiful sites in Yemen and met with several authorities in the cultural field like Dr. Yusuf Abdalla chairman of the antiquities.

Dr. Memmo said, "I am 80 years old and have been traveling all over the world, but Yemen is really one of the most beautiful countries I have seen in my life. I am very happy to take the exhibition to Rome and to show the aspects of this incredible culture to the visitors coming to Rome for the year 2000 from different countries. We are already in touch with the British museum in London, the Getty foundation in the US. and with another museum in Venice fro the same exhibition and the response was very positive which means that after Rome the exhibition under the Memmo Foundation supervision



Dr. Borgia

will move to Venice, London and Los Angeles".

Generally coordinator of the exhibition is Marco Livadiotti who lives in Yemen since more than 25 years and he is an expert on Yemeni culture.

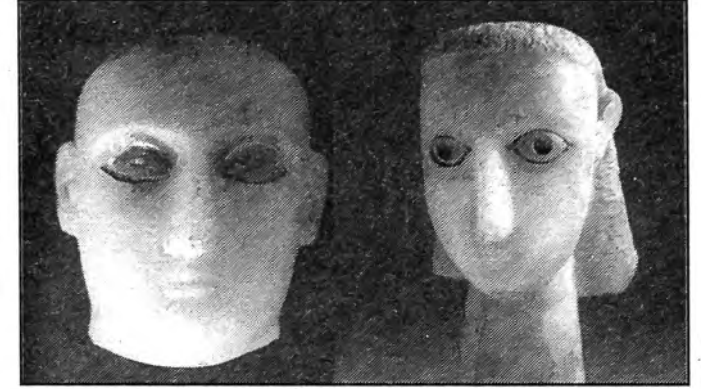
Mr. Marco said, " The main archaeological exhibition is the same one of Paris, Vienna and Munich, but in Rome it will enlarged with several pieces brought from private Italian collections and may be some new pieces provided by the Yemeni government. Because the year 2000 is a very important event in Rome we decided to organize some other exhibitions like architecture, handicraft, pictures,

Island of Socotra to be added to the archaeological one".

Dr. Memmo also mentioned although your country is one of the most beautiful I have visited the condition of you heritage is in a big danger and I was surprised to see how a lot of beautiful palaces and houses were neglected and abandoned to distraction.

One of the main target of the exhibition in Rome will be to focus one the conservation and protection of the Yemeni heritage and after 30 years from the first appeal of the Italian movie director Pasolini in 1970 to UNESCO to save Sanaa we will make a second appeal to UNESCO not save only Sanaa but to save whole Yemen.

The Italian government like the



minister of foreign affairs, the minister of culture, the Major of Rome already gave approved their whole cooperation for a good success of this exhibition in Rome and Venice.

Dr. Borgia of CINS said, "This big cultural event will not only make the Yemeni culture Known in Italy but also will reactivate all commercial economic and cultural relations between Yemen and Italy which were very strong in the past and I am sure that both countries will benefit specially on the economic and commercial side".

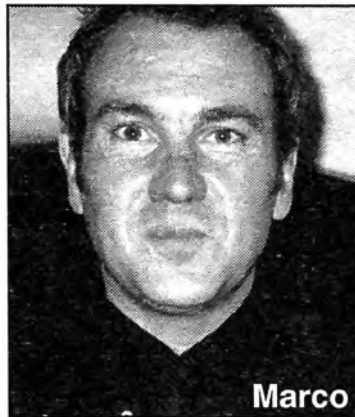
The Memmo foundation and the Palazzo Ruspoli are today an establishment in the cultural field in Europe as well in the US. and some of their exhibitions went all over the world. Its a good occasion for Yemen and

we are sure that the exhibition of the queen of Sheba through the Memmo Foundation will take the Yemeni culture to different countries.

Princess Patrizia Memmo Ruspoli said "We are very glad to host the queen of Sheba in our palace in Rome. Our family is one of the oldest in Italy dated back to the Roman times and this occasion will bring visitors from all over the world to discover the secrets and the treasures of one of the oldest civilizations of the world.

The exhibition will be inaugurated in March in the year 2000. Then from June through July will be moving to Venice.

By: Nadeem Abdul-Hamid,  
Yemen Times.



Marco

### A Former Yemeni Emigrant Speaks of Beautiful Memories and Current Frustrations!

A long time ago, I was a Yemeni emigrant living in Kuwait. I lived peacefully with my Kuwaiti brothers and sisters. During my stay over there, I wrote stories about my Yemeni village in "Al-Talaiaa", a Kuwaiti magazine, and newspapers like "Al-Watan" and "Al-Siyasah".



But things were not to continue in this way. We only realized the degree of luxury we had only after being expelled from Kuwait. Because of Saddam and his crazy ideas, the lives and prospects of many individuals and nations were ruined. With his invasion of Kuwait, we were expelled from paradise and came back to our country.

Our country, which was once called the land of two paradises, has today become a place where there is nothing but misery and poverty. The land of paradises seems to have vanished. We couldn't lead a modest life, let alone live in paradise.

Our perception of Yemen and life in it were extremely exaggerated when we were away. We couldn't believe that the situation in this miserable of a country was so bad. I remember I wrote all kinds of beautiful poems about my country in Kuwait, and some of them were published in various magazines. But today, I realize that what I wrote was not the truth. I still cherish those lines, in the hope that they will one day

turn into reality. It is not the country that is bad, but its people are the ones who have destroyed its wonderful image in my mind. Hatred and selfishness in the hearts of most Yemenis are the norm in my country today. An ugly

situation has over-run all the beautiful things in my homeland. We were supposed to get compensation on our losses following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. We were once given an amount of \$2,462 as a first installment, but that was it.

Is this sufficient for a family to live on between 1990 and 1999? I know that there are thousands of people from among the former emigrants who have no jobs yet. My case is a good example of that. We have tried to find jobs but it seems that job opportunities are only in the hands of the mafia lords and the corrupt men who are messing everything.

Many things are wrong in this country. If you don't have a big tribe and don't know any sheik who can protect you, you have to accept being marginalized and humiliated. Don't get into any showdowns, even if your rights and properties are taken away. You can even get harassed by a person wearing a police uniform. He is supposed to protect us! You can be humiliated anytime, anywhere, and for no reason at all. Another fact is that if you go to

any government department, employees will not lift a finger to help you until they are bribed. I often hear my mother and family complain about the electricity and water bills which we cannot afford to pay. She also complains about the prices of tomatoes, bread, etc. She remembers what we used to eat in the past, in the days of my work in Kuwait.

I conclude that only the strong can live in Yemen. It has become like a jungle full of predators, who hunt down their victims mercilessly. There is no power of law, there is only the law of power.

We do have a system in which newspapers do write a few things. And every few years, our people go to ballot boxes to throw in a piece of paper. This is our version of democracy.

In my view, it is a fake. At the end of the road, we end up with a parliament full of people chosen by the power centers. They do not represent the people, they represent the power centers. Moreover, these individuals only care for their interests. They do not care for me or you, or even the nation.

We, the people who once used to live abroad, were unfortunately deceived by a fake picture of the situation in our country when we were told to come back. The fact that we have a corrupt regime is the main reason why mismanagement is spread throughout the country.

AbdulAziz Mohammed Saeed,  
Aden



### European Film Festival 1999

European Film Festival 1999  
This festival is being held in the Yemeni Cultural Centre in Sana'a.

The programme below gives details of dates, times and film titles. Seats will be available on a first come first served basis so please come earlier enough to avoid disappointment.

### FILM FESTIVAL INDEX

8 p.m 5 June 1999	British Film 24 : 7
7 p.m 6 June 1999	Italian Film The Wide Oak
7 p.m 7 June 1999	German Film Knockin' on Heavens Door
7 p.m 8 June 1999	French Film Western
7 p.m 9 June 1999	Dutch Film Amsterdanned



This is an OPINION page.

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

## To the President, Politicians, Businessmen, Intellectuals, and People of Yemen:

# Hey Fellows, This is The Way it Should be Done!

I have been thinking about writing this article for the last three weeks. First, I delayed writing it because I had a Ph.D qualifying exam, which took place on January 10, 1999. Then, I never got around to writing it since I thought that what was on my mind must also be on some other person's minds. I felt someone must have already written about the ideas I have because they are obvious and don't need much explanation. So why am I writing now? The only explanation I can come up with is, I want to get them off my chest so I can concentrate on my studies again. I am not a good political writer. I am a better engineer, but I will do my best to express my thoughts as clearly as possible.

I agree with what Yemeni citizens have been saying about the government. It is financially corrupt and the administration is grossly inefficient. But the main problem of Yemen is not the corruption of the officials, because what they are stealing does not make a significant difference in our lives. The people of Yemen should realize the hard, painful facts about the problems of Yemen. I summarize these in the following points:

- 1- Yemen is a poor country with limited natural resources.
- 2- The majority of Yemenis today can't read and write and probably more than 70% are not even high school graduates.
- 3- The majority of Yemenis still hold pre-Islamic traditions, such as revenge and tribalism.

If anyone thinks that the main problems of Yemen are not the three reasons above and the main problem is the government, then can he/she explain to me why Yemenis have been famous for their migrations for thousands of years? Can someone deny that tribalism has been a major problem for Yemen since even before Islam? The proof for those who will deny it, is that the Prophet (Peace be upon him) says that Islam will spread its justice and peace all over, and the traveller from Sanaa to Hadhramaut will feel safe with his goods.

If we wish to find solutions to Yemen's problems, we have to recognize and admit the roots of the problems. We cannot blame our backward life on the government alone. We should not expect the government to perform miracles that can make us live in prosperity in a few years. Our problems are complicated and they will take generations to be solved, if we start taking the right steps now.

I even have doubts that we will be able to do it by ourselves if there is no economic coalition

### Mohamed Bin Gabr Engineer - USA

between all Arabs and Islamic countries. Please don't rush to conclude that I am a pessimist who calls for us to accept the situation we are in. But I want the people of Yemen to realize that we are in a bad situation and it needs every single Yemeni effort, if we want to live a decent life in which we don't have to worry about our children's basic needs, such as food and shelter. I think the solutions can be summarized as follows:

#### The President:

The president should establish a real democracy in Yemen. When I say democracy I don't mean the freedom of electing 301 parliament members or the ability to insult and sharply attack officials in our newspapers. I mean by democracy the ability to elect real decision-makers directly by the people. I strongly believe that President Ali Abdullah Saleh has accomplished more during his presidency than any other previous president. He has achieved political stability for the last 20 years, unification of Yemen, and many other things that every one knows about and can't deny.

In the past, every time a person took over the presidential office or stepped down without the people's vote, it was considered a revolution. Both North and South Yemen since 1962 have been through more than 10 revolutions. Every revolution destroys whatever has been accomplished in the previous revolution. On average, Yemen had only three and half years of re-construction. Yemen and the 18 million Yemenis can't depend on the life of any president.

From the bottom of my heart, I would love for history to remember President Saleh as the George Washington of Arabia. He has accomplished so much and the only challenge he has left is to accomplish the dream for the Yemeni and all Arabs to directly elect their leaders. When the United States of America was declared, George Washington was elected as the first president. In his second term, the people loved him so much that he was the only American president that had nobody run against him. At the end of his second term, the American people wanted to make him king of the USA. He strongly refused, so they tried to convince him to run for the third time because the USA was at war with England, Spain, and France. He again refused and volunteered to lead the army as a general under the newly elected presi-

dent, John Adams. He established a tradition of not running for election for more than two terms.

Since then, it has taken the United States of America less than 200 years to become the only superpower in the world. Two hundred years is nothing in the history of nations. It will be very hard for our president to step down and become an ordinary citizen, after all power he has been holding. But that is what it takes to distinguish national heroes and ideal leaders from the other rulers.

#### Opposition Parties:

The opposition parties should stop nagging and crying for not being in power. They should stop attacking the officials blindly to mimic the negative side of western democracy. The opposition parties will not gain favor with the people by engaging in destructive criticism and attacks on the officials. In the Yemen Socialist Party paper, all their concerns are about their 16 former leaders who are now in exile. They forget the 18 million Yemenis.

When you read The Islah (Reform) party newspaper, you can imagine that there are drinking bars and adultery centers on every street corner of the streets of Yemen's cities. They should stop questioning people in their religion or whether they have been fulfilling religious rituals. They should be advised by Allah's verses which say "Invite (all) to the way of the Lord with wisdom and good preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious for thy Lord knowest the best - those who have strayed from his path, and who receive guidance".

The other opposition parties should really unite with one of the three major parties that share more common ground with them. The opposition parties should talk about specific plans for Yemen before they participate in the election. They should investigate corrupt officials and prove their claims with hard evidence. They should also put pressure on the president to prepare the country for the construction and restructuring after the end of his term.

The opposition parties should pressure the president to begin implementing decentralization and establish local government based on people's votes for the different governorates. These local governments should be organized with consideration of

their economic ability. We don't need local governments like in America, where every state has its own parliament and police. Yemen is too poor to support all that bureaucracy. Yemen should optimally be constructed of local governorates, so the people will have no large burden to support in the form of too many local governments.

They should help the president in reconstructing the military so there will be no reckless generals or radical groups that will overthrow an elected government after him. We need a military that will protect the borders of Yemen and the will of the Yemeni people. Yemen does not need a democracy where a committee of generals has power over the elected president or a democracy where a religious leader has more power than the elected president.

#### Businessmen and Intellectual Yemenis:

I think that some Yemeni businessmen exploit an already poor and bloodied citizenry. These businessmen should start to engage in investment that will employ large numbers of jobless Yemeni. They should produce products that can be exported and bring in hard currency.

The experts and economists should conduct studies for possible investment projects, based on market dictates. I know that our businessmen do not have the capital for big investments. They should try to form a stock market and let the people get involved in investing in these projects by floating shares. Instead of the traditional investment in real estate and land holdings, the economy should move into modern activities.

Intellectuals have a great role to play in a more broad-based enlightenment of the our society. They have to be the beacon that guides our people.

#### The Yemeni People:

The people of Yemen should really stop crying about their misery and start thinking hard about how to generate new opportunities to improve the standard of their life. The first thing they should give up is chewing qat. There is absolutely no gain in qat. Those who claim that qat chews are gatherings for exchange ideas are fooling themselves. Instead of wasting at least 6 hours every day talking about the same subject for several years, why don't they search for better ways to spend their time? At the very least, they could be

with their families and children. They could help in household work, help illiterate members of the family, or simply help the kids in their school work. Instead of wasting their money on something useless as qat, why don't they spend it on things that their families will benefit from? We should help the people control population growth and rural-to-urban migration. One president of the USA told

his people, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country!"

Finally, we should always remember what God said in the holy Quran: "Allah will never change the grace which He hath bestowed on a people until they change what is in their souls".

So let's begin changing our souls from today.



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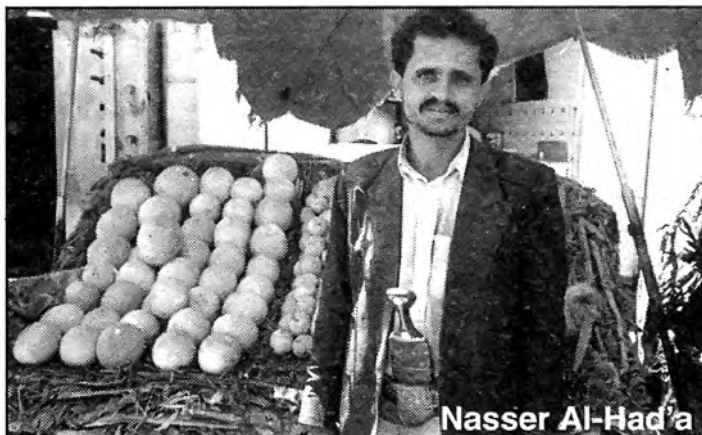


*Street Vendors and their Moving Markets on Carts:*

# “More Customers!”

You see them everywhere you go. They sell everything. And they come in amazingly different sizes and shapes. They are the arabiyat (hand-pushed carts). Some sell chewing gums, biscuits, candy, and other confectionery. Some sell fruits and vegetables. Others sell clothes, garments, shoes, and other footwear. Many sell copy-books, pens, and other school needs. They are all over the place, mainly at street intersections. They move around in search of buyers. There are simple carts, but there are also double-deckers and fancy ones. Their capital can range from just a few thousand, to almost a hundred thousand, depending on their line of business. Making ends meet has become a difficult task these days. If you can manage a small amount of capital, perhaps you can start a business on an arabiyah instead of hanging around with no job. Daily profit can range from a hundred to a few thousand.

In an effort to learn more about this burgeoning community, Yemen Times reporters spent a few days on the streets journeying with the arabiyah people. Yasser Mohamed put together this report based on three weeks of interviews, comments, and anecdotes. Have fun reading!



**Nasser Al-Had'a**

Nasser Al-Had'a comes from Dhamar. His arabiyah (cart) has fruits. Nasser says, "My business follows the seasons. Now is the season for peaches, mangos, watermelon, etc. and these are the fruits I will be selling over the next few weeks." He also carries citrus fruits of all kinds, in addition to year-round fruits such as carrots. He buys the fruits from the Central Market at Madbah. "I go there early in the morning and choose the best quality-fruits." He calculates all his costs, before he determines the retail price he will charge his customers. One of the surprises I learned was that Nasser is charged for parking his cart near this store or close to an area. "I pay YR. 20 per day to the market management as charges for the this spot where I park my cart" In return, he can leave his cart for extended periods under the watchful eyes of his space or landlords. "But sometimes things get stolen, and I can hold nobody responsible for that," he added.

Nasser previously worked as a blacksmith and a carpenter. He had worked in Saudi Arabia for six years. "But I am now comfortable in my new work."

Arif Abdullah is from Taiz Governorate. He deals in small electrical appliances and plumbing wares. He has a very impressive cart. "It is as good as a small shop," he proudly exclaims. He is often located near Al-Asbahi Quarter, where a lot of construction work is going on. His profit varies. "I usually earn about YR. 500 per day, out of that I pay YR. 100 as location rent or charge, and so far I have not faced any problems." Arif is married and supports his family, as well as an extended network of kinship and relatives. "I have dreams, but it is difficult



**Arif Abdullah**

to achieve them, especially if you are not educated as in my case. I am quite satisfied to push on in this business," he says, blowing his cigarette smoke on my face. He is not even aware of that as he continues explaining.

Mohammed Al-Izzi is from Ibb Governorate. He sells footwear, mainly rubber and plastic shoes and sandals. He supports a family of five including himself from this business. He says the income varies, but it is enough to meet his daily requirements, as well as the rent of the house, 1500 rials a month. He pays a daily charge for the cart that varies from YR. 50-70, depending on location. "Sometimes the municipality people take away our carts, but we get them back after paying them a fine of 800-

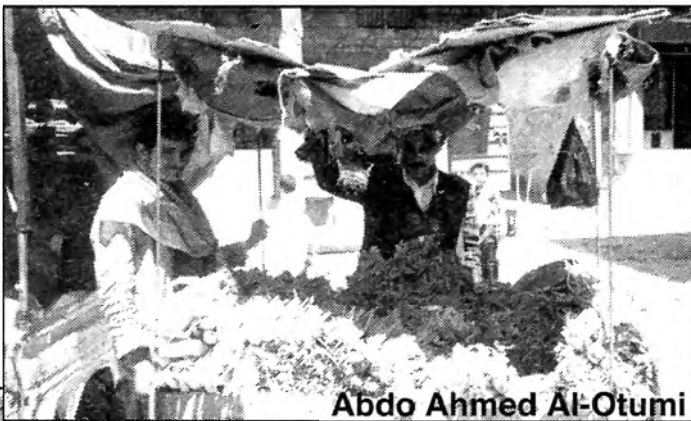


**Mohammed Al-Izzi**

1000," he added. Of course, there are no receipts. The money is split between the municipality officials and the soldiers who accompany them. Mohammed hopes to start his own shop rather than selling on the streets. "My main worry is whether someday I will wake up, and my cart will not be there any more. I want a more settled location for my business."

Abdo Ahmed Al-Otumi is from

Otuma, Dhamar Governorate. In spite of his old age, he pushes his hand cart long distances and for extended hours. He sells fresh vegetables. I was amazed that he can manage his finances even though he cannot read and write. It is clear he is good with numbers. "I can't tell you my exact daily profit. It all depends on the market, but it is usually about YR. 300-400. That is enough to feed the family. But Abdo has a problem. Unless, he sells his goods quickly, they can rot on the cart. "I deal in fresh vegetables, and I have no

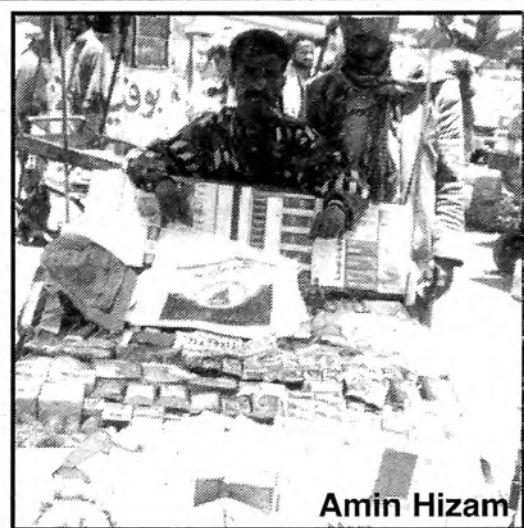


**Abdo Ahmed Al-Otumi**

proper facilities to preserve them until the next day," he said. He has found an answer. Abdo has developed a good relationship with some regular customers who buy from him all the time. But that too has a downside. He was burned by some of them to whom he has sold on credit, and never seen again. He still lends to the others and they pay him back later. He pays YR. 20 daily as location rent.

Adel Hassan is from Taiz. He is a young man who left school after he completed the ninth grade. His excuse for leaving school early was that those who had graduated before him were jobless and still roam the streets.

Adel too, roams around but his roaming is with a purpose. He sells ice-cream. "It is good business, especially at high noon. "My sales increase during summer, but during the winter, not many people eat ice-cream, so my income falls distressingly," he laments.



**Amin Hizam**

Even though he had quit his studies, he sometimes regrets it. "My advice to the young people is to take their studies very seriously, and to take advantage of every moment of their lives to ensure a bright future."

Amin Hizam is from Ibb. He pushes a cart full of chocolate bars, biscuits and cigarettes. He is single and does not support a family. "It is difficult to support a family from this business, I can barely look after myself and my daily needs." Amin is not happy with this job. He is forced to do it, since he is not educated and has no other vocation. He feels that the future is dark, and there is no hope of improving himself due to the overall economic conditions. He says he wants to learn, but what and where? "There are no facilities such as computer institutes which will train me for free or even for a small fee. Why can't our government encourage young men and women to help develop themselves?" Whatever his hopes and frustrations, he must carry on with his job just to survive.

It is important to note, however, that all of these 'businessmen' are luckier than many others. They are luckier than the sellers who do not have even own a cart to put their goods in. These are the sellers who are locate at traffic lights. They have a few moments between light changes to convince drivers to buy their goods. There are also the newspaper sellers on the streets, who can barely secure a daily income that can keep them alive. This is especially problematic now that the price of one loaf of bread has risen from 5 rials to 10 rials. Those people are worried that they cannot even earn the money that could buy bread for themselves and their families. Finally, they are luckier than those who have no jobs at all. If a person is a graduate from high school or university, then he/she cannot contemplate going in the street business - whether by pushing carts or otherwise. For these unemployed people, conditions are even more rough.

Cart sellers form a fraction of a larger block of Yemeni people that have been devastated by economic burdens. Yet, these people are simple, kind, and satisfied. They also perform an important job in keeping prices down because their margins are small. They are a vital part of the market system.



# Pesticides & Plastic Bags: A Menace to Society and Environment

The problem of pollution and environmental degradation has become one of the major headaches and alarming issues of modern times. There is a worldwide warning of the hazards of pollution for human life. If the problem persists, our habitat may no longer support life.

This has become one of the crucial and challenging issues of the 21st century. We should be pre-occupied with the issue and the need to protect the environment. One of the major reasons why people don't care about pollution is that they think of it as something unrelated to their life, probably because of their ignorance and lack of environmental education. They forget that we all share responsibility for preserving a good and healthy atmosphere for the sake of our world. Moreover, they disregard the fact that diseases that spread to everyone are a result of environmental degradation.

Here in Yemen, the situation is deteriorating at an alarming rate.

The main sources of the environment pollution in Yemen are many. They include carbon dioxide and other emissions from vehicles, factories, quarries, etc. Another source is the use of pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals produced for agricultural use. Oil lubricant waste also contributes in bringing havoc to our environment. Non-degradable plastic bags are also an eyesore as well as an environmental hazard. There are, of course, other contributors.

## Pesticides

The use of pesticides started in 900 BC in China. But the dangerous levels of use of chemical pesticides only started in 1925. There are, of course, different kinds of pesticides like Aldrin, DDT, Lindane, Eldin, Dieldrin, Heptachlor and many others. But the most detrimental of these is DDT.

DDT was discovered in 1939 and was prohibited in 1970. Unfortunately, it is still used in Yemen even today.



We all know that qat-chewing is the most common habit of most of the Yemeni people. Therefore, the use of pesticides and insecticides to make the qat-plant grow very rapidly means that a very large percentage of Yemenis are exposed to insecticides by qat chewers. Most of the Yemenis suffering from cancer are qat addicts, and these who eat many spicy dishes.

Another point is that the use of pesticides and insecticides is the main reason behind some other diseases like paralysis. It is not only in qat growing that pesticides are used. They are also used in growing fruits, vegetables and even grains. This means that the life of the whole society is menaced.

There are alternatives that can be used instead. The winner of this year's Hayel Saeed Award for Sciences and Arts discussed this critical issue. He discovered alternatives. He found that a kind of plant can be used to kill insects which are harmful to our plants. Actually, he has done something laudable - he has shown with experiments how it works. I wish the conference held in Sana'a during the period 14-16 March could have given more attention to this matter.

## Plastic Bags

Plastic is one of the scientific revolutions of the 20th century. But the misuse of this product can be of considerable detriment to human beings and our habitat.

Yemen has a large number of plastic factories spread all over the country. There are 20 that have been licensed, but many more are operational. In Sana'a alone, there are some thirty such clandestine factories.

Estimates indicate that volume of plastic products produced in Yemen during 1992-1996 was 25,842 tons. The government issued two ministerial decrees - one in 1994 and the second in 1998, to specify standards for plastic production. They both stipulated that imported and locally produced plastic bags whose length is less than 60 microns (now 20 microns) should be banned. These stipulations resulted in angry protests from the 'industrialists'.

They were very annoyed and disturbed. Thus, the two decrees were no longer enforced. This is because the concerned authorities do not work together or help

each other to follow implementation of the issued decrees.

The main problem is the misuse of the plastic bags. People are not aware of the many dangers of this material. All over the world, used plastic bags are returned for re-manufacturing or re-cycling. But here in Yemen they are thrown away. This is why we see these plastic bags flying in all directions. Thus, they deface the beauty of our cities, villages, and landscape.

They sometimes get stuck to trees. What is more horrible is burning them, because we all know that plastics don't vanish by burning. On the contrary, they become a solid substance while emitting a suffocating smoke that causes a lot of respiratory diseases.

If buried or mixed in the soil, they prevent rainwater from seeping into the depths of the earth to feed the underground

reservoirs. The water remains on the earth surface, and later evaporates. Even the plants do not get enough water for their growth, since plastic does not dissolve into the earth.

Another problem is that some of our animals - such as goats and sheep now feed on these plastic bags. When these animals are sold for slaughter, the plastic somehow makes its way to human intestines.

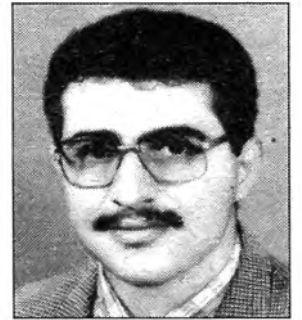
Yet, another problem with plastic bags is that they are used for wrapping food, which is rather dangerous. When the food is kept hot in a plastic bag, it becomes mixed with the substance of the plastic which causes a lot of diseases.

Therefore, there is no way out except for banning the production of this menacing material. They are already banned worldwide.

Besides, there are alternatives. The paper and reed bags are safer in the sense that they can be easily dissolved into the soil without any harm.

People have to be educated on the detriments of plastic bags. Is there somebody listening?

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi  
Taiz Editor, Yemen Times



## JOB OPPORTUNITY

FOR  
Qualified Yemeni Medical Practitioner

MSF, a French medical non-governmental organization wishes to recruit a Yemeni medical doctor to work in their project in Hazm Udayn district, Ibb Governorate.



MSF seeks applicants with the following:

- 1) Medical Doctor with post-graduate training in Primary Care and Public Health
- 2) Minimum 5 years post-graduate work experience in primary care including work in public sector
- 3) Knowledge of the Health Sector reforms in Yemen
- 4) Familiar with the National Standard Treatment guidelines and essential drug list
- 5) Experience as a trainer would be preferable
- 6) Fluent in English
- 7) Interested to work with an NGO

Applicants are requested to send an application letter and Curriculum Vitae to:

MSF  
P. O. Box 19072, Sana'a  
Phone: (01) 207-800, Fax: (01) 400-739

## UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting applications for the following posts in its office in Sana'a.

### This position is open to Yemeni Nationals Only.

(1) **Accounting/Finance Clerk.** Performs accounting/Finance tasks.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** Maintains financial records for UNDP office and/or project/programme accounts as assigned; codes and records receipts and payments, assures accuracy of computation and completeness of documents and maintains continuing status of allotments against obligations; prepares routine correspondence and maintains contracts with banks and others to discuss matters concerning accounts and related assignments; briefs and assists newly arrived international staff, experts and consultants on basic financial procedures and requirements with respect to payments, entitlements and other requirements relating to accounts and finance.

#### Qualifications requirements:

**Knowledge and Skills:** First University Degree in Accounting supplemented by courses in Finance. Ability to operate computing machines used to maintain accounts. Computer literacy is essential. Additional relevant training in finance is desirable.

**Experience:** Minimum 3 years experience in accounting clerical work.

**Language:** Fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English.

(2) **Public Affairs Consultant (Short-Term/Part-Time Post):** Promote local awareness and support for UNDP; enhance the image of the UN System as a force for development, peace and justice worldwide; conduct Public Affairs activities designed to promote better understanding of its goals and activities; develop relations and contacts with local media; maintain contact with Department of Public Affairs; advocacy with different partners; and translate written and recorded material from English into Arabic and vice-versa.

#### Qualification requirements:

**Knowledge and Skills:** First University Degree in Information or English Language with excellent knowledge of Arabic and solid background in Mass Media and related fields. Computer literacy is mandatory.

**Experience:** Minimum 5 years experience in the field of media relations and translation.

**Language:** fluency in written and spoken Arabic and English.

Interested Candidates are requested to send their applications with detailed curriculum vitae to:

Assistant Resident Representative (O), UNDP, P. O. Box No. 551, Sana'a.

Applications should be received no later than 15 June 1999.

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgment will only be sent to shortlisted applicants meeting the requirements of the posts.



Write down our names. We want to run for elections!



# Dhamar University

## Academic Excellence in Service of Society

The University of Dhamar was inaugurated on 17-7-1996 in order to meet the need for manpower development in the governorate of Dhamar and the region. Many countries develop their societies and manpower through establishment of new universities which directly participate in the development process.

Universities are a beacon of light, as they help build the people who will shoulder responsibilities for the nation in the future. They do that through educational programs and activities and scientific research. Universities are also the source of social progress, cultural achievements, and a more bountiful and meaningful life for society

Unfortunately, not all universities play this critical role. Some of these educational institutions grow nothing more than big ordinary schools.

One promising university is Dhamar University. Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times talked to Professor Dr. Abdulla M. Al-Mujahid, Rector, about a number of issues.

Dr. Mujahid received his university degree in agriculture from Baghdad University. He worked at the Agricultural Research Center in Taiz for a while, before going back to get his PhD from Alexandria University in 1982. Then he went to Oklahoma for a short internship before coming back to join Sanaa University's College of Agriculture.

Excerpts:

**Q: How many students do you have at Dhamar University?**

**A:** As you know, our university is a young one. We are just over three years old.

Yet, we already have more than 12000 students distributed in the various university disciplines.

This indicates the level of demand in this region.

**Q: What are the nationalities of your lecturers?**

**A:** Our lecturers come from different nationalities. The Arab lecturers are mainly from Iraq,



Egypt, Syria, and the Sudan. In addition, we have a few Indians. Of course, the majority of our teaching staff are Yemenis.

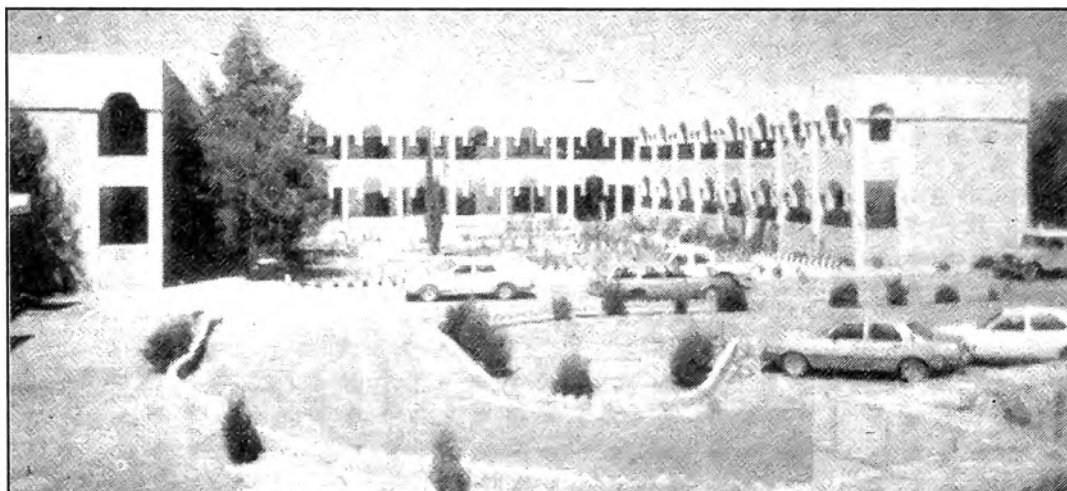
**Q: Do you have any foreign students?**

**A:** Yes, we do. We have around 50 students from Arab countries. These are either paying students, or they are recipients of scholarships which come under our cultural exchange program.

**Q: What you have achieved so far is impressive. How can you explain such infrastructural growth?**

**A:** I think you must have observed that we are in a race against time. A new university which has enormous ambitions is frustrated by shortages of funds. But we have been able to manage well.

We have a strong community-oriented approach which will make our university involved with society. Thus, we are not limited to instruction only, but to extend our outreach to the community around us.



**Q: How does that translate in curriculum development?**

**A:** The university has introduced the newest ideas in curriculum development from the start. This has distinguished it from the other universities in the country. We emphasize research and the hard sciences. We link up with other organizations in the region and worldwide.

**Q: What extra-curricular activities does the university adopt?**

**A:** The university promotes a lot of scientific activities and highly personalized research projects. Every two years, we have a university-level exhibition and con-

ference to display and discuss the achievements and results of scientific research. This year, the focal theme was Medicinal plants and herbs.

I would like to use this opportunity to say that the Yemen Times was the only newspaper in the country that gave our efforts full coverage. It shows this paper has its presence all over the country, and it handles the various important issues facing our nation - not just politics.

**Q: Could you tell us about the university's future plans?**

**A:** We have a future plan which calls for the establishment of 20 specialized colleges and scientific

institutes. Next year, we will inaugurate the Medical College, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Dutch Government.

**Q: Any last comment?**

**A:** We are doing a lot of important work to create an atmosphere of scientific and educational excellence. In spite of major difficulties, we believe we have succeeded.

It is my opinion that our country needs some good news that offer hope. Dhamar University has a good story to tell, and I hope the Yemeni media comes to see what is being done, and then reports it to our people.

### VACANCY

The English Section of The Yemen Modern School requires teachers for the coming school year. Subjects are taught in English. The school's high academic standards require teachers fluent in English and specialized in their field. Openings exist for teachers in

- English Language
- Mathematics
- Sciences
- Computer Studies

Interested applicants should contact the school at one of the following numbers to arrange for an interview:

Tel: 218607 or 218608

A competitive salary will be offered to qualified and experienced teachers.

The Yemen Modern School  
P. O. Box 13335, Sana'a  
Email: yms@y.net.ye  
Web site: <http://members.tripod.com/yemenmodernschool>

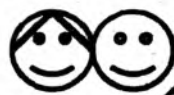
### Baidhah Court Issues Warrant

The public prosecution office of Al-Baidhah Governorate calls on the accused Abdul-Salam Ali Ahmed Al-Awbali sued as per case No. 20/99 (Serious Offenses) and charged with the killing of Abdul-Qawi Ali Salem Al-Awbali, to present himself to the Redaa Primary Court within one month from the date of this announcement.

Failure to show up for the trial will lead the court to proceed with the case by empowering a lawyer to represent the accused according to article 285 and subsequent articles of the criminal code, because he will be treated as a fugitive.



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Or E-mail: [info@yali.org.ye](mailto:info@yali.org.ye)



#2 of a series:

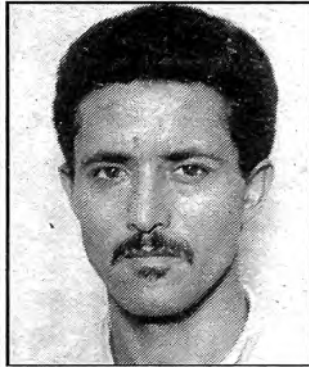
# Secrets of Zabeed's Al-Iskandaria (Alexandria) Mosque

Zabid is a historic city on the Tihama coastal plain, a few kilometers from the Red Sea. It is a prominent cultural landmark, as it was the seat of learning for centuries during the early years of the Islamic civilization. It hosts one of the earliest universities in Islamic theology. While touring the city, I met Mr. Abdul Habib Mohammed Farea Al-Dobhani, a specialist in archaeology, who is the counterpart of the Canadian team. Mr. Al-Dobhani is in charge of the city's antiquities. As he was well-informed on the history of the city, he was asked by Saleh Abdulbaqi, Cultural Editor of Yemen Times, a few questions about the city.

**Q: What are your duties here in Zabeed?**

**A:** I am in charge of the archaeological and historic sites of the city of Zabeed. I also represent the Antiquities Committee and serve as counterpart to the Canadian archaeological team. I have cooperated with them for the past ten years in the maintenance of these historic landmarks.

**Q: We would like to know more about the mosque**



Abdul-Habib Al-Dobhani

**inside the fort?**

**A:** This is a monumental landmark known as the Iskandar Mosque in reference to one of the

Ottoman commanders who came to rule Yemen. In fact, this mosque was not Turkish, as it was built by the dynasties predating the Ottoman colonization of Yemen.

This fact was discovered last year by the Canadian team, from the scriptures and colored ornaments inside the dome. They have completed repairing part of the corner of the north west section as a model on which to proceed with the repair work of the whole mosque. They will also repair the colorful ornaments, calligraphy, and the scriptures inside the mosque.



Ancient Islamic art is still visible today

**Q: What is the most important part of the mosque in terms of historic relevance?**

**A:** While we were repairing in the right and left parts of the prayer altar of the mosque, we found two marble pieces which had already been once repaired during the days of the Ottoman empire. Those pieces of marble are part of the evidence that the mosque belongs to the time of the Yemeni dynasties and thus pre-dates the Ottoman period. We also found other masterpieces like the ornaments inside the prayer altar.

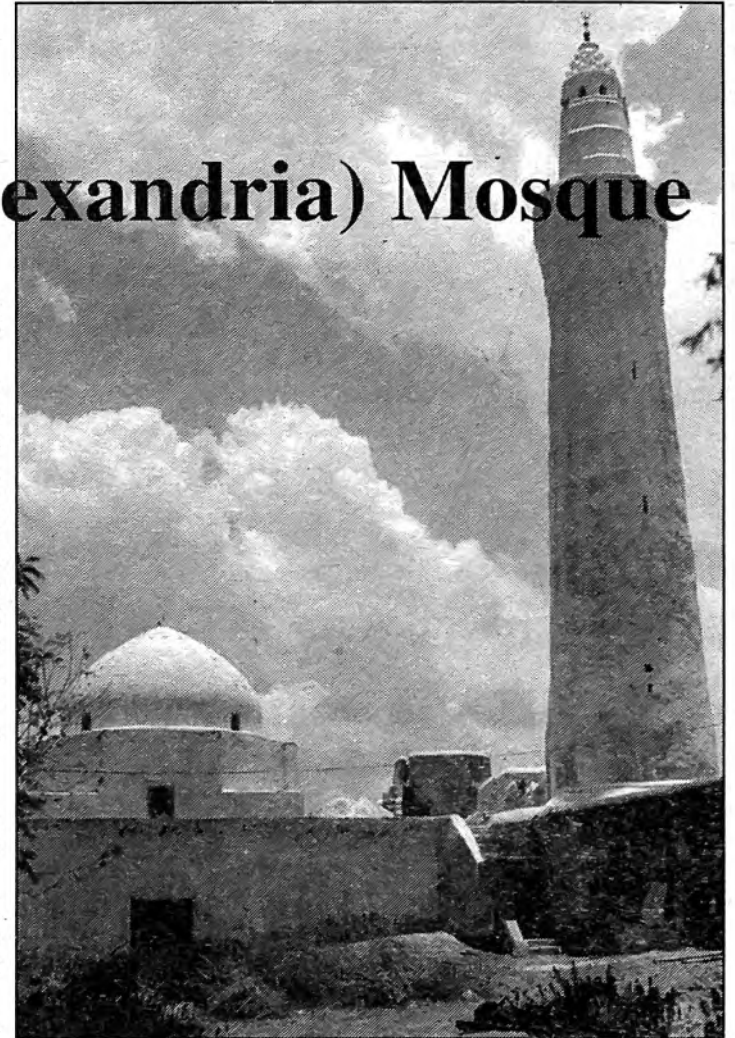
**Q: What do the scriptures on the sides of the mosque walls and domes say?**

**A:** There are many ornamental scripts which decorate the mosque's wall. Most of these are verses from the Quran.

At the beginning of last year, the team started to repair some of the northern front part of the prayer house in the mosque. This was of two types, the colored ornaments and the engraved ornaments. In addition, there are the marble ornaments which are inside the prayer altar. All these are considered to be a major part of the mosque. Further repair work will be performed over the next couple of years.

**Q: Have you discovered any new things during your excavations inside the fort?**

**A:** During the past four years of repairs and excavation, we found many parts of destroyed buildings underneath the fort. This was because Zabeed or Tihama had many wars in the past which



Al-Iskandria Mosque: Standing tall in the face of time

in old constructions were located under ground, and as the years pass these pipes get buried further and further because of foundations which were lacking at that time, 700 years ago. I would like to add that eastern front gate was totally destroyed, with the ceiling and almost every thing buried before the excavation of the fort.

**Q: Do you have any plans for constructing a museum and exhibiting the things you discovered?**

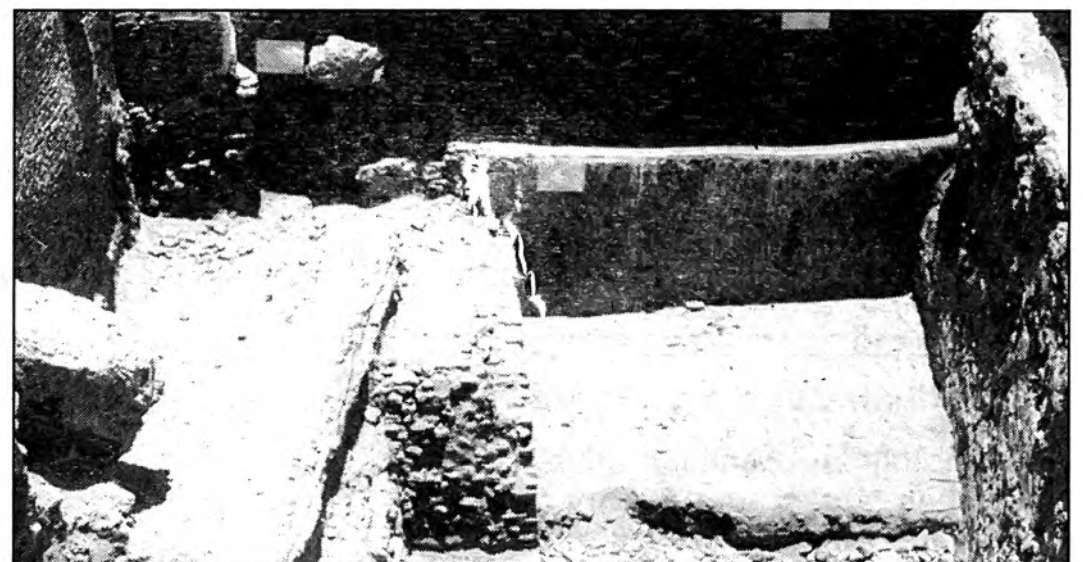
**A:** Yes, after excavation and discovering the cities buried under the fort, we will have a section inside the fort devoted to exhibiting our discoveries. Photos will also be taken, which will be shown to visitors.

**Q: What are the obstacles that you face?**

**A:** We have many obstacles. On the subject of the museum, we may need an appropriate hall for exhibition which is up to high standards for the tourists to see. Because of limited financial

**Q: How often do tourists visit this site?**

**A:** Well, tourists visit the region of Zabeed very often, but it varies from season to season. During the summer, when the temperature is around 28-29 degrees Celsius it becomes difficult for the tourists to come here



Recent underground discoveries show that the mosque was built on a complete infrastructure for a small city

destroyed the towns. Generally these forts did not have any foundations, as we can see today in recent excavations. The constructions were made on the same ground, either directly over the destroyed buildings, or on the sand immediately around that area. Some of the destroyed parts remain there under the new the buildings. And during our excavations 7 meters under the fort we found water pipes. From this we discovered that the pipes

because we don't have any rest houses here. That's why the general committee has constructed the Zabeed rest house, which was supervised by Mr. Usama Al-Hadrami, and the tourists stay for a short period and return to Hodeidah or Al-Garahi. I think that business men could benefit if they constructed a hotel in the region of Zabeed. He would solve the residential problem, and increase the number of tourists visiting Zabeed.

resources we are unable to build it. Allocations are very poor, and the monuments office does not help us in providing for 12000 rials in salary, and basic things such as water are not provided. I personally hope that the office will take care of us and increase our salaries and provide us with the things we need to proceed with our daily work without any problems. Finally, we hope that the people in the office step forward to solve these problems.

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May 31st, 1999

# Letters to the Editor

**Dear Editor,**  
My wife and I were in Yemen recently with a small tour group of US citizens and much appreciated being able to read your newspaper so as to get a better perspective on the events in Yemen as well as the Yemeni view of the world. We had a most enjoyable and interesting time touring the country and visiting many ancient sites.

I recall reading an editorial or reader's comment on the need to get rid of the Qat chewing if Yemen is to accelerate its economic progress. I couldn't agree more. It's clearly a tremendous drag on the economy and the productivity of the people.

**Evans Harrell**  
Ev\_Harrell@compuserve.com

### Is Hollywood in Yemen?

We are not proud to read news of back home and found out that Hollywood has been transferred to Yemen with the more advanced technology of real bullets.

What is happening now in our country used to happen in 18th

century in other places. What is the main reason which is making the country to go backwards while the whole universe is advancing forward? There must be something, could it be the results of qat? It is difficult to think of any other explanation to be the cause of such a mess to the country of many intellectuals. This country was praised by the Prophet Mohammed (SAW) that "religion is Yemen and the wisdom is Yemen." Where is the wisdom? And where is the religion? The country that could

have been a paradise is slowly turning into a killing zone. In many countries qat is banned and has been put into a group of narcotic drugs but visa versa in Yemen. Here we find qat as a phenomenon used daily on different occasions.

The article about qat in the Yemen Times issue No. 19, written by Hindi Shakir was a very good example of the efforts of qat that the nation seems to be ignoring. I think we have a big problem in our hands. To solve this problem will be difficult because most of us now have green blood from qat which is running through our veins and brains not red blood that could feel the pain or sense the danger we're putting our nation and the

future of our children. Wake up Yemen! Everybody is moving forward to 21st century.

**Fatima Raweh**  
UAE.

### A Cry from the Yemen Jewish Community

Recently in Israel, the Yemen Jewish Community that recently arrived in Israel have regretted that they came to Israel. While Israelis claim that their country's laws are pro women, their women are now giving them hell. We hear of many complaints of husbands who suffer from the extreme openness of the community: Today, Yemeni Jewish women have stopped wearing modest clothing and are running around by themselves. They fell

victims to a modern society, which does not respect religious regulations. They stay for hours at night with men whom they call boyfriends. The Yemeni Jewish Community is going crazy because of this mess. In fact, most of the Yemeni Jewish people want to return to their original homeland, Yemen. They don't want to stay in this so-called "promised land" any more. Many of them want to leave Israel either to Yemen or to the USA. Originally, a Yemeni Jewish, although currently living in Israel, I had to express what I feel and see, simply because I am living here in Israel and don't like it. I miss my original country, Yemen.

**Yakob Bin Shlomo, Israel**

Adel Al-Kartas:

## "The Agricultural Cooperative's Activity in Yemen was established long before the rest of the Arab countries"



On May 15-19, a seminar on the training of Agricultural Cooperation candidates was held which was attended by Mr. Ahmed Salem Al-Haleily, Minister of Agriculture, Abdulrahman Salem, deputy Minister of Planning, Vice Dean Ahmed Alharbi, Mr. Alsurami, Mr. Ganos, and many others.

### Introduction:

Name: Adel Al-Kartas, Former Minister of Agriculture in Lebanon from 1992 to 1995, prior to that he was in the International Food and Agricultural Organization as an assistant to the head of the social and economical side. He also worked for the organization in Morocco, and was responsible for agricultural planning and marketing to develop the farmers union for three years.

### Q: What are the activities of the agriculture cooperation that you have found in Yemen?

**A:** It is a production cooperation, i.e. the cooperation depends upon itself to implement the cooperation's ideas. They adopt many projects, such as the service security, and there are many successful marketing cooperations. For example, when we took a look at the Sawaan cooperation we can see the activities adopted by the cooperation's head, who is a member of the farmers union, the cooperations priority is in marketing various agricultural products, especially fruits and vegetables. We can also see that the cooperation has a committee which manages the major projects. There are other kinds of cooperations concerned with loaning to farmers who are members, but their number is

very small. The Agricultural Loaning Bank unfortunately could not organize the relationship between itself and the Agricultural cooperation. The cooperation's role is meant to be leasing this money from the Loaning Bank and distributing them among the small Agricultural Cooperation Unions. That is the most important issue which should be examined by the Agricultural Cooperation.

### Q: Through your studies, in what aspect has this cooperation spread most in Yemen?

**A:** We made a survey last December, January and finally in the month of May which resulted in depicting the number of Agricultural cooperations, which were around 326, throughout the country. They were generally concentrated in the governorates of Sanaa, Hadrahmout, and Aden. Unfortunately, the number of Agricultural Cooperation's were less than our expectations. Therefore the participation of the Cooperation and the Government is very poor. This is our first recommendation, that we should emphasize the ignored parts of Yemen and the distant sections of these three governorates should get the attention which they need.

### Q: What are the obstacles faced by the Agricultural Cooperation Union?

**A:** From my point of view there are many obstacles and hindrances because of training and promotion of the Cooperation itself, which should improve its operations. They should update and adopt new methods of organization and administration. For that reason, we are calling for reestablishing the Cooperative Training Institute in Aden that was established in 1992 as vocational training for people for two years after secondary education, in order to provide them with a Diploma in Cooperative Science. These activities have stopped, we and the government are in great need of these services and we will try to reestablish them in our discussion at the Food and Agricultural organization.

### Q: What suggestions are presented to develop the cooperative work in the form of the legislation sphere?

**A:** Regarding the legislative sphere, we have not made any new suggestions because the Laws which were established in 1998 concerning Agricultural Cooperation were acceptable. Some of the suggestions varied from what we presented in December 1998, when we visited Yemen for the first time. The suggestions included these projects, in my opinion the problem is not with the law, as the law has organized the main facts and suggestions but that it should be adopted and encouraged by the government, whereas the continuation has emphasized encouraging the Agricultural Cooperation in Yemen.

### Q: Suggestions for the administrations organization?

**A:** We would like to increase the administrations organization and its efficiency, which is one of our major goals at the Agricultural Cooperation Union. From this intention, we have many suggestions to increase the personal and administrative efficiency at the Agricultural Cooperation union. Initially, we are preparing for the agricultural development project with its final definitions so that the Cooperation will possess qualified candidates who can prepare these studies to represent it to the organizations such as the monetary funds, the financing organizations etc.

### Q: For the financial organization side?

**A:** We think that accountability should be added to the organization and we should find a system which should be within the Agricultural Cooperation, such as savings in the cooperation and helping the village's women in order to make the Cooperation form banks for putting their deposits in. This was suggested at the seminar,

instead of relying on the limited responsibility of the members in securing loans without referring to financial or tangible bonds.

### Q: The Agricultural Cooperative work is being dominated by the political burden. What do you say about this?



**A:** I think that we should not exaggerate this fact, but give it its original size. There is some realization that the politics interferes a lot in the Cooperation's work, but I think that this kind of talk has some exaggeration. On the contrary, I think that the Cooperative activity in Yemen was established a long time before the rest of the Arab countries. While there are now around 22 cooperative unions in the Arab world, where I think Yemen has a very small number compared to other Arab countries, this does not mean that the Agricultural Cooperations are limited because of the governments interference in its concerns. I think that the government must interfere sometimes because a small child cannot be left to grow without any guidance. I think that the current system followed with the collaboration between the Agricultural Cooperation Union and the Ministry of Agriculture in addition to concerned ministries who take care of the cooperation, such as the ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Insurance and Social Affairs and the Labor Ministry etc. is a genuine system.

### Q: There are many efforts by international organizations such as the GTZ, Agricultural Food Organization, and the World Bank, who have tried to motivate this sector but didn't succeed, so to what extent are you optimistic in succeeding?

**A:** First you have to notice that there are some statements which says that the GTZ isn't important, the international organization didn't succeed in this duties, I don't think that those statements are accurate or correct. On the contrary, these donor organi-

Sanaa, Hadrahmout or Aden. As we have observed that the concerns about Cooperative Unions become more scarce as we moved away from these major governorates and so here we are calling all Agricultural Cooperative Unions and the Ministries to take care of these ignored parts of the country.

### Q: You have concentrated on your projects sphere, so have you gained any experience and knowledge?

**A:** Yes, we have concentrated on training, promoting and teaching new methods in the administration and we noticed that in Yemen there are many acceptable and talented people, especially those who were trained at the former Training Institute in Aden in 1990, where some of the tutors who were teaching at this school have succeeded in administering and organizing these Cooperations in Sawaan, Kaa Al-Laben and Amran regions. After seeing these kinds of Agricultural Cooperation in Yemen, we wish to have this

zation such as the GTZ projects which are operating in five governorates are acceptable and successful to a wide extent and should proceed. We've come to this conclusion after we have gone through their activities. I would also like to add that these kind of activities should be generalized to the rest of the governorates, especially those governorates which are ignored in Yemen, for example those governorates which are away from

kinds of cooperation in the rest of the Arab world, the problem here is not the lack of candidates, but how to find and train them. Some of the training courses, such as those which we held on May 15-19, discovered that those people are very talented but they need to keep on proceeding without stopping.

**By: Khairiya Al-Shabibi**  
Yemen Times

### EMBASSY OF INDIA SANA'A

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Embassy of India, Sana'a is happy to announce that it is resuming the Consular and Visa services at Aden for the benefit of the people of Aden and its surrounding areas on once-in-a-month basis. The Camp Office of the Embassy will function from the Joshi Building, Aden on Fridays from 8 AM to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 8 AM to 12 Noon. The First Camp will start functioning with effect from Friday, June 11, 1999.

All concerned are welcome to avail themselves of this facility. Please feel free to contact the embassy for any further query or clarification. (Telephone Nos. 243440, 264872 - Mr. VIJAYAN or Mr. YADAV).





provide equal access to education for girls out of school. The project in Al-Zeidiah district started with 13 schools, 17 teachers and 464 girl students distributed over 17 classrooms..... In 1997/98 academic year, the numbers increased into 26 schools, 81 teachers and 2045 girl students distributed over 97 classes grade 1-6. The project has encouraged

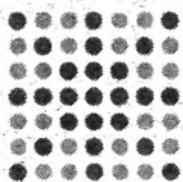


Some of the girls benefiting from the community classes

10. Teaching Arithmetic.
11. Teaching Science and general knowledge.
12. Class management.
13. Facts for life.

**COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROJECT**

UNICEF has established the Community school project through strong partnership with the Ministry of Education and the local community in the project areas in Hodeidah. Combining multiple grades in one class, the project has attracted around 9,000 girls who were out of the school system. The community school project supported by UNICEF and MOE represent a model



# A Partnership That is Making Girls' Education a Success

**INTRODUCTION:**

Women's and girls' rights to receive an education and to be treated equally with men and boys, is considered to be a humanitarian matter where everybody is equal. UNICEF and Ministry of Education (MOE) have made tremendous efforts to increase the number of enrolled girls in schools in Al Dhahi, Al-Munirah, Al Mekhlaf, Al Zaidia and Al-Qanwas districts where the number has reached 12,000 girl students. If such concern continues the number of girl students will equal that of the boys within two years.

81 women teachers to teach in Al-Zeidiah district.

The following table shows the increase in girls enrollment in Al-Zeidiah schools from year 1993/94 to 1997/98.

Academic Year	Schools No.	Classrooms No.	Girls students No.	Women Teacher No.
93/94	13	17	464=23%	17
94/95	13	28	712=35%	23
95/96	17	41	921=45%	33
96/97	26	71	1707=79%	61
97/98	26	97	2045=100%	81

**WHY IS GIRLS EDUCATION IMPORTANT?**

Over 130 million children of school age in the developing countries are growing up without access to basic education, while millions of others languish in sub-standard situation where little learning takes place. Girls crowd these ranks disproportionately, representing two thirds, nearly two of every three children in the developing world who do not receive a primary education (approximately 73 million of the 130 million school children). Ensuring the right of education is a matter of morality, justice and economic sense. There is an unmistakable correlation between education and mortality rates, especially child mortality. The implications of girls' education are particularly critical.

**TEACHER TRAINING**

The availability of teachers as reflected in student-teacher proportions, has improved significantly in recent years. The total number of teachers increased by 74% in the first half of this decade. However, the number of women teachers, despite having increased substantially in the first half of the decade remains inadequate; in the 1994/95 school year they accounted for only 21% of total teachers. This shortage of women teachers is particularly high in rural areas which is a key factor to the low enrollment rates for rural girls in basic education. Less than 1/3 (30%) of total women teachers work in rural areas.

To increase the number of women teachers working in rural areas, the government passed a law in 1998 requiring all newly appointed teachers to work in rural areas for at least five years. The law also gives the rural teachers an allowance, special housing benefits amounting to YR. 2,500- 4,575 per month.

Therefore, in order to increase girls' enrollment in rural areas, UNICEF in cooperation with MOE has supported the recruitment and training of women teachers. Several studies have shown the strong linkage between availability of women

teachers and girls' enrollment. Support of women teachers in rural areas is also seen as means to become teachers and leaders, and can contribute towards making a change in their communities.

The UNICEF's women teaching program goes beyond teaching them how to use the blackboard and the chalk, it also teaches them how to be creative and resourceful, by training them how to produce educational materials on their own. This has been accomplished in this year where each teacher produced the following materials:

1. Pocket board
2. Fluff board
3. Counter
4. Educational cards

It's worth mentioning that the workshop's atmosphere was like a bee hive. In spite of the hard work, it was obvious that nothing would stop the girls from attending the workshops.

Besides, teachers produce educational material with their students that fit with the textbook subjects, using local materials, while the project provides the teachers with cardboard and pens.

As part of the joint plan between the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, a total of 2000 women teachers in rural areas were targeted to be trained and recruited in

The following table shows the number of trained women teachers 1993/94 to 1997/98 in various Yemeni governorates.

Governorate	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Al-Hodeidah	100	174	147		421
Lahj	100	152	107		359
Haja		104	14		118
Sana'a		104	105		209
Al-Mahweet		60	59		119
Marib		14	23		37
Abyan	74	23			97
Hadramout			45		45
Al-Baida			99		99
Sada'a			125		125
All-Mahara			45		45
Ibb			96		96
Shabwa				109	109
Al-Jouf				41	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>1920</b>

1999. The first two women's teacher training workshops started on Sunday March 13, 1999. Two training workshops were conducted, one in Shabwa where 109 women teachers were trained, and another in Al-Jouf Governorate 41 women teachers were also trained. The training was conducted with financial contributions from the British Government. The training workshop planed for the second half of 1999 will be covered by the Dutch Government.

The total amount of contribution is as follows:

Partner Contributing	Amount
Dutch Government	\$1,641,724
British Government	\$49,242
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,690,966</b>

**Donors Comments**

The Netherlands Embassy values the community schools



Teachers at the workshop developing study supporting materials

project as it is more cost-effective and encourages girls to attend basic education by reducing the distance between home and school. Education of girls has high priority for the Dutch, given the existing gender gaps and the proven benefits of investing in girls' education.

What the British Embassy and the British Council liked in particular about this project is the fact that it is a cost-effective, high-impact approach to raising girls' enrollment at the primary level. Another important factor in the decision to support this activity in the financial year 1998/99 was the involvement of the Ministry of Education, which helps to ensure sustainability. The support was given in the framework of the "British Partnership Scheme", funded by the Department for International Development and managed by the British Council Sana'a. The priority areas for this scheme (in Yemen) are basic education, primary health care and good government with particular attention for the situation of girls and women. UNICEF's policy to use community-based schools is an interesting facet and has proven to be instrumental in ensuring the acceptance of teachers by communities. The British Embassy is considering giving further support in this area in the new financial year, which started on 1 April 1999.



في الحق في الحصول على رعاية خاصة في وسائل الإعلام بشأن تلوث المعلومات المزيفة ذات منفعة إجتماعية ولا تنشر بمصالحها.



A couple of girls studying maths

**The Women Training Workshops cover the following topics:**

1. Teacher skill and personality requirements.
2. Children's needs, differences and relationship with the teacher (Child and adult educational psychology).
3. Creativity.
4. Critical thinking and problem solving.
5. Communication skills.
6. Planning skills.
7. Teaching Arabic reading and writing.
8. Teaching Islamic Religion.
9. Teaching social studies.

of active learning especially attractive to girls based on the principles of the community ownership and the parents' participation in their children's education. With financial contribution from the Dutch Embassy of US \$1,641,724 dollars that will be utilized in establishing more community schools in remote areas in Yemen. The integration of this project started in the beginning of 1998 and was implemented in Hodeidah governorate.

The project has reached 120 villages in the five districts of Hodeidah where out of school girls had for the first time an opportunity to have education. The local communities provide classrooms and UNICEF with the MOE provide women teachers, teacher training (pre and in-service), supervision, textbooks and learning materials. Construction of classrooms has also been possible after the generous donation of the Dutch Government made in 1998. A total of 39 classrooms were built with community participation, which provided land and labor and reduced the unit construction cost dramatically.

**SOME OF THE ACHIEVED GOALS**

1. Local society contributed in building school classes by undertaking the payment of workers, participation in purchasing committees and supervision.
2. Formation of educational committees to support the project's activities in some districts also some educational committees were formed inside schools and a plan to continue the formation of such committees.
3. Enlighten parents on the importance of educating their girls, now parents stood in line to enroll their daughters instead of imposing their education.
4. Many parents presented their houses to serve as educational classes for girls in villages where there is no school building.
5. Local society vision regarding the education of girls has changed after acknowledging the seriousness of educating their daughters, the supervision they received, and the increasing level of girls students.
6. Previously the subject of educating males was the great concern of the officials and the public, now educating girls has occupied same position for the offices of education in districts, sheiks and Parliament members.
7. Terms of understanding and trust were accomplished with the people and sheiks who became a great backing for this subject.
8. Visible increase of concern to the project's schools by the province and the education office as the visit of the control and training managers, besides imposing any kind of transferring their teachers to urban schools.

educating males was the great concern of the officials and the public, now educating girls has occupied same position for the offices of education in districts, sheiks and Parliament members.

7. Terms of understanding and trust were accomplished with the people and sheiks who became a great backing for this subject.

**OUR AMBITIONS AND DREAMS FOR THE YEAR 1999**

1. Expand to new districts with population density as Al Lihia, Zebid, Bait Al Faqih and Bajil.
2. New classes for eradicating illiteracy for grown-ups.
3. Completion of training courses for various groups (school principals, instructors, and administrators).
4. Encourage and back high quality education, implement new methods to improve the girls' level in reading, writing and math.
5. Support a local campaign on girls education with the backing of influential people such as Parliament members, mosques' imams, sheiks, school principals and teachers.
6. Building 40 classes plus the completion of another thirty classes by laying down an executive plan following the same strategy of partnering the locals.
7. A media campaign will be launched to promote girls education during the period July 15th to August 31st, 1999.



**Taking Lessons from GunShooting Incidents in Schools of the USA**

**Protect Our Children at Their Schools**

We all know what happened in Columbine High school in Colorado State in America, when two armed teenager students opened fire against their teachers and colleagues, killing twelve of their peers and one of their senior teachers. Many other students and teachers were seriously injured as well. The killers had already planned to fire at everybody in the school and to explode the whole building, but the police managed to find the bombs before they went out. It was a real tragedy for everybody that heard about it, since the victims were innocent people.

The criminals had a peculiar change in their behavior starting two years before this massacre. The students of that school said that they used to be very fond of guns, watching violent video and computer games, gory movies and listening to doom-and-gloom music. They also used to cause a lot of tension in their schools, however, their teachers and parents did not take that abnormal behavior seriously until the tragic disaster really took place. They were laughing while they were shooting the people, to make it sound like they were in a movie.

You may say what happened was in America, and it has no relation to our situation in Yemen. I will say you're right, but why don't we learn a lesson from that and protect our children. Hopefully, we will never ever have such horrible event in our country. Parents, educators, police and decision-makers should carry the responsibility to make our schools the safest places in Yemen. I am really so enthusiastic concerning the safety of our schools since I had had terrifying experiences when I used to work in a public high school, in Taiz city, before going to America. Let me have your eyes and ears for a while please.

One day, while standing in queues during the assembly, a group of muscular teenagers sneaked into the yard of the school, looking for their target, who was a student in grade ten. They were pummeling him with daggers and stones at once. The students were so scared and terrified. The teachers ran fast to rescue the attacked prey. All the attackers ran out of the school except one, who wanted to smash his target completely. The teachers arrested that guy, putting him in the secretary office of the school, while the injured student was taken immediately to the hospital. The principal called the police, but before the police came, the other attackers had come back with their klashnikovs to free their buddy. The armed teens stormed again into the school yard, to the secretary's room. The guard and everybody who was there surrendered raising their hand up. The attackers took their friend but before they had left, they fired several bullets in the air to scare the teaching staff and the students who were there, as well as display their power. Actually, what happened was so ridiculous. Similar events used to happen from time to time. Many parents used to go into the school carrying their guns. It happened once that a father of the students pointed his pistol at one of the students to take revenge for his son because that boy beat him. Such stories happen here and there everyday in the Yemeni schools because of students and their parents and teachers carrying arms into the schools.

I believe that protection is better than condemning the accident after it takes place, therefore, I have a bunch of suggestions that may help in protecting our children especially those who are in the schools:

the schools and there should be sever punishments for any violators.

- Any visitor who is carrying any kind of arms should not be allowed to enter into any educational institution even if he is a well-known celebrity.

- The educated people should represent a good example in the society in this respect.
- The schools should start special programs aimed at convincing the students that carrying arms is a bad behavior, and the media have to play a role too.
- Children and teenagers should not have any access to violent video and computer games.
- Parents should get their kids busy with useful activities rather than spending a long time watching the violence of attacks and death in the movies,

which allow bad attitudes to grow in them. Parents should be in contact with the schools to follow their children's behavior and help in correcting the negative aspects of it.

- The fathers should bring their children with them to the mosques and they also should be aware of their children's friends in the school and outside the schools. We all love our children and we would like to see them safe and sound.

Ahmed Modhesh Thabet

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- Teenagers should not be allowed to carry any kind of arms either in or outside





## Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas



**Al-Shoura,**  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
Federation of People's Forces,  
23/5/1999.

### Front-Page Headlines

- 1- An international condemnation against the trial of independent newspapers and assaults against journalists.
- 2- Federation of People's Forces (FPF) congratulates the Yemeni People on Yemen's National Day.
- 3- Al-Shoura newspaper is accused of revealing military secrets.
- 4- In Hodeidah, a peaceful demonstration has been oppressed by the security forces amid angry condemnation. The demonstration came following the killing of a citizen by a traffic cop.
- 5- The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah) and the Nasserites Unionist Party are filing law-suits against the Minister of Information for lack of proper media coverage of the two parties conferences.



**Al-Haq,**  
Sanaa Weekly,  
Independent,  
23/5/1999.

### A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- For unknown reasons, a sentenced killer is saved from execution.
- 2- Restrictions on the freedom of the independent press clash with the coming presidential election.
- 3- In Mawiah, Taiz, an impoverished citizen commits suicide by setting fire to himself, leaving his poor family with the agonies of poverty.
- 4- Al-Haq Chief Editor stands trial for printing a news item which the Ministry of Information deemed improper.
- 5- Discontent prevails among chairmen and members of elections committees in Hodeidah governorate over insufficient funds.

### B- Issue's Editorial

The process of change does not come out of the blue. It is a natural outcome of a profound social upheaval led by unexceptional and figures whose destinies are often hard and sometime tragic. In Yemen, those figures have been struggling to bring about peaceful changes leading to the establishment of the enlightened civil society. For this particular reason, those figures are always at odds with the tribal-dominated society of the recent Yemen. They have maintained their own outlook and persevered in defending it and that's why they are seen as "a pain in the neck"

by those who are hooked to complete obedience.

In Yemen, those fighters for change are mostly writers who have been struggling for the integration of the whole country and, consequently, occasioned the antipathy of selfish or tribal groups. This fearless stance has exposed these writers to all sorts of dangers to their lives, dignity and property. In contrast, there are those hypocritical writers who, through their insincere words, have completely turned into competitive mercenaries whose own philosophy is that every thing is for sale as long as there is someone who pays.

The true writer must be aware of his mission to create the atmosphere that can overcome the current defeatist social mood so as to liberate his fellow citizens from the worship of money and the fear of the unknown future. Only then can they defend their freedom and integrity and get over any possible frustrations of the country's complicated realities. The building of the desired civil society must begin within us and must be reflected in our practices and attitudes.



**Al-Ayyam,**  
Aden 3-Weekly,  
Independent,  
24/5/1999, 26/5/1999

- 1- In a TV interview, President Saleh says that the US was against Yemen's Unity while King Fahd supported the move.
- 2- The trial of Al-Ayyam newspaper proceeds under charges of violating "Islamic Sharee'ah"
- 3- In Hodeidah, six detainees were released following their participation in a peaceful demonstration over the killing of a citizen by a traffic cop.
- 4- The Canadian non-resident ambassador to Yemen visits Hadrhamout for the first time.
- 5- Chairman of Journalists Membership Filtration Committee asks for the immediate termination of the assault on democracy and freedom of expression.
- 6- Former President Ali Nasser Mohammed declines nominating himself as a presidential candidate.

### B- Issue's Editorial

Civilized progress is by no means measured with what had been achieved in the far or even the near past but through the growth of modern society on the pillars of freedom. First among these pillars is the freedom of the press, which has been a basic right recognized and respected by the world community at large. Therefore, any closure of a newspaper and/or any arrest of a journalist is classified as an important event for news agen-

cies and often such event receives extensive coverage by the media worldwide.

Since it was first initiated, Al-Ayyam paper has used the Word as its only means of rebellion and enlightenment and therefore many of the oppressed and persecuted have found in this paper the lung through which they can breathe and the bread on which they can feed. This fact has multiplied our responsibility for finding out the truth which can be found only in a free and open society. Hence our inevitable alliance with the forces of change towards democracy, political reform and social progress

Given the above facts, we would like to know: for what reason we have been charged, and on which ground we are being sued? Did the paper ever expose this minister or that official? Have we ever printed prejudiced scandal, fabricated stories or violated the established ethical values of our community. etc.? These questions and many other similar ones have only one answer: The only charge against us is that we have been fighting hard for the freedom, honesty, integrity and impartiality of expression.



**Al-Wahdawy,**  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
Nasserite Unionist Party,  
25/5/1999.

### Front-Page Headlines

- 1- Opposition Coordination Council is studying procedures to take part in the coming presidential elections.
- 2- Widespread public and political protest against security repression of demonstrations in Hodeidah.
- 3- Huge violations in the voters lists while opposition parties demand complete compliance with the law.
- 4- Hearings of arbitration in Yemeni-Eritrean marine boarders will be kicked off in coming July.



**Al-Balagh,**  
Weekly Sanaa,  
Independent,  
25/5/1999.

### A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- The Teachers Syndicate is filing a suit against the Cabinet over violations of the Teacher's Law.
- 2- In his political statement, the President of the Republic reiterates the importance of the freedom of expression.
- 3- Ba-Jammal denies the construction of US military bases in Yemen at the present time and welcomes such presence in the future.
- 4- The government raises prices on some oil products.

5- A military armed group assails the Judge/chairman of Haraz Court in his house.

### B- Issue's Editorial

Last Saturday our country celebrated the 9th anniversary of Yemen's Re-unification. Along with us, supporters of unity and togetherness commemorated the occasion as it took place at a time of fragmentation and division. This should incite our government and political leadership to protect and preserve this important gain through proper building of modern Yemen and before that through the building of Man living in Yemen. The first step that should be taken in the process of building is to empower the individual of his/her basic rights. First among these rights is how to protect him/her from the widespread chaos. In fact, Security has become the most pressing demand for everyone living in Yemen. Without peace and security we can't expect to have good citizens. There is no better world without better men and women.



**Attariq,**  
Aden Weekly,  
Independent,  
25/5/1999.

### Front-Page Headlines

- 1- Two currents representing former North and South Yemen show up in the Yemeni Socialist Party.
- 2- Yemeni Congregation for Reform looks for the post of vice president in return for their support of PGC's candidate.
- 3- A military force takes part in tribal clashes in Shebawah.
- 4- Hadrhamout Valley commemorates the country's Re-unification by the light of candles due to electricity power failure.
- 5- Seven attorneys join the defense tribunal in the trial of Al-Ayyam's chief editor and a writer in the same paper.
- 6- During the last few months, the PGC's cadre in the government and the public sector distributed three million cards of membership to the PGC.
- 7- Yemeni students in Iraq complain over delays in financial assistance.

### B- Issue's Editorial

At a time when the Yemeni people are preparing for the first presidential elections which are supposed to take place in a calm and stable atmosphere, the state continues its illegal practices against the freedom of the press. A number of independent newspapers have been ordered to close and to stand trail on different charges. Writers and journalists are repeatedly summoned, intimidated and even assaulted inside their own houses. All this is done so as to hush free and independent writers from referring to the wrong practices in the government's economic and social policies. To add insult to injury, it has been noticed recently that the official media, specially Al-Mithaq and 26 September newspapers are taking part in this

unfair attack in such a way that these particular two papers are now turned into horns of slander, defamation and misrepresentation. Such insincere manifestation points out a single gruesome fact; namely, we will never be able to do away with totalitarian mentality as long as it controls all avenues to power and influence. As for the Democracy of today, we are not such fools to believe in the credibility of the present Yemeni democracy and we are pretty sure it's been used for local political consumption and for overseas deception.



**Al-Sahwah,**  
Sanaa weekly, Mouthpiece of  
The Yemeni Congregation For  
Reform,  
27/5/1999.

### A- Front-Page Headlines

- 1- In a TV interview, the President of the Republic describes the foreign military presence in the region as unjustified and as bringing harm the entire region.
- 2- Sheikh Al-Ahmer condemns the unfair practices against the Turkish veiled MP.
- 3- The President's stance against the military bases is met with widespread public satisfaction. In contrast, Ba-Jammal's relevant statements provoke discontent.
- 4- An official accused of misappropriating public funds is appointed as chairman of a committee authorized to set up a Fishing Cooperative Union.
- 5- The Cabinet refuses the Parliament's invitation to discuss the ongoing decline in the YR rate.

### B- Issue's Editorial

The statements of Mr. Abdul Kader Ba-Jammal, related to the US- Yemeni military ties, has greatly surprised us, as they came at a time when parties in the opposition, including Islah, have been repeatedly warning against such presence. In order to avoid misinterpretation or possible bad intention, here is the exact statement which Ba-Jammal released to the official Al-Thawrah newspaper: "The US presence in Yemen can not be called a military presence. The facilities we offer them are more commercial than any thing else. However, if the interests of Yemen dictates the presence of US military bases, then that is something else." Ironically, this particular statement has come to refute what had been circulated in the opposition papers related to Yemen's acceptance of the presence of US military bases as was expressed earli-

er by Ba-Jammal himself. The thing which we are not fully aware of is the minister's understanding of Yemen's interest. Or to put it more bluntly, who is the judge who can decide Yemen's interest?

As for the United States of America, we would wholeheartedly welcome such high level military cooperation with Yemen in case the US has suddenly turned against Israel which has been seizing Arab lands by force for a long time. This is of course an impossible hypothesis, and so is the US military presence in our country.



**Al-Thawry,**  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of  
The Yemeni Socialist Party,  
27/5/1999.

### Front-Page Headlines

- 1- The YSP's Central Secretariat invites eligible voters to register their names in the elections lists.
- 2- In a debate seminar, leaders of the Opposition Coordination Council reassert the importance of competing in the coming presidential elections.
- 3- In Hodeidah, the PGC seeks compromise in the case of Al-Hubaili, who was shot dead by a police officer.
- 4- Mr. Mohammed Ghaleb Ahmed, YSP Politburo member, underlines the strength of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations.
- 5- Political and Social figures express their concern over the recent military maneuvers in Aden which has resulted in the killing of four civilians and the injury of many others.
- 7- Torture incidents in prisons increase all over the country.



**Al-Umah,**  
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece  
of Al-Haq Party,  
27/5/1999.

### Front-Page Headlines

- 1- Hike in wheat and flour prices.
- 2- Scrolls from Al-A'abed Mosque in Shahil, Hajah are stolen, and citizens hold the officials of the Religious Endowments responsible.
- 3- In a statement broadcast from Dubai, "Aden Islamic Army" threatens all foreigners in Yemen.
- 4- The Yemeni government hands over two of the "Arab Afghans" to their home countries.
- 5- Sources report the martyrdom of two Yemenis in Kosovo.

نزف أجمل التهناني والتبريكات القلبية العاطرة للأخ

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ألف مبروك.

المهندون: عائلة صالح عبدالقوي محمد العمري، صنعاء

وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء في عدن وياضف والسعودية



After the Resumption of the League Matches

## Al-Ahli Still Strong

The second stage of the excellent league football tournament has finally kicked off, after repeated delays. There were no changes in the teams standings after last week's results. Ahli of Sana'a, which is leading the chart, showed no mercy to Al-Magid, its rival in last Thursday match. In what was an extremely one-sided match, Al-Ahli defeated Al-Magid 6/0. The performance of Al-Ahli came as no surprise to Al-Ahli fans, but the Al-Magid fans were rather disappointed by their team's weak performance,



ance, especially in the area of defense and goal tending.

In Aden Al-Shula - the host and the favorite to win the match - could not take advantage of its chances to defeat its guest, Al-Hilal of Hodeidah. The first half of the match ended 2/0 in favor of Al-Shula, and everything seemed to be going according to plan. However, all the attendees were astonished by the performance of Al-Hilal in the second half. Al-Hilal's first goal came in the fifty-third minute, after which the team put up a sensational fight to deny the favorites a chance to clinch the match points. The match ended with a 2/2 draw. On the other hand, Al-Zuhra played a tough and violent game with Shaab Al-Mukalla. The extent of tension reached a level where the two teams were about to become involved in a fight. The match ended with a 2/1 victory for Al-Zuhra.

## The Football Association Dismisses Fernandez

In a swift and decisive move, the Yemeni Football Association (YFA) terminated the contract of Mr. Fernandez, coach of the Olympic team. The decision was made following the poor performance of the Olympic team in their matches against the UAE and Qatar in the qualifying round to represent Asia in the 2000 Olympic Games. The Yemeni Olympic team went through very tough times after consecutive losses to Qatar, 3/0, and the UAE, 6/1. The team is exhausted, frustrated, and without hope as it continues to play in the rest of the qualification games. One cannot expect too much from this inexperienced team, especially now that it seems to have lost its spirit. Many sports analysts expressed their disappointment at the poor and unexpected performance. The results were surprising, especially considering that the Yemeni team had done well during

its preparatory matches in Kuwait. Although there seems to be a wave of anger at the Brazilian coach due to the extremely terrible results, the actual reason seen by many is the poor conditions of the players and their working environment. They are poorly paid and do not have a proper training program, hence they are not well prepared. However, the easiest excuse and the most logical scapegoat for the defeats is the Brazilian coach, Fernandez. It is worth mentioning that the decision to dismiss the coach came after the President of the YFA was devastated by the latest loss to the UAE. He flew to Malaysia after confirming that he will not attend the return match with the UAE. It is expected that Dr. Azzam Khaleefa will take over the duty of training the team temporarily. He will be assisted by Salem Abdrahman and Hassan Abdulhameed for the return matches.

## YOC's Secretary General, Mr. M. Al-Ahjeri:

*"We will pay special attention to the junior athletes, for they are the future champs"*

Since 1995, the Yemeni Olympic Committee, YOC, has undergone important changes and has now become more effectively involved in boosting sports and cultural activities. Mr. Mohammed Al-Ahgeri, a prominent sport official, has been working with the Ministry of Youth and Sport since he graduated from China majoring in sport and physical education. He is now the YOC's Secretary General. A young man with a lot of enthusiasm, Al-Ahgeri can do much to overcome the many obstacles and improve the difficult situation of Yemeni sports. However, ambitions alone can not affect the desired change. Cash to finance the various sports programs is the main factor for any improvement in the future. In this regard, Yemen Times met with Mr. Mohammed Al-Ahgeri to learn about the future prospects of the YOC.

which obstructs improvement of the level of performance. However, we are working to see that this training camp for the Jordan competition will continue for the Sydney 2000 Olympics. Jordan's tournament will give us the chance to focus on the players who stand out in the competition and are able to perform well under pressure. Full attention is to be given to those promising players so as to qualify them to take part in the upcoming Sydney Olympics. We think this is an ambitious step in the improving of the sports situation in our country.

vide juniors with every possible care. To this end, a special technical committee will carry on field visits to get acquainted with the talented juniors who show special skills within the local competitions. Based on these visits, we will be able to set up a time-limit training program for the distinguished players so as to qualify them for the international competitions.

**Q: What about junior players? Do you think enough attention is paid to the juniors?**

**A:** The junior player is the future champion. Within the YOC plan, we are doing what we can to pro-

**Q: You know that without a good coach we cannot have good players. But at the present time, coaches are greatly neglected. Your comment?**

**A:** Since 1995, the YOC has been offering qualifying and training programs for the local coaches. These programs are financed by the International Olympic Solidarity. So far, results have been great.

**Q: Do you have a specific working plan through which you can improve the situation of sports in Yemen?**

**A:** We are now concentrating our efforts on a number of priorities. First, we have established contact with members of the YOC, not only in the Capital Secretariat but also in the whole country, to benefit from their relevant expertise. Second, we have been focusing our efforts on how to prepare the different sport teams as early as possible. Already we have started with practical steps to prepare the sport teams which will take part in the Arab tournament for Sports Games due to begin this coming August in Jordan. We started this preparatory training last January, an unusual step in our case, for we have been criticized for the length of the training period. But I think the time is quite reasonable compared to the other Arab teams taking part in this tournament, whose training programs are superior to ours either in the length of time or in the quality of training. Our main problem has always been the lack of funds,

**IMPORTANT Numbers**

Emergency Police	199
Accident (Traffic)	194
Fire Brigade	191
Water Problems	171
Electricity problems	177
Telephone enquires	118
Aljumphura Hospital	274285
Athavra 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 Airway (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

**USD-YR Exchange Rate:**  
**159.30**  
Sunday evening 30/5/99

**EMBASSIES & Consulates**

**Sana'a:**

<b>1. Embassies:</b>		
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	413275/67	
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	
Rumania	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	
<b>2. Honorary Consulates</b>		
Austria	266725	
Belgium	286965	
Canada	208814	
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215170	
Finland	207018/20/21	
Greece	272218	
Spain	208745	
Sweden	207595/470	
Switzerland	414844	
<b>3. International Organization</b>		
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

**YEMENI BRANCHES:**

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

**HOTELS:**

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

**COURIERS:**

Aramex	Sana'a: 240741
	Aden: 255333
	Taiz: 213489
	Hodeidah: 218168
DHL	268551
American Express	272435/6
FedEX	Sana'a: 412604
	Hodeidah:(03) 247422
	Aden:(02) 232911
	Taiz:(04) 232838
	Mukalla:(05) 302641

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**  
**UNDP**

**TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT**

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) is inviting interested bidders to supply the following equipment to its Poverty Programme - Community Based Regional Development Project:

- 16 Desk-Top Computers
- 2 Lap-Top Computers
- 4 Photocopiers
- 4 Electric Generators
- 5 Communication Radios.

Interested bidders are invited to contact the project in the following address during office working hours to collect the specifications and terms of delivery for the above equipment and for technical questions and/or information not an 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1999:

Regional Development Office for Poverty Alleviation Programme  
Amman St., Opposite Al-Mankel Restaurant Bldg.  
Next to Al-Nahdha School  
Tel: 206 271 or 216 222  
Fax: 400384  
Sana'a

Bidders will be invited to submit their bids in sealed envelopes not later than 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1999.



*Slow Construction Work Because of Mismanagement*

# A Stuck Bridge

The construction work is slow. The Chinese construction company in charge of building the Al-Shora'ee Overpass Bridge continues to complain against Yemeni bureaucracy, inefficiency, and corruption.

The Al-Shora'ee bridge, officially the Yemeni-Chinese Friendship Bridge, is financed by a US\$ 6 million grant from China. By international standards, it is small, by Yemeni standards, it is giant.

The total length of the overpass is 402 meters, 15.5 meters wide, and 15.5 meters high at its midpoint. There is a long tunnel. 380 meters long, along Zubairi Street. This will allow thorough traffic to pass straight on by-passing the intersection. The bridge is expected to relieve congestion at one of the busiest intersections of the capital city.

Work on the project started in March. Three months later, much has already been accomplished, but much more



The way it WILL be  
SINO-YEMEN FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE

remains to be done. "We have agreed with the Yemeni authorities that work to transfer all underground telephone, electricity and other cables, and re-structure of the flow of water, sewer and other pipes will be completed by end of May. But as you can see, this has not yet

happened," complains Chinese Ambassador Shi Yan Chun. He added, "Carelessness, neglect and bureaucratic hurdles are pretty common. Besides, other factors responsible for obstructing progress of work," he added.

The manager of the implement-

ing company, Mr. Tang, expressed his unhappiness with the slow pace of work. But Eng. Rajih Abdul-Moghni, Manager of the Yemeni side, highlighted the many complications associated with the implementation. "Moreover, we have made -sure that the bridge fits well with the environment," he said.

Other people who are unhappy with the slow pace include the Presidential Office, the Central Bank of Yemen, and the Taj Sheba Hotel. "Work should be completed on time. Because of slow progress, it will linger for double the original time," said an official of the Taj Hotel.

Mohammed Bin Sallam  
Yemen Times

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- ⊕ Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- ⊕ Offshore structures and underwater works.
- ⊕ Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- ⊕ Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities.
- ⊕ Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
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- ⊕ High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- ⊕ Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution systems.

Sanaa  
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Fax: (967-1) 263043  
E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye

Aden  
Tel: (967-2) 377328  
Fax: (967-2) 377716  
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