

Hertz

The world's #1 car rental company now in Yemen
NEW CARS (SEDANS, LAND CRUISERS)
Self drive - Chauffeur drive
Tel: (01) 268 748
Universal Building, 60 M. Road - Sana'a

DHL

WORLDWIDE EXPRESS®

Every Second Counts

Sana'a: (01) 268551, 249878
Aden: (02) 221223; Taiz (04) 225383
Hodeida: (03) 217490; Mukalla: (05) 354844
Seiyoun: (05) 404288; Ibb: (04) 407418

YEMEN TIMES

• SANA'A • June 14th through 20th, 1999.

Vol. IX, Issue No. 24 • Price 30 Yemeni Riyals



Dr. Al-Saqqaf's wife:
Memories with the late.
page 3.

Obstacles of investment
development in Yemen.
page 7

The plight of the blind.
page 8

Exquisite marriage conventions
in Tihama.
Page 10

Always new products
at
mutarreb
01-269303/01-500878

AEI Quality Worldwide Logistics
ATCO - Yemen Office
Arab Trading Company Ltd. Tel: 967-1 285540
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen Fax: 967-1 285538
Your Reliable Logistics Partner

Lufthansa
Summer Schedule eff.
28th March - 30th October, 1999

| | Sana'a-Frankfurt | Frankfurt-Sana'a |
|----------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | DEP. ARR. | DEP. ARR. |
| Monday | 00.10 07.40 | Sunday 13.20 22.35 |
| Thursday | 00.10 07.40 | Wednesday 13.20 22.35 |
| Friday | 00.10 07.40 | Thursday 13.20 22.35 |

From Sana'a to Frankfurt and from Frankfurt to the world
We are just one-phone-call-away
Telephone numbers: 213400 - 219252-344166

CROWN
paints
دهانات كراون
Tel: (04) 210791/2/3; Fax: (04) 219901

Watan Bank
For Trade & Investment
WB
البنك الوطني
للمصارف والاستثمار
The Bank you can depend on and trust
Tel.: 206613 Fax: 205706/215579 Zubairi Str.
e-mail: watanbank@y.net.ye P.O. Box 3058 Sana'a, ROY

ALAMERY
العامري
Fax: 03 234860
Showroom phone: 03 246526
Office phone: 03 253311
Home: 245234
BASF Plant Protection Products
MAIN DISTRIBUTOR in Yemen

Yemen Drugs Company
الشركة اليمنية
لصناعة وتجارة
الأدوية
Tel: 234250/3
Fax: 234290
P. O. Box: 40, Sana'a

WESTERN UNION **MONEY TRANSFER**
The fastest way to send money worldwide™
Contact any of the branches of the
International Bank of Yemen:
Head Office: 01-273273
Sana'a-Zubairi: Tel: 273273; fax: 274127
Sana'a: Bab al-Yemen: Tel: 244477
Aden: Tel: 255795; Mukalla: Tel: 303496
Hodeidah: Tel: 218461

COMPAQ
Has Better Answers
WITH
Al-Salam Est.
Tel: 274851/2/5/6 Fax: 273990

YEMEN TIMES.com
Yemen's Only English Weekly Newspaper Online
Yemen Times Online
www.yementimes.com
By Far, the Best Yemeni Site On the Internet.
Visit it and judge for yourself!!

FedEx
Federal Express
The World On Time™
Sana'a: 412604, 412605, 413053, fax 412603
Hodeidah: tel/fax: 03 247422
Aden: tel/fax: 02 232911, tel/fax: 02 235172
Taiz: tel/fax: 04 212338
Mukalla: tel/fax: 05 302641 Email: falcon@y.net.ye

In Memory of the Late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

NDI Press Conference Held at the Yemen Times

"Our Mission is to Support Democracy Everywhere"

In a press conference hosted by Yemen Times on Saturday, the Washington-based National Democracy Institute representative, Mr. Derek Butler gave a brief statement about the upcoming Emerging Democracies Forum scheduled to be held during the 27-30 of June 99, which was later followed by a Question & Answer session. The press conference, which was in the memory and honor of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was attended by a number of local, regional, and international media representatives. In his statement, Mr. Derek said: "The main aim of the whole forum is to provide support and encouragement for democratic transition and economic reforms in newly emerging democracies." It is worth mentioning that the forum hosted by the Yemeni Government and NDI titled Managing the Twin Transitions:



Political and Economic Reform in Emerging Democracies will include Yemen besides 15 other countries with emerging democracies. The NDI further explains "The Forum aims to provide an exclusive venue for nascent and promising democracies to share experiences, achievements, best practices as well as common hurdles of democratic transition. For many countries, progress has come despite challenges, such as weak economies, corruption, conflicts, or post-conflict tensions, and few or no participatory traditions." *Complete Details on Page 5*

JAÏPUR
More than a perfume, a jewel.
BOUCHERON
PARFUMS
MAM INTERNATIONAL
Tel. 286390

First Lady's Visit to Sanaa Canceled!

The disappointing news came from the first lady's office on the 10th of this month. Due to her postponement of her visit to Israel, Mrs. Hillary Clinton canceled her visit to Yemen to participate in the Emerging Democracies Forum scheduled to be held in Sanaa during 27-29 June 99. "Because Israel is still in the process of forming a government, a visit at this time would be inappropriate. A new date will be set as soon as possible," said her Washington-based office. It is worth mentioning that the visit of the first lady was in fact the last stop in a series of visits to other countries. Mrs. Clinton, who is leaning toward running in New York state for a seat in the Senate, had been scheduled to visit Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Yemen in late June after accompanying her husband, President Clinton, on a European tour. In a conversation with media reporters, a senior State Department official said "the fact that this is not a good time for somebody with such a high profile, as wife of the president of the United States, to be turning up in Israel at a time when they're preoccupied with forming a new government." However, NDI representatives in Yemen stated that a high ranking official -possible a senate member- will be replacing Mrs. Clinton in the participation in the Emerging Democracies Forum at the end of this month.



Love Sans Frontiers

It is true, the lovers of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, publisher of the Yemen Times had exceeded geographical borders and came from all over the world to the office of Yemen Times. The Yemen Times Website at www.yemen-times.com was flooded with visitors from all over the world. The website was almost going down since the traffic was so high. People accessed the site to know what and how this happened. They couldn't believe their eyes. Some even thought the site was hacked! They didn't want to believe their eyes. Around 500 emails of condolences were received here in just a few days. Some were angry, some were sad, but they

all showed how known and beloved Dr. Saqqaf was. I even read an email from a person willing to personally come to Yemen just to pay condolence to the staff and family. It thrilled us how they all looked at us with hope and optimism that the paper would go on and become stronger every day. Their confidence in the Yemen Times was extremely strong. We appreciate all this support, and promise you all to carry on our mission with determination and faith. Yemen Times along with Yemen Times Online are now the window of Yemen on the world, and they will continue to be so forever.

COMPAQ Who Knew?
If you only know **COMPAQ** for PC's and servers, Do you really know **COMPAQ**?
Want to know more? More references? **Better Answers** to the toughest IT challenges there are?
You will find one of them on **Page 4**
Or Contact us
Engazat Trading Co. - Information Systems Division
Villa 74, Hadda St., P. O. Box: 2526, Sana'a - Republic of Yemen
Authorized Systems Reseller Authorized Service Provider
Tel: 264662/260272; Fax: 247921 Tel: 214505/214589; Fax: 214719
E-mail: etc1@y.net.ye E-mail: etc2@y.net.ye

SUZUKI
Boats Engine
Tremendous power and unparalleled endurance with economical performance needed by professionals
Suzuki Yemen (Member of Bamarouf Group)
Head Quarter: Al-Mimlah Road, Sheikh Othman - Aden; Tel: 346000, Fax: 340049

ALSAEED TRADING CO.
LEADER OF YEMEN EXPORTS
Tel: 00967-4-232727 Fax: 00967-4-223851
P.O.Box: 5351 Taiz-Republic of Yemen

Yemenia اليمنية
نساعد بخدمتكم!
Happy to Serve You!
للحجز 250800، مبيعات 250850
Reservation: 250800, Sales: 250850

**OUR
VIEWPOINT**

This column will still be occupied by viewpoint articles written by the deceased until the 11th of July 1999, i.e., 40 days after his death.

The Pace

The predicament of people at the forefront of technology and efficiency is a difficult one. The few that are way in front are frustrated because they are pulled back by the majority. This is true in all societies worldwide. But it is especially true in more backward societies. People on the frontiers of technology know they cannot really break loose from the bulk of society and take off at the pace they choose. Their progress forward has to be within range of the general public; otherwise they risk being alienated.

This is especially true if such a person wants to serve as an agent of change and as a force for modernization for his/her society. Such a role requires that the leading person be seen by the public as one of their own. If he/she is seen as too foreign or too different, then his/her efforts to help community's forward march will not be successful. The efforts may even backfire. Change agents are like the front-line runners in a marathon. If they run too fast ahead of the crowd of runners, the majority will not be able to see where they went and which turn they took. In other words, the leading runners have to remain at a followable pace, even if they can run faster. In other words, it is sometimes necessary to restrain one's own progress forward, just to remain within the reach of the general public.

The other day, I was in a 'dabbab' (mini-bus), and I accidentally met some secondary school kids who come from my village area. We talked about many things, until we hit the topic of Yemen Times. They said that they followed closely - and with admiration - the growth and progress of the paper. Then, I asked a stupid question.

"Did you check out the Yemen Times homepage?"

"What is that?" was the immediate unanimous answer.

"You know, our address, our site on the internet!"

"Internet? What is that?"

"You know, the data of files from all computers worldwide."

One of them quipped.

"Yes, I have heard about computers." It was a sad morning. While few of our secondary school students have even heard of computers, babies crawl onto keyboards in some countries. The gap is widening!

It is now evident that the pace of grasping and using information is directly dependent on one's education and abilities. If one's progress is too fast, he/she risks being frustrated by the slow pace of others. Have you experienced this? Did you ever feel people around you were moving in slow motion? This is not their fault, but it isn't yours either. Yet, for a technologically up to date person to continue to belong a community, it is necessary to slow down in order to fully interact with others. This is not easy.

There is some consolation. As technology brings the world together and makes it smaller, it is possible to link up with people around the globe who work at your pace. Thus, one really starts to belong to a class of like-minded and like-paced people worldwide. This is one positive dimension to globalization! Yet, that global comradery is not strong enough. It is still vital that one should be at ease with his/her community at home. One of the main objectives of new technology is to improve conditions in one's community.

For that to happen there is a need to enhance the education of our people. This will increase their pace.

The Publisher
[Signature]

Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz AL-SAQQAF
Editor-in-Chief and Publisher

Government of Japan Supports an Education Project

On June 6, a delivery ceremony took place. 32 trucks of 5 & 8 ton capacities were delivered, procured under a Japanese Non-project Grant Aid extended by the Government of Japan in 1997 for structural adjustment support. The Ministry of Education was one of the beneficiaries of this grant. They procured these trucks, with values amounting to 201 million yen, to transport the school textbooks to various parts of the country. Other governmental establishments also benefited from this grant and procured equipment necessary for the development process.

The delivery ceremony was attended by Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, Prime Minister, Dr. Yehya Al-Shu'abi, Minister of Education, Mr. Kenjiro Mori, Japanese Charge d'Affairs, and other officials.

Vice Admiral Charles Moore in Sanaa

Vice Admiral Charles W. Moore, Commander of the U.S. Naval Forces of the Central Command and Commander of the Fifth Fleet, is visiting Yemen June 13-14. He and the U.S. Ambassador Barbara Bodine will attend the graduation ceremony for the Yemeni deminers at the Yemeni National Demining Training Center (YNDTC) in Aden on June 14. One hundred and sixty Yemenis have successfully completed training at the YNDTC, and are now ready to begin removing landmines and other unexploded ordnance from Yemen and return valuable land to full productivity.

High School Students Demonstrations in Taiz

Hundreds of students from Taiz Secondary School, Al-Faruq School and Taiz Scholastic Institute went on a demonstration on Saturday 12th June. The demonstration took place after the students had their Physics exam, which they said was very difficult. The demonstration then moved to the Taiz Education Bureau, as the students wanted to express their anger to the people in charge. However, they were separated and held back by the police forces. The police fired shots into the air to control the situation. Some of the students were arrested and put into prison.

Arab Tourism Meeting to be held in Yemen

In June 19th through 23, The Arab Tourism Ministerial Council and the Arab Union

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 Yemen was the best choice to be the host of the coming Summit of Democratizing Nations?

Results:

Yes it is the best choice among democratizing nation. (23%)
No, there were much better alternatives. (77%)

Up-to-date Equipment in Al-Thawra Hospital

The Ministry of Health inaugurated a number of sections to enhance Al-Thawra hospital and celebrated the ninth anniversary of the national unity. On June 9, 1999 Dr. Abdulla Abdul Wali Nasher the Minister of Health inaugurated various equipment, including a kidney lavage and endoscope, to be operated in Al-Thawra hospital in order to enhance its performance. Al-Thawra hospital possess very sophisticated devices which will enhance the services at the hospital. He has also inaugurated the fourth floor, which has been furnished to international scientific standards. The Minister of Health expressed his satisfaction over the inauguration. These current improvements in the hospital are in hopes of matching the best hospitals in the middle east. These achievements would encourage people to have themselves treated inside the country rather than traveling abroad.

The minister praised the efforts of the doctors and employees, and celebrated the graduation of the trainees in the laboratory field at the hospital. Certificates were given to the trainees

in this discipline who had passed their tests. Dr. Abdul Nasser Munebari has achieved a lot for this hospital in this short period, despite the expectation of many people in the same field.

Sources also indicate that Al-Thawra Hospital is being prepared to have Internet access very soon.



Verdict in the case of the Teachers vs. the Government

The Western Capital Secretariat Court has completed deliberations on the complaint submitted to the court by the Teachers' Syndicate against the Cabinet. Following the Cabinet's refusal to answer the Court's repeated summons, the court has set out the 27th of July as the deadline for the final hearings and the verdict.

Case of the Opposition vs. Ministry of Information

Islah, YSP and the Nasserites Unionists Parties are filing suits against the Ministry of Information for unequal coverage by the official media of these parties local conferences and activities. Lawyer Mohammed Naji Alaw has been chosen to represent these parties in this case, which had its first hearing on Sunday, June 13th in a

Capital Secretariat Court. The court appointed a lawyer to represent the ministry following its failure to comply with the court's summon.

A Seminar on Al-Saeed Foundation Held

Organized by Al-Khaishah Cultural and Social Forum, a seminar was held on Friday, June 11 in the governorate of Hadhramout. It was focused on Al-Saeed Foundation for Sciences and Culture. Several papers were presented to the seminar, mainly about the Al-Saeed Foundation, and the Hayel Saeed Group of companies. The event was attended by the governor of Hadhramout, Mr. Sawqi Ahmad Hayel, Mr. Faisal Saeed Far'e the Secretary-General of the Al-Saeed Foundation and many other intellectuals, public figures and members of the media attended.

A Forum on the Risks of Smuggling

The first National Forum on the impacts of smuggling on the country's economy and investments will be held in Sanaa in June 19-23. The forum is organized by the Yemeni Association for the Protection of Consumers and aims at establishing a database on the negative impacts of smuggling.

Final Islamists Case Hearings in Aden

Aden Primary Court has set June 22nd as the deadline for the final hearings by the defense panel and public prosecutor in the trail of 8 Britons, an Algerian and a Tunisian, who were charged with intending to carry out acts of sabotage in Aden.

On another level, a lawyer in the defense panel of Abul-Hassan Al-Mehdhar, leader of the so called Aden-Abyian Islamic Army, stated that the Appeal Court will begin its first session pertaining to this case on Wednesday, June 16th. Last May, Moudiah Primary Court sentenced Abul-Hassan, Abdullah Al-Junaidiy and the Algerian Abu-Hurairah to death. Ali Ahmad A'atef was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment while nine others were found not guilty.

There's No Place Quite Like it!



FEATURING

- ☞ Revised Menus
- ☞ Children's Menu with all the Kid's Favorites
- ☞ Banquet Hall
- ☞ Outdoor Catering
- ☞ New Delivery Menu for the Hadda Area

Under New Management

Call
412 581



YEMEN TIMES

Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly



Yemen Times Contact Address:
Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661
Facsimile: +967 (1) 268-276
Post Office Box: 2579
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen

**Editor-in-Chief & Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf**

General Manager: Walid Al-Saqqaf

Aden Bureau Chief:

Ridhwan Alawi Al-Saqqaf

Phone: +967 (2) 347-057; Fax: +967 (2) 347-056

Taiz Bureau Chief: Imad Ahmed Al-Saqqaf

Taiz Bureau Editor: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi

Telephone: +967 (4) 227-717

P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz - Republic of Yemen

Website: <http://www.yementimes.com/>

Email: yementimes@y.net.ye

Dr. Al-Saqqaf's Wife, Aziza:

"I believe that there are still many Yemenis who stand by the truth without fearing anyone and at anytime"

The whole country was shocked and saddened by the loss of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the publisher of Yemen Times. Not only Yemenis, but also Arabs and foreigners were depressed by this horrible development. But among all of these people there was one person who was saddened the most. She is his life companion, Mrs. Aziza Al-Saqqaf. Aziza is the mother of two boys and two girls. Namely, Walid, Raydan, Nadia, and Haifa. She is 45 years old and was born in the Al-Hadharem village in the governorate of Taiz, in Al-Hugariya. Mrs. Aziza is the person who joined Dr. Abdulaziz in building his life brick by brick. She is the person who witnessed his good and bad times, his prosperous and needy times, and most important of all, his successes and failures. Aziza looks like any common Yemeni middle aged lady who comes from a good family. Yet all you need is to talk to her once to realize what a remarkable person she is. It's enough for her that she is the late Dr. Alsaqqaf's wife. Nadia Al-Saqqaf of the Yemen Times talked to Mrs. Aziza and filed the following interview:



Q: First of all, we offer our condolence for the death of your husband, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Could you give us a brief of how this happened?

A: On Wednesday evening, the 2nd of July 1999, I was waiting for my husband to come back from a lunch meeting with a few of his friends. He promised to come back from lunch before going back to work in the afternoon. When I noticed that he is late, I began to feel disturbed and worried that something might have happened to him. I told my elder son Walid to call the office and ask whether he is there or not. He called and couldn't find him. So I waited for one more hour before demanding that Walid send a person from the Yemen Times office to go and ask the restaurant about him. At 3:50 Walid went to the office as usual. Then I received a telephone call from one of my husband's friends saying that he was in the hospital because of an accident. I then fell unconscious. After sometime, I woke up to find my son Walid saying "Dad is alive and will stay alive in our hearts. Don't worry mom, I am here beside you, and I always stay there." I then realized that everything was all over, I had lost my husband. Later I found out that he was hit by a speeding car while crossing the street. The accident was fatal, and he died! May God have mercy upon his soul.

Q: What do you think of the accident?

A: As I understood from the Traffic Police report, the accident was not intentional but the investigations are still underway. I just want the driver to be punished severely for he killed my beloved husband, and nothing in the whole world can be substituted for him. All we can do now is pray for him, that God will let his soul rest in heaven.

Q: We pray for him too. Let us now go back in time. When and how did you marry Dr. Alsaqqaf?

A: Dr. Abdulaziz is my cousin. We lived in the same village. I was quite young then, around 19 years old. After he finished high school in Taiz, he proposed for me, and my father and I accepted him, and we got married and moved to Sana'a. It was merely a coincidence that our names are similar, but it was our destiny to get married and live a happy life together.

Q: What about your life after marriage, how was it affected?

A: After staying a while in Sana'a with my husband, my husband was granted a scholarship from the Washington-based Fulbright Associations. We then traveled to the USA and my husband enrolled in a Ph.D. program there. After returning to Yemen, I obtained my high school diploma. However, that was not enough for my husband, for he encouraged me to go for higher studies. And so I did. Although I had three children by then, I studied hard and succeeded in getting my bachelors degree from the Faculty of Education of Sana'a University in English Literature. When we went to the USA for the second time, I obtained another diploma in teaching English as a second language.

Q: Are you a housewife?

A: No, I do have a job. After returning to Yemen the second time in 1985, I started teaching English at Khowla School. I am still a teacher there today, and I will try to continue teaching even after my husband's death.

Q: Do you think you are a career woman?

A: Not really. I have my priorities. Especially now that my husband is dead, I believe I should give more attention to my home and children. Taking care of them is my first duty. As for my job, I work for my own pleasure. I did some research in education at Jordan University for the Faculty of Education when we were there in 1990.

Q: You seem to have visited many countries with your husband, did that effect your attitude generally?

A: Very much. Anyone who travels out of Yemen and sees the world around him/her, he/she realizes the true dimensions of his country's ranking in the world. Unfortunately, whenever I am away, I feel sorry for my country.

Q: So, what have you done for your country so far?

A: I haven't done much. But I believe I raised my children to become very beneficial for their country, just like their father. I assure you that time will tell how well they have been raised. I also do my job as a teacher honestly. I am a member of many charities. I helped my husband a lot in

improving our village. One of my most influential contributions to my rural area in Al-Hadharem was the establishing and running of the Al-Hadharem Women Vocational Training Center.

Q: Can you tell us more about this center?

A: The center was established in 1994. It had three sections: stitching, literacy and household. Registration and enrollment in the center was absolutely free of charge. The lessons provided were in two shifts five days a week. We had many students coming from all over the region. I was the principal and tried hard to make the center as organized and influential as possible. The center distributed authorized certificates. I am happy to tell you that many of our students found jobs because of the training they obtained at our center. Some of them even have designed and produced their own goods, which were sold fairly cheaply. We also used to offer the students of the center monthly supplies of flour, sugar, milk, oil, cheese, peas and other goods all for free. It was a great hassle trying to manage all that as well as discipline but with God's support and hard work it was a clear success.

Q: Did you face any difficulties being Dr. Alsaqqaf's wife?

A: Yes and no. He was a very busy man. He was so busy that his children would sometimes not see him in the house the whole day. I remember that my youngest child, Ray, once asked me if his father was out of Sana'a because he hadn't seen him for three consecutive days. I had to do everything myself. Taking care of the children, going to work, managing the house, and receiving my husband's guests were all part of my duty. Nevertheless, all of that gave me pleasure. I felt that the hectic life I led gave my world a colorful meaning. I knew my time was spent on something useful instead of nothing. Many Yemeni wives use their leisure in spending long hours in useless chatting with other women. But I am a person who isn't used to doing that because our life style forced us to find more useful things to do. Having my husband, the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf as our idol, we built an ideal kind of life, which we should always thank him for.

Q: Do you face any difficulty now that your husband has passed away?

A: Of course! Our loss is not small. We are now trying to cope with our life without my husband. But it is certainly not easy. As Dr. Al-Saqqaf's family, we are doing all we can to try and be strong and stick together all the time. We will do it, not only for our own sake, but for the sake of making my beloved husband feel proud that he raised us so well that we could depend on ourselves and carry on life without weakening or giving up.

He taught us how to be strong and survive in any circumstance. We cherish his memories and the least we can do now is to keep his spirit among us and to carry on life without him, but with all the lessons he taught us.

Q: What does Yemen Times mean to you?

A: In the beginning, I was annoyed at the idea of establishing a newspaper in English. I knew that it would be a difficult task to accomplish, and I thought of the possibility of the state shutting it down for his courageous and frank articles that might not please the leaders. But later on I began to get used to it. I remember I used to cry about his leaving us early in the morning and coming at night! Most of the time he wouldn't even have his meals at home as if home

had turned to a hotel or something. Whenever he released a dangerous article in the front page of the paper, we used to feel worried that trouble might result from it. My husband liked Yemen Times so much that sometimes I got jealous of it. I even had a thought of it as his second wife! After years and years of hard work, my husband started to be heard, and I would feel the pride in his eyes when he discovered that his messages reached millions of readers in the world. I began to like everything he does and started to appreciate his efforts. In fact, I felt equally responsible for continuing the Yemen Times and strengthening it. He used to say that it's his third daughter, and I used to get irritated. Now I agree, and we will never give it up.

Q: Are there any regrets?

A: I do regret the whole situation of my country. I love Yemen and it hurts to see what it is like today. I keep wishing everything would be right and that Yemen would catch up with the first world countries and become "Alyamen Alsaedah" happy Yemen. I do regret the situation of the unimplemented laws in the country. If traffic laws were implemented, would my husband still be beside me? I do not want other people to suffer because of the corruption in the country and the ineffectiveness in implementing the laws in this country. I lost my husband and don't want other women to lose theirs. The government and leadership must stand up to what is happening and try to implement the rules, for the sake of our children's future.

Q: How do you think could rules in Yemen be respected and implemented?

A: If everybody does his/her job promptly and honestly, I think that should be enough. Yemen doesn't lack resources. I'm also sorry that deforestation has become more apparent day after day. I do my share as I have planted trees around my house and hope everybody does that too. If only Yemenis would work instead of chewing qat, we could do something good for the country. I met many Yemenis abroad who were successful people and respected in their fields. They all think that qat is the reason behind Yemenis' troubles. I wish all those Yemeni talents were to be utilized by the government in their own country instead of somewhere else.

Q: Any closing statement?

A: The whole of Yemen was saddened by the loss of Dr. Al-Saqqaf. I want you to all to try and fight for his goals, fight for his principles, and try to be courageous and never fear death. For the only thing one can get out of this world is one's work. As the late stated "the basic source of wealth should be one's work". Take care of yourselves by taking care of your country. You never know what tomorrow will bring. Stay clean mentally as well as physically. Stop wasting your time and get going. Do something fruitful, you will eventually gain the fruit. I believe that there still are many Yemenis who stand for the truth without fearing anyone anytime. As long as these people exist, I know that Dr. Abdulaziz is still alive and will never die.

The First Mediterranean Cuisine in Town

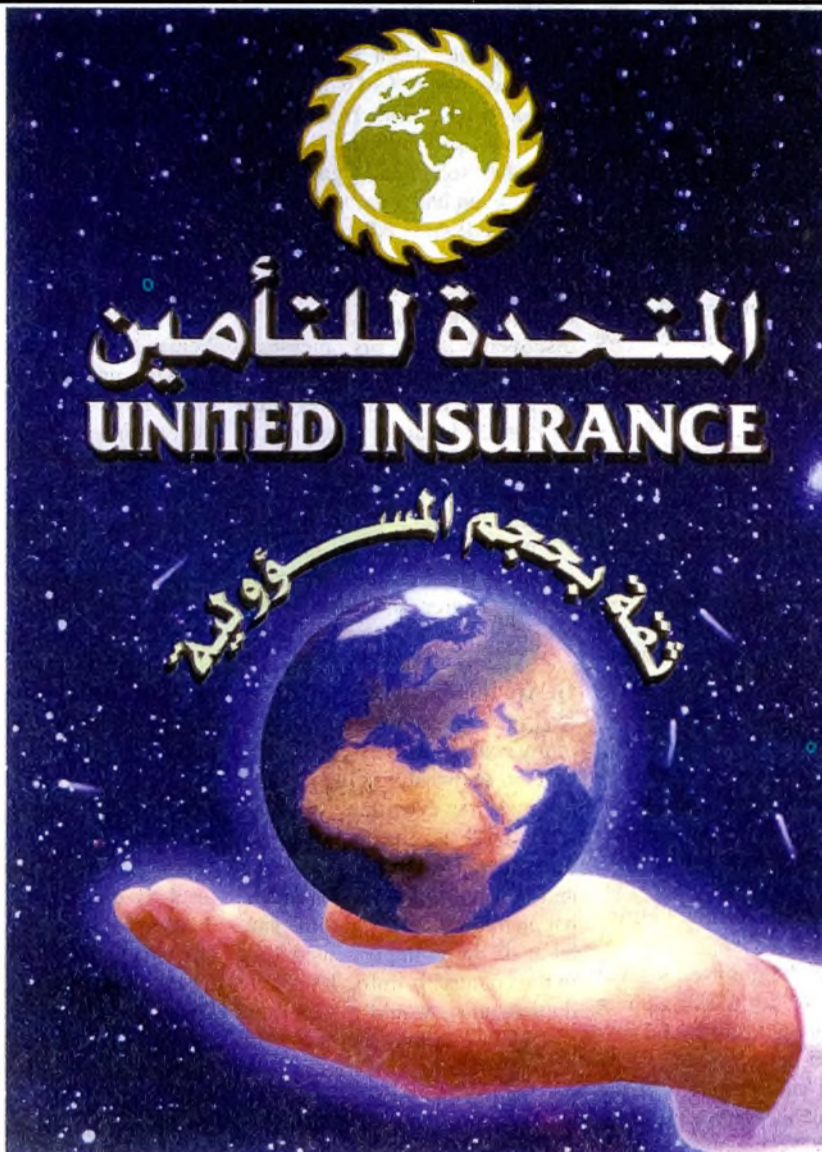
Golden Oasis The New Restaurant Opening Shortly at the Taj Sheba Hotel.....
Bistrot Style Grills, roasts and Pastas will be part of the food fare in the new restaurant.

Watch out for the opening date!!

Live band "The Galaxy" to perform for your Evening Entertainment

TAJ 
SHEBA HOTEL
SANA'A, YEMEN

For Reservations
Please Call
Tel.: 272372



Head Quarter (Sana'a):

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| P. O. Box 1883 | Tel: 214232 | Fax: 214012 | Tlx: 2366 |
| Taiz: P. O. Box 6295 | Tel: 215012/215825 | Fax: 215145 | Tlx: 8821 |
| Hodeidah: P. O. Box 3876 | Tel: 217460/253949 | Fax: 217292 | Tlx 5677 |
| Aden: P. O. Box 80169 | Tel: 240971 | Telefax: 240972 | Tlx: 6406 |
| Mukalla: Tel: 304845 | Telefax: 353075 | | |

3000 Year old Site in Aden for Sale

The old wall and gate of Aden are two of the important historical landmarks of the city. The site was referred to as the trade store for the eastern and western countries. The wall dates back hundreds of years, and used to protect the city against any external aggression. Unfortunately, it is now

beginning to vanish and crumble away due to the destruction and devastating work being done near the wall and the gate. This may result in their falling apart. This alarming situation, as well as the break-ins at the Grand Mosque in Sana'a, is an indication that the history of the country will be destroyed.



This irresponsible action is aimed at erasing our history and heritage. It has agitated the anger of the citizens of the city. "We feel so grateful for the British Colonization, which preserved the heritage in their time," one of the city's inhabitants noted. The General Heritage Authority expressed its protest as well. It has sent letters of complaint to people, hoping to stop the selling of the site to an investor, who intends to construct a six-story building, but to no avail.

By- Radhwan Al-Saqqaf

Embassy of India
Sana'a

ATTENTION

The Mission is aware that many individuals travel to India on a regular basis with declared intention of tourism but with the purpose of bringing medicines in bulk from wholesale suppliers for sale in Yemeni market. Many of them normally do not buy these medicines from reputed companies. On the other hand, they buy the medicines from unreliable sources which are normally available at cheaper price enabling the concerned individual to have a greater profit margin. However, medicines which are not bought from reliable companies are most likely to be sub-standard or ineffective leading to complaints from the consumers.

Indian companies exporting drugs and pharmaceuticals compare well with the world's best companies in this field. The concerned organisation in India dealing in export of drugs and pharmaceuticals has clarified that the organisation has nothing to do with sale of such medicines.

It is possible that some individuals may be buying sub-standard medicines in bulk out of ignorance about any particular supplier. If medicines are purchased from reliable manufacturers/suppliers/exporters, there would be no chances of complaints and, if at all there is any complaint, suitable measures can be taken without any problem.

Why does the moon
stay in the sky ?

What makes
the stars twinkle ?

How does
the Internet work ?



Actually, it works very well. Maybe because so much of it runs on Compaq. Four out of the five most popular Web sites are powered by Compaq. Hundreds of millions of hits are handled by Compaq platforms every day. Three-quarters of the top ISPs have standardised on Compaq for their Windows NT®-based Web hosting. And if you've ever received e-mail, chances are, we helped get it to you. To find out how the Internet can help grow your business (and answer the other awe-inspiring mysteries of the universe), please call:

Engazat Trading Company
Information Systems Division

COMPAQ

Authorized Systems Reseller
Authorized Service Provider

Tel: 264662 / 260272 Fax: 247921
Tel: 214505 / 214589 Fax: 214719

Continued from Page 1:

NDI Press Conference at the Yemen Times

The press conference was opened by Mr. Walid A. Al-Saqqaf of the Yemen Times, who welcomed the attendants and the NDI members: "I would like to welcome you to this press conference which was organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in order to highlight the Emerging Democracies Summit which will be held between the 27-30 of this month. In the name of the Yemen Times and its staff and its publisher, the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, I would like to welcome every one to this meeting, but first I would ask every one here to please pray for the soul of the deceased Abdulaziz Alsaqqaf." NDI was represented by Mr. Derek Butler and Kendall Dwyer. Chris Eccel, Information and Cultural Attache at the US Embassy, was among the attendees.

Mr. Derek Butler:

"We are meeting here in honor of the late Dr. Saqqaf, a friend of many of us, and a true son and a patriot of Yemen. Let me begin with a word on behalf of NDI. As many of you know, it is a non-governmental organization, founded in 1983 to support democracy around the world on a non-partisan basis. We work to support democratic institutions and values and we work in six areas: Parliaments, Political Parties, Elections, Civic Education, Local Administrations, and Civil-Military Relations. We have 30 to 40 offices around the world. What we do is bring together people who are like-minded and working to achieve similar goals. We don't come with our own agenda, what we are trying to do is to facilitate exchanges between nations and understanding between peoples striving together to improve their situations. For example, in a parliamentary program we bring members of parliament from Europe, America, Africa or Asia and they sit with Members of the parliament in Yemen and discuss their experiences.

The Emerging Democracies Forum is a unique program not just for NDI but for the world. It is a first event for us, and will provide support and encouragement for democratic transition and economic reform in newly emerging democracies. This morning I have good news to inform you of. It has been confirmed that the former Prime Minister of Canada, Ms. Kim Campbell - Canada's first female Prime Minister - will participate in the conference. We can also confirm that the heads of states and heads of governments from a number of countries are attending. Namibia and Mali from Africa, and the former president of Bolivia. Of course we have many others attending as well.

I think there are three themes I would like to stress in this press briefing. First, this is a unique event in the history of the world because we are bringing together the actual decision makers and the key public figures who are faced daily with their nations problems, such as the economic reforms. We will gather participants from 16 countries, and 8 to 12 people from each of these countries will come together to share experiences. So we are bringing together for the first time, a unique set of countries represented by key decision makers, to provide them with a forum to analyze and address their achievements as well as the obstacles facing those countries.

The second theme we are focusing on is to bring attention to these countries. We all know the story of South Africa, the Czech Republic's success, Hungary's achievements. But, the rest of the countries listed in the press briefing are not getting international coverage, so I think a huge benefit of this forum is that we can bring these countries together and place them in the spot light of international attention and support. The third theme that I would like to stress is that the NDI has engaged a broad coalition, a foundation of support for this undertaking. Key embassies, international organizations, the key donor governments of Japan, Canada, the Netherlands, the United States, the United Kingdom and others are all involved in this event. We also have the United Nations Development Program, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy in London. I would like to speak on one final point. I think that

there is a long term and a short term value in this kind of program. The long-term value, to use an analogy, is like watching a tree grow and if you sit and watch it grow you don't see its growth. Democratic and economic reform is a process, and the decisions made today by these respective nations will create the legacies for the future generations. This conference will generate the legacies, new ideas, new initiatives and new momentum in democratic and economic reform. In the short term we can see what the benefits are, particularly to Yemen as the host country. In this respect, we have already succeeded in generating substantial news coverage, we had an editorial in the Washington Post, an editorial in the International Herald Tribune in Europe, and we will be bringing together a large conference of international donors, around 150 delegates and participants, media representatives, national, regional and international. I think this will put Yemen on the map and I think that's good for Yemen and its achievements."

Question and Answer Session: Here are some selected questions & answers from the press conference:

(Abdulqader Mousa - Yemen TV Ch1)
Q: What is the background to identifying the emerging democracies?

A: We developed a set of criteria of countries which have recently begun holding elections, and which have started building democratic institutions, among others. I think we have chosen a unique set of nations, we have tried to be careful that these countries represent various regions as well as various case studies.

(Hafidh Al-Bukari - Ukaz Daily)

Q: How do you account for the absence of countries like Egypt, Jordan and Iran. Are they more than emerging democratic nations?

A: The countries were identified for representing certain regions as well as a certain degree of success in the experience of democracy. As well, the countries taking part in the Sanaa Summit don't get attention like some of the countries you named. So that's at the heart of our motivation.

(M. H. Al-Qadhi - Yemen Times)

Q: Why have you chosen Yemen as the host? How far do you think the summit will help promote some democratic values like the freedom of the press? My second question is, some organizations are opposed to holding the summit in Yemen, basing their arguments on the unfavorable reports issued by the American Embassy, Amnesty International and the Committee for Protection of Journalists. What do you think?

A: The reason we chose Yemen as the place for the summit is because the idea has its beginning in Yemen.

In respect to your second question, I think the meeting will be a good chance to exchange ideas, discuss and find ways around them as people are facing similar challenges. I think it is too early to talk about the results of this conference. But I think the meeting will come up with recommendations and resolutions and identify solutions to issues such as the one you raised.

As for your last question, we are very happy to hold this conference in Yemen, as we are happy with the progress Yemen has made since 1990. We work with countries experiencing

democratic transitions. What we think this conference does is to allow us to address issues, it allows the participants to share their experiences together, either from formal institutions or civil society, and find ways to address the challenges you mentioned. So democratic values that you referred to like the freedom of the press and the role of woman in the civil society are among these issues that we will be raised specially in the working sessions.

(Abdullah Saad - Al-Wahda Newspaper)
Q: Are the delegations taking part in the conference representative of the government as well as the opposition parties in their countries?

A: From the government and the opposition. From civil society and formal institutions. We have identified key people from all sides. This process of identification had been a challenge for us, but I think we have

succeeded.
Q: What is the special pattern for democracy that you set up to tell democratic from non-democratic countries? What kind of support do you extend to countries which are called democratic or classified as such?

A: I think we look for a certain number of ideas and values such as representative governments, transparency and the rule of Law. I think each country taking part in this meeting has its own orientation and concepts on these values so they will be able to put them forward during the meeting to explore and discuss.

(Qa'ed Saleh - Al-Thowry)

Q: We are passing through an important electoral stage in voter registration. However, it happens that in some cases the process of identifying the voter is not correct as he/she is not asked to present



Mr. Derek Butler



his/her ID but rather to bring some people to identify him/her. What do you say about this? My second question is what is your assessment to the Yemeni Democracy in light of the unstable situation the country is passing through, particularly during the last few weeks in which more than fifty people were killed.

A: As for your first question, I think the purpose of the upcoming confer-

ence is to look into these kinds of issues, and to see how can we circumvent these problems and promote the experience of democracy. In respect to your second question, let me say that the discussions that will be taking place during the conference will be animated, open and direct, and I hope to see your question included in the lists of the topics to be discussed.

SONY

Everything you want to know (or see) about the latest digital products... in Yemen!

The Sony Shopping Festival is on! Check out the latest digital products, including the WEGA TV, the Glasstron, the Mavica and the Digital Handycam and you could take home much more than you expect!

So, drop in at the Sony Shopping Festival, between June 3 and July 3, 1999, at

- Sony Showroom, Gamal Street, (Behind the Ministry of Education)
- Sony Showroom, Sheikh Abdulla Street, Crater, Aden.

Timings : Weekdays : 9:00 am - 1:00 pm; 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fridays : 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm only

PRIZES WORTH YRS,000,000 TO BE WON!

Buy a Sony and win exciting prizes!

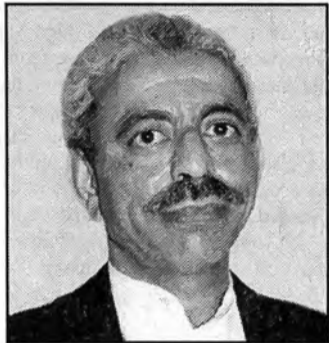
For every purchase worth US \$ 100, you get a free raffle coupon entitling you to participate in the weekly and grand draws. You can win prizes worth YRS,000,000!

- 3 weekly Prizes**
- Sony TVs • VCRs • RCRs
- 10 Grand Prizes**
- 53" Sony TV • Hi-Fi System
- VCR • Walkman etc

Al-Haidary for Trading, P. O. Box 2942, Gamal St., Sana'a. Tel: 271893/272337/280495, Fax: 280432; Al-Qaser St., Sana'a, Tel: 272382; Sheikh Abdulla St., Crater, Aden, Tel/Fax: 252914. Service Centers: Gamal St., Sana'a, Tel: 280496, Sheikh Abdulla St., Crater, Aden, Tel/Fax: 252914

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

Dr. Al-Saqqaf: His Legacy Lives On!



By: *Hassan Al-Haifi*
Columnist

of a man whose meaningful words have been, uninterruptedly, necessary reading since the dawn of this decade, when the YT first hit the newsstands. For a man who took great pains to avoid all health and safety hazards that could cause an early death, it was a tragic irony that Dr. Al-Saqqaf's life had to be cut short as a result careless driving. After all, this had been one of the challenges of Yemeni development that Dr. Al-Saqqaf was continuously outspoken against – especially as it originated from the intellectual sphere Dr. Al-Saqqaf felt proud of being an eminent part of. The death of the late Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Saqqaf can only be described as being tragic fate in its worst manifestations. The shock tends to still the writer's search for words to record the feelings of amazement at the remarkable workings of God's will through the unknown mystery of fate, especially when it goes against our wishes and puts our aspirations aside. But if it is God's will, then the only expectation from us is to give unlimited praise and submission

to His Wisdom, which leaves no room for any needless contemplation. May God have mercy on his soul and assist the relatives and family of the deceased. He was a unique phenomenon in Yemeni culture, and Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Saqqaf made himself great by his work.

For twenty years, this observer had a chance to look at the political and social metamorphosis through which the good Doctor evolved. The most significant characteristic of Dr. Al-Saqqaf was his heartfelt attraction to intellect. This unique affection was not confined to pride and other superficial satisfactions of the ego. Nor did it imprison the Professor in an elitist syndrome, that – more often than not – drove its claimants into an endless roundabout, devoid of communal spirit and deprived of any hope of leaving a lasting mark even on the intellectual world in which they held sway. On the contrary, Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Saqqaf had his own brand of intellectualism, which insisted that intellect must be paralleled with success and achievement, for the satisfaction of the ego and for fulfilling the responsibilities that true intellect lays on its bearer towards the community and the country at

large. In essence, he felt that intellect is only worthy if it left its mark, through some form of success and achievement in life, even if fate should cut short the full course of achievement that the intellectual pursues. This success entails involvement and concern – a sense of community spirit and national loyalty. Intellect, as such, becomes a national resource that should not be the sole possession of its holders, but of the society as well. Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Saqqaf had diligently and painstakingly worked hard to develop his intellect, and wanted to find practical applications for it in a world that was beset with so many conflicting paradoxes, because he believed that the use of the mind will find answers to all challenges, no matter how many obstacles and hurdles may stand in the way. In reflecting upon the life of Dr. Al-Saqqaf, one can only conclude that the success of Dr. Al-Saqqaf was his own working – his own masterpiece.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf's early attempts at success were not always fruitful. He has seen many of his colleagues collapse into the quagmire of frustration and helplessness, while many more became immersed in facing the challenges of sustaining themselves, as the economy failed to adequate means of livelihood – the cushions – needed for free thought, innovation and creativity to flow in the intellectuals' minds. Consequently, many Yemeni intellectuals became outcasts in the society – unable to deliver up to society's expectations of them, to help guide the country from its clinging to social and economic retardation, and unable to satisfy their own egos by leaving any marks of tenable success. Dr. Al-Saqqaf was not to be easily overtaken by the complexity of the challenges that intellectuals were beset with (many of which, ironically, were built up by some of the narrow-minded intellectuals, whose intellect had become enmeshed within the complex power center quagmire that has held the strings that directed the affairs of state in Yemen). Dr. Al-Saqqaf, also, never believed that taking a back seat was the safe retreat. He continued to look for that break that would enable him to direct his intellect to where it can be most useful for his own well-being and for fulfilling his desires to serve his country and enhance his people's welfare and their political empowerment. When Yemen's unification brought with it hopeful signs of a remarkable political transformation for the country, Dr. Al-Saqqaf cleverly saw that the right mix of factors that would unleash his intellect were in place. Democracy and political pluralism were too dear to ignore or leave for others. Whatever the marginal democracy that Yemen has enjoyed since, Dr. Al-Saqqaf was going to work to the maximum degree possible, in order to ensure its continuity and to maintain the role of the press as the unflinching guardian of the basic human rights that people must enjoy. After all, only if a society enjoyed these fundamental rights would it find that progress and prosperity could become feasible and sustainable, no matter what the available resources that such a society might possess. We only have to look at the experiences of other societies to erase any doubts about the significance of free-

dom in development.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf had a knack for keeping the Yemen Times from getting into head-on confrontation with a suspicious regime, that feared too much exposure of the shortcomings of the delicately bonded power center mix that managed the country's affairs. Though not sentimentally attached to the regime, Dr. Al-Saqqaf nevertheless would not fail to recognize that a head on confrontation with the regime would be fruitless, especially as the regime itself might have concluded also that the Yemen Times was indispensable in portraying, to the international community, the country's fling with marginal democracy and precarious conformity to the New World Order. It was sometimes more effectively than the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Tourism combined! At the same time, the Yemen Times can also help to guide the regime as to what progress was needed so that this image would be a more accurate portrayal of what can be actually found on the ground in Yemen. Dr. Al-Saqqaf shrewdly maneuvered the Yemen Times to satisfy its readers with a factual representation of the events occurring in the land, without getting bogged down in exaggerated sensationalism or political dogmatism – clean journalism to the greatest possible extent. Moreover, the Yemen Times was managed by a strongly conservative business acumen, which was very important for maintaining the paper's independence and for providing the resources for serious involvement in civil society functions, where the paper, in fact, was the initiator or played a leading role in many of these functions. For sure, Dr. Al-Saqqaf had stuck to his own recipe for success: hard work, maximum utilization of time, continuous improvement of assets to operate the business, a large network of contacts and close relations in potential areas of newsworthiness and political leverage and the maximum benefit of the vast intellect his early years of academic pursuits had nurtured in him.

Fate has cut the road short to the

destiny that Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Saqqaf may have aspired towards, but the legacy that he has left behind is well engrained in the contributions he gave to the development of modern journalism in Yemen, exemplified in the Yemen Times. It is imprinted in the hearts of the countless people he has touched, directly or indirectly, by the opportunities for livelihood, which he provided them, or by the principles he valiantly stood for. Moreover, one could not fail to mention the characteristics of modesty, courtesy and compassion and infatuation with cleanliness that were the sources of admiration for all who came face to face with Dr. Al-Saqqaf, even those who could not come to agree with all that the good Doctor stood for. Nevertheless, there is one point on which unanimous agreement can be found. In his relatively short but successful journey, Dr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Saqqaf has earmarked for himself an assured place in the erstwhile volatile history of his country – an honor he is well entitled to. With the commitment of his heirs to carry on the role of the Yemen Times, as a free forum for all the opinions on the state of affairs in the country, or elsewhere, and to uphold the causes and institutions Dr. Al-Saqqaf sponsored, supported or defended with the same patriotic spirit, vigor, sense of public responsibility and communal well-being, one could find some consolation in being confident that the legacy that Dr. Al-Saqqaf will still live on. May he rest in peace and may God have mercy on his soul.

While this article primarily delves into the journalistic and quasi-political role that Dr. Al-Saqqaf played, not citing his contributions in other fields, such as Yemeni Television, Sana'a University, the Prime Ministry, etc. was not intentional or oversight, but merely to show the area of his most focused attention, over the last 10 years of his life, through which Dr. Al-Saqqaf was heralded into national public prominence, and international recognition.

INTERNATIONAL PRE-QUALIFICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

(Tender No.: BCPS'98)

Yemen Cement Corporation
Al-Barh Cement Plant

Al-Barh Cement Plant (BCP) intends to build 20MW Diesel Power Station in turnkey basis.

BCP would like to invite interested international companies to submit their company profile for qualification purposes.

The Company profile should include but not limited to:

- Relative experience
- General experience
- Technical and manufacturing abilities
- Financial profile
- Staff and Structure
- Source of goods, equipment and materials other than manufactured by the company

Interested companies can send their pre-qualification documents in two weeks from the announcement date to following address:

General Engineering Services (GES)
General Manager
73 Muscat Street of Haddah Road,
PO Box 12153, Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
Tel. 9671 248 188, Fax: ++241 758

SURPRISE!

SUMMER PACKAGE DEAL!

EBBR-Offers a surprising
summer package which
includes the following:

- Free use of Fitness Center, Squash, Tennis and Private Beach.
- Children below 12 years stay free.
- Buffet Breakfast.
- Double or single room.

- Valid from 24/05/99 to 15/09/99

- Special rate for Resident Foreigners & Yemenis.

Single: YR 7500/-
Double: YR 8500/-
(Taxes included)

Elephant Bay Beach Resort -Aden

Tel: 02-201590-5 / 02-202055
Fax: 02-201082

Three Obstacles to International Investment and Economic Development in Yemen

By: Thomas H. Nelson & Associates
Portland, USA



A year ago, I visited Yemen for the first time. I am an American lawyer with some prior experience in the Middle East; as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the 1960's I served as a teacher and community development worker for over three years in rural Iran, and since then have traveled extensively, including visits to North Africa and, most recently, to Saudi Arabia, where I made an *Umrah*. When I left Yemen last year it was with great admiration for Yemen's history and a strong belief in its potential, and I now hope to involve myself deeply in Yemeni activities in the months and years ahead. It is in the spirit of brotherly concern that I offer the following comments.

My visit to Yemen was in part to determine whether increased investment, trade, and commerce by and with various sectors of the American economy are feasible at this time. Yemen's General Investment Authority is certainly a step in the right direction, for on paper it appears that the necessary decisions have been made to stimulate increased trade and ultimate development. In addition, there are a number of very attractive Yemeni investment possibilities involving utili-

ty infrastructure such as water, electricity, telephone, and other essential services. These investments are normally very attractive in developing countries, for because they involve commodities that everyone needs or wants, they are much less risky than less necessary goods and services. There are, however, a number of factors that are direct barriers to foreign investment in Yemen and consequent development.

I believe that the three most prominent ones are official corruption, diminished worker productivity, and the failure to develop the economic participation to a major segment of the population - Yemen's women. No one appears to deny that official corruption is rampant in

Yemen, and it seems that virtually everyone who remarks on such corruption notes that it is wrong. As an outsider, perhaps I have a slightly different perspective: I see corruption not only as un-Islamic and wrong but also as a deterrent to international investment and development. This is because all investment requires the undertaking of risk. For example, an investor faces the loss of his money and effort if natural calamities occur, if technological change makes his product obsolete, or if labor or material shortages make production or distribution impossible. These types of risk are attached to all investments, regardless of location. Corruption also creates risks - that a loss will occur because an official has been bribed to deny a needed permit or to decide a court case against the investor. Most economic risks are somewhat uniform internationally. Official corruption, however, stops at the corrupt country's borders. Thus if an investor is faced with investing in corrupt Country A and non- (or less-) corrupt Country B, all other risks being equal, the investor will choose the non- or less-corrupt country. In addition, the additional risk created by the corrupt country will be reflected by a premium that will have to be paid to the investor in order to

entice him to place his investment in the corrupt country; that ultimately means that, if they are able to entice the investment at all, the citizens of the corrupt country ultimately will have to pay the foreign investor(s) more than the citizens in their non- or less-corrupt counterparts. And thus official corruption causes development to stagnate.

Addressing worker productivity, my visit to Yemen makes me believe that Yemeni workers generally are considerably less productive than workers in other countries. I believe that the major cause is simple: qat. Again from the perspective of an investor, if the labor force is tardy, absent, or not motivated, this worker attitude and behavior increases risk and thus ultimately diminishes development. During my visit to Yemen I noted that the workday is shortened significantly by qat, and that the productivity during the work period - mornings - seems diminished, perhaps in expectation of obtaining and chewing qat in the afternoon. I realize that there are powerful social and cultural forces involved in chewing qat, and thus I offer this only as an observation. I personally believe that qat causes many of the types of social problems that alcohol causes, and for the same reason it

should be addressed as an item of national concern.

The final barrier is under-utilization of the existing work force. Women can make enormous contributions to the economic development of Yemen; indeed, I believe that they reflect the greatest short-term potential increase in productivity available to the country. There are some obstacles to overcome in realizing this potential, however; the primary one seems to be education. Both secondary and college education should be more available to Yemeni females. In addition, there are cultural attitudes regarding the place and role of women in society that have to be considered and discussed. By these comments I am not suggesting that women's role in Yemen should be modeled on any other culture or society; as a Muslim, however, I believe that all individuals, specifically including women, should be free to pursue honorable participation in social activities, including work outside of the home. From an economic perspective, I believe that women are a vast and untapped source of economic expansion and growth.

My strongest hope is that Yemen rapidly achieves significant development. However, until the problems associated with official

corruption, qat, and the role and status of women are resolved, it seems to me that there is little likelihood of significant economic advancement. Moreover, solving these three problems will doubtless cause unanticipated secondary social disruptions, and solutions will take some time to accomplish. I expect that some will oppose these suggestions. The response to those who resist such solutions is to direct their attention to countries outside of Yemen that have eliminated official corruption, social addictions, and barriers to female economic participation, and then to ask them whether Yemenis cannot or should not live lives better than they are now.

Finally, I hope that these thoughts do not come across as just some more "How to . . ." instructions from some know-it-all Yankee. I personally recognize that my own country is facing enormous problems of its own. America's top leader has been morally and ethically compromised, its citizens are increasingly cynical, its educational system is collapsing, racism is still prevalent, and drug and alcohol abuse has reached epidemic proportions. Yemen has, with God's grace, escaped most of these problems, and my country thus could learn much from Yemen.

P&O Nedlloyd **WORLDWIDE SHIPPING SERVICES TO & FROM YEMEN**

P&O Nedlloyd, one of the world's leading door to door containerized transport specialists, providing quality, reliability and fast transport services:

P&O Nedlloyd provides weekly services from Europe, Mediterranean, North America and Indian Ocean. Fortnightly services from Australia, New Zealand, East Africa and Intra-Red Seaports.

P&O Nedlloyd Serves the full range of Yemen ports. Dedicated feeders call weekly at Hodeidah, every ten days at Aden, and fortnightly at Mukalla for both import and export cargoes.

P&O Nedlloyd are represented in Yemen by **Sheiban Shipping & Clearing Corporation**.

For more details of P&O Nedlloyd services or for arranging a sales representative to call to your office, please contact our local offices, which are as follows:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Hodeidah P.O. Box: 4063 Telephone: 03-212989 03-234090 03-234094 Fax: 03-211780 Telex: 5620 SHEHOD YE Email: Shehod@y.net.ye | Sana'a P.O. Box: 15147 Telephone: 01-207028 Fax: 01-219895 Telex: 4050 SHEBANI YE | Aden P.O. Box: 4333 Crater Aden Telephone: 02-243319 Fax: 02-240813 Telex: 6387 SHBANI YE |
| Taiz P.O. Box: 5726 Telephone: 04-219292 Fax: 04-219294 Telex: 8947 | Mukalla P.O. Box: 50261 Telephone: 05-303913 Fax: 05-303503 Telex: To Aden | |

ADEN HOTEL MÖVENPICK

SUMMER PACKAGE

Package validity till Sep. 30th, 1999

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Standard room | Locals | Foreign Residents |
| Sngl/Dbi | YR 8000 | US\$ 75 |
| Superior room | Locals | Foreign Residents |
| Sngl/Dbi | YR 10,000 | US\$100 |

Above rates are inclusive of tax & service charge.

Package includes:

- Free entrance to Abu Nawas night-club
- Free entrance to swimming pool
- VIP amenities & fruit basket in room
- 2 kids "16 years old & below" can share parents room free of charge.
- 50% discount on the above mentioned room rates for children below 16 Years in extra room.

Rooms availability being limited, you are kindly requested to book minimum 24 Hrs prior to arrival.

For more Details

Please contact us
Tel: 02 232911
Fax: 02-235655 - 232947

Enjoy your times in Aden...

45 million people in the world are blind. 70-75% of Them are Blind With Treatable Diseases

Dr. Sharek Masood is from Pakistan, he is the team leader of the group visiting the country to hold two medical camps. The camps are organized by the Ihssan Charity Society and Albaser International Foundation (AIF) which is based in Saudi Arabia with their technical office in Pakistan. Albaser International Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization. AIF sends eye doctors to many countries to help people with disease, such as cataract and glycoma. This team's major aim is to prevent blindness.



Q: What is the purpose of your coming to Yemen?

A: We work to prevent blindness. Nearly 45 million people in the world are blind. 70-75% of them are blind and just need treatment to be healed. I mean that they are blind with a treatable disease, so we are working for the prevention of blindness. We are here to help the Yemeni people who are suffering from such diseases. We

have been coming to Yemen since 1993 and we visited many parts of Yemen. This time, we have organized a camp in Abyan which we finished on Saturday 29th April, and our second camp will be held here in Sanaa. We think that this country needs our help, so we are here to help.

Q: Does your team consist of only doctors?

A: The team consists of 18 members: some doctors, some paramedical staff and some administrative staff.

Q: How many patients did you treat in Abyan ?

A: We have examined nearly 4500 patients in Abyan, and we treated 319 cases with surgery mostly cataract operations and some glycoma operations, and we implanted lenses for 93 patients. We also distributed 1375 pairs glasses to the people of Abyan.

Q: Do you charge for performing these operations?

A: No, we are working free of charge. Every thing is free not only for the people of Yemen but we are working in nearly 30 countries in Africa and Asia. On this trip we are covering many countries. We started our program on April 10th in Somalia, and we organized two camps in Somalia, one in Djibouti, one in

Tanzania, the fifth in Abyan and the sixth will be in Sanaa.

Q: How many people do you think you can treat in Sanaa?

A: We have done nearly 13 camps in Yemen, and in all the places which we have operated the range was around 300-400 patients. For example, in Hodeidah, we have operated on 500 patients we think that there are more than 3 million people in Sanaa, so we hope we will get a large number of patients.

Q: Do you follow-up the previous camp patients ?

A: Yes, we do two follow-ups. The first follow-up is within a week, which is very important,



and after six weeks we send two doctors to do more follow-ups. Next year if we come back to do camps anywhere in the country, the patients will naturally come for recheck-up, for example in Abyan it was our first camp but before that we had a camp in Attaq, so many people came

from Attaq for a recheck and some patients who had one eye operated on come to have the other one operated on. Before last year we operated in Saada and we hope that people from there will come for check-ups.

Q: On what criteria do you select the patients?

A: Our criteria for selection is based on the need of urgent medical attendance and possibly operations, or some patient who needs detailed examination to determine how serious his condition is in case we have doubts. Usually we treat those who need glasses, medicine or surgery. These are the three type of patients. For those who need

glasses we have brought with us a large number of glasses, to give away, those who need medicine will have it given to them, and for the selection of those who need to be operated on, it is very easy to determine after the check-up which patients need operation and what the major problems are.

Q: You said glasses, do you mean the frames or the lenses?

A: We give glasses to those patients who are more than 40

years old and they usually need reading glasses. We give them complete glasses, the frame with the lenses, some patients complain that they have undergone an operation and were given glasses and they've lost the glasses and they cannot see again, so we provide this kind of glasses i.e. vision glasses. In terms of lenses we will implant the lens, these are simple contact lenses. We are implanting these during the surgery. It is a modern technique and we are planning here to implant more than 100 lenses.

Q: You said that you are not happy with the OPD could you tell me why aren't you happy with the facilities here?

A: Before that I would like to say, that this hospital is cooperating very much with us and they are giving us every facility. We are expecting more than 4000-5000 Outdoor Patients and this is not possible to do in the OPD clinic where we are working, so we are looking for a place which is clean and far from the hospital. We need a place where we can control the flow of patients, and we don't want to disturb the hospital activities. We are discussing these issues with the manager and the director of the hospital, and we hope that we can solve this problem. I also would like to say that the Ministry of Health and the government of Yemen



are very cooperative, and this has encouraged us to organize more than one camp every year. I mentioned that we did two camps in Somalia, Djibouti, etc. This is the only country which is given two camps, because we are getting good cooperation here. They really cooperate very much with us, we bring all our equipment, and what we need here is beds, tables and chairs for these surgeries which could be easily provided by Yemen and also I would like to mention that in Yemen they usually provide us with residence and transportation too.

Q: How long do you think you will be staying in Sanaa?

A: Our program will last for one week in which we can perform 400-500 operations very easily. We have very competent and experienced surgeons who work from 07:30 to late night.

Q: Any last comment?

A: Once again I would like stress that the cooperation from this government, Ministry, hospital is very fine and the people of Yemen are very kind and the Yemeni hospitality is unique.

By: Hatem Bamehriz
Yemen Times

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

«بِأَيْدِيهَا النَّفْسُ الطُّمَّئِنَةُ لِرَجْعِي إِلَى رَبِّي رَاضِيَةً مَرْضِيَةً فَاوْخُلِي فِي عِبَادِي وَارْجِعِي بِي إِلَى جَنَّتِي»
صدق الله العظيم

الدكتور / محمد أحمد السعيد - مدير عام
المؤسسة العامة للمياه والصرف الصحي

يتقدم بأحر التعازي والمواساة إلى
المهندس / وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف وكافة أسرة السقاف المحترمين
وذلك لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله

د. عبدالعزيز ياسين السقاف

عضو المجلس الاستشاري، ورئيس تحرير صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأسكنه فسيح جناته وألهم أهله وذويه الصبر

والسلوان. وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

«بِأَنَّهَا النَّفْسُ الْمُطَهَّرَةُ لِرَجْعِي إِلَى رَبِّي رَاضِيَةً مُرَضِيَةً فَارْتَحِلِي فِي عَجَائِي وَارْتَحِلِي جَمَنِي»
صدق الله العظيم

شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط

تشاطر كافة أفراد الشعب اليمني أحزانه وتتقدم إلى الأخ / وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف وكافة أسرة السقاف المحترمين

بأحر التعازي والمواساة لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله

د. عبدالعزيز ياسين السقاف

عضو المجلس الاستشاري، ورئيس تحرير صحيفة «يمن تايمز»
تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأسكنه فسيح جناته وألهم أهله
وذويه الصبر والسلوان. وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

Yemen Hunt Oil Company

shares the sorrows with Yemeni people and extends their profoundest condolences to the family of the late

Dr. Abdulaziz Al- Saqqaf

Yemen Times Chief Editor, member of the Consultative Council.

The premature passing away of Dr. Al-Saqqaf has painfully shocked us and we wholeheartedly hope that his family and friends will soon get over this deeply-felt affliction.

May Allah receive the soul of the departed in peace, mercy and grace, Amen.



شركة هنت اليمنية للنفط



#3 of a Series:

Marriage Traditions in Tihama

Marriage traditions in Yemen are more or less the same in their general outlines. However, they differ from place to place in their specific details, especially in the wedding ceremonial rituals.

Hodeidah governorate, geographically known as Tihama or the hot region, has a number of marriage traditions and rituals of its own. So let us take a look at

and in some cases the mother, decides on a particular family they start to get acquainted with the girl's family, if this family is not known to the boy's family. The most important question the boy's family would ask is about the girl's family's place in society. Does the girl hail from a respectable family? Does the family keep a clean ancestral

the boy's father, who pays a visit to his son's future father in law. The two sides will begin discussing the financial questions in regard to what's known in Muslim countries as the dowry, better known in Arabic as Al-Maher Wa Al-Shart. Unlike in the old days, many fathers often ask too much from the boy's father and that's why many mar-

party with their lovely Tihami songs. They are escorted by Al-Kassabeen or flute players and drummers. Moved by this beautiful musical show, some people, especially the young, would jump up to their feet and start performing original Tihami dances characterized with a swift and breathtaking bodily motions. If the bridegroom company is socially important they usually receive new guests with spray of machine gun fire into the air. The afternoon qat chewing gathering lasts till after midnight when the wedding procession or Al-Zaffah begins. This procession is a real carnival of music,



The bridegroom in the middle, wearing his traditional wedding costume

dancing, chants and cheering cries. This procession stops at the house of the bride, who is by now prepared to be taken away. In Tihama, the means of taking the bride away is very peculiar and

completely Tihami. A camel is kept for this occasion, to carry the bride to her future and eternal abode.

By: Saleh Abdulbaqi
Yemen Times



Guests in the Wedding Qat Session

these rituals and traditions in the Tihama region.

Like many places in Yemen in the past, marriage was more a family affair than an individual issue. In fact, this is still the case in many rural places even in our present time. The question when to marry or who to marry are still decided by the family in general and more specifically by the father and then the mother of the young couple. In Tihama area, the topic of this survey, this old tradition is still in vogue, especially in rural areas. Here the bride is entirely chosen by the father or the mother of the bridegroom but before that the search for a bride usually takes time and passes through the following phases:

Acquaintance Phase

When the father sees that his son has become marriageable, he starts the search for a suitable wife for his son. When the father,

record? etc. Sometimes this process could take a long time and it is often the father and not the son who should be satisfied with the girl's family. Once satisfied, the father would ask someone in the village or the town to act as a go-between or mediator between the two families. This is called in Tihama "Almansoub," who would go to the girl's family and inform them of the boy's family's wish to propose that their daughter marry the son. It is an established tradition that the girl's father receives Almansoub cordially and after hearing him out he would ask him politely to come back after two days to get their final answer. Here the girl's family would start asking about the boy's family, especially their social and financial situations. If everything turns well they would give their okay to Almansoub when he comes back at the appointed time. Then he will communicate the good news to

riageable girls are not wedded yet, due to the greed of their fathers.

Preparations for Marriage

However, when the two families conclude the question of Almaher Wa Alshart and also the costs related to the wedding day, then serious preparations for marriage begin. First of all, the religious clerk responsible for writing down the Marriage Bond, known in Arabic as "Al-Ma'dhoon" has to be invited to do his job. The writing of the marriage bond is usually a happy occasion. It takes place at the house of the girl's father and the day of the wedding party is fixed at this occasion. Women raise shrill voices of joy and happiness cheering the girl on her happy day. Then invitations are sent to family members, neighbors and friends to attend the wedding party. For this purpose a vast tent is erected outside the house of the bride to accommodate the guests and the people invited for the wedding day. In other places like Sanaa the wedding day is celebrated inside houses, either the family's relatives or inside a house rented for such occasions. In Tihama they call this tent Makhdarah, and it is made out of wood and straw and decorated with colorful lights. In the Makhdara, guests are received and offered full dishes of different foods, especially meat dishes. The host's prestige in this occasion depends very much on the number of heads of cattle he slaughters and the quality of the guests invited. Beds made of wood and straw mats are scattered all over Makhdarah and provide comfortable seats for the gathering of qat chewers. Local singers or chanters known in the Tihama as Munshideen, are always present on such occasions to enliven and cheer the wedding

Yemeni Teenagers: Talents Prone to Loss

Yemen is rich with human as well as material resources. And our plight is the misuse or bad exploitation of these resources. It is not the material factors that lie behind the development of any society, for the human factor also has an inevitable and pivotal in shouldering the responsibility of modernization and development. In short, Yemen has a lot of talents which are not tapped well. Some are discovered by accident and are used as decorations in various festivities. But, when the in authority feel they do not need them, they are disregarded and marginalized completely. An example of this is the talented child singer Muamar Hussein Ali Al-Zuraiqi. Mohammed Hatem al-Qadhi and Imad Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times Taiz Office met him accidentally in Taiz and filed the following interview with him.

Q: Could you brief us on your background?

A: I am 16 years old. I started singing when I was at the elementary school. But, for playing the lute, I was accompanied many singers until I learned how to play it well. I feel very grateful to many singers who taught me and discovered my talent. They made me feel that one day I could be a famous singer. The open-mindedness of my father helped me a lot. Not only that, he used to take me to see the singers so I could learn more and more about the world of singing. When I participated in the Al-Jaeza Al-Kubra program in the TV, I was surprised that all my 32 songs could magnetize the audience and hit the big time so quickly. I could create a name for myself.

Q: Have you ever participated in any competition outside Yemen?

A: Yes, after that participation in the TV, I was invited to take part in the Arab Child Competition ceremony in the United Arab of Emirates in 1996. There we held competitions for around 21 days. I could go for a top title, for I got

the second place in both playing the lute and general knowledge. That was a great success for me for I could show my merit among various Arab children competitors. However, I complained against the judging committee for I believe the child who got the first place did not perform better than me. In this regard, I would like to thank Mrs. Najibah Haddad who chose me to represent Yemen in the competition.

Q: As a talented teenager, what is in your mind about the plight of young talents in Yemen?

A: The predicament of the Yemeni talents, either children or grown-ups is that they are lacking support and encouragement. In that competition in the UAE, I heard the Sheikh of Shariqa saying that he will construct a village for the talented people to show their merits and talents. That is fine, for any talented person will be able to show himself and his talent to the world. Here in Yemen nobody will patronize you or take care of your talent. Even if one does not perform well, people dishearten him/her. In other words, the artist is not given enough time to polish his/her skill. They want you to be a matchless artist from your first show. Even the Ministry of Culture wants a ready-made artist to enable him to appear on the TV. They are not willing to develop and improve one's talent.

Q: What is the role of the Ministry of Culture in this regard?

A: Nothing of course. It is just a name, but in reality it is not there. If one has some talent and is invited to represent the country outside or does some performance inside, that is fine, isn't it? But, once he/she is back home or finishes what she/he is asked to



do, they tell him/her good-bye. Not only that, before one is chosen for any competition or participation, he has to spend a lot of time and money waiting for the okay of the people in the Ministry of Culture. It is absurd to say that even in this one has to have a *wassattah* or mediation. This is the first step to dishearten the artist.

Q: What is your problem as a beginning singer?

A: For me, I feel I have the ability to sing and also to set songs to music. But I have to wait till the appropriate time. I do not want to do like other singers who flood the market with songs that are not able to attract the attention of the people. I, taking the Iraqi singer Kadem Al-Safer as an example in singing, should start very strongly so as to win the audience and their interest. This will make me live long in the world of singing. In short, I don't want to be a periodic singer. I want to add that the situation in Yemen has taught me not to let my ambitions travel beyond my sight, for the main goal of any talented person in Yemen now is how to keep his body and soul together. However, I promise I will do something laudable in the future. Finally, I feel grateful for the Yemen Times for its attempts to discover the talents in Yemen, giving them a chance to address the public and show their talents as well as plights.

By: Mohamed Hatem &
Imad Al-Saqqaf
Taiz Bureau
Yemen Times

Ethiopian Cultural Music Group

On the occasion of the American School's Graduation Ceremony for the Class of '99, the Ethiopian Cultural Music Group participated with an exclusive live event.



The Banquet Hall at Hadda Hotel on June 2, 1999

Letters to the Editor

Age cannot wither him...

Some facts are too harsh to be true and believable, so much so that they seem stranger than fiction. The sudden and tragic demise of Dr. Abdulaziz is one such fact which I still find hard to believe.

My association with the Yemen Times family and with Dr. Abdulaziz, its head, is barely five months old. Since the publication of my first essay in the Yemen Times on 1 February, I had occasion to frequent its premises and reckon myself as a member of the family. Everytime I stepped into the campus, the hypnotic ambience of friendliness of concern, of care and share touched me which was inevitably the stamp of the magical personality of its leader which drew me all the more intimately to its fold.

Through the excellent journal that he founded and through the highly stimulating and thought provoking articles penned by him I came to be closer to him intellectually. I admired him not only for his very pertinent views on a spectrum of social, political, cultural, academic and familial issues, but was captivated by the lucidity of his expression. The more I read him, the closer I was drawn to him in a mental plane and all the more I admired the institution Dr. Abdulaziz was. Indeed, he transcended the attainments of an individual and firmly established himself as a dynamic and versatile institution. His loss is therefore a national loss, nay, a loss to the humanity. He was a crusader, a missionary and a visionary. His passion was inexhaustible, his enthusiasm indomitable, his humanism inimitable. To a foreigner like me, he symbolized the harbinger of a new era in Yemen which I have been eagerly awaiting in the new millennium. His memory is ineffaceable. He will continue, I am sure, in the hearts and minds of countless admirers like me as bright, shining star of hope, of regeneration.

The Yemen Times family would strive hard and leave no stones unturned to make his dream come true. While I share the inexpressible grief at his unexpected departure for his heavenly abode, I implore the mercy of Allah, the merciful and compassionate, to bestow on the bereaved family patience and strength of mind to bear with his loss. He would live eternally through Yemen Times, his foster child. Indeed age cannot wither him nor custom stale....

*Ramakanta Sahu,
Collage of Education, Mahweet.*

The News of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Alsaqqaf was like a nightmare. Which is one of the great loses in the field of journalism in spite of the short period which I have spent when I used to write alternately with the news paper I discovered that he was a very humble person and lover to help other people. He was a generous teacher where I have learned from him lots of things in the journalism field through his esteemed news paper the Yemen Times.

I didn't have any experience in this field I was only a student in the information college but the deceased helped me and encouraged me a lot. He provided me with an opportunity to gain experience and write what ever I liked in his news paper.

After his death his humbleness, generous manners, and love to help others will be alive in our hearts. In future the dreams of this great man will come through and we will follow his steps in future in spite of the time and place.

We all pray for his soul to rest in peace and mercy.

Hanan Abad Al-Hamidi

Dead but Alive

I am writing on behalf of so many people in Taiz to convey our heartfelt and deepest feeling on the passing away of the pioneer of democracy Dr. AbdulAziz Al-saqqaf to his family and all the people of Yemen (May God rest his soul in paradise).

I haven't really realized yet that the sudden lamentable accident had occurred. I was incredibly shocked when I heard about the catastrophe. I believe the departure of the late Saqqaf is not merely a terrible nightmare for his family and friends but also for Yemen as a country and the whole Yemeni people, particularly the oppressed who found in him a strong defender of their rights, and for those needy people to whom he stretched his hand to help. I feel the tragedy is too strong to be expressed in words.

For me, I came to know this great leader with all his values and manners through his precious pen and great achievements and people's talk about him. Equally, through my little experience with the paper for I have contributed to the paper with many articles which were all accepted and published. That encouraged me and provided me specific sense of happiness and confidence.

In point of fact, Yemen has lost an exceptional man who has made positive and useful contributions in many fields, for his courage, strength, tender heart, modesty as well as sincere love for people and Yemen.

Ultimately, I can say that Dr. Saqqaf is still living, sharing with us our cares, teaching us through all what he has left to us. He has left us just physically, but his morals and rare personality will still be printed deeply in our minds, guiding us to a better tomorrow.

Now, we are all hopeful that the Yemen Times will still be alive as it was drawn by the great deceased.

Haifa Yahia Qanber, Taiz

Dear Editor,

On behalf of my Sudanese colleagues in the Republic of Yemen, I would like to convey my deepest sorrow and condolences for the greatest loss of our outstanding professor Abdulaziz al-Saqqaf. Really I was badly shocked when I heard the tragic of his death from some of my friends in one of Taiz remote villages. Believe me words cannot express what I have in my heart for him. I hope that Waleed Al-Saqqaf will play the same role and take the hard responsibility that his noble father had left for him. Insha Allah the son one day will be like his great father.

I pray to the almighty that his soul will rest in the paradise. Amen.

Ibrahim Eltayeb Bashier, Taiz

The Vacuum

No doubt that the tragic death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is by all means a great loss not only to those who knew him, but to the whole nation. He is definitely one of the greatest creative minds that Yemen has ever produced, and no one can deny the immortal prints he has left in the social, political, as well as cultural life of Yemen. These prints are the torches that guide every one who loves this country freely and purely.

Dr. Al-Saqqaf is known as a fighter for freedom of media, as a human rights-supporter, and as a social activist. Throughout his life he was trying to modernize Yemen, saving no efforts to fulfill this sacred target. In fact, he was one of those rare few, persons who serve their country without waiting for the reward. The only reward he got is the love of millions of Yemenis who highly appreciate the efforts he exerted for their welfare. This is why they were shocked when they heard of his death. Their response to this saddest news was one of incredulity, followed by a wave of hopelessness and shock. It is not easy to believe that such a genius has passed away because of the rashness of a teenager.

Since he established Yemen Times, the first English newspaper in Yemen, his bravery and broad-mindedness are reflected in his popular writings. Almost all the important events that are closely related to the development of Yemen have been dealt with by this matchless genius. He used the Yemen Times as the platform for his social appeals. No one has confronted corruption as bravely and as frankly as he did. This is because he always put the public interests above all the personal concerns. He was never an opportunist who used his influential status to advance his personal interests at the expense of his ideals. Journalism was not the only weapon he used in his struggle for the betterment of Yemen. His active participation in different national and international gatherings is an evidence of his devotion to his beloved, Yemen. In addition to this, he sponsored many gatherings in which he was the voice of modern Yemen. In all these activities, his sole motive was his love for Yemen.

Briefly speaking, his death left a

vacuum that can never be filled. Our only solace is that his ideas are adopted by the young minds who will do their best to make the doctor's dreams come to existence. The continuation of Yemen Times is a proof that the train has begun moving, and nothing can stop it now. May Allah bless your soul, Dr. Saqqaf, you have done your mission in life truthfully and honestly. It is our duty now to continue what you have started.

*By: Abdul-Rahman Al-Huthaify
Taiz University.*

VACANCY



Oxfam is a development agency supporting a range of development activities in Yemen. We are urgently looking for a consultant to undertake a need assessment study in two districts, and suggest an appropriate community based model of integrated programme.

Background:

Oxfam Yemen has developed a programme proposal on NGO Strengthening to Secure Basic Rights for marginalized groups. An objective within this proposal is to support NGOs to implement an Integrated Development Programme (IDP) at the village level which will serve as community based pilots. In this context 2 villages one in Shabwa (Irma district) and the other in Hajjah (Abs district) of Yemen have been identified for the IDP to be implemented through two women led NGOs.

The consultant required to establish a base-line data and background information, identify and prioritize community problems, suggest programme design and strategies, and identify the capacity need of the two NGOs.

Requirements:

Professional qualifications in social sciences or related areas.

- Proven record of field research and documentation.
- Ability to interact and build rapport with communities and NGOs.
- Experience of programs/projects' assessment.
- Experience of an integrated rural development programme and/or experience of one or more of the following: credit schemes, community mobilization, and women's literacy.
- Knowledge of Yemen's social, cultural, political and economic realities.
- Fluency in Arabic and English.
- Good knowledge of and strong commitment to gender issues.
- For the assessment of the credit component it is preferred to have good expertise and experience in related area.
- Ability to undertake extensive travelling.
- Female candidates are preferred.

The assignment will be for a period of three months. We offer a reasonable package. Apply with full C. V. and a covering letter explaining how your experience would be helpful for this experience. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for the interview.

A detailed job description can be obtained from Oxfam's Yemen office.

Tel: 01 242996, Fax: 01 260320
PO Box 1045, Sana'a

Taj Sheba Celebrated World Environment Day 5th June

Conservation of environment should be priority in view of the depleted resources available.

We, Taj Sheba along with the rest of of the world celebrated Environment Day.

As part of our endeavor and commitment to a cleaner and greener Sana'a, two teams of about 35 volunteers undertook a cleaning drive of Tahreer Square and the area around the Hotel. A painting competition on the Environment was organized for children of the employees of Taj Sheba in order to spread the message of the Environment to the future generation.

The day ended with the Minister of Environment H. E. Mohsin Al-Hamdani, congratulating the Taj Sheba team on this first move to clean the city. The minister also handed over gifts to the children who participated in the painting competition held in the hotel the previous day on "Think Green"

Potted Plants with the message "A Green Environment - A Must for All" have been sent to leading business houses and all embassies in Sana'a to propagate the message of preserving and planting trees for a greener Sana'a.

"Messages in Arabic and English on posters and pamphlets have been put up and distributed in different places in Sana'a to share our concern on environment", said one of the Management team member of the Taj Sheba.



GM of the hotel, Mr. Mehta takes the lead. Seen here in action at Al-Tahreer Square



The Minister of Environment Mr. Al-Hamadani being welcomed at the hotel by GM



"Think Green" painting competition for children held on the World Environment Day 5th June at the hotel. Here with the Minister and the management team of the Hotel

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

«بَارِئَهَا (النَّفْسُ) الْمُطْمَئِنَّةُ (لِرَجْعِي) إِلَى رَبِّي (رَاضِيَةً) مُرَضِيَةً (فَاوْحَمِي) فِي عِبَادِي (وَأَوْحَمِي) جَمَنِي»
صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب يملؤها الحزن والأسى يتقدم
الدكتور / وليد جزراوي - الرئيس والمدير العام
وجميع موظفي شركة

كنيديان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم يمن

إلى الأخ / وليد عبدالعزيز السقاف وكافة أسرة السقاف المحترمين

بأحر التعازي والمواساة لوفاة المغفور له بإذن الله

د. عبدالعزيز ياسين السقاف

عضو المجلس الاستشاري، ورئيس تحرير صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

والذي وافته المنية يوم الأربعاء الموافق ٢ يونيو ١٩٩٩م

نتيجة لحادث مروري مؤسف.

تغمد الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته وأسكنه فسيح جناته وألهم أهله وذويه

الصبر والسلوان. وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون



**Dr. Waleed Jazrawi, President and General Manager
and all staff of**

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen

Extends their profoundest condolences to the family of the late

Dr. Abdulaziz Al- Saqqaf

Yemen Times Chief Editor, member of the Consultative Council.

The premature passing away of Dr. Al-Saqqaf has painfully shocked us and we wholeheartedly hope that his family and friends will soon get over this deeply-felt affliction.

May Allah receive the soul of the departed in peace, mercy and grace, Amen.



IRIDIUM LAUNCHES SERVICE IN YEMEN

IRIDIUM

Yemen has joined the growing rank of countries that have licensed the Iridium global mobile satellite communication system

Iridium system is a breakthrough solution to the confusing and incomplete patchwork of cellular coverage and incompatible technology standards currently in use around the world. Iridium has designed a translation technology that routes calls through land-based telephone systems when customers are within the coverage areas of cellular networks that have roaming agreements with Iridium.



Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Anesi, Telecommunication Minister and Dr. Mohammed Al-Dorani signing the agreement

The agreement was signed on June 7, 1999 by Yemen's Telecommunication Minister Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Anesi and Dr. Mohammed Al-Dorani acting CEO of Iridium Middle East Cooperation (IMEC). The signing ceremony was attended by a number of senior members from the public Telecommunication Corporation (Iridium's Service provider in Yemen), IMEC and AZ Communications (Iridium's distributor in Yemen).

1- Iridium World Satellite Service: Customers Who live and work in areas outside cellular network coverage, or in places with poor landline service, benefit from the direct links of Iridium World Satellite service. Satellite calls are routed directly

"Yemen is a strategic market in the Middle East for Iridium" said Dr. Al-Dorani, "Its also a market where we see the immediate potentials for Iridium in providing mobile communication for both individuals and in providing supporting development projects across the country.



Maher Lukman, Advertisement Marketing Manager



Mohammed Ishak, AZ Communication's Sales Manager

Dr. Al-Dorani also added "Major construction and development projects are exactly the kind of elements where Iridium's potentials can be best exploited and there are projects, usually in remote locations, where the telecommunications mission is critical and can make the difference in keeping the project on schedule and within budget." Finally, he said that with Iridium, tourism can be extended into more remote areas.

from an Iridium handheld phone to Iridium satellite orbiting above a customers location. Those who use Iridium's services are no longer limited by cellular network coverage or ground infrastructure and will be able to communicate in remote or undeveloped regions.

2- Iridium World Roaming Service: A component of Iridium services, is designed so that customers can "roam" among previously incompatible cellular networks, while maintaining a single telephone number and phone bill. Iridium



Number of senior members form IMEC, AZ Comm and some of the attendees

Mr. Lukman the Advertisement Marketing Manager and Public Relations explained the importance of

World Roaming Service is a powerful communication solution and tool for travelers who travels to cities with incompatible cellular networks. A "multi-mode" cellular phone, or a combination of cellular phones, enables customers to access local cellular networks around the world, according to the local technology standard used in each place a customer visit.

the world. Public pay phones in hotels, airports, and elsewhere, will become more accessible to Iridium customers, who no longer have to worry about carrying money to place a call. To use Iridium World Calling Card Service, a customer dials the access code (toll free where available) for the country where he or she is located, and enters an account number, followed by the destination number. Calls are directly billed to the customers credit card.

5- Value added features: Additional value-added features will also be available on the Iridium system. These include voice mail, call forwarding, call waiting, emergency calling and conference calling.

6- Global Customer Care: Iridium and its gateway investors partners support service providers and customers around the world by offering superior assistance to customers traveling outside their home territory. Through the Iridium Global Customer Care program, customers are able to get help 24 hours, seven days a week in 13 different languages.

Reported by: Yasser Mohammed Ahmed



Mr. Abdulmalik Zabarah, AZ Com's General Manager



Dr. Mohammed Al-dorani, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice Presiden of Business Operations at Iridium Middle East Corporation

Iridium's system and gave a clear explanation about the range of Iridium internationally, where it covers 100% of the globe, whereas the existing cellular system covers only 14% of the globe. He also talked about the importance of the huge benefits that the customers will get such as allocating a single number to be used anywhere in the world.

Finally he said "Iridium is the only company in the world which is using 66 satellites which are orbiting at a lower range of 780 Km. from the earth's surface."

AZ Comm is regarded as the representative and the distributor on behalf of Iridium in providing this type of services.

Iridium Services

The Iridium system allows its customers to enjoy true global "roaming" across any of cellular network. The

Paging Service: The Iridium system also offers a unique paging service that covers the Earth's entire surface. As a stand alone service or complement to other Iridium services, Iridium World Page Service allows customers to receive alphanumeric messages of up to 200 characters in 16 languages, and numeric messages of up to 20 digits, virtually anywhere on the planet. Also, it has the ability to automatically track customers around the world and permits callers to leave either voice mail or numeric messages on the customer's Iridium service. With Iridium World Page Service, customers can be reached anytime, even if their phones are turned off or out of reach. The combination of Iridium paging, Satellite, and roaming will assure customers of receiving any message.

4- Iridium World Calling Card Service: Iridium World Calling Card Service will provide a convenient access to public-switched telephone networks around



The Iridium handset and pager by Motorola



Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas

الوحدوي

Al-Wahdawy,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Nasserites Unionists Party,
8/6/1999.

A- Front-Page headlines

1- Following an explosion in an oil pipe line in Serwah, Mareb, an armed clash took place between army forces and high school students.
2- Amid speculations about a rise in bread prices, the YR rate continues dropping.
3- In Taiz, two persons were killed and three others were injured in a horrible explosion. The event is said to be related to a land property dispute.
4- In one week, legal and security violations have been reported all over the country.

B- Article Summary

By: Mohammed M. Al-Makaleh

Names of great and famous people, who have left their deeds in the brilliant pages of history, will stick in the collective memory of their people long after their death. This is a fundamental fact of life and there is no contradiction between this fact and the merciless reality of Death. The late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is one of those exceptional people who has greatly engaged the concern of his community in his lifetime and will still do so even after his passing away. However, the sudden departure of Al-Saqqaf's soul to its creator while he was still at his best was an extremely painful shock to his friends and the ordinary people in general and to the community leaders and opinion makers in particular. It seems that we will need a long time to leave this shock behind us, because it will be hard if not impossible to find someone like the late Abdulaziz who can fill up his place or play his leading role in creating a modern society ruled through civic institutions. Moreover, the timing of his demise could not come at a worse time.

In my opinion, the greatness of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf primarily lies in his excellent role model for the young people of this country. His hardwork, determination, courage, spirit of initiative and the will to succeed and become an effective member in his society, have crowned the life of Al-Saqqaf with unparalleled achievements. When he was still young, Al-Saqqaf decided to be a man of ambitions and expectations: Never for a moment did he sway, soften or grew weaker in fulfilling his dreams and expectations. Nevertheless, these dreams of his were not egotistical as they had already expanded to better the life of his beloved country as well. As an old Arab poet put it,

great expectations are reserved for the great among mankind.



Al-Ayyam,
Aden 3-Weekly,
Independent,
7/6/1999.

A- Front Page Headlines

1- Six parties in the opposition express their concern over violations of the Election Laws.
2- In Sanaa, the driver of the commander of Engineers Military Unit is shot dead.
3- A Jordanian newspaper publishes details about the assassination of Yemen's Counsel in Amman.
4- Harassment campaign against a number of social dignitaries in Shabwah governorate for supporting Al-Ayyam newspaper.
5- The Rate of the Yemeni Rial continues deteriorating against the US Dollar. On Monday June 7, it declined to YR165 per US Dollar.

B- Issue's Editorial

By: Former President Ali Nasser Mohammed

Before getting down to specifics, I would like first to highlight a number of unquestionable facts: First, in Yemen, Democracy and Unity are two inseparable facts, as they were born together and should remain so in the process of our country's development. Second, I would like to stress the fact that the essence of democracy lies in the competition of contrasting philosophies representing different forces in the society so as to effect a peaceful transfer of power.

Third, freedom of the press is a means of democratic expression through which people's different opinions can be freely expressed. Given Yemen's recent conditions, its emerging experience in democracy and also taking into consideration that other important media means, like radio and TV stations are state-owned, the press, therefore, is almost the only margin left for the people to freely express their views. In order to keep this small margin working, the press should have access to information and the people must have the right to reach out to these information. It is only through this avenue that the people can really take part and/or influence the process of decision making.

Any attempt to marginalize or harass the press in our country today will eventually force the people to seek other undemocratic means to settle their differences or disputes, a thing Yemen had experienced before it was reunited, and it has already reaped bitter fruit. I don't think anyone in Yemen would like to see that painful experience repeated, after the damage that it caused last time.



Al-Haq,
Sanaa Weekly,
Independent,
6/5/1999.

Front-Page Headlines

1- Escalation of fighting between Al-Awalek and Bihan tribes.
2- Following the killing of a number of Shiekhs, tribal groups are pouring into the Capital Secretariat under a serious security situation.
3- The PGC sub-conference in Hadramout has elected former "socialist" elements as the new leadership.
4- A strong current inside Islah Shoura Council insists on nominating one of its members as a presidential candidate.



Al-Balagh,
Sanaa weekly,
Independent,
8/6/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines

1- In Al-Jouf Governorate, Dahm tribe rejects border demarcations. Meanwhile, heavily armed tribal gatherings from Bakeel meet in the area.
2- In Sanaa, preparations for Democratizing Countries Summit are in full swing.
3- Secretary General of the Islah Party, asks the Supreme Elections Committee to announce its intention to stop illegal practices.
4- A solemn funeral procession for the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.
5- A Yemeni Diplomat is assassinated in Amman.
6- The countries revenues from agricultural and livestock experts are approach YR 9 billion.

B- Issue's Editorial

The recent rapprochement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Libya has captured the attention of many Arabs in the region due to the two countries pan-Arab views. It seems that our brothers in the Arab world are beginning to realize that their problems are the same and should be dealt with from a similar point of view. Already, this view has finally brought the Saudis and the Iranians together. This move has come to stress the fact that there need not be clash between the interests of Muslims and Arabs.

The wise Saudi-Libya move has revived our hope that the time has come for the Arabs to build up their power to find their own place in the map of the world. Instead of the state of disparity and division which has dominated Arab-Arab relations so far,

and which had made the West the sole beneficiary of such a state, the Arabs are putting their feet on the road leading to their power after having been slighted for a long time. The age we are living through is an age of cooperation, and we must begin by finding a unified economic vision which should end with creating a joint Arab market to bring about a sufficient degree of economic integration among the Arabs. Only then can the political vision of the Arabs become strongly united.



Al-Shoura,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of the
Federation of People's Forces,
6/6/1999.

A- Front-Page Headlines

1- The Secretary General of the FPF sent a cable of condolences to the family of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.
2- A graceful "good by" paid to the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf during the funeral procession.
2- A call for conciliation between Bakeel tribes and Hashed distract.
3- Following his victory in the PGC local election conference, Ba-Aoum turns down a proposal to be appointed a diplomat outside Yemen.
4- In Aden, medical sources report that expired hepatitis vaccines have killed a number of patients, mostly children.
5- In last week's bloody clashes all over the country, 55 were reported killed and tens were injured. In the nation's capital alone, 15 were killed.



Attariq,
Aden Weekly,
Independent,
8/6/1999.

Front-page Headlines

1- Tribes of Khawlan and Bakeel call for the boycott of Hashed following their breach of the state of reconciliation agreed upon between the two sides a few years ago.
2- During the expected visit of Hillary Clinton, the US government will boost the democratic option and the issue of

admission going on!

SANA'A TURKISH SCHOOL

A School for Yemeni Students

- English Medium
- Nursery to Grade 12
- At our new premises

P. O. Box 18148

Website: www.y.net.ye/sts

E-mail: sts.yemen@turkey.com

Tel: 412128 - 412129



human rights.

3- The driver of the car that killed Dr. Al-Saqqaf did not attempt to avoid him, nor did he clutch the breaks.
4- In Hodiedah's Department of Health, Attariq sources report on a document related to the abuse of public fund of



more than YR one million.
Ray,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The League of the Sons of
Yemen (Rabita Party),
8/6/1999

A- Front-Page Headlines

1- 13,000 tribesmen from Khawlan gathered in Jihanah district to discuss the murder of one of their Shiekhs at the hands of a senior Shiekh from Hashed.
2- Rabita Party condemns violations of the Supreme elections Committee.
3- Rabita Party sent condolences to the family of the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf.
4- The ongoing trails of the independent press provoke many organizations in the World. These organizations have sent letters to the government expressing their concern over the continuous harassment against the Yemen independent press.

B- Issue's Editorial

The statements of our politicians related to the success of the so called economic reforms were excessively optimistic. For some time they were bold enough to hammer this success into our ears, using the fixing of the YR rate as an impregnable proof of this success. The policy to issue high-interest treasury bills to circumvent the problem of the deficit is in fact like a momentary dose that can relieve the pain but fail to cure the patient. However, it did not take long to find out an what fragile foundations the government has relied in order to check the decline of the local currency. At a time when the high interest rate of the treasury bills has tempted many investors to put their money in the banks, our policy makers were completely unaware that by such policy they have dealt a severe blow to the national economy, which is now passing through the worst case of depression.

Accurate calculations point out that more hardships are yet in store as huge amounts of public funds will be spent to cover and also to secure the results of the upcoming presidential elections. Of course, the scourge of these hardships will be painfully felt by the majority of poor and low-income families.

In our opinion, the reform process is an integrated system, in which the main door to its fulfillment begins with political reform leading to a reasonable degree of economic stability.

اعلان عن وظائف شافرة

تعلم مؤسسة صناعية في مجال الأدوية عن حاجتها إلى شغل وظيفة

«محاسب»

يشترط في المتقدم التالي:

- مؤهل بكالوريوس محاسبة.
- خبرة عشر سنوات في مجال المحاسبة.
- أن يجيد اللغة الإنجليزية كتابة ونطقاً.
- خبرة في مجال الكمبيوتر.

فعلى من تتوفر لديه الشروط أعلاه

الإتصال هاتفياً على الرقم / ٢٠٠٦٢٢ أو ٢٠٠٦٢٠ صنعاء.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

«بَارِئَهَا (النَّفْسُ) (الْمَطْمَئِنَةُ) (الرَّجْعِي) (إِلَى) رَبِّهِ (رَاضِيَةً) (مَرْضِيَةً) (فَاوْحَلِي) (فِي) (عِبَادِي) (وَأَوْحَلِي) (جَنَّتِي)»
صدق الله العظيم



بقلوب مؤمنة بقضاء الله وقدره

تلقينا نبأ وفاة

الدكتور / عبدالعزيز السقاف

وبهذا المصاب الجلل نتقدم لأسرة الفقيد بخالص العزاء والمواساة،

ونسأل الله العلي الكريم أن يلهمهم الصبر والسلوان

وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسيفون:

شركة اتحاد المقاولين العالمية
(سي سي سي)

عنهم: هاني شحادة-المدير العام

On behalf of

Consolidated Contractor International Company (C C C)

Mr. Hani Shehadah, General Manager

Extends his profoundest condolences to the family of the late

Dr. Abdulaziz Al- Saqqaf

Yemen Times Chief Editor, member of the Consultative Council.

The premature passing away of Dr. Al-Saqqaf has painfully shocked us and we wholeheartedly hope that his family and friends will soon get over this deeply-felt affliction.

May Allah receive the soul of the departed in peace, mercy and grace, Amen.

In the Footsteps of its Deceased Publisher, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Yemen Times Mission Continues!

Thousands of Condolence messages have been received by the Yemen Times. Most of them included encouragements for the newspaper to carry on the noble mission Dr. Abdulaziz had started. While thanking all of them for their support, to these people I stress that "Yemen Times was built to stay". Indeed, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was a man with broad thinking and good planning for the future. Besides being a journalist, he was also a teacher. A good teacher can only raise good students. Hence, being his students, we are well qualified and have been raised to do the job right. We might not have the experience and extremely keen thinking of the deceased, but alongside us we have his will, his determination, and most important of all his spirit to carry on. He taught us that anything can be done through hard work and appropriate planning. Now it is our turn. He drew the lines, and now we have to go through them, he built the base and now it is time for us to strengthen it and build on it.

The press conference presented by the National Democratic Institute and hosted by Yemen Times on Saturday is another indication that Yemen Times is strong and even getting stronger. We have many ambitions, and we are working on achieving them. The good results achieved out of the press conference show that Yemen Times is a strong establishment that was built to stay. Newspapers are media organs which have a noble mission. Their duty is to report news as accurate as possible. As Yemen Times, we are obliged to do so.

Last week was a good start for us without our beloved chief editor. Many thought that the newspaper would temporarily close down and all its employees would go home and cry for some days before coming back to start work again. Some even thought that the newspaper would be finished and would simply collapse. These narrow-minded people did not know the character of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf well enough. They do not know that he was a person who always planned for the future and gave everything its share of possibilities. That is why he always explained to his employees that they should be responsible for what they do. He had trust in them and showed it by monitoring from far away while they were working. Within the last months, we used to print the newspaper completely without his assistance while he was away. He knew that he had reliable and hard working people operating the paper while he is abroad or doing other important things. In the last meeting of the Yemen Times, the deceased gathered all the employees of the "Yemen Times", and told them, "You are all my sons and I have trust in you. You are the people who make it happen. I feel proud when I see everything going smoothly when I am away. Yemen Times belongs to everyone of you. You should always dedicate yourselves to the well-being and prosperity of this newspaper. I have trust in you and I will be watching everything you do." When we look back in time, we get a hint as if the late wanted to say good bye. We know we can not have him back, but we can have his lega-

cy with us forever. He indeed is watching us now from heaven. I am sure he is proud that we were able to publish the last issue despite the pressure, shock, disbelief, and sadness among us for his unfortunate death and premature passing away. Dr. Saqqaf taught us how to face the hard times and live up to the situation. We do really promise him that we will continue his message, calling for a democratic and civilized society that preserves the well-being of its citizens. We will also cling and adhere to one of the most important reasons for launching the Yemen Times, which is the human rights issue. Yemen Times will also focus on the economic issues of the country for it is our belief that economy is the key factor in the development and welfare of any society. This was also the main concern of the deceased Dr. Saqqaf, who once observed that any advancement at any front should be accompanied by some progress on the economic front. It is only the economy that begets the welfare of any nation. History stands witness that the conflict between nations has an economic background.

We would like also to assure the readers of the Times Yemen that the paper will appreciate their valuable contributions in giving suggestions, articles, and even critiques. We are eager to continue publishing their letters and articles and make their messages reach the ears of the people in authority and everywhere else. We assure all our readers that the paper will be the shelter for all the oppressed. We will consider our readers as our correspondents all over the country.

Yemen Times has been playing an important role in the political, social and economic life of the Yemeni society since its start in 1991. It has been calling loudly and without any fear for change and correcting the misdeeds of the corrupt figures in the society. It considers the accountability and transparency as important factors for the development of the society. And it is a promise we give that it will continue addressing these vital issues.

At another level, we would like express our gratitude for our readers who play an important role in the progress of the paper. We want also to apologize to those who could not get a copy of the last weeks paper. We have printed that issue twice but we have received a lot of messages from thousands of people asking for more copies of the paper. News agents and bookshops owners came to the office of the paper asking for more. The paper was sold in a very short time. Imagine, three hours after distributing the paper, it was out of stock. Some people thought the paper did not appear due to the departure of the publisher and editor-in-chief Dr. Saqqaf. This gave us a good impression about the paper and its fruitful future. Who knows? With more hard work Dr. Saqqaf's wish of making the Yemen Times a daily, may eventually come to life. Amen...

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times



**CONSOLIDATED CONTRACTORS
INTERNATIONAL COMPANY - SAL**

**CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL
AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS**

- ⊕ Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- ⊕ Heavy, light industrial plants.
- ⊕ Power and desalination plants.
- ⊕ Fuel and water storage tanks.
- ⊕ Oil fields ancillary installations.
- ⊕ Air purification for industry
- ⊕ 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.
- ⊕ Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs.
- ⊕ High quality buildings & sports complexes.
- ⊕ Water treatment plants, reservoirs & distribution systems.

Sanaa
Tel: (967-1) 247852
Fax: (967-1) 263043
E-Mail: cccyemen@y.net.ye

Aden
Tel: (967-2) 377328
Fax: (967-2) 377716
E-Mail: cccadenl@y.net.ye

Rothmans
KING SIZE

WORLD LEADER

THE WORLD'S FIRST KING SIZE FILTER CIGARETTE