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YEMEN TIMES



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Despite all the gaps in its previous investigation proceedings regarding Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's case

Attorney Refuses Reinvestigation & Heir's Lawyer Threatens to Decline

The second session in the case of the traffic accident that led to the death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Founder, took place in the Traffic Court of Sanaa yesterday, June 18th. Among the attendees were the heirs of the late and their lawyer, Mr. Mohamed Naji Allaw, the Attorney General, and the defendant, his father and their lawyer, Dr. Abdunasser Al-

Zindani. The session started with the Attorney's response to Allaw's report, submitted in the last session (see issue 27). Despite the missing information mentioned by Allaw in his report, the attorney surprisingly refused to re-investigate, and insisted on their position regarding the proceedings of their initial inspection, which they claim were justifiable. The prosecution seemed to be siding with the defendants. It claimed and insisted that the incident was not a massive crime. On the other hand, the judge was about to make a judiciary fault in allowing the lawyer of the defendant to defend despite the suspended issue of the claims of Allaw and the response of the attorney. Consequently, Allaw threatened to decline with the heirs if the judge allows this illegal action. Realizing his fault, the judge withdrew his permission convincing Allaw to continue. The judge then kept the report of the attorney to study it and decide whether to enforce reinvestigation or not in the next session, scheduled to take place one week later on the 25th of July 99.



Words of Wisdom

"Many countries hold elections. Even when these are not rigged, they tend to cement the old patron-clientele relations in a new garb. The reason is that the people in power use their connections (and state funds, media, the bureaucracy, etc.) to achieve the election results they want. The product is that they create docile parliaments. Elections thus end up enabling those in power to hold on to it."

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999)
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Efforts to Release the Four Kidnapped Belgians Pay Off at Last

The 4 Kidnapped Belgians Released

Efforts to safely free the four abducted Belgian hostages: Mr. Martens, Mr. Scholliers, Mrs. Scholliers, and Mrs. Leveeke, have paid off at last and lead to the release of the hostages yesterday, Sunday 18th July around 21:45 local time. Based on Yemen Times sources, these efforts were mainly made by a number of Sheiks headed by Sheik Al-Shaif, the Chairman of the Rights and Liberties Committee of the Parliament, who is one of the sons of the area where the hostages were held, and which is called Barat. The mediators agreed to meet the demands of the kidnappers which included some social projects and services, plus a number of other demands which were not declared. Sources indicate that the tourists were taken to Sanaa along with the Barat Province Manager and a number of armed security forces. The group is expected to safely arrive to Sanaa round 5:00 am today. The 4 men and women, along with their Yemeni driver, were kidnapped last Thursday while on the road to Amran (Barat-Harath Sufyan), 40 kilometers northwest of Sanaa. Sources say that the four tourists were among a group of seven Belgians on their way to Sa'ada. The group was travelling in two vehicles, which were ambushed by a group of tribesmen. While the first vehicle was released, the second jeep was stopped and taken away to an unknown location, along with the 4 Belgians and the driver who were inside. Eye witness claim that the authorities sent Yemeni forces to Barak in order to surround the area where the hostages were held and pressure the tribesmen to release them. Reports say that the kidnapped tourists are currently safe and sound and were -as is the case in most hostage takings- treated well while in captivity. This incident is considered to be the last in a series of such kidnapping incidents that generally result in no harm whatsoever to the hostages, and which most of the time are done to secure some projects and financial aid for the kidnappers.

Vice Chairman of the Committee for Protecting Journalists in Yemen

Disappointment in the Government, Encouragement for the Journalists

Last Wednesday Morning, Mr. Terry Anderson, Vice Chairman of the New York-based Committee for Protecting Journalists (CPJ) arrived in Yemen on a one day visit. Upon his arrival, Mr. Terry explained that the main objective of his visit was to discuss the latest attacks against journalists and against freedom of the press in Yemen. Mr. Terry met with Prime Minister Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, Deputy PM, and Foreign Minister Abdulkadir Bajammal.



In a press conference held Wednesday evening at the Sheraton Hotel, Mr. Terry expressed his happiness at the sentiments expressed to him by government officials: "We are committed to the freedom of press and democracy... We are ready

to act in response to any report of violations against journalists." He stressed the importance of practice rather than talk: "Fine words are fine, decisive action is better." However, he also expressed his disappointment and concern over the government's insistence at continuing to file cases against any journalist or newspaper that reports what is thought by the government to be "false, deceptive" information. He also explained to the media that they should continue their accurate, courageous, and controversial reporting, and never fear pressure from anyone, including the government, and they will keep an eye on the government and its promises.

More on the conference on page 5

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**OUR
VIEWPOINT**

**Yemen Times:
Too Strong to Die!**

Many people doubted that Yemen Times could continue after the death of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. However, the reality has proved to be quite different. Yemen Times is an establishment, a strong and structured foundation that has employees, units, departments, branches, offices, and all the facilities any company has. Yemen Times is a newspaper that was founded to live on. It is too strong to die, and has the power to withstand even the worst circumstances. International and local newspapers and magazines world wide do not depend on only one person or one group. The success behind every such establishment is actually team work. A newspaper cannot survive without the participation of their employees, all committed to their tasks and duties. On the other hand, they are structured in a way that preserves systematic operations that continue even if an important member is absent.

That is why Yemen Times went on as normal. We at the Yemen Times have a qualified and hard working staff that has worked together as cohesive unit and in a systematic manner both before and after the death of the founder.

There is no secret behind the ability of Yemen Times to go on and publish its issues every Monday as used to be before the death of its founder. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf himself used to have a known duty in the Yemen Times, which was to write this column "View Point" and monitor work in the paper. Other than that, he is the founder of the newspaper, and the person who used to keep our spirits high all the time. He was a busy man who worked in more than one field and in more than one place. As the reader of Yemen Times, you should not doubt the continuation of the paper. The paper will continue, and there are plans to make it a bi-weekly, then a tri-weekly. There are plans to bring Yemen Times to a higher level of quality, and to bring it up to international standards regarding its layout and material. We have the best staff that could work for a newspaper in Yemen. We have the best layout designers, editors, translators, journalists, managers, and staff overall in this country. Every staff member of the Yemen Times has been selected carefully to meet any challenge.

This is not just talk, we have indeed proven that we are a powerful organization that is too strong to die, even after the death of our founder. Advertisements have increased, articles have been enhanced, news articles have become more accurate and reliable. Our newspaper is moving forward towards brighter horizons and a better future. We are doing well, and we will continue to do well. Yemen Times Reader, please be confident that the Yemen Times is too strong to die.

Walid Al-Saqqaf
Publisher, Acting Chief Editor



**YEMEN
TIMES**

Independent Cultural, Economic & Political Weekly
Founded in 1991 by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf



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Mr. Gamal kidnapped!

Mr. Gamal Abdul Wahab Al-Magtaree was kidnapped Friday evening, June 24, in the center of Sanaa while returning home in his car. He has still not been released despite all the efforts of his family. In this respect, the Al-Makatera Society has written an appeal to Mr. Huseen Arab, the Minister of the Interior, urging him to put an end to such violations of the law, and to bring Mr. Gamal safely back to his family.

Opposition Parties Protest

The coordination council of the opposition parties expressed its strong protests over the outrageous violations of the law by the Ministry of the Media. The Supreme Coordination Council for the Opposition Parties accused the ministry of serving only the interests of the ruling party and their presidential candidate, and totally ignoring the opposition party's candidate, Ali Saleh Obad, and others who apply for the presidential candidacy.

Support for the Tuberculosis Control Program Extended

Strengthening the fight against tuberculosis nation-wide, the Government of Japan has decided to continue its cooperation with the Government of Yemen in providing assistance to the National Tuberculosis Control Program. The Record of Discussion, which stipulates the resumption of the Project-type Technical Cooperation (Phase III), will last for five years from August 6, 1999. The paper was signed by Mr. Hisham Sharaf and Mr. Mohammed Gharama Al-Raey, on the Yemeni side, and Dr. Toru Mori and officials from the Japanese embassy signed for Japan.

Yemeni & International Human Development Report Inaugurated

Under the auspices of the Prime Minister, Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani, and in collaboration with the UNDP, the Ministry of Planning and Development began the Yemeni human development report. The event will be kicked off on Thursday, July 20. This event is important because it is the first time that such report has been issued about Yemen.

Abdullah Sad still in Coma

Abdullah Sad, editor-in-chief of Alwahda newspaper, is still in a coma, but has been removed from

**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.

Question:

Do you think that it is a good idea to make Yemen Times a Bi-Weekly newspaper at this time?

Results:

Yes, in fact it is a smart move to show that Yemen Times is still strong even after the death of the founder. 39%
Yes, but I recommend that it should take its time before making such a decision due to the huge responsibility. 41%
No, just keep it as a weekly. 17%
I don't know. 3%

This Week's Question:

Do you think that the official media is being fair to all presidential candidates?
(* Results Next Week)

the intensive care unit in a hospital in Amman, Jordan. His case is improving, but he has not become conscious yet.

Violations of Human Rights

Over the outrageous violations of human rights made by Nagee Al-Sofee, the Governor of Sanaa, Mohammed Al-Barwee, Chairman of the Security force in Sanaa, and the Chairman of Security in the first district, Mr. Salem Omar Al-Shaiba, Chairman of the Prosecution Court of Sanaa made an appeal to the Prosecutor to discharge the violators and summon them to trial. That was noted in a report he made to high official sources and media as well. There are more than 60 people in prisons most of them are arrested without any legal charges in the governorate and in the security governorate in Sanaa. For example, Saleh Mohammed Mosed Al-Ansee who has gone on a hunger strike for five months. Shackles which are illegal are put on the legs of others.

More Kidnapping

Following the kidnapping of 12 persons from Haraz by Johom tribesmen, Harazi men put up a road block between Sanaa to Hodeidah, and kidnapped 5 persons from Johom. A series of kidnappings have been going on between the two tribes, mainly because the Johomi tribesmen believe that a youth from Haraz kidnapped a girl from Johom. The Governor of Sanaa, tried to intervene but his efforts were to no avail.

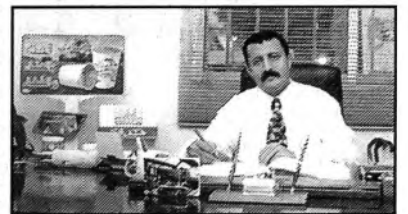
Al-Meethak On Trial

A significant number of reporters and journalists have filed a case against Al-Meethak Newspaper, mouthpiece of the People's General Congress (PGC) for the article published by Mr. Abas Ghaleb, the Editor-in-Chief, in which he threw accusations, charges and insults against reporters, journalists and correspondents, and accuses them of conspiracy against the national interests of the country.

At another level, the targeted journalists went personally to the Printing and Press Prosecution along with their lawyer, Mr. Mohammed Najji Allaw, and requested the presence of Mr. Ghalib to the prosecution. He is expected to attend today to the prosecution and defend against the case filed against him. After the first phase, investigation the case will go to the court.

Yemeni Advertisement Society Established

On Monday, July 5th, the preparatory Committee for the Yemeni Advertisement Society (Under Foundation) held a meeting in Taiz City. The attendants from the different advertisement agencies hailed the importance of establishing the society to promote advertisement services through exchange of the members' expertise, ideas, and studies. The attendants especially expressed their gratitude to Mr. Abdulrahman Bisher for the role he played in the establishment of



the Society. The meeting concluded with a number of resolutions, including the approval of the membership in the Society of the participating attendants as founding members, and keeping the door open for more members to join the society.

**Baskin Robbins
Finally Opens in Yemen**

The Grand Opening of Baskin Robbins, the world's most famous ice cream brand, was held in the Sana'a Trade Center last Friday July 16th. Opened by US Ambassador Ms. Barbara Bodine, it was by far the largest opening event held in Yemen, attracting a crowd of over 14,000. Full details and photos will appear in next week's Yemen Times.

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Dr. Ali Al-Bahr:

"The Housing Credit Bank is the Only Bank Which Gives Long Term Loans"

The problem of housing is considered to be one of the major headaches of the people of Yemen, particularly those of low or fixed incomes. The high rent posed by the landlords on the tenants adds fuel to the difficulties between them. Therefore, constructing flats for the fixed income people is one possible solution. The Housing Credit Bank (HCB) is one of the major contributions in this regard. It does a lot to alleviate the problems of those with a fixed or low income.

Dr. Ali Al-Bahr is the current manager of the HCB. He has been in charge of many establishments; he was Deputy Minister of Economy until 1977, then Deputy Minister of Planning in 1978, 1979, 1980. He was also the Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources in 1980, then he worked as the Minister of State, and now he is the GM of the HCB. He got his MA from the USA and Ph.D from Cairo. Ismail Al-Ghabiry of Yemen Times met with Mr. Al-Bahr and filed the following interview.

Excerpts:

Q: What are the major activities and projects implemented by the HCB?

A: On this occasion, I think I should share with the family of the Yemen Times our grief and condolences. We are mourning with you at the passing away of one of the most famous and intellectuals persons in Yemen, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. I would like to convey my condolences for the very sad accident. And I express my satisfaction at the work of his son Walid and the members of YT who I am sure will be able to continue the newspaper in the same path, and continue to move forward in order to keep the newspaper on the top of the media in Yemen.

The Housing Credit Bank, which was established in 1977, has two main lines of operation as you know.

The first one is to build the projects for the Al-Hasin, for the middle and low income groups of people. One the more important projects is the Hadda city where the bank constructed about 800 units, which were given to the beneficiaries. That was in 1984 and 85.

The second big project is the Suad Sawan, it is for the low income people, and it is a small city next to the Sheraton. We distributed about 800 units of housing there. We cooperated with the Ministry of Housing and Construction and other organizations to finance what is called the 7th of July city in Hodeidah for the limited income people. That city consists of 2,560 units. This is the 3rd project. We are planning to come forward with the United Nations and the Ministry of Organization and Construction to finance and run the financial arrangement of the project to the people of middle and low income in Aden. It is again called the 7th of July city in Al-Bureka. That will consist of 1600 units as the first phase. It is partially financed by UN. The United Nations has already contributed about \$8 million. The bank will step in and arrange the financial side of the project, and they may need the bank managers to come and support the construction process as well. Again, we are negotiating about it. But we are about to start, and we are preparing ourselves to give money to that city. Among the beneficiaries, are, again, the middle and low income families who live nearby. So all in all it comes out to about 6 or 7 thousand houses. These were constructed directly by the bank, and in all the other lines of

operations, the bank is involved in giving direct loans to the beneficiaries. So many people come and get around 400-500 thousands riyals. For limited income people, this is a lot of money. The people are given the limited cost kind of construction where they are satisfied with 60, 70 or 80 square meters, that is good enough for them.

The second element is that it must be within the normal income to be repaid from their income. We can give up to 10 million or 20 million. But again, we take into account the capacity of the beneficiary or the borrower to be able to pay back the principle plus the interest.

From the beginning of the bank, we gave the loans to around 6 to 7 thousand families. Those people received direct loans and about 6 to 7 thousand of the people got the money or the lands from the government, who stepped forward to finance that. So our operators have in the order of 15 thousand houses that we have finance either directly or through projects, 15 thousand over a period of about 20 years. You can say that it is around 1 thousand houses per year.

Q: Can you tell us how much that would have cost?

A: Of this operations were in this order, I think I might have bought it from 3 to 5 billion Yemeni rials, and the total cost of the total contribution of the bank is on the order of 5 billion since we started. When we look to the past, 1 thousand million is not the small amount it is today, but was about 2 hundred million dollars.

Taking the value of the currencies these days, 4 thousand million is only about 40 million dollars. So it is about 3 to 4 or 5 hundred million dollars if we take an average of the currency, which I think it is a good amount. We recently started what we call the commercial operation, which is the straight-forward market operation of the bank, governed by the law of the banks and the orders of the Central Bank and governor of the central bank. We are acting in the market like any other commercial bank. In other words, we accept the deposits from the public individuals and institutions with their private companies or corporations, they brought the money here to the bank as deposits and we have an interest infrastructure that is dictated by the central bank.

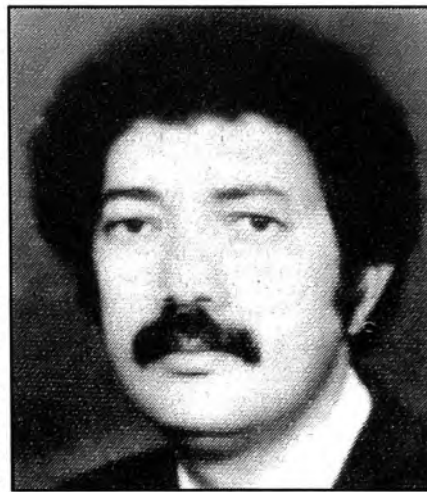
The most recent value of the inter-

est is 20% for the saving accounts per year. We are paying our customers 20% for their saving accounts here. We partially invest this money in the government treasury bills. These are issued every Thursday by the central bank. That is the very important part of the activities of the bank, because this is the source of liquidity. And our assets are among the most liquid in the country. We are the only bank who gives long term loans, and we are the only bank who gave mortgage loans totally and exclusively. And we have also a set interest rate with our customers, because it is not easy for them to follow what we call it defloating interest rate whereby they change the rate whenever the central bank changes it. It is half for our customers, and it is legal. So we are quoting our set rate for 5 to 6 years, it is very difficult for a financial institution to deserve unless we are very careful, because the tendency of the interest rate is always to go high, and we are able to give our customer a fixed rate for a period of 5 to 6 years. This is one of the advantages of the bank, and one of the special natures and special lines of business of the bank. We are probably the only group that does this type of financing in Yemen, it is what we call the mortgage finance.

We are very liquid, and we are not putting all the money in real estate and the inflationary resisting assets. You may have real estate buildings, or you may have good store in your all inventories, but again that is not liquid. There is a danger that we are facing, this is the deterioration of the currency. They probably are thinking to support our assets by adding foreign exchange into our port for you. We may use gold, we are thinking very seriously about buying 3 to 4 thousand ounces of gold. Every thousand ounces of gold costs about 45 to 50 million rials. That is a very strong safety net we should have. We are thinking seriously about adding to our assets one to three million dollars; we are thinking of adding five to four thousand ounces of gold that will cost again 2 or 3 hundred million rials. So we will be balancing ourselves in that way.

Q: What are the privileges the bank gives to the people who take out loans?

A: Well, from a legal framework there are no limits in the bank. We can lend to the contractors, the commercial buildings that go beyond hundred millions of Yemeni riyals and to finance the office buildings but the most needy people are the middle and low income groups, so we give them a special weight in our operations. This puts us as a retiring bank in the first place. We are deeply rooted in almost every quarter of the city of Sanaa and Alhodaida. We are seriously con-



cerned about starting a bank in Aden, another one in Hadramout and a third one probably in the third cities between Taiz and Ibb. When it comes to the enticement to get the bulk money again this is limited not by the availability of their resources but by the capacity of the individual to pay back the loan and the interest in the period of six years. So if you assume that a man have the income of twenty riyals, we assume that he will pay have of that income as to the bank and half of his income will be spend on his other life requirements. So if we take ten thousand every month, we see that we will be walking through five years meaning sixty months and if we collect ten thousand every one month sixty months will put it about six hundred thousand, then we reduce the interest from that

amount so the rest will be around four hundred thousand to three hundred thousand. If the interest rate goes down to 10% this can increase the total amount to eight hundred thousand. So it varies depending on the interest rate. Again there are no physical limits to the loans of the bank but the limiting factor is the capacity of our customers to be able to repay the loan with the interest. So it is a sort of moving and flexible mechanism, it goes up and down with every individual's income.

Q: Concerning the retired people of the government what kind of facilities do you offer them?

A: There is a nother institution that deals with the retired people and they have also lots of resources. They have got around ten to fifteen billion riyals. We are very keen to have a project with them or to work together with them through the limited income and their pensions to get them small houses in cooperation with pension force but again they have their own strategy and of investment. We hope again that we will be able to make other projects with talented administrators of the fund. We give priority to the people who are holding saving accounts with us in the bank. We are very glad to give those who have saving accounts two, three, four, or even fifth times the amounts of their money.

Q: You know that the majority of the employees in the government have limited income. What kinds of facilities do you offer these employees?

A: They have the advantage of

having permanent income from very well established ministries and institutions. This gives them a better guarantee and puts them on a very strong footing when they are competing with those who are working on their own or those who have part time job. So they have the advantages of the guarantees of their ministries because this is one of the first guarantees that we consider and look for to give the employee any amount of money he requires. A second element we give them a legal period of time and there is a rate preferential, that is one percent which. I think, is not a big advantage because we give the non-commercial rate is one percent less than the commercial rate, the non-commercial rate is the size of the construction that does not exceed one hundred thirty two. We consider that to be non-commercial rate and we give them six years and one percent less. The commercial rate is built above and over one hundred thirty squiremets if he reaches one hundred fifty or sixty squiremets. The most advantage is the longer period of time we are providing and the fix rate we are giving because the interest in Yemen, like any developing country, the interest should always be going up. But we are gambling to give them a credit of ten years. People who borrowed from the bank in the second half of 1998 they got an interest rate of 20% now the interest rate is about 28% and we are binded by the interests fixed in the contracts signed. The second advantage is the duration of the loan which is very long. We also limit our source to collect four or five thousand which

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July 19th 1999

Mr. Anderson in the Press Conference:

“The Answer to the Attacks on the Press is to Report More and More”

At the beginning of the press conference, Mr. Anderson said, “We are here to support Yemeni journalists at their request, and to talk to the government to see if we can convince them that acting against the press is against their own principles, their own declared objectives. Yemen has had among the best records in the Arab world for the freedom of the press since its unification, but it has recently changed, and it is sad to see that record changing simply because there is an election campaign. This is not the way a country behaves that wishes to be a democracy and to show the world that it is an open society. We are very concerned about Yemeni journalists. No country can be free and a part of the world society that doesn't have a free press. Regarding the actions we have seen happening in Yemen, they are discouraging and need to be turned around for the good of the Yemeni society, and not to please anyone else not because America or England or somebody else says you should do this, but because this is what Yemeni society wants.”

Mr. Anderson added that: “The government condemned in strongest terms the harassment and threat against journalists and called on journalists who are threatened or arrested to report

those incidents firmly so that they would be able to investigate. The Prime Minister told me, and I am quoting him directly, that ‘We are committed to the freedom of the press. We are doing our best. We are ready to listen to any report of violation. We are open to complaints and the courts are open.’ However, he said that the government will continue to file court cases against journalists and newspapers who print what he called lies. Interestingly enough, he said that the government has lost every case against journalists in the last ten years which he justified by the courts' sympathies towards the journalists. Again he would not promise to end censorship of foreign publications, which he said is a matter of ethical not political considerations. Both the Prime and Deputy Prime Minister noted that this is a transition period and that nothing is perfect and everything needs time. As you know, we are here because we are concerned to support our colleagues in this time when it seems that there has been repression of the press which seems to limit the press and its freedoms. If the government means what it says, then we would expect to see such things become fewer and more infrequent. We believe that it is a



challenge for Yemen in this period of transition to increase its freedom of the press, and not to decrease it. But it can not establish democracy without freedom of the press. Therefore, we urge the government to continue to move in the proper direction, to enhance freedom of the press and to make sure that attacks on press, especially threats and harassments by police and security forces are illegal under Yemeni law. The government must take action to stop them, and we urge Yemeni journalists and Yemeni newspapers to report all such threats and file complaints and to cooperate with and support each other and report any attacks they are exposed to. Attacks on the press are designed to make you afraid, to make you stop reporting things, and the

answer to such attacks is to report more, to report especially those attacks, to file charges, to demand investigations and to make sure that those illegal things are punished under Yemeni law. This is for your protection.”

Asked about his evaluation of the freedom of the press between 1990 and 1999, Mr. Anderson noted: “The CPJ has been monitoring Yemen, as it does with all countries, since the unification. We have been encouraged by the movement towards democracy in the first few years of the unification. We think that was one of the most open and democratic nations in the Arab world, which is why we are specially concerned that since the rebellion and over the last few years the government seems to be with-

drawing from that commitment to human rights.”

Then, Mahbob Ali gave a speech in which he welcomed Professor Anderson to Yemen and also expressed his appreciation of the Alayyam editor-in-chief's efforts to support this meeting. He asserted that without all the journalists' cooperation there will be no progress in improving journalism and freedom of the press. He also expressed his ambition that the 'Yemeni journalists' efforts will be appreciated by the whole world, because democracy and freedom of the press are twins; there can be no democracy without freedom of the press and vice versa.

“It is necessary that you take that step and keep moving toward a real and definite implementation of democracy, and do not step back. As you said, there can't be democracy without a free press, there are no rights that can be obtained unless the basic basis of free expression of ideas and freedom of the press is obtained. We met with the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, and I must say that I am pleased with what they say. They both repeated the government commitment to a free press, to human rights and to democracy. They both condemned in the strongest

words external legal harassment of the press. He also told me that the government has organized a forum to teach the police and security forces how to conduct investigations while observing human rights, and that the teaching would begin in September and October. These are wonderful words but we hope that they will be proved to be a reality. If they are true, then we expect to see a decrease in harassment. The biggest strengths that the press has in a democracy is other journalists. If you take these charges seriously and see that they are reported officially and demand investigations, then you may be able to stop them. If you do not report them, then you won't be able to stop them. Every Yemeni newspaper should report every case of harassment, not only their own, but everyone else's as well. This is not about politics. This is about freedom. And if the opposition newspapers are not free, soon the others will not be either. So you must take them seriously and support each other. We will continue to talk and be in contact and if there is anything we can do you can be certain that we will do it. Mr. Anderson emphasized his point that, while words are good, actions are what really count. Asked whether there is an organization that can protect journalists in Yemen, Mr. Anderson answered: “The CPJ encourages and assesses journalists in any country. If you are attacked, file a case, and even if you are not responded to, file cases again and again.”

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Further information on the use and development of this Terminal may be obtained from the Director General of Yemen Ports Authority.

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مصلحة الموانئ اليمنية ميناء عدن

تعليق مصلحة الموانئ اليمنية إلى جميع الوكلاء الملاحيين المعتمدين في ميناء عدن وإلى الشركات الملاحية العالمية وملاك السفن الناقلة للحاويات ومشغليها وإلى كافة المتعاملين في ميناء عدن بأن محطة الحاويات في أرصفة المعلا مستمرة وسوف تستمر في تقديم خدماتها المتميزة في مناولة الحاويات وخدمات البضائع العامة وبضائع الصب والسفن الدخوطة وكافة أنواع السفن والبضائع.

ويسرنا أن نشعر الجميع بأننا بصدد تحسين الأداء لكافة الخدمات المقدمة وتطوير كافة معدات مناولة البضائع لتقديم أحسن وأسرع الخدمات في ميناء عدن بأقل تكلفة. والمصلحة على استعداد لتقديم كافة التسهيلات (المتضمنة التخفيضات في رسوم الخدمات والحوافز الأخرى منها التعرفة المغرية لنشاط الحاويات) سواء للسفن الناقلة أو المستوردين والمصدرين وعلى مدار الساعة دون توقف.

للمزيد من المعلومات حول التعامل مع أو تطوير محطة الحاويات بالإمكان الحصول عليها من مدير عام مصلحة الموانئ اليمنية.

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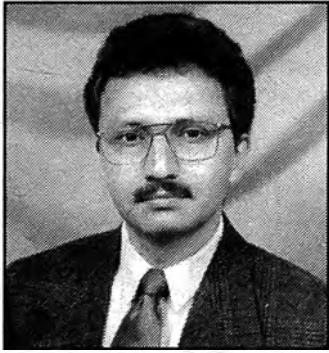
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بريد الكتروني: roy@y.net.ye

إدارة التسويق

Economy: A Two Dimensional Global Phenomenon



*Shahin Masoumzadeh
M. Sc., P. Eng.
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at a stage that he/she realizes the existence of an unprecedented economic crisis prevailing the whole world. Billions of people are in the stage of extreme poverty and disease; starvation and poor health; homelessness and social insecurity. All remedial measures prove to be insufficient and ineffective. This paper does not elaborate on the aforesaid crisis, but tries to show the ways and means of overcoming it. One may divide the influential factors which can improve the economic health of the people into two categories. Social and/or economic laws or principles; and, spiritual or moral laws or principles. These two categories of laws must concurrently operate and fulfill their goals in order to achieve long term favorable outcome.

Spiritual Principles/Laws:

At first it may seem irrelevant to attach importance to the spiritual principles in order to achieve economic goals! The rates of crimes, war, suicide, child abuse, family violence, alcohol and drug abuse, pornography, etc. are among the highest in the richest countries! How can these nations be content with having the highest standard of life while there is so much moral crisis in their communities? Does not this moral crisis have any effect on the economic and social health of the communities? Of course it does.

Human beings are capable of acquiring infinite spiritual virtues and qualities. Here, we can describe some of them to some extent:

Honesty/Truthfulness:

This will abolish all misunderstandings and provides a common ground for discussions to arrive at constructive conclusions.

The Spirit of Service:

Each individual will serve his/her fellow human beings in order to create a better world and, considers work as worship.

Justice:

will create order in the community

Charity:

is a form of sacrifice in which you prefer the well-being of your brothers and sisters to your own. This principle safeguards the establishments of humanitarian and welfare organizations.

Forgiveness:

provides a chance for further growth and development. Thus, it is evident that the individuals are encouraged to forgive, while society has the duty of making

order in the community by means of reward and punishing the aggressor and promoting justice.

Chastity detachment and contentment:

promotes family institution and inhibits spending on economic problems resulting from: family breakdown, AIDS, family violence, etc. Also, when one is greedy to acquire wealth, he indeed has lost his spiritual balance which undermines the very foundation of his existence. The economic impact of greed is obvious. It leads the society to possess more wealth for the sake of more wealth. A condition has been reached that masses of people feel that they are not satisfied with their possessions simply because they want to have more; while their basis economic needs are fully met such as: food, shelter, social and health services, security, etc. This of course has led man to deplete earth's natural resources, to severely damage the natural environment, to create war, to commit injustice, and last but not least to ignore his spiritual nature and moral values. The aforesaid principles appear to be implemented by the individuals in the first place, and they do not seem to have direct impact on the economy. However, individuals are regarded as the cells for the body of the humanity. If the cells are not functioning properly, how then, the humanity which is the whole body can function properly? These spiritual principles are under the control of individuals and generally there is no immediate executing force behind them. Even if, some social institutions aim at safeguarding and upholding these principles, the ultimate responsibility rests upon individuals shoulders. At this point, the spiritual well-being of man becomes a necessity in order to control and discipline the human egotism: that part of man which always wants more pleasure, more wealth, more power, more comfort, etc.

Social/Economic Principles or Laws:

These principles must be integrated into the social, economic and administrative fabrics of the society at all levels; i.e., local, national and international. The sphere of action lies not only within the grasp of individuals as mentioned earlier, but all institutions and controlling bodies would be responsible to uphold the accepted economic principles. For example, community and social institutions such as: private enterprises, corporations, charitable and social services organizations, all need to incor-

porate the principles into their mandates and policies. On the larger and/or hopefully global scale, governments agencies and world organizations are expected to promote and implement these simple essential principles and provide a system of economic control and development.

Now let us discuss several principles which have tremendous and decisive effects on the economic well-being of the peoples of the planet:

Consultation:

is a tool and means to arrive at the best decision for a specific situation. To use this tool we require special skills and rules. This method which is now being accepted and spread among corporations and governing bodies, usually sets general criteria or regulations and, details are left to the lower level executing bodies. Access to information and knowledge plays a crucial role in consultation process. Because, consultation not only involves knowing different points of views and opinions; but also, requires correct information and technical knowledge. Use of rapidly expanding computer technology, information and communication systems, has provided unprecedented new tools in order to assist and evolve consultation process.

Unity:

This principle treats all human beings on an equal basis; emphasizes their integrity as a whole body; provides a harmonious global environment for all classes of peoples of different cultures, religions, races, sexes and of society to work together to build and create a better world. Thus, the economy would not become an isolated phenomenon but, an interdependent and united global system of smaller economies. The integrity of the whole will of course depend on the integrity of the smaller parts. Therefore, a global united system of control, management and organization will necessarily ensure local prosperity. Unity is a necessity at all levels: family, corporations, institutions, national and global organizations.

World Citizenship:

This concept is a profound expression of unity in a universal scale. A universal system of governance with its legislative, judicial and executive bodies will drastically reduce the expenses inflicted upon humanity by ruthless wars and conflicts. Each year the world is spending thousands of billions of dollars only on the subject of war. Another expression of world citizenship is to share knowledge, technology and large scale natural resources between all the peoples of the world. Global economy can only be managed and controlled by a global system, which is respected and upheld by all the nations.

Universal Education:

A vast majority of the world population is suffering from economic crisis, simply because they do not possess people with proper or sufficient expertise or knowledge.

Human resources are the social

and intellectual capital of the society. Development of human resources requires educating the masses in science and technology. Society has to have a minimum level of education in order to tackle the economic challenges of its rapidly changing age. At the present this minimum may be considered as having a high school diploma. Obviously, this standard has to be raised in the near future due to significant expansion of knowledge.

Abolition of Extremes of Wealth and Poverty:

Communism was an initial response to this problem; however, it has proven to be inefficient and defective as the absolute economic equality destroyed creativity and human development. It is not fair and equitable for billions of masses of peoples to suffer from economic hardship while a group of individuals possess thousands of billions of dollars in their hands. However, large capitals are necessary to be used for huge projects. This can be provided from banks, corporations or other institutions and not necessarily from individuals. Abolition of extremes of wealth and poverty involves many economic and social solutions. For example, a taxation law may limit the amount of wealth one may possess; while it provides funding for social services to the masses of peoples in various basic forms such as: provision of food and shelter, health care, unemployment insurance, old age security plans, disability and natural disaster protection plans, etc.

Universal Currency:

Most major economic crises during the recent months or years have been due to the depreciation or strengthening of world currencies. In some occasions the fluctuations are artificially forced by government agencies; while in other instances the problem is caused by financial uncertainties provoked by: social unrest, war, budget deficit, inflation, excessive demand or supply, trade surplus or deficit, natural disasters, unemployment, interest rates, excessive printing of money without having gold or other commodities and products or services to support it, etc. A single world currency will provide a common ground for all the nations to cooperate together with confidence on an equal basis to develop their economy further. The initial stages for the implementation of this principle is already taking place in the world economy. Establishment of a single currency in Europe is a good example. The US dollar is widely accepted and dealt with in most countries for trade commercial transactions.

Environment:

The development of technology and urbanization of population have created new and unprecedented environmental problems. If these crises are not dealt with both locally and globally, the occurrence of environmental disasters are imminent. This will lead to economic downfalls in order to remedy environmental catastrophes. Therefore, a healthy and long term economic

growth and development, requires long term solutions to environmental issues. In particular, the development of nuclear weapons is not only a great danger to the lives of peoples but also, an extreme hazard to the environment. Global warming caused by greenhouse effect is a direct result of industrialization can only be solved by a unified action of all the nations. Water and earth's atmosphere and natural ecosystems are fragile and delicate systems which require careful and scientific attention of world specialists.

Agriculture:

is a mother industry which makes no harm to the environment and is a principal source of wealth and life. It is the generating engine of a healthy economy with minimal side effects. We need to make special provision for agriculture.

Capital Costs: Interest:

Funds in the form of cash money are the widely used form of capital in all businesses. It is the main driving force for carrying out any commercial projects or undertakings. As economic prosperity advances with passage of time, at the same time more wealth is produced in the form of cash money. Therefore, increased cash flow will lead to inflation. That is to say: money loses its value or purchasing power with time. Accumulation of funds without using them becomes irrational; because it loses its value and also it does not produce any goods and services and it does not accomplish any task in order to raise the standard of living of people. At this point money should not be accumulated without a constructive purpose or plan but, it should be spent or circulated in order to turn on the economic engine of the society.

Thus, financial institutions or individuals who are not able to invest their funds in feasible projects, would like to lend their funds to other enterprises who could effectively utilize them. As it was mentioned, because money loses its value with time it is reasonable that the borrowing agencies return the funds with interest. Obviously, the interest rate would be equal to the inflation rate plus an administration charge plus some profit.

Modern economics not only allows interest, but sees it as a vital principle for the economy. Lending money without charging interest is admirable. However, charging interest must be with moderation, fairness and justice which would bring abundance to people's wealth. The details and terms for borrowing and lending funds should be outlined by the specialist according to the requirement of time.

Concluding Remarks:

Almost all the aforesaid principles are emerging in the economic, social and political spheres around the globe. A new human consciousness is developing which confirms these necessities for the New Era in human history. Humanity is converging to a New World Order but, unfortunately by the trial and error method.

Definition of Prosperity :

Webster's ninth new collegiate dictionary describes prosperity as: "the condition of being successful or thriving; esp: economic well-being." Therefore, by prosperity people usually mean materialistic achievements such as acquiring wealth or possessions. However, this writer believes that there is another dimension to the word prosperity. Without taking into account this new dimension, accomplishing material prosperity not only becomes temporary, fragile and impossible but also meaningless, harmful and dangerous. That is to say as how we look at things? What is the purpose of material prosperity? This dimension of life can be described as a metaphysical condition which reflects the state of mind, soul and spirit of each individual human being. Since the capacities of humans are limitless; therefore, a prosperous humanity, not only can move and make progress to gain infinite material accomplishments, but also, she/he must develop her/his limitless spiritual potentialities. A balance needs to be maintained between these two realities of life. Material well-being by itself can not survive, be stabilized or sustained without spiritual values. On the other hand, spiritual ideals do not find expression without material means.

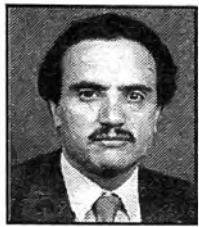
It was mentioned that the prosperity of humankind has limitless potentialities. However, a minimum standard is required in order to meet the well-being and happiness of humans. Every human being must have the basic rights to shelter, food, security, education, health, employment, social services, etc. At the same time, he/she needs to have minimum spiritual standards. During the course of this paper, I will try to demonstrate that how these minimum standards for prosperity will be achieved and maintained.

Although material well being of man is promoted and emphasized; it has a secondary role in the reality of man and it should be subordinated to spiritual nature of him. Thus, prosperity of mankind should definitely reflect his/her spiritual maturity. It is a means of showing forth man's true reality: his/her spiritual existence.

Economic Principles:

It is apparent that the humanity is

Investing in the Health Sector



By: Ismail Ali Al-Ghabri
Yemen Times

Despite the reasonable improvements in health conditions in Yemen over the last two decades, the health sector is still facing huge challenges. These include a persistent high fertility rate (per woman high population rate of 3.7%) and a chronic shortage of health services (population per doctor ratio is 4348 to 1). These challenges are reflected in the alarming health indicators, which recently revealed that the maternal mortality rate is between 80 and 100 per 1000 live births, and the infant mortality rates are 78.8 per 1000, which makes them among the highest rates in the world, attributed

mainly to complications during pregnancy, child birth and malnutrition related diseases, hygiene, lack of sanitation and safe water supply. The health sector is facing many pressing issues, especially difficulties in reaching rural populations, organization and management problems. Only 55% of the population has access to medical facilities, while public health services in many rural areas are almost non-existent. The total patient-beds in 1996 in public hospitals were estimated at 11,337 nation wide, with significant disparity between urban and rural areas. The government has made it a priority to make health services more effective and accessible to the most needy segments of the society, with emphasis on preventive health care such as immunization programs covering

all the nation, family planning, nutrition and health education. Public expenditure on health is relatively low, in 1996 the health care expenditure accounted for only 4% of the total public expenditure, and the re-current expenditures constitute more than 90% of the total, leaving only a marginal 10% for investment. Funds allocated for maintenance accounted for only 1% of the re-current expenditure. Among the obstacles working against the efforts of the ministry of health are the growing sewage and sanitation problems facing major cities. Inadequate sewage treatment facilities result in the outbreak of diseases such as malaria and diarrhea. Similarly, a clean water supply has become less available in urban concentrations due to the unsustainable exploration of ground water. International assistance agencies

and donor countries are heavily contributing to the health sector, especially in sponsoring nation wide immunization campaigns against the 6 main diseases, as well as disease control campaigns, but on the other hand too much aid is given for management upgrading and direct medicinal assistance which have not born their expected fruits. In recent years, the private sector has invested in private hospitals and clinics. Their contribution is indispensable, but the standard medical service they offer is relatively low. This can be attributed to poor management skills and short experience, low qualification levels and in-consistency of the medical staff. The low capital levels for investment are mainly due to the low income segment of the society. This is reflected appropriately by the low purchasing power of the patient, and subsequent relatively low profit margins made by these medical enterprises. In contrast, the higher income segment of the society seeks very expensive medication abroad for even simple illnesses which can

be cared for locally. The government has allocated more than 300 million dollars annually to provide medical financial assistant for patients in need of treatment abroad in addition to providing these people with air tickets. It is estimated that more than one billion dollars a year in hard currency is sent abroad for medical treatments. There isn't a single world class private hospital in the whole country. A well organized and equipped hospital run by an international medical company would be a prime investment capable of reaping huge profits. The opportunity is open, and the government should provide facilities and permission. The oil companies, embassies and international companies travel abroad for simple problems due to the absence of a service they can trust.

As a conclusion, Yemen is in great need for good health services. We have one of the lowest standards in health and medical care in the world. The economic conditions of the country is one of the main obstacles of having health insurance and medical care provided by the state. In this case, the best and easiest alternative is to establish and run private enterprises that provide health care for the public. Prices may be high, but with more investment, there will be competition, and with more competition, there3 will be better services, and lower prices. Health care must be taken seriously and should be one of the most important focal points of the investment program of the government. If we want a better nation, we ought to make it a healthier nation, and for that to happen, the next step should be investment in health services.


The Detrimental Impacts of Smuggling

It is self-evident that smuggling is one of the destructive and dangerous phenomena in our society. It has a negative impact on the economy of the country, and on development in particular. This phenomenon is really a haunting nightmare that has become part of our lives. What we find is that there are many smugglers who smuggle enormous numbers of goods that are against the regulations and laws of the country. What aggravates the situation is that there is no observation and accountability from the people in charge. This very much damages the economic situation of the country and affects the Yemeni consumer as well. On the other hand, it makes fortunes for those people who smuggle, and, induced by the great amount of money they get from it, they will do anything: bribing, killing, threatening, etc., to maintain and secure their self-interests. As a result of smuggling goods, we find that our products suffer much, and that is mainly because of the low prices of the equivalent smuggled goods and the heavy taxes imposed on our local ones. Smuggling has lots of negative consequences in the economic and social areas. It can lay low the economy of the country. The effect of smuggling on the country at the economic level is estimated at around 60-75 billion Yemeni riyals in comparison with what would be gained from equivalent local goods. Moreover, the country loses around 5-6 billion Yemeni riyal in taxes that are not paid on the smuggled goods every year. Smuggling takes different forms, such as smuggling cars, electrical devices, textiles, alcohol, drugs, various foodstuffs, etc. According to many studies we reached the conclusion that the ratios of smuggling goods may come to the following:

1- Cigarettes. The amount of smuggled cigarettes that exist in the Yemeni market is around 15-25%. This happens at a time when the local producer pays 42 riyals for each packet as taxation while the smuggled packet is sold for 30 or 40 riyals. Therefore the taxation income from cigarettes has halved from more than on billion riyals during the first half of the year 1998. 2- Various foodstuffs The amount of smuggled goods existing in the Yemeni market is around 20-35% 3- Biscuits and chocolate. The amounts of smuggled goods existing in the Yemeni market is around 30-45%. Moreover, around 21 types out of 30 types of medicine are categorized among smuggled medicine. The amount of smuggled medicine over sea and land is around 75% of the total amount of the medicine coming to Yemen every year, indicated by some studies. This constitutes three times what Yemeni official organizations' import and equals one billion riyal. Smuggling has also resulted in the closing of around 27 companies and is mainly due to their products inability to compete with the smuggled ones. This is harmful in view of the growing taxation imposed upon them. As figures also show, we find that there is a reduction in the oil production in Yemen from 8700 ton in 1996 to half that in 1997 for the same reason. One of the Yemeni businessmen indicates the harmful effects of the smuggling on the economy of the country by saying that he used to pay 32 million riyal per month as taxation, but what he pays now is not more than 2 million riyals. The problem is that no one has ever asked why and how this reduction happened. We used to have hopes that the private sector would help to enhance the economic situation of the country, as its interest in 1996 reached 350.8 billion riyals. However, smuggling and

chaos became dominant, and the situation has really become hazardous. This is best seen in a report introduced by the manufacturing committee in the Parliament that indicates that this phenomenon is wide-spread, and the indifference of the people in charge constitutes a major obstacle in the prosperity of investment. What has been dealt with so far is the economic effects of smuggling, the social effects of this phenomenon can be pointed out in the following: 1- Reports indicate that 50-70% of sick people receiving treatment in Jordan are ill due to those smuggled drugs. Other reports show that 70-80% of common diseases in the country are caused by those smuggled diseases. 2- The closure of 27 factories

and the horrible conditions of other ones that are in their way to be closed, will increase the burden of unemployment on our society and worsen the conditions of the sacked employees. 3- Seeing such conditions, so many investors tend to ignore and shun Yemen and look for other countries where they can safely invest their money. This makes the social problem more difficult and complicated. In my point of view, if we want to put an end to smuggling, there should be sincere efforts to eradicate this phenomenon. In case the government is not able to do so, there is no need to put such high taxation on local products. This will be very beneficial in protecting our businessmen, our products, and the economic situation of the country as a whole. Dr. Mohammed Abdu Al-Rasheed Ali Aden University



Queen Arwa University Arwa Junior College

Queen Arwa University, and expanding educational institute aiming at meeting Yemeni society needs in the field of education, has decided to establish a junior college. Our junior college prepares Yemeni students in subjects required to undertake the following examinations for admission to British and American as well as Middle East universities using English language as a medium of instruction.

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Diabetes: A layman's Survey



By: Yusuf Abdulhameed,
Aden

Thousands of people in Yemen suffer from diabetes. My wife is one of those who suffers.

My range of information on the above subject is quite limited and I am not a qualified person to discuss it. However, I ventured some personal research about the causes and treatment of diabetes, and narrate my findings for the benefit of our ordinary citizens of Yemen.

I learned that there are many factors influencing the development and progress of diabetes. Hereditary factors play an important part for genetic reasons. Obesity due to excess consumption of carbohydrates and fats induces diabetes. Grief due to

loss or sudden illness of a loved and dear one can also be the cause of it. Infection, stress and strain and physical disorders may be reasons for diabetes. Finally, I read that wrong diet is an important factor in the growth and advancement of diabetes.

The symptoms indicating an oncoming attack of diabetes include Polyurea, polydipsia, polyphagia plus headache, weakness, giddiness and body aches. Other symptoms of uncontrolled diabetes are double vision, loss of memory, paralysis, unconsciousness and convulsions. There may be other symptoms of an attack, like trembling of the body, pins and needles and numbness of the hands and feet. I understand that juvenile-onset diabetes develops in childhood, and is characterized by complete lack of insulin in the body, while maturity-onset diabetes usually appears in middle-aged people or elders who are often obese. I have taken interest in the older group because of my age and the diabetes of my wife. I feel that diabetes of this group can be

completely controlled by proper diet. That is how my wife is successfully controlling her diabetes. Thus I stress that diet is the prime element or fundamental source for its control.

Let me first deal with the hereditary factors which cause diabetes. I read that if one of the parent has diabetes, one third of the offspring may develop diabetes in later life. If both parents have diabetes, one-half of the children may develop diabetes later in life. This is not a hard and fast rule, and there are families where no such development has taken place. My personal feeling is that children follow the same pattern of eating and drinking as their parents. They normally prefer the same foods which their parents had taught them to eat. As a result, they inherit some of the rights and wrongs committed by their parents. If we realize these mistakes and correct them, we could then delay the onset or hopefully altogether avoid the "Hereditary Factor." It is sometimes necessary to break with old discredited feeding traditions,

and go for modern principles. My wife didn't inherit diabetes. No one in her family has or had diabetes. Her diabetes was detected when she had repeated toothaches, headaches and giddiness. A lot of tea with sugar, potatoes, rice and other fatty foods were the cause of it. The doctor told her to avoid starchy and oily foods, but she didn't take it seriously at an early stage, and thus developed Diabetes. Her blood sugar reached 300mg%, and sugar appeared in her urine because the kidney's couldn't cope with the high concentration of blood sugar. I read and consulted some doctors before suggesting to her some curative principles, exercise, etc. which was adopted by her. Her FBS is now between 80-120mg%.

The curative principles are mentioned as follows:

- a) Our body needs protein, which is a body builder. High protein products includes meat and most products, fish, eggs, cheese, lentils, etc. We should take a very limited amount of protein, and concentrate more on lentils, which are second class proteins.
- b) Carbohydrates found in white bread, sugar, rice, pot toes and other starchy foods are harm-

ful to a diabetic. They are also a necessary part of anyone's diet. I think a diabetic should change over the whole wheat flour products (take khubz bur with little or no oil), vegetables, and plenty of salads. They have a lower carbohydrate content.

c) Exercise plays an important role in controlling diabetes. Regular daily walks up to two and four kilometers or more is necessary for better control. But don't exercise if your diabetes is not under control. Don't lift weights or try to carry heavy objects. They raise blood sugar.

d) A vitamin rich diet is very good for diabetes. Vitamins 'are available in the foods that we eat. But these are also available in tablet and capsule form. Vitamins A, B, C, D, and E are all essential for the body. A complex is a tablet with many vitamins which should be consumed daily by diabetics.

e) Diabetics should take food punctually at regular times of the day for the proper control of this disease, as the anti-diabetic drug works only for a limited time.

f) Wounds and sores of diabetics, especially on the feet and legs, don't heal and get infected easily, and a little sore can become gangrenous leading to amputation. Diabetics should inspect their feet regularly to

check if cuts, swelling, infection and bruises are there. Keep feet always clean and dry, and don't be barefooted. Take Vitamin C, which fights infection and heals wounds.

Science and technology have advanced stupendously during the twentieth century. There has been advancement in the treatment of diabetes. The science of nutrition now believes that diabetes, and for that matter many other diseases, are both preventable and curable provided that the diseases have not reached an incurable or advanced stage.

My advice to diabetics who have not been able to control their trouble is that they should consult their medical specialists early and consistently. They should know the drugs that they are taking, their effects and side effects, when to adjust the doses, what other drugs to take or not to take in order to avoid hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia attacks.

In conclusion, I can say that diet control can reach a stage when a diabetic will feel that there is no need for drugs anymore. He should consult a Medical Specialist, and should not go off the drugs on his own.

Diabetics can live the rest of their normal lives without any further attacks.

Psychological Diseases on the Rise

Psychological diseases have become more and more common in developing countries. The doctors have pointed out that the spread of psychological diseases are mainly due to health, economic, and social conditions, and the spread of infectious diseases, malnutrition and accidents. They have also stated that the situation may become worse if we take into consideration the lack of psychiatric services; the number of doctors specialized in this field is very small and psychiatric centers are rare in towns, let alone in the country. Yemen is one of these developing countries that suffers very much from this problem. The number of governmental and non-governmental centers for psychological treatment doesn't exceed the number of fingers on a hand. There are a very limited number of psychiatrists, but they are practically helpless with the number of cases they must deal with.

To learn more about this subject, Ahlam Al-Ghawlancee of the Yemen Times paid a visit to the Psychiatric Hospital in Sanaa and had the following interview with the manager of the hospital, Dr. Mohammed Hizam Al-Makramee.

Excerpts:

Q: When was the center established?

A: It was established in July of 1991. It was called the psychiatric care house at that time. It was very limited in its services and specialists, for it started with only one department and one psychiatrist and some nurses. The purpose of the house at that time

was to take care of the psychiatric diseases in the women's cases in the central prison. In course of time it was expanded, until it developed into this large center, and was renamed the Psychiatric Hospital.

Q: What are the services introduced in the hospital?

A: The center was established by the Islah Charity Society, which has been supporting it up to now, with the help of some government organizations and some business men; governmental organizations such as the health Ministry and Military Financing, business men such as Hail Saeed Companies and Al-Gharasee Companies who provide the hospital with food. There is also some support from some non-governmental organizations such as the British Council and the British Assembly, as well as some organizations which help in supplying the hospital with different necessities.



A: As I said, it was restricted to psychiatric women's cases in the central prison, but after various development projects were inaugurated in the hospital, it started working on a large scale and has become a center for receiving all sorts of psychiatric cases.

Q: Who is supporting the center?

A: The center was established by the Islah Charity Society, which has been supporting it up to now, with the help of some government organizations and some business men; governmental organizations such as the health Ministry and Military Financing, business men such as Hail Saeed Companies and Al-Gharasee Companies who provide the hospital with food. There is also some support from some non-governmental organizations such as the British Council and the British Assembly, as well as some organizations which help in supplying the hospital with different necessities.

Q: How many sick cases existed in the hospital?

A: It varies, but it normally is 30-40 cases, and sometimes it increases and sometimes it decreases.

Q: How many cases does the hospital receive every day?

A: There is a separate section in the external clinic in which psychiatrists receive sick cases of different ages and from both sexes. The number of cases that come to the hospital every day are around seven to eight, sometimes they reach as high as ten.

Q: How many cases have been treated, and what is your success rate?

A: Generally speaking, the success rate in psychiatric treatment is very low, but we have some cases in which we have succeeded in treating our patients. There is no specific success ratio for every patient, and there are some complex cases in which the international success ratio is very limited. It is very difficult to judge, because there is a specific treatment for every case.

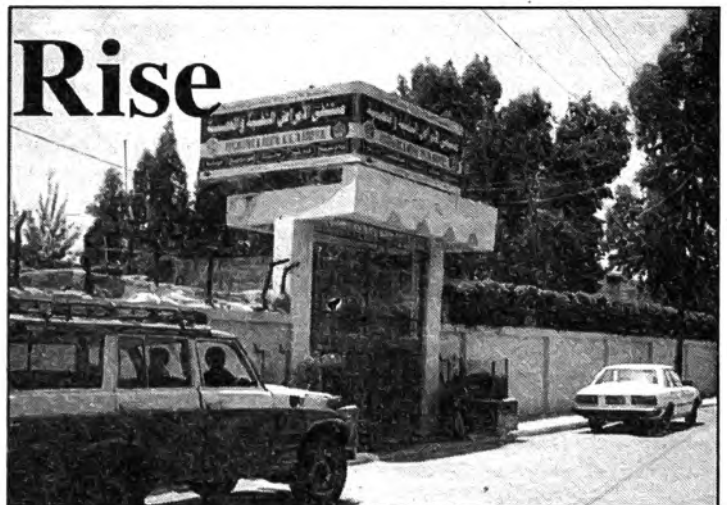
Q: What are the means of treatment in the hospital?

A: There are drugs, therapy sessions, and various types of psychotherapy.

Q: What are the reasons for psychiatric diseases?

A: Generally speaking, the environment and the people surrounding you have a strong influence, besides the circumstances of the person himself.

Q: Are there any newly developed techniques in treatment of psychiatric diseases that have been implemented here in the



hospital?

A: We have newly developed apparatus and techniques, and we are going to receive a new one soon which will help us a lot and is considered to be the latest technology worldwide.

Q: Can we specify the ages that are more liable to be affected by psychiatric diseases?

A: We can not specify the ages which are more liable to be affected by these disease, for psychiatric diseases have no specific time, but can come anywhere from the age of 15-50 years. Youth in our country are also liable to psychiatric diseases, which is mainly because of the deplorable and miserable situation they are in. Children are the least subjected to these diseases.

Q: Are there any activities that are used to pass the time of the sick people?

A: The hospital provides the patients with food, clothes, medicine and residence which are the basic needs. There are other activities such as reading, writing, sewing and drawing. We also have a table tennis, videos, football etc.

Q: Do you charge any fees in

order to get into the hospital?

A: For examining patients have only to pay 100 and if they are coming to stay in the hospital they have to pay 1000. All the other expenses we do our best to cover ourselves.

Q: What are the main obstacles that you face?

A: The difficulties are large, for example we lack the different kinds of medicine and have limited supplies of what is available, the limited amount of equipment, and not enough complete qualified workers. There is also no contact between us and the outside world, and some other difficulties as well such as the non-existence of a library.

Q: What do you aim to achieve in the future?

A: We are planning to establish a new section for men. We also hope to get new equipment and to open a pharmacy.

Q: Any last comment?

A: We would like to express our thanks and gratefulness to the Yemen Times, which is always looking out for the afflicted and trying to comfort them.

Ahlam Al-Ghawlancee
Yemen Times



Underestimation of the Power of the Media Cannot Last Long!

In the globalizing world we are living in, the role of media and information has become extremely important. We in Yemen are beginning to feel this power. The latest such thing was when the final concluding statements of the Emerging Democracies Forum included as part of the Sanaa Declaration the sentence: "providing for private ownership of media and ensuring the impartiality of state-owned media through independent boards or other means." We are slowly realizing that the

media is in fact an extremely strong source of power. For it is more powerful than the leader of the most powerful country, Mr. Bill Clinton, the President of the United States. We all noticed how the media gave him lots of trouble. Was he able to do something about it? The answer is "No, the media was too powerful". Being part of this changing world, Yemen is also witnessing the growth of this power. As more newspapers, more media organs, and in the near future privately owned TV channels and

radios will be founded for the first time in Yemen, media's power increase. Media can be so useful when directed in the right direction. For example, when controlled by the private sector, it can investigate corrupt officials and expose them to the public through TV. Media can expose the wrongdoing of officials, businessmen, or anyone abusing the law. It can at the same time praise and highlight people with good deeds to the public. However, to be more logical,

media cannot play its assigned role in Yemen as it does everywhere else in the world. Yemen is a country living with traditional concepts that cannot be controlled easily. Take for example, if a media organ reports that a tribal sheik was corrupt in some way or another and had received bribes, etc. the tribe will not let this go. The least that could happen is that the tribe could storm the media organ's location, and force the editor to apologize for what has been said, even though the organ only said the truth. Trying to enforce the use of modern tools in a traditional society is quite challenging. Democracy as a whole cannot be implemented unless there is some commitment from the gov-

ernment to have everyone respect the law and abide to it. Otherwise, it is almost impossible to have a democratic country with free media. As the fourth arm of the government, until recently, media was not respected enough. The reason for that is very simple, there was no free media. The only media organs available then were the governmental newspapers, Radio, and TV channels. But today, things have begun to change. Private newspapers are now open to criticize, report, and investigate many things the government doesn't want to be shown to the public. The breakdown, the storming, the closing, and the trial of so many newspapers only indicates that they have

become quite strong organs that are doing their job of being watchdogs keeping an eye on the news events, and the mismanagement of some sectors in community. Now that the government is committed to implementing the law that enables private media, they have no excuse for delay. Soon, the parliament is expected to issue a law permitting the privatization of media, just like any other business (schools, hospitals, companies, etc.) For the people who underestimate the power of media I say be careful, the media is coming, the free media is coming.

Walid Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times

A Railway System in Yemen?

I would like to bring up a very interesting idea that may or may not have been asked or pondered. Has the government of Yemen ever discussed the idea of a railway system? It is a proven fact that a railway system opens up a nation in many areas. Areas such as tourism, medical aid to rural areas, easier access for the citizens to get from one part of

to ports or cities faster. In other words- there is basically no bad thing that could come out of this idea. Except for maybe one- and it is a dreaded but real threat. It is well known that the oil pipelines have not escaped damage caused by groups protesting against local injustices. So a real fear would be that a vital lifeline like a railway would make easy prey.

down in times of economic hardship. So these individuals would benefit from companies that would have easier access to Yemen. India has long been a center of textile exporters. Yemen could become the next center of this ever-thriving industry. The goods could be made in more rural areas and quickly shipped throughout the region. Yemen is in a very special place in the world. It is at the base of the Arabian continent, just a sea away from Africa, close to Persia and the Asian continent. With these large regions so close and having access to a few major bodies of water, Yemen has major trade route potential. All that land wasted on Qat could be put to better use. Newer crops developed around the world could be farmed on these lands. Some regions of Yemen are claimed to be too highly elevated, too dry or any other excuse, but modern science has helped the

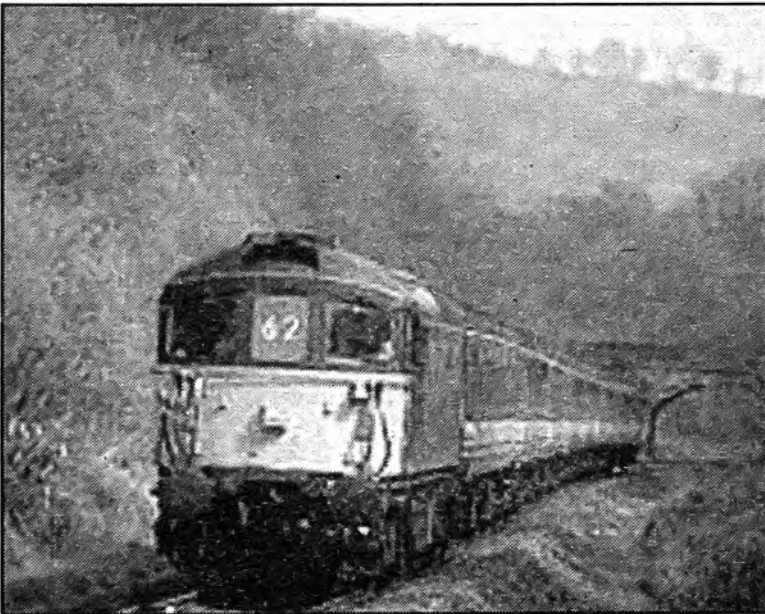
farming industry. There are better options for farmers today than there were even 10 years ago. I had a silly idea about 4 years ago while in Yemen. I see so many chickens being hawked for sale in the streets. They are fairly small amounts of meat. Many families fill up on things like Aseed, which I do not feel, is nutritional enough for smaller kids. But my idea was simple- why not begin a turkey farm? Sounds weird right? Have you ever seen just how large a turkey grows? How much meat can come from one of those? And one cannot say a turkey eats too much. It is still only a bird. You see, although the idea is a small one, it could provide a source of food and money. I know many will think that is a silly idea, but one idea is better than none. And sadly Yemen is lacking in the ideas department because of an overall lack of hope for the future. When I arrived in Yemen last time, the riyal was 85 to \$1 US. Now it has doubled. Other ideas that I have had have only been laughed at. Here in

America, if you want your community to look nice you clean it up. A clean environment makes people feel better and have pride. I do not ask my government to pay me to pick up the trash in front of my house on the street. I do it for a nice place to live. Why can't the citizens of Yemen do the same? I was saddened at the sight of the trash all over the streets. Small children were running all over the neighborhood where we lived amid all the trash. Some picked up bits of it and made toys with it. I pride them for their imagination, but am sickened by the fact that their playground is nothing more than a dump. In order for all of Yemen to have a better standard of living they must start at ground zero. Cleaning their neighbor-

hoods and streets. Using precious land to grow healthy foods instead of Qat. Making education a priority over the military. Encouraging local communities to start some kind of industry/ Even in the poorest regions of the world, small groups make things like baskets, textiles, rugs, sell produce, even make things for tourists, so they can generate some kind of money. This kind of thing would really teach the younger generation the value of hard work and give them hope that not all is lost in Yemen today. The whole country should band together to make a better environment for tourism, because that may be the first step in getting Yemen back into shape before it is too late. Places like Egypt prosper from tourism.

Yemen has as many great sites to see and more local history than most nations will ever have. If all Yemenis want to prosper and get out of this depressing state it is currently in, then all Yemeni's must strive to make Yemen a more inviting place- for themselves, tourists and potential investors. Yemen is the most amazing place, lets all help make it a better place to live or visit. We cannot just sit idly by waiting for the government to "fix it". All Yemeni's must put in their two cents worth. A little national pride never hurt anyone. Then all we can do is pray that the government does their part, especially to draw potential investors to Yemen.

Amy Marilyn Watts



the country to another safely, and many more. America's west wouldn't have been so easily "won" without the advance of the locomotive. India was famed for its railway system. Now even Europe has used the latest advances in railway travel technology to bridge the gap between nations with fast and efficient travel. A railway in Yemen could make travel between major economic centers like Sanaa, Taiz, Ibb, Aden, Hodeidah, and other cities, easier and safer. This railway system would also benefit many people. Badly needed medical supplies could get to where they are needed faster, and grains and other foods could be better distributed as well! Far away areas could be reached without chance of spoilage or theft, and maybe companies could find new areas to set up factories to produce their product. This expansion of commercial infrastructure would help poorer regions by providing employment opportunities. The trains would help transfer products from the production centers

Damage to the tracks or rail cars could be a reality. Another real fear is people not taking precautions at rail crossings. Many deaths occur in America due to people trying to beat the train or getting stuck on the tracks. Although in the overall railway industry these aren't as numerous as one may think, one sad accident is more than enough. But for a developing country like Yemen- a railway is not something that should be overlooked. It is a necessity. People converge upon cities like Sanaa and other crucial economic centers to the point of saturation. Sanaa is especially prone to the problem of over-population. But if the people of Yemen could have a fast link to the major economic centers, then maybe they wouldn't over burden them. If a railway wound its way through Yemen from one important center to another, then maybe the country wouldn't look so impossible to explore for potential industry. Yemen is full of wonderful and hard working individuals who are too proud to back

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Women and Decision Making

A working team of consultants has been formed by the regional office of the Arab countries and the United Nations Development Program, in reference to the position of women and increasing their power and authority in the middle east. The first meeting was held in Casablanca, Morocco, in which ladies from many different countries, including ours, participated. The team took upon itself the study of different issues in the life of the Arab woman in the position of decision making, and the feasibility of making a regional attempt, helped by the UNDP, in this regard. All see the importance of improving the position of women in the Arab countries, as they are still deprived of lots of their rights. The team also agree on making a working draft/program to activate the regional attempts in reference to the state of women, and to help give them the right of making decisions. The program comprises the following activities:

1- Discussions about the positions of women at the national level in each Arab country and trying to reach a decision in view of this issue before the end of

July at the latest.

2- Trying to be in contact so that the women working at the academic level, and in media, parliament and business, can exchange opinions at the Arab level and to have a reference in this regard.

3- Trying to follow the development of women in taking responsibility and making decisions on the national level.

4-Making a comprehensive study including the following:

- The obstacles facing women who desire to reach high positions.

- Documenting the development of women and make records of the pioneering women.

- Women's pictures being depicted in the school curricula.

- Women's pictures in the Arab media.

5- Holding a regional meeting on the Arab level to discuss the role of the Arab media in the development of women's positions.

Yemen has showed a special interest in this issue. The women's national committee has started its work in discussing women's position and the obstacles they face. The national committee intends to hold meetings

to discuss this important issue in the presence of people from the government and decision makers in order to learn the reasons for and the nature of the obstacles that hinder women in gaining control and power - whether social, political, or legal, indicated Amat Al-Aleem Al-Sooswah, the chairman of the women's national committee. Therefore, the national committee held an open discussion in order to reach concrete results. It was attended by Abdul Kader Ba Gamal, the vice chairman of the Prime Minister and Minister of the Exterior, who emphasized the importance of the participation of women in the different fields of life and more importantly in the democratic process. In this meeting, four papers were presented to experts. They are as follows:

1- Working paper on the difficulties and obstacles women face in reaching the positions presented by Dr. Abdul Hadee Al-Hamadane, vice manager of the president's office. It discussed:

- the political rights women have gained so far.
- the obstacles of then women's road to power.

- the role of the government in encouraging women to gain power and authority.

Despite the numerous difficulties women face, great efforts are made by the government, and also great achievements are accomplished by women.

The second paper was presented by Ramziah Al-Ariane, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of the Exterior. The paper indicated the status of Yemeni women in history of Yemen either in the political or cultural level. The paper has also indicated the suffering of women at the face of literacy and deterioration. Ramziah has also made clear that women should be given their right in making decision for some women are highly qualified and competent but they only lack the position in order to implement their skill and knowledge. Another paper about the picture of women in the studying curricula introduced by Dr. Bader Saeed Al-Aghbaree, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Arts and Sciences in Ghawlan. He pointed the extent to which studying curricula help in changing the view towards women.

Amat Al-Aleem Al-Susuwa, Deputy Minister of Information is one of the leading Yemeni female figures in politics



Another paper about the position of women in the media was presented by Mr. Noman Al-Masoodee, the National Expert for Media and Communication and the UNICEF Media Consultant. He talked about the dominant role of women in the history, and what they could achieve after the revolution. He said that the media is not for women, because it has only reflected a distorted picture about them. He asserted that the media should play a vital role in educating women and getting them out of literacy and that some attention should be paid to

the women living in the country which constitutes the majority of women in Yemen. So there should be a change with reference to the view of women. Then Miss. Catrin Fuchs, an Ex-Member of the Administrative Association of the Social Democratic Party said that she has heard a lot about the state of Yemeni women, and about her struggles to learn and work, which do not vary much from the experiences of the German women in the past.

By: Ahlam Al-Mutawaki
Yemen Times

ISLAM: A System of Life

We all know that Islam is a system of practical human life in all its aspects. This is a system that entails the ideological ideal the convincing concept which expounds the nature of the universe and determines the position of man in this universe as well as his ultimate objectives therein.

Islam represents the doctrines and practical organizations which emanate from and depend upon this ideological ideal and make of it a reality reflected upon the everyday life of human beings. These doctrines and organizations include the ethical foundation and its sustaining

power, the political system together with its form and characteristics, the social order and its bases and values, the economic order with its philosophy and institutions, and the international organism with its interrelations. In fact, the Islamic system is so comprehensive, interdependent

and interwoven that it covers all aspects of human life and the various genuine need of man as well as his different activities.

This religion, therefore, is not a mere emotional belief, cut off from the actual domain of human life, as if any such Divine religion could be purely emotional and exclusive. It is not the minimum rites of worship that believers would collectively or individually perform to achieve an appearance of faith. Nor is Islam limited to being a guide on the path to paradise or heaven in the hereafter, while there are means

which by pass religion, when it comes to realizing secular welfare.

The ramifications of the Islamic system are in obvious and profound that it would be futile to attempt depicting it as an emotional creed divorced from practical life's organizations and institutions. Nor could it be taken as a belief that promises a paradise in the next life to those who perform its rituals, without applying in their everyday life its distinctly unique institutions, jurisprudence and methodology. We are aware of the strenuous efforts which have been exerted by the enemies of Islam such as Zionism or Christianity for a long time in a effort to confine Islam to the emotional and ritual circles, and to be it from participating in the activity of life, and to check it complete predominance over every human secular activity, a position it earns by virtue of its nature and function.

Nevertheless, we are certain that this religion of Islam is so intrinsically genuine, so colossal and deeply rooted that all such efforts and brutal concussions will avail nothing. We are also certain that the dire need of mankind for this system is much stronger than the acrimonious

hate of its enemies. Humanity is heading for the deep, awful precipice of destruction. The sages are ringing the bells of alarm and are searching for the way of escape, but there is no escape - expect by returning to God (Allah) and by following. His path and righteous system. From everywhere there are loud voices of people calling for help and rescue who are searching for a "Savior" with certain imagined features and properties. But these features and properties belong to this religion of Islam and to nothing else.

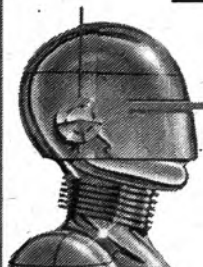
By: Abdulqawi Dahan Ahmed

أفراح آل النزيلى

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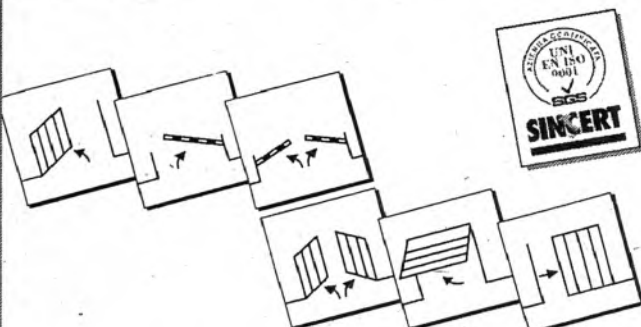
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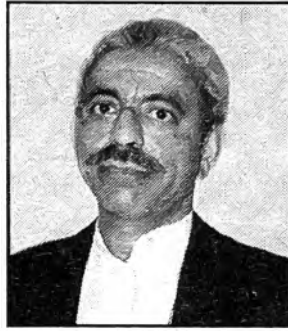
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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Let Bilquis Have Another Try at It



"That Soudy* Qat will do it to you every time," remarked Sallam sarcastically at the latest of Hamid's qat session bombshell topics, continuing, "The Presidency of Yemen is hard enough for men to wrestle with, yet our Ahnoumy friend here has the audacity to think that the weaker gender should have a go at it!"

Hamid had known well that his suggestion would not fail to stir up the qat session of his six friends that he had joined half an hour before. Hamid also liked Soudy Qat, when it was in season, usually after the spring and autumn rains. He responded: "Soudy Qat or no Soudy Qat, my nomination for President still stands. I really believe that if we let Bilquis rule Yemen before, why not give her another chance?"

The host of the qat session, known as the "Teacher," for his scholarly eminence and high degree of literacy, was glad to see a lively debate brewing up at today's qat session. Hamid was among the regulars to attend his daily sessions, and it is regarded as one of the most interesting qat sessions in Sana'a. The number of those attending ranges from 4 to 20. He had a knack for throwing in controversial or provocative topics that stimulated an enjoyable free-for-all debate. He commented: "Hamid have you lost hope in your own gender? You don't believe that there is a man suitable enough to take on

the responsibility of the leadership of the country?"

Hamid answered: I look at it this way; if all the men we have had as kings and presidents have found it so difficult to bring peace and stability to the country, even for just a little while, so that we can catch our breath and orient the country and its people towards progress and prosperity, then let us try the next possible leadership alternative, let 'Bilquis' have another try at it.

The Teacher spoke: "Hamid, what about the rejection this would encounter, in view of the social framework and traditions of the society. This is surely a man's world, and a woman would have a hard time in a male-chauvinist environment."

"It seems to me that it is the men who seem to have a hard time getting us anywhere, except in reverse gear," responded Hamid to the host.

Faris, another Soudy Qat chewer wanted first to set Sallam straight on Soudy Qat: Look, Sallam, Soudy Qat rivals your best quality qat, when it is in season; besides, it is a good opportunity to economize on the qat habit, by enjoying relatively good qat at relatively low prices. I know some rich people who enjoy this variety, when in season, because of its high potency. Now, back to Hamid's suggestion, I agree with our Professor here that you will have men beating their heads against the wall rather than succumbing to the dictates of a

woman. What about our bearded friends over there (pointing at the two Moslem activists of different persuasions that were sitting in front of him). They would probably burn their beards in protest, at the idea. What do you say Haroun?"

Haroun, a loyal activist of the "Road to Heaven Party," although not a qat chewer, attends qat sessions in the hope of finding potential recruits for his party and to keep in tune with the local grapevine, especially on the political issues of the day. He answered Faris: "Islam has clearly defined women's place in society. Moreover, this would certainly conflict with our traditional values.

Ali, another Moslem activist, of a slightly different conviction that seems to have a wider dimension, had a different view than Haroun's: "There is no specific legal text or provision in Islamic Jurisprudence, which forbids women from being engaged in any vocation. In fact, of all of Yemen's rulers, only a woman ruler - Bilquis, the famous Sabeian queen - got honorary mention in the Koran and was blessed with the marriage to King Solomon - a Prophet of God - in his own right, who never condemned her for being a ruling queen, nor did he admonish Yemenis for letting a woman hold the reigns of power."

Haroun was always ready with his answers: "Ali, may God enlighten your path, you seemed

to have forgotten - that was before Islam."

Ali, was not so easily to be outdone: "As proponents and strong advocates of our religion, as you make yourselves out to be, you people seem to have a naïve understanding of the historical and political manifestations that our great religion really portrays. Islam was not a doctrine of sudden spontaneous birth, that began with Mohammed, then took a nap for a over a thousand years, until you guys came along to supposedly give it back its glory! Read the Koran meditatively. Noah, Ibrahim, Ismael, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon and Jesus Christ, may Allah bestow all of them with His blessings, and all the other prophets and messengers of God who came before Mohammed, were all propagators of Islam, the only religion and way of life ordained by God for Mankind since time immemorial. Mohammed was only the crowning missionary of a long series of deliveries from heaven, by men and women, who were entrusted with revealing the truth to mankind over the ages and delivering their people, and eventually all of mankind, by Mohammed's crowning spiritual mission, from ignorance into true spiritual and mundane enlightenment combined. Thus, the light of Islam has been shining throughout the Universe over the ages. Therefore, if you are going to be an advocate of Islam, you must be conceptually well informed of it first."

Faris quickly entered back into the discussion: "Haroun, take your views from Ali there. He seems to make a lot of sense to me. Also, a little Soudy Qat will open up vast horizons for your

mind - even for the cause, which you uphold. Back to Hamid's astonishing idea, I am just worried that if a woman becomes President of the Republic, she is going to decree that the job descriptions for men and women be exchanged. Thus the woman will wear the jambiyas and the men will wear the aprons. The women will be the head of the households and the men will wash the dishes, cook and all perform all the other tasks that have been generally confined to the tender gender since time immemorial."

The host saw no problem in that: Faris, just enroll in a speedy home economics course and you will be able to put on your apron in no time at all. Pretty soon, you will get to have onion tears running down your cheek without having to worry about your make-up getting smudgy, or do you plan to put on make up?"

Sallam picked up on the mood for hilarity: "If this means giving up our *asib*** - jambiyah belt - to my wife, I would think she would have to get a highly uplifting bra to prevent her breasts from getting sores from too much friction with the dagger handle."

Everyone cracked up in laughter. Murad, a university professor returned to the serious matter at hand: Look, you guys, Yemen has known prosperity under two women leaders, the Queen of Sheba - reputedly said to be Bilquis - and Queen Arwa, who ruled when the 300 year Suleihi dynasty was at its peak after Mohammed, Peace of Allah be upon him. There were no qualms about this being against values or traditions. On the other hand, if a woman were to become President, security expenditures would be vastly reduced, as our woman President would not have to worry about being assassinated, since it is against the Yemeni honor code to kill women and

children."

Sallam pointed out some other worries that were bothering him: "If a woman ruled this country, she would not find enough time to look after the affairs of state, considering her busy social schedule, with women's social occasions as extended as they are in this country."

The host had reassurances, in that respect: "Look, Sallam, we have to be fair when evaluating women, in general, and those of our country, in particular. I do not think anyone here could bear the burdens of pregnancy and the pains of child delivery. Nor is there anyone of us with the patience for caring for the kids, doing the chores, cooking our meals - which most of us want 'baladi' or traditionally prepared and fresh, etc. On top of that, women carry out a lot of chores in the farms. They also manage the households when the men are either working overseas or in the cities, or when they are at war with each other. The social pre-occupations that Sallam mentions are usually the excessive practices of the affluent spoiled urban women, which are mostly irrational and unjustifiable, when viewed in the context of the original reasons for which such practices were instituted. We would hope that the woman President who Hamid has in mind does not come from this lot.

"I would think that the first woman President would come out with the ruling that only Soudy Qat is chewed. This will be in an effort to help balance the family budget as a prelude to balancing the budget of the government!" said Hamid as he gathered his things to leave.

* Qat of a commercial variety, grown in the Al-Ahnom area of Hashid, in the northern highlands of Yemen.
** Dagger belt

Letters to the Editor

Our Children on Holidays

School and university holidays are quite important. This what had been said by the specialists in educational fields. There are many reasons for this, for example recreation, revival and social activities. This is according to the programs that were prepared already by the schools and universities, in co-ordination with the ministers.

What have we done to our student to benefit from their holidays? The answer is NOTHING, because they are playing in streets, disturbing our calm, chewing qat, and the luckier of them play video games.

Why shouldn't we organize programs like journeys, lectures, debates and computer studies, and strengthen them in their weak subjects?

In my point of view, this is the best way to improve the standard of our students, to bring them up smoothly and prepare them for the foreseeable future, because the children of today will be the officials and ministers of tomorrow.

Faisal Alamin Mhame Sudanese Mission

A Hidden Point of View

The 7th July is considered to be the greatest day of this decade. It is the day of the greatest victory of the Yemeni people. In this day of 1994, we as Yemenis announced our strong will and our absolute wishes and desires to take the democratic option and choose the part of the united Yemen, which is to be constituted as a country of law and order. It is this will-power of the people - motivated by their hopes and dreams for a wealthy and healthy future - which made the triumph of the 7th July realistically possible. It was the victory of the democracy, freedom, unity and justice.

In fact, no one doubts about the greatness of this day and its historic value in the minds of all Yemeni people. But the questions which rise to the surface and have to be answered by all the members of our government are: What does the 7th July really mean? Or what do we have to do

after the 7th of July 1994? Is it enough to immortalize the day or repeat the same eloquent words and celebrate the event only?

In my point of view, I think it means more than that, it is far more important. It is rather a clue or ideal, which has to motivate us in our responsibility to think deeply about how we can elevate the standard living of the people and their country. We have to do our best to develop and construct our civilized country to be ready for the future, and in contact with the technology of the world around us. We seriously have to look for ways to deal with the parasites in our society, whose aims are to gain and gain more and more, and just put what they have gained in their accounts. Those who act this way pay no attention to the glory, happiness and progression of Yemen, so they have to be punished and sentenced to death if we want to gain glory and become civilized and democratic country.

It is natural that there should be victims for the sake of this ideal; as the late Professor Al-Saqaf

said "There is no glory without risk." But such ideals deserve our efforts and abilities to be put forth in working to accomplish them, at least for the coming generation.

It is this logical way of thinking which we need to realize the glory of this day, and not only immortalize and celebrate it as a historical event, but rather as a spiritual thing which encourages us to work hard and also to do our best to establish and rebuild the country of law and order, which we wished for when we said "Yes to United Yemen" and "No to Separateness."

It is a fact that we really need a radical reform in order to correct any sort of corruption and disorder in our society. This reform can not be valid or accomplished without the aids of all those in Yemen who are led by our gracious leader, Ali A. Saleh.

So I finally end this emotional letter by urging our leader to start reforming and correcting the defects and the faults of the institutions of the government. It is very easy to do so, for the sake of

the whole of the Yemeni people, who are still waiting for such an encouraging step.

Amin Al-Dubai.

Modernizing The Democracy of Sheba

Yemen has been the land of democracy since the days of queen Bilquis who ruled at the time of the kingdom of Sheba, and has been one ever since, inspite of the hard times and difficult situations which it has been through. This democracy was already planted in the soul of every Yemeni and buried in the majestic mountains, green valleys, desert lands, amazing coasts, countryside and cities, it was only awaiting its awakening and development further along the appropriate lines.

The revolutions of the 26th of September and 14th of October were the first step in opening the door to democracy and establishing the right of the lower classes of society to participate in making political decisions.

After the election of Ali Abdullah Saleh as president in 1978, Yemen sped further along the path to a free and fair electoral process than any other country in the region, democracy began to spread in Yemen, and the people began to realize and understand

the importance of the democratic experience, inspite of the short time since the election of president Ali Abdullah Saleh, and since the first rules of democracy were planted.

The unification of Yemen in 1990 deepened the meaning of the democratic experiment in Yemen, and advanced the political participation that is represented by the relationship between the rulers and the society, as well as opening the doors of Yemen to the outside world and enabling it to become a member of the international society.

The democratic experience in Yemen enabled the different parties and political organizations to practice and exercise their democratic and political rights by peaceful means in order to achieve their announced political program.

The democratic process has also guaranteed the general freedom that is regarded as right and fundamental principle in the political and social system, and all Yemenis have made a commitment to maintain the path of free democracy.

Therefore, Yemen will be no more the country that time forgot, and will always be the land of democracy.

Wagdy Mohammed Al-Kadasi

Towards Promoting Yemeni Readers' Sensitivity



Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,
Associate Professor
College of Education, Mahweet

The role of newspapers in carving out a new and healthy social order can never be overestimated. A cursory glance at the currents and crosscurrents of world history gives ample evidence of the crucial role the printed media has played in spearheading revolutions in the realm of ideas, as a result of which old and decadent ideas have yielded place to the new. The French Revolution, The American War of Independence, the Indian Freedom movement, and the South African Liberation movement have all gained substantial momentum, thanks to the pioneering role of newspapers as the heralds of new ideas.

Throughout the history of the civilization, it has been individuals with the required vision and outlook, or a creative minority, who have been instrumental in providing leadership to translate the ideas into action and help mankind shake off the shackles of slavery to decadent ideas.

In the context of globalization and the approaching millennium, we here in Yemen, like all others in the rest of the world, are gearing up to herald a new social order, stripping off the practices that have been worn by the ravages of time. Many pertinent issues in the social, academic, administrative, environmental, hygienic and other spheres of human activity are being espoused in print and in the electronic media for raising the level of public awareness and inviting people's participation in the successful implementation of the new, incoming ideas with a global perspective. But, the question is whether we are taking adequate note of all the ideas, and deciding on appropriate strategies on the individual or social levels, in order to make the ideas a reality. As we know, ideas are only abstract entities, and cannot bear fruit unless followed up by an appropriate action plan. Ideas are, of course, sparks and have the potential to ignite the process of creative transformation, provided a step is taken at the right time and in the right direction. As Shakespeare says:

"There's a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the full leads on to fortune ..."

On the other hand, if we continue to hibernate in the midst of the flowing ideas, there will be nil progress.

Sometimes we may be convinced of the saliency of the ideas and

the urgency of their adoption or adaptation, but the din and bustle of life and its pressing demands may not permit us to seriously pursue these. As a result, the induced ripple of enthusiasm dies a natural death and ideas do not crystallize into concrete action.

Lack of sensitivity to the pertinent issues around us is certainly a sign of disease, not of health. Inertia, inaction, and indolence are all symptoms of decadence, not of progressiveness. As such, the need of the hour is to sensitize ourselves to the latest developments in various fields of human endeavor, and to have the will to act.

When we have before us a plethora of issues, we have to decide on our priorities in terms of their personal or social relevance and place them in context. Otherwise, we run the risk of losing a sense of purpose and direction in the bewildering profusion. Having decided on the priorities, the next important thing is to decide on the logistics of it. This needs insight and careful planning of the steps in the process. We should be clear sighted enough to see how and where to begin, how to follow it up and how to carry an issue to its logical end, giving it a fitting closing. But the fact remains that it is the proper perspective which is of utmost importance. Beginning is highly significant, because 'well begun is half done.' Consistency and precision in following the successive steps are of no mean significance, in so far as the process adopted to complete a task is to a large extent the chief determinant of the product. Self-sustaining vigour and vibrant enthusiasm are the prime catalysts recreating, renewing, reinvigorating, and enriching the individual to move ahead until the goal is reached and the task is well accomplished.

Social transformation is a slow process. No millennium has ever been achieved overnight or effortlessly. It calls for a tremendous amount of verve, vitality and vigour. It is a long and somewhat arduous process involving a lot of insightful planning, cautious execution, continual monitoring and evaluation, and required modifications. "Rome was not built in a day." Sometimes the frankenstein of frustration might threaten to intimidate all our reserves of energy, pushing us to the brink of dejection and despondency. Patience and forbearance should stand us in good stead, and we should unrelentingly march ahead with single minded grit and resolve.

However determined an individual is, he cannot move mountains alone. The successful accomplishment of a task of any serious magnitude is contingent on the concerted mass action, in which the individual initiative is the very foundation of the endeavor. The Yemeni press is alive to the abiding needs of the contempo-

rary society, and is leaving no stones unturned to educate the public sensibility by publishing a good deal of instructive material. But these ideas, covering a wide range of areas of public interest, would remain at the level of abstractions unless the propositions crystallize into tangible action plans.

Hence, the need of the hour is to form task forces to formulate an agenda of action on frontiers such as health and hygiene, cleanliness, literacy drives, tourism and so forth. In this way, the newspapers and other mass media can relate themselves more meaningfully to social needs. So, let's wake up to the compulsions of the present and the imperatives of the future, and, like a man of action, 'take arms against a sea of troubles and by opposing end them.' The NGO's can also come forward and join hands in the venture. The call of the moment is to diversify and reach out. We may heed the voice of oriental wisdom:

"Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached."

"No words, but acts,"

Development, in realistic terms, is a bottom-up process. But the beginning has to be made somewhere by somebody. It is better to light a candle than to curse darkness.

Yemen is an old country, but a young nation. The crucial stakeholders for national reconstruction and social transformation are decidedly the mass of intelligentsia; the intellectuals, the thinkers who are the pioneers, the torch bearers, and leaders in the sphere of public life. If their minds are a laboratory, a Think-Tank to tryout different alternatives, new ideas can emerge and Yemen can achieve the quantum leap.

Aden's Seashores: Crying for Help!

"We have not come to destroy the land, but we have come to build it and benefit from its fruits"

-Sultan Thoran Shah, when building the City of Aden 821 years ago.

History stands as evidence that Aden is among the most ancient cities of the world, but it has also seen many of the worst times. It suffered furious wars and battles throughout the years, from the era Before Christ, until the unity

nation.

However, there is also a dark side to the story. After the civil war of 1994, many open, clean, and beautiful seashores began to take on a new appearance.

With shock and disbelief, natives witnessed construction, buildings, and hotels and restaurants being built on the public property of the city, on the beach! The coast, which used to be open, is now blocked and you cannot see the sea any more. Villas, markets, and other establishments were

all of this is happening under the direct supervision of the government. Land is being taken away from the public property and being sold and built upon, while the people in charge are watching silently.

What is even more pathetic is that there are projects, such as the Khormaksar Beach Retreat, which have cost the country more than 152 million rials, and are still in their preliminary stages. Why this ignorance? Why this mess?



war in 1994.

But one cannot deny that Aden has been blessed with many beauties. It has a fascinating coastline that is not available elsewhere in Yemen. Al-Tawwahi town, which lies on the Goldmore coastline, as well as the Coast of Lovers, are among the most fabulous areas of nature in the Arabian Peninsula.

What comes to mind when watching the beauty of the coastline of Aden, is tourism. The beauty can become one of the strongest elements in making Aden a world wide tourist desti-

built on the shore, and prevented the local citizens from having even a view of the shore, let alone going for a swim. The garbage and remains from the construction in these areas has filled up the shores, and turned them into open garbage pit, and a place where even sewage was directed.

People who knew Aden 10 years ago ask "is this the city of Aden?" "How did this happen?" "Who is responsible for this mess?"

Many questions need to be answered, but the problem is that

The people in Aden miss the sea breeze they used to feel every morning. All they see now are the leftovers from trucks that come and go from construction sites right on their beaches and seashores. They are sad but can do nothing about it. Returning Aden to its original state is in the hands of the government, and if it is willing to make Aden a better place, it should start responding to the cry of the beaches of Aden, before it becomes too late.

Ridwan Al-Saqqaf
Aden Bureau Chief

The Rulers and the Ruled in Yemen



A critical issue that demands our consideration and should hold our attention is our political life. Every individual should be very much aware of his identity, particularly as it relates to his political life. It is evident that there is a commonly held belief in the futility of involving oneself in the actions and activities of the decision makers. To put it more simply, there is a tendency for the gap between the rulers and the ruled to grow wider.

This gulf results in disharmonious, turbulent relations and contacts between the two classes. Eventually, even laws are applied differently across the two groups. This separation is the result of several factors:

1- The strong grip of the rulers on the elements of power and control and the great conse-

quences when people intervene. The rulers are in control and handle affairs as they see fit, without any active participation by the common people in the process of decision making. When people try to assert their rights, they are subjected to grave consequences such as beating imprisonment, torturing, threatening etc.

2. Lack of a sense of accountability and transparency in almost all the activities that go on under the regime's authority. Accountability means that the good are rewarded and the bad are punished, but this can never be if there is no ultimate law and authority, which is over everyone. Unfortunately, some of the people in power exploit their positions and take the law into their own hands to protect themselves and maintain their interests. They have actually become strong and influential because of their positions. They have also become united, as they have the same mutual interests, and they work together to do whatever

they want with visible impunity and strength. They enjoy unlimited power, and complete control over those around them. Therefore, any attempts made by figures in the ruling system to reform the system have come and will come to no avail. As a result, an all encompassing corruption prevails, and extends to all aspects of life. Experiencing this, the people become depressed and lose their trust in the system. This loss of trust further widens the gulf.

3- The lack of awareness of people of their duties and rights, which should be preserved by the institution. Many people are afraid of the rulers, who seem to be on a different level than the normal people. The majority of the people are illiterate, or barely able to write, while those in power are educated and influential. They always "rubber-stamp" the decisions of the authorities, because they don't understand what is going on. These blind followers are obstacles on the

road to change, prosperity and democracy. The other kind of people are those who are literate, who can be further divided into two groups. One group goes with the flow, and does anything necessary to gain at least some degree of power and control. When they are faced with this accusation, they claim there is nothing they can do, and say "if something is unchangeable, it should be bearable." The third group includes people who are highly committed to political matters, and are fully aware of the importance of their participation. However, they are a minority, and their role is therefore restricted.

There should be a sincere attempt to make people aware of the importance of their participation, and their importance to political progress, in order to nurture and sustain the democratic transition, and help it to grow.

Tawfeek M. Al-Sharaby
Yemen Times

SILVER LINING

By: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Managing Editor, Yemen Times

Elections & the Plight of the Opposition



The upcoming presidential elections are the main topic of discussion and debating of the Yemeni people nowadays. These elections are of a pivotal significance since it lays the basis of a democratic practice that will help promote and flourish the infant democratic process in Yemen, no matter what the result is. However, this first experience, where the president of the state will be elected directly by the people for the first time in the modern political history of Yemen, should lead to fair elections and minimization of the mistakes that might arise on the scene. In this way, we will be laying the foundation for a long-term future democratic process, although I believe no democratic system can be built overnight.

In the final analysis, the presidential elections will almost certainly not bring any changes in the power center, for most political analysts see that president Ali Abdullah Saleh is stuck without a challenger. This is because he is the nominee of the People's General Congress (PGC) and the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah), the two major political parties in Yemen. However, it is not just that. Rather, he has no strong competitor in the country, and most people see him as the man of the times.

After the opposition parties failed to convince either Dr. Faraj Bin Ghanem, former prime minister, or Dr. Yassin Saeed Noman to be their nominee for the coming elections, they fell out in tumult, amid controversy over who else to nominate. The past few days have clouded the horizons with controversial discussions and debates amongst the opposition parties, which brought the dreams of their backers to ashes. It seems that the opposition has not learned a lesson from the previous parliamentary elections of 1993 and 1997. At last, the tough decision was made last Saturday evening and the opposition recommended Mr. Ali Saleh Obad, The Yemeni Socialist Party's Secretary-General, to be their candidate for the presidential elections. But, was that decision right and convincing? Is Mr. Obad able to strongly compete against president Saleh? Or was it a bargain between the government and the opposition? This is because everybody knows that Obad is not popular so enough that people will cast their votes for him either in the southern or northern governorates. Or was it because he comes from the southern governorates and hence he will definitely and without any obstacles get the parliament's okay, so that people feel some kind of a political balance. We don't want it to go that way, for casting votes for the candidates on the basis of their being from the south or north will put the Yemeni unification in jeopardy.

I believe, as does everybody else, that Dr. Yassin was the man to compete strongly, for he has a lot of supporters all over the country, irrespective of whether or not he was going to win. But, he could surely have gotten a large number of the votes, which would have at least shown the real size of the opposition in Yemen, which is actually a help in our democratic process. But the nomination of Mr. Obad makes the people feel that all of it

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is a mere decoration. Another point that has to be mentioned here is the very disappointing and hasty decision of the Islah party regarding the nomination of the president Saleh. The Islah was even prior to the PGC in announcing their nomination. This decision might bring about internal division

leading to splinter factions among the Islah party. However, the behavior of the Islah and other opposition parties highlights a real political crisis in Yemen, and that president Saleh is the man to trust. The fluctuation of the opposition leaves president Saleh as the man of the time, stuck without a challenger.

Therefore, we hope the president will take this chance to again breathe new life into the Yemeni society. This is because his people are troubled by many problems and pitfalls. Real political, economic and social reform has to start now, and it is only president Saleh who can do it. We will wait and see!

اجمل التهانى للاخت
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وكذلك للانسنة
منال النهاري
بمناسبة عقد قرانها
المهنون: الاستاذ/ يحيى قنبر
د. محمد النهاري، محمد الفايزي.



Yemen Press in a Week

Compiled by: Mohammed A. Abbas

الطريق

Attariq,
Aden Weekly,
Independent,
13/7/1999

Front Page Headlines

- 1- In a press statement, Dr. Yassin Saeed Nu'oman says that it is better to avoid political defeat.
- 2- Mr. Ali Saleh Obad declares that his battle in the upcoming presidential race is a battle to change conditions in Yemen.
- 3- In Hodeidah, an armed group broke into the pilots' residence.
- 4- Strong public reactions over last week's attack in Sanaa that resulted in the killing and injury of three citizens of Shabwah.
- 5- Two persons from Haraz have been kidnapped by the Jahm tribe of Marib.
- 6- In Aden, Public Land and Real Estate Authority issues an ultimatum overruling former land ownership documents.

الوحدوي

Al-Wahdawy,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
the Nasserite Unionist Party,
13/7/1999.

A- Front-Page headlines

- 1- Amid widespread public satisfaction as a result of the opposition's agreement on the Presidential candidate, Mr. Moqbel presents his nomination papers to the Parliament.
- 2- The Opposition Coordination Council meets with leaders in the Islah Party to discuss the failure of the Supreme Elections Commission in the issue of correcting the voters lists.
- 3 - A report released by the Parliament reveals illegal tax collecting by the government estimated at billions of Yemeni Rials.
- 4- The Algerian suspect Abu-Hurairah testifies in the court that he was admitted into the country by a Yemeni passport given to him through Bin Ladin.
- 5- In Ibb, a group of armed bandits broke into the shop of a money changer and ran away with YR. two million, while another group of security staff interrupted a wedding party to arrest the bridegroom amid strong outrage from the attending party.

B- Issue's Editorial

At the outset of this week, parties in the Opposition Coordination Council were able to take the first and the most important step on the road of their struggle to fulfill the people's expectations when they successfully agreed on a unified presidential candi-

date with a unified agenda and platform. Similarly important is that those parties are now more aware of their historical responsibilities for affecting the long-desired change, armed with a strong will and determination to overcome any possible obstacles on the road to a better future.

Moreover, this agreement is a wonderful example of these parties unshakable allegiance to and respect for the will of the masses who have been suffering in exemplary patience and forbearance. In fact, this move is a true response to the pulse of every citizen of Yemen who, for a very long time, has been waiting for the time when he/she can freely determine their own destination and optionally substitute the heritage of decay with the practical alternative of change. When the ordinary citizen says yes for the opposition candidate, he/she indeed says yes for a future that can assimilate the spirit of our times and at the same time will never overstep the singular values of our society.

البراق

Al-Balagh,
Sanaa Weekly,
Independent,
13/7/1999

A- Front Page headlines

- 1- Nahm tribe threatens highway interceptions on Sanaa-Marib highway.
- 2- In Hodeidah airport, a group from Al-Haima kidnapped a pilot due to a tribal dispute with Marib.
- 3- President of the Republic accepts the PGC's nomination for him as the party's candidate for the Presidential elections.
- 4- An Appeal Court in the Capital Secretariat sanctions the death sentence against the person who killed an Egyptian mosque preacher in Sanaa last year.
- 5- A joint delegation from Japan and UN volunteers arrived in Sanaa on an acquaintance visit to the UN-funded-programs in Yemen.

B- Issue's Editorial

Members in the PGC's Permanent Committee have unanimously nominated president Ali 'Abdullah Saleh as their candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. This nomination comes to reflect the will of the majority in our country as the members of PGC's Permanent Committee do not represent themselves alone, but stand for a considerable section of the Yemeni people the country over. It is true that this nomination provides a strong support to the president, but at the same time, it should increase his sense of responsibility and commitment to the masses in his party, and also to the Yemeni people as

a whole. In this respect, we believe that the words President Saleh delivered to the PGC's PC members should be put into force as the basic and vital public demand. More often than not, we hold the President accountable for most of what's happened in our country for he alone has the decision and the power to direct the course of events in Yemen. Perhaps the President himself is better acquainted with the pressing demands of the public, so he can put an end to the state of corruption and chaos although he seems to be hesitant to deal with these issues that are strongly embedded in the complicated realities of the tribal and militaristic society of Yemen. This state of indecision has done harm to the president's good reputation that was created through times of great achievements.

In regard to the opposition in our country, we think it is time that it should reconsider its responsibilities and set them in due order, as its performance has often proved to be unrealistic and bears no relationship to the urgent demands of the public. This issue is of paramount importance for the opposition parties to rebuild bridges of communication with the public, bridges that have been so far disconnected.

رأي

Ray,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The League of the Sons of
Yemen (Rabita Party),
13/7/1999.

A- Front Page headlines

- 1- Excessive Human right violations while Amnesty International holds Political Security Office accountable.
- 2- No Presidential Candidate for the Rabita Party, which leaves the issue to be decided through the people's choice.
- 3- Khuwlan grants Hashid the fourth and the last chance to hand over the assassin of Al-Shariff, a son of Khuwlan tribe.
- 4- Rabita Party expresses support for local independent press reporters who have been a subject of outrageous slander by Al-Mithaq newspaper.
- 5- Security authorities continue detention of 27 citizens in Kuradha, Sabir, Taiz.
- 6- Last Saturday Morning, a person was killed and others were injured in the Capital Secretariat as a result of clashes between a businessman and a military troop serving in the First Armored Division.

B- Issue's Editorial

The message our brothers in the government received from the Emerging Democracies Forum has been unmistakably clear and evident. They have been told by the Forum that Yemen is passing through a critical transitional

period, and that if she passes it, she will be able to put her feet on the first good step on the road of democratization. In other words, this message calls on the Yemeni government to begin this process with a clear vision that should move along with a comprehensive political reform to clear away all the crooked practices and distorted traditions inherited from the old totalitarian regime.

The Forum has strongly affirmed that democracy can never be completed with the absence of the Other in a fair and equal play of democracy, and that election is not an end in itself but a means of effecting a better change in the people's life.

That has been the message delivered to the officials in our country. Yet, it was only a few days after the Forum that these officials nonchalantly ignore these messages, at least as far as their recent preparatory activities for the Presidential elections seem to indicate. So far they have been unable to grasp the full significance of this prime experience, and instead they have settled their minds to utilize the presidential election in the best possible way that can in order to serve their own interests. Now, given the recent unhealthy environment surrounding the pre-election activities, the future consequences that loom in the horizon can only bring forth failure and disappointment, which could damage the entire process of our young democracy.

We faithfully hope that some one in the government is listening attentively to this message, before it is too late.

الاصحاح

Al-Ummah,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
Hizbul Haq,
15/7/1999.

Front Page Headlines

- 1- In Haraz, two bridegrooms were kidnapped by tribesmen from Jahm, Marib. Jahm tribe accuses some people from Haraz of having kidnapped a girl from their tribe and demand the release of the girl in return of the release of the Harazi people.
- 2- Including thirty other presidential candidates, the Opposition Coordination Council's presidential candidate submits his papers to the Parliament.
- 3- The Opposition Coordination Council turns down accusations against journalists and condemns the Religious Institutes sectarian prejudice against the Shiite Muslims in Yemen, describing such intolerant policies as provocative and security threatening.
- 4- Joint Yemen-Jordanian-American military maneuvers expected to begin in the coming few weeks.
- 5- Tribal clashes between Dahm and Wa'eelah. The clashes are said to have been instigated by a dispute over a piece of land.
- 6- In Abyian Appeals Court, Abul-Hassan threatens retaliation for his colleague Abu-Hurairah who alleges receiving in-prison mistreatment.

tion for his colleague Abu-Hurairah who alleges receiving in-prison mistreatment.

التجمع

Al-Attagammu,
Aden Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The Yemeni Unionist congrega-
tion Party,
12/7/1999.

Front-Page headlines

- 1- In the upcoming presidential race, President Saleh plays the role of a director, while former President Ali Nasser Mohammed plays the role of an actor.
- 2- Moqbil is expected to withdraw from the race in favor of President Saleh.
- 3- In time for the presidential elections, brand new cars are imported to be presented to buy influential political figures' support.
- 4- Commemorating "Victory Day" political security office in Abyan arrests a number of citizens for unknown reasons.

التوري

Al-Thwary,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The Yemeni Socialist Party,
15/7/1999.

A- Front Page Headlines

- 1- Having been approved by the opposition parties as their sole nominee for the upcoming presidential race, Mr. Moqbil hands over his nomination papers to the parliament.
- 2- Political circles disapprove of the government's exploitation of the official media as a propaganda tool in favor of the candidate of the ruling party.
- 3- Thirty Presidential candidates compete in the coming race for the presidency.
- 4- The declaration of the Yemeni Commission for the Defense of Journalists.
- 5- Abyan Appeal court sets the 26th of current July as the deadline for its verdict in Al-Mehdhar case.
- 6- YSP condemns the arrest of Al-Garash, a syndicate activist, by Aden political security office, who are also denying him visits from his relatives.

B- Issue's Editorial

Ali Saleh Obad, better known as Moqbel, is a well known name among the Yemeni National movement and among the Yemeni people at large. During the country's legitimate struggle to free itself from colonial dominance, Mr. Moqbel was among the few staunch fighters who were esteemed for their special talents in leadership and respected for their integrity of character and clean record in politics. In the pro-independence stage, during the period of national reconstruction, Mr. Ali Saleh Obad held a number of senior political posts, and, at the end of each political assignment, he came out as honest and clean as he came in, thereby adding to his brilliant national record in the public

service. Moqbel, this ever-present name in all political ups and downs of modern Yemen has always stood with his own intellectual and political convictions, and never show remorse for the pains and sufferings he had to withstand as a result of his convictions. Conversely, he never expected the people's gratitude, nor is he now waiting for any kind of reward as his modest standard of living demonstrates. Several years ago, when the Yemeni Socialist Party, Mobil's party, was badly hurt as a result of the war and secession, he never hesitated to join hands with his comrades to start the difficult process of the party's reconstruction to enable it restore its leading and natural place in the national front. Again, when he was chosen by his party and other parties in the Opposition Coordination Council as their presidential nominee, he with all the grace and modesty known of him, accepted this challenging task, notwithstanding the enormous difficulties and problems that are facing the process of democracy in Yemen.

This is Moqbil, a bold fighter and an honest citizen, who is now the YSP's and the opposition's presidential nominee.

الصحوة

Al-Sahwah,
Sanaa Weekly, Mouthpiece of
The Yemeni Congregation for
Reform,
15/7/1999.

A- Front Page Headlines

- 1- Following his application to the parliament for presidential nomination, President Saleh describes his nomination by the Islah party as a deal to protect and defend the country's sovereignty and national unity.
- 2- The parliament decides to question the government on fees and financial bails imposed on the public for illegal reasons. A parliamentary report states that most of these fees are imposed and spent for personal purposes.
- 3- For the second consecutive week, authorities in Zabid, Hodeidah, insist on preventing prayers in the historic mosque of Al-Asha'er.
- 4- Islah party continues efforts for correcting the voter's lists, while a number of court verdicts have been passed eliminating duplicated names.

B- Issue's Editorial

Official statements never cease coming forth, reassuring the public of the country's economic situation. In the meantime, economic deterioration continues while inflation crushes the majority as the rate of the local currency continues to decline. Yet the officials never stop talking about remarkable results that have been achieved through the financial and economic reform. Every one except our officials are sure that these statements mean something, while the reality is something else. Nevertheless these statements shall continue, especially in this particular hot season of elections.

Hamid Kadhi: Chess Coach in Qatar

Mr. Hamid Kadhi, one of the distinguished chess players of Yemen, has been hired by the Qatari Union for Chess as a coach for the Qatari youth and junior chess players. Last week, Mr. Kadhi left the country for Doha, Qatar, to start his new assignment. Before he left, he told the Yemen Times that he feels quite excited at the opportunity to try his potentials in the field of coaching outside Yemen, adding that this new experience will be a real test for his skills in the game which he has acquired over many years of hard practice and serious dedication. He pointed out that he has chosen Qatar because of the high level of their performance in chess, and the popularity of the chess game

among the young people in Qatar. He referred to the improvement in the chess local competitions which have been achieved by a group of talented young players. He expressed his hope that the Ministry of Youth and Sports, along with the Chess Union should pay every possible attention to the distinguished players. When asked whether he could represent Yemen in any international chess tournament, Mr. Hamid Kadhi said "My new job in Qatar does not prevent me from representing my country in the international chess events. In fact, I wish I could have got the same opportunity in Yemen and coach local players, but the current situation of the game here is not very encouraging."

Yemen To Take Part In The World Wrestling Championship in Greece

Mr. Mujahid Saraha, Secretary of the Yemeni Wrestling Union has said that the Union has okayed the participation of four wrestlers of different weights to represent Yemen in the upcoming world wrestling championship, which will be held in Athens, Greece, from the 23-26/9/1999. Countries from all over the world will participate in the wrestling championships. Mr. Saraha pointed out that the Yemeni Olympic Commission has agreed to pay for the expenses of one participant and the team's coach, while the Ministry of Youth and Sport will cover the

expenses of the three others. The Yemeni team will fly to Athens from Amman, Jordan, immediately after taking part in the Arab Ninth Sport Round, which has been named after the late monarch of Jordan, King Hussein. Recently, the Wrestling Union has been preparing to set up an outside training camp in Iraq for the Arab Tournaments in Jordan and later for the World Championship in Greece. Among the Yemeni wrestlers expected to do well in the tournament is the Yemeni champ, Mr. Abdullah Al-Ezani, holder of a silver medal in the Arab Tournaments in Lebanon held in 1997.

Before the end of the tournament: 1999 Excellent Football Tournament Champion: Ahli Sanaa

In all the levels of the tournament Al-Ahli Sanaa has proven to be the best team, and will stand alone at the top in the excellent tournament of football this year. Last Saturday, Al-Ahli defeated Shaab Al-Mokala 3/2 in an exciting, strong and tense match. With this win, Ahli-Sanaa leads the teams of the tournament with 65 points. No one else can reach that level in the games remaining Hence, Ahli-Sanaa becomes the champion of the tournament before the tournament has even come to an end. The

The following is the schedule of the dates and places of the matches to be played in the last week of the tournament:

- Sunday 18-7-99**
Shaab Ibb vs. Wahda Sanaa (Ibb)
Zuhra vs. Hilal of Hodeidah (Hodeidah)
Tilal vs. Saqr (Aden)
Taleha vs. Wahda Aden (Taiz)
- Tuesday 20-7-99**
Majid vs. Shaab of Mukallah (Sanaa)
- Wednesday 21-7-99**
Wahda of Aden vs. Ittihad of Ibb (Aden)
- Thursday 22-7-99**
Wahda of Sanaa vs. Shullah of Aden (Sanaa)
Shaab of Ibb vs. Ahli of Sanaa (Ibb)
Saqr of Taiz vs. Hassan of Abyan (Taiz)
Tilal vs. Hilal of Hodeidah (Aden)
Zuhra vs. Shullah (Sanaa)

Team	POINTS	GOALS	RESULTS
Ahli of Sanaa	65	52	9 21 2 1
Wahdah of Sanaa	45	38	17 14 3 5
Shab Ibb	43	40	27 13 4 6
Wahda of Aden	40	28	20 11 7 5
Sholla	38	40	2 11 5 7
Tilal	37	46	30 10 7 6
Hassan	33	25	25 9 6 9
Shab Al-Mukalla	22	21	33 9 5 10
Ittihad Ibb	28	36	38 8 4 12
Zohra	25	18	27 6 7 9
Sagger	24	25	27 5 9 9
Taleha	21	25	43 6 3 14
Hilal	16	27	47 4 4 15
Majed	5	20	73 1 2 20

The Basketball Season gets Underway

A preliminary basketball tournament between four teams was held from the 12th through the 14th of July, 1999. The teams which participated were Zuhra Sana'a, Sha'ab Ibb, Tilal Taiz, and Ahli Aden. Each team played against all of the other teams in the tournament once. The matches were well played, although Ahli dominated all of its games, winning every game by a margin of at least fifteen points, and were declared the champion of the tournament after defeating Tilal. Tilal was second, losing only to Ahli, followed by Zuhra and Sha'ab. This was a minor tournament, meant as preparation for the official tournament due to start in two weeks, but it was well organized and officiated. Basketball is a sport that is still rather new to Yemen, and the sport is still not played very widely, but it is now growing rapidly, and the level of play has risen significantly in recent years. Many of the players on all of the teams were new to the league, and most of these had never played in any official games before, so these games, played by official international rules, were excellent preparation for them. One can only hope that the official tournament will be run as well.

Jeremy Cox,
Yemen Times

Congratulations

The Society of Shipping, Packing and Custom's Clearance Companies presents its best wishes and genuine congratulations to

Mr. Ali Al-Sa'edi,

on the occasion of the wedding of his two sons,

Adnan and Musa.

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- Pacford Int'l Forwarding
Tel: 203375
- International Trading & Services Agency (ITS)
Tel: 272135, 270449
- Yemen Freight Agency (YFA)
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Elephant Gulf Beach Retreat in Aden

The Elephant Gulf Beach Tourist Retreat in Aden City is distinguished for its beautiful design and located in one of the most strategic and attractive areas of the city, which make it one of the best resorts in the city. It is located on one of the most glorious clean beach which attracts many citizens and tourists to come and relax in their vacations. The resort is located at Al-Tawwahi near "Heil" Mountain. It offers many facilities for swimming, tennis, football, and volley ball on its beach. It also provides many delicious meals and many oriental and western drinks.

Passport Lost!

Lost Indian Passport No. A-5248817 in the name of Venkita Subramanian Gopala Krishnan issued at Sana'a on 21-2-1999.

Finder please call 263291/264638/264640.

If you have updates or additions to this list, please call Anwar Al-Sayyadi at Tel: 268661



USD-YR Exchange Rate:

161.00

Sunday evening 18/7/99



EMBASSIES & Consulates

Sana'a:

1. Embassies:

- Algeria 209689/206350
- Bulgaria 208469
- China 275337/341
- Cuba 417305
- Czech Republic 247946
- Djibouti 415985
- Egypt 275948/9
- Eritrea 209422
- Ethiopia 208833
- France 268888
- Germany 413180/413174
- Hungary 263586
- India 243440/248343
- Indonesia 414633
- Iraq 413552/3/4
- Italy 269571/4/5/6
- Italy 269165
- Jordan 413275/6/7/9
- Kuwait 268876/9
- Lebanon 203959/733
- Libya 267636/4
- Mauritania 264188
- Morocco 247964
- Netherlands 263323/4/63
- Oman 208874/5
- Pakistan 248812/3/4
- Palestine 264236/66
- Poland 413523/4
- Qatar 269654/7/11
- Rumania 205515/209003
- Russia (FR) 278719/283142
- Saudi Arabia 240429/30
- Somalia 208864
- Sudan 247885
- Syria 414891/2

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- U. K. 264081/4
- U. S. A. 238842/52

2. Honorary Consulates

- Austria 266725
- Belgium 286965
- Canada 208814
- Denmark (Taiz) 04-215170
- Finland 207018/20/21
- Greece 272218
- Spain 208745
- Sweden 207595/470
- Switzerland 414844

3. International Organization

- FAO 207331/607
- UNDP 415505/6/7
- UNHCR 201856
- UNICEF 211400/1/2
- WHO 252220
- World Bank 413706/8/10
- European Union 248495
- UNFPA 417713

Aden Consulates:

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

Hodeidah (03)

- Bristol 239158
- Ambassador 231247/50
- Al Burj 239336

Taiz (04)

- The Plaza Hotel 220224/26
- Mareb 210350
- Yazan 217997

Mareb (063)

- Bilquis Mareb 2666/2371

Sadah (0751)

- Al Mamon 2203/2459

Mukalla (05)

- Hadhramat 2060
- Al-Itimad 552493

COURIERS:

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

HOTELS:

- Sana'a (01)**
 - Sheraton 237500/1/2
 - Taj Sheba 272372/3
 - Plaza Suites 209074/209903/205483
 - Hadda Hotel 415212/4/5
 - Shahran Hotel 418320/1/2
- Aden (02)**
 - Movenpick 232911
 - Elephant Bay Beach Resort 202055
 - Crescent Hotel 203471/2/3

- Emergency Police 199
- Accident (Traffic) 194
- Fire Brigade 191
- Water Problems 171
- Electricity problems 177
- Telephone enquires 118
- Aljumphury Hospital 274285
- Athawra Hospital 246366
- Kuwait Hospital 283282/3
- Red Crescent 203131/3

BANKS

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

BRANCH OF FOREIGN BANKS:

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

GOVERNMENT OFFICES:

- Foreign Affairs 202544/7
- Interior Affairs 252701/7
- Immigration 250761/3
- Tourism 254032
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- TV Station 332001/2
- Radio Station 282061

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- Aden: 241171
- Taiz: 221561
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- Taiz: 215012
- Hodeidah: 217292
- Aman Insurance Sana'a: 214093
- Hodeidah: 240354

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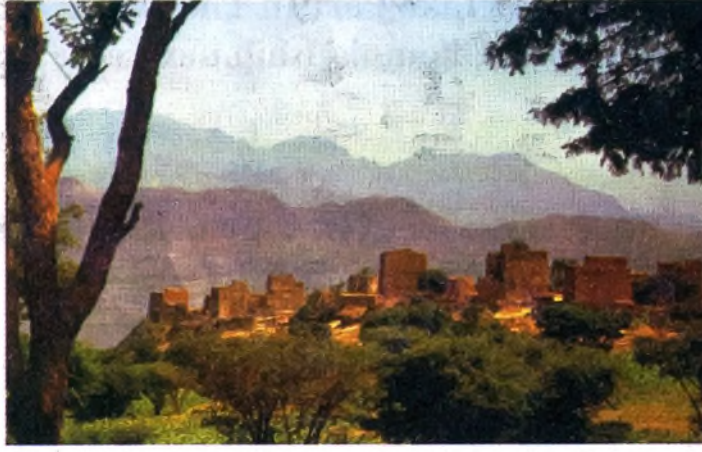
- Air France 272895/6
- Alitalia 273655
- Austrian Airlines 272432
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- Lufthansa 213400
- Royal Jordanian 275314/028
- Russian Airlines 272540
- Sabena 285865/925
- Sudan Airways 279210

Going Back to the Legendary Land of Sheba: *Yemen*

By Hajer Mitchell

And so the day nears when I will once again stand on Yemeni ground. Thanks be to God for the wonders of our minds, since mine is slowly bringing back all that I thought I had lost over the past two years while away from Sana'a in America. I am reminded that even though I visited Yemen for only eight very short months, it was, sincerely, long enough to make my heart question just where home is. While in Yemen, not one day passed without many prayers of thanks to be alive. I wanted for nothing nor did I miss the U.S.; I'm not sure if that was due to the awesome mental stimulation that took place each moment I remained, or the generosity and humble warmth of the Yemeni people. Being a photographer, I captured many memories on film. I thought I would be able to bottle a small amount of Yemen in my photos and video tapes, taking the sights and sounds of such wonder back to my family and friends in Michigan. How completely naïve of me. It is only now that I know I will revisit Yemen, God willing, that my senses have reawakened and I yearn for the taste of Sana'a once again. Never, in all of my life, has the night air held such power as that of the scent from the blooming trees in Sana'a known as Atar al-Layl, or Perfume of the Night. When the sun goes down, tiny blossoms open, emitting such a sweet subtlety, and the night air is fragrant with fresh, delicate nectar. Even if I could write as

descriptively as Edgar Allen Poe, the only way to fully understand, would be to stand on the streets of Sana'a, eyes closed, breathing slowly ... deeply ... deliberately. Only then could it be assumed, this is how heaven feels when it enters the soul. The sounds of Sana'a Qadeema may be taken for granted – but only by those who have never left the city. For anyone who has traveled away from Sana'a must miss the clanking and clattering of its city life, the surrounding sounds of the neighborhood mosques, the honking of motorists making their way through the narrow streets, crowds of men and children clapping, laughing, dancing during the many nighttime weddings. The harmony of the people lies here in the heart of the souq. How should I have filmed such music? As God wishes, we are limited in our inventions. Perhaps visually I could collect, but what kind of experience is possible without the exchange of interaction with the environment? It could be, at best, a dry flatness. I was lucky enough to have had gracious hosts who took me on long day trips. Within hours of Sana'a I saw the greenest valleys of Ibb, the desert sand dunes of Lahj, the seascapes of Al Baraka and Khor Maksar, the wondrous mountain ranges of Haraz in Manakha, a beautiful cloud-like mist whisk through Mahweet, flocks of pink flamingos take flight in Aden, hundreds upon hundreds of palm trees in Khokha, houses scattered on a mountain side displaying such a



show of lights after sundown in Sana'a, lizards – with one half blue and the other half red, mountain water reservoirs, hot springs, fruits, flowers, art, all unlike any I have experienced, and the list never ends. I tasted fruits and vegetables I had never seen before. A melon that has a clean, fresh, lemony flavor, an apple-like fruit, safarjal, that grabs the wetness from the tongue and mouth but yet itself is juicy. So many different kinds of breads! Thin, ruffly shavings of bread called miloweh. Khubiz Tawah, a thin, dense, flat bread made heavy with oil. Sabayah, layers upon layers of filo-like dough, soaked in ghee, baked and doused in honey! Sahawig, samboosa, shafoot, even aseid and salta. Sabhan Allah, the flavours of Yemen. Some of my favorite memories? Drinking tea and smoking argyle with friends on the gulf shoreline of Aden late into the evening; bargaining with shop owners to get a cheaper price; eating foul in

the early morning in Souq al Mileh; waking up for Fijr prayer to the sound of the many adthans; sharing conversation and a special brew of quishr and spices with Umi Fatimeh; driving the Land Cruiser in the village and shocking all the men; Laylat al-Qadr in al Aqil mosque when I became overwhelmed with feelings and began to cry uncontrollably – and the sisters who came to me in support though I was a stranger; searching for candles and then matches when the lights went out; the neighborhood boys fetching a water truck for us when we ran out; eating fish with my hands in Shibami Makbaza; the camel pulling the hayride during the Eid al Kabir in Aden; my weekly trips to Wadi Thahar to watch the men dance Bara'a style; long walks in Sana'a Qadeema at night; the Cave and Al Mankal restaurants; and though it may sound scandalous – the one kiss from my fiancée.

Why do I live in Michigan rather than Sana'a? When I left the US for Yemen, my dearest sister gave me a ring and with it, a poem she had written. It reads:

The world is a circuit and round it goes
to a distant place which you purpose
of foreign sights and sounds as well
to a cosmic kingdom or a worldly hell
in each of us there is that place
of secret thoughts and empty space
an assembly of precept to the inner soul
that subconscious being that keeps us whole
be yin or yang or powerfully small
remember the concept which began it all
the origin you moved from is where you will end
that wherever you go you'll come back again
so with this ring I thee wed
but a promise from you I insist instead
absorb the wealth of that foreign coast
but remember the hearts who love you most.
- a heart who loves you.

I choose to live in America because I am American. Each of our cultures is deeply ingrained within us. Even when we are open to others' traditions, we are usually most comfortable with our own. Though I could accept many of the Yemeni ways in

Yemen, I could not accept Yemen not accepting some of my American ways. So I returned to Michigan where I now reside and plan my vacations around Yemen. I may live in the United States of America, but I dream of Sana'a.



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روثمان

نكهة المستقبل



طبعته بمطابع شركة الإردويه