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YEMEN TIMES

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YT Weekly Opinion Poll
 Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is at:
<http://www.yementimes.com/poll>
 The poll reflects the opinions of Internet users who chose to participate, and not necessarily of the general public.
Question:
 If you were in Yemen, would you be using your right to vote in the presidential elections? If yes, for which candidate?
Results:
 No, I would rather not vote because my vote will change nothing (46%)
 No, I am not convinced with the proceedings of the elections (28%)
 Yes, and I would rather vote for President Saleh (13%)
 Yes, I would vote for Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi (9%)
 I don't know (4%)
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
 How do you see the changes in the layout and design of this issue of Yemen Times?

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In the Deadly Grenade Blastoff in Bab Al-Yemen 6 killed, 42 injured

SANAA: Around 8:00 pm last Wednesday night a hand grenade went off in Bab Al-Yemen, a busy tourist area in the Old City of Sana'a. Early rumors claimed that there were up to 200 killed in the blast. Later, a more accurate report aired on the international news stations stated that there were 3 deaths and 33 injuries. The last reports indicated that three of the injured people, including a child died and the total injured is 42. Vice President Abdo Rabbu Mansour Hadi visited the hospital where the injured were being hospitalized.



A ditch on the surface of the land left by the grenade

More on Page 8

Opposition to Boycott Presidential Elections

SANAA: In a statement by the Opposition Parties Coordination Supreme Council released on Saturday, the Opposition declared that it is boycotting the upcoming presidential elections and asked all citizens not to participate in them. "As we announce a boycott of the presidential elections, we call on voters to refrain from participating in this setback of democracy." It also requested the authorities to stop wasting money on the presidential campaigns while there are plenty of ways to spend the money for the benefit of the nation. In all, the boycott was an expected action especially that the opposition's nominee was denied the participation in the elections by the parliament. "We also call on the government to cancel the proposed elections as it is no longer justified in the absence of the terms of democratic competition" they added.

Many observers think that this move will not change the leadership's mind in going on with the elections any way.

When the Freedom of Press is Narrowed by the State Anger among journalists

ADEN: Last Wednesday signaled itself as a dark day for the world of journalism. It is when a new dimension, a far-reaching and dangerous one was witnessed. A verdict was issued by the Sayra Preliminary Court in Aden headed by Judge Muhsin Alwan against the chief editor of a well known independent tri-weekly newspaper, Al-Ayyam. This action is quite new because it is the first time that such an active well-known prestigious journalist has been submitted a suspended jail sentence by the prosecution. The attorney claims that the reason behind this sentence is the publishing of an article that was "against the country's national unity." While the writer of the article, Ali Haitham Al-Ghareeb was given a suspended 10 months sentence, the newspaper's Editor-in-Chief, Hisham Basharaheel was sentenced to a suspended 6 months imprisonment period. The newspaper was fined only

YR10,000. The article that made the authorities wage war against the newspaper had requested the government to give the Yemeni provinces wider powers and that elections of top officials be from the regions. "The article was perceived to have stirred up sectarian and tribal sentiments which threatened to tear apart national unity" Basharaheel stated. In conclusion, this action is considered by journalists and media representatives to be a threatening act that could turn journalists to enemies of the state, instead of helping the democratic action prosper and widen as we approach the first ever presidential elections. As the Yemen Times, we hope that the sentence be cancelled, for it will not in any way serve the democratization process in the country whose authorities have claimed it is giving the freedom of press its deserved importance in the democratization process.

Weekly Competition from this Week on Yemen Times, Turn to Page 2 for Details

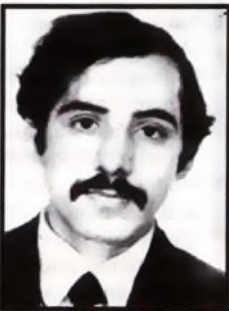
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Al-Ayyam's Editor-in-Chief, Hisham Basharaheel



Al-Ayyam's Reporter, Ali Haitham Al-Ghareeb

As Yemen Times Improves More and More GREAT, GREATER, GREATEST..

We Did it! That is what comes to mind when seeing Yemen Times develop every day through publishing better contents, with a better format, with a better structure, and also with a new spirit. A spirit that makes us all in the Yemen Times, feel that there will be a brighter future for the paper. The truth is that indeed, the paper continues to develop, in spite of the doubts of some people that it would die after its publisher had passed away, and also in spite of all the obstacles it had faced. Lots of effort, a strong will, and good motives were the main factors behind our success in publishing this renewed and enhanced issue of the Yemen Times. From now on, the readers will witness changes almost on a weekly basis for some time. They will witness enhancements to the contents and layout and stronger reliability in dealing with local and international issues.

Continued on Page 2.



The new enhancements and developments in the paper it actually the first step in a series. The next step will be to publish the paper twice a week. "Until we become a daily, we will never rest" says the publisher.

Abulhassan Sentence to DEATH confirmed

ADEN: Last Tuesday, the Preliminary Court of Aden headed by the Judge Mahdi Salam Hinaishan rejected the appeal of the defendants and confirmed its verdict in regards to the case of the islamists Abyan army. Zain Abu Baker Al-Mehdhar (Abulhassan) and Abdullah Mohammed Saleh Al-Juniad were sentenced to death while Abu Horairah and Ahmed Afef were sentenced to an eight years imprisonment. The confirmed verdict is expected to be carried out soon. According to the prosecutor's report, the accused persons were involved in a number of criminal acts such as kidnapping, forming an illegal armed group associated with support from abroad in an attempt to destroy the national values and interests of the Republic of Yemen. The attorney added that these acts also include looting, bombing strategic sites, and working on the unrest of the country. "The most devastating effect on the country caused by these Abyan Army members is the tarnishing of the image of Yemen in the eyes of the world", the prosecution claims. Interestingly enough, the accused yet admit that they committed these crimes with intention without any regret. However, they see this as their legitimate right in an effort to destroy Western domination of Arab and Islamic land. They also confessed that they are against what they call western ideologies such as human rights, democracy, and freedom of opinion.



Abulhassan

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Words of Wisdom

"Yemen Times has become the most widely used source on current information in English on Yemen. The accuracy and objectivity have made the paper the 'most reliable' source on Yemen."

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999)
Founder of the Yemen Times



Editorial

Waleed Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

Strong Commitment for the Better

You, among many, may be surprised at the changes in this issue of the Yemen Times. Though in the previous issue we notified our readers that we would be improving the layout and expanding content of the paper, we believe that the changes will be surprising. When many thought the newspaper would be deteriorate, the opposite has occurred. This week we have moved to larger paper size. Some may think that this was step to enlarge the paper alone but the truth is that is the first step in a series of steps that aim at building the Yemen Times turn into a daily newspaper. We have a strong commitment to make the Yemen Times a better newspaper. The number and quality of the reports, columns and advertisements, over the last weeks show that we are doing well. But for us, that is not enough for an establishment that is willing to be a strong and ever-lasting. In fact the Yemen Times started with only two computers. Today, it stands tall with its own 3 floor building and equipment. We have come a long way that had included many obstacles and challenges. We are proud to say that we have passed them all. The main reason behind that is our strong will to go on whatever the circumstances. The founder of Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, is an excellent model for us. We have learned a lot from him and it is time to show that the learned lessons are paying off.

In a daring and confident step to improve the paper, we have added new sections and we now have a weekly competition, whose aim is to encourage Yemenis to read the paper. Renewal is a good thing for the readers of the paper. In our most recent online survey of the paper, we discovered that the readers have begun to feel bored of the same content, design, ideas, and categorization. In this issue, we have begun a well-studied effort in order to attract more readers giving them a better view of what is happening in Yemen with more in-depth details, accuracy, and a more attractive design. Price rates have also been reduced compared to previous rates. The printing quality of the paper surely expresses that we are committed to empower advertisers to reach a wider range and larger number of people.

In conclusion, we are moving, and we are moving fast. The coming weeks will show our commitment and strength as an establishment. We will prove to the Yemen and the world, that the spirit of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is still with us. Even though the design of the paper has changed, the message is still the same: Reliable reporting, pushing the democratic and freedom of press values, and human rights encouraging other independent newspapers to continue their struggle and mission for a completely democratic and modern Yemen, and of course, helping Yemen move into the next millennium. Our mission is not an easy one, especially as we witness the trials and verdicts of independent and opposition newspapers more frequently these days. We are yet committed to delivering true and reliable information, no matter what the consequences. As a newspaper, our mission is to bring the facts to the public. If we were prevented from doing this, let alone not enhancing the paper, we had better close it down.

Strong Campaign for Presidential Candidate?

By Mamoon Mohamed Ahmed

News of a possible strong campaign for the unfamiliar presidential candidate, Mr. Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi is spreading through out the country. "We have heard that an advertising agency will handle the campaign of Najeeb Al-Shaabi" an official stated last week.

With the increasing demand of the public to see competition, pressure on the government to allocate time for the candidate in the media (TV, radio, and official newspapers) is increasing.

If a campaign is launched, observers feel President Saleh's campaign will overpower Najeeb Al-Shaabi's. The public feels that President Saleh will win he election unless there is a referendum passed. Now that the opposition has decided to boycott the election because of the rejection of their nominee by the Parliament and because of some illegal operations during the nomination process. If the current conditions continue, the country will witness an uneventful election. The President is the only person with the authority to alter this by ordering the Parliament to re-vote for the candidates and bring a more competitive candidate into the election next month. Even though the opposition's elections boycott may not change the leadership's decision to go on with the elections, it will in some way bring tensions in the country and cause a general feeling among the public that the elections will not run smoothly.

In Brief

Universities Tuition are Raised

The Yemeni Students Unions request students not to pay the increased tuition fees scheduled by the universities for the next academic year, 1999-2000. "This is abusive and has to be terminated because it is against the constitution increasing the financial burden of students," the students' union declared. Fees for the scientific colleges have increased from 500 to 8000 and 200 to 6500 in the society colleges. Tuition will increase to 10000 next year a reliable source said.

50 Thousand Tons Fuel Discharged into the Port of Aden

Two American oil tankers discharged 50 thousand tons fuel into the Port of Aden Wednesday and Saturday, July 21 and 24. It is said that this will be the first shipment of oil to be used in supplying American aircraft and barges. The process of logistic supplying is done with the facilitation of the Yemeni government.

Ben Laden Attempts to Escape

Ben Laden is in trouble after losing the support from his investments in several countries. After a strong pressure on his main ally, Taliban, he tried to hold talks with Iran to give him permission to use their lands to reach the gulf where he will take a ship to stay in a place between Somalia and Soqatra island.

A new issue of Our Rights published

The second issue of Our Rights, a newsletter issued by the Human Rights Information & Training Center (Hrite) was published. The issue contains many valuable articles on human rights issues like Poverty and Human Rights, Public Opinion and Human Rights, Women as Victims of Family Violence, and other topics.

Japan Supports Presidential Elections

The government of Japan has decided to extend to the Supreme Elections Committee (SEC) a financial contribution of \$ US 200,000 for purchase of 8,568 cabins necessary for the presidential elections to take place at the end of September 1999 to support the democratization process.

The decision was conveyed on Wednesday, August 4 to Dr. Abdullah Hussein Barakat, Chairman of SEC by H.E. Mr. Akira Hoshi, Japanese Ambassador to Yemen, and H.E. Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Komura's letter on his decision addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr. Abdulkader Bajammal was delivered last Sunday.

The British Embassy to Help Yemen

On Thursday August 5th, the British Ambassador signed a memorandum of understanding with the Resident Representative of the UNDP confirming the British Government's \$ 2.4 million US funding of the project known as "ASYCUDA", (Automated System for Customs Data) designed to help increase the revenue obtained from customs in Yemen. The project will be

The Right to Respond

Yemen Times article on the Presidential Race

With reference to your article published in issue 31 page 1, we would like to draw your attention to the following facts:

a- You wrongly assumed that "there will be little competition between the two candidates." This is a baseless assumption that ignores two clear facts:

1- The election campaign has not started yet, so you have contradicted yourself in the same article.

2- Mr. Al-Shaabi has been interviewed by several respected newspapers, local and Arab, and in all interviews he has shown seriousness to compete in this historical, first direct presidential election.

b. You referred to unpublished survey and claimed results accordingly. Such an attitude is politically motivated and in direct contradiction with scientifically accepted survey methods, if such survey exists at all.

c. This venture is very unfortunate from a newspaper which claims to support the democratic process.

Rather than publishing results before the survey itself, your readership deserves a better and more honest treatment.

d. Your imaginary results are in direct conflict with reality and common sense.

1- You claimed that the "general public" is not satisfied with the unknown second candidate Mr. Al-Shaabi.

2- You claimed that "he has shown neither willingness, sincerity, nor seriousness", and

3- You assumed that people feel the candidate "is not willing to put up a fight."

Any observer will easily reject such an unscientific approach.

We have always considered Yemen Times as a "level playing field" and taking a scientific approach. We hope that Prof. A. Aziz Al-Saqqaf's values will be maintained

and defended.

Please publish the above reply in your next issue in the same page and letter type in accordance with press and publications law.

From the Preparatory Committee for Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi Election Campaign: Dr. Saadaldin Talib

Welcome, Mr. Steve Walker

Mr. Steve Walker has recently arrived in Yemen with his new career as the Political Attache at the Embassy of the United States of America in Sana'a.

Born in 1962, worked with the Peace Corps in Morocco from 1984-1986. He joined in the diplomatic career in 1992.

He first worked in Turkey from 1993-1995, then in Mauritania from 1995-1997. His last position was in Tunisia from 1998-1999.

Yemen Times staff warmly welcomes Mr. Walker and wishes him all the success in his work in Yemen.



The Second Cultural Meeting Held in Sana'a

Yasser Mohammed Ahmed
Yemen Times



Organized by Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul Kareem Al-Iryani, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism inaugurated the Second Cultural Meeting on August 2nd, 1999 at the Ministry of Tourism in Sana'a. An extensive discussion about the present and the future of the cultural and creative movements in Yemen was held in the first three days. A

1- Cultural Identity and Globalization.
2- Politics and Culture.
3- The Children's Culture
4- Books and Cultural Magazines.
5- Non-Governmental Organizations and their role in the cultural work.
It also issued the following acts:

1- Documenting the speeches of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture and Tourism.

The First Yemeni-American Medical Conference to be Held

Headed by H/E Dr. Abdulla Abdul-Wali Nasher, Minister of the Public Health, the First Yemeni-American Medical Conference is to be held on October 23rd, 1999. The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Public Health, Sana'a and Aden Universities, Al-Thawra Hospital-Sana'a, Rush Universities-USA, American Embassy-Sana'a and the Yemeni-American Friendship Society. A lot of Yemeni and American universities and hospitals will participate in the conference which will begin its scientific program on the same day and will last for three days. During the Conference, a number of Yemeni, Arabic, European, American, and Asian medical supply and pharmaceutical companies will have displays in an exhibition hall adjoining the main lecture hall.

Continued from Page 1

As always, Yemen Times staff has been working together with cohesion and trust to represent Yemen in the best way. We want to show that there is a newspaper in Yemen that can independently finance itself and bring new ideas to the journalism sector. As the first privately owned newspaper to be published in English, we think that we had succeeded in proving to the community that there if there is a will, there is a way. We had the well, and made it through. Today, Yemen Times stands tall in history to prove that nothing is impossible.

The founder of Yemen Times, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, had established a very strong and organized establishment. Every day we think of the future of the paper and commit ourselves in making it better and better. We have a dream, and it is the same dream of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. That dream is making Yemen Times a daily. We are studying the possibility of making it a bi-weekly as a first step. We know that there are thousands of people out there supporting us all the time. As we thank them for their support, we promise them that we will never rest until we turn the newspaper into a daily. Dear Founder, rest in peace, and we will do the rest.

أجل التهادي والتبريكات للأخ العزيز

عادل ياسر محمد

بمناسبة الزفاف، وبإهداء والبنين.

كما نهنئ الأخ محمد عبدالرحمن محبوب بمناسبة إرتزاقه مولوداً أسماً

«أكرم»

فانف مبروك ياباً أكرم.

المهزون، محمد حاتم القاشي، وجميع الأصداة

number of papers were presented by the cultural offices of the governorates and people interested in culture. The participants in the meeting focused on the present cultural condition and a means of enabling our culture to rid itself of the stagnancy and face the challenges of globalization. They also discussed various topics like the dramatic and musical activities, folklore, children's culture and the role of the media in raising cultural awareness among children. By the end of the meeting, participants presented a number of acts and recommendations.

During the three-day meeting 19 papers were presented. The papers discussed the following topics:

2- Publishing the Literature of the meeting in a book.
3- Sending a telegraph to the President, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to thank him for his support.

Chief among the recommendations are the following:

1- Reviving the Islamic and the national heritage.
2- Publishing old manuscripts.
3- Motivating the private sector to support the cultural development.
4- Supporting all the literary figures and creative people.
5- Holding cultural competitions.
6- Making children's TV programs which agree with our Islamic spirit.
7- A meeting is to be held every three years.

YEMEN TIMES

First English Newspaper in Yemen

Founded In 1991 by
Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Waleed Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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Yemeni and International Press Scanner

AL-UMAH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

1-All Koulan detainees in the central jail in Sana'a couple of weeks ago have been released, but their Sheikhs are demanding rehabilitation of their tribe.

2-Ten years imprisonment and two million riyals financial compensation was the final verdict against Adel Mohammed Sad, the perpetrator of Al-Sheikh Othman explosions in the Aden district.

3-Crime Investigation Police have arrested a doctor in the Hodeidah district when he tried to put a baby in the garbage. The investigation disclosed that the doctor was carrying-on abortions to get rid of the babies for financial revenues.

RAY NEWSPAPER - Mouthpiece of the League of the Sons of Yemen

1- Unknown group of people attacked the residence of the Chief Prosecutor of Sana'a Governorate, Mr. Salem Al-Shebah. They stole two motorbikes and put one bullet in the garden of the house, indicating a threat.

2-Four persons were killed and nine others injured due to a land dispute. Which resulted from a clash between two tribes in Abyan district. Clashes may resume at any time.

AL-THOWRI WEEKLY NEWS-PAPER, Mouthpiece of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP)

1- The exact number of victims of a Malaria outbreak in the Al-Mahouit area and its outskirts has not estimated yet. The initial reports show that during the past two weeks more than 30 people have died. A reliable source said that the inhabitants of the area have submitted official complaints, urging the relevant parties to come to their aid.

2- 8th August 99, the Secretary General of the socialist party, Mr. Ali Saleh Obad will hold the fourth session of the Central Committee of the

YSP in Sana'a. The session will discuss issues related to the arrangement status of the YSP and the political events of the country.

The supreme committee of the opposition party is resuming its conferences to discuss issues related to rejecting the nomination of their member in the coming presidential election, who was rejected by the parliament. They will also discuss the obstacles obstructing opposition parties in participating in the elections.

3-The Political Office of the Yemeni Socialist party has condemned the destabilization of the main cities. It has also harshly criticized the latest explosion in Bab-Al-Yemen. The Political Office of the YSP urged the Government to do the utmost in order to arrest the criminals.

4- Economical sources are asking the Government to give a full report on crude oil revenues, as the prices of the crude oil experience a rise internationally.

AL-BALAG WEEKLY NEWSPAPER, independent

1-The Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul-Kader Ba-Jamal said that, the time is right to solve the Yemen-Saudi border dispute as there is no reason to delay the issue. He said that, the solution will be based on historical, geographical, and social rights.

2-An unknown group attacked the Mankah jail, in the Sana'a district and released the prisoners. The security police have imposed a penalty of YR10 thousand on each person in the district. The police are still searching for those involved of the incident.

3-Al-Zurekah sent an official letter to the parliament, stating that he has gained a proper nomination for the coming presidential election, having won 25 votes.

AL-TAJAMO WEEKLY NEWS-PAPER, Mouthpiece of the Unionist

Yemeni party

1- Political observers said that Osama Ben Ladan might seek a shelter in Yemen.

2- The time has not come yet for Yemeni women to be nominated for the presidential post.

AL-SHOWRAH WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

85 engineer graduates launch a strike

On Saturday 31st July 99, more than 85 engineer graduates from the Faculty of Petroleum Engineering Colleges launched a strike in front of the presidential Office gate. They demand that the President instruct the relevant parties to resign them to different departments of the Ministry of Oil, after they have been delegated to the Ministry of Education for one year. One striker was detained for three hours by the police, and after his release, the security police demanded that the strike be stopped or be taken to jail.

AL-WAHDAMI WEEKLY NEWS-PAPER

An unknown group Attempted to Bomb Procter and Gamble in Taiz

Unknown group has threatened the Administration of Procter and Gamble Co. in Al-Kaedah area, in the Taiz district. The threat stated that they will bomb the office, if they will not close it and leave the area. A source said the group is suspected to be Islamic extremist, who have promised to destroy the office and all its factories. They continuously call the company to assert their intention to execute the bombing. Diplomatic sources in capital Sana'a took the threat seriously and advised the employees of the company to leave their offices temporarily while the threat remains.

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From the Columns

Yemen oil investment bid faces challenges

Yemen hopes to shake off its reputation as a land of risk and attract fresh foreign investment in its tiny energy industry amid a fierce international race for big deals in neighboring oil giants. More than 100 Westerners — including oil workers — have been abducted by disgruntled Yemeni tribesmen in the past six years, damaging the country's image abroad. The main oil pipeline — backbone of the cash-starved economy — has been bombed more than 15 times in the past year. However, western oilworkers have not been put off work in the poor Arab country, dwarfed by regional oil powers Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar. They say Yemen has the key element for a spot on the international oil map — an unexplored potential. The country expects its crude oil production to reach 412,000 barrels per day (bpd) by

the end of 1999, up from 385,000 bpd. "Despite some difficulties and turmoil we have enjoyed some considerable success and growth. We are optimistic and have reached record levels of production," said Waleed Jazrawi, general manager of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd, Yemen's biggest oil producer. "We are optimistic." The firm's production at the Masila project in Yemen set a new quarterly record of 210,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the second quarter of 1999. It also has added 40 million barrels of oil to its proved reserves at the site for the low cost of \$2 per barrel. Canadian Occidental confident of continued strong production, plans to stay in Yemen for the long haul. It competes with about 30 other foreign energy companies including Royal Dutch/Shell Group, Agip SpA, Exxon Corp and British Gas. But Yemen, analysts say, could have a tougher time luring other

global oil firms to invest while OPEC countries like Saudi Arabia — the world's biggest oil producer — is busy reviewing proposals made by international oil companies responding to a call for a fresh foreign investment. "We don't see the same kind of potential in Yemen as in Iran, for instance. We don't see large material opportunities that we can access," said an official from one of the world's biggest oil companies who is involved with new business ventures in the Middle East. Despite such bearish views, Yemen is taking the initiative. It plans to promote seven new oil blocks for exploration in London and Houston road shows starting next month. Western Geophysical, which is organizing the conferences and collecting seismic and well data to present to foreign oil firms, said the most aggressive foreign companies will stand the

best chance of capitalizing on Yemen's offers. "As far as incentives, we are trying to encourage oil companies to come and explore and sign production sharing deals," said Roshan Darwish Ali, project manager in the company's new venture group. "We are not looking for big amounts of signature bonuses. It depends on how aggressive they are in playing the game. It's up to the oil companies to sit across the table at the Ministry of Oil and negotiate terms and conditions," he added. "There is potential. None of the offshore areas have been explored. It's virgin territory." Ali, as well as Western oil executives, play down recent violence against foreigners in Yemen, which is banking on oil deals to help boost a weak economy and fund badly-needed development projects. Most foreigners kidnapped in Yemen have been released unharmed, but in December a militant Islamic group kidnapped 16 Western tourists of whom four were killed in a rescue attempt.



APL LAUNCHES FIRST DEDICATED, DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN ASIA AND RED SEA MARKETS

Supplements Arabian Gulf Coverage Over Fujairah, Resulting in One of Mideast's Most Comprehensive Networks

Singapore, August 5, 1999 - Container transportation and logistics provider APL today announced the startup of the industry's first dedicated, direct container link between Asia and fast-growing markets of the Red Sea.

"The new Red Sea Express (REX) service will offer APL's customers in the Far East and Southeast Asia fast transit times to and from Red Sea ports in the countries of Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen," said Y. K. Whye, vice president and head of APL's Intra-Asia services, based in Singapore.

The service began August 4 from Singapore. Deploying five dedicated containerships, it will use the new container terminal at Aden as its gateway to the Red Sea region. The state-of-the-art facility was recently developed by the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA).

Fast Transit Times

The ports of call for the REX service will be Singapore, Aden, Jeddah, Adabiya, and Aqaba, with a call at Nhava Sheva on the eastbound return to Singapore. Transit times from Singapore and among the industry's fastest: 8 days to Aden, 11 to Jeddah, 14 to Adabiya, and 17 to Aqaba.

In some cases, APL has reduced transit times from the Far East to the Red Sea region by as much as two to eight days, depending on origin and destination ports.

On the eastbound voyage, the transit time from Nhava Sheva to APL's global transportation network hub in Singapore will be 5 days, linking one of India's key export gateway to Southeast Asia, the Far East, Australia, Europe and North America.

"Singapore is the natural hub for the fast and efficient relay of cargo originating in the Far East and Southeast Asia - regions that are served by our extensive network of line-haul and fully integrated feeder services," said Whye.

Complemented by the WAX Service

The new REX service will be complemented by APL's existing West Asia Express Service (WAX), which provides fast reliable service to the Arabian Gulf region, said Whye. The WAX service offers a port rotation of Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Singapore, Fujairah, Jebel Ali, Fujairah, Colombo, Singapore.

"By launching the new REX Service and retaining the WSA Service, we believe that we are offering our customers the highest level of service in the industry," said Whye. "Our Middle East network will operate through the dual gateways of Aden of the Red Sea and Fujairah for the Arabian Gulf, reflecting the growing demand for comprehensive coverage of the region."

From Fujairah, APL's extensive Arabian Gulf Service serves the ports of Jebel Ali, Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dammam and Kuwait.

Whye noted that the company's expanded Middle East network is fully supported not only by customer-service personnel throughout the region, but by access to the company's award-winning Internet-based shipment-tracking capabilities (www.apl.com). These include "HomePort," a customized web portal available to each customer.

About APL: APL provides customers around the world with container transportation and logistics services through a network combining high-quality intermodal operations with state-of-the-art information technology. APL is the container and logistics arm of Neptune Orient Lines Limited, a global transportation and logistics company engaged in shipping and related businesses.

For further information, kindly contact their sole agent in Yemen:

Saba International Shipping & Project Investment Co. Ltd., Hodeidah,
Tel: (3) 226808/226807/226220, Fax: (3) 218091

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Amnesty 1999 Report on Yemen: Empty Promises: Government Commitments and The State of Human Rights in Yemen

III. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL- AL'S CONTINUING CONCERNS

Despite Yemen's ratification of international human rights treaties, the human rights safeguards which are incorporated into its domestic legislation, and measures such as the establishment of national human rights bodies, the truth remains that human rights violations continue. Safeguards concerning arrest, detention and fair trial continue to be routinely violated, in the absence of effective and independent judicial supervision of arrests and detention. Such violations occur in particular when arrest and detention is carried out by the PS. Although torture is illegal and despite Yemen being a state party to the Convention against Torture, torture is practiced by the security forces. Since 1994 at least six people are understood to have died in circumstances which suggest that torture was a contributory factor. This is facilitated by the climate of impunity fostered by the continued practice of holding prisoners in prolonged incommunicado detention. Like arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention occurs, in violation of Yemen's own legal safeguards. "Disappearances" remain uninvestigated. The practice of detaining women prisoners beyond the expiry of their sentence appears to still take place in violation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The practice is also extended to juveniles, in violation of CRC. In addition to those violations on which the government agreed to take steps, other serious violations continue. The death penalty continues to be imposed and carried out, often after trials which fall short of international standards. In practice may be denied access to legal assistance, and defense lawyers are routinely denied access to relevant trial documentation, denying the defendant the right to adequate time and facilities to prepare a defense. See footnote 8 & 8 Cases of extrajudicial killings, or at least excessive use of force resulting in death, have been documented as recently as 1998.

1. Prisoners of conscience and arbitrary arrest

Political opponents of the government are often targeted for arrest and detention. They include politicians, religious scholars and journalists. Despite existing safeguards contained in Yemeni law and in the Constitution, many are arrested without judicial warrant and denied access to lawyers. They are routinely detained for days, weeks or even months before being released, usually without charge. Most are prisoners of conscience. Such arrests are carried out by different forces, such as the PS, the Republican Guard and al-Baith al-Jina'i (Criminal Investigations). The PS is only accountable to the Office of the President of the Republic. Suspects arrested by the PS are routinely held in incommunicado detention and are denied the opportunity to challenge the legality of their detention. In September 1998, Dr al-Murtada bin Zayd al-Muhawari, imam of the Badr mosque in Sana'a, was arrested, at night, by members of the PS and the Republican Guard. In contravention of the law he was arrested without a warrant, neither was he arrested in flagrante delicto. The arrest followed a public speech Dr al-Murtada bin Zayd al-Muhawari had made in which he was critical of the government. He was apparently detained for nothing more than expressing his opinions. He was released without charge in November 1998. Some politicians have been repeated-

ly targeted for arrest. Muhsin Ahmed al-'Amudi, a prominent member of the political opposition party Rabitat Abnaa al-Yaman (The League of the Sons of Yemen) was reportedly arrested at the end of July 1997 at 3 am by a group of armed men. He was taken to a PS prison where he was questioned in connection with bomb attacks in 'Aden and accused of having links with an opposition group in London. He was held in incommunicado detention for 20 days, denied access to a lawyer or to a doctor, and his family were refused permission to visit him. He was released in early September 1997. However in November 1997 he, and at least three others, were re-arrested, reportedly in connection with a campaign and a demonstration against government policy to administratively divide the province of Hadramout. Arrested in the early hours of the morning, he was taken to a military camp where he was detained for seven days. During this time he was not informed of the reason for his arrest and was denied access to a lawyer. He was then transferred to Manoora prison in al-Mukalla where he was detained for a further 31 days before being released without charge. Journalists and editors of newspapers, especially opposition newspapers, have also been targeted for arbitrary arrest, often in association with particular articles they have written or published. In March 1999 'Abd al-Latif Kutbi 'Omar, editor-in-chief of the weekly opposition newspaper al-Haq (the Truth), was reportedly arrested in Sana'a, at night, by armed officers of al-Baith al-Jina'i without a warrant. He was not informed of the reason for his arrest but was reportedly questioned about an article he had published, about alleged plans to establish United States of America military facilities on the Yemeni island of Socotra. 'Abd al-Latif Kutbi 'Omar was released after four days without being informed of any charges against him. Ali Haitham al-Ghareeb, a lawyer and contributory writer for a number of publications, was arrested, at night, on 3 March 1998. He was arrested by five PS officers, who failed to produce an arrest warrant. Ali Haitham al-Ghareeb was informed that he was being arrested in connection with an article he had written about relations between north and south Yemen. He was taken to the PS prison in 'Aden. The next day he was allegedly brought before a prosecutor, charged with inciting division through his writing and was ordered to spend a further four days in prison. He was taken to the central prison in 'Aden and was released four days later.

2. Torture

Torture and death in circumstances which suggest that torture was a contributory factor continue to be widely reported. Torture is a criminal offense in Yemen, under provisions of both the Constitution and the Penal Code. As a state party to the Convention against Torture Yemen has an obligation to take legislative, administrative, judicial or other steps to prevent torture from occurring; to ensure that prompt and impartial investigations take place whenever there are reasonable grounds to believe that an act of torture has been committed; and that victims of torture have "an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation." Despite such commitments, torture continues to be practiced in Yemen, in detention centers, police stations and prisons throughout the country. Methods of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment documented by Amnesty

International since the unification of Yemen in 1990 include:

- Beatings all over the body, including with rifle butts, iron rods, cables and sticks
- Rape, sexual assault, threat of rape of the victim or his or her relatives in his or her presence
- Electric shocks applied to the body of the victim
- "Kentucky Farruj": suspension from a metal bar inserted between the hands and knees which are tied together
- Victim being urinated on
- Victim being walked on while being made to lie naked on slabs of concrete
- Lengthy solitary confinement, in at least one case for six months
- Victim being shackled for lengthy periods
- Burning with cigarettes
- "Falaqa" (beating on the soles of the feet)
- Victim being doused with cold water
- Suspension of the victim, sometimes upside down, from the ceiling or window of detention cells while subjected to different forms of torture
- Whipping and lashing
- Sleep deprivation and being kept in adverse weather conditions
- Victim being tied to chair or bound with ropes while being subjected to other forms of torture
- Forced head shaving and insults
- Forcing victims to repeatedly crouch and stand, causing severe leg pain

Torture frequently takes place while victims are being held in prolonged incommunicado detention. Denying detainees access to lawyers, doctors and family members facilitates torture and contributes to the atmosphere of impunity. Investigation of allegations of torture is more difficult where victims have been held in prolonged incommunicado detention. In cases where a person has been denied the right to visits from lawyers, family and doctors it is unlikely that there will be any independent witnesses to the physical effects of torture. The UN Special Rapporteur on torture called for a worldwide ban on incommunicado detention in 1995. He stated, "Torture is most frequently practiced during incommunicado detention. Incommunicado detention should be made illegal and persons held incommunicado should be released without delay. Legal provisions should ensure that detainees be given access to legal counsel within 24 hours of detention." Incommunicado detention is prohibited by the Constitution and the CCP. According to Articles 73 and 77 of the CCP, a suspect is entitled to inform anyone they wish of their detention and to seek the assistance of a lawyer. Article 76 of the CCP and Article 47(c) of the Constitution require that any arrested suspect must be brought before a judge or the prosecutor within 24 hours of arrest. Article 47(b) of the Constitution states that a detainee may choose not to answer interrogators' questions without the presence of a lawyer. It states "The person whose freedom is restricted has the right not to answer any questions in the absence of his lawyer."

In January 1999 the Committee on the Rights of the Child consider the second periodic report of Yemen. In its concluding observations the Committee expressed concern at "the use of physical punishment, including flogging, and torture in detention centers".

(i) Investigation

In some cases victims have allegedly been tortured in order to force them

to "confess" to offenses. Such allegations are usually only investigated if the case against the defendant is brought to court. In such circumstances requests from the defense to investigate allegations of torture may sometimes be granted by the presiding judge, in order to allow the judge to decide whether to admit evidence, such as confessions, alleged to have been obtained under torture. However, such investigations fall far short of the government's international obligations under the Convention against Torture. Investigations ordered by a judge in the context of court proceedings usually consist only of a medical examination of the defendant. They do not include questioning of witnesses to the alleged torture or questioning of those alleged to have committed the torture. Some methods of torture, such as electric shock torture, forced repeated exercise and sleep deprivation leave few, if any, physical signs, rendering a medical examination insufficient to establish the credibility of the claims of torture. In addition, such investigations fail to meet the requirement that they be carried out "promptly" as by the time the case has reached court many months may have elapsed since the alleged torture took place, and since visible signs of some methods of torture would have healed. The result is that judges may decide that confessions alleged to have been obtained as a result of torture are admissible as evidence, without a thorough investigation into the allegations having been carried out.

If the victim is not charged with an offense and therefore not brought to court Amnesty International knows of no effective mechanism to which he or she can complain, and have the complaint independently and impartially investigated. Amnesty International is aware of one case where the relatives of a victim of torture, who died in custody in 1994, and their lawyer initiated a court case about his death. However it is not aware of any perpetrators of torture who have successfully been brought to justice and punished. Similarly it knows of no effective mechanism from which victims of torture can claim redress.

Even deaths in custody where there is strong evidence to suggest that torture was a contributory factor can go uninvestigated. The government is failing to meet its obligations under the Convention against Torture to ensure that allegations of torture are promptly and impartially investigated.

(ii) Cases of torture

One victim, arrested in September 1997 in connection with bomb explosions, described his experience to the Sira Court of First Instance in 'Aden, in March 1998. During cross examination Ahmed Sa'id Bazara'a, a communications engineer, was asked why he had given contradictory confessions at different stages of his interrogation. He replied: "All the statements I made are untrue and I had no idea who represented Criminal Investigations and who represented the Prosecution."

When asked what had led him to confess to such serious crimes he answered by describing the various kinds of torture to which he had been subjected: "At first I was suspended from my feet, which they beat violently with various types of sticks and hoses...Then they used what they called "exercise nine", which is to have us stand up and sit down repeatedly. My legs were so swollen I couldn't recognize them. They made me do this five to seven hours a day, blindfolded."

The judge presiding over this case ordered that Ahmed Sa'id Bazara'a and some of his co-defendants, who also alleged that they had been tortured, be seen by a doctor in order to look into the matter. This examination took place approximately five months after the alleged torture had taken place. The conclusion of the doctors, presented to the court, was that they found no evidence to corroborate the allegations of torture. The confessions, which Ahmed Sa'id Bazara'a and others claimed were obtained as a result of torture, were consequently admitted as evidence against them. In October 1998 Ahmed Sa'id Bazara'a was sentenced to two and a half years' imprisonment for his alleged part in causing explosions in 'Aden. No thorough and independent investigation into his allegations of torture is known to have taken place. Another victim described to Amnesty International delegates how he was arrested in November 1997 by army officers. He was handcuffed and taken to a military compound in the town of al-Mukalla. On arrival he was placed in leg shackles and then locked inside a steel freight container. Being made of steel, his "cell" was extremely hot during the day and then cold at night. He was detained in this manner until his release nearly a month later. He did not have access to a lawyer, doctor or his family. Although his handcuffs were sometimes removed to allow him to pray, the leg shackles, which left the victim scarred, were not. Throughout his detention the victim was questioned once in relation to his political activities. He was not charged with a recognizably criminal offense. Amnesty International considers such a method of detention to constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in clear violation of Yemen's obligations under the Convention against Torture. Another victim alleged that he and others arrested with him were repeatedly tortured after being arrested in August 1997 in connection with bomb explosions in 'Aden. The victim was arrested in the village of Hard, near the border with Saudi Arabia. He, and the others arrested with him, were taken to the PS prison in 'Aden, via several other prisons. The victim and several others were allegedly denied access to lawyers, doctors and their family during the period of their interrogation. The victim describes how he was tortured in the PS prison in 'Aden: "They tied my hands with

rope or [sometimes] cloth. My knees were placed between my hands and poles inserted behind my knees and over my hands. This method is known here as "handul".

Then two soldiers pushed me from every side. Then they placed the ends of the pole on two chairs which resulted in my head going down backwards, then they beat me with a stick on my bare feet. This was done during questioning - to push me to confess."

The victim was eventually released without charge more than six months later, in March 1998. No steps are known to have been taken to investigate these allegations of torture. Perhaps the most striking example of the government's failure to live up to its commitment to investigate allegations of torture is the case of Wadi' Hilal al-Sheibani, who died in custody in late 1997. Like the victim above, Wadi' Hilal al-Sheibani was arrested in the village of Hard, near the Saudi Arabian border in August 1997 by PS officers, reportedly in connection with the same bombings in 'Aden. He was taken, via several other places of detention, to Solaban military prison in 'Aden, where he was denied access to his family or to a lawyer, for the full period of his detention, from August until his death at the end of September. During this time he was allegedly subjected to beatings, suspended upside down, beaten and given electric shocks. According to an official medical report dated 1 October 1997 Wadi' Hilal al-Sheibani died of head injuries. The family was informed of his death and was told by officials that he had committed suicide. For more than a year the family refused to collect and bury the body of Wadi' Hilal al-Sheibani, demanding that an investigation into his death be carried out. Members of the family met with the Attorney General to request detailed information about the circumstances surrounding Wadi' Hilal al-Sheibani's death; however none was forthcoming. When Amnesty International delegates raised this case with the Attorney General in 1998, they were told that Wadi' Hilal al-Sheibani had committed suicide in prison. Details of how this conclusion had been reached nor of an impartial and independent investigation into the death were presented to the delegates. The government had offered the family financial assistance, but had emphasized that this was not compensation. Amnesty International also wrote to the government on more than one occasion requesting an investigation into the death and that the findings of such an investigation should be made public. Despite strong evidence that Wadi' Hilal al-Sheibani died as a result of torture and despite the Attorney General's assertion that he has the remit to investigate allegations of torture, no action appears to have been taken on this case.

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وآل بامشموس

Feeding the Hungry

By: Ahlam Al-Khawlati

Few are the people who like charity. They are, in fact, rare to be found in our hard present times and charitable practices are likely to emerge in specifically limited days during the whole year. May God prosper those tender-hearted people who always think of the needy and the less privileged people. There lives in Al-Qadesiah area one of these men; a man with a great heart who loves and helps the people, specially the needy. As



Sheikh Al-Muaid

soon as I heard about him, I made my way to meet him. His name is Shaikh Mohammed Ali Al-Muaid. He built a center for helping the needy in various fields. So many people used to come to him after each prayer (Salah) and appeal to him to help them get rid of their very poor standard of living. In the beginning, he started with only one. When many others began to come he thought that he had to work for all. Around 4,000 people and 400 families are daily helped. Regarding food, he is thinking of building a separate kitchen for serving the needy people and families. Presently, he only

other people are doing this favor to the needy people just to be blessed by Allah and that they do not have any material benefit. He also said that there is no need to mention the names of the organizations contributing in this charitable project and I hope that they will increase in the future.

At present, a hospital for treating by the Holy Qura'n is being built. The treatment, of course, will be free of charge. In the future, he will build a house for the female orphans as well as a training center for women.

The Center contains a bakery. There are 12 bakers in the Center and all of them live in the same Center in separate apartments. The Center also contains a computer institute and a school. The only problem the center is facing the limitedness of the financial resources. Finally, I wish that all our traders and rich people will do the same charitable work to help their people. If we assume for instance that 5000 of



gives each one three pieces of bread or (kudaam). He has representatives in every area who distribute them among the people according to their cards. Mr. Al-Muaid told me he and

Yemeni traders support 3500 of the poor people; there will not be a single poor person in our country. It is also advisable to devote foreign financial support to human deeds like feeding the starved and comfort the afflicted instead of wasting it in nothingness.

NETHERLANDS EMBASSY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Royal Netherlands Embassy is pleased to announce the names of the recipients for a scholarship by the Netherlands Government for three year master degree programs at Universities in the Middle Eastern Region:

1. Mr. Nabil Mohsen Falah
2. Mr. Nageeb Abdullah Shahra
3. Mr. Waleed Al-Asbahi
4. Ms. Nahla Shafiq Mohamed Ishaq
5. Ms. Bilquis Mohamed Saif
6. Ms. Amal Noman Al-Dubhai
7. Ms. Gamila Saleh Ali

The selected candidates should contact AMIDEAST to finalize processing of their files.

AMIDEAST Sana'a Tel: 01-206222/206942
AMIDEAST Aden Tel: 02-235069

The Embassy thanks AMIDEAST and the Yemeni Ministry of Planning and Development for their cooperation and support in this program.

Students who were not selected may collect their files from AMIDEAST.

Republic of Yemen Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation Seeds & Agricultural Services Project (SASP) ITF Credit No. 34 YEM

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) ICB No. 05/99

1. The government of the Republic of Yemen (ROY) has received a credit from the Interim Trust Fund (ITF) administered by the International Development Association (IDA), in the amount of SDR 9.2 million equivalent to US\$ 12.5 million towards the cost of the Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) and it is intended that a part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procurement of following fertilizers for the General Agricultural Cooperative (GAC):

- Item (1) iron Chelate 6% EDDA - Quantity 50 tons
- Item (2) Urea 46% N - Quantity 2000 tons

Bidding is open to all tenderers from eligible member countries of the World Bank, and Taiwan, China with the exception of following countries:
The Bahamas, Bahrain, Bravados, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Israel, Kuwait Oman, Qatar, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, and United States of America.

2. The Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of above mentioned goods valid for ninety (90) days from date of opening bids.

3. Interested eligible bidder may obtain further information from the following address and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

(a) Director of Project Support Unit
Al-Daery Street (Ring Road)/Al-Gazaeir Street
Sana'a (ROY)
Tel/Fax No. 207484

(b) Or by writing to SASP
P. O. Box 14316
Sana'a - Republic of Yemen

4. A complete set of the bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address upon payment of anon-refundable fees of USD 300.00. Documents may also be obtained through Express Courier Services on payment an additional non-refundable fee of USD 60.00

5. The Bidder must complete and submit with its bid the Bid Form and Price Schedule furnished in the Bidding documents.

6. All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes and must be accompanied by a bid security of no less than three percent (3%) of the total bid value in a freely convertible currency, in favor of Seeds and Agricultural Services Project (SASP) valid for (120) days from the closing date of bids, and must be delivered to the Head Office of PSU, Sana'a Al-Daery/Al-Gazaeir Street, on or before 10:00 am on 14th September 1999.

7. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend, at 11:00 hours on 14th September 1999 at the address given in paragraph (3) of this advertisement.

SILVER LINING

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

The Ingredients of Civil Society

Democracy is becoming the most important and substantial virtue and the main issue of the people in the modern time. This is because it has proved to be the best way of governance. However, it cant not be a political term. Rather, it is, as once the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf observed, "a way of thinking, of managing and developing a country."

One of the basic essentials of democracy is to establish a civil society that adheres to the virtues of human rights, participation of all citizensetc. A society that applies law and order to all people irrespective of who they are or what position they have in the society. In this way, we will have established a civil society that renders democracy a way of life. But one of the focal points that has to be highlighted in this respect is this. It is virtually the question of the NGOs and their inevitable and genuine role model on the establishment of a civil society. These NGOs are of a pivotal role in pushing the realm of development in various arenas ahead and laying the foundation for a better tomorrow. Their work should be mutual and competitive for the better of the society. In short, they are the ingredients of the existence of a civil society.

Such terms of civil society, democracy, human rights and other modern norms should be introduced to the people through diverse mass media and the people should be educated about their importance in the society. Furthermore, they have to be included in the school curriculum so as our students understand them and their value in their life.

In Yemen we have a good number of operating NGOs. But I believe the work of some of these NGOs is very little. Some were brought to halt because of financial straits. But some of the existing ones don't interact positively with the issues of the general public in a way to enhance the role of such NGOs in the development of the society. Some have to work in launching vital development projects for the well-being of the society, some will raise the public awareness towards important issues; others will focus on other relative issues in a way that all NGOs will meet at one point which is to serve the society. But, what staggered me a lot is the negative attitude of the Yemeni NGOs towards the issue of the prisoners at different prisons in Sanaa Governorate. The prosecutor Mr. Salem Al-Shaiba left no stone unturned to convince the people in charge of these prisons to release the prisoners who are not charged without a recognizably criminal offense or those whose sentence terms have expired. He has also been calling for reforms to be introduced to the Judiciary. When his efforts did not succeed, he together with other lawyers decided to go on strike, a civilized way to show and express their displeasance with the on-going affairs in the prisons of Sanaa Governorate. He and everybody expected that the NGOs, particularly these working in the field of human rights will stand by him and his friends and voice the interests of the oppressed. But to our surprise, nothing happened. At least, messages of appreciation and support of Salem's efforts should have been sent. They should made the hell broke loose and accordingly created a big fuss in response to the efforts of the prosecutor.

I believe some of these NGOs have become a source of frittering money and nothing more.

Another plight for the NGOs in Yemen is the interference of the government in their work. In other words, the officialdom tries also to have its own NGOs, or better say GOs but under the umbrella of NGOs. This way hinders the work of our NGOs and makes the potentiality of establishing a civil society very difficult.

As a matter of fact, real NGOs are these which defend the rights of the oppressed and voice their interests. Therefore, a plan to make the work of the NGOs more well-organized has to be conducted very soon.

When Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf launched the Yemen 21st Forum, he felt the need for organizing the work of the NGOs, as institutions of the civil society. Therefore, the Yemen 21st Forum will doubtlessly be with its staff and members able to conduct the plan, organize and monitor the work of the NGOs in Yemen. In fact, it can be along with the Yemen Times instrumental in continuing the mission of the late Dr. Saqqaf which is to introduce the values of democracy and civil society into Yemen.

Finally, I hope these established NGOs and these on their way to be created will be motivated by the desire and will to serve the society in various aspects. Let us keep our fingers crossed that these NGOs will live up to their decent job, do it properly and never turn to be GOs.

Impressions about Yemen



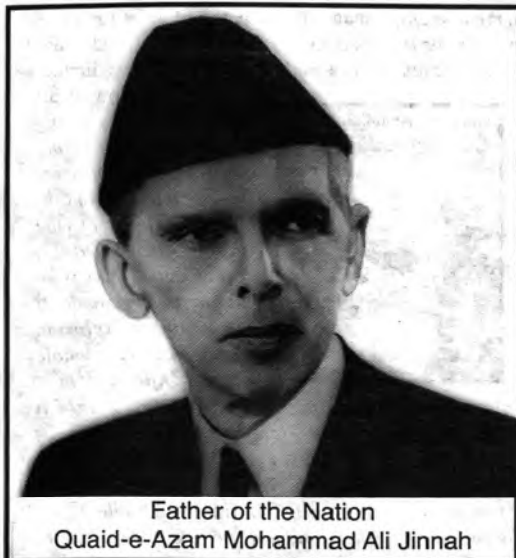
Ahmad Ben Sidi
Muritanian Ambassador to
Yemen
Sanaa

In my opinion, what was accomplished in the beginning of the 1990s in Yemen was not more than a natural step and a rightful embodiment for all the Arabs' aspirations. In this regard, I can highlight three facts:

Firstly: The unity of Yemen is as old as its civilization. The careful reader of the Yemeni history will find that this unity is deeply rooted in the hearts of the Yemeni people. Secondly, What happened on May 22nd, 1990, in Aden was just a reunification. Unity is the natural ground of the Yemeni people and separation is just an exception. This unity is well protected by the Yemen geographical wideness and its linguistic, human, religious, historical, social, political and economical melting. Thirdly, the political leadership has been able to transfer the unity from the state of abstraction as presented in the 1972 and 1979 agreements to the practical ground which was best presented in November 30th, 1989, which is considered the most important step in the history of the Yemen reunification. Thus, the series of attempts that took place for 20 years, starting from 1970 to 1990, was interrupted by so many obstacles and hindrances. These obstacles, in fact, matured the Yemeni minds and led, in the long run, to the reunification. This period was characterized by the people's aspiration and their determination to unite. In short, what has been done besides the social, political and economic development taking place in Yemen is very crucial because it is considered to be the first step in the process of the unification of the Arab world.

PAKISTAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

14 AUGUST 1999



Father of the Nation
Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah

Excerpts from Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif's television address on 12 July 99

It is my considered opinion that whereas Pakistan and India can add to their problems through war, they cannot solve even one of them. I have said again and again that the Kashmir dispute should be resolved by peaceful means.

We do not want war, nor do we pray for one, because it is futile to look for the victor in an encounter between two nuclear powers.

It has been my consistent endeavour to save the people of the two countries from a nuclear war. Such a war can only be started if one is bent upon collective suicide.

Those in this country who insist that we have lost an opportunity to liberate Kashmir are ignorant of the factual situation. However, by vacating those heights on our appeal the mujahideen have opened an avenue that may take them to the freedom of Kashmir. This avenue is the way of bilateral negotiations to solve the dispute and sincere attention, interest and pressure on the part of world powers for the success of these negotiations.

Our decision to give another chance to diplomacy was not taken in haste or thoughtlessly, nor was it the result of panic or pressure. It has been said by a wise man that much greater courage is required to avoid war and get out of it than to start a war.

The active fight for freedom of the Kashmiris has been going on for the last eleven years. In fact it has gained momentum as time has passed. Kargil is only a part of this ongoing struggle. As soon as the Kargil event took place we began consultations with our friends. As the war clouds darkened overhead our consultations assumed greater urgency. At the same time we never lost touch with the Indian government, I was engaged in using every power and every personality in favour of Pakistan's cause.

The passion for freedom of the Kashmiri people was like the lava that seethes under the earth searching a way to come out. If we somehow subdue the volcano at Kargil the lava will burst out from some other point. Volcanoes stop erupting only when the lava inside cools off. Until the Kashmiris get the right of self-determination one or the other Kargil will continue to erupt, and neither we nor India will be able to do anything. The only cure is justice and fulfilling the promises made to the Kashmiris.

The world has now realised the importance and sensitivity of the Kashmir dispute and is ready to devote attention to it. That is why we appealed to the mujahideen to descend from the heights of Kargil and give a chance to diplomacy and negotiations so that the mission for which they have given such great sacrifices can be pursued to its logical end. I am grateful to the mujahideen for paying heed to our appeal. Every war converts its results into decisions taken on the negotiating table. On that basis we too have determined our future course of action. I am confident that ultimately, by the grace of God, truth and justice will prevail.

An honest leadership does not always eye rule and power, its first consideration is the safety of the country and the welfare of the people. If the need arises it should be ready to stake its authority and its popularity without a moment's hesitation to protect the security of the nation.

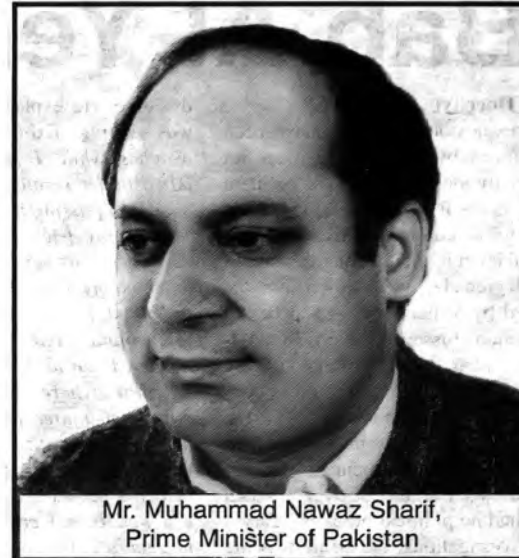
The decision that I have taken a few days ago is only to protect the interests of my country and its citizens. At the time of the Gulf War too I took decisions that ran counter to the super-charged emotions of the people. The results are there for everyone to see. If your faith is unshakable you should ignore all opposition and take decisions which you honestly think are correct and justified.

Here I would like to state a fact, a reality. The Kashmiris' urge for freedom cannot be crushed by the use of brute force. They will continue their fight. Freedom is their birthright. So long as they are not able to attain it, the people of Pakistan will be steadfast in supporting them. We shall never leave them alone in their struggle.

To take Pakistan to the heights of greatness is my cherished dream. I have never been swayed by any temptation or fear in my efforts to see that dream come true. You will recall that when India was testing one missile after another, the world, instead of stopping it, was pressurising us not to join in the race. But I ignored all such pressures and we successfully launched Ghauri and Shaheen missiles. The pressures continued even more forcefully but I refused to back down. And then who can forget the historic days of 11th and 13th of May 1998 when India made a bid to force its hegemony on this region by conducting nuclear explosions. It made extremely provocative statements, to the extent of warning us to remain within bounds. At that time pressures and warnings and temptations were not only coming from outside, some of our own wiseacres were blinded by the lustre of dollars and tended to bypass the demands of national sovereignty and independence. They were frightened out of their wits by threats and panic had made them lose their sleep. But I stood up resolutely before both outsiders and our own critics, and, by the grace of God Almighty, went through our nuclear blasts. This was followed by many severe restrictions, but I met them with firmness. Such a stance can only be taken by one who feels for his people, loves his homeland and has the fear of God in his heart. You should know by now that whatever I do it is for protecting you and your children and for ensuring their safety, honour and welfare and to raise Pakistan to new heights.

During my talks with Prime Minister Vajpayee in Lahore I had said to him that we achieved nothing through wars; in fact after each encounter we made ready for the next one and fought more wars. Many times our hostile armies faced each other and we wasted billions in equipping them for a sanguinary purpose. Even now (I said) we stand with nuclear missiles aimed at one another. Fifty years have passed and we have not been able to resolve our disputes through fighting. What a sad pass we have come to that, because of the Kashmir dispute, we have not been able to give our people even one tension-less day. Can't we resolve this issue to ensure for billions of our people a peaceful and secure future? How many more innocent Kashmiri lives will India take to appreciate this reality? How many homes will be destroyed? And for how long it will thrust its jawans into an unjust war against a people? How many more homes will be torched, and how many more funerals of Kashmiri youth will pass on the streets? For how long will mothers in India wail over their dead soldier-sons and the flames of their burning corpses darken the homes of mourning families?

International opinion should ponder how long this game of blood and fire is going to continue. Why is such a long time being taken in bringing this dispute to a just end? Fifty years ago the



Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,
Prime Minister of Pakistan

United Nations passed resolutions granting Kashmiris the right of self-determination. Why has India not abided by its promise to abide by these resolutions? After all it was not Pakistan but the UNO itself that was responsible for these resolutions. Why does not India act on them? Is this the way to deal with international matters -- to stick to a wrong stand, never to help in dealing with affairs in a spirit of goodwill? Because of this stubbornness India too has been left behind in the race for progress as has Pakistan. It is to the advantage of both India and Pakistan that we shun the way of undue obstinacy and try to solve the Kashmir tangle through talks based on good sense and sincerity.

India should learn from history. No freedom movement in this world has been crushed through military force. Bullets make blood flow but finally they get buried in that blood. For how long will India keep on claiming that Pakistan is interfering in occupied Kashmir? No country can sponsor a struggle for freedom in another area by sending men from outside.

You will recall that in my election campaign I had promised to end our disputes with India and establish fruitful relations with that country. I want to use the mandate given me by the masses for the peace and prosperity of Pakistan, and, by finding a permanent solution of the Kashmir dispute, secure my country and my people for ever. Peace is also the need of the Indian people. India should also take a forward step. I say to Prime Minister Vajpayee, "Come, let us talk. Let us save our masses from the horrors of war and give them a life of peace. Come, let us sit on the negotiating table and find the path toward a better future. It is very late already. Let us not be more late".

26th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers' Resolution on Jammu and Kashmir Dispute (supported by Yemen)

The twenty-sixth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 15 to 19 Rajabul Awal 1420H (28 June - 2 July 1999).

Reaffirming the principles and objectives of the Charter of the Organization of Islamic Conference which emphasize the common goals and destiny of the peoples of the Islamic Ummah; Emphasizing the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and recalling the UN resolutions relevant to the Jammu & Kashmir dispute which remain unimplemented;

Recalling that the Simla Agreement signed between the Governments of India and Pakistan calls for a final settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir issue;

Reaffirming the importance of the universal realization of the right of peoples to self-determination enshrined in the Charters of the OIC and the United Nations;

Recalling the Special Declarations on Jammu & Kashmir adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit held in Casablanca and Islamabad in 1994, 1997 and 1998 respectively as well as relevant paragraphs of the Tehran Declaration of the Eighth Islamic Summit of December 1997 and all previous OIC resolutions on the Jammu & Kashmir Dispute;

Expressing concern at the alarming increase in the indiscriminate use of force and gross violations of human rights committed against innocent Kashmiris;

Recalling the report of the OIC Fact Finding Mission on the situation in Kashmir following its visit to Azad Jammu and Kashmir in February 1993, and regretting that the human rights situation in Indian held Jammu and Kashmir remains grave;

Deeply concerned over the tensions along the Line of Control in Kashmir which have now become potentially more dangerous following the nuclearisation of South Asia;

Regretting also that the Government of India has not responded favourably so far to the offer of the Good Offices Mission made by the Twentieth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and renewed by the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conferences;

Further regretting that the OIC Fact Finding Mission was not

allowed to visit Indian held Jammu & Kashmir; Noting the report of the Ministerial Meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and endorsing the recommendations contained therein;

Taking note of the strong condemnation by Pakistan and the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people including the leadership of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference of the deplorable act of hostage taking by "Al-Faran" and calling for the immediate and safe release of all the hostages;

Taking note of the Memorandum submitted by the True Representatives of Jammu and Kashmir;

Encouraging and supporting the dialogue between Pakistan and India aimed at resolving all outstanding issues including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir;

1. Takes note of the Report of the Secretary General on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and endorses the recommendations contained therein (Document No.ICFM/26-99/PIL/D.2)

2. Calls for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant UN Resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla Agreement.

3. Condemns the continuing massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people and calls for the respect of their human rights including the right of self-determination.

4. Calls upon Member States to take all necessary steps to persuade India to cease forthwith the gross and systematic human rights violations of the Kashmiri people and to enable them to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination as mandated by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

5. Affirms that any political process/elections held under foreign occupation cannot be a substitute to the exercise of the right of self-determination by people of Kashmir as provided in the relevant Security Council Resolutions.

6. Calls upon India to allow International Human Rights Groups and Humanitarian Organisations to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

7. Supports the initiative of the Government of Pakistan to engage India in a serious substantive and meaningful dialogue for resolving all outstanding issues including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir and encourages India to reciprocate positively.

8. Affirms that a sustained dialogue is essential to address the core of the problems and to remove the basic causes of tension between India and Pakistan.

9. Expresses its deep concern at the prevailing tension that threatens security and peace in the region as a result of the large scale deployment of Indian troops in the Indian held Jammu and Kashmir.

10. Calls upon India and Pakistan to redeploy their forces to peace-time locations.

11. Appeals to the Member States, OIC and Islamic Institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund, and philanthropists to mobilize funds and contribute generously towards providing humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.

12. Requests the Government of India, in the interest of regional peace and security, to avail itself of the offer of Good Offices made by the Twentieth Session of Islamic Conference of the Foreign Ministers and the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conferences.

13. Requests the Secretary-General to establish contact with the Governments of India and Pakistan and the true representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir with a view to promoting a just and peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute.

14. Appreciate the efforts made by the Secretary General for enabling the true representatives of the Kashmiri people to have their views expressed in OIC and other international fora, and requests him to continue to take all necessary steps in this regard.

15. Requests the Secretary General appoint a Special Representative on Jammu & Kashmir and to send a three member OIC Fact Finding Mission to visit Jammu and Kashmir as decided by the OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of the Foreign Ministers (New York 1998), Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers as well as the Seventh Extraordinary Session and the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Summit Conferences, and to submit a report.

16. Requests the Government of India to allow the OIC Fact-Finding Mission to visit Jammu and Kashmir.

17. Recommends that Member States continue to coordinate their positions and to take action at the UN General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and other relevant international fora to promote respect for the fundamental human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

18. Commends the efforts being made by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir and mandates the Group to meet regularly along side the session of the UN General Assembly, the UN Commission on Human Rights: Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to master the support of the international community for safeguarding the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

19. Requests the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir to continue its efforts for promoting the rights of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the UN Resolutions and for safeguarding their fundamental human rights.

20. Decides to consider the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute at the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

21. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to present reports thereon to the Twenty-seventh Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

A list of exportable items of Pakistani manufacturing units operating under the aegis of the State Engineering Corporation is given below

PRODUCTS	COMPANY
Complete Sugar Plants as well as Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) of existing sugar plants and supply of spares.	HMC
Complete Cement Plants as well as Balancing, Modernization, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) of existing cement plants and supply of spares, including grinding media and wear resisting lining plates for cement industry.	HMC
Equipment for Chemical and Petro-Chemical Plants.	HMC
Equipment for Mining Industry.	HMC
Machine Tools : Milling Machines, Lathes, Shaping Machines, Drilling Machines, Hacksaws, Copy Milling & Boring Machines	PECO/ PMTF
Construction & Road Building Machinery: Road Rollers, Stone Crushing Plants, Asphalt, Mixing Plants, Concrete Mixers	HMC/PECO
Overhead Travelling Cranes	HMC/PECO
Industrial Boilers, Power Transformers	HMC/PECO
Textile Machinery : Power Looms	PECO
Electricity transmission and distribution towers/structures	PECO
Irrigation pumps : Deepwell Turbine Pumps, Centrifugal Pumps, Submersible Pumps	PECO
Electric motors	PECO
Automotive components	PMTF

Useful Internet /E-mail Addresses, Telephone and Fax numbers

Export Promotion Bureau of Pakistan: Tel: (00-92-21) 9205777 Fax: 9206461 E-mail: epb@epb.kar.ecom.com.pk	Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation: Tel: (00-92-51) 563038, 565449 Fax: 513054 E-mail: tourism@isb.comsats.net.pk Website: www.tourism.gov.pk
Board of Investment of Pakistan: Tel: (00-92-51) 9221827 Fax: 9215554 E-mail: boipak@isb.com.pk	Pakistan International Airlines (Saudi Arabia & Yemen): Tel: (00-966-2) 6447644 Fax: 6430492
Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry: Tel: (00-92-21) 5873691-94 Fax: 5874332 E-mail: edp@khi.fcci.infotink.net.pk Website: www.fpci.com	Embassy of Pakistan, Sana'a: Tel: (967-1) 248814/500140 Fax: 248866 E-mail: purepakistan@yahoo.com
State Engineering Corporation of Pakistan: Tel: (00-92-51) 9204391 Fax: 9220467 E-mail: state@paknet2.ptc.pk	Newspapers: Dawn: Website: www.dawn.com
National Engineering Services of Pakistan (NESPAK): Tel: (00-92-42) 5162502-503 Fax: 5160509 E-mail: info@nespak.brain.com.pk	The Nation: Website: www.nation.com.pk
	Jang Website: www.jang-group.com

PROSPECTS OF IMPORT OF ENGINEERING PRODUCTS & PLANTS FROM PAKISTAN TO YEMEN

Pakistani engineering and heavy engineering organisations manufacture a wide range of products which can be imported by Yemen. These products can be imported on cash basis and / or under various financing schemes of international loan giving agencies.

The State Engineering Corporation (SEC) is a public sector corporation working under the administrative control of the Ministry of Industries & Production, Government of Pakistan. SEC is managing the affairs of five industrial units, manufacturing a variety of heavy and light engineering goods of a versatile nature.

The major SEC units are Heavy Mechanical Complex (HMC) Taxila, Pakistan Machine Tool Factory (PMTF) Karachi, Pakistan Engineering Company (PECO) Lahore, and Heavy Electrical Complex (HEC) Kot Najibullah. The goods being manufactured by SEC units include machinery and equipment for complete sugar plants, cement plants, chemical and petro-chemical plants, fertilizer plants, oil & gas processing plants, thermal and hydro-electric power plants, besides various other engineering products such as road rollers, EOT cranes, boilers, transmission line towers, power transformers, irrigation pumps, construction machinery, power looms, electric motors, automotive components, machine tools, bicycles, rolled materials, steel structures, etc.

All the products being manufactured by SEC units conform to international standards of precision and quality, and are subject to rigid quality control. Two of SEC major units namely HMC and PMTF have obtained ISO 9001 certification. SEC units have produced and sold sizeable quantities of products in the domestic and international markets at highly competitive rates.

Prepared by:
Ambassador Amin Jan Naim Sponsored by:

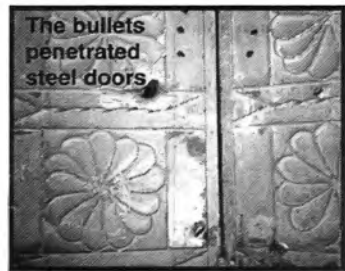
- 1- Mr. Masroor Alam Siddiqui, Al Sunidar Travels
- 2- Sikander Mahmood, GM, Yemen Commercial Bank
- 3- Syed S. Mehdi Naqvi, GM, Watani Bank

Revealing the facts behind Bab Al-Yemen's explosion

The Horrifying Incident

The explosion appears to have been organized by a terrorist group not officially identified yet. The incident took place in a narrow lane on the way to the constantly crowded traditional inner markets. The explosive, a hand grenade, was thrown into the crowd by a man, believed to be Ali Abdullah Hussein Al-Hejri, from Al-Hejra near Ishbil village in the province of Dhamar. In a press conference held by the Interior Minister, the minister, Hussein Mohammed Arab stated that the incident was triggered by an argument over a watch and had no political motives. "Based on investigations, the crime was the result of an argument between the man who hurled the grenade and four men selling watches," the minister said.

Regarding this issue, the Yemen Times went to Bab Al-Yemen and filed some interviews with the shop owners who were closest to the place where the incident took place. Mohamed Qaid Allaw is a small market owner who witnessed the accident and explained the situation with his own words, "Ten minutes after the explosion of the bomb, I heard gun fire and we thought that the police were shooting in the air. Afterwards, we realized that the shots had hit people and killed a number of them. Then my brother went out to see who is shooting, but unfortunately he was killed immediately by the criminal, who caught him with a shot, which penetrated his body from his stomach till the bullet went out from his back. My young son tried to run away after he was frightened of the scenery of blood, but the killer shot him and hurt his hand before he escaped. I then tried to hospitalize both my brother and son as soon as possible. I could not go through the shock until this moment. This is a brutal crime that we should never forgive."



The bullets penetrated steel doors

Another close witness was a small used watch market owner, Mahfoudh Alawi. In his words he said, "While we were trying to help the victims of the explosion, we heard gun shots everywhere. My partner in the market, Mohammed Abdullah took the tea thermos bottles with him and told me to close the store. However, just as we were about to close the store, he was shot in the head and died immediately. His blood was all over the place. In a hysterical movement, I shouted 'help, help.' Our neighbor came running and while asking what had happened, he too was mercilessly shot in the head and fell dead. I then ran for my life. Later the police forces arrived, and there was almost a live battle which we could feel between the terrorist and the police. Later, after the police located him, they threw towards him a tear gas bomb and were able to capture him."

Then we met with Abdo Ali who was working on fixing some watches by



Abdo Ali: I witnessed the murder of my friend in front of me

the time. He explained, "I was sitting fixing some watches while I suddenly felt a bullet scratching my head and passing to get the soul of my friend, Murad Abdo who was next to me. I touched my head and felt the blood. I tried to prevent my wound from bleeding further. I ran to Al-Thowra hospital where I found dozens of injured people. I had my wound sutured, and came back in an effort to help the others. This is an evil and brutal crime that targets all Yemenis alike. We will never forgive this act of terror."

The terrorist's crime was a truly an act of terror that cannot be justified in any means or terms. The explosion, caused people



Bullets reached people in their inner markets

in the area to panic. In the time of the explosion, shouting and screaming filled the area with fear and anger. After committing his crime, the man attempted to escape by breaking into one of the homes in the area. He went up the roof and shot at as many people as he could. Sources say that in his gun firing, he killed three and then tried to escape. According to official sources, he was captured and put in jail.

In the hospital

After this brutal accident took place, and in order to get the facts, Yemen Times hurried to get the remarks of the people who were closest to the incident. These are the people who were injured during the blastoff. We went to Al-Thowra Hospital and spoke with the victims of the accident who were barely able to talk. We did not want to disturb them, so we made short interviews in which many facts were displayed.

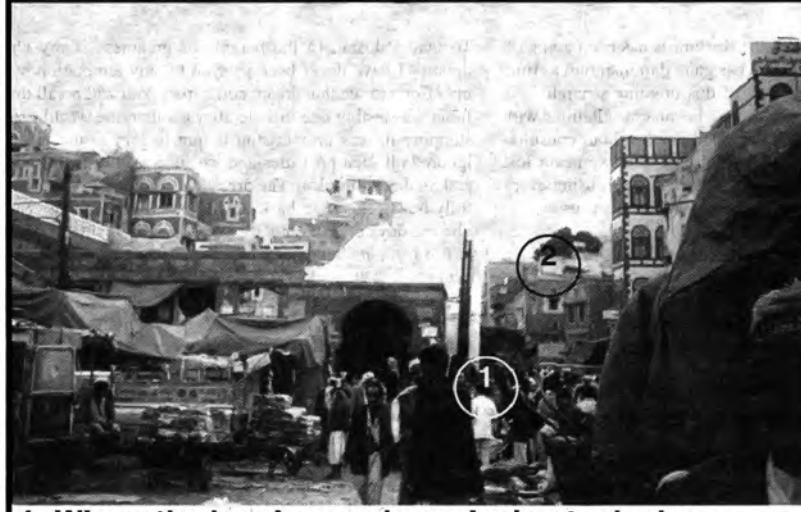


The criminal was not satisfied with turning this child to an orphan, he also caused him severe injury.

In the emergency department of the hospital were the victims, who suffered from various wounds and health problems due to the blast. At the beginning we talked with the person responsible of monitoring and directing the medical care service and attention given to the victims, Dr. Saleh Muthanna who gave us a brief statement about how the hospital received the wounded and how things are going so far.

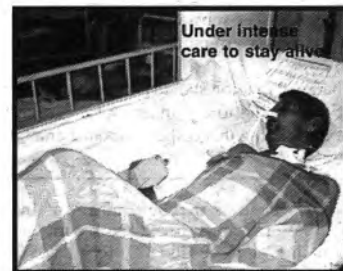
"Because we are the hospital closest to the place of the blastoff, we received almost all of the cases that

"We realized that the ones who died most probably had died because of gun shots and not because of the explosion."



1- Where the hand grenade explosion took place
2- Where the criminal shot fire at the victims

resulted from the blastoff just after it happened. All doctors were called from their homes to deal with this urgent situation. We were able to handle all the cases, which we received. The ones which were not so dangerous, were dealt with quickly and sent to other hospitals such as Kuwait, and Jumhuri. Unfortunately, two of the injured arrived to the hospital as dead bodies, and two more died after some time of their arrival. Currently, we have around 11 victims of which 3 cases are quite serious and are currently in the extensive care section of the emergency department.



Under intense care to stay alive

ment. The rest are in better shape, but still suffer from the shock and effects of their wounds." Regarding the condition of the hospital in dealing with the cases he said, "Our hospital is well equipped with modern tools, which had helped us in dealing with all cases appropriately. We realized that the ones who died most probably had died because of gun shots and not because of the explosion. You know that the criminal had fired on some people after the explosion, these were the true victims who died during this event."

Then we went along with Dr. Saleh to the rooms where the patients were, and we visited a number of them. The first was Mr. Mohamed Ali Nijad, who explained how the incident happened. "As usual, and as many Yemenis do, I went to Bab Al-Yemen to do some shopping for the

family and myself. I walked through the main gateway and into the first lane leading to Bab Al-Salam in search for some goods to buy. The place was very crowded at the time. As soon as the call for Ish'a Prayer from the near by Al-Jam'i Al-Kabeer Mosque, I heard a huge blast and saw the light of the explosion from the ground. I was wounded and my brother who was standing next to me fell on the ground just like tens of others whom I thought had died. I was not severely wounded as the others, so I picked my brother and took him to the car, which was near by. I then ran to help the others who were severely wounded in an effort to save their lives and take them to Al-Thowra hospital. When we arrived to the hospital, I realized that one of the victims had already died on our way. Frankly speaking, the hospital's staff was quite sympathetic and warm-

hearted. They were working very hard to save as many lives as possible. The moments of the explosion were so terrifying that I was not able to notice if a person had thrown a grenade or any other kind of bomb. I only heard that the criminal tried to escape after the explosion and he

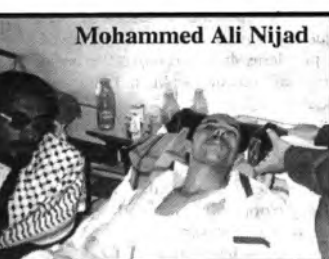
"The government should prevent the carrying of weapons in the major cities of the country."

though that there were some people after him. So he shot on them from one of the houses in the area. I was very pleased with the response of the people after the incident. Everyone volunteered to help the injured. Even simple hand-pushed cart owners left their goods and ran for the rescue of their brothers. They even threw the goods, which were on their carts, and used it to carry the wounded to the hospital without thinking of what might happen to their goods. About the crime, he said, "This horrifying act is no less than an inhuman crime that targeted the innocent people. This crime can only be done by a

"The number of shots and the marks on the walls of the building suggest that this incident was carried out with a group of armed men and not one person."

person full of hatred and wants to destroy peace and stability in the area and in the whole country." On the consequences of the incident, he explains, "I think that if tourists or foreigners hear of this event, they will never go into Bab Al-Yemen again, despite being one of the most important tourist sites in Yemen. Even Yemenis will be hesitant of going into that gate again, or at least going through crowded areas in that place."

On what the government should do in this regard he insists that "The government should prevent the carrying of weapons in the major cities of the country. It should carry out strict punishments was made on the ones who do not abide by the law in this regard. I am a police officer, and



Mohammed Ali Nijad

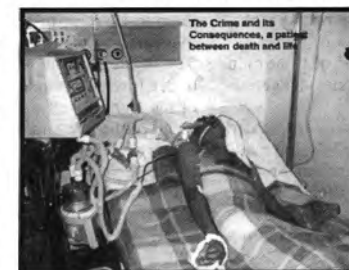
I frankly say that the rules of prohibiting the carrying of weapons are not strict whatsoever. I say this because I witnessed many cases where ignorance and carelessness among the higher-ranking police officers lead to the ineffectiveness in

the implementation of the law. I witness tribesmen, sheiks, and other people moving around with their weapons into the most crowded areas of Bab Al-Yemen. I even witness cars with twenty or so armed men. Unfortunately, any dispute or issue is dealt with using weapons, which leads to such incidents. We have illegal weapon markets all over Sanaa governorate. I request from the government to collect these weapons one by one and put them under state control in order to have stability and peace in this country."

On his behalf, he claims, "I am a simple police officer, who can not do a lot. The main people responsible of securing our country are the high-ranking officials who can directly impose rules and have them implemented for the benefit of all citizens. If the one in top does his job right, the rest -including me- will definitely follow."

Then we went on to the next patient, Mohamed Abdullah Abdo, from Lahj, who was one of the wounded as a result of direct contact with the explosion. He was directly affected by the grenade's fragments in his knee and shoulder. Mr. Mohamed told his story, "While we were on our way to the markets of Bab Al-Yemen, we entered into the narrow lane, which leads to the internal traditional shops of the old city of Old Sanaa, where the horrifying incident took place. I only found myself lying on the ground with blood all over my body. I realized that the explosion was in the ground and not in the air or somewhere else. I think that the range of the explosive material was of 15 meters. I have lost my friend who was with me by the time, I am still looking for him until now." On the steps that the government should undertake after the incident he said, "I think that the people in the market should be inspected. Weapons should be prohibited inside the market place where there are crowds of people all the time. What is the crime of the innocent people, children, and tourists who come into the market in peace? There should be security forces in the Capital city to look for weapons and try to prevent them from entering such areas. The extent of ignorance and lawlessness reached the level where there are carts inside Bab Al-Yemen selling all sorts of weapons and machinery. This needs to stop."

Then we were faced with another victim, Ibrahim Ali Nijad, who was suffering from damage in the face near the eye. He was barely able to talk, so we only had a brief talk with him about this terrifying experience. He started, "we went into the shop



The Crime and its Consequences, a patient between death and life

among the crowd of around 50 people. Suddenly we heard a strong explosion, and we among others were hurt by the splinter of the explosion." On his impressions of how this will affect the activities in Bab Al-Yemen he said, "I am now hesitant of going back to Bab Al-Yemen because it will remind me of the incident. It shows how a small grenade can result in the deaths of several visitors. However, all I can say about the incident is that it is signals a horrifying issue. Such terror incidents are partially a result of lawlessness and the unavailability of security forces which monitor the area and prevent weapons from flowing such crowded places."

Afterwards, we went to see another patient, Hamood Qassim Al-Huty. Interestingly enough, Mr. Hamood was not injured because of the blast of the grenade, but instead the gunman who is expected to be the same person who threw the grenade shot his arm. Starting from the beginning,

he explained how it all happened, "I was sitting and chewing qat along with some guests in my friend's living room in the fifth floor of the building when I heard a blast of what I think is an 800 gm hand grenade. It was a huge explosion that shook the whole building. After the incident, the criminal who committed it tried to escape and broke into one of the houses and went to the ceiling where he shot dead a number of people using his weapon. While I was attempting to prepare myself and try to help in capturing the gunman, my right arm was shot. I felt the shock in my whole body. Realizing that the bullet had penetrated my arm bone, I was about to faint when I found my friends pulling me out of the room

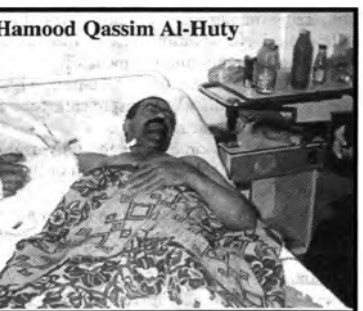
"The extent of ignorance and lawlessness reached the level where there are carts inside Bab Al-Yemen selling all sorts of weapons and machinery. This needs to stop."



Ibrahim Ali Nijad

towards the car to get me hospitalized. I then arrived to the hospital where I found out that I could not feel my arm, and I think it is now paralyzed."

After asking how the fire came into the room, he answered "I think that it was more than one person who shot fire at us. The number and direc-



Hamood Qassim Al-Huty

tions of the shots and the marks on the walls of the building suggest that this incident was carried out with a group of armed men and not one person." He also added, "There is no law implemented in this area. Bab Al-Yemen is one of the areas where you find problems, thefts, and various incidents all the time. There have been many promises of giving more attention to Bab Al-Yemen and sorting its problems out, but all are still promises. Bab Al-Yemen faces many problems in all aspects. Cars cannot come into the place, the crowd always makes things difficult. For example, if services and other important functions in the place were available, the latest incident would not have gained so many lives. I hope that the government would now wake up and bring more attention to this area."



Not yet out of this trauma

Embassy of India - Sana'a

52nd Independence Day Anniversary of India (August 15)

INDIAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY : SOARING HIGH-WITH ONE FOOT ON THE GROUND

By Anand Parthasarathy

Early this Year, a modest ceremony was held at Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of the southern state of Kerala, whose stunning natural attractions have earned it the name "God's Own Country". A small group from the Kani tribe-indigenous people who make their home in the forest of the Agasthya Hills of India's Western mountains ranges — assembled to receive a cheque for Rs 520,000 (US\$13,000) from the director of the Indian tropical and Botanic Gardens Research Institute(TBGRI). It was royalty that the tribe had earned, when their traditional knowledge about the stamina-inducing properties of local herb was formalised and after months of testing and research, a patent obtained on their behalf. Now, the drug company that bought the process know-how from the institute had rolled out an over-the-counter pick-me up capsule called "Jeevani"— and the tribe was getting its share of the profits-50%.

That evening in the tribal hamlets on the hill slopes, the Kani tribe celebrated the first ever instance in India when the intellectual property rights of an indigenous people to their traditional medical knowledge, was recognized, protected and duly rewarded. It was a unique occasion and a historic one in India's quest to nurture, and preserve the centuries old wisdom of her people-and package it for a modern world.

At almost the same time, across the subcontinent, on the Eastern shore at Sriharikota, hundreds of Space scientists and engineers had already begun the countdown for the launch of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle no. C-2(PSLV-C2)— in its own way, a no-less unique occasion, than the celebrations in the Agasthya Hills. For the first item, an indigenous launch rocket would carry a truly international payload: the Indian remote sensing satellite KITSAT-3, designed and developed by the Republic of Korea and another, DLRTUBSAT, a joint development of the German Space Centre and Berlin University. When PSLV-C2 finally soared heaven-ward a few days later, on May 26 this year, it successfully lofted the first payload that India was carrying as a commercial satellite launch facility. It costs between \$ 1 million and \$1.5 million to launch a satellite- and with its proven track record of two decades as a professional Space Technology provider (and a "rate" that was about a third cheaper than other nations), India had begun to attract a part - albeit modest- of the global \$100 billion launch services market. In early 2000 AD, she was already booked to loft the 100 kg Belgian "Proba" satellite.

Only a few weeks earlier the marketing wing of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had leased 11 transponders on her recently launched satellite INSAT 2-E to the international consortium of Intelsat, for 10 years. It would earn ISRO an annual fee of around \$10 million. Plans are afoot for the launch in coming months of the next satellite INSAT 3A as well as a new series of geo-synchronous satellites on the GSLV launch vehicle. Each of these events — a modest "first" royalty of a few thousand dollars disbursed to a hundred tribes people; and tens of millions dollars earned for launching satellite or hiring out transponders - is vital and important to India's quest for excellence in Science and Technology, and the sums involved are no indication of priorities. Indeed, they merely underline the knotty problems of resource and allocation in an economy where the need to race ahead and keep the nation in the international front-line of technology in the more visible arenas of Space and Nuclear Sciences, has to be balanced, with the more earthy, mundane and unglamorous needs of the vast majority of her population. It is a balancing act that suc-

cessive governments from both ends of the political spectrum have managed to perform with both skill and sensitivity. That is because a Science and Technology thrust has remained a non party issue in India for all of its 52 years of independence. And the developments that have come in fields as diverse as avionics and ayurveda (India's indigenous system of medical treatment); biotechnology and bathymetry have invariably received strong support from the government because hard-nosed national priorities are almost always tied to the aspirations and goals of Science and Technology.

Nuclear power- a pressing need

Perhaps nowhere more so than in the nuclear science where publicity (and some controversy) about last year's peaceful nuclear tests have tended to obscure the more long-term tasks addressed by Indian atomic scientists-like energy for an energy-hungry nation. Spun off as a separate corporate entity, the nuclear power corporation today generates just over 2000 megawatts of power from 9 nuclear power units around the country. Plans under construction and in advanced planning stages are expected to add another 2900 MW in the near future- but the goal for the year 2020 is a ten-fold increase over today's capacity. To achieve this, India "atom-busters" are already thinking beyond today's plants which run on nature uranium and plutonium to a new generation based on thorium-a sensible course for a country blessed with large natural resources of this "rare earth" material.

But down in the labs of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in Mumbai, the quest for more and better energy has gone hand in hand with some seemingly trivial spin off technologies: a chopper-controller for suburban electric locomotive traction which has cut energy requirements by a third; an "intelligent" braille interpreter, which harnesses computer technology to ease the quest for learning of the visually handicapped.

Many of the technologies being developed under the umbrella of Indian Defence Research Organisation are similarly rooted in reality - the need to be self sufficient in core technologies like inertial guidance and propulsion; in heat resistant "composite" materials and the design and fabrication of application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs). Super computers based on massively parallel processing building blocks by both the Defence and Atomic research organisations have been fruitfully deployed on such applications like weather modeling and medical imaging. Meanwhile, in areas of core competency, Defence imaging researches are on the threshold of producing India's own version of the Light Combat Aircraft(LCA)- a major challenge in avionics which has brought together over two dozen public and private agencies in a consortium venture. Some of the technologies that have gone into the fabrication of critical components for aircraft and missiles also form the core of civilian initiatives like the development of indigenous catheters, heart valves and prosthetic aids for the physically handicapped.

Software scenario

In recent years, Indian software expertise has come to be recognized, world wide as a rich resource - and the global crisis, that is the Y2K problem, has been converted by many Indian software agencies into an opportunity. The Indian Government's "IT for all by 2008" policy hopes to give the global growth of Internet related services and business, an indigenous slant by tying it to national goals in education and welfare. Software exports which earned the country Rs 11,000 crore (\$30 billion) in the last fiscal year are expected to cross \$50 billion in this time span. Indeed a recent report of the International Data

Cooperation (IDC) the US-based IT industry watcher estimates that India is now among the top 5 markets in Asia Pacific, for IT goods especially personal computer products.

To bootstrap the country into the fast lane of the information Superhighway, it is necessary that language does not become a roadblock - which is precisely the rationale behind the thrust of centrally funded agencies like the Centre for Development of Advanced Computers (C-DAC). On one hand, C-DAC has created a neat little niche for itself with the design and fabrication of "gigaflop"-soon teraflop- super complike the "Param" (or "almighty") Open Frame. On the other, C-DAC's "best selling" product in 1998 and 1999 has been a cool software package sold at a throw away price of few dollars, called "ileap"-a tool which enables computing in the Windows environment in every Indian script and language.

Harnessing the seas

For those who live along India's long 7500 km shoreline, the science of the sea may seem a remote concern - not so to the researchers of the country's half dozen oceanographic and marine science labs whose seemingly esoteric and logistically elaborate exercises are often rooted in very relevant goals. Ever since 1987, when India became the first nation in the world to be granted pioneer status to exploit the sea-bottom resources around her - specifically a site covering 150,000 square kms rich in polymetallic nodules - institutions like the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) have fueled the country's quest to harvest the oceans that fall within her exclusive economic zone (EEZ). It is not often appreciated that this vast land mass is surrounded by 1256 islands — and research to reap a bigger, better harvest from the sea is a key preoccupation in some of the country's top marine and fishery research units. Here too, the need to increase the catch of deep sea fish has to be balanced with the need to protect the traditional livelihood of thousands of artisanal fisherfolk who still use traditional fishing methods. Indeed, how to exploit the coastal seas without damaging the nurseries of prime species like shrimp during the critical monsoon months is one of the biggest challenges facing Indian fishery scientists today. Some of these marine researchers have gone far in search of answers - as far as Antarctica - where since 1981, India has sent an annual expedition and established a permanent base for studies which might have a bearing on problems in the waters and icy land masses nearer home. Here again the need to nurture a fundamental academic curiosity about the world's natural wonders often has to balance with the requirements of meeting short term goals. It is a delicate balancing act - but one that India's growing fraternity of scientists and technologists have learned to perform.

Hence the recent excited announcement in June this year, that an institute based in Mysore, which specializes in food technology for the Armed Forces has just perfected the "two minute rice"; that a high tech lab working on strategic communications has modified a 35 giga hertz millimetric wave transmitter technology to provide reliable communications in remote areas, during natural calamities like floods and earthquakes; that the anniversary of India's 1998 nuclear test was marked this year by the release of a handy HIV testing kit and the launch of a cheap \$1 vaccine against leprosy.

As long as India's technologists are able to manage their priorities, humanely and sensibly, balancing high tech goals with earthy priorities, they will not be off course as the nation sets high course for the exciting new millennium to come.

Public's Opinion in a Yemen Times Survey Regarding Presidential Election:

"WE WANT A REFERENDUM.."

Yemen Times has been and will be very close to up-to-date issues. One of these issues is the upcoming presidential elections scheduled to be held on the 23rd of September. In an inquiry about the elections and the parliament's endorsement on the nominees for the ensuing presidential elections, Yemen Times launched a field survey about these important issue in an effort to know the public's reaction.

Kaed Abdoh Mosleh
Al-Kuwait University Hospital


The 10% of the parliament's endorsement is a good and logical article if we take into consideration the importance of the candidacy for this position. This has been applied and will also be applied when the opposition has members in the parliament. It is advisable that the opposition parties should admit facts and accept boldly the results of the parliament endorsement. President Ali Abdullah Saleh is an experienced leader and his great deeds are evident everywhere you go. The presidential elections stand as a strong witness to the democratic process in Yemen. I will elect the person who has made all this accessible to Yemen and Yemenis. I expect that my candidate will go sincerely to build the modern Yemen. I also think a referendum is better as to save us the expenses of the elections. However, holding elections is also important to enhance the elements of democracy in our country.

Mohsen Mojahed Ali


I think that elections are the spirit of democracy and is the correct way to express our opinions. The article of the 10% is correct if the parliament consists of different

parties. However, our parliament is dominated by two parties. So I do not approve of the article, especially at this time.

I will elect President Ali Abdullah Saleh and I expect that he will pursue rapid changes in different fields of the country towards prosperity and to obliterate corruption. I prefer a referendum and to make use of the financial funds that are going to be wasted in these elections.

Nabeela Al-Roba
A nurse

Elections are essential in any country that advocates democracy. They are the steps towards the real implementation of democracy in its correct sense. As for the 10% of endorsement I think that this is an article made to choose specific persons and reject other ones. I am going to elect the person who really works for a better tomorrow for Yemenis. I also prefer to have a referendum as to avoid forging and cheating in the voters cards.

Kaid Hamood Saeed Naser
A university student

I think that the presidential elections is nothing more than a waste of time and financial resources at a time when all Yemenis are suffering from a destructive economic crisis. Moreover, the 10% necessary to endorse a nominee does not serve the democratic process as many nominees were rejected by the ruling party and Islah. For me I am not going to elect any one and I do not expect any improvement in the current situation.

Ahlaam Al-Katheeri
A university teacher

I believe in elections in a general sense as they are a clear expression of civilized behavior and of the democratic process that we are sustaining. How much I hoped that a woman will be included in the nominees' list for these elections so as to prove that the deci-

sion makers are really sincere in all that they say about their support for women and their rights. I am not going to elect any one and I do not trust what the presidential candidate says because we are used to such talk whenever there is any electoral campaign. And to the best of my knowledge, I think that a referendum is much better than elections to save us great amounts of money and heavy waste of time.

Fahd Ahmad kaed
A student

I do not believe in elections and I do not care about them because every thing is just a waste of time and money of these poor people who are still hungry after 37 years of the revolution. As for the 10% to endorse a nominee in the presidential elections, I believe that this is just a way to deceive people and control things. I will not elect any one because what could not be done in previous years can not be done in the coming ones. Referendum and elections are complementary to each other of cheating and forging.

Sara Abdullah
A journalist

The electoral process in itself is actually a great event in the history of Yemenis in which Yemenis could be part of their political life. The 10% of the parliament endorsement has negatively affected and ignored woman's right to be a presidential candidate as it is preserved by the constitution. I am not going to elect anyone and the person chosen by the people will be the president who will be responsible for all that corruption in our country. I am in support of a referendum than elections as expenses will be less.

Hefduh Ali Al-Hrazi
An employee

Elections are a good sign of absolute freedom and democ-

racy to express opinions freely. Regarding the 10% I think that this is a good thing to do so as to give a chance for many people to be candidates. I prefer elections as to strengthen the foundations of democracy in our country.

Abdullah Al-Jarmoozee
A chemist

I am not fond of politics as parties are misunderstood in our country. What I stress is that our country is in dire need of faithful efforts that aim at feeding these starving people. For me I am not going to elect anyone and I do not trust anyone as parties have destroyed all values in human beings. I support neither elections nor referendum because after the nine past years of the unification I have become certain that personal benefit is the moving force and it is the most important thing.

Fekriah Abdullah
A gynecologist

Elections which you are talking about have nothing new to help the people

"The article of the 10% has actually led to deadening the competition"

and decrease their pain and suffering. Women are a good sign of this pain and suffering. There is no real democracy and there is no existence for democratic practices in our country. Real elections are those that comprise all the parties in the country. It is obvious that there is no such a thing in our country. Therefore I am not going to elect anyone at all. I also believe that these elections are an exploitation of democracy. I do not believe either in the coming elections or referendum as every thing is controlled by those in power.

Motahar Aqabat
A university teacher

First, I would like to thank the Newspaper for its presence and concern of the people. Elections is the embodiment of democracy the system Yemenis have adopted. However, the article of the 10% has actually led to deadening the competition that might have happened if this article was not there. This article has resulted in a two-candidate endorsement who belong to the same party. For me I am not going to elect and there can be no hope of anyone of these candidates. Moreover, no one is able to solve the problem of employment or that of the economic crisis. A referendum is better than elections as it will cost us less.

Mojeeb Ahmad Kaed
A student

I see elections as a real implementation of democracy and its sacred principles that if seriously and virtually practiced, great changes will take place. For me I am not going to elect or vote for anyone because all this fuss is about nothing for it is a forgone conclusion that Saleh is going to be the president. I furthermore believe that there will be no improvements in the present situation. The whole thing is just a far play.

Ahmad Abdullah Mohammed
A military officer

I believe that holding election in our country is the bless of democracy and is a clear reflection of the stage we have reached to in the democratic process. I also support the 10% of endorsement because whatever happens in the parliament, it does not take place unless it is supported by all the

members. My candidate for the presidential elections, without a shadow of doubt, is Ali Abdullah Saleh and what I expect from him is a lot as he has done a lot for the people of this country.

Saeed Alaw
A bookshop runner

I really see elections as a great thing in condition that equal, chances should be provided to all. The 10% of endorsement is actually unjust to the democratic process we are claiming to adhere to. For me I am not going to vote for anyone and I doubt all that they say right now. Moreover, I do not believe neither in elections nor in referendum.

Hameed Ahmad Maooda
An employee

I hope that elections will go on peacefully and in its specified time according to the regulations and rules of the election law. The 10% of endorsement is a legal and correct procedure maintained by the constitution. I have the right to keep my candidate to myself and I expect lots of things if all of us join hands and work together for the sake of our country.

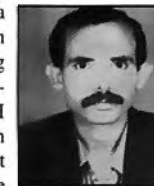
"Real elections are those that comprise all the parties in the country. It is obvious that there is no such a thing in our country."

Thabet Ahmad Mohsen
A carpenter

I believe that elections are held in according to the constitution of our country. The 10% of the parliament endorsement is an essential thing. I am, of course, with elections rather than with referendum as it is a real implementation of democracy.


Abdulsalam Al-Karari
A journalist

I thought that we are going to see a strong competition between the ruling party and the opposition parties and I was very much in favor of this for it will prove to the world that there is a real democracy in our country. However, I was very much disappointed when the opposition nominee was rejected. Furthermore, the only existing strong party which could have helped in making these



"I was very much disappointed when the opposition nominee was rejected"

elections a success, Islah, decided to introduce President Saleh as their candidate for the presidential elections. Practically speaking, I will elect President Saleh as there is no comparison. I expect from my candidate to try to get the country out of the economic crisis and to enhance democracy. Finally, a referendum is better if we take the present situation in consideration.

Ismail Al-Ghabiri,
Yemen Times

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The Sad Situation of Sanaa City: When a Country's Turns to a Pile of

Do you still remember how cleanly and tidy our streets were? Do you remember that old, nice habit of cleaning in front of the houses by their residents themselves? A nice thing, wasn't it?

There was a time when our streets looked shiny and free from dirt. But alas! Such days did pass. What you see today is a scandal. People refrain from cleaning outside their houses. They lay the responsibility on those in charge who lay the responsibility on the people. Here rises a question: who is really responsible for keeping our city tidy? To tell the truth, none are blameless.

In 1978, a project for cleaning the Secretariat Capital was formed. Up to 1984, the project was sponsored by the Dutch Government. After this time it was privatized. All the equipment was handed to private companies which failed in the given task. The result is clearly seen; heaps of garbage in every street and alley. Now, as the people awareness of the importance of cleanliness, the project was reformed by the Government. Ahlam Al-Mutawakel of Yemen Times met with Mr. Najeeb Al-Himiary, General Director of the project who said that all the equipment was taken back from the private companies. "The devices available at

present", he added, "will not do for the project which requires the availability of at least 300 devices. There are only 110 and all of them are out of date. So what really hinders us from doing our work properly is the lack of the up-to-date technical equipment, besides, the negative response of the people to the issue of cleanliness".

Workers in the project do complain about the low payment besides their small number. In this regard, Mr. Al-Himiary said, "the worker's salary is YRs 9000. We have 300 workers and 600 casual workers in the project." "This number", Mr. Himiary added, "is not enough due to the rapid growth of population." When asked about the policy to be followed in the future, Mr. Najeeb pointed out that Sana'a would be divided into 6 districts to enable the Parliament members to take the responsibility of carrying out the project in their districts. He also talked about a suggestion of imposing fines on people who do not care about the cleanliness of the city. In addition, a number of new small garbage cans that children can easily use will be put in the capital different areas. "We have started working in some areas but many other areas" Mr. Al-Himiary



Not everyone is complaining why we throw our garbage to the streets!

went on, "such as Shomailah, Taiz, Madhah and other streets in Al-Asbahi City are not served. In the future we will be able to cover all the streets but we will have a problem with Hail Street which is covered with sewage. We would like the Minister of Construction and Housing and the Capital Secretariat to support us in this regard." The General Manager of Machinery in the Ministry of Construction

and Housing, Mr. Saleh Al-Shaikh Salem, said that the Ministry had handed the project 20 vehicles, 500 garbage cans and spare parts. The educator, Ibtisam Al-Dhafry, has asserted the importance of the Capital cleanliness pointing out that the start must be in the house. The parents must be a good example for their children. "Islam", she added "considers cleanliness a sign of

well-education". Besides this, Ibtisam Al-Dhafry pointed out that through the field researches it had made in some schools, The Women Voluntarily Meeting found it very necessary to make available a number of water tanks and garbage cans in schools.

The head of the Informational Committee in the Meeting, Mrs.

Amat Al-Rahman Jahaf asserted the importance of keeping the environment free from the heaps of plastic sacks that threaten man's health. She also asked for stopping the animals grazing in the piles of garbage because they spread it everywhere.

Ahlam Al-Mutawakel
Yemen Times



Many of the cleaning trucks are out of order

A Seminar on Electricity and Renewable Resources

The shortage of electricity is actually one of the most important issues that should be given our full attention. The problems resulted from the frequent shut off and block outs of electricity are never ending. They have actually become a nightmare haunting on the minds of the people. In an attempt to retrieve the situation, a seminar was held on August 1-3 1999 at Shahrani Hotel considering these problems and trying to come up with solutions. It is one of the first initiatives for the cooperation between the European Union and Yemen. The main objective of this project is to identify the issues that should be covered in the future, that is, the screening of the current situation in conjunction with the present economic and political situation of the country because energy is interlinked with the political and economic situation.

The Deputy Minister of Planning and Developing gave a speech in which he thanked the European Commission, its representative in Sana'a and the strategy limited for their excellent work. Then he gave an overall view on the macroeconomics setup of Yemen economy and how the power sector plays a model role in this overall picture. He said that the power sector is one of the legal sectors now in terms of its potential importance, local investment as well as foreign investment. He said that the power sector is going along with other sectors like telecommunications and transportation and others. He stressed the idea of relating the power sector to all components of the economic reform; the stabilization of the economy, restructuring the economy, administrative reform and social syntactic. Any motion without power means that the society is isolated from the world. It is so because the core of the activities and dynam-

ics of society nowadays has a lot to do with the power system and power structure. He expressed the massive concern about the power sector which is mainly for the great needs and great demands for electricity and power energy. He declared that there are shortages in supplying power. Then he made some references to figures and numbers relating to the power section and said: the contribution of the power sector in Yemen is less than 2 percent of our GDP. However, there is a need for electricity in the Yemen community. We realized many challenges, some are: the excess demand of power and a lot of imbalances between supply and demand, the system of the existing facilities and stations, lots of problems regarding the newness and also repairing which really affect the continuity of the supply and result in a frequent shut off and block out from time to time, the technical loss from the consumer respect and finally the shortage skilled men power and the lack of incentive for these employees to work and be productive. From the challenges faced, the government strategy of the power sector is how to remedy the imbalances on supply and demand, how to sustain our services in the power sector to cover not only urban areas but rural areas as well, to have enough power energy to the commercial use and for investments and also to make the sector work with the best effective leader market prices. Another element in this strategy is the utilization of natural gas. The third element is helping the private sector either local or foreign to be part in the stages of power system. We aim at breaking the circle of monopoly in the three stages: generation, transmission and distribution. We also want to utilize the renewable resources and encourage people to use them. There is also an

intention to redefine the role of the institution. And also how they could make their services market-oriented rather than be in the private sector's control. The final element of the strategy is to build capacity in the sector, to enable the staff to be more trained, have more incentives to work and to commit themselves to their work in the sector.

Then the representative of EC-Technical Advisory Office in Yemen gave a speech in which he talked about the interesting outcomes of the workshop on oil and gas, he also said: there seems to be an integrated kind of approach that comes to define and estimate energy policy. The EC has played an important role in Yemen both in terms of contribution to GDP and employment not only in the case of oil and gas but also in the considerable need for expansion of the whole generation and transmission capacity as a prerequisite for economic development and delivery of basic services in rural areas. The reason why we are here today is the fact that Yemen and European Union signed a new cooperation agreement in the later half of 1998 and we seriously focus on areas of future cooperation between the parties of this agreement. This also includes trade, economic and culture cooperation, environment protection and inflex sustainable development of natural resources as well as human resources. More specifically and more relevant to the workshop we had last week is that it provides for not only a number of exchanged facilities but also excess facilities; this includes access community; have some knowledge in the field of energy production, transmission and environmental protection. It calls for strengthening of cooperation in fields that are closely related to economic progress and benefiting these parties;

Yemen as a producer of oil and gas and the EC member states as providers of energy generation technology of non-polluting energy generation technology. So to implement this energy program the EC has committed just 80,000 Euro for this first round of consultation which is really a reflection of this wider scope of EC-Yemen cooperation options and can obviously lead to a number of interesting follow up activities. During last year I think the commission was more interested in the vocational training, the major part is to qualified professionals required by oil and gas service industries. In the context of the government civil service organization, we are examining the possibility of assisting and reform the general authority for mineral and petroleum explorations. We are just now together with the Ministry of the planning and the environmental protection Council starting on the developing of Socatra which is one of the remotest areas in regard to the main land Yemen, 2000 km off shore. One of the aspects of this master plan is to examine the competitiveness of renewable energies in regard to economic development. Finally the timing of this seminar is very interesting because Yemen's efforts are really taking form, and shape to secure access to loans from EIB and it seems that Yemen's chances to be included in the EIP are quite good. Then a word was given by the representative of Ministry of Electricity and water in which he talked about the policy of Yemen on electricity and renewable resources. He highly evaluated the importance of this workshop in bringing constructive ideas and suggestions to the development of sustainable energy planning in the sector and went on to say: the Ministry is responsible for supervision of free main sectors: water and electricity. In the past there was some



ambiguity about the objectives of the Ministry as for it is responsible for water and electricity. The policy in the strategy for the future is to relieve the subsidy and to charge actual cost to the customer. If we look for the short term master plan for the coming five years, it means that we need between 300,000 and 400,000 million dollars to meet the increase in demand which is about 7%. Of course, we are not in position to secure all this therefore the strategy adopted intends to involve the private sector in the investment. This is within a global scheme for restructuring the center. It is, of course, a challenge for us that we will go and change the career because we did not expect that investors will come to this country and work on the basis of EIP or any form of organization without ensuring that there is a reasonable berth for the money collected from the consumers. So one of the strategies we have adopted is that we should re-design the structure of the berth because the existing design of the berth is not adequate. Another important thing is that we are planning to re-engineering of the staff. The sector is lacking a lot of skilled and expertise workers. Another area of concern is the demand side management because we can not concentrate our efforts only on the supply

side. We have to work in some sort of policies so that we also control the demand at the consumer side. The strengthening of the management is also an important area of concern because the time we will go for dividing into functioning units: generation, transmission and distribution or geographical areas that means that we will have isolated areas with autonomous working units. This means that we will have to strengthening the management in terms of increasing the efficiency of the accounts working, financial accounts and management information system. This is actually challenging for us but it is a matter of time. Renewable energy is of crucial importance and is necessitated by the geography of the country because it will be very costly and difficult to provide electricity services to rural areas. We have some preliminary studies on the solar energy and on the potentials sources of our country. We are also looking forward for close cooperation with other countries through bilateral and multi-lateral for using the solar energy system in the rural areas and in the urban areas as well.

Ismail Al-Ghabiry
Yemen Times

2 of 2 in a series

Aden Port Development and the Opening of the Aden Container Terminal



Captain Abdulmoti H. Mohammed
Aden

Terminal (ACT)

Yeminvest and PSA Corporation, with Hyundai as main contractors, are completing the new deepwater container terminal on the North Shore, known as the Aden Container Terminal (ACT).

The quay wall for the ACT can be taken to a depth of 18 meters, four meters deeper than Jabel Ali, Jeddah or Colombo. The ACT will be able to handle the world's largest existing and planned container ships. Initial dredging is being carried out to 16 meters (53 feet) alongside and in the outer section of the channel. Tidal patterns effectively give the port 16.8 meters alongside for 18 hours each day almost the whole of the year.

The first phase of the North Shore berths, 700 meters in length, is being opened in March 1999. Phase II will provide a further 350 meters and Phase III 600 meters to give a Terminal length of 1650 meters. Other phases are expected to follow.

The terminal has been equipped with the latest super post-Panamax quay cranes, with an outreach of 57 meters. Rubber-typed Yard gantry cranes, reefer points, engineering maintenance and other facilities to match and support quay crane capacity are also being installed. A power station, desalination plant and sewage treatment plant are also being built.

Commercial and economic impact of the Aden Container Terminal

The Construction of the ACT and the restoration of Aden's former position as a regional service and distribution center will be a key element in the economic development of Yemen. Its importance to the port, to the city of Aden and to Yemen cannot be over-emphasized. YPA believes that this terminal and the associated 'Free Zone' will prove to be the 'key' project to attract inward investment for infrastructure development and a wide range of industrial activities.

The project "makes a statement" on improvements in political and economic stability in Yemen over the past three years which other investors can recognize and respond to. There is already evidence that major companies outside Yemen are responding.

There will inevitably be competition from other Regional Ports. Some of

these grew impressively over the past 30 years and traffic in the more successful ones is dominated by container transshipment. Container movement worldwide increased at around 8-9% annually in the 1990's and is predicted to grow at between 7-8% until 2010. Container handling was a market which did not exist when Aden was a major bunkering port, but has become a market which Aden can and will bid to share.

A growing percentage of the very large container ships that currently handle the world's 'break-bulk' cargoes are now in the 6000+ TEU class. Ships carrying over 4,500 TEU's, which currently make up only 2% of the world fleet, are forecast to form 33% of the world's container fleet by 2010.

With the Aden container Terminal coming into service this year, Aden is ready to handle ships of this size, and larger, and to re-gain its position as a regional hub port.

Meanwhile, Ma'alla Terminal continues to provide an important service for the port and the nation. It generates valuable foreign exchange earnings from the revenue earned by handling transshipment containers and also allows Yemen to import, with much greater efficiency, the raw materials and finished products required as foodstuffs and for the construction and other industries, which the country requires. The small, but growing export market is also served by Ma'alla.

In future it is anticipated that the ACT and Ma'alla will complement each other, with the smaller mainline and feeder container vessels using Ma'alla for their transshipment business and the largest ones calling at the ACT.

Marine services

YPA has been under pressure in recent months in the provision of its marine services to the inner harbor, fishing harbor, oil harbor and other harbor. Demands on its pilotage, towing and mooring services have increased with the growth in container transshipment business.

It has taken action to improve these services by bringing in addition pilot boat, mooring boat, two work boats (small tugs) and harbor tugs. It is now arranging for the repair and extensive refurbishment of the two older Voith Schneider propelled tugs so that the new ones can be primarily allocated for use by container ships at the ACT and Ma'alla. It also plans to order two additional larger tugs.

Other port activities

Aden is not only a container port. Other services have been provided in the past and will be provided in future. The Ma'alla Terminal was defined as a 'Free Port' area, which now offers duty-free storage, re-export and other Free Port services to traders and ship-owners operating in Yemen.

Ship bunkering is an obvious example of the services which Aden continues to offer. There is considerable interest in expanding present facilities and developing new ones to offer in-harbor and offshore bunkering services.

New bulk handling equipment at Ma'alla, greater economic activity and higher efficiency allowed Aden to raise its tonnage for major imported commodities by 87% in 1996 over 1995. YPA predicts that will increase to 1.4 million tonnes by the end of the century and to 1.9 million tonnes by 2003.

Ship repair services are also being seen as having considerable potential for expansion, and several companies have already looked at the National Dockyard with a view to refurbishing and expanding this. Classification Societies which were formerly based at Aden may be expected to re-establish offices at Aden. Aden already operates an important Fishing Harbor, with a large cold store for the country's 'fish wealth', and fishing vessel repair services.

Marine surveying and insurance services will grow. At the airport a 'cargo village' will support sea-air cargo business. Crew changing, supply of spare parts for machinery and electrical items, ship stores etc. are also expected to expand.

Calls by passenger ships, at around 18-20 per year at present, help to develop the growing tourist business in Yemen, while yachts find Aden a good place to visit for fuel, stores and communications and many now call during the winter months.

Future port development

When one looks at the chart of Aden, the size of the natural harbor contained inside the rim of hills and shore is impressive. The twelve kilometers east-west and six north-south provide a very large area of sheltered water. When Captain Hanes first surveyed the harbor in 1835, water depths on the south side of what is now the inner harbor were around 20 feet. It needed 11 years to complete the first deepening program to increase the depth to 30 feet.

Dredging technology has moved on and the current deepening by 4 meters has taken a total of around 30 weeks. Sea bed materials of excellent quality are being used for constructing Phase I to II of the YPA has reclaimed over eighty hectares of land on the north side of the Rubble Mound for future construction.

YPA visualizes the expansion of the port to the west, to provide a sheltered basin within the natural basin formed by hills and shore. I would be developed for various purposes, including industrial processes which need access to deep quay space. Yemen can provide workers for some of the most labor-intensive industries currently looking for sites and, with easy access from all points of the compass, it would be difficult to improve on Aden's location.

Conclusions

Visitors to the Port of Aden often comment that Aden is a very 'real' place. A real city, with real people, with a real port in a place where God intended one to be. After years of decline and under-utilization, Aden will enter the next millennium challenging other for its rightful place as major distribution center. The dreams of three years ago



Dr. Azza Mohammed Abdo Ghanem
Professor of Psychology
Sanaa University

Poverty, Taxes, Zakat & Charity

It has become more than clear recently, that there are a lot more beggars than a few years ago. Admittedly the world is suffering from recession, inflation, unemployment, and a wider schism between the rich and the poor. Fortunately we are not responsible for global predicament. All we need is to prevent our own situation from getting worse and to find possible logistics to improve things in the long run. So easily said, but difficult to implement.

In a recent study of the family budget sponsored by the World Bank and carried out in Yemen, it was established that 11.8% of urban families live below the poverty line for "food" (estimated at 2121 riyals per person per month) and 23.7% of urban families live below the higher poverty line that includes food, clothing, education and health care. The situation is even worse for rural families with 17.3% below the poverty line for food and 31.2% the higher poverty line. Some governorates had much higher concentrations of the very poor. The uneducated were a lot worse off than the educated. Inflation has risen from 30% in 1992 to 56% in 1995. Unemployment was estimated in the last population census at 12.2% of the work force. Child labor has risen from 4% to 6.5% in the period 1991-94 because children provide cheap labor and their needy families encourage them to work.

Needless to say several factors joined forces and culminated in the present state. Amongst these were the 1990 Gulf War, the return of a million Yemeni emigrants, the discontinuance of foreign currency remittances from Yemeni labor abroad, the cessation of Gulf states aid, the expenses incurred by the Yemeni unification in the 1990s, the aftermath of the short civil war waged by the separatists in 1994, the high inflation, the wastage of around 6 million dollars a day on Qat and smoking, and the geometric progression of one of the highest population growth rates in the world of 3.7% which will result in the doubling of the Yemen population every 19 years. It is quite an alarming thought, that not only do we not have extant sufficient facilities e.g. schools, training centers, hospitals etc. for those who exist but we also need to double the services that do not exist.

Obviously the taxes levied have not been able to solve the problems of poverty. For one thing only definitive government salaries are taxed, the rest remain at large or go to private collectors. I think it is wonderful that we don't have to fill tax forms (except business people). It is such a worrying and nerve racking ordeal for citizens in many developed countries. But on the other hand they do receive services in return and substantial ones for that matter so if the tax forms drive one nuts, he/she has a good psychiatric ward to take care of him/her.

So what is the alternative to taxes? Charity, giving alms on sporadic occasions, releasing left over, handing riyals at traffic junctions etc. It does not solve the problem of over 20% of the population who live in poverty. How about non-governmental organizations which appeared a few years ago with the illusion that they are the panacea that the government has failed to concoct. NGOs have to be assessed and evaluated for much of their achievements is to say the least rather limited and temperamental. They are old fashioned now, and the developed countries had better come up with a new gimmick with much more practical logistics.

A possible solution for poverty would be proper implementation of Zakat. A foreign friend asked me to explain the difference between Zakat and Sadaqa. The

latter is a gift of money or something to a person or institution with no restrictions or rules such as how much, who gets, when etc. Zakat is the poor-due a charity subject

to rules and regulations. Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam, namely the admission and belief in the oneness of Allah, and that Mohammed is his messenger, the fulfillment of daily prayers, the giving of Zakat, the Hajj to Mecca once in a lifetime and fasting in Ramadan each year.

Zakat is mentioned 80 times in the Quran and mostly in conjunction with prayers as can be seen in the next verses of the Quran:

"And the believers, men and women, are supporting one another, they enjoin the right and forbid the wrong, and worship in prayers, pay the poor-due (Zakat) and obey Allah and his messenger." Surah Al-Tawbah - Repentance 71.

"Establish worship and pay the poor-due and whatever good you send in advance is for your souls and you will find it with Allah". Surah Al-Baqarah - The Cow 110.

Zakat is a duty, mandatory and quantified.

It is essential for the life of Muslims as a community.

- 1- It is proof of belief in Allah and the rules of Islam.
- 2- It is a form of cleansing for the soul, the deeds and behavior.
- 3- It brings pleasure into the heart of those who give and receive
- 4- It is a form of relief for those in need.
- 5- It is a cure for the imbalances and inequalities in society.
- 6- It is a rich source for the reduction of poverty.
- 7- It is a way of alleviating ill feelings of the poor towards the rich and creating cooperation and security.
- 8- It is a clearly stated that wealth is not reduced by giving Zakat but rather enhanced.

Zakat is a tax at a fixed rate in proportion to the value of ownership. It is calculated individually at 2.5% of the value on completion of a year of possession. It is between the person and God, his/her conscience must be clear for one cannot cheat God.

What is eligible? It is calculated on many items: gold, silver, cash, coins, jewelry, stocks of goods, property used for trading in but not property for personal dwelling or shop, shares, crops or harvest, and reared animals for trade. There is however a lower limit beyond which Zakat becomes imperative.

Thus for example alnisab - the lower limit - for gold ownership is 85 grams, for silver it is 595 grams. As for female jewelry, a female is exempt from a certain amount that she can wear at any one time reasonably.

How is it dispersed? It is mostly done individually to acquaintances who are known to be in need. In the old days it was given to the treasury to be distributed - bait almal - But today not much trust is placed in official channels method of distribution. Who is eligible to receive? These, are the poor, the needy, those who are involved in collection and distribution of Zakat, converts into Islam who are in need, those who are in debt or must pay compensation, soldiers fighting for the sake of God, and travelers or strangers who cannot support themselves. Zakat can be sent to the poor Muslims in other countries if they are in greater need there.

This is a very brief summary of the concept of Zakat. If this is implemented by all Muslims honestly and correctly, there will be much less poverty in all Islamic countries. Zakat is a regular, specific, sizeable charity and not an optional, sporadic, meager charity. It is usually calculated and released around Ramadhan of each year when a lot of funds circulate.

are being transformed into to ACT. YPA believes in the future of Aden, and hope that many of you will have good cause for optimism and confidence in Aden in the coming months and years. We trust that you will catch something of the vision we have whenever we look out from the hills which gth this port.

You will be following in the steps of some very famous travelers.

Port of Aden, Republic of Yemen March 1999

While a great deal of interest has focused on the new Aden Container opening in March this year, the revival and expansion of port activity at Aden is already very evident from the success of the Ma'alla Terminal operated by Yemen Ports Authority (YPA). The Ma'allah Terminal, which was opened in 1991 and is equipped with two Panamax capable quay gantry cranes, has successfully attracted regional container transshipment busi-

ness to the port over the past 12 months. The Singapore-based Pacific International Line (PIL), has now used Aden for its transshipment operations between Red Sea ports and the Far East since June 1998. Yemen Ports Authority has provided PIL with a cost effective and efficient service, helping to boost Terminal container throughput from 13,456 TEU's in 1997 to 57,537 TEU's in 1998, an increase of 328% over the twelve months. On an annual basis, the Ma'alla Terminal expects to work close to 100,000 TEU's in 1999 as present trends continue.

In addition to the additional business generated by container transshipment, the port has seen a useful rise of 45% in national container imports and exports from 13,456 to 19,505 TEU's in 1998. This comes mainly from the rise in general cargo imports, but partly from a 7 fold improvement in fish exports in 1998, resulting in much-increased use of the 32 reefer points at the Ma'alla Terminal.

The Port Authority has been examining its requirements for additional container handling equipment to further improve its transshipment services at Ma'alla. Aden looks forward to again becoming a major player in the region on the basis of its success at Ma'alla and the additional business which the Aden Container Terminal, run by PSA Corporation, will bring to the port. Bulk and other dry cargoes imported at the Ma'alla Terminal have also improved from 885,934 tons in 1997 to 1,285,370 in 1998, a rise of 45%. Exports have increased from 74,312 tons in 1997 to 380,369 tons in 1998, a rise of 412%. This was partly due to the rise in containerized exports, but also more than doubled in 1998. YPA took timely delivery of two new tugs, a pilot boats and other support craft in 1998 to improve its marine services and is actively pursuing the acquisition of two further tugs and other craft in 1999.

Indicator	1997	1998	+/- (%)
Number of ships called (except yachts and others)	1,171	1,454	24%
Dry cargo discharged (including containerized - tons)	885,934	1,285,370	45%
Dry cargo loaded (including containerized - tons)	74,312	380,369	412%
Liquid cargo discharged (tons)	4,343,176	4,588,298	8%
Liquid cargo loaded (tons)	3,404,244	3,401,940	2%
Bunkering (fuel oil and gas oil, tons)	49,662	42,231	-15%
Potable water bunkered	23,138	20,965	-9%
Transshipment containers handled			
20 foot boxes IN/OUT (number)	-	23,430	
40 foot boxes IN/OUT (number)	-	7,301	
Total transshipment containers (in TEUs)	-	38,032	
Import/export containers handled			
Imported containers, full (in TEUs)	6,668	9,439	42%
Imported containers, empty (in TEUs)	(see note 1)	577	
Exported containers, full (in TEUs)	2,313	2,120	-8%
Exported containers, empty (in TEUs)	4,475	7,369	65%
Total import/export containers	13,456	19,505	45%
Total containers handled (in TEUs)	13,456	57,537	328%
Imports (in tons)			
Rice	32,463	15,049	-54%
Sugar	115,269	148,472	29%
Beans and flour	366,408	367,923	0.4%
Cement	135,274	290,271	115%
Timber	6,679	5,162	-23%
Steel	75,213	52,075	-31%
General cargo	106,612	165,469	55%
Imported transshipment cargoes*	12,359	217,408	1659%
Other cargoes**	35,657	23,541	-34%
Total imports	885,934	1,285,370	45%
Exports			
Salt	16,881	93,277	453%
Fish	1,370	9,727	610%
Cotton	3,052	3,309	8%
Iron scrap	11,095	2,774	-75%
Exported transshipment cargoes	11,792	211,615	1695%
Foreign exports	21,198	41,888	98%
Local exports	8,184	17,372	112%
Other cargoes***	740	427	-42%
Total exports	74,312	380,369	412%
Total tonnage handled	8,780,466	9,879,171	13%

Notes
1. Empty containers included with full containers imported
* Transshipment, cargoes, were not in containers in 1997.
** Includes: frozen cargo/stock/equipment/automobiles/liquid in drums
*** Includes: coffee/hides/gum

Hadhramout Deputy Governor to Yemen Times:

"About 15 hotels have been built so far, some are 5-star hotels."

"..we have received a lot of offers from Saudi and Gulf investors to invest in Hadhramout."

Districts in Wadi Hadhramout have begun the necessary arrangements needed for the development process. One of the great moves made in this regard is the new administrative division which prescribes supporting all the 29 provinces centers. To know more about the advantages of such a division, the Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief, Radhwan Al-Saqqaf, went to Hadhramout and met with Mr. Mohsin Ahmad Ben Shamlan, Hadhramout Deputy Governor, and had the following interview with him:

Q: Can you tell us about what have been achieved in Hadhramout so far?

Despite the lack of the financial resources and the difficulties we face we have been able to make a good step in Hadhramout. For example, we have helped the people peacefully get back their properties and the first thing we began with was the trading houses. Regarding the buildings, %60-%70 of them have been returned to their real owners. What blocks us in this regard is that most of the residents in the remaining buildings are unable to move because they can not afford for building on their pieces of lands given to them as compensation. The period prescribed to these residents to leave has elapsed but due to the reason mentioned the governor has ordered to give them a one-year extension with a little raise in the rent to satisfy the owners. During the extension period, we will try to build apartments for people with low income. The Government, on its side, is also participating in the efforts made to help these people by giving them pieces of lands to build on.

Q: Some people complain that a piece of land is given to more than one person. What is your comment?

A: Of course some problems do erupt during the com-

"Unfortunately, some irresponsible engineers try to give out the estates as they like. To avoid such irresponsible practices, the Governor gave orders to stop giving out the estates in the governorate and made me a head of a special committee to look into this matter."

Aden: Mr. Mohsin Shamlan, Hadhramout Deputy Governor Talking to Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief: "we have helped the people peacefully get back their properties and the first thing we began with was the trading houses."



"President Saleh has expressed his interest in building a modern harbor in Al-Mokalla & Broom"

pensation process. For example, some beneficiaries do not know the exact location of the pieces of lands given to them. There is a Society to look for solutions to such problems. This Society is supported by many organizations as well as the government to build more public apartments.

Q: Can you give us an idea about the other projects in the governorate?

A: During 98-99, YR 13.525.000.000 was spent on the service projects specially the infra-structure, face-lifting Saioun and Thamoud airports plus other airports, and other projects related to the electricity and water services in Al-Mokalla. In the coming tow months, the Saioun-Tareem and Tareem-Thamoud roads will be re-asphalted. This project will cost \$ 2.000.000. In Tareem we have inaugurated Tareem Water project which cost YR 2.000.000.000. Regarding the agricultural projects, there are three. \$12.000.000 is allocated to improving Wadi Hagar in Tareem. The other tow projects are in Hadhramout.

Q: How much is the investment in Hadhramout? What are the obstacles the investors face?

A: Many schools have been built, besides, there is an intention to build Hadhramout University which will comprise 8 collages. As far as the investment in the governorate is concerned, it is mostly devoted to building apartments and tourist hotels. About 15 hotels have been built so far, some are 5-star hotels. Investors, in fact, face little problem which can be easily overcome. In this regard, we have received a lot of offers from Saudi and Gulf investors to invest in Hadhramout.

Q: Do you face any problems?

A: Unfortunately, some irresponsible engineers try to give out the estates as they like. To avoid such irresponsible practices, the Governor gave orders to stop giving out the estates in the governorate and made me a head of a special committee to look into this matter. The General director of Housing was also chosen as a member. To our astonishment, we found that many projects had been canceled.

Q: What about Al-Mokalla's Harbor?

A: Al-Mokalla Harbor is very small and its equipment is out of date. This led the traders to change to Al-Hodaiah or Aden Harbors in order to carry their goods. President Saleh has expressed his interest in building a modern harbor in Al-Mokalla and Broom, an area between Hadhramout and Shabwa, has been chosen for this purpose.

Q: Some fishermen complain that a lot of fishing companies illegally work in our regional water, is this right?

A: In fact, in the absence of the coast guards, these companies find a good chance to approach our regional water and carry out illegal activities in it.

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Letters to the Editor

NOTES: Any Letter sent to the Yemen Times office is subject to correction and modification. Letters which are seen suitable for publishing will be published as soon as there is space. Letters without the name of the author will not be published.

Yemen Times is Still Alive

We have heard recently after the death of whom we consider our father and eldest brother, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf the founder of Yemen Times that some of the traitors and democracy's enemies have said that Yemen Times will not be published again, now that its editor in chief, Dr. Saqqaf is dead.

But I think that they forgot that Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was a teacher teaching his students. Because Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf was the ideal teacher who had struggled against the enemies and the traitors of the country and all of his students, his fans will continue in his struggles against the traitors and Yemen

Times' enemies. Yemen Times will not stop. In fact, it will develop more and more forever.

Tawfeek Abdulsalam Hasan

Dear Managing Editor,

I read your column titled "Our Kids & Summer Vacation." It was a very nice article in which you explained a very important point regarding our children. In fact, the idea you discussed is very common. However, we are in Yemen and it seems that nothing can be achieved, especially in these days. I support your idea and hope it will become a reality, but how can the Yemeni government accomplish some of the points you mentioned, and prevent our country from losing this generation, if it cannot accomplish anything at all for the country? The reason behind this is that everyone, especially, the officials only care for themselves and their children and don't think of others children. They do not know that it is their duty to raise and educate all Yemeni children so they will

develop into good citizens and assisting their country in its development. I and many others agree with you on this issue. However, to whom are we talking to? To deaf politicians? I don't know when these politicians will discover the big loss in our children and country before it is too late. I think that we are approaching dooms day quickly, don't you?!

Abdulaziz Al-Boreihey, Taiz

A Response to the article titled "Oppression of Women in Yemen"

In response to your article about oppression of women in Yemen, I am once again confronted with the remarks that "Islam guaranteed/recognized women's rights long before the west", etc. How can anyone possibly believe these are such great progressive ideas when in Yemen women are still genetically mutilated, can be executed for adultery, and wear veils because they are thought of as dangerous, sexually desirable monsters that men can not be held responsible to restrain themselves? Of course, the popular

Middle Eastern belief that Western cultures are hotbeds of immorality, prostitution, and every awful vice never leads to extraordinarily exuberant indulgence by many repressed Middle Eastern males in the West. One hopes that someday some enlightened culture will go and truly accord equal respect for men and women as full human beings, and not as slaves to biological impulses. It is also important to realize that reproduction is not the sole purpose of a woman's life, and women do not need the "protection" of men, and do not need to be supported by men—at least in Western democracies. Loading the womenfolk down with gold and keeping them encased in a pleasant cage of Purdah is not always so wonderful. Ask the women who have escaped. It is really dismaying that a psychologist would write such apologies for the treatment of Yemeni women. I have even lived in Muslim countries where the women don't cover their hair (can you believe such a terrible thing!) But in spite of that, the men in these countries can behave decently among them...What a thought.

Alan Suits, USA

Announcement

The national Programme for Governance Capacity and Institutional Reform (Prime Ministry's Office) in coordination with UNDP's office in Sanaa seeks for:

(1) Signing contracts with a number of qualified teachers for teaching English for implementing the program of training the employees in the different areas of the organization. Applicants should be:

- 1- have a university degree in the English Language.
- 2- have experience in teaching English.
- 3- be able to design a special training course.

(2) Signing a contract with a computer institute to prepare a training program for the organizations of the national program in the field of computer processing.

Interested Candidates meet the above requirements are requested to send their applications within eight days from the day of this announcement. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Program coordination Unit - next to the Ministry of Civil Service Ministry.

Tel: 278 368, Fax: 275700

E.mail pcu@y.net.ye

اعلان

يعلن البرنامج الوطني لتحسين الكفاءة الإدارية والإصلاح المؤسسي (مكتب رئاسة الوزراء)، وبالتنسيق مع مكتب الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي بصنعاء (UNDP) عن رغبته في:

(١) التعاقد مع عدد من الأشخاص المؤهلين لتدريس اللغة الإنجليزية وذلك لتنفيذ برنامج تدريب لموظفي الجهات التابعة للبرنامج وفقاً للشروط التالية:

- ١- أن يكون المتقدم حاصل على شهادة جامعية في مجال اللغة الإنجليزية
- ٢- أن تتوفر لديه الخبرة في مجال تدريس اللغة الإنجليزية
- ٣- القدرة على تصميم منهج تدريبي

(٢) التعاقد مع معهد كمبيوتر متخصص وذلك لتنفيذ برنامج تدريب للجهات التابعة للبرنامج الوطني في مجال تشغيل الكمبيوتر.

فعلى من يجد في نفسه الرغبة وتوفر فيه الشروط المذكورة أعلاه التقدم بمرضه إلى العنوان المذكور أدناه في مدة أقصاها ثمانية أيام من تاريخ هذا الإعلان. لن يتوفر في أي طلب يقدم بعد هذا التاريخ.

وحدة تنسيق البرنامج الوطني - جوار وزارة الخدمة المدنية

تلفون: ٢٧٨٣٦٨، فاكس: ٢٧٥٧٠٠

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

VACANCIES

ICD (International Cooperation for Development), a British based non-governmental organization is looking for the following:

Female Secretary (Yemeni Nationals Only)

An experienced female secretary is required to be based in ICD main office in Sana'a. Must be with sound knowledge of secretarial work. Candidates should have strong organizational skills, fluency in both Arabic and English and ability to work with a team of various nationals. Candidates who applied in February this year need not apply again.

Part Time Translator - male or female

Candidates should have good experience and knowledge of translating reports, letters etc from Arabic to English and vice versa using computers. Candidate should be able to work in the mornings.

Please send your CV to the following address:

ICD Yemen
P. O. Box 4039
Sana'a, Republic of Yemen

Or deliver to:

Hay El Seyasi Tel. NO. 267 366
Street No. 20 Tel. No. 267 363
House No. 9 Fax No 276 576

Closing date for submission of applications will be
at 1 pm on Thursday 19th of August 1999.

Yemen Times Long-Waited Announcement: Discounted Advertisement Campaign From Next Week

Yemen Times is happy to announce a golden opportunity to all who want to advertise in the newspaper. On the occasion of the paper's new size, layout and format, the Yemen Times decided to launch its discounted advertisement campaign this summer. The newspaper will be giving further discounts with repeated advertisements. The discounted prices are as follows:

For all non-colored pages except 2 and 3
1/8 page YR 20,000
1/4 page YR 45,000
1/2 page YR 75,000
Full page YR 130,000
Custom (col/cm) YR 1,000
For page 2, add %20
For page 3, add %25

For first page, add %75
For last page, add %65
For internal color pages, add %50 to the above rates.

Why the Yemen Times

Over the years, the increasing numbers of advertisements has shown that the paper is truly amongst the most prestigious ones in Yemen. It is famous for its independence and reliability in news reporting, and for its effectiveness in bringing the issues that concern the Yemeni nation as a whole. Its founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf built a strong basis of public trust, strength in reporting, and political neutrality. We have the most qualified staff in Yemen which is well known for its reputation in the field of designing the layout of the advertisements in the most attractive and informative way possible. Among all newspapers, Yemen Times has the best printing equipment (on Film), and the most experienced technicians who are always ready to design whatever the advertiser wants with pleasure and efficiency. Our newspaper is among the very few newspapers (if not the only one) which has no cat chewing room. In fact, chewing qat and smoking are prohibited in the building, and there are strict rules in this regard. Many who have seen and had close contact with the staff know that it is the most organized and well equipped newspaper in the whole country. This is indeed something we are all proud of. Today, Yemen Times stands tall as the best selling English newspaper. With its hard working staff, the paper is getting better every week. Many readers have shown great satisfaction with the continuous progress of the newspaper. The newspaper is usu-

ally read by the well-educated sector of the Yemeni community, and is read by foreigners (tourists, businessmen, diplomats, international organization employees, etc.). The signs of the paper's strength are obvious and promising.

However, for us, that was not enough!

We aim at making Yemen Times even better. We have recently hired more qualified employees, who will be adding to the reliability and effectiveness of the paper.

From this week, even though the paper size had increased, the price is still the same, giving the readers the opportunity to read and get more out of the newspaper with the very same price. Besides, there is a new competition every week, written in English and Arabic for all readers who wish to participate and win prizes. New columns, sections, and categories are now also available for all sectors of the community. More news from different governorates will be covered, hence widening the scope of readers.

These factors and more are causing a great increase in the sales of the paper, and adds to its publicity in all sectors of the Yemeni community.

On the other hand, the new layout will give more advertisers the opportunity to show their products, and this in turn will also drive the attention of the increasing number of readers. All that for a discounted price. In all aspects, this is a golden opportunity, but for a LIMITED TIME ONLY.

Yemen Times Online

Also, it is important not to forget that Yemen Times site is the most widely known and read Yemeni site on the Internet. According to the latest statistics, the number of hits at the Yemen Times Site at www.yementimes.com is quickly approaching the 1 million mark. It is enough to visit the site once and compare with the rest to know how much effort had been made for the online version of the paper, and to know why it had been so popular. Online advertising is today's most effective method of reaching online readers. We do accept such advertisements and wish to encourage them with great discounts.

In conclusion, our acceptance of advertisements with these discounted rates for a limited time only starting from next issue is a great opportunity for all. This campaign is the first of its kind, and will be effective for a limited time only. We expect to have many requests for space, please be quick in reserving space and seize your chance!

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sana'a University announces the fourth Post-Graduate Program (Diploma and MSc) in

WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

at the Civic Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering for the academic year 1999/2000.

The Program is supported by the Dutch SUS Project (Sana'a University Support) and implemented by both the Faculty of Engineering and the International Institute for Infrastructure, Hydraulics and Environmental Engineering (IHE) - Delft, The Netherlands. The Program is conducted in English language.

Interested persons are invited to visit Graduate Studies at the Sana'a University or to visit the SUS Project at the Faculty of Engineering for information on the required qualifications and to obtain application forms for the mentioned program (tel/fax 250514; e-mail: susihe@y.net.ye)

Applications will be accepted until August 31, 1999.

Embassy of India Sanaa

INDEPENDENCE DAY 1999

The Embassy of India, Sana'a, cordially invites all Indian nationals in the Republic of Yemen, along with their families, to join in the celebrations of the 52nd Anniversary of the Independence of India on Sunday, the 15th August, 1999 at the RESidence of the Indian Ambassador (Building No. 1, Street No. 24, Off Hadda Road - Road opposite to Hadda Post Office). They are requested to assemble at the above mentioned address at 0820 hrs.

PROGRAMME

0830 Hours

- Flag Hoisting
- National Anthem
- Reading of President's Address
- Patriotic songs by the Indian Embassy School children
- Refreshments



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If you meet the above requirements, please forward your resume to:

Yemen Hunt Oil Company
Att: Personnel Department
P. O. Box 481, Sana'a
Republic of Yemen

From the Internet

This section is dedicated to linking the people in Yemen with Yemenis abroad. It will act as a tunnel between the readers who live in Yemen and read the hard copy of the paper and our readers online at www.yementimes.com. The thousands and thousands of our online readers, mostly immigrants, are interested in knowing more of what is happening in the country, and hence turn to the Yemen Times pages all the time. There is a page at our site titled "Yemenis abroad" at www.yementimes.com/yemenis.htm, which

includes information for Yemenis and others interested in Yemen. There is also a discussion room and many other services. We invite you, our reader, to join the discussions taking place on our site. You can participate in the discussion by sending us your comments either by email or by writing them on paper and submitting them to our office in Sana'a. We are ready to post them on your behalf.

The below section will be changing every week depending on the topics discussed and raised. This week's debate topic is below. Feel free to send us your response or comment related to these issue to be published in the newspaper.

Online Debate: (Currently Taking Place at www.yementimes.com/bbs):

Yemeni Women & Niqab in the USA

Saajidah: The niqaabing sister, is a mashallah. May Allah spread his mercy on a sister who dresses herself completely covered for Allah. The commands to wear the hijab are not some stifling commands from man. They are commands of Allah, the supreme lord of the universe. Hijab means a complete covering of the woman's body. By saying hijab, I mean the full covering of the

women's body. We know that in the USA you have the right to dress the way you choose, and if that is to wear the behind out, legs showing, then that's your problem. Allah will deal with you in the end. Because the Prophet (saw) said that a woman who is not fully covered in front of anyone other than her husband home has removed Allah's shield from her! So we know that wearing

anything other than the proper hijab is forbidden (ASTAGFIRULLAH.) I am an American and I would not be caught dead without my full hijab. I wear total black everywhere I go. Any Muslim sister that observes the full covering from her heart, not because she is forced, but from her heart for the sake of Allah, will receive her blessings. I will continue no matter what some

silly nasty dressed dirty-mannered American or want to be American will or can say. May Allah bring us all to the Straight Path to heaven. I have never felt better since I put that black full covering on, over my whole body, and shielded myself in the way the Allah and his prophet (saw) had instructed. During the prophet's time, the covering commands were revealed in the Nur and Alahzab surahs, women did not come out without being fully covered only showing an eye or two if necessary. The reason why veiling came down from Allah was because Muslim women were being taunted by the men, and so Allah sent down to the prophet to tell the faithful women, wives, and daughters, to completely cover their (Juyubihinna) their whole bodies. For a person to call himself or herself a Muslim and for you to literally mock Allah's commands, you need to rethink if you are a true Muslim. For the disbeliever who has something so negative to say, their destination is the fire of Hell, unless you do a 180 degree, a 'U' turn, because the more you show your body in the streets, the more likely you will be raped, mistreated, and disrespected, because Allah's protection is not on you. It is forbidden for a Muslim women to go out unveiled. The prophet said that when women go out immodest and unveiled the shaitan (Satan) looks at her. The prophet also said that when women go out moving about unveiled, the shaitan holds her so that men would look at her and he ties men into knots and pulls them towards her. The prophet indicated that when a women goes out unveiled and immodest, there will be a painful torment on her brother, father, son or husband because they are the ones responsible for her. So wear the niqaab, or the proper clothing, for Allah. Remember you will die and go back to Allah, so be careful of what you do.

Raffaella: You must address who you are speaking to. First of all, true modesty lies within the heart and mind not the body. Just because someone does not wear the full Hijab does not mean that they run around with their behind hanging out. I do not cover myself fully because in keeping with true modesty I would only bring attention to myself. Everyone would stare. If you blend in, no one notices you. As far as rape goes. You must not have read too many Arabic newspapers because covered Muslim women get raped a lot. You have that backward mentality that rape is a sexual crime. It's not! How do you explain old women and children getting raped? And men for that matter?

I have suffered from bad circulation since I was a child. Even in the winter I sweat. If I were to cover my head and arms I would die. But you don't care about that! My mode of dress is always a long skirt, sandal and a blouse. The only time my legs are showing is when I play soccer. Once again, because if I were to runaround in jogging pants I would have a stroke. May Allah bless you sister. Your head is covered. Now you have a direct pass to heaven. I wish it were that easy!

Mahi: The damnation is for people who doubt Qur'an and Sunnah! If you feel personally insulted because of this sister, who is obeying the verdict of Allah, then there is need for improvement in your faith. You should take the example from this sister and learn from her. What motivates her to cover? The answer is definitely fear of Allah. Rather than trying to take it personally to understand why? Of course, if your husband likes your disobedience then both you and your husband are at fault. If you are not covering then try to surprise your husband and see his response. If it is negative, then your faith is in danger and if it is positive then he was being very lenient with you by being patient in the relationship. He probably did not want to tell you to cover immediately, which is probably the case because you may have become Muslim recently. The reason for covering is simply an order from Allah. Just look at the example of the Jews. They continuously disobeyed the orders of Allah throughout history. Probably, Allah set them as an example not to follow because you would be cursed just like them for disobedience.

Dear Saajidah, please continue to uphold your example and I am happy that we have sister like you who is not afraid or intimidated by disobedient creatures of Allah.

Raffaella: Let's speak seriously here. You know nothing about me except that I am married to an Arab and do not cover myself. Is that the weight of judgement? The majority of Muslim women I see dress better than me, and wear makeup. Why? Because underneath the cover they are still women. I saw a picture of my husband's little sister from Yemen. Her mother was holding her. Since they can't be photographed all I saw was her mother's hand. Her finger nails were nail polished. I don't even wear nail polish - and she's out there in the mountains where they can't even afford a chicken.

Mahi, you seem very young and immature. Try being an adult, facing life, seeing different

things, battling hardships and then tell me what's important. I can see it now. I'm at the gates of heaven, Allah is reading my list: "Raffaella, overall you have lived a decent life, you respected your husband, your parents, mankind, tried to help your fellow man at every turn, however you did not cover yourself! To hell!"

Is that how it's going to happen Mahi? Tell me please because you seem to know everything about life.

When you get older you will see what life is really like.

Yasser: What happened to the true Muslim ladies who lived as Nomads in the desert, where the sun is hotter than an oven you cook pizza in? Did they take off their cover and say they felt hot? I guess the more we get educated the more we lose our faith in Islam.

Raffaella: That is sometimes true. Years ago they prayed illnesses away. Now Muslims go to physicians at the drop of a hat. Education and Westernism may hamper some lifestyles. However, Islam is always in the heart and mind and above all manners.

Yasser: Islam did not tell you to stay away from doctors. Islam produced doctors. This topic is not about doctors. I think it would be good if we stay in one topic until we finish it. Right now we are talking about covering yourself.

Raffaella: There were no doctors before Islam?

Either way you are correct. Let's talk about the issue of clothing. Should I cover myself when I play soccer? Or should I not play soccer?

Also what amazes me is the way Arab men have adopted western clothing - they are allowed to enter the 20th century but women are not.

Can you honestly tell me that Allah will not allow me into paradise because I do not cover?

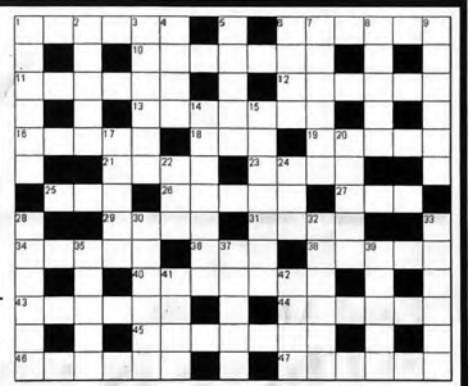
I am a modest person. Saajidah said women run around with indecent manners. That is not the case. I have always dressed elegantly and modestly. I have a lot of respect for myself. I work very hard in my life, I volunteer with many organizations i.e. nursing home, society for Multiple Sclerosis, Shelter Volunteer, Park Volunteer. I give 25% of my paycheck for the American Cancer Society and Aids Research. I take excellent care of my house and my husband but yet I am treated disrespectfully by people because I do not cover. I must say that as a human being, that hurts my feelings because I was raised to

Across

1. Smarmy
6. Macabre people
10. Otic pain
11. Stingier
12. Abate (4,2)
13. Cut surgically
16. Enticed (3,2)
18. Salted pig meat
19. Of past times
21. Monster
23. Sicilian volcano
25. Turkish hat
26. Pond surface growth
27. Lip (of glass)
29. Consumes
31. Wine shelf
34. Baby-sits
36. Optic organ
38. Escort
40. Compliment
43. Dame ... Melba
44. Threaten

Down

1. Pluckily
2. Large antelope
3. Noticing
4. Anecdote
5. The Mob
6. Clarified butter
7. With directness (4-2)
8. Turn upside-down
9. Lying on back
14. London flower-show venue
15. Smudged
17. Leaked out
20. Carefree adventures
22. Betray, ... on



24. Snack, afternoon ...
28. Alters
30. Seek to attain
32. Most appealing
33. Gentle wind
35. Stockings fabric
37. Alaskan river
39. Hidden supply
41. Gaze lustfully
42. Scamps

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



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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
Inter-City Bus Co.	262111/3
TV Station	332001/2
Radio Station	282061

INSURANCE COMPANIES:

Y. I. & ReInsurance Aden	273311
Marib Insurance Sana'a:	206112/4
Aden:	255668
Taiz:	222162/3/4
Hodeidah:	217370/1
Yemen General Sana'a:	265191
Aden:	241171
Taiz:	221561
Hodeidah:	239184
United Ins. Co. Sana'a:	272890/2
Taiz:	215012
Hodeidah:	217292
Aman Insurance Sana'a:	214093
Hodeidah:	240354
Saba Yemen Insurance Sana'a:	240894/908
Aden:	253646
Taiz:	233082
Hodeidah:	226627

AIRLINES:

Air France	272895/6
Alitalia	273655
Austrian Airlines	272432
British Airways (Sana'a)	267929
British Airways (Aden)	241534
Cathay Pacific	272432
Egypt Air	275061
Emirates	244444
Ethiopian Airlines	272437
Gulf Air	265274/75
KLM	278747
Kuwait Airlines	272503/4
Lufthansa	213400
Royal Jordanian	275314/028
Russian Airlines	272540
Sabena	285865/925
Sudan Airways	279210
Syrian Airways	272543
Universal Travel (HO)	275028/9/30
Universal-Zubeiri	245888

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Fuad Al-Futaih:

“There is no creation without suffering”

Fuad Al-Futaih is a multi-dimensional intellectual. Besides being a brilliant artist, he studied English Literature in Cairo University, Economy and Political Sciences in Baghdad University and Fine Arts in Germany. Moreover, he is a founding member and the first head for the Arab Artists Community in Germany and Europe. Yasser Mohammed Ahmad of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Al-Futaih and filed the following:



governorates. It holds many shows for the Yemeni as well as the foreign artists. For example, to enhance the cultural cooperation between our country and Britain, we held some shows for British artists in the last two years. The center will also hold a show about the countryside woman in the near future.

Q: Will you please give us an idea about the National Center for Arts you work in?

A: The Center was built in 1993 in the heart of Sana'a city. It has 22 artists as members from different

Q: Would you tell us about the group shows you have participat-

ed in?

A: I have participated in many international group shows like the National Museum of Modern Art in Baghdad, the International Exhibition for Palestine- Beirut & Baghdad, The Arabic Exhibition for Arts and The Plastic Arts Exhibition-Germany, The International Exhibition-Belgium, The First Graphic Exhibition-London-Baghdad, The Foreign Artists Exhibition-Frankfurt. Besides these, I participated in different exhibitions in Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Alexandria, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Cairo, Yugoslavia, Norway and the USA.

Q: What about your solo shows?

A: I have held solo shows in Berlin, Kuwait, New York, Yugoslavia, Norway, London, Paris and Athens. I am planning to hold solo shows in Qatar, Australia and Italy.

Q: What are the certificates and prizes you have earned?

A: The Government Medal, (First Class), for Arts and Literature, 1989. - The second prize for designing the International Slogan of Disarmament from the General Secretary of the United Nations-

New York.

- The Modern Art Museum Medal-Alexandria.
- The third prize in the First Assembly for Plastic Arts-Oman.

Q: What are the obstacles faced by the artist?

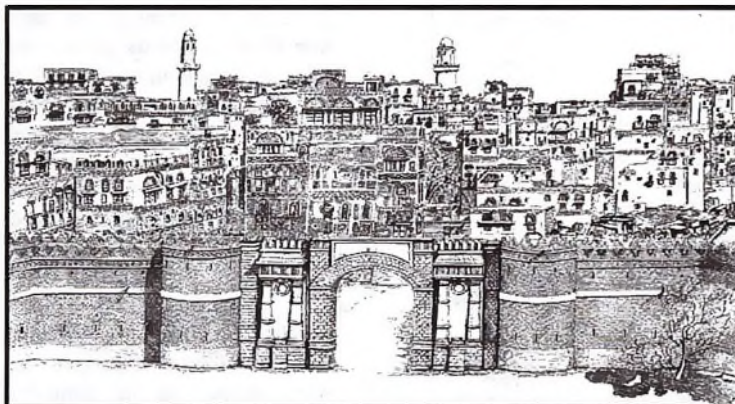
A: I think the artist does not face any obstacles. The obstacles are created by the artist himself and he should not blame the others. Any artist must have an ultimate goal and do his best to reach it. In my various visits to many countries, I have met many artists and their main concern was why there were not other exhibitions held. Man cannot ignore all the troubles he undergoes, for there is no creation without suffering.

Q: Do you continuously carry on your creative work or there are times when you retire to yourself?

A: In fact, I work daily in painting and thinking of new ideas. I never stop working. I stop only when I am sick.

Q: Any last word?

A: The Yemen Times is a distinguished paper and I would like it to pay more attention to the Plastic Arts shows.



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