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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:
 How do you see the changes in the layout and design of this issue of Yemen Times?
Results:
 Great changes 26%
 Good changes 32%
 Acceptable, but needs more 13%
 Not much difference 19%
 Going down 4%
 I have no idea 6%
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION
 How do you view the latest obstacles the presidential candidate, Mr. Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi is currently facing?

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17 Killed in a Deadly Military HeliCopter Crash In Hadhramout



HADHRAMOUT: During its flight towards Al-Abr from Hadhramout in an inspection mission, a military helicopter crashed Saturday evening around 3:45 pm. On board of the plane were:
 -Staff Brigadier Mr. Ahmad Bin Ahmad Faraj, Deputy Chief of Staff
 -Staff Brigadier Mohammad Ahmad Ismail, Commander of the Military Eastern Region

-Staff Brigadier Awad Mohammad Al-Sunaidy
 -Staff Colonel Ahmad Ali Sayfon
 -Staff Colonel Ahmad Noman Al-Mashriqi plus 12 other military officers including the plane crew members. All 17 were killed during the tragic incident. Even though the exact cause of the crash is still unknown, it is likely that bad weather was the reason behind the crash, although later investigations suggest that the actual reason was a technical error. A special committee was formed to investigate the incident. The top-ranking officers that died in the crash were among the most influential military leaders in the republic who have played a major role in the bringing the 1994 civil war to an end. The funeral of the dead is scheduled to take place today.

Families of the 8 Accused Britons in the Aden Trial demand: "Send them to Britain!"

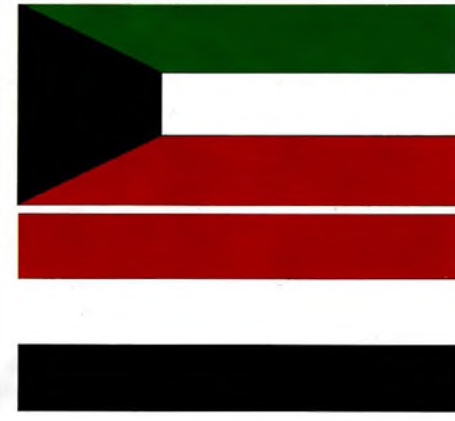
ADEN: The long-awaited verdict in the case of the 8 British and 2 Algerian fundamentalists is out. The Aden Appeal Court's judge Jamal Mohammad Omar passed on the sentences, which ranged from seven months to seven years imprisonment. The defendants are convicted for attempting to manage extremist operations of bombing and causing turmoil in Yemen. The court reached its decision after evaluating the evidence provided by the prosecutor which showed that "the 10 men attempted to form an armed gang intending to carry out murderous acts of sabotage and terrorism" as the judge stated. The families of the British defendants were disappointed at the verdict and claimed it was politically motivated and unfair. The mother

of Abu Hamza, who had a sentence of three years in jail, cried while leaving the court room and called the verdict a "massacre". On the other hand, the general prosecutor, Saeed Al-Aqil showed his dissatisfaction with the sentence by calling it "too light". The prosecutors raised an appeal in an attempt to bring the imprisonment term to maximum 10 years. British Prime Minister Tony Blair send a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh regarding his concerns about the torture allegations. However, the president seemed to not have responded positively. Meanwhile, in a press release issued yesterday, the British Embassy in Sanaa issued a statement confirming that the British Government will not in any way interfere in

the judicial process of other countries, and that PM Blair has not asked President Saleh to intervene in the judicial process in order to lighten the sentences passed. He described the earlier reports as "simply wrong." As for the Briton defendants, they got the following sentences: Malik Nassar Harhra seven years; Mohsin Ghailan seven years; Sarmad Ahmed five years; Shahid Butt five years; Mohammad Mustafa Kamel three years; Ayad Hussein time-served; Shaz Nabi time-served and Gholam Hussein time-served. The other two Algerians, Kamal Ali Mohammed and Amer Abdulrahman (James) who held fake French passports however, were both sentenced to 5 years in jail.
More Details on Page 8.

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As the 2 Countries Restart of the Direct Postal Service and Links for Financial Transactions Yemeni-Kuwaiti Relations to the Better

SANAA: The skies between the two brotherly countries, Yemen and Kuwait are beginning to clear. The moments when relations were seen to definitely be going back to normal, started with the invitation of the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister to his Yemeni counterpart, Mr. Abdulqadir Bajammal to visit Kuwait in May of this year. Then, we witnessed the historical day when the Yemeni Embassy in Kuwait was re-opened and re-started operating four months ago. Since then, relations

between the two countries began to gradually normalize. The last such indication was the restart of the direct postal service and links for financial transactions which were cut after the 1991 Gulf war. Yemen Postal Organization's Manager, Abdullah indicated that the new services would resume today, Monday August 16. It took almost 9 years to have these services between Yemen and Kuwait operational again. As

this is a step towards re-establishing normal bilateral relations between the two countries. Before the Gulf crisis, Kuwait had been one of the greatest supporters and donors to Yemen. There are thousands of Yemenis expatriates who are still living and working in Kuwait, and who would be among the happiest about this news. Both Yemen and Kuwait look further to normalize the relations and get it back on track after so long.

Presidential Candidate, Mr. Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi Pleads for an Just Campaign: "A Bit of Justice!"

SANAA: After approving him by the parliament as the only competitor against President Saleh, Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi perhaps had a rosy thought that everything would go smoothly just as supposed to be. There is a fancy and well organized Law for General Elections. We also have the Supreme Elections Commission (SEC), with known duties and responsibilities. The start was good. Najeeb was able to pass the first barrier, which was the 10% parliament's approval. He might have thought that the first obstacle was the only one and that he could go forward. He started with a complementary statement to the Parliament, "I thank all my parliament members for trusting in me and approving my nomination."



However, it was not long before Mr. Najeeb came back to earth. He began to see the true dimensions of the challenges ahead of him. He faced obstacles from all sides. Until today, the money essential for his campaign was not approved and handed over to him. He was not given the attention he thought he would get as the Law of General Elections states. But later, he found many barriers in front of him. The last one was from the SEC. The commission which is supposed to be the most helpful one for his campaign, turned out to be his nightmare. The clock is ticking, and time is rapidly running. People are every day becoming more convinced that the elections will turn into a referendum. How can't that be when they are not familiar with the other person

is? They haven't seen his picture frequently. They haven't heard from him much. He has not even given a strong statement about what he plans to do. If he is still waiting for the campaign to start, then he should act fast. As time is not on his side. Mr. Najeeb's role in the success of these elections is very important. He should get all his rights to be able to call the elections fair. If he feels that he is not given his basic rights, he might withdraw his nomination. If that happens, the whole election process would be useless. He holds the main key for the success of the whole event. If he fails to fulfill his role, we will probably have a referendum. Even though the public believes that it would be better in financial terms, it would eventually kill any possibility for presidential competition within the forthcoming presidential 5-year period.
See Al-Shaabi's Statement on Page 13

Foreign Observers to Monitor Presidential Elections

SANAA: The Head of the Supreme Election Commission, Mr. Abdullah Barakat had confirmed the news that Independent foreign observers' from different countries will be monitoring Yemen's presidential election scheduled to be held next month. The observers main duty will be to make sure that the elections will be free and fair in all aspects. The monitoring delegations are expected to cooperate with the SEC to guarantee that the basic principles of voting will be appreciated. Depending on reliable sources, the number of voters are not in the expected levels. Hence the voting process will not be as complicated as the last parliamentary elections in 1997. Even though the opposition has decided to boycott the elections and ask the public not to participate in the elections, the authorities have shrug their shoulders and have shown no indication of cancelling the elections. On the contrary, the official press and media organs intensified their campaigns of calling the public to participate in the elections, which many see as pre-determined, especially that the only candidate is still struggling to get the budget that will finance his campaign. The majority of first world countries were discouraged by the refusal to endorse the nomination of 23 presidential nominees by the parliament, including the opposition's sole candidate. However, they are still pushing forward to have the elections for the sake of being a pioneer in the region to have such direct presidential elections.

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Words of Wisdom

"Increasing the level of transparency of any system will definitely make it morally superior, legally upright, and economically sound."



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

In Brief

European Commission Helps Yemen

A civil works contract of \$US 5.2 million was signed on Tuesday, August 10 concerning the Tihama V-Baruqa Irrigation System. The contract will be financed from a 7.3 million EURO commitment made by the European Commission in favor of Yemen. It provides for the construction of a 100 m long concrete weir (division structure) and closure dike, a 7.8 km main canal, a 3.7 km secondary canal, a major wadi crossing siphon and a number of drop structures, bridges and flow off-takes. The project location is Wadi Siham, 40 km North of Hodeidah. The Tihama Development Authority is in charge of implementing this project. The construction period is estimated at 2 years. The contract was signed by the Yemeni Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and the European Commission Technical Advisory Office in Sanaa, Rainer Freund.

The 1st Issue of Al-Mawqif Published

The first issue of Al-Mawqif, a comprehensive monthly magazine, was published. Al-Mawqif is issued by the General Center for Studies and Research. It contained a good number of valuable issues like Globalization, Jambiah, Qat and others. We welcome Al-Mawqif and wish its staff all success in their tough job.

Tribesmen Break Down Hunt's Generator, Again!

On Tuesday, August 10, a group of tribesmen belonging to the tribe of Bani Gaber/Khowlan, broke down the generator of the communication center of Hunt Petroleum Company near to the filling station no. 2. Sources from the tribe said that the generator was damaged by the 6 persons of the tribe, who have been recently appointed as guards of the pipe which has been uncovered by the water of the rains at KM. 115. According to available information, the company has obliged to pay each one of the guards a YR 1000 per a day but the money has not been paid yet. It is worth mentioning that the tribe broke down the generator around 8 months ago resulting in confrontations with military forces. In that incident, 6 persons were killed and some injured from both side.

Dr. Saqqaf to File a Case Against Sana'a University

Sana'a University has refused to pay for Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Saqqaf's treatment in Moscow in spite of the attempts made by Abdu Ali Othman who has presented all the medical certificates to the University. In a phone call, Dr. Al-Saqqaf told Hisham Basharaheel, Al-

Ayyam's Newspaper Editor in Chief, that he was given a year leave from Sana'a University to do some research. Dr. Al-Saqqaf has also expressed his intention to file a case against the University if it does not pay for his treatment.

Sultan of Bohra in Sanaa

Dr. Burhanuddin, Sultan of Bohra community is visiting Sanaa these days. He has met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh to discuss the situation of the Ismaili community in Yemen and the projects which will be undertaken by the Sultan in the Haraz area. The work will include roads linking Haraz with Sanaa and Hodiedah. At another level, Dr. Burhanuddin has also contributed \$US 300,000 to the ensuing presidential elections.

An End to Tribal Warfare between Bani Mattar and Al-Haimah Al-Kharjiah

At last, Dar Al-Salaam for Arbitration, headed by Sheik Abdul Wahab Sinan, has been able to cool down the fight between Bani Mattar and Al-Haimah Al-Kharjiah Yemeni tribes erupted a few months ago. The tribes used different kinds of arms resulting in the death and the injury of more than 41 people. It is worth mentioning that the problem has been solved according to tribal norms.

ACI Fellowship Attained by Long-standing SHB Yemeni Employee

After 3 years of dedicated study, Mr. Abdulhakim Yassin Al-Homaidy from the Saudi Holland Bank has been awarded the fellowship of the Association Cambist International (ACI) to be the first Arab in the world to achieve this status. The ACI is regarded within the financial services industry as the leading association representing the interests of the international financial markets which actively promotes the educational and professional interests of the markets and the industry. To achieve the fellowship of the ACI one has to pass 10 out of 16 examination subjects.

Two Traffic Policemen Shot Down

Two traffic policemen were shot by a teenager who was driving a car at high speed on Saturday evening. Later on, the driver appeared to be the son of a Deputy Minister. Being a son of such an important man, the son felt insulted to be stopped by the policemen. It is worth mentioning that while shooting, the young driver injured his own brother who was sitting next to him.

Lawyer Abdul Ilah Al-Marwany Beaten Up

Lawyer Abdul Ilah Al-Marwany was found covered with blood in his office

"Level One General Survey for Landmines" Held Today

The General National Program inaugurated the demining of the first group of land mines discovered in the field C6 in Beer Amduraimy, Aden. At the same time, more than 1000 bombs, mines and cannonballs found in various areas in Aden and Lahj were also demined. These activities are carried on by national teams which have received high training by American experts. It is worth mentioning that the National



Program demined more than 4000 missiles during the three last months.

On the other hand, a workshop on the project of the "Level One General Survey for Land mines and UXO" is held today 16th, 8, 1999. The workshop is attended by many related organizations. The project costs \$ 2,000,000 and is sponsored by Canada and other countries.

Editorial



Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

Neutral Official Media: Is it too much to ask for?

A few days ago, I was watching the news in the various satellite channels on TV. In the news, I was mostly interested in what is related to the region and Yemen in particular. Later in the same day, I surfed the World Wide Web (Internet) to see what news is available online about Yemen. I found news about the opposition boycotting elections, the Bab Al-Yemen bombing, the trial of Abulhassan Al-Mihdhar, the trial of the 8 Britons, the elections and its proceedings, the latest helicopter crash in Hadhramout and other reports about my country. It came to my mind to look at what SABA, our only official news agency had (Of course there are no independent news agency existing). I turned to that page, only to find a complete disappointment. I saw that much of what is happening in the country is not mentioned at all. The news presented was not at all of importance. It was all of positive, just like as if they are saying: "We only have good news to give you. The rest of the news we do not deal with (i.e., "all the news that is fit for us"). Even the opposition boycott was not mentioned, as are many significant events that are taking place in the country, some positive and some negative. But the impression one gets when reading the news from SABA's Web site is that we are living in a rosy world with everything around us as best as can be. A news agency, even if an official one, is supposed to report what is happening on the ground with all its details (even if offending to the state). This especially applies for a country like Yemen, committed to democracy and freedom of expression. We are in a world that is every day turning into a small village through globalization. Today, Yemenis have the means and tools to know what is happening in Yemen without even opening the Yemeni Channel. There are tens of satellite channels, which provide more neutral and accurate information about the events in Yemen. We have tens of correspondents distributed in all the regions of Yemen who are doing their best to deliver objective breaking news to international news agencies such as Reuters, AFP, AP, etc. as well as many of the Satellite Channels. I think it is about time to change. Our official news agency should begin to take a professional impartial stand. Our TV channels (There are two channels, ROY TV which is beamed also via Satellite and the Second Channel broadcast from Aden, both of which, newswise, are a carbon copies of what SABA comes up with) should do so as well. The official media cannot continuously fool the people. They can hide some information for some time, but that never lasts long. The government had committed itself to have its official media stay neutral through the Sana'a Declaration announced around two months ago at the Emerging Democracies Forum. The leadership and government would benefit more if they had a neutral media, at least, in the eyes of its people. Even official news agencies, in a democracy, insist that they maintain their credibility with the public. Otherwise, even the Yemeni citizens will not seek these media, except for comparison to see what lies are being aired by the government! This is not an attempt to offend the official media or official news agency, but it is an attempt to help them see light in a changing world. They should begin to adapt to the rest of the world, if they want to move on to the next millennium.

We are convinced that the President and the rest of the senior leadership in the country want to truly reflect Yemen as real functioning democracy, with the permanent government institutions, especially the media, as apolitical and non-partisan as possible. Thus it is in their interest to insure that the official media work diligently to maintain a high credible public image. They should not be there just the public can look to the opposite of what they say in order to decipher the truth out of them. It is worth noting that this is not an impossible task for our official media. They were operating like that for some time during the post-unification period, when, indeed it was seen with pride that our official media stuck to its professionalism. But then, the political equation in the country was quite different. Even still, that does not mean that our official media is unable to convince their bosses that credibility is more important than all the whitewash that is now being aired or printed, even for the leaders themselves. Will they gather their courage and commitment to deliver the point?

I hope they will!



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in Assalahim building on Saturday 7th, 8, 1999. The victim said that he was brutally beaten up by Mojahed Ali Assalahim, Ahmad Ben Nasser Hassan Al-Ruwaishan and Nasser Al-Ruwaishan till he bled. Ahmad Hussein Al-Haimy and Abdu Assalam Al-Marwany were at the scene of the crime and they confirmed what the victim said.

A Case Against the Minister of Interior Filed

The Editor in Chief of Al-Osbou Newspaper, Hassan Abdullah Al-Odainee stated that he will file a case against Minister of Interior, Hussein Arab whom he claims was the person behind attacking and beating him up on August 3 99 by a group of security officers in front of the Presidential Office at Saif Ben the Yazan Street. After beating him up and escaping, the officers used a police car. Al-Odainee's lawyer, Nabeel Ismail Al-Mohamadi, is currently concluding his preparations to bring the Minister to court.

Flagrant Violations

In a very offensive way, a number of security policemen arrested Gamal Ahmad Amer, the editor in Al-Wahdawi newspaper and the member of the Unionist Nasserite Party after he was requested to meet the General Manager of the Security Police in Ibb. It is reported that he was arrested twice; on Thursday and then he was let free by the prosecution for the reason that the arrest was not legal, and also on Sunday, when he was arrested with high priority orders by Minister of the Interior, Hussein Arab, who conducted investigation by himself. Mr. Gamal was arrested after he wrote an article in issue 383 which is said to be against the Yemeni-Saudi relations. Chairman of the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate, Mahboob Ali met with Minister of Interior to convince him to respect the law and let him free, but the minister insisted to refer Gamal to the prosecution. Gamal was held captive in

one of the jails of the Security Departments in Ibb. Meeting him is not permitted. Al-Wahdawi Newspaper considers this an outrageous violation of the journalists rights which are preserved by the constitution. Therefore, the newspaper has stated that it will never let this harsh action of Minister go easy and it will file a case against him. The Yemeni Committee for Protecting Journalists is also very offended for what happened to their member and to others lately.

Taiz Sheiks & Dignitaries Request the Ruling Out of Universities Fees

In an appeal presented by Taiz sheiks and dignitaries to the government, they requested the rethinking of the decision of increasing university tuitions fees for the 99-2000 academic year. This happened after the amendment made by the

Cabinet which states that tuitions for scientific faculties will be 5000, and those for humanity faculties will be 3500. However, students, as well as normal citizens were not pleased with this increase which will not facilitate the educational process in Yemen. On the contrary, it will deprive the people from education which is supposed to be free as it is preserved by the constitution of Yemen.

HALI Institute to Have a 2-day Bazaar

The HALI in Sanaa, will be having a bazaar for two days in which it will introduce its educational programs, staff, members and other information and have prizes and contests for all to participate in. The Bazaar will be held next Thursday and will end on Friday August 20. The invitation to the bazaar is open for all.

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Yemeni Press Scanner

Unsuccessful attempt to kidnap tourists group in Abyan
Attariq weekly newspaper - Yemen 10.8.99

An armed gang attacked tourists, traveling in three cars on Monday in Al-Mahafad, Abyan district, in unsuccessful attempt of kidnapping, the cars were carrying 11 Italians moving from Aden to Hadramout. The security police that went along with the tourists to protect them, hindered the kidnapping operation., yet the 11 tourists have seen terrified moments during the attempts of the kidnapping incident , which its' motive is still unknown.

Human Rights and Dar-Al-Salam for Arbitration condemned the attack of Al-Marouni

Rai weekly newspaper Yemen 10.8.9

The Human Rights Organization and Dar-Al-Salam for Arbitration submitted two separate letters, in which they condemned the attack of the Lawyer, Abdul-Elah Al-Marouni. As reported, he was attacked by relatives of the owner of

the building, which he rented as an office. They have beaten him savagely. The letters criticized such uncivilized behaviors, they also claimed arrest of the criminals to be fairly punished. The lawyer said that, his life was in danger, but the security police came on the right time save his life.

Citizens of Ibb launched peaceful demonstration last Monday

Al-Rai Al-A'am weekly newspaper - Yemen 10.8.99

A person wearing military uniform along with another civilian attacked Qat seller in Ebb district. They opened fire on air, to scare the people around. Subsequently, citizens of Ebb launched peaceful demonstration last Monday, protesting against such behaviors and claiming arrest of the perpetrators of the uncivilized acts.

Procter And Gable totally denied, receiving any threat

Al-Wahdawi weekly newspaper - Yemen 10.8.99 Procter And Gable company received a phone call to

alarmed the company of planted bomb inside the company, the concern security police investigated the matter, and reported the issue as a false report, as nothing has been found. Currently, various media, published a threat of Islamic Extremist, targeting the Procter and Gamble Co. the report also said that, such rumors have nothing to do with fact, and there are no interference of any diplomatic sources in the whole issues.

An explosion in the main city of Ibb district

Al-Ayyam newspaper - Yemen 11.8.99

On Monday 10th August 99, two persons were seriously injured, due to an explosion took place in the main city of Ebb district. During the explosion, eyewitnesses saw, a person opened fire randomly, and was arrested at once by the security police. The investigations showed that the same person is the one who carried out the explosion. He is still interrogated, yet the motive of the incident is undisclosed.

Jamal Abdul-Wahab Al-Maktari was kidnapped since 24 June 99

Al-Ayyam newspaper - Yemen 11.8.99

In Al-Makaterah Charity Association in capital Sana'a, all sheiks and officials of Al-Makaterah area held a meeting, during which they discussed issues related to the kidnapping of the businessman, Mr. Jamal Abdul-Wahab Al-Maktari, who disappeared on 24th June 99. Another meeting is supposed to be held today to discuss further development on the same issue.

General Mohamed Hussein Al-Kadri was killed in ambiguous circumstances

Al-Rai Al-A'am weekly newspaper - Yemen 10.8.99

Last Friday, the General Mohamed Hussein Al-Kadri was killed in one of the retirement house of the Ministry of Defense in Capital Sana'a. As reported, the victim was beaten to death in a locked room for few days. No body knew about the death incident, till the smell of his dead body started to spread. The victim's clan claimed the concern parties to investigate the incident in order to arrest the perpetrators behind it. The primary investigation showed that the murder might be for burglary motive, as per the witnesses who said that the victim was possessing money which disappeared after the murder, especially that ID card was found next to the dead body. Credibility of above evidences is still unknown.

The British current statements astonished Yemen

Al-Wahdah weekly newspaper - Yemen 11.8.99

Source in the Foreign Minister expressed their astonishes regarding the British statements, which was declared after reading of the final verdict against the eight Britons and two Algerians, who are accused of carrying out subversive acts targeting Yemen. As the verdict is merely, fighting back to contain terrorism

coming from Briton. But still the British Government's reaction towards the verdict was very incomprehensible, as it is claiming for more explanations off the verdict. Same source added that, Yemen was expecting more support in its fighting against terrorism, especially the accused were targeting other Britons and British interests in Yemen!.

The trial of Saleh Haidrah will take place soon

26 September weekly newspaper - Yemen 12.8.99

The trial of Saleh Haidrah , who is accused of bombing a car near the German Embassy will take place in the coming few days. The Minister of Interior, Dr. Hussein Arab said that, defendant, admitted willingly his crime that he is the one carried out the explosion operation, and the car was planted with bomb by another person named Osamah Al-Masri.

Stranding of a vessel at Mukalla old port

Al-Ayyam newspaper - Yemen 12.8.99

The vessel "Golden Virgo" carrying the Belize flag (Latin America), hit stones in Mukalla old port. Source said that, the hit was due to high surfs (waves). On board of the vessel 20 crew of Romanian nationalities, non was harmed. The vessel came from Jabal Ali in UAE, carrying 6158 tons of wheat, and discharged on 8th August 99, as she moved from the port to the anchorage, she hit the stones and got aground. As reported, several attempts of saving the vessel were not succeed. Same source added that nothing can be done except to leave the vessel in its place.

Students Union will carry on a mass strike

Al-Haq weekly newspaper - Yemen 15.8.99

The Sub-Committee of Students Union in Hodeidah declared that, the Committee is about to call for mass strike and peaceful demonstra-

tions, in case the Government will not cancel the ministerial decree No.105, which subjects a new increase on educational fees for the current year.

Japan is intending to support the democratic experiment in Yemen

Al-Thowrah daily newspaper - Yemen 14.8.99

Yesterday, the Chairman of the consultative Council, Mr. Abdul-Aziz Abdul Gani, met the Japanese Ambassador in capital Sana'a. During the meeting issues related the bilateral relationship were discussed. The Japanese Ambassador asserted his Government support and assistant to the democratic experiment in Yemen

Yemeni businessmen, was kidnapped for 24 hours

Al-Asbou weekly newspaper - Yemen 12.8.99

Lately, one of the Yemeni businessmen, Mr. Said Al-Ganami was kidnapped from the entrance of the mosque in capital Sana'a.. The kidnapped was released after 24 hours due to sheiks and members of the parliament's interventions. An armed group kidnapped and moved him to one of the tribal figure's house, who informed him that the reason of his kidnapping is a dispute between the kidnapped and other trader, which needs to be solved.

Editor in Al-Wahdawi newspaper was arrested

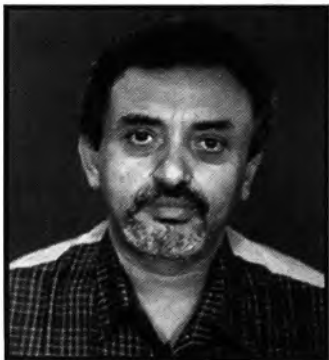
Al-Ayyam newspaper - Yemen 14.8.9

Mr. Jamal Ahmed Amer, editor in Al-Wahdawi newspaper was arrested. As per reports, he was called by the Director Security of Ebb district and still under arrest for publishing an article in the last issue of Al Wahdawi newspaper. The Media Union, headed by, Mr. Hesham Ba Sharaheel send an official letter to the Minister of Interior, expressing their protesting for the arrest, which is contradicting with the freedom of press and the Yemeni constitution.

Two Famous Intellectuals Express their Views about the Presidential Elections

The ensuing presidential elections is the focal point of discussion among the Yemeni politicians these days. The refusal of the parliament to endorse the opposition's nominee sent shock waves down the spines of the concerned politicians. The decision of the opposition to boycott the elections has added some fuel to the fire. Therefore, these elections is seen by many concerned politicians as fruitless and lack the real and healthy sense of competition. To shed some light on these elections and foresee the situation in Yemen after these elections, we have talked to some outstanding politicians in the society. Here is what they have said.

Abdulaziz Sultan expresses his thoughts, Al-Wahdawi Chief Editor,



"The results of the upcoming presidential elections will introduce Yemen to the third millennium. This should have given us a strong impulse to make great progress and achievements in this field, however, what we have made until now is not a lot. Moreover, What is happening now is actually a primitive step that will ultimately create obstacles and hurdles in the face of devising solutions for our difficult economic and social problems. These problems become horrible if we take into considerations the worries of developed countries which make progressive and dynamic steps in order to put an end to such difficulties. In comparison to this we find that we in our country are only hoping to tackle these problems without making any sincere attempts to solve them. Therefore I am not at all optimistic to what future restores for us.

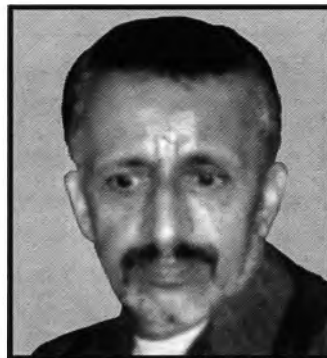
There is a strong gap between what they say and what actually happens on the ground. We have been given talks and speeches the past years stand a witness. If you look at our situation with a discerning eye, you will find that we are always successful in the theoretical side which is very clear if we think of the political programs and laws which are great in spirit but so feeble to be carried out. So we do not

practice what we preach. We call for accountability and punishment for the corrupt and breakers of the law, however, we have never seen this implemented and a corrupt was brought to justice. Instead we could only see a glorification of all cases of violations and corruption not only amid the people in power but also amid employees whose state of disappointment and despair makes them, at the beginning, indifferent to all kinds of corruption happening around them and then they show their admiration and encouragement to anyone who could exploit his position for the sake of his self interest. If we look back in time to see what had been said in the previous elections and try to compare it with what has been carried out, we will find a strong proof for this conclusion. This will also validate that there is a clash between the two opposing forces; between what is said and what is carried out.

It is obvious that the relationship between the opposition and the ruling party is very tense and I think that it will be like this for a period that pends on the ruling party's actions. The strong challenge facing the ruling party for the time being is its actions against corruption and corrupt people in the governmental institutions and its plans for the future. These two issues besides a strong focus and stress on the implementation of a democratic atmosphere will be the course the opposition parties concentrate on and I think that this is the correct basis for the opposition to pursue in the future as they are eligible and upright issues. Furthermore, the opposition does not need to exert great efforts to uncover corruption and cases of violations done by the regime as lots of sources express their understanding of the opposition attitude especially after the latest procedures made by the regime. The main obstacle the opposition may face is the illiteracy prevalent among the people who are ignorant of the importance of their political life. There are different political, economic and social rights that are still within the hands of the rulers and if some are given to the people, they are given after a massive course of showing off of their generosity.

My view of the decision of the Coordination Council is that after the non-confidence of the opposition's nominee, the council was to choose one of two attitudes: either to participate or not to participate in elections. The council has chosen not to participate which is actually good for the ruling party. However, the ruling party is disturbed by this action for

the ruling party will be able to win easily as he will only need 51% of the voters' number who most of them are in favor of the ruling party. The disturbance of the ruling party can also be understood in another way as the ruling party anticipate that there will not be many voters casting their polls for the presidential elections especially after the appeal of the coordination council to people not to participate."



On this issue, Dr. Mohamed Abdulmalik Al-Mutawakkil expresses his thoughts,

"I can see nothing new. What will be their is more economical, social and security deterioration. The rejection of the opposition nominee indicates the determined intention to go backward as well as the absence of the real spirit of democracy. The presidential elections are over now. Regarding the implementation of what the candidates promise in their programs, you can go back to the programs of the ruling parties in the 1993 and 1997 elections and compare them with what you see in reality.

I think, after the comedy of the Presidential elections is over, the ruling parties will try to tempt the opposition parties in an attempt to deprive them of the chance of being a real opposition that people may choose someday when they think of a change. The success of the Government in this regard depends on the Coordination Council for Opposition and its reaction to such attempts. The opposition parties had to make a clear-cut decision after the rejection of its nominee. I suggested to the opposition parties to declare boycotting the upcoming elections in a different way. For example, they can declare that they are no longer interested in the elections. They can then withdraw from the electoral committees and turn to highlight the political dimensions of the cancellation of the competitive elections and its consequences on democracy. After this they can prepare for the local and parliamentary forthcoming elections and rearrange their existence in the electoral districts."

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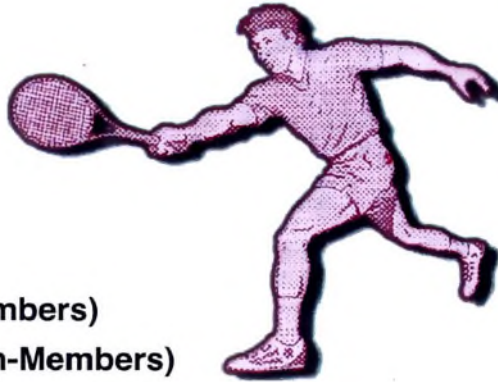
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3 of 4 in a series



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

3. "Disappearances": failure to investigate Hundreds of victims have "disappeared" since the late 1960s in the former Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), the former People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and the current Republic of Yemen. People have "disappeared" following arrest by security forces or militia, particularly during or in the wake of political power struggles. The most recent large-scale "disappearances" were during the civil war which broke out in May 1994 following disagreement over power-sharing between leaders of the former YAR and those of the PDRY. Hundreds of people "disappeared" following arrest by military personnel, the PS or militia groups. Most of them re-appeared when the war ended in July 1994. However dozens are believed to remain unaccounted for. Article 3 of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance requires Yemen to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent and terminate acts of enforced "disappearance". The Declaration also requires the Yemen authorities to thoroughly and impartially investigate all allegations of "disappearance". The government has acted contrary to the provisions of the Declaration by failing to investigate cases of "disappearances". Farazdaq Fu'ad Qaied, for example, "disappeared" shortly after being arrested on 5 May 1994 in Kharaz area, near Lahj Province. Shortly after his arrest his mother was able to locate him and visited him in prison in Sana'a in July 1994. However, when she returned to visit him again a few weeks later she was told that her son was not held there. In 1996, when the government undertook to investigate such cases, Amnesty International provided the then Attorney General with the home address of the victim's mother in order to facilitate his contact with her to seek further information and to keep her informed of the progress of his investigation and the findings. When Amnesty International delegates visited the mother of Farazdaq Fu'ad Qaied at her home in Aden in 1998, more than two years after the former Attorney General's commitment to investigate such cases of "disappearances", they asked if she had been contacted by the Attorney General concerning the "disappearance" of her son. She had not. Amnesty International was encouraged however, to learn, in 1998, that the government of Yemen had agreed to co-operate with WGEID. The Working Group visited Yemen in August 1998, holding talks with a number of government officials, as well as with representatives of local human rights organizations, non-governmental organizations and relatives of some of the "disappeared". On the basis of this visit the Working Group recommended that the government of Yemen acknowledge those "disappearances" which had taken place in 1986, establish a data-base to clarify outstanding cases, pay relatives of the "disappeared" compensation and take steps to ensure that "disappearances" do not occur in the future. Whilst welcoming such cooperation and any steps the government may take to implement the recommendations made by the Working Group, Amnesty International regrets that the government appears to have taken no action on its commitment of 1996. Amnesty International has repeatedly asked the government of Yemen for details of the steps it has taken to fulfill its commitment to investigate cases of disappearance in 1994. However no such details have been received. Amnesty International also regrets that no steps appear to have been taken to investigate other cases of "disappearance". The failure of the government to undertake a thorough investigation of "disappearances", to bring the perpetrators to justice and to

compensate victims and families amounts to a continuing violation of its obligations under the ICCPR and the Convention against Torture. 4. Women detained beyond the end of their sentence Although all citizens of Yemen are guaranteed equality by the Constitution human rights violations are perpetrated against women, as a result of their gender. Such discriminatory practices are in contravention of CEDAW and other international treaties such as the ICCPR. Women also occasionally fall victim to the violations mentioned elsewhere in this report, however some violations are based on sexual discrimination sustained by customs and formal legal rules. The practice of indefinite detention of women prisoners until a male guardian will collect them is a particular example of a human rights violation based on gender. This practice indicates that Yemen is failing to fulfill its primary obligation under CEDAW, namely the elimination of discrimination against women. Furthermore, the government is failing to accord these women prisoners the right to equality before the law as guaranteed in Article 15 of CEDAW. The indefinite detention of women prisoners also violates Article 9 of the ICCPR which prohibits arbitrary detention. Indefinite detention occurs in cases of "moral" offenses such as zina (adultery or fornication) and khilwa, defined in the draft penal code in force in the former YAR as an unjustified meeting between an adult male and an adult female who are not close relatives. The new Yemeni penal code does not proscribe khilwa as a crime. However, when Amnesty International delegates visited a prison in the town of Ta'iz, in 1998, they were able to conduct interviews with a number of women who appeared to have been detained on suspicion of khilwa. Other women in the prison were being detained beyond the expiry of their sentence. One 16-year old woman in Ta'iz prison was charged with zina and was reportedly sentenced to flogging by Maqina Court in Ta'iz. The court also ordered that she should then be released. However, when interviewed by Amnesty International she had allegedly been detained in prison for one year. A 19-year old woman was charged with zina and sentenced to three years' imprisonment by Sabr court in Ta'iz, despite the fact that the maximum sentence for zina, if the person is unmarried, is one year. However, when interviewed in 1998 she had allegedly been in prison for three and a half years. In another case a 17-year old alleged that she had been in prison, having been arrested in connection with zina, for three years but had not yet been sentenced. Yet another woman was allegedly detained in Ta'iz prison since her arrest in July 1998, after being found sleeping in another man's house. She had previously left her husband in Ibb after he beat her. It is not clear what recognizably criminal offense she has been arrested for. The woman had also allegedly had no access to legal assistance. Amnesty International submitted details of these and other cases to the Attorney General, asking that their cases be investigated and that any of them found to be held for reasons of gender without having been charged with or tried for a recognizably criminal offense, or who are being held beyond the end of their sentence should be freed immediately. No clarification of the cases nor details of actions taken by the government had been received by May 1999. 5. Death penalty and executions Amnesty International's concerns extend beyond those human rights violations on which the government committed itself to take action. Amongst the organization's other concerns, which it views as equally pressing, is the use of the death penalty. Amnesty

International is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty throughout the world. Amnesty International has long-standing concerns about the use of the death penalty in Yemen. These concerns are focused on the large number of offenses punishable by death, by the use of the death penalty after trials which have fallen short of international standards for fair trial, by the large number of executions which are carried out and by the large number of people believed to be facing the death penalty. (i) Scope of the death penalty Amnesty International has in the past expressed its concerns on the use of the death penalty in Yemen both directly to the government of Yemen and publicly. In particular the organization has focused on the inconsistency of the death penalty with international standards which guarantee the right to life, such as Article 3 of the UDHR and Article 6 of the ICCPR. Amnesty International has also expressed its concern at the large number of offenses punishable by death and at the fact that many of them are vaguely worded and could easily be misused to convict people for carrying out activities which amount to no more than the peaceful expression of conscientiously held beliefs. Contrary to Yemen's obligations under international law the government recently expanded the scope of the death penalty to include the crime of kidnapping. A presidential decree issued in August 1998 said that the death penalty will apply to "any person who heads a group which engages in kidnapping (or) theft of public or private property by use of force." The UN General Assembly adopted a resolution in 1971 which stated, "the main objective to be pursued is that of progressively restricting the number of offenses for which capital punishment may be imposed, with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment in all countries". This resolution was reaffirmed by the General Assembly in 1977. Article 6 of the ICCPR requires that the death penalty may only be imposed for the most serious of crimes. In its General Comment on Article 6 the Human Rights Committee has stated that states are obliged to limit the use of the death penalty for other than the "most serious crimes". Expanding the scope of the death penalty therefore contravenes Article 6 of the ICCPR and is contrary to current international opinion as expressed in the recent resolution of the Commission on Human Rights, passed in April 1999. Resolution 1999/61. Question of the death penalty, urges states that maintain the death penalty to "comply fully with their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, notably not to impose the death penalty for any but the most serious of crimes and only pursuant to a final judgement rendered by an independent and impartial competent court...To ensure that the notion of "most serious crimes" does not go beyond intentional crimes with lethal or extremely grave consequences". The resolution also calls upon all states that still maintain the death penalty "Progressively to restrict the number of offenses for which the death penalty may be imposed". This stand on the use of the death penalty was also made clear in 1984 when the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) passed resolution 1984/50, Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. This too states that capital punishment may only be imposed for the most serious of crimes. Amnesty International expressed its concern about the expansion of the scope of the death penalty to the government of Yemen, however the organization did not receive any reply. (ii) Executions and use of the death

penalty after unfair trials Amnesty International recorded 17 executions in Yemen during 1998. In the first three months of 1999 at least 11 executions were carried out. The organization's concerns about the use of the death penalty are heightened by examples of speedy and summary executions after trials which fall far short of international standards. Such speedy executions appear to be carried out in cases where there is strong public pressure to execute the alleged perpetrator of a particular crime. For example Faisal Saleh bin Zuba'a was executed on 14 October 1998. He had reportedly been tried and found guilty of the murder of Mohammed Hayel, a popular local doctor, who was killed on 12 October. Precise details of the trial proceedings are not available, however it is clear that Faisal Saleh bin Zuba'a could not have been tried in accordance with international standards in just two days. He, or his lawyer, could not have had adequate opportunity to prepare a defense nor an appeal. Amnesty International has also documented the case of Muhammad Ahmad Mislal al-Nadhiri, a building contractor who was executed on 5 April 1997. He was sentenced to death on 31 March, after allegedly carrying out indiscriminate shootings the previous day in two schools in Sana'a, killing at least four pupils and a teacher. His sentence was reportedly upheld on 2 April by the Court of Appeal and on 3 April by the Supreme Court. The death sentence was ratified by President 'Ali 'Abdullah Saleh on 4 April. As in the case of Faisal Saleh bin Zuba'a, the speed of legal proceedings clearly indicate that Muhammad Ahmad Mislal al-Nadhiri could not have been tried in accordance with international standards for fair trial. Amnesty International is also concerned that reports that Muhammad Ahmad Mislal al-Nadhiri was suffering from mental illness at the time of the shootings could not have been thoroughly investigated in this time frame. Under Article 33(1) of the Yemeni Penal Code there is no criminal responsibility if the offender suffers from permanent or temporary insanity or a mental disability. In another case Jalal 'Abdullah al-Rada'i and 'Abdullah 'Ali al-Rada'i were executed at the end of 1997 after being sentenced to death on charges of highway robbery and murder. They were sentenced by the Court of First Instance in al-Mukalla, reportedly without any legal assistance, in disregard to international standards for fair trial. In response to questions from the press, the president of the court reportedly said, "I have speeded up the proceedings in the light of the evidence brought before me which I discussed with the judicial council. I have followed all

the legal procedures required, given the defendants ample opportunity to defend themselves, and heard their statements. As for appointing a lawyer to represent them, the court is under no legal obligation to do so. The court has deemed the defendants' request [to have a lawyer appointed by the court] to be an attempt to delay the proceedings and a waste of time". In contradiction to the judge's assertion here, Article 73 of the CCP states that all detainees have the right to seek the assistance of a lawyer. The above are examples of the many ways in which capital trials in Yemen fall short of international standards such as the ICCPR and the Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

Article 14(3) of the ICCPR states, "In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality:...To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing...to be informed, if he does not have legal assistance, of this right; and to have legal assistance assigned to him". Article 4 of the

Safeguards clearly stipulates, "Capital punishment may be imposed only when the guilt of the person charged is based upon clear and convincing evidence leaving no room for an alternative explanation of the facts." Paragraph 3 of the Safeguards prohibits execution of persons who have become insane, a standard which may well have been applicable in the case of Muhammad Ahmad Mislal al-Nadhiri above. In 1993 the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions said that trials of people facing the death penalty "should conform to the highest standards of independence, competence, objectivity and impartiality of the judges, all safeguards and guarantees for a fair trial must be fully respected, in particular as regards the right to defense and the right to appeal and to seek pardon or commutation of the Amnesty International is concerned that, in the cases of executions detailed above, and the ongoing trials of people on death row detailed below, the government of Yemen is failing to meet its obligations under international law. The execution of a person after an unfair trial amounts to an arbitrary deprivation of the right to life, in violation of Article 6 of the ICCPR.

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Transformation of Government-built Low-cost Housing

By: Archeologist Kamal Haglan
Ministry of Construction,
Housing and Urban Planning

As it became more difficult, if not impossible, in many developing countries including Yemen to afford adequate housing, many people of poor and low-income groups hopeful-

ly, expecting from their governments to help them obtaining decent and adequate housing. Governments therefore as part of their responsibility toward these disadvantaged people, pay attention to their problem and try to provide them with through low-cost housing projects.

Since construction of such projects is very difficult and complicated task requires both large financial and human resources and efficient management skills, which Yemen as many developing countries lacks. Thus, governments with limited resources adopt low cost housing projects schemes as a good and practical solution for poor and low-income groups to provide with housing units. In many cases and as their first reaction, the fortunate families regard such units, especially those consist numerous members, as too small and insufficient in term of size and habitable space available.

Having, formally and legally, obtained ownership status of housing and feeling secured and saved, beneficiaries, immediately after they move in to such housing units, generally carry out various transformation activities aiming to improve and enhance these units. The costs of first transformations are not expected to be high, because heads of households would inevitably face some financial constraints at this stage of their stay in the low cost houses. Once they are settled and had sufficient funds from family savings, the household plans an elaborate second phase of transformations. In most cases, this would be the final phase. However, and because households realize that they have not alternative, they accept such houses bearing in mind the possibility of carrying out some transformation activities in the future.

Generally speaking, the decision of households' heads to implement extensions to their dwellings provided by the government is influenced by several factors and reasons, which explain the process of such transformation activities and why and when people implement them. Some of the most important factors are specified as following:

- To increase the house space

As mentioned above the units of low-cost housing projects are small and are not sufficiently enough in term of number of habitable rooms and space. Since most of the families who move to such housing are already in an advanced stage, probably having children, they find their houses tiny and incapable of providing adequate, comfort and require privacy for all the occupants, particularly for the elderly. For families who have too many children and other immediate family relatives (Mother, father Mother in Law etc.) living in the same house, situation is certainly more badly. Not mentioning extended family's members who might, for different reasons, leave their villages and join the household, which is very popular habit in Yemeni society. In addition, the growing up (over 16) sons or daughters would probably require their own rooms, especially when there are son or sons to get married and live in the same house with their parents. Therefore, it is obvious that the disparate need for the extra habitable rooms for additional members joining the household to be one of the strong and important factors contributing to conduct extension.

- Household income

Household income is another factor determining on transformation process. As the life cycle progress, it is likely that household's income would change and its economic circumstances improve. With these changes and increase of income the household will probably want and afford to carry out some extension or add other floors. It is believed that the higher is the increase of income the larger is the scale of the transformation activities. Because the lack of enough land around the dwelling, the vertical expansion is very likely to take place. Additional rooms or even whole floors are constructed as soon as the fund is available. Some transformers even go to further extent as they were on such good economic position that enabled them to entirely destroy the original dwelling and raised in the same land completely new house using other, in many cases more expansive building materials and even different architectural and spatial design. This is because they can not carry the transformation they want due to the weakness of the structure of the original dwelling. Examples of such cases can be seen in projects as Madina Sakania in Hadda area or low-cost housing of Sawad Saawan in Sana'a. Which many units now look completely different in form and size than at the time it was constructed.

- To rent out added spaces

Renting additional rooms or added floor could be the motivation behind transformation. As supposedly occupants of such housing units are low-income groups, they most likely would consider renting out additional habitable spaces as a sufficient mean for extra income. Therefore, they willing-

ly invest some of their savings in constructing extensions to original house on account of businesses venture for at least

some additional income. Some transformer, in case there are technical and structural possibilities, may alert one of the rooms that facing street into a store or build a new one if land is enough available. The store either to be rented out or to be used the owner to run a business activities for himself, which called Home based enterprise. This is quite true as the economic development within the area of housing project increases and more demand for such spaces grows.

- To improve accommodation for main household

The transformation could be carried out to improve accommodation and its environment for the main household. Extensions would include changing the size of the rooms by eradicating a dividing wall of two rooms into larger one. It also could involve changing or modifying the kitchen or living room's space in order to make them more comfortable. In some case the changing or transformation could totally shift the spatial design of the dwelling if it possible structurally. This is more probably to happen when the household is dissatisfied with the arrangement of the space within the dwelling. And in order to make the house more suitable for their way of life and that of their children.

- To increase the value and cost of house

As all the original units tend to be of very similar value and cost. The transformed houses will be of different value and cost depending on the level and scale of such transformation activities. For instant, in Al-Madina al-Sakania in Hadda area the value per unit were uniformed at the time they were constructed. There is now big difference between the original and expanded or transformed units.

- No other alternative available

Realizing that it is very difficult and infeasible to afford to buy other house, households rather prefer to invest their savings in making some extension and expansions rather than to buy another house and move. This is mainly because the fact that they rather see more chance in affording transformation that will lead them to own larger house with much lower cost. Also because they do not want to leave the area.

The consequences of transformation activities can be observed at the sites of several governmental low cost housing projects in our cities. Over years many household executed various types of transformation and extension to their original dwellings and most likely that they will continue to do so as far as the above mentioned reasons and factors are concerned.

While some may consider the transformation activities as a process that would lead and change the uniform of such projects into some deformed settlements, and call for banding people from doing so. In reality it is quite difficult, if not impossible, to prevent people from doing so. I have known that some measures have been taken to impose regulations that enforce the transformers to obtain a permission to carry out any extensions. The amount of money that transformer has to pay for permission is quite high to discourage him of implementing his plans. However, many would pay what ever is required to get the permission as they are in need for extensions.

As a matter of fact, the transformation process has many advantages and benefits not only for households themselves but also for the governmental agencies. All the construction activities to add rooms, floors, extra spaces are privately financed by the household with no cost on the government. In addition, they producing new housing to the market and therefore contributing to meet the increase demand. The housing produced is within the same areas and serviced land and this minimize the additional cost from the government. Furthermore, they provide more spaces and improve the occupancy level. As the original units, with their poor physical appearance, the transformation is leading to the upgrading of the estate in particular and to the human settlements in general.

Despite these advantages, there are some problems that occurred as a result of such activities, especially in case of uncontrolled and excessive transformation. The most important and serious is the overpressure to the, initially planned and constructed for a set number of families, infrastructure caused by the doubled or even trebled number of households that would, after several years, inhabit in such housing.

Therefore, it is important, when planning for new such projects, to take into account all the factors and circumstance that make beneficiaries undertake transformation activities by the household. To design the infrastructure bearing in mind the future increase of the population. Despite the early short losses in density from the larger plots, the long-term density probably to be very similar, or even higher than those resulting from smaller plots. Therefore, the plots of land should be larger rather than smaller and dwellings to be located perhaps in the corner side of the plot. This probably would enable households to have some options to extend efficiently and with the minimum disturbance to their neighbors and the layout of the areas as a whole. Plot shapes and sizes should take account of pressure to extend. Adopting permissive attitude toward transformation with light control and prevent the worst excesses. It is equally important for the public agencies to undertake in-depth review and evaluation of existing situation of low-cost housing to determine all the dimensions of the transformation phenomenon and its process to avoid any implications and problems that may occur in future governmental projects as a result of transformation. Further more, to set strategy exploring how to benefit from it in improving the housing sector performance in the country as a whole considering the potential housing it produces to the market.

SILVER
LINING



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

The Dilemma of The Yemeni Youth

The youth are actually the soul of any nation and the power-house of its energy that makes it evolve and grow progressively. In fact, youngsters are an important group of the society since they are viewed as the future-builders and a dormant source of prosperity for their nations. On this factual basis, they are given top priority and full concern by the people in authority.

Holding the First Forum on Arab Youth in Sanaa during the period 1-4 August is actually a good pointer of the rising awareness of Arab countries towards the inevitability of youngsters and the importance of discussing their problems and pitfalls. The forum also indicated that there is a common understanding amongst Arabs of the vitality of discussing the problems faced by the Arab youth, particularly in view of the fact that the majority of the Arab population is youngsters.

Let me here visualize some of the problems the Yemeni youngsters are troubled with.

First, joblessness is the major headache of the Yemeni youth. Most of our university graduates are unemployed even though they are well qualified and had studied in well-esteemed Arab and non-Arab universities. The students have even qualifications that the country needs badly. We have all heard about the demonstrations of the graduates of the Faculty of Petroleum who were denied jobs by the Ministry of Industry. Instead, they were sent to teach in some schools. What a pity! They taught for one year and then they wanted to get employed in the Ministry of Industry since it fits their qualifications and study. Yet, they were refused. I don't know why? Does it mean that the Ministry can not employ even these students of rare qualifications.

I don't think that our country, which is developing and new in the field of petroleum exploration, doesn't need such graduates. However, the country spent much money on getting them qualified.

Let me elaborate the dilemma of the Yemeni youth. In Yemen, most of the employees registered in the government payrolls are old or even phantom workers. This is why the government feels overburdened with employees who actually do not exist or produce anything valuable for the country. Therefore, when fresh qualified graduates ask for employment, they find all the doors shut.

Another plight of the Yemeni youth is that some employed people refuse to leave their offices even if they are old enough to get retired. However, they sometimes leave it but, they get their sons in their position as if the government post is something to be inherited. This is why we see some people stuck to their offices for over than two or three decades. One might not believe it but it is actually the truth. Even military officers when they die of get retired, they get their posts and ranks transferred to their sons. Something funny, isn't it?

Therefore, the sons of dignitaries and influential figures in the society find it very easy for them to get employed, no matter whether they are qualified or not. It is only commoners to suffer in this country. I will tell you a story that happened to me two weeks ago. Once I entered a restaurant in the Capital Sanaa for dinner. I was staggeringly shocked to see a graduate of the English Department and one of the bright students of his batch wearing a suit of a waiter. I couldn't believe that. I rubbed my eyes a little to make sure whether I was not mistaken. To my surprise, he came closer and said in English "hello Mr. Mohammed." I felt very very sad and gloomy to find him offering his service. He told me that he got the second place among his fellow students but the Ministry of Education could not employ them despite that they are graduates of the Faculty of Education. "Don't get staggered or surprised. This fellow, pointing at his friend, is a graduate of the Department of Geology". he noted sardonically. The schools are lacking teachers of English. The Yemeni graduates are there. We prefer non-Yemenis. Why? Of course, they are not a square peg in around hole. It is something very confusing, isn't it? I don't actually look down upon the waiters and belittle their job. Rather, I want to say that these graduates should be better placed somewhere else where they can show their merits.

The predicament is that the Ministry of Education is overloaded with many Arab teachers who can easily be replaced by Yemenis. But I wonder why the Ministry continues renewing their contracts and pay them in dollar? It is something very confusing. The schools are lacking teachers of English. Is there something fishy behind? The government announced that the year 1999 would be the Year of the Youth in Yemen. Everybody expected wanders to take place to set the Yemeni youth on the lap of luxury. But nothing visible took place. Therefore, I want to point out that the best way of protecting our youngsters from violence, sexual diseases, drugs- topics which were highlighted in the First Forum on the Arab Youth, is to provide them with employment. In other words, there must be a one-one correspondence between the development and the products of the university education. Otherwise, they will fall victims to all bad habits and evils. Will we stop a situation before the genie gets out of the bottle? Will the Forum yield tangible fruits for a better future for the Arab youth? I wish so!

THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND FOR WOMEN UNIFEM

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Yemen is inviting interested individuals to submit applications for the following post within the project implementation of the Post Beijing Follow Up Operation Project II. This project aims at strengthening the capacity of the national women's machinery to follow up the implementation of national work plans developed under Phase I.

National Project Manager

Under the general supervision of the Regional Project Director, the national project manager will provide professional work in close collaboration and under the supervision of UNIFEM RPA.

The project manager will undertake the following responsibilities:

- Formulate the project's overall workplan and financial plan.
- Initiate the recruitment of national project staff and local consultants.
- Supervise and monitor the work of national consultants.
- Organize and coordinate the project activities.
- Follow up the day to day operations of the project as national level.
- Establish contact with local experts, ministries and project counterparts.
- Represent UNIFEM in all the meetings related to coordination and implementation of the activities of the project.
- Consult with counterparts for convening of steering committee meetings.
- ensure the participation and coordination among all parties including the civil society, line ministries UN agencies.
- Provide technical support to project counterparts as seemed necessary.
- Propose project ideas for formulation by project counterparts according to needs.
- Identify need for technical expertise and communicate need to regional director.
- Prepare regular progress and financial reports as necessary.
- Liaise regularly with the regional director on matters related to project planning, progress, and relation with counterparts and consultants.
- Perform other duties as seemed necessary.

The incumbent must have a university degree and relevant qualifications as well as professional experience in project management, organizational development, training and gender and development. Preferably, she/he must have a post-graduate degree in the Social Sciences and at least five years experience in various aspects of project management in the field of gender and development, she/he should have a general familiarity with the UN and with other donor institutions in addition to very good computer, communication and inter-personal skills as well as possessing excellent English and Arabic (both written and spoken).

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications with detailed curriculum vitae to UNDP office, no later than 21st of August 1999 in an envelope marked "Post Beijing Phase II Project". Short-listed candidates will be expected to appear before an interview panel.

Head of the ECTA in Sanaa, Mr. Rainer Freund:

“Respect of democratic principles and fundamental human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights is enshrined in Article 1 of the new EC-Yemen cooperation agreement”

The European Commission Technical Advisory Office opened in Yemen 4 years ago. Since then, the cooperation between Yemen and the Commission has not only increased in volume, but has also become more diverse in all aspects. In fact, the EC ranks now amongst Yemen's principal grant donors. Moreover, in every opportunity, the Yemeni government looks forward to further intensifying these strong ties. It is in this context that Ismail Al Ghabiry filed the following interview with Rainer Freund, head of the ECTA Office in Sana'a.



Ministry of Water and Electricity. The Commission's SYNERGY Program has made available some 80,000 EURO for a first project under this facility, entitled "European Union-Yemen Energy Policy Dialogue". The objectives of this project are: (i) to promote the dialogue between European Union and Yemeni energy policy makers; and (ii) to enhance cooperation between the European Union and Yemen in the development of sustainable and non-polluting energy

some time ago.

Q: What ongoing or planned activities do you have in this area?

A: The Supreme Elections Committee is in the process of commissioning a server based computer system financed from an EC grant at a cost of approximately EURO

“The Commission is moreover a staunch advocate for the freedom of the press”

Q: Mr. Freund, could you briefly outline the mandate and function of the EC-TA Office

A: The EC - TA Office is mandated to monitor all European Commission assisted activities in Yemen. It moreover assists in the identification of new activities and in project and program implementation. It also acts as an interface between its host Ministry, the Ministry of Planning and Development on one side and the EC Delegation to Jordan and Yemen (based in Amman) and the Commission Services in Brussels on the other side. Information of

disbursements oscillate around 15-20 million Euro. During the last 3 years, annual average new commitments were in the order of 23 million EURO. The principal areas targeted are fisheries, agriculture, health and population, academic and vocational training and increasingly social protection with a strong bias on food security. Smaller but nonetheless important commitments have been made in favor of women empowerment, tourism development and air traffic safety. Of recent, both the commitment of funds for NGO co-financed projects (mainly social sectors) and specific humanitarian emergency assistance (through the EC Humanitarian Office - ECHO) have increased. In addition, it seems worth mentioning that for example the activities of the World Food Program in Yemen and those of other UN organizations receive important contributions from the Commission's budget.

All of the above are designed to support the economic reform process, strengthen sectors which offer scope for sustainable growth and cushion at the same time the impact of structural adjustment on the poor.

Q: You have recently held a series of workshops in Sana'a on Oil and Gas and Electricity and Renewable Energies. What is the background and what are the objectives of these workshops?

A: These workshops were hosted by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources and the

tainable and

The two workshops you are referring to really served as an entry point and the partners to this dialogue which comprise of high level government and private sector representatives, informed each other about characteristics and policies of the energy sectors in Yemen and Europe respectively. Ultimately this first project is expected to yield a number of concrete proposals for possible future cooperation. One tangible outcome will be a so called Maxi Brochure, a high quality publication intended for circulation in Europe and elsewhere and which will inform on structure, organization and assets of Yemen's energy sector and high-light investment opportunities.

Q: What about the European Commission's commitment to promoting Human Rights and Democracy?

A: Respect of democratic principles and fundamental human rights as set out in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights is enshrined in Article 1 of the new EC-Yemen cooperation agreement, which came into effect in the latter half of 1998. The EC was one of the key supporters of both NGO based activities and those of democratic institutions of the state prior to and during the 1997 parliamentary elections. The Commission is moreover a staunch advocate for the freedom of the press and has amongst others sponsored a regional seminar on the promotion of independent and pluralistic Arab media, held in Sana'a

130,000. This system will allow for an efficient management of Yemen's voters register for the years to come.

Commission Services are currently examining proposals designed to provide assistance in human rights awareness related training of security forces and the strengthening of counsel and care for imprisoned women (and their children) and to women that have served a prison term, both representing a particularly vulnerable group in Yemen society.

Q: Do you foresee any fundamental changes in future EC-Yemen cooperation?

A: Clearly, the new cooperation agreement has focussed but at the same time widened the scope of EC-Yemen partnership. The above mentioned areas of intervention will remain important in the Commission's portfolio in Yemen, but consistent with both the cooperation agreement and the country assistance strategy the strengthening of good governance, management of water resources and investment promotion are some of the areas that will receive more attention. Dialogue on energy policies and environmental protection issues are also likely to become more prominent. The cooperation agreement contains moreover a clear notion on the promotion of regional cooperation and the Commission exerts considerable efforts in this regard.



Shaker Al-Ashwal
Vice President
Yemeni American League
New York - USA

I Have a Dream

In 1962 my father was in New York City on a vacation from his work aboard a cruise ship. One day while he was listening to the Radio and following the news from the Middle East, he heard that the Imam died and that the Yemeni revolution gave birth to Yemen Arab Republic. He couldn't believe the news and stormed out of his home, running as fast as he could to share the news with the other Yemenis who were hanging out in the Yemeni café along Atlantic Avenue. When he reached there, and before he could catch his breath, he announced them the news. From the corner a friend yelled, "stop lying, you always joke"; "feel my pounding heart" my father replied.

Since that day, my father and every Yemeni have lived with a dream, the dream of a democratic, and prosperous Yemen. As proud people we have been strengthened by our dreams and hopes. And many of us, tired of political and economical instability, became content with a stable country that was moving forward. For people like me it did not matter who was on the wheel, as long as he was driving forward. And Yemen indeed moved forward, but did so at a very slow rate. Today as one looks back one tries to understand the causes of the delay and the slow progress in Yemen's development. An objective analyst will attribute that delay to lack of resources, mismanagement, deeply rooted corruption, and external forces. Though this list is an oversimplification, it provides the major categories under which the other factors can be listed.

Our dreams and hopes have been shattered by those factors over and over again. Every event that signaled a positive change in Yemen is celebrated in our hearts, and we aspire for greater achievement. Our hopes and dreams grow and we yearn for more. When Yemen has an opportunity to implement another positive change we often pray that the government will do the right thing and move forward with another positive change. Despite our hopefulness and our optimistic outlook, the occasions of disappointments have exceeded the occasions of celebrations.

The presidential election

The presidential election represented another chance for the government to make a "positive move" in the right direction. The constitutional duty given to the parliament to select the nominees is without a doubt an exclusionary procedure that is not fair to the people of Yemen. This procedure is self-serving; it benefits the ruling party and the dominant parties and excludes everyone else hence excluding qualified nominees who may pose a threat to the ruling party's nominee. The problem becomes more complicated when the parliament is as powerless, as partisan as the current one is. The parliament voted down the nominees of all the opposition parties, and permitted only one candidate who was also a GPC member. Only in Yemen, many would say. A presidential election between the nominees of the same party. What choice do our people have?

Where do we go from here?

The presidential election will go on, and the new candidate will not have much time to present himself to the people of Yemen. The campaigning time is another flaw in this procedure that renders it questionable. The new candidate will have to introduce himself and his programs and whether the government media allows him equal access remains to be seen. We hope that the process from now on will run a normal course in which Yemenis are given a real chance to choose and elect their new president. Though it is hard to expect things to run smoothly considering how things started; yet we still have our dreams, and we'll definitely know if the polls are %99.999 in anyone's favor.

As Yemenis abroad we celebrate Yemen's progress and we are filled with pride when it does, we are also saddened when Yemen regress and when conditions worsen. We pray for a prosperous, democratic Yemen in which the people are in control of their destiny and not the World Bank. That will not happen until the government of Yemen attacks the root of corruption in the system and begins to create a government of institutions instead of a government of individuals. The government so far has implemented the World Bank plans and have gotten praised for their adherence to the economic reform package. The World Bank reports have remained critical of the government for its inability to implement strict administrative reforms. The people have experienced the reforms most damaging to them, namely the economic reforms, but have not seen any reforms, which would truly signal an overall change in the system. Our people are getting poorer, the United Nations human development report said that poverty rate rose to 27% in 1998. About 4.3 million people in our country are poor, which is not to say that the rest are living comfortably, we do not need expert dieticians to tell us that Yemenis generally suffer mal-nourishment.

At least the World Bank is happy with the government's implementation of the economic reform package and the number of Yemenis who live in poverty continues to rise. This reminds me of that ironic statement "the operation was successful, but the patient is dead."

Like most Yemenis abroad, I am not politically affiliated with any Yemeni party, but like all Yemenis abroad I bear a dream, a simple and modest dream of a country with free people, who have a choice. A country where the government is one of institutions, where individuals are treated as equal by the a law no one can bend; a country that is no longer described as "lawless"; a country where people's access to adequate health care, and an education to prepare them for the next century is guaranteed.

I may be called a dreamer, but like my father before me I cannot help but dream.

“Current standing commitments are approximately 100 million Euro (fund) spread over 28 activities.”

EU member states represented in Sana'a and in particular that of the EU presidency on the state of play of EC-Yemen relations as well as participation in donor coordination are other important functions of the office.

Q: What is the current volume of funds committed, annual disbursements and in which principal sectors of development and economic cooperation are EC activities in Yemen domiciled?

A: Current standing commitments are approximately 100 million Euro spread over 28 activities. Annual

In the Case of the 8 Britons and 2 Algerians in Aden Appealing the Verdict

At last, and after several months of hearings, Judge Jameel Mohammed Omar reached a verdict in the case of the 10 defendants accused of possessing weapons and of planned terrorist acts against Aden Hotel, Church, United Nations building and the residences of some American Experts. As soon as the verdict was announced, several cries and shouts were heard in the courtroom. For the families, the sentence of the victims harsh and too tough. They were dissatisfied with the verdict calling it totally unfair. Similarly, the lawyer of the defendants, Mr. Badr Ba-Sunaid was totally disappointed at the decision of the judge. In a special statement to Yemen Times, he said, "the verdict of the judge is false and did not depend on sufficient evidence and had no strong grounds... All the ten defendants had demanded that I appeal this unjust verdict, and that is what I have actually done."

In an interview with Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief Editor, Mr. Ba-Sunaid explained the whole story from the beginning:

Quote
"In the first week of January 1999, Mr. Rashad Yakoub, the British national who was the lead lawyer for the defendants called me by phone and requested that I investigate the case and offered me to be the lawyer for the defendants in Yemen. I accepted the mandate on January 9th.

Around one week later, on the 15th of January I met the defendants for the first time. Then Mr. Rashad told me to go to the general prosecution where I found that there was no accusation at all against my the defendants. The Britons and Algerians were captured and put to jail on the 23rd of December 1998. They were put to jail and were interrogated for more than 20 days, till the 15th of January 1999. The general attorney accused them orally (not written) showing them the explosives, mines and weapons. All my defendants have denied any relation with Abu Al-Hassan and the Abyan Army. The interrogations were carried out after the problems between Britain and Yemen without any clear crime or accusation. These young men came to Yemen in order to attend the wedding of Malik

Hurhura. They came in separate groups. The first group included Malik to marry his cousin. In the day of their capture, they were touring in Aden City. Then they wanted to visit other regions so they asked a person about where he thought would be a nice area to visit, he recommended Abyan because it was close and beautiful. On their way back, they headed towards Al-Alam security point, where no single vehicle passes without thorough inspection. As the driver was not quite used to the non-UK traffic system, he wrongly drove on the left side of the street. The police stopped them because they were violating the traffic regulations. Then Malik showed the officer his car renting document, which seemingly convinced the police, so he continued on his way. Suddenly, they were surprised to find that the

Mr. Ba Sunaid appealed the case in which seven of the men, were sentenced to terms between three and seven years in jail, among them was the famous London-based fundamentalist Abu Hamza's son, Mohamed Mustafa Kamil who was sentenced to a three years imprisonment. The rest three men were sentenced to time already served.

Based on foreign sources, the verdict was not welcomed at all in Britain. Even though the British government respects the judicial law in Yemen, but they still have shown concern over the latest allegations regarding torture claims in jail. Hence, they prefer having the prisoners to serve their sentences in England where they will not face such allegations.

However, regarding British Prime Minister's latest letter to President

prosecution. The general prosecutor in the case, Saeed Al-Aqil, confirmed his appeal by stating, "We will try to bring the sentence to its maximum, which is 10 years in jail."

During the trial of the defendants, their families accused the British government of not treating them as the others because of their religion or race. They were especially angry at the weak response of the British government towards the torture allegations during the interrogation period. In regards to the torture claims, the human rights activist, Mr. A. Shamsy of Germany reached negative conclusions on Yemen's adherence to human rights. "I was one of the first few people to meet with the accused individuals, right after the first sitting of the

court. From the scars and bruises on their body, and from the details of separate and independent accounts of the accused, I could see that they were subjected to various forms of torture, notably the 'falaqa'. This is contrary to Yemeni law, as well as to international law," he said in an interview with Yemen Times at the beginning of this year.

As a response to these claims, British Prime Minister, Mr. Peter Hain stated, "I reject flatly the allegations that have come from some, including I think within the families and their community, that this has been somehow a different treatment of British Moslems from other British citizens. It hasn't."



police were chasing them. Because he was not familiar with the streets and the area, Malik panicked when seeing the police chasing him. The men then left the car at Sheikh Othman and escaped. This seems to be the only mistake they committed. The police forces then found the car and took it to Tareq as the men claim. At the night of the same day, they were all captured by the police in the hotel they stayed in."

Unquote

Saleh asking about the torture allegations and the case, some sources say that the response of President Saleh was negative in stating that he cannot interfere in any way into the judicial system of the country because it is a totally independent system. Just yesterday, the British Embassy in Sanaa had denied the reports that PM Blair had asked President Saleh to interfere.

Currently there are two appeals, one from the defendants, and one from the

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

مجموعة شركات اخوان ثابت

تتقدم بأحر التعازي القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ/

علي عبدالله صالح، رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

وإلى وزارة الدفاع وهيئة الأركان العامة، وإلى أسر الضحايا وإلى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بوفاة المغفور لهم بإذن الله نائب رئيس هيئة الأركان عميد ركن أحمد بن أحمد فرج، العميد ركن / محمد أحمد إسماعيل، قائد المنطقة الشرقية ومرافقيهما الذين استشهدوا يوم السبت الموافق 14 أغسطس 1999م نتيجة حادث سقوط طائرتهم المروحية في صحراء العبر. ندعو الله العلي القدير أن يتغمدهم بواسع رحمته، ويلهم أهلهم وذويهم الصبر والسلوان. وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

Thabet Bros. Group of Companies

presents their heartiest condolences to the president

the president of the Republic of Yemen, to the Ministry of Defence, the General Staff Department,

all the victims' families and to all the Yemen people on the death of the deceased

Deputy Staff General Ahmed Ahmed Faraj, Brigadier-General Mohammed Ahmad Ismael, the chairman of the East Region and their fellows who died with them on Saturday August, 14 1999 as a result of the fall helicopter accident in Al-Abbr desert.

We all pray to God to rest their souls all in peace in Heaven.

Supporting Small Projects for Women

"The workshop of Empowering Women to Conduct Their Private Business" Come to an End

Ismail Al-Ghabiry
Yemen Times



Under the title of "Planning and Managing Small Enterprises" a seminar, held in the period from August 7-10 1999, was organized by the Ministry of Planning and Development. The seminar was attended by more than 70 women representatives from different governorates, foreign organizations and women societies. The seminar was dedicated to providing women with knowledge and that will enable them to plan and manage their jobs effectively and efficiently. A discussion about the experiences of Lebanon and Palestine in the field of financing small projects and enterprises was also held in the seminar. Besides a discussion of different papers which make women aware of the importance of small projects in the development process. The participants also discussed the hurdles and obstacles facing small projects and the methods that can be used to overcome them.

If we look with a discerning eye at the issue of women working in the private sector and the number of girls joining schools and universities, we will find that there is a steady growth of their number. The number of girls joining the primary schools have gone up from 520,000 student in 91/95 to 905,000 in 97/98, in the secondary schools from 18,000 student in 91/95 to 81,000 in 97/98, in universities from 7,200 student in 91/95 to 23,000 student in 97/98. Nevertheless these great achievements, we find that the way is still long before us. Besides, there are still a number of difficulties and hardships needed to be tackled. For example, the rate of enrolled girls for education is only 32% of the total number in the primary study, 24% of the

total number of the secondary study and 19% of the total number of the university study and 12% of the total number of the technical and training study. Mr. Mutahar Al-Abbasi, the Deputy Minister for Macro-Planning and Studies, said that the inauguration of such a workshop is a sign of the initiatives of the Administration of Women Affairs in the Ministry of Planning and Development which aims at opening channels of continuous contact with organizations of urban society that are interested in women issue and to enhance their role in the society. The number of women participated in this workshop from our country are 16 from all the gover-

norates. "Women should be given the chance to polish their merits and express their knowledge which will enable them to handle their private projects effectively and efficiently" the Deputy Minister for Macro-Planning and studies said. He also added that we have tried to coordinate with different organizations working here such as SDF and SEDU to enhance and strengthen the support for women. Regarding the Lebanese experience Randa El Hussein, the Program Manager in the UNIFEM, said: I work for the UNIFEM which is an activist organization working for women and coordinates with other sister agencies and other non-governmental organizations, national and international and with governmental institutions for the improvement and advancement of women conditions in the whole world. I came to present our experience in Lebanon in economic development for women and improving the education and aware-

ness in health. Our experience dates back to 94 and my colleague Aitemad Muhanna, United Project Coordinator, came to talk about the UNIFEM experience in Palestine. About the objectives of the workshop she said: the objectives of the workshop are to share experiences among UN agencies and governmental institutions, to introduce participating women to the business awareness concept and as I said the main thing we are aiming at is developing business plans by learning together with the participants how to generate business ideas, how to put a market plan, how to put production steps required and then try to sell and negotiate with institutions who were present at this workshop for the financing requirements because UNIFEM can do a lot for giving access to services which are not financed. I am really impressed by the speech of his excellency the Deputy Minister of Planning who said "we should facilitate the role of women and at the same time soften the conditions required by banks and credit institutions for enhancing access to women who do not have any guarantees for creditors because they are credit worthy and also for identifying then legal requirements and legal steps for establishing a business in the formal sector, as it is very week." Regarding the point of strengthening the women relationship here in Yemen and other countries she said: I believe in the sisterhood and brotherhood across the Arab world. I hope the achievements that were done in the past years and the strong commitment of the

government will be translated on the ground. Women will be given opportunities in economy and political seats. Encouragement is not sufficient, we should prepare the ground and have an active participation on the ground. We should have an active participation on the city level and on the level of villages. We should also have an active participation and exposure of women to the political arena and at the same time have this strong support for them to have a good presentable presentation at different constitutional institutions. In her draft in this workshop she talked about the UNIFEM trends to support women empowerment, institutional buildings, support two enterprise development, engineering statistics and in particular about the problems we face in our humble experience in Lebanon to learn from each other. About her idea of the Yemeni women she said that she had a good impression about them through the workshop. Aitemad Muhanna, The UNIFEM Project Coordinator in Gaza and Palestine is also a participant in this workshop. She said that her project has been implemented in Gaza for three years. It can be considered as an implemented show, training women on macro-enterprises, on technical skills that are needed for starting up or improving enterprises or income generating activities that could be developed. We have a good experience. We could build the capacity of the ministry of social affairs' staff, the co-partner in the implementing agency of the project. When we started implementing the project the ministry did not have a vision towards women's enterprises. There was no clear understanding of the importance of income generating and macro-enterprises for women. Then we stressed the following: First, to eradicate poverty which is the main strategy and the main concern of the Palestinian government, second the ministry interest to integrate women into the whole structure of the government. By doing this women are trained and then they are able to start their own business. Another good indicator of success is in advocacy and media. We could integrate media which used to be male dominated and mostly concerned with political issues. Now the development of women's role is part of the media activities. We all the time advocate women for taking a role in enterprises. By organizing this workshop here in Yemen I see that the main objective of this workshop was to encourage women through women's organizations in Yemen and to get the basic skills of starting up a new businesses or to encourage women to participate in the private sector while the objective of our participation as UNIFEM in this workshop was to present our experience as we belong to Arab countries and we in a way or another face the same problems like political conflicts, poverty and other things. This workshop have a strong focus on women to encourage them and give them access to education, health, employment, technical skills and political sphere to be part of the political life. Women should not be concentrated in households. Women should also be aware of this and the media should play a vital role in this. I am advising the Yemenis' NGOs, people, decision makers to use a combination of strategies, concentrating on education and health as the most important thing and give women opportunities to participate in the private sector. The workshop came out with a number of recommendations stated in the last session. A number of certificates were also distributed for the participants. The recommendations pointed at requesting the Ministry of planning and development to continue holding some programs and objective training sessions that aim at providing women with knowledge that will help them manage and handle their own enterprises, consultation centers should be established to give advice and support to women who run independent business, extending the duration of paying loans back to banks from 3 years to 5 years, attempts should be made to let Yemen participate in the regional unity for supporting the small enterprises and coordinate with the United Nations Fund for women development and requesting NGOs and non-NGOs for women to cooperate with each other and to exchange information, experts and experiences.



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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.

THEY SAY.... I SAY!

Salwa Mohammed Sarhi
Sana'a

A friend of mine called me up recently telling me the update on her coming engagement. "It is all over!" she managed to say with disappointment. "But why? What happened?" I asked in disbelief. "Well, he said I was too educated." "I don't understand!" "He said that I like my certificates more than I like being a housewife. All he needed is a wife that can make fresh bread." "But you can make bread, can't you?" "Yes... but I think it was just an excuse." "What for?" "I think he got too scared once he knew that I have been travelling on my own." "So what?" "I don't know.... I can't believe that my independence is a reason to be rejected for!"

I hang up the phone feeling confused. My friend's disappointed voice still echoing in my ear. This conversation triggered a flow of memories of my own lot with education and the road to independence.

It was my dad insight and love that walked me through the uneasy path of knowledge, sweet and bitter as it was.

Dad was the man who gave me a book to read. I was too young to remember its contents but I remember him whispering in my ears that he has more of them once I finish it. When I preferred playing dad would lure me back by telling me stories of his long and difficult journey to study at the only school in Sana'a at that time. He would read me stories with so much passion that I got to believe that he and I were part of the story.

Knowing my obsession about travelling, dad assured me that reaching far beautiful places starts with education and he was right.

I remember my mother watching dad nervously as he was filling my head up with my right to be educated, to study abroad, to be a doctor, an artist or a writer. He would fill my hands with books that talk about freedom, love and the taste of life in far countries.

Dad knew my mother worries about my dislike for making bread and learning homely duties, yet he didn't stop whispering in my ears. Often, dad called me the Queen of Sheba...

"Why this name?" I asked him feeling the burden of such a name.

"Because there is no reason why you can't be the next queen!"

It was not only father's ultimate love for his daughter that made him feel and say that; it was also his wisdom to pen the door of possibilities to me. Dad believed that nothing is impossible even the chance of being another queen of Sheba!!

Such unquestionable confidence in my abilities and freedom of choice were not something I found usual among my friends. In our get together, my friends would talk about cooking, engagement plans, beautiful dresses and their dreams of a loving husband who brings lots of money and kids to their life. I was eleven years old at the time and I never knew how to make such conversation. Instead, I would tell them about my family hiking trip, dad stories and the new novel I'm reading "Gone with the Wind". I would be so excited explaining how far fetched the novel from my simple life was, how little I understood the events, and how badly I wanted to be the mesmerizing Scarlet.

As dad plans to gear my life to seek higher education were succeeding,

my mother serene eyes were sending hopeful prayer. She supported my education as a must, yet she believed that my education should not marginalize my role in the kitchen. However, mom never objected loudly at my father's provoking acts stealing me from the kitchen to his room full of so many books. I felt overwhelmed with the sight of neatly organized books, large and small, with pretty colors and pictures I have never seen before.

Dad noticed my bewilderment and didn't hesitate to grab a green shiny book handing it to me with prevailing smile. It was a biography of some of the greatest Muslim women who fought the social boundaries and carved their names high and successful. They were women who feared nothing and spoke their minds up. Their lives were one of sound courage and strong belief in their choices.

Dad knew that such a book would fuel my so eager little soul to have a life beyond making bread in the hot clay oven, often burning my hands. Mother nevertheless tried her ways with me. She would call me now and then to help her in the kitchen, which I did always carrying a book with me!! Mother had to put up with my continuous distraction reading some lines then rushing to help her back to my book!! My book would look so littered with all the flour and oil spots I left on it while trying to please my mom, yet I loved reading it still.

I remember very clearly the day my mother lost the discrete battle and gave me up to dad. I was thirteen years old and I have been hearing talks about the visiting women who want see me. They were marriage matchmakers who wanted to check my physical statues (looks wise) and my cooking skills (absolutely disastrous).

Mother told the news to dad who didn't say anything and kept quite. I was helping mom getting the house cleaned for the visitors and feeling content to be the center of attention. I didn't think much beyond being talked about. All that matters is that I have something to brag about to my school friends. When the time for the visit was approaching, dad was walking back and forth in the backyard while mom was asking me to go about my business. As we heard knocks on the door, dad started calling me to join him in the backyard. My mom was attending to her guest when dad was asking me to hold the shaky ladder for him. I was holding the ladder in place feeling frustrated. How awful that the matchmakers will not see me and I will have no story to brag about to my friends. I tried to rush dad but he asked me to stand still since he needed to fix some electricity lines. I could hear nothing of what is going inside the house.. but from the window I could see my mother upset features.

I laugh when I remember this now and I thank dad for saving me from what would have been an embarrassment. My cooking abilities surly would have scared them off. Thus, little do I display my modest knowledge in the kitchen yet I go in full gear talking about my BA and MA degrees all along with my dad beside me still telling me stories about the Queen of Sheba and mom praying for my success.

My parents have never stopped my dreams from becoming a reality. They have warned me though, that a life of a woman like mine will not be easy. For a woman to have so many choices and to follow up her heart, she will face consequences! "What kind of consequences?" I asked them. "Ask your disappointed friend" answered dad honestly.

It is with great sympathy that
Dr. Waleed Jazrawi,
President & General Manager,
Ali Mohamed Sohaiki,
Executive Director
and all the employees of
**Canadian Occidental
Petroleum Yemen**

express their deepest condolences to
H.E. President Ali Saleh,

President of the Republic of Yemen,
The Ministry of Defense
and General Staff,

and The families of the deceased

On the death of

Staff Brigadier Mohamed Ahmed Ismail,

Commander of the Eastern Region

And his companions

On Saturday the 14th of August,

15/08/1999 as a result of a helicopter

crash in the Al-Aber Desert.

We have but to pray to Almighty God
to have mercy upon them and to inspire
their families and relatives with patience
and consolation.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(يا أيتها النفس المطمئنة
ارجعي إلى ربك راضية
مرضية فادخلي في عبادي
وادخلي جنتي)

صدق الله العظيم

بقلوب يملؤها الحزن والأسى، راضية بقضاء الله وقدره
يتقدم الدكتور/ وليد جزراوي، الرئيس والمدير العام
السيد / علي محمد السحقي، المدير التنفيذي
وكافة موظفي شركة

كنيديان أوكسيدنتال بتروليم يمن

بأحر التعازي القلبية إلى فخامة الرئيس /

علي عبدالله صالح،

رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

والى وزارة الدفاع وهيئة الأركان العامة

وأسر الضحايا والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني

بوفاة المغفور لهم بإذن الله

العميد الركن / محمد أحمد إسماعيل، قائد المنطقة الشرقية
ومرافقيه الذين استشهدوا يوم السبت الموافق 14 أغسطس 1999م
نتيجة حادث سقوط طائرتهم المروحية في صحراء العبر.

وانه لا يسعنا إلا أن ندعو الله العلي القدير أن يتغمدهم بواسع
رحمته

ويلهم أهلهم وذويهم الصبر والسلوان. وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.



“Loans are a Necessary Evil”

Yemen is one of the developing countries that depend greatly on loans and credits in their development. Since the 1950s, Yemen's debt has reached \$ 9,013,000,000. This amount has recently been discounted to \$ 4,500,000,000 in Paris Club. In a symposium on loans and their role in the development process in our country, Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, President of the Consultative Council, pointed out the fields loans are used in. These fields are: transportation, construction and roads, agriculture, electricity, education, health, harbors, airports, water and sewage. The council also discussed a number of papers and studied the various suggestion on how to take advantage of these loans properly. Mr. Yahya Qahtan, member of the Council said that loans are something necessary evil and they threaten the

Ahlam Al-Mutawakel,
Yemen Times

new generations' future.

In his paper, Dr. Mutahar Al-Abbasy, Deputy Minister of Planning and Development, said that reports by the International Organizations listed Yemen among the world poorest coun-

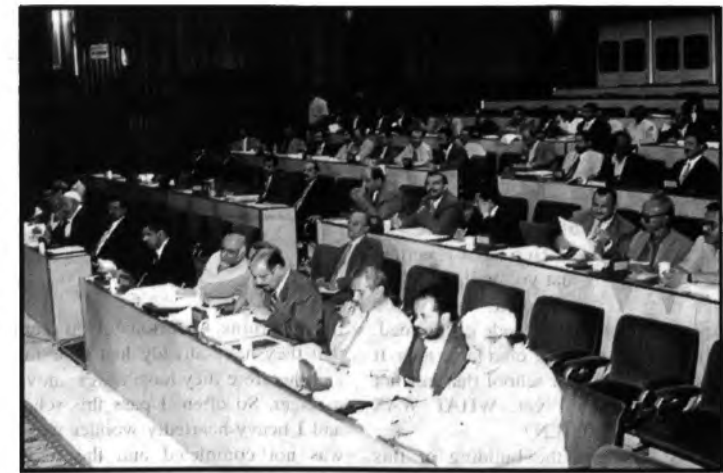
“The papers discussed in the symposium are very important all the suggestions exchanged by the participants in the symposium will be considered”.

tries. The First Human Development Report 1998 shows that Yemen holds the 148th position among 174 countries in terms of the human development indicators achieved.” We must con-



said Mr. Yahya Al-Habbary, head of the Economical Committee. “These papers will be given to the Economic Committee for further studies after which the Committee will send a detailed report to the President.”, Al-Habbary added.

centrate on”, Al-Abbasy went on, “the population growth, water shortage, insufficiency of the infra-structure, natural resources, education, health sector, electricity and roads.” He also asserted the importance of encouraging the role played by the private sector in the field of tourism.



Another paper on “Indebtedness, its Causes and Dangers” was presented by Dr. Jalal Abdul Aziz Al-Qubati in which he highlighted the conse-

quences of postponing paying the loans back saying that it moves the economical crisis from bad to worse. Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Shwafi also participated with a paper entitled “indebtedness” in which he presented a number of suggestions. Chief among them are the following:
Supporting the role the Arab Fund plays in supporting the Arab countries. Establishing an Arab Fund to help the Arab countries in moments of urgency.

The French architect, Mr. Jose Bel:

“The Yemen-Brest 2000 Will Help Expose Yemen to the European Community”

Yemen is a country that is embraced by the love and admiration of many people from all around the world. Visitors of Yemen feel at home. This is why they even visit Yemen many times and sometimes kick off their researches and studies about different aspects of the Yemeni life. Jose-Marie Bel, a french architect is one of these will-wishers of Yemen. He first came to Yemen in the 1970s where life in Yemen was more or less difficult because there were no many cars or roads available. Before coming to Yemen study the architecture and the Yemeni people, Mr. Bel went to Morocco and lived there for sometime. He has published four books about Yemen and its splendid and unique architecture. He has also recently established an information center about Yemen in Paris and has been instrumental in preparing for Yemen-Brest 2000 shipping project. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor interviewed Mr. Bel and filed the following:



Q: Could you please tell us brief your story with Yemen?

A: I started reading about Yemen in January 1974 to prepare myself for visiting it. Next year I came to Yemen for the first time. Since then, I have been to Yemen several times and I have made a lot of studies about the architecture and archeological sites of Yemen. I have passed a doctorate and I have been a specialist in the Yemeni culture for about 20 years.

Q: What are your activities in Yemen?

A: Sana'a was a small city when I first came to Yemen. I had some friends who arranged a meeting between me and President Al-Hamdy. I also met with the family of Mohammed Mohsen Al-Ghashmi. I still keep a photo for me with Al-Ghashmi's brother. He was the Minister of Justice and I met him in Bani Matar. It was very interested to be in touch with the chiefs of the tribes and to know the people. I made a lot of studies about the qamariat. In 1993 I was in Aden and I visited the house of Rimbaud, the well-known French poet who lived in Aden for a long time.

Q: Can you tell me why you are interested in Yemen and studying the Yemeni culture?

A: It is difficult to explain it because it is something natural. As I have told you, I made all my studies about Yemen, its architecture, archeology and also art. I made prolonged studies about the art in this area, especially, the Islamic art and I published some books about Yemen after these studies. The first one was published 12 years ago. It is about architecture. I also published a catalogue for exhibitions in France and other countries; USA and Canada, for example. The second is about botany in Yemen. It is in French. The third book is about architecture. The last one is about Aden. It is written in English and French and it talks about the long story of the coast of Aden with colors and many pictures.

Q: What about the information center you established in Paris. Can you tell us something about it?

A: The center is in Paris. It is an information center and a gallery and it is called the “House of Yemen”. It is for Paris and the European people and also for the Yemeni people. The center has many documented books about Yemen. The center is of a pivotal role and significance to Yemen since it helps introduce Yemen to the European people and motivate them to visit Yemen. It also provides the people with the information they need about Yemen and its culture and marvelous architecture.

Q: Why did you establish this center?

A: Because I have a workshop in Paris where I work. I also made an exhibition about Yemen by myself. I think now it is good to have an information center and gallery about Yemen because it also supports Yemen and actually it is necessary for tourism to have more connection with tourists wishing to go to Yemen and to know from Paris and Europe the best thing about Yemen.

Q: We have heard about something called Yemen-Brest 2000. Can you tell us about it? What is the project and its objectives?

A: There will be many festivals all over the world and a lot of in France next year, 2000. Four years ago, I was in France, in Paris, and I made an exhibition about Mokha. I also made an exhibition with a friend Mr. Jean-Pierre Brown about Mokha, coffee and the story of the relationship between Yemen and France. At this time the exhibition had a big success. After that we were invited to Brest, one of the biggest cities in France. Every four years, this city witnesses a big gathering for people interested in the sea. At this time I decided with other friends to prepare a project for the year 2000 for the representation of Yemen and maybe one book. This project will help Yemen a lot because it can show the long story of Yemen through its various decades as well as its connection with other countries. This

exhibition will also show that Yemen is the oldest of all the Arab countries.

This project is one of the 23 projects of France and the official ability is absolutely good and we are waiting together the arrival of 3,000,000 people in France. I had the connection with the Minister of Tourism Mr. Abdul Malik Mansour. I have been especially to Hodeidah to find some books and to prepare for this action for the next year. We hope that this exhibition will give good impression about Yemen.

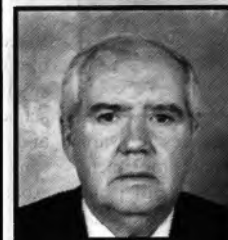
Q: How do you see the cultural relationship between France and Yemen, and how can it be developed?

A: This relationship started a long time ago with those people coming to Yemen to see and study the archaeological sites like Marib. I think the relationship between France and Yemen is very good. It is very good in many fields like medicine, architecture, archaeology and art. I am very glad to be active in enhancing this relationship. I sometimes travel with some other tourists and make conferences. I have never found any French tourists unhappy in their tour to Yemen. All the French people who come to Yemen love the country very much. I hope that Al-Yamaniah Company and the tourist companies will make a new step to revive and improve the tourist drive in the country.

Q: Any last word?

A: Actually, I made a trip in Yemen to Hodeidah, Taiz and Socatra to study the islands and to establish relationships with the Yemeni authorities and agencies to support tourism. My last word is that I feel sad to see hotels empty and my friends, the drivers, not working and the agencies, too. I hope that the situation will change. I also would like to say good luck for the Yemen Times and congratulations for the new Yemen Times. I was also very sad when I knew the news of Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqaf's death. I was then in France and I sent you a fax conveying my deep sorrow and condolences. I am sure that the Yemen Times will go on.

Impression about Yemen



H. E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba
Mr. Hector Argiles Perez

We thank the opportunity that has given us the newspaper Yemen Times to offer our impressions on the Republic of Yemen.

We should begin expressing that we admire the history of Yemen and their links with the civilization and the culture of the Arabic peoples. An aspect and characteristic that we wish to mention is how the people of Yemen observes and defends their cultural traditions, fundamental element that identifies the integrity of the nation and its historical roots, important issue that it must go unite and without be separated from the economic development, social and scientific of the country and that we observe that in the daily life of the Yemeni people are expressed clearly these feelings and expressions of its history, its culture and traditions.

Being an Arabic and Islamic country, Yemen represents in their culture the expression of their faith, ideas and experiences, in addition to their philosophy and objective; the culture is in fact the sum of those spiritual and material characteristics that in a way or other are linked with the culture of the Islamic Arabic world. These cultural principles are for the Yemeni people the basic points and the source for their cultural and scientific development.

Many of the problems that today face some developed countries such as the drug, the prostitution and the alcoholism are not presented as a fundamental and serious problem for the Yemeni society. As country of the third world and in development process, the Yemeni society faces difficulties of social and economic character. However the country haven natural wealth as oil, gas, fishing and their geographical position. The projection on the development and uses of those wealth will be fundamental factor for the economic and social development of the country.

In the last years is appreciated that the economy is recovered and advanced, the economic indicators reached in 1998, show advances compared with previous years, logically the obtained achievements are not sufficient neither they are those which the country aspires. But what is most important is the adequate planning of the resources of the fact that has the country, its projection and development and the use its benefits in favor of the development economic and social, and the programs for the educational development, to improve the plans for the life

conditions of the population, the health of the people and the development of the science, tasks in those which be program continued paying attention and advancing toward goals superior.

The Republic of Yemen, commemorated the past 22 of May a new Anniversary of the Unification of Yemen, step that we consider important in the achievement of the unit of the people yemenita, their cultural loops, religious and historical, basic aspects for the economic development programs, social, cultural and political that they have been proposed to reach.

The Republic of Yemen, it has taken steps solid and positive upon solving in a way peaceful and through the politic dialogue that they have been presented. In that sense has provided experiences and important initiatives that contribute to the stability and safety, not alone of the region, but reaffirm that is the way to solve conflicts that emerge in the international framework and that contribute to maintain the world peace.

The democracy represents for each country a determinant aspect to achieve the participation of the people in the election of their local address organs, and at level of the all country. Actions routed to fulfill these objectives are basic aspects in the achievement of the democratic and free expression of each citizen. What without place to doubts contribute to the internal unit of all the country?

The effort that accomplishes the Republic of Yemen in that sense is laudable, each country according to their own characteristic has the right sovereign of choosing the administrative political mechanisms that offer the greater participation of the people, based on the participant democracy and the free opinion.

Remain no doubt that the next presidential elections are framed in these efforts that are accomplished in Yemen and constitutes an important activity in the democratic process that it has been come developing.

Finally, we want to underline that we have found in the people of Yemen in their governmental, political and social institutions expressiveness of friendship, support and solidarity towards the Cuban people. Actually they are not presented obstacles for the development of the relationships of cooperation between the two countries. It is part of the political will of both governments and peoples, something which is the determinant factor of the desire of widening and strengthening the relationships of collaboration and friendship.

A Deserted School in Taiz a Safe Haven for Gangsters!

Walking on the street of Al-Horaish it is certain that you will never fail to notice a deserted place lies on the east side of the road. It is a large building on a large area. It is said that it is a school that has not been completed yet. **WHAT WAS THE POINT THEN?**

It is said that the building of this school started on bounds and leaps before the unification and that Saudi Arabia was financing this project.

However, after the breaking of the gulf war, all the projects supported by Saudi Arabia, this school included, have come to a halt. It is nine years since the unification and working in

tion and ruins. Unfortunately, it seems that they have already lost their face and therefore they have never moved a finger. So often, I pass this school and I heavily wonder why it was not completed and the reason behind all this ignorance and carelessness.

It is a fact that lots of machines that cost us millions of dollars are not taken care of and are thrown outdoors till no use can be made of them. There are also a lot of loans and assistance

By: **Imad Al-Saqqaf and Farouq Al-Kamali**
Yemen Times
Taiz

When I got in this deserted building a shiver went through my body for the building is very big. The rooms are a lot, the campus is well designed, all this makes it a perfect and exemplary place to study in. It is actually not fair to leave such a place in this situation. I was still inside this building when I felt a strange stillness and silence. In one of the rooms I found a hound of dogs and in another some torn clothes. I felt afraid as I got from one room to another for there is nothing inside expect for dogs and terrific quietness. The outside of the building as well as the inner side really attracted my attention for stones have become time-worn and ravaged. Most of the rooms and lanes are full of stones and mud let in by rains from Al-Horaish Street. The situation is certainly daunting! Practically speaking, the school does not need to be completed, it rather needs to be pulled down and rebuilt again. I do not know what would happen if our prudent government took over when Saudi Arabia seized to finance this project or is it still waiting for Saudi Arabia to have mercy on us and finance it again?

In front of the deserted school we had met the school keeper who lives in a small house in the campus of the school. We asked him about his name and the situation of this school and he said: My name is Hamood Kasem Abdullah and I have been the keeper of this school from the time they started building it. It was financed by Saudi Arabia and implemented by Saeed Abdu thabet Almiti, a Yemeni contractor. When the Gulf war broke out Saudi Arabia stopped all its projects in Yemen therefore the working in

land owners and the neighbors. Hamood Kasem also said that every year a committee of engineers and technicians came to visit the building and said that they would start working in it. However, what they say is something and what we see is on the ground is something else for all they say remain a talk, nothing more nothing less. In July 99 a committee from Sanaa came and started taking the windows' and floors' measurements. They said that they were going to complete everything either by the Saudi government as the Yemeni-Saudi relations has undergone a normalization course or through our government financing.

Hamood with signs of despair and sadness on his face went on to say that the school has become a safe haven for thieves, wine's and narcotics' addicts. When I asked him about the torn clothes he said that these are clothes stolen from the roofs of houses by these thieves. He also said that

the school has also become a place for bitches. "Never be surprised if I tell you that I myself once found a dead body in one of the rooms in November 93 and I had informed the police. After the investigation, it is said that he has been choked till death. The case was recorded against an unknown killer.", Hamood Said. He concluded his speech saying that he appeals to all the people in charge if not complete and save this school before destruction, shut off doors at the face of thieves, outlaws and criminals.

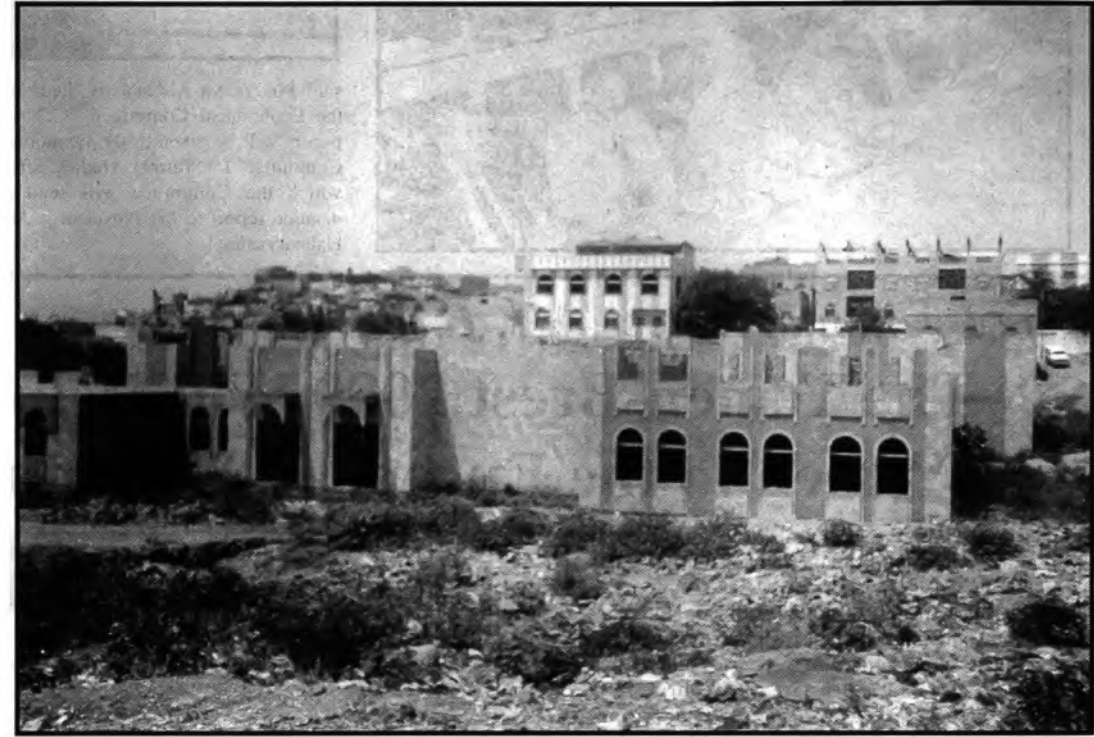
To make a long story short, what can we say about all this chaos and carelessness of destroying projects and public funds. The School that should have graduated students is now graduating thieves, highwaymen and gangsters. So will people in charge start acting to retrieve what can be saved before it becomes beyond control or are we going to wait for Saudi Arabia to finish it? I wonder what kind of mentalities our officials have!



this school is not continued. No one has showed any sense of mercy for the destiny of this used-to-be-beautiful building and exerted some efforts to complete the two-floor school.

Years are elapsing one after the other and we are still cherishing the hope that people in charge may wake up and move to save this school from destruc-

tion and ruins. Unfortunately, it seems that they have already lost their face and therefore they have never moved a finger. So often, I pass this school and I heavily wonder why it was not completed and the reason behind all this ignorance and carelessness.



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
(يا أيها النفس المطمئنة ارجعي إلى ربك راضية مرضية فادخلي في عبادي وادخلي جنتي) صدق الله العظيم



مجموعة شركات الحباري وأولاده

تتقدم بأحر التعازي القلبية إلى فخامة الأخ /

علي عبدالله صالح، رئيس الجمهورية اليمنية

والى وزارة الدفاع وهيئة الأركان العامة، والى أسر الضحايا والى كافة أبناء الشعب اليمني بوفاة المغفور لهم بإذن الله

نائب رئيس هيئة الأركان عميد ركن أحمد بن أحمد فرج، العميد ركن / محمد أحمد إسماعيل، قائد المنطقة الشرقية

ومرافقيهما الذين استشهدوا يوم السبت الموافق 14 أغسطس 1999م نتيجة حادث سقوط طائرتهم المروحية في صحراء العبر.

ندعو الله العلي القدير أن يتغمدهم بواسع رحمته، ويلهم أهلهم وذويهم الصبر والسلوان. وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

Habbary Group of Companies and Sons

present their heart-felt condolences to the president

Ali Abdullah Saleh,

the president of the Republic of Yemen,

to the Ministry of Defence, the General Staff Department,

all the victims' families and to all the Yemen people on the death of the deceased

Deputy Staff General **Ahmed Ahmed Faraj,**

Brigadier-General **Mohammed Ahmad Ismaeel,** the chairman of the East Region

and their fellows who died with them on Saturday August, 14 1999

as a result of the fall helicopter accident in Al-Abbr desert.

We all pray to God to rest their souls all in peace in paradise.

Statement of Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi' in the Performance of the Supreme Election Commission

The Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the General Elections Law state that the Supreme Elections Commission (SEC) is responsible for administrating the elections and organizing the election campaigns for the candidates in a just an equal manner. The commission's duty is to provide the equal opportunity and to guarantee and secure an even and fair campaign and prevent any kind of violation in the campaign itself, or in the voting or vote counting procedures. Since Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi was given the parliament's approval to run for the presidential elections, which are supposed to be held next month, we have been in continuous contact with the commission to get detailed information essential for the candidate. But unfortunately, now that more

than 3 weeks have passed after the approval, and in spite of the rapidly approaching elections day, we are yet to get the information. The SEC has issued its presidential elections campaign guide, which the commission itself has violated by issuing conflicting instructions. Recently, the commission's chairman gave a statement, which clearly contradicts previous decisions and also contradicts the General Elections Law. We clarify these contradictions in the following:

1- The text of the election campaign guide's 22nd article states that the campaign should start 27 days before the day of the elections.

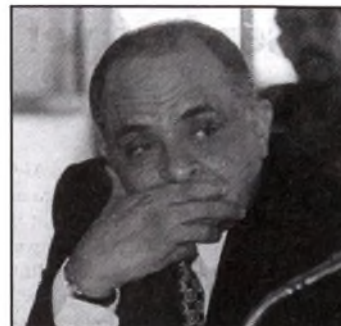
2- We were shocked at the commission's decision to change the starting day of the campaign to 14 days before

the day of the elections.

3- We were then again surprised at the statement of the chairman of the commission in 26 September Newspaper issued on the 12th of August. In his statements, he said that the election campaign would start after 10 days! Which means having it earlier than previous dates. This despite the fact that election guide's articles no. 43 to 46 demand that all our campaign pictures and slogans, etc. be submitted to the commission for evaluation 5 days before the start of the day of the campaign for review by the commission. Also, article no. 25 forces us to submit our program, which specifies the places and dates of our public campaign presentations in Sanaa plus capitals of the other provinces 7 days before the start of the campaign.

Hence, the statement of the commission's chairman of advancing the date of the campaign make it impossible for us to do all what is required from us in regards to our preparation for the elections. Besides, it is unconceivable that we start our campaigns before the Parliament -which is in its annual vacation until the end of August- ends its election proceedings that are not yet complete.

4- The statement of the SEC's chairman also included, "The vote counting procedures will be implemented in the election centers themselves." This in itself is considered a clear violation of the General Elections Law, which states that the vote count should take place in the main center of every voting constituency and not in all centers. All this, in addition to not providing us with data and information, has placed another direct obstacle in our way towards preparing for our election campaign. The above points give the impression that the SEC does not have a plan or clear vision in administrating



the presidential elections and what is related to it of campaigns and other preparations. This is another direct obstacle placed in our way towards having our presidential elections campaign.

The coming first presidential elections in the history of Yemen is supposed to be a great step towards strengthening and deepening the democratic process in our country, which requires more seriousness in handling the responsibility by all concerned. On the top of the list comes the SEC whose consti-

tutional responsibility lies in administrating the elections and organizing its campaigns.

We are announcing to the Yemeni voter that this disorganization, chaos, carelessness and non-abidance by the basic principles of election administration will have a negative effect on our campaign. Hence, this will defeat the principles of equality and fairness between the candidates especially that Mr. Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi is the only contender against the president of Yemen in the elections.

With this statement, we wanted to clarify to the general public's opinion in the hope of obtaining a response leading to the elevation of the level of awareness, responsibility and attention in tandem with this historical event that our country will experience.

The Preparatory Commission for the Presidential Candidate
Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi
 Dr. Saadalddeen Bin Talib for the committee
 Date: 15 August 1999

Era of the People

Mamoon Mohammed Ahmed
 Yemen Times

Day by day, the world is moving towards globalization. The whole planet is turning to a small village. Millions of people now have obtained satellite dishes and are aware of what is happening all over the world. The universal values of human rights, democracy, freedom of expression are forcing themselves to the darkest dictatorships. The world is changing, and this change is forcing itself into every house, every office, and every authority. Today, we are living in an era where people are beginning to ask for their rights. Pressure is increasing on all systems of the world to move on to the new era. It is the era where the ultimate power is that of the people. It is the era that holds a brighter future and more transparent world full of prosperity. In the same time, it also holds a gloomy season for the dictators and evil powers of the world. This is not a novel, nor is it a story. It is part of what is happening in life. Look at how the Spanish are now asking for revenge from the Dictator Pinochet who once was an ultimate ruler who used to hit with a fist of steel in Chile for so long. He is now being requested for trial for the inhuman acts he has done in his times of rule. Publicly supported opposition powers today were able to topple the stiffest leaders who were not fit for the position of state leadership. In many countries, absolute rulers and caesuras turned into normal citizens under the continuous pressure of the people. These are facts, and we should accept them as they are.

However, some leaderships are still not aware of the globalization move and the change the world is undergoing. They are still having the same old mentality of dictatorship, which is being described today as "out-dated".

We in Yemen have witnessed a lot of change. We were in some ways able to cope with this globalizing world. Yemenis are today aware of the world around them. They see through satellite channels the modernization and civilization in the countries of the world. They do feel sorry for their country, and they realize that their country needs to go a long way. They look through the TV that the governments of other countries with fewer natural resources and work-force have developed their countries to a much higher level. Hence, they began to see the government responsible of bringing the country to healthier conditions to be able to feel proud when saying "that is my country."

The survey of Yemen Times (published last week) has shown that the younger and more educated the person, the more courageous and self-confidence he was. This gives the impression that globalization is truly doing its work. It is enabling the people to speak for themselves and say "NO" to what they see as inappropriate. They are beginning to see that what democracy and freedom of expression are not a thing granted by the government. They see it as their right that has been taken away from them for so long. The educated and young generation feels that every effort of the government in regards to giving more freedom and democracy is in fact a long-awaited action.

On the other hand, the illiterate people in Yemen, who constitute more than 60% of the population are the ones who feel that democracy and freedom are two gifts from the government, and are not essential for them as they do not even know what they exactly mean. As more people become educated, and as time passes by, the thought of democracy and freedom as rights and not grants is getting stronger. Hence, the freedom of expression, neutrality in official media, free elections, and other universal values become more and more familiar. If Yemen is to get integrated with the globalizing world, it must give these values more importance in their sole meaning. People are beginning to distinguish between a fake and true democracy. It is expected that the next generations will not be deceived by a fake democracy because they would already know how to use their rights.

Within the next millennium, we will be living in the era of the people. During that era, the most powerful rulers of the world will not be able to withstand the power of the people. Today, this power may be strong, but tomorrow it will certainly become invincible.

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تهانينا الحارة

نهني وتبارك للزميلين العزيزين:

محمد عبدالله البييل وكمال محمد معياد

بمناسبة زفافهما الميمون وعقبال البكاري، والذ مبروك

المهنتون: موظفي البنك العربي عنهم:

رضا عبدالرحمن السقاف

Itihad Ibb Loser but yet Distinguished!

Itihad Ibb was defeated by Al-Riad Al-Saudi of Saudi Arabia 3/5 in a very competitive match held last Saturday in the Championship of Arab Champions Cups in Boor Saeed, Egypt. The match was very vigorous and exciting especially after 3 goals were scored by Al-Riad. Most sport fans expected that Itihad Ibb would have a very heavy defeat. However, things changed when Itihad Ibb scored 2 goals by

Ali Al-Nono & Abdul Salaam Al-Ghorbani. This resulted in strong pressure on Al-Riad until the end of the first half of the match. In the second half, Al-Riad was able to score 2 more goals, whereas Itihad could only score one resulting in the 3/5 final score for Al-Riad. Despite the its loss, we have the right to say that Itihad Ibb has done its best and shown great progress. Itihad of Ibb has played two other matches;



Good Luck to our National Team in the Coming Al-Hussein Tournament in Jordan

The Yemeni sport delegation left Sanaa last Saturday to Amman, Jordan to participate in the Al-Hussein Tournament held from August 5-21. Yemen will be participating in 11 games. Before leaving, our delegation met with the Minister of the Youth and sports, Dr. Abdul Wahab Raweh who encouraged them to do their best to give a good picture of Yemen. "The selection of players is based upon their achievements during the last year and depending on what they have rendered on the local as well as the international level." said the General Secretary of the Yemeni Olympic Committee. He also stated that he believes that our team will do something we will be proud of. Our sport delegation consists of the following:

Mohammed Al-Ahgri, Chairman of the Delegation
Abdul Al-Wahab Noman, Manager of the Sport Teams & Isam Al-Akaswi
The sport teams are:
1- Table tennis: Loai Sabri, Walid Ata, Ibrahim Al-Gkolani and a Chinese tutor.
2- Acrobats: Nasr Al-Harazi, Nashwan Al-



Chess Team
Harazi, Foad Al-Zabidi, Bandar Al-Zabidi and their Chinese coach.

3- Tae-kwan-do: Wadah Alwan, Abdul Aziz Saif, Abdul Rahim Morad and their Yemeni coach, Adel Mokbel.
4- Judo: Mohammed Ismail, Ali Al-Harazi, Shareef Mahmoud and their Yemeni coach, Gameel Wafi.
5- Body building: Wagdi Mohammed, Ahmad Al-Aklani and their Yemeni coach, Abdul Hakeem Al-Dahri.
6- Karate: Nagi Mosa, Ali Al-Megklafi, Abdul Salam Al-Rimi and their Yemeni coach, Gkalid Al-Ameer.



Mohammed Al-Ahgri

7- Shooting: Gamal Obad Nagi.
8- Wrestling: Abdullah Al-Azani, Mohsen Al-Shabi, Samir Abdul Karim, Mohammed Al-Komri and their Iraqi coach, Raa'd Hosain.
9- Athletics: Gkalid Al-Elashi, Samir Al-Yafai, Ismail Aldolah, Ala'a Al-Saqqaf and their Yemeni coach, Isam Al-marwai.
10- Chess: Hatem Al-Hadrani, Hamid Al-Kadi, Zandan Al-Zandani, Gkalil Al-Sobaihi, Basheer Al-Kadimi, Sabri Abdul Mola and their Yemeni coach Abdul Karim Al-Othari.
11- Kick boxing: Ali Dawood.

Yemen Times Wishes Good Luck for all.



We also have women athletes participating in the tournament

SPOT LIGHT

Deeds are Mightier than Words



Jamal Al-Awadhi
Sports Editor

Put Yemen in your hearts and with your sense of patriotism you will cope with all the difficulties, changes and inefficiencies either technical or physical. With these beautiful words Mr. Abdulwahhab Raweh, Minister of Youth and Sports addressed the participating teams in the Al-Hussein Tournament. I do really hope that these words will have a strong impact on the performance of the Yemeni sports men who have just started their training for this tournament in clubs that lack the most basic requirements. It is a fact that our players will face tough champions from different countries who train throughout the year by well-known coaches and in suitable conditions, whereas the Yemeni athlete faces a lot of difficulties and obstacles that usually have a negative effect on his performance. However, we believe that the Yemeni player is full of

energy and enthusiasm that makes him deserve the attention and care by others. If he gets what is needed, he will do miracles. So what I recommend here is that the Ministry should adopt a constructive policy to provide these players with good coaches, modern equipment, and more financial support. For if this is done, the Yemeni player will be able to polish and manifest his skills and talents. The dilemma of these players can be better seen and expressed if you just pay a visit to any club in any governorate of the Republic, which will give you a clear picture of the real situation of sports in our country. On the other hand, we do not deny that there are sparks of hope and changes in the sports conditions of our country. But, they are too slow. Finally, I wish our participating teams the very best in this olympic tournament. I also request the Ministry of Youth and Sport to adopt the policy of less words and more deeds, as deeds are mightier and to have a better future for all.

Apology

Yemen Times Apologizes to the Embassy of India for the errors that occurred in the embassy's advertisement in our last issue of the Yemen Times regarding the 52nd Independence Day announcement which was published on this page.

P.S. Yemen Times also congratulates the embassy and all resident Indians on the 52nd anniversary of India's Independence..

one with the Egypt team in which it was defeated 5/nil and the second with Al-Ahli Al-Sudani in which it won 6/5. The outcomes of these matches show that the Egypt Team is at the top spot with 7 points. The second place is for Al-Riad with 6 points, Itihad Ibb is in the third place with 3 points, and Al-Ahli Al-Sudani was at the bottom of the list with only one point so far.

Once Again, Yemen Times Long-Waited Announcement:

Discounted Advertisement Campaign From This 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 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 qat chewing room. In fact, chewing qat and smoking are prohibited in the building, and there are strict rules in this regards. 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 usually 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.

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 this 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!

Yemen Times Online
Also, it is important not to forget that Yemen Times site is the most widely

Registration begins in August!

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• SPECIAL ARABIC
• COMPUTER SCIENCE
• FRENCH

WE CAN BE CONTACTED AT:
TEL: 417-119 FAX: 415-355 EMAIL: AMERICAN@Y.NET.YE

We Apologize for not including the competition in last week's issue.

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

ابحث في محتويات هذا العدد عن اجابة السؤال المبين في الاسفل مع كتابة الاجابة باللغة الانجليزية وكتابة عنوان المقالة مع تحديد رقم الصفحة التي بها الاجابة بخط واضح وارسالها الى عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء. لا تقبل الاجابات من دون ارفاق هذا الكوبون الخاص بالسؤال. سيتم اختيار الفائزين من بين جميع المتقدمين بواسطة القرعة، وسيمنح الفائز بالمركز الأول مبلغ 5000 والثاني 3000 والثالث 2000 ريال. سيتم ارساء الفائزين في العدد القادم لاستلام جوائزهم.

Search for the answer of the below question within the contents of this issue and write the answer clearly along with the page numbers. Please attach this coupon along with your letter which should be sent to the main office of Yemen Times in Sana'a. The winners will be selected through drawing lots. The awards are YR 5000 for 1st place, YR 3000 for 2nd place, and 5000 for 3rd place. The winners will be announced on next week's issue to receive their prizes.

Question of the Week

- Who is the Chilean former military ruler who the Spanish people wish to take revenge from? Indicate the article's title and page number.

Answer: _____

Article's Title: _____ Page no. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____

CROSS WORD PUZZLE

- Across Clues:
5. ___ help keep us safe. If we are in trouble, we can always ask the ___ for help.
6. I spilled juice on my shirt. It left a ___.



- Down Clues:
1. ___ is the country to the north of the United States.
2. ___ es are vegetables. They are eaten mashed or baked.

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle
GREASY M GHOULS
FLARE ARACHE P U
MEANER F EASE UP

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.

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.

Online Debate: (Currently Taking Place at www.yementimes.com/bbs): Tribes & Tribal Warfares in Yemen

Abdul-samed Saleh Almontaser: Hi Yemen Times, I want to talk about tribal war. I am from ' Rada'a, Al-Riyashiya.' and I have experienced with my own eyes killings among tribes.

Mahi: Even though these tribes are of course Muslims, they are yet committing a sin especially if they are fighting over things that have nothing to do with Islam. This is one reason that the Yemeni government and people in charge are not doing their job.

Raffaella: These tribes, do they fight within major Yemen cities or just on their property?

Raffaella: It's the intellectuals who are having it (the EDF). It's a good attempt at political advancement. However this tribal business throws them back a hundred years.

Bamurrah: Tribal feuds are done for properties and vendetta (killings) and it doesn't matter where these take place. It could be in a city, the capital or outside the tribe's boundary.

Hussein: I think that the reason behind these tribal warfare situations is the lack of educational services in these areas.

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

IMPORTANT Numbers
Emergency Police 199
Accident (Traffic) 194
Fire Brigade 191

USD-YR Exchange Rate: 160.4
Sunday evening 15/8/1999

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Embassies & Consulates of the Republic of Yemen

BANKS
Yemeni Banks:
Central Bank 274310/1
Commercial Bank Sana'a 213662/6

Sana'a: I. Embassies:
Algeria 209689/206350
Bulgaria 208469
China 275337/341

3. International Organization
FAO 207331/607
UNDP 415505/67
UNHCR 201856

Aden Consulates:
China 233115
Egypt 231270
Germany 232162

BRANCH OF FOREIGN BANKS:
Arab Bank Ltd. 276592/3
Bank Indosuez 272801/3

INSURANCE COMPANIES:
Y. I. & ReInsurance Aden 273311
Marib Insurance Sana'a: 206112/4

YEMENIA BRANCHES:
Abdul-Mughni 274698
Haddad 204538/550
Shauob 250833

HOTELS:
Sana'a (01)
Sheraton 237500/1/2
Taj Sheba 272372/3

AIRLINES:
Air France 272895/6
Alitalia 273655
Austrian Airlines 272432

Aden (02)
Movenpick 232911
Elephant Bay Beach Resort 202055
Crescent Hotel 203471/2/3

تهنينا الحارة
نرف أجمل التهاني والتبريكات للأخوين
شرف الدين عبدالقادر شرف الدين
ابراهيم عبدالقادر شرف الدين

أجمل التهاني وأطيب الأمانى نرفها
للطيفة الحبوية
شيماء محمد الشهاري
بمناسبة اطفائها الشمعة الأولى،

مبروك عقد القران
بهن محمد سلام الأسيحي وجميع أفراد أسرته
جميع أسرة الوجيه وجميع أسرة المؤيد

تهانينا للشباب الخلوقة
محمد عبدالله صالح البييل
بمناسبة قرب الزفاف الميمون.

أجمل التهاني القلبية للأخ العزيز
ناصر الماوري
وذلك لعقد قرانه وقرب الزفاف

أجمل التهاني وأطيب التبريكات نرفها للأخت
وزيرة باوزير
بمناسبة دخولها القمص الذهبي، هالف مبروك.

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للأخ
محمد فؤاد العدوي
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FRONT OFFICE MANAGER

Before joining Sheraton Sana'a Hotel she's been involved in various pre-opening hotels in Grand Excelsior, Radisson SAS, Novotel Shanghai Yuan Li, Grand view Garden Hotel in China and Sheraton Hotels in the Middle East.

JAYA UPRETY
EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER
She is a woman with a character, wit, patient and clairvoyant to her work.



ECLIPSE

The Eclipse:

ECLIPSE

Fear in Yemen & Joy in the Rest of the World



It happened at 3:00 p.m last Wednesday. Yemenis were so frightened of what they thought could be a disaster on their health. The exaggerated many repeated warnings on TV, radio, and written press, add to that the illiteracy and simplicity of the Yemeni people made them feel that they should stay under the blankets all evening. I walked along the street in the cloudy afternoon to see that the roads and streets of the capital city of Sanaa were all abandoned as if an evil spirit would go down to earth and capture the souls of the people who weren't in their shelters. At the same time, people in modern countries such as France, Britain, and even in Lebanon were all waiting in anticipation of the wonderful moments of the eclipse. They all had their protecting glasses on them and were ready to view the spectacular view of the historical

moments of the final eclipse in the twentieth century. But in Yemen, fear and worry of diseases and blindness were controlling the public. Any way, even though most of us were not able to see it directly, the eclipse did take place. However, the



The moments of the eclipse, were missed by many in Yemen

partial eclipse was not so evident in Sanaa because of the cloudy weather and because it only covered around 50% of the sun. After the eclipse was over, people started going back to the streets, asking each other "have you noticed the eclipse?" The best answer was saying, "I only saw it on TV."

The historical and magical moments witnessed in the streets of Paris and Bucharest were full of fear and worries in Yemen. The main reason for that is illiteracy. What a pity! This event had shown me that we still have a long way to go before we can enjoy the beautiful scenery of an eclipse - after wearing the protection glasses- in one of the green parks of Sanaa, instead of hiding in our homes under our blankets!

By the Editor

Touring the World with a Bicycle

Mohammed Karma is a 41-year traveler from Morocco who aims at touring the Arab World, Europe and the Americas. On the occasion of his arrival in Yemen, Yasser M. Ahmad of Yemen Times met him and had the following chat:



Q: How many trips have you made on your bicycle?

A: Only two. The first one was on September, 15th 1988 and it lasted for 4 months. It was from Al-Hassan Mosque in Casablanca to Saudi Arabia passing through Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait. The second one started on March 29th, 1999 and I expect to reach my final destination in 2002. I began from Algeria and then Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan and now I am in Yemen. After I leave Yemen I will go through Oman, The Gulf Countries, Europe and the Americas. The number of the countries which will be visited in this trip is 56 countries. I am working on ending this trip in 2002.

Q: How long do you stay in each country?

A: It depends on many things like the weather and the country features.

Q: What are the difficulties and problems you face in your trips?

A: Sometimes I have difficulties in entering some countries due to their complicated routine.

Q: Why have you chosen the bicycle for your trips?

A: I liked riding bicycles since I was a child. I have also participated in many races. Traveling by bicycle is a challenge. It requires a great physical ability and patience to reach one's goal.

Q: What do you get from traveling?

A: In my traveling I know a lot about the other nations and their cultures. Cycling is also a fine sport. Besides, traveling through Arab countries gives me the feeling of Arab unity.

Q: How were you received in Yemen?

A: In fact, it was the warmest I have



ever had. I feel that I am in my own country. I can go wherever and whenever I like. I participated in the President's Cup Marathon and I was honored in a celebration in the presence of the Vice President. I have also received many invitations from many governorates other than Sanaa.



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