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Only 3 days remaining before the historical day of the first direct presidential elections of Yemen

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

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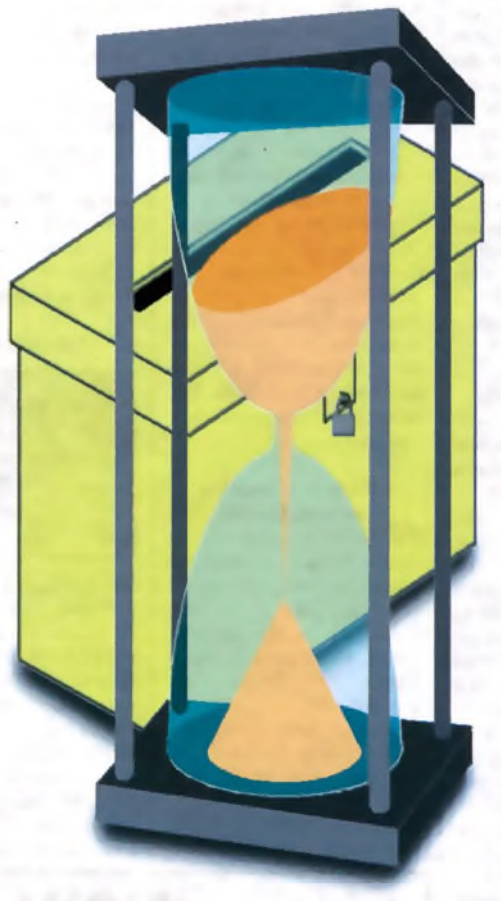
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SANAA: Only three days are left before the first direct presidential elections in the Arabian Peninsula take place. Citizens who have decided to vote are closely monitoring the campaigns and are on the verge of deciding whom to vote for on the 23rd of September. Even though many think that President Saleh will win, it is still exciting to live in a time where a competitor against the Republic of Yemen is having his poster posted on vehicles and walls, and having his campaign broadcasted on TV and radio, and his programs published in newspapers and publications, including the Yemen Times (see supplement inside). The scenery of a person defining the economic situation as backsliding, criticizing the government, and asking for public support to replace the current president, has not been heard of in the history of Yemen, yet it is happening today. See Elec. Supplement Inside

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Pirates Kill a Briton In the Indian Ocean Full Story on Page 2

1998 UNICEF Report on Yemeni Children Show The Need to Act NOW!



SANAA: Children and Women in Yemen is the title of the situation analysis report prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Development with support from the Swedish Rada Barnen, the World Bank and UNICEF. The report consists of four volumes. The first three focus on the situation of and recommendations for maternal and child health, nutrition, education, and protection. However, the fourth volume, titled "That They May be Seen and Heard" is a special study dealing with street children, child labor, children and women in conflict with the law and other areas in need of special protection. Volume IV of the report includes astonishing information and statistics about the level of poverty and previously

unheard of inhumane circumstances. Many children and women are going through difficult times in Yemen, and no one is doing a thing about it. The report surely indicates the need for action. All the data collection and studies for the report were carried out in 1997 and 1998. Besides addressing the crucial issues affecting the survival, protection and development of children and women in Yemen and their rights on the Rights of the Child, the report also drives attention to Yemen's need to recover from its economic crises, which is mostly affecting the innocent children. There is hope that this report will push donor countries to give a helping hand to a country whose children and women are going through the most difficult time of their lives. We need to act now!

Verdict Against Bab Al-Yemen Bomber Issued as DEATH

SANAA: Last Saturday, September 19, the verdict in regards to the Bab Al-Yemen explosion that killed 4 and injured several passers by last month. The court sentenced Ali Abdullah Al-Hijri to death and ordered that he compensates all the victim of the attack by paying all the costs of medication according to their medical report. The court also issued at least 2-year imprisonment sentences for 11 of the accused in provoking the killer to do his criminal attack. The 12th accused person was freed taking in account the period he already stayed in jail.



Yemen 21 Forum and Okaz Organize a Round Table on Presidential Elections

SANAA: The Yemen 21 Forum - a well known NGO founded by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf- along with Okaz Daily Arabic Newspaper represented by its correspondent in Yemen Mr. Hafiz Al-Bukary, held an extensive round table meeting to discuss the present and future aspects of the presidential elections scheduled to take place this week (September 23rd). In the meeting, several intellectuals and politicians from different political backgrounds discussed the presidential elections legitimacy, effects, and other

aspects. This event is the first to be held and organized by the Yemen 21 Forum since the death of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Future seminars and meetings are expected to take place in the forum which will witness several activities that are aimed at increasing public awareness regarding vital issues including human rights and freedom of press in Yemen. More on Page 16.



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 See Page 4

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Words of Wisdom

"There is a useful English proverb which says, "Where there is a will, there is a way!" The Americans say it differently: "When the going gets tough, the tough gets going." I would like to call this quality "determination".

Determination is an important value that helps bring success. It is especially necessary in times of hardships and difficulties. Today, the Republic of Yemen lives through hard times... The situation is distressing, to say the least. But, it is exactly these situations that call for more determination to face the challenge and rise above it. Instead of being frustrated, the people of Yemen need to persevere and conquer the difficulties." Editorial (Issue 6 -1999)

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



In Brief

A Briton Killed in the Indian Ocean

The 28-year British Alan MacLean was killed on his own yacht in the Indian Ocean, opposite the Somali coasts by five bandit pirates. Last Thursday, the British Consulate in Aden as well as the victim's family were informed about the accident by the yacht's French captain, who fled away with his four Somali assistants to Aden. The victim came from Aberdeeb in northeast Scotland. He left on his French-registered yacht, which he toured Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Asia with. The British Ministry of Foreign Affairs warned its citizens against sailing in the Somali water, which is very dangerous and full of pirates. The victim's parents, Neil and Dorothy, and brother Malcolm called for an immediate investigation into the incident.

increased after its success in persuading Jordan to close down the Hamas office in Amman as well as forcing out its leaders.

The Kidnapped Sanhani Released

The mediation of Sheikh Mohammed Ahmad Al-Zaidi and General Mubarak Al-Muthana, succeeded last Saturday in releasing the "Sanhani" kidnapped by Aal Ali Ben Falah Tribe last week and was handed to the sheikh of Sanhan, Ali Maqsa. On another level, the three people from Gahm who were imprisoned in the Criminal Investigation prison, in Sana'a were released thereafter. Sheikh Maqsa denied any kind of connection between him and the arresting of the people and said that security forces had no right to arrest anyone because of Sanhan. He added that the problem would be settled according to the tribal norms.

Al-Shoura Newspaper Closed down

Last Thursday, the Capital Secretariat Reinvestigation Court brought in its final verdict of closing down Al-Shoura Newspaper, the mouthpiece of the Unionist Popular Forces Party. This decision was made on February 25th, 1999 by the Minister of Information, immediately after the issuance of an unlicensed newspaper, bearing the same name of Al-Shoura sacked the Unionist Popular Forces members. The Opposition Supreme Coordination Council considered this action as a reaction to its attitude against participating in the upcoming presidential election and called for supporting Al-Shoura case.

A Number of Projects in the Health Sector Inaugurated

Last Monday, Mr. Abdu Rabu Hadi Mansour, Vice President of the Republic and Dr. Abdulla Abdul Wali Nashir, Minister of Health visited Al-Gomhoury, Al-Thawrah and Al-Sabeen hospitals and inaugurated a number of projects. They first visited Al-Gomhoury Hospital and inaugurated the National Center for Treating Cancer, the Emergency and National Center for the Handicapped. Then they visited Al-Sabeen and Al-Thawrah General hospitals and visited some of their different wards, which were provided with new equipment.

American Pressures on Yemen to Close Down Hamas Office

It is rumored that the Yemeni Government is receiving pressure from America to close down the Hamas office in Sana'a as well as preventing Hamas leaders from visiting Yemen. Diplomatic sources reveal that the American pressures

the Ministry of Interior to put an end to this and arrest those cruel people.

Ministry of Education's instructions

The Minister of Education, Mr. Yahya Al-Sho'aibi, gave instructions to the Chancellor of Sana'a University, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Makhaleh to stop the devastation of Al-Shawkani Buildings. He asked them to delay this process until the end of the Presidential Elections. The Prosecution for Public Properties also sent a letter to the Chancellor of Sana'a University to stop these devastating works, and make investigations with the General Staff of Security. At the same time, teachers who live there sent a letter to President Ali Abdullah Saleh to give his own instructions on this side. However, the teachers who live there affirmed that they will never leave their dwellings.

Irrigation Policy Implementation Action Seminar Held

Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, with the General Directorate of Irrigation and in cooperation and the National Water Resources and FAO, a seminar was held during the period of 18-19 September. The participants discussed various important topics.

Efforts to release the accused British

The British newspapers have dealt with the problem of the accused British, who are still arrested in Yemen. According to the contract which was signed between Yemen and Britain, the accused British will be released. Abu Hamzah's niece is one of these accused. The diplomats of the two sides want to put an end to the trial. The Britain Times Newspaper indicated that

some British Ministers want to return British companies to implement the projects in the Aden port and airport, which stopped since the arresting of the accused British.

A greeting party in Aden Hotel Movenpick

Aden Hotel Movenpick did a greeting party on the arrival of Mr. Kees Verschoor, the new director of Aden Hotel Movenpick, and a farewell party for Mr. Gohn Vouillamoz, the previous director of the hotel. The members of the diplomatic corps came to greet for the new director.

Appealing the Verdict

Yemen Times has learned that the Appeal Court will take up the appeal which was offered by the accused Nabeel Nanaki, of Syrian and Spaniard nationality. He was accused in the explosions which happened in 1997, and accused as an agent for some foreign countries. He made forged stamps. He was innocent from this charge because there is no proof. The court will hold a hearing on Tuesday, September 21.

Al-Razehi Honored



The famous Yemeni writer and poet, Mr. Abdulkarim Al-Razehi has been awarded the medal of Bashilea City in Italy. He was honored by the ruler of Bashilea for his participation in the Mediterranean Sea Festival. As it is known, the poet represented Yemen with the famous poet, Abdulrahman Fakhri in this festival.

German Defense Ministry Honors a Yemeni Lieutenant

Mohamed Saleh Al-Bahlouli, a Major in the Yemeni Army received the silver cross award of honor from the Defense Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany. The objective of the award is showing respect and gratitude to the ones who work hard on strengthening the bilateral relationships with the Federal Republic of Germany in various fields, especially in military.

The award ceremony took place last Monday, September 13th, at the residence of the German Ambassador. The ceremony with the attendance of several intellectuals and high ranking officials, including the Yemeni Defense Minister. The award was given to Bahlouli for his invaluable efforts in delivering the relief aid of the German government to the victims of the floods that hit some villages in Marib in 1996.

In the letter sent from the German Embassy to the Yemen Foreign Ministry, Mr. Al-Bahlouli was thanked for all his efforts, "Not did Major Al-Bahlouli do his duties as a link officers only, but he contributed a lot in an excellent way in the success of the German relief team in the floods disaster in Marib in 1996...."

"We thank him for his perfect knowledge of German language which made him help us in translating important documents, hence exceeding his working hours."



Two Young Students Killed and Fifteen Injured in Taiz

Terrified from the stick of the headmaster trying to empty the classrooms, the young students of Nasser School in Taiz rushed down the stairs in the beginning of the relaxation period last Monday. In the rushing, one of the students fell down causing many others to fall in the narrow staircase. For minutes, these students became part from the stairs for the others to walk on. Some students could bear it up and were slightly injured, while others were seriously injured. 10-year Khaleel Abdu Ali Ghallab and Radhwan Lutf Ahmad passed away as soon as they arrived in the hospital. Some others were taken to the intensive care, while the others left after receiving the first aids.



Imad Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times, Taiz

YT Weekly Opinion Poll

Yemen Times Opinion Poll Question is at: http://www.yementimes.com/#poll

Question

Because of the Aden Free Zone Currently being built, some claim that Aden would be among the top 10 commercial ports in the world by the year 2020. Do you support this claim?

Result

Yes indeed. Aden has all the elements for success. (51%) No because by then there will be much more developed ports that Aden can not compete with (11%) No, but for a reason other than the above. (31%) I don't know. Let's wait and see! (7%)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you think that President Saleh should have included "the fighting of the habit of chewing qat" in his elections program?



Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Chief Editor

Yemen Times: Strong Presence & Great Future

On my way home after a busy working day at the Yemen Times office, I stopped at the traffic light reviewing the paper which I had no time to read after its issuance three days ago. While I was reading, I was surprised to find a newspaper seller in the crossroad saying, "I have sold all the Yemen Times issues I had, and yet, there is demand. Can't you exchange the issue you are reading with any other newspaper you want from me?"

I pleasantly gave him the issue, and took nothing in return. It is not that I got nothing. I got the peace of mind in return. That incident had actually confirmed to me that we are indeed on the right track, and are publishing a newspaper that is widely read.

The next day, I wanted to make sure if the issues are still in the bookstores. I was surprised to see that most issues have been sold in many bookstores. The number of issues sold are much higher than any other newspaper said the bookstore manager. That even gave me more confidence that everything is going fine.

At night, I received complaints from readers in remote areas saying, "We are constant readers of the Yemen Times, and we don't get enough copies, you have to increase the number of issues you send to us." After calming him down, I promised him to do my best, and try to deliver more issues to his remote town.

Indications that the newspaper had reached its record high sales levels are crystal clear, as the latest statistics show that Yemen Times sales have increased almost 100% in the last few weeks. Most bookshops and stores have asked for more quantities of the paper because of the high demand among the readers. With the change in size, layout, contents, and style, the number of Yemen Times readers has jumped to a record high level. Part of the reason behind that is no doubt the quality of the printing and the material. Besides that, the weekly competition has also helped in motivating many Yemeni readers to read the paper and try to solve the competition in the hope of winning the prizes. The Yemen Times staff has also been encouraged to follow up to date news reports and develop new ideas for reports and articles that can be beneficial for readers from various sectors of the community. Of course, this success didn't come from nothing. Readers were encouraged to read the newspaper many reasons:

- 1) Larger size & more articles. 2) Printing quality much improved and reaching international standards. 3) Weekly competition. 4) The updated news reports and coverage. 5) The objective investigations and surveys. 6) The new layout and design easier to follow. 7) More local news articles. 8) Most important of all, reliability resource of information that is based on complete independence. Readers feel that the paper has been constantly improving. We know that it is far away from perfection, that is why we insist on pushing forward for more improvements. We know it is a hard task but, we also know it is worthwhile. YT is living a great presence, and will definitely have even a greater future.

Canadian Oxy guard Died last Saturday

One of the guards of Canadian Oxy, who was seriously injured in the blast of City Center in Sana'a on 29th August 99, died on Saturday 11, September 99, after being put in the ICU for quite a time. The guard, Nabeel M. Omar, 31 years old, was a husband and a father of two baby girls.

Al-Rai Al-Aam Attacked

On September 17, 1999, Al-Rai Al-Aam Newspaper's editor-in-chief was attacked by Mohammed M. Authrab, Mohssein M. Authrab and Abdullah M. Authrab. They were carrying their weapons and sticks as they attacked the Bureau. Then, they attacked the Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Ali M. Al-Aulafei and flogged him with their sticks. They asked all employees to keep quiet and they put iron wires on one of the main doors to disturb escape. Then they got out from the other door and shut it. Mr. Ali M. Al-Aulafei, Editor-in-Chief appealed to

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Yemeni Press Scanner

are great expectations for production to follow in the near future. As reported, the oil industry covers the entire requirements of the country. More over, it became one of the main support of the national economy and represent 80% of the Yemeni export. He asserted that all oil revenues are allotted to finance the annual development projects, infrastructure and restoration of the economical stability. He also added that one of priorities of MOMR, is to promote the investments, by increasing the oil and gas production.

AL-AYYAM A

1) A Woman killed a teacher in front of his family

At last, the security police have arrested the murderer of the English language teacher in Yafe, Lahj district. Investigations showed that the victim was shot to death by a woman in front of his wife and children late last month. Consequently, inhabitants of the district launched a demonstration last Tuesday Sep 14 1999, protesting the permission granted by the security police to the criminal's relatives to visit her in the jail, despite of the strict instructions of the Criminal Intelligent Police. The criminal should not be visited, by all means. The demonstrators claimed a urgent fair trial of the murdered, as the investigation alleged her to be guilty.

2) Hamas does not interfere in the Yemeni internal affairs

The Islamic Palestine Movement (Hamas) asserted that, Yemen has not arrested any Hamas politician, as per the allegations of the media. They also expressed their astonishment and condemned such rumors, aiming to offend the relationship between the Palestinian Islamic Movement and Yemen. They also denied completely the allegations that Hamas was interfering in the Yemeni internal Affairs

AL-SHOWRAH

1) Bomb exploded in one of the oil pipes passing through Al-Arkub area

In the morning, last Friday the 10th of September 99, a bomb exploded in one of the oil pipes passing through Al-Arkub area, in the Kouland district of Sana'a city. It caused the flaming of an oil pipe that lasted until early Saturday and the leaking of crude oil estimated at 1400 barrels per hours. A Source in the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources said that lately, a technical team was delegated to repair the damages on the oil pipeline. Other non-government sources said that the latest explosion is the biggest of its kind, comparing with the previous ones that reached 25 explosions during 1999. Sources in the MOMR believe that tribes are behind the incident. The security police are still surrounding the area and no further information was released.

2) Yemeni currency expected to retreat against the US\$ to be 200YR per US\$

A delegation of the World Bank was nominated for primarily the evaluation of the Yemeni Government's implementation of the World Bank's instructions, regarding the development in the economical sector and the future expectations to cover the deficiency of the general budget. The evaluation will be on the new international oil prices, loans and aids granted by the international organizations and donor countries. Source said, that the World Bank have reviewed with government officials what have been achieved in the currency reforms and it also revised comprehensively, the administration reforms. It is expected that the delegation will hand over new suggestions to complete the economical reforms after the upcoming presidential election. Economical source said, that the World Bank asked the Yemeni Government to reduce the Yemeni currency against the US\$ to 200YR per 1US\$, but the Yemeni Government has postponed the issue till the end of the election.

AL-HAQ

Great expectation to reform new cabinet

After the upcoming election, political sources are anticipating that the Chairman of the Consultative Council, Mr. Abdul-Aziz Abdul Gani, might be authorized to reform a new cabinet on behalf of the Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul-Kareem Al-Eryani. Mr. Al-Eryani is still secluding himself, since his the last arguments with the parliament to include the nominated candidate of the opposition socialist party Mr. Ali Saleh Obad. Mr Al-Eryani, reiterated occasionally that the candidate of the opposition party has to have the proper voices in the parliament to participate in the upcoming election.

AL-SAHWA

A citizen attacked while driving in Ataq-Nesam road

On Tuesday the 14th of September, an armed gangster attacked a citizen driving in Ataq-Nesam road, in the Shabwah governorate. They asked him to surrender his car, when he refused, he was beaten with the back edge of the guns. The fight drew the attention of people in another car who accidentally passed by and opened fire in the air. The attackers ran away and the victim was taken to the hospital for first aid.

AL-WAHDAWI

Decrease in the developing projects, health and educational services in Yemen

Studies implemented by the World Bank and UNICEF, regarding the Yemen children and women in 1998, disclosed a severe decrease in the developing projects, health and educational services. Sequentially, huge increases in unemployment, poverty and population grew. The study, which was released on Sunday the 12th of September 1999 showed that death proportion increased greatly during the few past years among children and women.

AL-RAI AL-A'AM

Explosive device detonated in Dale'a at 11:00 pm late Saturday

An explosive device detonated in Dale'a at 11:00 pm late Saturday. The explosion described to be the first of its kind since the kick off of the presidential election campaign. The explosion was heard all over the governorate. No information was reported regarding the latest incident, similar to the previous ones that occurred in Al-Dala'a, during the last few months.

AL-BALAG

Female teacher in Taiz city disappeared since the 4th of September 1999

A female teacher of one of the institutes in Taiz city, disappeared, leaving no trace since Saturday the 4th of September 1999. Eyewitnesses said that the teacher was in the institute after finishing the second shift and two ladies entered the institutes, one of which left in advance to stop a taxi, after a few minutes, the second lady accompanied the

fainted teacher to the same stopped taxi. The primary investigations showed that the teacher was in conflict with one of the inhabitants, who is suspected to be the kidnapper. There is great anticipation that she was beaten savagely before she lost her consciousness, as the Criminal Intelligent Police found her purse thrown somewhere in one of the classrooms.

ATTARIQ

Oil pipeline IN Arkub district was repaired lately

The technical team of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources have completed the repair of the oil pipeline passing through Kholan, Capital Sana'a, detonated lately, causing the big hole and leaking of enormous of the crude oil. Neither the casualties, nor the perpetrators were reported so far.

AL-WAHDAAH

Renovation of the oil terminal at Hodeidah port

Last Tuesday, the 14th of September 1999, the General Establishment For Oil and Gas, signed an agreement with the Iranian company (Benead). The agreement stating a project to renovate the oil terminal at Hodeidah port. The project will include the replacing of the oil pipelines with new ones, erection of two huge oil tanks built to resist corrosion, fire ...etc. The terminal will fully be furnished and utilized to receive oil trucks with capacity of a total load of 35 thousand tons. The total cost of the project is YR 913 million out of which, YR 833 million will be allotted for construction works and YR80 million for the consultation and supervision of the project.

26 SEPTEMBER

Oil exploration in more than one concession

The Chairman of the Ministry of Oil and Mineral resources, said that good prospects of oil exploration in more than one concession carried out by the biggest international companies. Plus, the prime explorations result are very promising. He also said that, there

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30 YEARS OF GERMAN & YEMEN FRIENDSHIP CELEBRATION AT TAJ SHEBA HOTEL (2nd - 5th NOVEMBER)

The German Embassy in Sana'a with Yemeni-German partners, play host to a week long event to be held in Sana'a starting from the 23rd of October with official celebration at the Cultural Center.

- The other activity are as follows:
- October 24th to 28th German Film festival at the Cultural Center
 - Exhibition organized by German development institution, like GTZ DED, KFW
 - November 2nd - 5th German Food and Music festival with the non traditional German band from Saxony will be playing for your entertainment at Taj Sheba.
 - November 7th Exhibition of works of Art by German artist Traugott Wohrlin.

The event has gained lot of momentum in Yemen with the German Embassy very thankful to all the Yemeni partners playing host to the event. The German Embassy will be publishing a high quality Commemorative publication of 150 pages written in both Arabic and German during the event for distribution.

The Taj Sheba Hotel one of the main organizers will give you all the rich flavours of food from 3 different regions in Germany along with three special Chefs flown in from the Maritim Hotel in Frankfurt. The venue in Taj Sheba is the Pool Side and Abunawas hall. The Saxony band promise to play non-traditional German music to get all of you on the dancing floor. Make your table reservation in advance to avoid disappointment. Call Taj Sheba at 272372 ext 131/132.

The national carrier Yemenia who are the main sponsors to the event will fly in all the musicians, artist, & the Chefs from Frankfurt. All the food & beverage for the festival is being imported from Germany and arrives as cargo with Yemenia. Yemenia fly Sana'a-Frankfurt-Sana'a direct and is timed conveniently.

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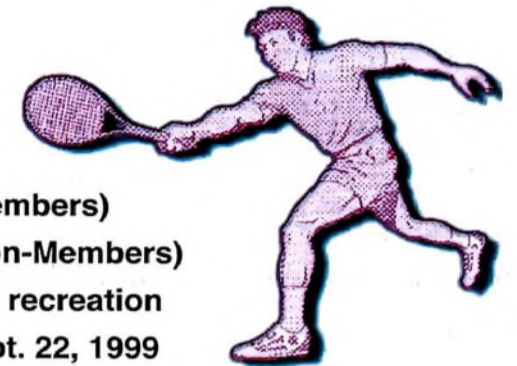
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SILVER LINING



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

Time for Change

According to my humble knowledge, change in any aspect of life can not take place overnight. Rather, it runs slowly and gradually. In addition, change does not take place at all times. Of course, there are specific and suitable times for change to be streamlined and introduced into the life of any society. In other words, it is not any time fitting for change. Let me give you an example. Any political system that has been for a long time entirely totalitarian or dictatorial can never become democratic overnight. To make it easy, it would have been very difficult for any of the two political regimes existing in Yemen in the pre-unification era, prior to 1990 to declare that it has become democratic. This is because people would not have believed that this quick transition could occur without any reason to make them easily and reasonably accept this change. The Yemeni unification was a sufficient and rationally accepted cause for change to take place. People of Yemen felt that the event would signal a new flourishing era in the history of Yemen. Accordingly, they wholeheartedly and very positively interacted with the democratic transition. Moreover, they were very optimistic that a silver lining was to be seen in the sky. Therefore, the time was very much reasonable for the remedy of the ever perverted social, political and economic structure of the society. Efforts have been exerted to do so. However, none of them could hit the nail on the head. Seriousness of the part of the unified political fabrics was not there. To the contrary, they embroiled themselves into a tumult of conflict which made us escape that golden opportunity for change. The other chance we did not grasp is the civil war of 1994. People after the war were with high spirit to embrace any radical change that could breathe a new life to the Yemeni society. Now, the chance is in our hands and we should not escape it once again. Do you know what it is? It is the current presidential election. In spite of the fact that this election lacks a real healthy competitive sense and context, it is rather a very important event in the history of democracy in this country. People of Yemen will

for the first time choose their president through direct voting. It is good because it will lay the foundation for a democratic practice that will live long no matter who will win. I believe we can not be democratic so quickly but I think this process will take time so as to yield fruitful outcome in the future. That is, the democratic transition in our country will without any doubt face a lot of problems and ordeals. The most important thing is that, however, we should go ahead. We should enhance democracy in Yemen by leaning to democratic norms and behavior. I believe the opposition parties have to fend off repeating the same mistake of not participating in the parliamentary elections. They have to show they are present in the political life of our society not only in newspapers. They have to enlarge their membership and embrace the interests of the people so that they get involved in the issues adopted by the opposition. I know that these parties are crippled with many difficulties and pitfalls. But they get unified with each other and agree on a platform, they will not be able to compete the ruling party. Well, the result of the election is already known that Ali Abdullah Saleh will hit the first place because he is seen by many people as the man of the time and also because he has no real competitor. Therefore, it is time that he launched a radical change and fight against corruption which make him recommend the love of all. I believe this is a time-tested challenge for him. He has a lot of institutions that have to be modernized and mopped up of the crooked and corrupt officials. Fighting against corruption should be his primary concern. He has also to introduce a new life to the perverted and corrupt judicial system. The question of lawlessness and security mess is to be of the vital issues that have to be healed. Above all, the issue of political reconciliation is to be reviewed. These issues in addition to many others are the main headache of the country. Therefore, I do keep my fingers crossed that the president will be able to overcome them all and introduce a radical change into the life of our society. Amine!

3 Days to Go before the Historical Day of Yemen's 1st Direct Presidential Elections
Presidential Elections
Preparation and Statistics

Yasser Mohamed Ahmed
Yemen Times

Within this week, we will all witness a historical event. It will not necessarily be an event that is satisfactory for all sectors of the community. But yet, it is something that will happen for the first time in the history of Yemen.

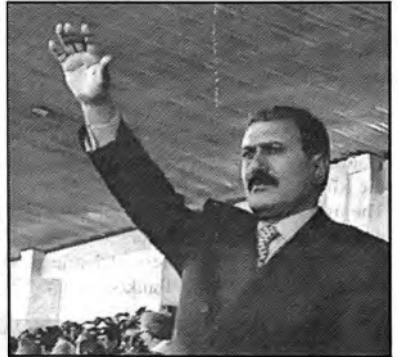
To know exactly how many will vote, how many units there are, and how things are going in preparation for this event; we had a brief interview with the Supreme Elections Committee's chairman, Dr. Abdullah Barakat. In his interview he said, "First, I would like to thank the Yemen Times for thoroughly



covering this historical event, which is giving the democratic process great coverage and interest. The newspaper

which 5,600,000 registrations in the years 1993, 1996, and 1999 took place. All the names were then placed in one single list. Now that we already have the names of the eligible voters, the next step is actually the voting phase. We are currently involved deeply in preparing for this stage. We have already made a lot of tables concerning the presidential campaigns and festivals in a fairly equal manner, in regards to the printed press, radio, and TV. Today, we have launched more than 17,184 committees. This effort is to widen the scope of participation, spread awareness of the importance of these elections, and organize the voting procedures. While the number of men committees reached 11,048, women committees reached 6,135. Every committee includes at least 3 persons. It is worth mentioning that these numbers include the extra committees which are not mentioned in the below tables. As you can conclude, these committees need a lot of care and continuous supervision day and night. The tools and equipment necessary for voting include voter tables and voting cards, which have already been installed in the voting centers all over the country. The extra committees and centers have also been allocated for the voters who are not voting in their original centers. We have also invited a number of Arab

view the ones involved in the preparation for the success of this event. Among them was Staff Brigadier Ali Mohammed Salah, the chairman of the Security Committee of the Elections Committee's Operations Unit. While assuring that conditions of all the proceedings are stable, he said, "We have prepared more than 50,280 soldiers and officers to guard the voting centers and to make sure that everything goes smoothly during all the election procedures. We have special units to protect all the 19,771 election boxes distributed in 2,083 voting centers monitored by 353 election centers. The security committee has managed to transport all the documents, equipment, and boxes that will be used in the voting and vote collecting process, through special military transportation by air and land. We have also taken extra measures to protect the diplomats who will be visiting the voting centers. The total number of eligible voters is 5,591,000 and we are well prepared to have all these voters protected from any possible action."



and representatives from several countries such as Palestine, India, Indonesia, Korea, Chec. Republic, and Djibouti. All these observers can at any time get the information and statistics, and have a look at how the proceedings are going, with no conditions or restrictions whatsoever. They also are being protected by some security forces and are given all facilities to have their missions as successful as possible."

Some agree that the elections are an important step towards having the peaceful transfer of power implemented for the first time in Yemen, and some see the elections as no more than a systematically planned referendum with the suit of elections. All parties however, have something in common, and that is the curiosity to know how many votes will the unfamil-

Total Election Units	Total Election Centers	Total Registered Voters & Committees				Total Registered Voters 5,591,422
		Men Voters	Men Committees	Women Voters	Women Committees	
301	2,025	3,891,996	9,552	1,699,426	5,347	Total Registered Committees 14,899

has helped a lot to deliver the all the democratic proceedings in Yemen to the foreign sector, to Yemenis abroad, and to the international community. Currently, the Supreme Elections Committee is in its final phases regarding the preparation for the presidential elections. We have already prepared all what is needed to have this event as a success on the 23rd of September. Today, we consider this event a drastic transition in the history of Yemen. The decision of who will be the ruler of Yemen is left to the people. From this aspect, great efforts have been made to prepare for this final stage. The steps that have been taken to reach this stage were many. The first stage was the registration phase, in

and foreigner monitoring unions and journalists, some on our expenses. The invitation to whomever wishes to attend this historical event is also open, and will stay open even until 72 hours after the voting procedures are over."

Yemen Times then continued to inter-



voting phases. "We have been in direct contact with several International organizations, including the UNDP and many other organizations and committees from donor countries, which are showing great interest in this democratic process. Our objective is to coordinate the work of these organizations to whoever wants to observe all the processes taking place, and make sure everything goes smoothly."

When asked of who exactly has come to observe the elections, he answered, "Until now, we have received 533 requests to attend and observe the election proceedings. Among them are the Arab Democratic Institute, the Supreme National Human Rights Committee,

iar, competitor, "Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi will gain. Many think that if he gets more than 10%, that will indeed mean a surprise for everybody. Can there be a surprise? Let's wait and see.



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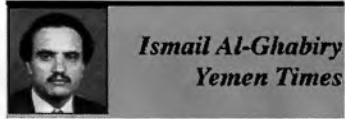
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Round Table on Yemen's Water Policy Reforms and the Role of the World Bank



Ismail Al-Ghabiry
Yemen Times

On September 12 and 13th, 1999, the World Bank held in Sana'a, a round table on water Management in Yemen - the Role of the World Bank.

The overall purpose of the round table was to elicit key stakeholder's views on the impact effectiveness and relevance of the World Bank's water

porting effective water management. -To solicit input from key stakeholders from selected Middle Eastern and North Africa (MENA) countries on ways to improve the World Bank's water resources management program in the region.

The two-day round table brought together some 50 stakeholders to elicit frank views about the impact, effectiveness, and relevance of the World Bank's water resources management program in Yemen.

ferent missions to review Yemen's Water Policy Reforms and the role of the World Bank. Ismail Al-Ghabiry, Economic Editor has conducted the following interview:

Mr. Anwar Sahooly, Chairman of the Technical Secretariat

for Water Sector Reform, delivered a power point presentation, which stated his personal and opinion on the evolution of the water sector of Yemen and the role of the World Bank.

The presentation entitled "Evolution of Yemen's Sector: Driving Forces and Constraints, a Yemeni Perspective" was followed by a World Bank perspective and working group discussions and working group discussions on the assessment of Yemen's water sector.

How do you evaluate the round table proceeding? Also, What is its significance and outcome?

It is significant that the World Bank chose Yemen as a venue for this very important MENA regional event, not only because of the serious challenges posed by the acute water crisis in Yemen, but also to review the Yemeni water policy reforms which started in 1995. The Round table presents a rare opportunity for Yemen's water sector stakeholders to meet and have first hand discussion with top World Bank water thinkers and strategists and other stakeholders from the region and exchanges views and experiences. The round table was a two-way critical evaluation of the Yemeni experiences on the one hand and the role of world bank in this respect, on the other, including lessons learnt and the future agenda.

Q: Did the round table reach a consensus on these issues, and how was its rating in this evaluation?



Mr. Anwar Sahooly



Mr. Keith Pitman

A: The round table has been designed to provide a fresh input to the World Bank water policy reform process. That is why, a frank informed critique was invented. A consensus was not particularly set out as an objective at this phase of an on going process.

About the evaluation of projects implemented by the World Bank in Yemen, Mr. Keith Pitman, Senior Evaluation Officer said the following:

We have two periods before 1995, in the water supply and agricultural products in Yemen. Those projects were implemented particularly on the issues of the ownership sustainability and in terms of paying and getting users to be involved in the design and management of those projects. The other reason is that the government was in significant changes, the comprehensive framework was missing. So, it technically not good. The reason is that the bank was in total change. First, the bank was with a new management policy, which introduced the comprehensive approach. Concerning the water policy framework to make a comprehension in this sector. It has started from the big picture to deal with the most important problem, and it proceeded to reach the specific usage. As we came to Yemen, we aimed to know what the problem is and that the solution for this problem should have seen a very significant change after 1996, in the way the project identified and designed the policy project. So, those projects became much and much better.

However, from the evaluation of this activity, there are some problems. First, there is no sufficient intention for the policy, and no focus in some areas. The other is that, the local issues are very weak and also, there is a need for capacity building in Yemen. The other problem is of the agriculture and how much water supply it takes. The project aims at arranging the usage of water because the agriculture is going on a wide extension.

Q: Why did you choose Yemen to hold this workshop?

A: We chose Yemen because it is a country where you find the water crisis, and it is in need of a solution. It is a task case for us to offer our assistance to Yemen.

Q: How do you see the participants?
A: Well, I was really delighted with the participants. We are happy to see a strong discussion and hear new opinions from them. We are listening carefully to their comments about the problems that we are facing. By this, we can establish our understanding about Yemen, and get positive results of what we are doing.

Q: Why do you use the concept of Globalization?

A: Because we are interested in the evaluation of what we are doing. By choosing this case, we can deal with the difficult problems of Yemen, and the way which we need to change.



Management Policy and Program in Yemen, as part of the global evaluation of the World Bank's Water Management Policy.

Objectives of the Round Table

The purpose of the round table was to solicit, discuss and evaluate views of key Yemeni stakeholders on the following topic areas:-

-The evolution of water sector policies and programs in Yemen and the underlying causes of this evolution.

-The role of the World Bank and its evolution and lessons learned from previous water management activities, funded by the World Bank, other donors and the government.

-The future role(s) and ways to improve the World Bank's effectiveness in sup-

Globally, the World Bank is evaluating the implementation of its 1993 Water Resources Management Policy, in order to formulate a new Water Resources Sector Strategy in 2000. As part of this endeavor, the World Bank is undertaking focus country studies in each of the Bank's six regions.

The workshop presented an opportunity for stakeholder from Yemen to informally critique and provide feedback on the World Bank's water resources program. Other stakeholders from the region have also been invited to present their views on the bank's role in their respective countries. Donors have also been invited.

The World Bank has a mission in the country, and for this round table, two persons have come to Yemen with dif-

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In accordance with the policy for restructuring of the telecommunication sector in the country and to consolidate the participation of the private sector in the development process, it has been decided by the cabinet of ministers in its resolution No. 183 for the year 1998 to specially encourage the local and foreign investment in the telecommunication sector through the issue of two new licenses for GSM operations, the Ministry of Communication of the Republic of Yemen invite national and international tenderers to submit application to obtain license for the operation of the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) in the Republic of Yemen.

The Tender Document can be bought from the secretary of steering committee for GSM Project, PTC Headquarters Al-Giraf, Airport Road, priced at five thousand (US\$5,000.00) United States Dollars (on a non-refundable basis) during the period (8:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon) on all working days beginning from Monday dated 6/9/1999. The application should conform to the following conditions:

- The applicants should have the necessary technical and managerial expertise in the field of telecommunication and specially in the GSM services.
- The tenders should be submitted sealed with red wax in the form and manner prescribed in the Tender Documents (one original and four copies).
- The application shall be valid for 120 days from the date of opening of tenders.
- It should be accompanied with a Bank Guarantee (Bid bond) as specified in the request for tender valid for 150 days from the date of opening of tenders. Closing date of receipt of application 10:00 a.m. 5th December, 1999. The envelopes will be opened in the presence of such applicants or their representative who may wish to attend at 11:00 a.m on the same date at PTC Headquarters.

The tenders shall be addressed to:

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Secretary of Steering Committee for (GSM) Project
Public Telecommunication Corporation
P. O. Box 17045
Airport Road, Al-Giraf
Sanaa, Republic of Yemen
Tender No. (1/99)

More Cultural Sites from Hodeidah: Beit Al-faqeeh



Saleh Abdubaqi
Cultural Editor
Yemen Times

As we read the history of Yemen, we find lots of historical features which still exist in some of the country's cities. Beit Al-Faqeeh is one of the cities that formed a wide extension for tradition and civilization in Yemen. It was known by this name since 650 Hijra. Before this date, it was known by "Katheb Shawkah". The first one who resided in this town was Al-Fakeh Ahmed Bin Aujail. He said that he lived before in a village which was called "Al-Shawka", where his grandfather lived until his death. Al-Allama Abdulrahman Ahmed Al-Moshaqi, has mentioned that 'Katheb Shawkah' is the dwelling and grave for Ahmed Mosa Bin Aujail, who put the first planning of this town in 650 Hijra. The trading caravans were passing through this town to take long provisions of water and food. Beit Al-Faqeeh is one of the high scientific houses in Tehama. So, Beit Al-Faqeeh and

Zabeed are the famous towns which are known by their jurisprudence. It is located in the middle part of Al-Zaraniq area. It is 60Km. far from the Southeast of Hodeidah. It has a good atmosphere. It links Hodeidah with Dhamar, through a sandy road. Mr. Torkiel Hanz, who came to Yemen in 1762, said that it is located on the middle of Tehama coast, the trade center. He said that the mission had chose it because it occupied a strategic location. This town is one of the big towns in Hodeidah. It is bounded in the West by the Red Sea, in the East by Raimah Mountains, in the South by Zabeed and in the North by Al-Mansouria and Al-Sakha. Beit Al-Fakeh is still the cultural and economical capital for Al-Zaraniq area.

Beit Al-Faqeeh Castle

Yemen has giant archaeological marks. The ancient Yemeni people had achieved those archeological places to prove the originality of Yemeni civilization through history. Thereupon, I have to talk about one of these giant marks. It is Beit Al-Faqeeh castle. This castle is located on the east side, Beit Al-Faqeeh, the ancient trade



center. It reminds us in the battles which took place between Othmani conquests and Al-Zaraniq tribes. That castle was founded by Al-Othmaneeen who conquered Tehama coast. At that period it was called "Othmani castle". But it was repaired in the period of Imam Ahmed Bin Hameid'udeen, when he won the battle with Al-Zaraniq and conquered it in 1929. The grave of Al-Sheikh Ahmed Bin Ageel, who founded that town, was put near the castle.

This castle has a wonderful view. From inside, it contains small beautiful adorations. Kamarias and the other drawings which surrounded it form an exciting view.



The other side of the castle contains a number of rooms and halls. The second floor contains stores for weapons and wheat. This castle also has a mosque and a well, and so many other security rooms, which are located upon the main gate. Therefore, the castle occupied a strategic location in the area. You can see the whole town through the windows of the castle. There is a field gun in the corner of the castle, where we find its muzzle directed towards the town. As we look to these pictures, we really feel our ancient and civil history. The tourism sector must preserve our tradition. That must be through repairing those archaeological marks, and give them the biggest importance, because they reflect the history and civilization of Yemen. They will help attract tourists. By doing this, our country will get a good financial and economical income. We must prove to the world that Yemen is the cradle of the ancient Arab civilizations. The government should encourage the national industries. Indeed, this will help reducing imports. This is represented by finding a modern technical mechanism of administering the national investment. Such great ancient sites should always be taken care of by the government. They are places that reflect our rich history and culture, and promoting them in all possible ways is a must, for them to further be known by the rest of the world.

Warm Steam Baths of Yemen: What Else Can a Tourist Ask For?

Ahlam Al-Khawlani
Yemen Times

Steam baths (hammams), naturally heated or otherwise, are a very popular attraction for tourists as well as for locals. These baths are spread in many governorates. The most famous are Hammam Al-Sukhna, Hammam Ali, Hammam Al-Shurajja and those of Hadhramout. They are an important motive behind the modest local tourism. People visit these hammams seeking medication and health benefits. People developed these artificially heated baths, in imitation to natural hot springs-many of which proved to be very useful for the treatment of certain diseases. These baths appeared and spread in all the main towns of the muslim states. During the Abbasid Khaliphate, there were famous baths for commoners, besides those for the upper classes. Sana'a was one of these towns. Sana'a has developed a tradition for bridegrooms and people visit the hammam twice or thrice before the wedding. People of Old Sana'a, males and females, inherited a habit to visit the hammam before Thursday nights, as a part of the preparation for a happy weekend. The construction of Yemeni hammams is nearly the same. There is always a room in the main room, which is called Sadr. This is always the hottest room. Behind the Sadr is another room, which is more moderate. Besides both rooms are other moderate rooms for washing and massage. The architecture of hammams is very old in style, with white domes as roofs. To have an idea of the current affairs of

these hammams we visited a number of them.

At Hammam Assultan in Bab Al-Sabah, Mr. Lutf Al-Thuali, the owner stated: "This hammam is one of the oldest in Sana'a. It is hundreds of years old. Work starts from 7.00 a.m. and continues until 9.00 p.m. We have an average of 400 visitors. Some of them are daily customers. Entrance fee is 80 riyals. We provide also the Keys service (massage and cleaning) for a fee between 100-200 riyals, depending on the duration of the service. Our hammam is open for males only on Saturdays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; other days of the week are for females only." The water used in this bath is brought from a nearby well into a big cistern then into an iron tank. In the past there tank was made of copper. Diesel is used for heating, and the heated water is distributed for a total of seven rooms. With regards to health, he said that steam bathing is useful for people who suffer from rheumatism, colds, fever and neck-stiffness. It helps also with the drying of wounds. When asked whether there are some conditions regarding the health of the visitors he said that the bath is open for all and nobody is denied entrance. He also said that there is no government agency that supervises their activities.

We moved to Hammam Yasser which is situated at the Azzomor Quarter in Old Sana'a. Mr. Amin Al-Hammami, the supervisor said: "This bath is a very old one and in fact it is one of the oldest buildings in Old Sana'a, and is owned by the religious endowment." "We receive a minimum of 20 visitors", he said. Most of our visitors are old customers. Our minimum fee is 70 riyals. The bath starts at 6 a.m. and continues till 8 p.m. for females, and 10 p.m. for males. Our key services cost 100-150 rials. Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays are only for females and the rest of the week is for males. He said that persons who have a visible disease that might be transmitted to others, are not allowed entry. He added that the bath is good for people suffering from rheumatism, headaches and bronchitis. He said that they are visited also by people who feel distressed and they are treated with a mixture of Henna, Lime and Tartar oil and they feel well afterwards. The bath is cheap because it is owned by the endowment. Dividing the week between males and females is done in coordination with the nearby Hammam Al-Tawashi, so that any customer can visit either bath, any day.

We visited Hammam Al-Tawashi, which is very near. The supervisor told us their bath is also one of the oldest in Sana'a, that the average of their customers is 30 everyday; with men exceeding females. Their entrance fee is 80 riyals and Keys service between 100 and 200 riyals. The hammam has its own and independent water source, which also is used for the neighboring mosque. We moved to Hammam Al-Nasr which is located at Al-Raqas Quarter. We were told that this is a new bath that was constructed as recent as 1994. It is known for cleanliness and visited by about 50 customers daily. Their fare is 100 riyals as entrance fees and a massage service costing 200 riyals. Soft drinks and juices are available also. At this bath Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays are for males and the rest of the week for females. Work at female days is between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., but extends to midnight in male days. In this bath everybody customer has his small bathtub so there no way for disease transfer.

At Hammam Al-Bauniyah which is located in the Bir Al-Azab Quarter which was the quarter of the elite up to the fifties, we were told that about 50 visitors come to this bath everyday, that they have two days only every week for females and that they have their independent source of water. Work ends on 6 p.m. and later on male days. Prices are nearly similar to the other baths.

We met an interested person in the field of Bath Medication, namely the General Manager of Al-Amin Al-Raed Corporation, agents of the Natural Medication Sanatoriums in Chechkyia. He says that bath medication activities in Yemen are done randomly because neither the cadre, nor the instruments or water used are specially made or prepared for this purpose. In developed countries every case of a customer, has its own characteristics and is dealt with individually. Qualified personnel and the duration of test the visitor and kind of treatment is well defined. The visitor is also advised on many aspects for the period after his visit. He says that baths are useful to rid the concerned visitor from many things, and that is the reason behind their survival. It seems he is right as Hammams are all over the quarters of Sana'a including Aser, Noqum, Al-Tahrir and Bayt Ma'iyad.

IMPRESSION ABOUT YEMEN

A Glimpse of Yemen

By: Paul Junger

Isn't it in Africa? "Will you be safe?" These questions and slightly puzzled expressions, greeted my announcement that I would be travelling to Yemen for a month. Now that my brief sojourn has ended, I look back with amusement at the unexpected realities of Yemen. With a joyous spontaneity, the charms of Yemeni traditions and culture revealed themselves and contradicted many of my prior suspicions.

When we travel abroad, it is all too easy to accept the superficial; that which is handed to us through statistics, sound-bites, and the casual first-glance. Impressions of Yemen are easily dominated by the poverty, the chaotic traffic, the dust, news of tribal feuds and terrorist threats.

But with a diligent curiosity, one uncovers the sublime and unforgettable in Yemen. A boiling dish of Salta shared with grinning hosts, a rain-drenched hike through mountain villages, the fervent dancing at a wedding to the throbbing pulse of the tabla, or the glint of waving Jambiyas in the midday sun.

One becomes enriched by the world of contrasts in Yemen. The rat-tat-tat of an AK-47 at a wedding party is followed by the haunting chords of an Oud player, heard on cassette while driving through the misty hills near Ibb. The shiniest Landcruiser passes by a crippled beggar, the crouched voice of the muezzin. But how do these sensations weigh against the prevailing image of Yemen in the west?

The image of Yemen today remains obscured by the twin misconceptions of dreamy exoticism (the "Land of Sheba") and exaggerated fears of kidnapping and terrorism. Both the orientalist and alarmist versions of this great country need to be tempered by an active engagement with Yemen's best kept secret - its people.

Through the openness and hospitality of my Yemeni friends, I have learned so much about their country. During my brief stay, our conversations have spanned a range of topics - from the parliamentary system and the effects of qat on economic development to the customs of marriage and the values of family life. Yemenis have confided in me their opinions, beliefs, values, and aspirations. And also their frustrations.

I remember one long drive with a Yemeni who protested frantically that the events of December in Aden were not Yemeni and certainly not Islamic. With his cheek packed with qat and his gaze wandering dangerously off the road ahead, he condemned those who had committed the kidnapping for besmirching the reputation of his country and religion. "Should we think of Hitler as part of German culture and tradition?" he asked. I could only nod in agreement with his frustration at the Western media for having provided a spotlight on such a miniscule minority of extremists.

The western media's casual application of terms like 'instability', 'fundamentalism', 'tribalism', or 'underdevelopment' obscure the complexities of the challenges facing Yemen from truly appreciating the more positive aspects of the country. While Yemen certainly faces daunting political and economic obstacles on its path towards development and democratization, it need not suffer the additional burden of a poor public image.

My visit, while correcting many misconceptions and enriching my understanding of a unique culture and an important Middle Eastern country, leaves me with a fierce desire to return again. I once glimpsed, as a small boy, the painting of the Mona Lisa in the Louver. After about 15 seconds of peering through shoulders from far away. The crowd, shifted, and my view was blocked. My short stay in Yemen was just such a peek, hardly worthy of the country's rich culture, colorful traditions, and overwhelming friendliness.

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Program of the Independent Presidential Candidate, Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi

The Curriculum Vitae of Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi

* He was born in 1953 in Sha'ab village in Lahj. His father chose Najeeb's name in respect for General Mohammed Najeeb who leaded Egypt after the revolution on July 23, 1952.

* He received his primary and secondary education in Aden.

* He received his university studies in Egypt, and graduated from faculty of economic and political sciences in Cairo, in 1976.

* He got his Master Degree (MA) from faculty of economic and political sciences of Cairo university, under the title "The Revolution Movement and Confrontation in South Yemen".

* In 1983 he was registered at the same faculty to get his Ph.D., and prepared a theses titled "The Political Integration Between South and North Yemen".

* In 1959 he traveled with his brothers and his mother to join his father who was one of the leaders for Ibn Elyaman League. He escaped from South Yemen to North (Mutawakiliye Kingdom). He was pursued by the British Authorities because of his political activity.

* After the revolution on September 26, 1962, his father was installed as a councilor for the President of the Republic, and as a Minister for South Affairs. But he left all those positions in order to be capable of establishing the National Front, which burnt the revolution on October 14, 1963 against the British conquests. It strove in bravery until getting the independence on November 30, 1967. Then, his father, Qahtan Al-Shaabi was installed as a president for the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

* His father resigned from the presidency on June 22, 1969 because of a hot confrontation with the Marxists flank. Then, they put him in jail in Aden without making any trial with him. His death was declared in 1976. After that, Najeeb moved with his mother and brothers to Sana'a to live there.

* Faisal Abdul'atif Al-Shaabi, the uncle of Najeeb Qahtan was the one who established the branch of Arab Nationals Movement in Yemen. He also was the second man leading the National Movement, and the leader of the liberation battle, 14th of October. After the independence, he became Minister of the Government. As he resigned with Qahtan Al-Shaabi, he was put and killed in prison, in 1970.

* His grandfather is Al-Sheik Abdul'atif Al-Shaabi, who was recognized as Sheik for As'sabeha tribe. He was the only cultural man in the area. He was able to speak different languages. He was brave, generous and wise. His reputation was known by Al-khelafah Al-Othmaniah, and then he was asked to visit it, then he became a representative for Ottoman authority in South Yemen. The British Authorities wanted to install him as a ruler for Aden during the 1930s, but he refused this position. Then, they installed him as a ruler for Lahj, but he was assassinated at his home in Sha'ab valley. His brother, Mohammed Rashad Al-Shaabi occupied the Sheikdom, and waged a battle to take the revenge for his brother. The Sheikdom transferred to his son, Abdulqawi M. Rashad, Najeeb's uncle who is recently a member of Aden free zone administrative board. The socialist system arrested him with a number of patriots as Ali Abdul'aleim and Salem Ali Al-Kendi, immediately after June 22, 1969. He was kept in prison more than ten years while Abdul'aleim was assassinated there.

* While the declaration of the Unity, Najeeb became a member of the Parliament.

* He was affiliated to the General People's Conference. In the same year he was elected by the Conference as a member of the Permanent Committee, 'Supreme Command'.

* He was installed in the Consultative Association of the President for the Parliament affairs in 1997, which consists of six members, but he resigned because he wants to candidate himself for the elections.

* In 1997 Najeeb was elected for the Parliament. He is also a member of the Development Committee for petroleum and mineral wealth in the Parliament.

* He supported Yemen's Unity during the war in 1994, and got the unity medal from the President Saleh.

* He has a political writings published in most of the known Yemeni newspapers.

* He was elected as Vice-secretary general for Yemeni-Egyptian Brotherhood Association which was established since three years. He still practicing his activity in this association. He also was elected as an honorable Chief for Charitable Sha'ab Valley Association which was established in this year.

* He is married and has four sons. The eldest one, Qahtan is studying at the faculty of medicine, fourth level, the other three are Nehal, Mohammed and Rehad.

From the past, people from the different separated parts of Yemen, had been awaiting the moment of unification till it was achieved in May 1990.

The unification of Yemen was achieved to guarantee the political activities, human rights and the peaceful transfer of power through a civilized constitution.

The right to vote entitled to all Yemenis is a sign of the political development that has placed our country in a high position in the world community.

The Yemeni people have witnessed two parliamentarian elections and they are getting ready to witness the first direct presidential elections. The people's strong belief in democracy is the best guarantee for their development in all levels.

We are sure that the Yemeni people will not abandon their right to vote in order to reach a civilized and happy society. For equality and happiness to prevail in our society, and to strengthen the democratic principles, I have nominated myself for the 1999 Presidential election and here is my platform:

General Principles

- 1- Commitment to the Islamic Religion
- 2- Protecting the Yemeni Unity on peaceful and democratic principles
- 3- Equality
- 4- Prevalence of law
- 5- Democracy and the peaceful transfer of power
- 6- Separation of the three authorities: the Executive Authority, the Legislative Authority and the Juridical Authority.

The Social Policy

- 1- Personal liberty
- 2- Free education
- 3- Establishing centers for scientific researches
- 4- Providing medicine for all people
- 5- Providing health services for all people
- 6- Supporting the handicapped Societies
- 7- Enabling women to practice their political as well as social rights
- 8- Building new residential apartments for people of limited income
- 9- providing jobs for the unemployed
- 10- Fighting all the negative phenomena, such as, chewing qat and blood revenge

The Economical Policy

- 1- Personal economical liberty
- 2- Managing the economical activity
- 3- Verifying the economical activities as well as utilizing all the possible economical resources
- 4- Applying an economical policy that will lead the country to self-sufficiency.
- 5- Managing the foreign support in a way that does not affect the national sovereignty and the people's living standard
- 6- Applying an independent economical policy
- 7- Preventing the World Bank and the International Fund and the like



from making conditions that harm the Yemeni's interests

- 8- Avoiding the negative outcome that may result from the policy of the economical reform
- 9- Allowing privatization on the ground of stopping the monopolization of any economical activity
- 10- Preparing the Republic administratively and economically to cope with globalization
- 11- Encouraging and supporting the economical activities practiced by the majority of people like, agriculture and fishing
- 12- Improving the Tourism and Investment sectors as well as exploiting the strategic location of Yemen in the field of sea and air transportation
- 13- Planning an economical prospective for the society to reach through real developmental plans and strategies.

The Foreign Affairs

- 1- Making principles for the foreign affairs
- 2- Closing the Yemeni embassies that are of no use, decreasing the number of its employees as well as the expenditure of the diplomatic representation
- 3- Reorganizing the diplomatic corps
- 4- Settling down all the disputes with the other countries through peaceful means

The Media

- 1- Freedom of press
- 2- Independence of TV and radio
- 3- Providing the possible facilities for the press in order to reach the truth
- 4- Providing the dependent as well as the independent newspaper with the same equal chances to get the news and information from its sources
- 5- Preserving the rights as well as the integrity of journalists

Security and Defense

- 1- Activating the role the security

systems play to preserve security and stability

- 2- Treating outlaws equally
- 3- Prohibiting the military forces from involving in the political and administrative affairs
- 4- Improving the military forces to make it an establishment for protecting the Yemeni constitution as well as the Yemeni borders

Combating Corruption

- 1- Calling the corrupt to account
- 2- Establishing supervising departments to control and combat corruption
- 3- Making laws against corruption

The Judicial Authority

- 1- Independence of judiciary
- 2- Combating corruption and the corrupt in judiciary
- 3- Allocating just and fair allowances for judges and calling to account all the corrupt ones

The Legislative Authority

- 1- Encouraging the Parliament to practice its legislative role
- 2- Activating the role played by the parliament in the field of supervision.
- 3- Providing the parliament members with their constitutional right to investigate the President of the State as well as its members
- 4- Breaking the Parliament up when it violates the State's constitution

The Executive Authorities

- 1- Executing a real local government
- 2- Decreasing the number of Ministries as well as their expenditure
- 3- Choosing the Government members according to their qualification
- 4- Applying the principles of qualification and competition in applying for jobs
- 5- Enhancing transparency and accountability in all the Government institutions
- 6- Preventing interference in the judicial and Legislative Authorities.



TRUST INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTORS & TRD SERVICES شركة ترست للمقاولات الدولية والخدمات التجارية

This occasion to sign the contract with Yemen Petroleum Company is the pleasure of M.J.F. from the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the first step to prove its interest for cooperation in energy, oil & gas projects in our Moslems brotherhood Republic of Yemen.

I would like to take the opportunity to thanks His Excellency Minister of Petroleum & Mineral Resources and Executive Managing Director for Yemen Petroleum Company and their concerned management for their great effort made for the preparation of this contact.

Mostazafan & Janbazan Foundation (M. J. F.) as a non-government entity is a huge economic conglomerate and a well recognized name in I. R. O. Iran and abroad which with its affiliated organization manage more than 400 companies and within I. R. O. Iran with over fifty years of experiences in the field of their activities.

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In energy oil & gas group, which include the NICC as one of the major Contractors Company, is active in all aspects of services explorations and productions of oil and gas in Iran abroad with facilities for off-shore & on-shore seismic data collection and data processing, pipe linears, construction and installation of refineries and purification plants.

This group will be happy to prepare these facilities to service in Republic of Yemen, in near future.

The NICC wishes to congratulate this occasion to the government and people of the Republic of Yemen and will do its best expertise and capabilities in execution of upgrading and development of Al-Hodeidah Port.



Ali Reza Mahdavi,
M. O. Board & Managing
Director in NICC



Naif A. Smadi,
General Manager (Partner) of
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Isfahan Coal Tar Refinery

يسعدنا أن نعلن إلى إخواننا في اليمن قيام شركة NICC إحدى شركات مجموعة M. J. F. بتوقيع اتفاقية تحسين وتوسيع وتطوير الرصيف البحري بميناء الجديدة.

وبهذه المناسبة يشرفنا أن نوضح مايلي:-

شركتنا ترست هي فرع من مجموعة شركات موزعة في دول مختلفة، ونحن هنا وبالتعاون مع مؤسسة المستضعفين M. J. F. نعلن استعدادنا لدراسة وإنشاء المشاريع التالية وعلى مستوى عالمي مع تقديم أقوى الضمانات لتنفيذ:

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٢. الطرق - المؤاني - الأنفاق والسدود.

٣. مشاريع لها علاقة بالزراعة والثروة الحيوانية.

بالإضافة إلى ماسبق وذكرنا، فإننا نرحب بأي اتصال لتحديد موعد للمقابلة والتي سيكون فيها مجال لبحث إمكانية تمويل بعض المشاريع جزئياً والبعث كليا وبحث المشاريع التي لم نذكرها هنا. وبهذه المناسبة نرغب في أن نقدم الشكر للإخوة المسؤولين الذين أبدوا كل الحرص على مصلحة بلدنا اليمن في إنجاز اتفاق المشروع الجديد.

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Yemen Journalists Syndicate Organizes a Seminar on: "Media and its Role in Spreading a Human Rights Culture"

An important symposium was organized last Thursday, 16th, September 99, by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate on "Media and its Role in Spreading a Human Rights Culture". Mr. Abdul Qader Ba Jammal, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the National Human Rights Committee, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakkel, Sana'a University Lecturer and Professor of Liberties and Human Rights, Deputy Chairman of the National Organization for defending Liberties and Human Rights, and Mr. Nassr Taha Mustafa, Chairman of the Yemeni Center for Strategic Studies, Head of Liberties Committee of the YJS, participated in the symposium.

For two and a half hours, three papers were discussed by the seminar, which was launched by Mr. Mahboob Ali the Chairman of the YJ Syndicate. In his speech, Mr. Ali had confirmed that "Human Rights and the Media are faces of the same coin, between which there can no kind of separation; because they are naturally and dialectically related". He added that the mission of Media is to serve the human being and satisfy his wishes and needs of information and ideas which will help interaction between him and society within the frames of society.

Mr. Ali also assured those present that "we at the YJ Syndicate strive to pluralism and diversity in the most comprehensive sense, especially in such aspects as media, press and the establishment of a democratic culture through the optimum awareness of the role of media and its functionality within the civil society of which Media is an important mechanism and by-product. Mr. Ali continued to say Media is the guarantee that "civil society is to reign and that all its tides and entities shall be able to express themselves freely and independently".

Journalists, university professors and some heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Yemen attended the symposium. Mr. Ba Jammal presented his paper and started to discuss the development of state and its type and content. He said that with the progression of state, its type and content; the three authorities: legislative, executive and judicial became prominent, and clearly distinguished by constitutions ruling the separation between and independence of these authorities. He said that the freedom of expression and dignity given to opinion and thought has given the press its deep human dimension and its true populist roots. As a result to the media started to play in opinion and action the role of a fourth authority with a vast range of influence in creating the public opinion and transforming it into a decision making or influencing force.

Mr. Ba Jammal said that those who nicknamed the media as "the 4th authority" gave it an unlimited value and capacity in all legal systematic and procedural dimensions- because this 4th. authority or power moves only when honest conscience

and national responsibility are there. Mr. Ba Jammal continued to say that "moral and ethical values of society, its principles and determined will all point towards confirming these principles and accomplish its aims through peaceful and democratic means". He said that the true and noble role of the media is in the struggle for the confirmation of Human Rights. He said, "The main question is how such a role can be materialized? How can such a role accomplish its noble aims?" He said that a philosopher was asked his opinion on the approach expressed by Niccolo Machiavelli in "The Prince" that goals justify means and he answered that the moral and reasoning method should be that the nobility of a goal is from the nobility of the means.

In defending Human Rights, the role of the media should be based on safe faith and morale in order to be capable of reaching its noble aims of consolidating Human Rights and defending them.

The next paper was introduced by Dr. Al-Mutawakkel. He started by saying that "before we speak on the role of the media in our country we have to specify our understanding of Human Rights and our reference authority. He continued to concentrate on three points, namely:

- a) The reference of authority for the media when covering Human Rights issues.
- b) The ideal and practical method for the media to play its role.
- c) The starting point.

Dr. Al-Mutawakkel said "as a society we are supposed to have agreed on a constitution which we consider as an authority that controls the relations between us, which is sought to rule when we differ, under the light and articles of which we make our laws. Such a constitution is supposed to be binding to us till we agree once again for it to be modified or replaced.

Dr. Al-Mutawakkel continued, "Our reference, our constitution provides in Article 6 that the state is committed to the UN Charter, the International Declaration of Human Rights, and the rules of the International Law. This also covers commitment of Yemen to the international treaties including the two international pacts on civil, political and Economic Human Rights. He continued that "based on this constitutional commitment, those international documents that were signed and ratified by Yemen regarding Human Rights become our reference on Human Rights for any human being regardless of race, color, gender, language, religion, political affiliation, or national (or social) origin, or wealth or place of birth; without any discrimination between males and females".

In the third paper, which was introduced by Mr.



Mustafa, he said that Free Information and Human Rights are integral corner-stones in the process of structure building of modern states and the rule of law and order and the values of liberty. The level of democratic development in a society can be measured the level of seriousness at which a state, its leaders or institutions gives to Human Rights and Media affairs. That level also reflects how conscious and aware a society or organization is in this era and its issues. He said that Media and Human Right issues in our country have seen positive developments since the establishment of the Republic of Yemen on 22nd. May, 1999: Media freedom increased in a way that can never be compared to the past (although confined to newspapers only, as the Government continues to monopolize the TV and broadcasting stations and they were only occasionally open to a different opinion.) Human Rights issues witnessed a similar development, as that was only natural under the declared freedom of political activity. Political detention and oppression, which were characterized pre-unity situations, disappeared completely. The journey of equal military and political sharing between the PGC and YSP succeeded in freezing political arrests until the summer war of 1994 which finished with the prevailing balance and reactivated the security apparatus to some extent. This renewed activity of arrests of some politicians and journalists was kept occasional and at a very low level. As for other economic, educational, social and other aspects of human rights they continued to deteriorate due to the economic situation, stalemate of economic development and the widespread corruption and deterioration of government management efficiency and prohibition of unionists' activities.

It can be concluded that due to the preoccupation of the official and partisan and other media with the political struggle, Human Rights issues suffered; they were only remembered when prominent politicians were involved. Discussions started on the three papers and the symposium was considered a good initiative by the Yemeni Journalists Syndicate to deal with such an important issue as Human Rights. A Graphic Arts gallery was opened which contained 60 plates after discussions were concluded. The activity was dedicated for benefit of the Journalist Welfare Fund as beginning core of social activities at the YJS.

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The Elections Program of Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Candidate for the Upcoming Presidential Elections

A summary on life of Ali Abdullah Saleh, the People's General Conference's Candidate for Presidency

- Born in 1942 at Beit Al Ahmar village, Sanhan of the Governorate of Sana'a.

- Received his studies at the village's "Kuttub" small religious school.

- Joined the armed forces in 1958 and continued his studies and developed his general knowledge while serving as a soldier.

- Joined the cadet officers school of the armed forces in 1960.

- He was among the cadet army officers who prepared for and participated in the revolution.

- In the first months after the revolution he was promoted in appreciation of his efforts and his courage in defense of the revolution and the republic in various regions.

- He participated in the battles for the defense of the revolution and the republic in several regions of Yemen.

- In 1963 he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant.

- At the end of the same year, he was wounded in one of the battles in defense of the revolution in the eastern area of Sana'a city.

- In 1964, he joined the armored battalion school to specialize in armored brigades.

- Following his graduation, he returned to contribute to the defense of the revolution and the republic in many areas of Yemen. He was exposed to gunfire and was injured more than once. However, he displayed great courage in all battles he participated in. His leading role in battles and awareness of national issues were noticeable.

- He was one of the heroes in the 70 Days War when the capital Sana'a was under siege.

- He occupied many senior military posts including :

- 1- Commander of an armored company.
- 2- Commander of an armored battalion.
- 3- Chief of staff of an armored brigade.
- 4- Director of armaments for the armored forces.
- 5- Commander of an armored brigade and commander of the Mandab sector.
- 6- Commander of the Taiz region and commander of the Khalid Ibn Al Walid camp (1975- 1978).
- 7- He represented the country alone and within delegations in many official talks and visits to sisterly countries.
- 8- He occupied the posts of member of the temporary presidential council, deputy general commander and chief of staff after the assassination of president Ahmed Al Ghashami on June 24, 1978.

- He was elected president of the republic and general commander of the armed forces by the People's Constituent Assembly on July 17, 1978.

- On September 17, 1979 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel with the unanimous approval of all leaderships and members of the armed forces in appreciation of his great efforts for the building and development of the armed forces and security apparatus.

- He was granted the "Republican Medal" by the People's Constituent Assembly in appreciation of his efforts and services of the nation on September 22, 1979.

- He was elected secretary general of the People's General Congress on August 30, 1982.

- He was re-elected on May 23, 1983 as president of the republic and general commander of the armed forces by the Founding People's Council.

- He was re-elected on July 17, 1988 as president of the republic and general commander of the armed forces by the elected Shoura Council.

- He was granted the honorary MA. in military sciences in 1989 by the Command and Staff Academy.

- On May 21st, 1990, the Shoura Council was unanimous on granting him the rank of General in appreciation of his great efforts in the re-unification of the nation and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen.

- On May 22 nd, 1990, he hoisted the flag of the Republic of Yemen in the city of Aden, thus declaring the re-unification of the country and ending once and for all the past state of division. On that same day he was elected the chairman of the presidential council.

- He was elected for the chairmanship of the presidential council by the elected parliament on October 16, 1993.

- He resisted all attempts to disintegrate the nation and firmly resisted the secessionist conspiracy. He led the battles for the defense of the unity and protection of democracy and constitutional legitimacy during the war period and following the secessionists' declaration, who waged the war of summer 1994 until the great victory was achieved for Yemen unity and will of the Yemeni people on July 7, 1994.

- He was elected president of the republic by the council of deputies on October 1st, 1994 following constitutional amendments endorsed by the council on September 28, 1994.

- On December 24 th 1997, the council of deputies approved granting him the rank of Marshal in appreciation of his national and historic role in building the new Yemen.

- He exerted all his efforts for the sake of realizing a comprehensive developmental revival in Yemen. Among the most prominent strategic accomplishments achieved under his leadership are re-building the great Marib Dam, extraction of oil and gas, realizing a huge agricultural development and creating the free zone in Aden.

- He is the founder of the modern Yemeni state based on democratic, plurality, freedom of the press, freedom of opinion and counter-opinion, respect of human rights and the principles of peaceful exchange of power.

- He is married and has a number of children, the eldest son is Ahmed.



Introduction

Allah in His Holy Book calls on Muslims to stick to grouping and do not resort to division "and remember Allah's grace who made you brothers after you were enemies", and says that the honor of hoisting the banner of Allah on earth "was feared by heavens, earth and mountains and accepted by the human being."

And peace by upon the messenger of Allah his family and all his Sahaba.

Our Yemeni nation is witnessing this year one of its most important political events, which represents a prominent and qualitative turnover along the path of deepening its unionist and democratic march. It is the people's free and direct elections of the president of the country which will be held for the first time in our national history according to the constitution which stated that president of the country is to be elected for two terms each stretching for five years. It has registered a turning point and a very important step toward bolstering the democratic process and crystallizing the principle of peaceful exchange of power. It has also led the people into the 21st century with confidence, bright hope, solid with and belief that Yemeni future will be more developing, modernizing and integrated with changes of the age in addition to its political, economic, social, cultural and scientific challenges. The free and direct elections, on all levels, represent an embodiment of the people's free will and an execution of the constitutional principle which affirms that the people are the owner of the authority and its source. Elevating this process to the level of direct and competitive elections for the presidency clearly indicates that the doctrine of peaceful circulation of power, which is the highest rank in a democratic process, had become a de facto situation and not merely hopes, dreams or imaginations.

All this proved that the general political system in Yemen has matured to pave the way for such an important and qualitative event in the history of Yemen, to continue the building of the modern Yemeni state, the state of institutions, law and order, the state of the Yemeni human who aspires towards elevation to the rank of advanced and modern political societies.

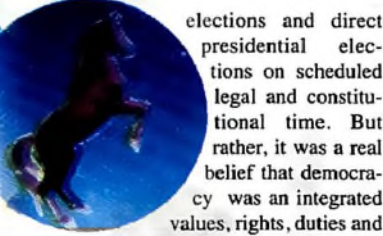
The Yemeni people today, through indulging in the experiment and new leap, affirm that their awareness and practice of shoura and democracy were in extension of an old heritage called for the Islamic Sharia.

Democracy is our model means toward building institution bodies, deepening national unity and achieving comprehensive development.

Historic march of the political life of Yemen ever since the era of Shebans until present state of blessed unity near the end of the second millennium indicate that the system of shoura and democracy had displayed that the Yemeni people always rejected tyrannical and dictatorial regimes. It also affirmed that popular struggle is based on freedom as an essential right, since freedom is an instinct that Almighty Allah had set in humans.

Ali Abdullah Saleh has proven in all his stands, commitments and pledges that he would never alienate himself from the people's march, who believes in the Islamic creed and tolerant sharia and who defends their national unity, social justice and economic development. He has also been struggling for the defense of democracy, public and individual freedoms, human rights, security, stability and social peace.

The keenness of Ali Abdullah Saleh President of the Republic and Chairman of the PGC, on consolidation the democratic march and peaceful circulation of power was reflected in his adoption of the constitutional amendments limiting the President's term of office to only constitution was not merely meant as a democratic commitment for holding general



elections and direct presidential elections on scheduled legal and constitutional time. But rather, it was a real belief that democracy was an integrated values, rights, duties and mechanics in a state power whose is emanated from the people. It is a state in which doctrines of freedom, equality and justice among people prevail over their inter-relations along with relations between its various social and political organizations side by side with doctrines of social cooperation and peace.

All the above-mentioned is linked to protection of national unity within the framework of the abidance of all individuals and groups by the constitution, law and general discipline. Such a trend would, no doubt, provide an elevating feeling of national responsibility in addition to spreading confidence among all individuals, social organizations and political groupings towards the future of the nation and its political, social and economic regime.

This is the way Ali Abdullah Saleh thinks and works and along that path he walks for the sake of asserting the basics of life, democratic practice, institutional unity and achieving comprehensive development. Many great historical accomplishments were achieved under the leadership of Ali Abdullah Saleh, President of the Republic and chairman of the PGC along the past 21 years in cooperation with all benevolent national forces. As a result, many important and strategic steps were realized on all national, political, economic and developmental levels.

Prominent among which are :

First : The Restoration of Yemeni unity and affirming constitutional legitimacy as a great of historic accomplishment that embraced the dream of the Yemeni generations. It also reflected their national and social ambitions and aspirations of a safe and stable future that is full of development and progress.

Second : Finding the institutional construction of the modern Yemeni state in addition to asserting security and stability, and achieving comprehensive revival in the country.

Third : Stressing the democratic march, making it one of the stable foundations of national unity, human rights and peaceful circulation of power.

Fourth : Walking firmly along the road of comprehensive economic and social development and starting the implementation of important strategic projects topped by :

- Exploring and exploiting oil and gas.
- Building the basic cornerstone of the free zone in Aden.
- Constructing roads, harbors and airports in their capacity as the economy's main infrastructure.

- Developing social services in the fields of public and academic education, along with medical services, and spiritual and cultural build up.
- Upgrading transport, communications, information, culture, tourism and trade services.
- Establishing electricity, water and sewerage installations along with granting increased concern to health environment and municipal services.

- Setting appropriate demographic policies, catering for maternity and childhood and paying attention to family issues in its capacity as the first nucleus of the society.
- Creating a social security network to provide work opportunities, achieving social integration, elevating people's living conditions and consolidating their participation is economic, social and cultural development.
- Giving concern to tourism, hotel services and granting necessary facilities to uplift tourism services.
- Encouraging women and urging them to participate political, economic and social development.

Fifth : Re-structuring the economy and introducing structural and financial reforms as an important step towards ren-

naissance and constant development.

- Achieving major and tangible successes in economic and financial reforms and restructuring, in addition to providing more investment opportunities domestically and international and boosting confidence in Yemeni economy.
- Halting economic deterioration, establishing financial and monetary balance and protecting national currency from collapse.
- Providing the principle of economic freedom, increasing competition chances, fighting all forms of monopoly and working for abolishing all financial and administrative corruption.
- Developing investment laws and organizing dealings with the private sector to attract more national, Arab and foreign capital to invest in all sectors.

Sixth : Realizing administrative reforms as an important step towards institutionalizing a modern state.

- Affirming the doctrine of administrative and financial decentralization and working for applying the system of local rule.
- Reforming the civil service body and keeping the public jobs neutral and away from any partisan or political impacts in addition to linking between rights and duties, and balancing authority with responsibility.
- Stressing respect of law, regulations and doctrines of justice and equality between citizens in addition to supporting the basic rule of reward and punishment in evaluation of performance.
- Highlighting transparency in dealings and boosting role of observation on all levels.

Seventh : Laying down principled basis for reforming the judiciary reaching to social peace and to provide security and stability in addition to the doctrine of the supremacy of law and order.

- Setting a comprehensive program for judicial reform.
- Controlling public security, combating anti-religious manners and anti-social traditions, and underlining doctrines of tolerance and human detente.
- Fighting all forms of terrorism and rejecting fanaticism in addition to constant call for dialogue, and fraternal and civilizational understanding.
- Protecting the basic human rights and setting legal guarantees for them.
- Providing the principle of total independence of the judiciary, and safety and integrity of the judges. Protecting the citizens against oppression and judicial corruption, for justice is the basis of power and an insurance of stability in various dealings.

Eighth : Building the armed forces and security apparatus on appropriate national basis and guaranteeing their allegiance to national belief, safeguarding constitutional legitimacy and protection of national sovereignty, law and order.

Ninth : Adopting a balanced foreign policy that is based on frankness, truth, equality and mutual interest in addition to providing chances for peace, security and stability in the region and the world at large.

- Pursuing a foreign policy based on non-intervention in others' internal affairs and respecting people's will in choosing political systems.
- Rejecting the use or threatening force in settling differences and resorting to dialogue and peaceful solutions in addition to affirming laws and respecting international legitimacy.
- Backing the national legitimate rights of the Arab people in liberty, independence and full national sovereignty.
- Contributing seriously in providing conditions of peace, security and stability in the region.
- Establishing relations based on mutual benefits, balanced development and increasing opportunities of a just partnership in all economic, social and cultural fields.
- Supporting the non-aligned movement and regional and international organizations seeking to back up national development, improving conditions for international merger and boosting positive dialogue for the sake of improving globalization in its capacity as an important phenomenon of the new world order.

- Asserting serious endeavors for international cooperation in environment protection, combating terrorism and drug trafficking, elimination of mass destruction weapons, fighting organized crime and rejecting all forms of religious and racist fanaticism, and racial discrimination.
- Affirming total bias to human rights issues, public freedoms, freedom of the press and constant backing to social institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The Elections Program

Consolidating the Building of the Modern Yemeni State National Unity, Democracy and Comprehensive

Development are our Means to Progress This program, which we present to the people, is the summary of the mature experience of Ali Abdullah Saleh in the field of national, unionist, democratic and developmental arena. It is the national program for the upcoming stage that calls for right, justice and peace and for development, progress and welfare. The is could be only feasible through the following :

First : Bolstering the institutional building of the modern, democratic Yemeni state, the state of justice, law and order, and social justice.

- 1- Deepening democratic march in the country's political life and in various institutions.

- 2- Making humans and public freedoms the basic aim in practice through protection dignity, blood, honor and money of the Yemeni citizens.
- 3- Affirming popular participation in governing the country by applying the local rule which is based on decentralization.
- 4- Continuing with the administrative reform program and executing the civil service law regarding the public jobs in addition to ensuring their neutrality and elevating qualitative performance of employees.

- 5- Re-structuring the government and public sector to guarantee more competence and erase corrupt practices.
- 6- Establishing balance and harmony between the authority and the responsibility in addition to setting up measures for efficiency.
- 7- Attaching special concern to popular non-governmental activity so as to serve as a popular back up to economic, social, cultural and political development.
- 8- Granting syndicated, unions, societies and non-government at organizations full freedom of organizing themselves and of working on voluntary and democratic basis in addition to helping them in performing their social and humanitarian missions.
- 9- Elevating freedom of the press and ensuring freedom of expression to its noblest goals.
- 10- Giving special attention to family, childhood and women including their legitimate rights as stipulated in the constitution.
- 11- Implementing the document for judicial reform in addition to developing all courts and public prosecution to boost respect of the judiciary. Affirming neutrality and independence of the judiciary, making it one of the basic factors in the institutional building of the country.
- 12- Improving status of jails, detention facilities and reform institutions in their capacity as rehabilitation centers.
- 13- Developing the system of commercial arbitration for the sake of stabilizing dealing and boosting confidence in it to serve market economy and encouraging local and foreign investments.
- 14- Paying more concern to maintaining efforts for the sake of building the qualitative ability of the armed forces and security apparatus to bolster the country's defense capability. The should be firm commitment to protecting constitutional legitimacy and banning partisan activities within them to ensure their allegiance to Allah, the nation and the revolution.
- 15- Upgrading level of training and introducing modern technology in the military and security fields to meet development requirements in armaments.
- 16- Consolidating procedures and activating laws dealing with means of stabilizing security and stability in the society in

- 17- Expanding the economic, financial and administrative reform process into a constant operation to regulate performance and treat any mistakes in economic and administrative conditions.
- 18- Expanding the network of social security and related projects along with finding work opportunities to ease unemployment in a way that would expand the number of the beneficiaries especially the limited income groups.
- 19- Encouraging investment and enabling the private sector to perform its role in the production process and to increase its contribution in boosting national economy. Drafting detailed studies and finding an informational data base that would help adopt investment decisions by businessmen.
- 20- Paying concern to agriculture and working for drafting a strategy for food security in Yemen specially adopting a strict water policy and introducing modern irrigation systems.
- 21- Encouraging farmers and directing them toward planting crops that would be exported or industrialized.
- 22- Giving more importance to fisheries and protection of water wealth and marine environment against robbery and destruction. This should include passing legislation and endorsing strict observation to eliminate the random exploitation of fish-

- 23- Asserting the principle of respecting national sovereignty of all countries and the non-interference in internal affairs along with rejecting the use of or threatening force in settling disputes. Respecting international laws, adopting the doctrine of dialogue understanding and peaceful - and just solutions. Establishing a balance of interests and rights among nations and non-adoption of double dealings in international relations and concepts in addition to endorsing the doctrines of justice, peace,

- 24- Developing investment in the fishing sector and linking it to the process of industrialization and organized export along with encouraging popular contribution in those processes.
- 25- Executing the project of exploiting natural gas for purposes of liquefaction, export and energy generation in addition to using it in petrochemical, convertible industries and local consumption.
- 26- Expanding the basis of investment and exploration of oil, mineral and construction materials including increasing field surveys and encouraging local cadres to work in this important and vital sector.
- 27- Catering for local industries and establishing industrial areas. Creating a national industrial environment, entering a strategic partnership that would ensure the transfer appropriate technology, the use of local raw materials and encouraging small handicrafts.
- 28- Finding the material necessities for converting tourism into a basic and important supporter to economic development and a source of foreign currency.
- 29- Maintaining concern with establishing and modernizing communications and postal services in various areas of the republic in addition to organizing means of transport to sole problems of distribution, movement of goods and export of products.
- 30- Increasing electricity generation and constructing distribution networks in addition to encouraging local and foreign private sector to invest in this sphere.
- 31- Continuing the implementation of sewerage projects for main and secondary cities, paying more attention to cleanliness and environment along with spreading public awareness on this vital subject. Providing clean water for distant areas and providing stability factors for their inhabitants.
- 32- Exerting constant efforts for the elevation of labor values, culture and production in addition to elevating the youths' capabilities to indulge in private work and grant them facilities in various sectors.
- 33- Supporting aspects of social development topped by rehabilitation programs for the handicapped and the elderly. Encouraging private cooperatives and paying concern to investing the pension and social security funds.
- 34- Maintaining support to youth and supporting sportive activities and continuing the construction of sportive installations in all governorates.
- 35- Consolidating informational endeavor and all its institutions to cope with the efforts for political, economic and cultural development in addition to endorsing its national unionist content. Paying concern to the information service broadcast to the foreign countries so as to reflect a true image of life in Yemen and to confront smear campaigns against our nation, democratic experience and developmental march by enemies of the country.
- 36- Expanding cultural activities, arts and science with all its branches along with child culture, youth and family.
- 37- Paying more attention to sermons and guidance to spread public awareness of the Islamic religion's doctrines and values in addition to deepening the spirit of tolerance and national unity. Strict implementation of Waqf, preserving and protecting property of the Waqf and regulating the construction of mosques and maintaining their religious, educational and guidance role.

- 38- Enhancing the role of Yemen in maintaining security, stability and peace in the region and the world at large in a way that boosts relations on the basis of common interest and mutual respect.

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addition to organizing the phenomenon of carrying weapons and fighting terrorism. Combatting any attempt to infringe on security of citizens and tourists since such deviations are rejected by all heavenly creeds and Yemeni traditions.

Second : Making constant and comprehensive development a continuous national struggle, and real partnership between the state and the citizen within and outside the nation, and between Yemen and the world.

- 1- Allocating development efforts for the sake of elevating the Yemeni citizen's living conditions in addition to mobilizing material and financial potential so as to use them in an ideal manner. Finding a large base for small investment ventures and creating a stock exchange to develop the country's free economic system.
- 2- Expanding and strengthening basic and economic infrastructure especially the building of roads, airports, harbors, electricity generation stations, irrigation installations, industrial and storage areas, coastal and fishing service centers, air and sea travel services, telecommunications and developing internal and external trade transactions.
- 3- Paying more concern to public education and vocational and professional training and rehabilitation through adopting a national educational strategy.
- 4- Attaching special importance to demographic and environmental issues in their capacity as vital questions of economic, social and humanitarian dimensions.
- 5- Confronting the issue of water shortage seriously and drafting a national strategy to run water resources along with continuing the construction of dams and water reserves through integrating official and public efforts.
- 6- Setting national priorities for promoting important economic resources represented in oil and gas, tourism, fishery, agriculture along with expanding the system of free zones and improving Yemeni islands.
- 7- Giving more importance to health programs and catering for maternity and childhood, preventive programs and improving the citizens' health awareness. Expanding in construction of specialized hospitals and attracting national and foreign medical efficient cadres to work in them to limit treatment abroad in addition to expanding in construction of clinics and health services in all areas of the country.
- 8- Preparing the second five-year economic and social development plan for the years 2001-2005 within a comprehensive strategy that targets realizing the most important developmental goals of :
- 9- Elevating the continued upgrading of production and service sectors, establishing coordination and integration among the production, distribution and local and foreign marketing processes including the removal of all obstacles facing the export of local products.
- 10- Converting the economic, financial and administrative reform process into a constant operation to regulate performance and treat any mistakes in economic and administrative conditions.
- 11- Expanding the network of social security and related projects along with finding work opportunities to ease unemployment in a way that would expand the number of the beneficiaries especially the limited income groups.
- 12- Encouraging investment and enabling the private sector to perform its role in the production process and to increase its contribution in boosting national economy. Drafting detailed studies and finding an informational data base that would help adopt investment decisions by businessmen.
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Third : Enhancing the role of Yemen in maintaining security, stability and peace in the region and the world at large in a way that boosts relations on the basis of common interest and mutual respect.

- 1- Asserting the principle of respecting national sovereignty of all countries and the non-interference in internal affairs along with rejecting the use of or threatening force in settling disputes. Respecting international laws, adopting the doctrine of dialogue understanding and peaceful - and just solutions. Establishing a balance of interests and rights among nations and non-adoption of double dealings in international relations and concepts in addition to endorsing the doctrines of justice, peace,

- 2- Working on a foreign policy that would bolster Yemen's relations with sisterly countries in the Peninsula and Gulf in addition to promoting cooperation with them to establish an integrate relationship in all fields.
- 3- Maintaining peaceful negotiations and fraternal dialogue to solve the border dispute with brothers in Saudi Arabia on the basis of no harm done to either party.
- 4- Keeping constant support to the Palestinian people to restore their full legitimate rights and backing all their options including the right to an independent state on national soil with Jerusalem as its capital. Realizing just and comprehensive peace in the region and aiding the struggle of the Syrian and Lebanese peoples for the liberation of their occupied territories in addition to maintaining the call for restoring Arab solidarity and boosting the role of the Arab League. Regulating the convening of the Arab summits, exerting efforts towards a Pan-Arab conciliation to confront challenges and dangers against the Arab Nation and finding new methods to upgrade joint Arab action on all levels.
- 5- Bolstering relations with countries of the Horn of Africa and east Africa including sharing Africa in finding peace and stability to its peoples to preserve safety and security of the Red Sea, protect its environment, coasts and natural resources. Finding means for regional cooperation among littoral countries of the Indian Ocean.
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the Organization of Islamic Conference in support of just Islamic questions and enhancing dialogue among various religions in service of international peace.

- 7- Affirming Yemen's principled stance in the rejection of violence and all forms of terrorism and all kinds of racial or religious discrimination.
- 8- Consolidating efforts for reforming the U.N., the security council and all affiliate bodies.
- 9- Supporting the call for increasing role of regional and international institutions working in the field of economic and social spheres and exerting efforts for the sake of benefiting from their activity in Yemen's comprehensive development program.
- 10- Constant development of Yemen's ties with sisterly and friendly countries especially those backing its development process in all fields.
- 11- Backing international efforts targeting combat of organized crime, drug, trafficking, contagious diseases and environment pollution in addition to backing efforts for the elimination of mass destruction weapons in a just manner away from double dealing or selection in execution of international resolutions.
- 12- Boosting the role of the non-aligned movement and elevating its performance to face new challenges facing the developing nations in addition to enhancing Yemen's relations with all international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, protection of public freedoms and attaining justice and equality among peoples

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Together towards the 21 st century and the third millennium

security and stability.

- 2- Working on a foreign policy that would bolster Yemen's relations with sisterly countries in the Peninsula and Gulf in addition to promoting cooperation with them to establish an integrate relationship in all fields.
- 3- Maintaining peaceful negotiations and fraternal dialogue to solve the border dispute with brothers in Saudi Arabia on the basis of no harm done to either party.
- 4- Keeping constant support to the Palestinian people to restore their full legitimate rights and backing all their options including the right to an independent state on national soil with Jerusalem as its capital. Realizing just and comprehensive peace in the region and aiding the struggle of the Syrian and Lebanese peoples for the liberation of their occupied territories in addition to maintaining the call for restoring Arab solidarity and boosting the role of the Arab League. Regulating the convening of the Arab summits, exerting efforts towards a Pan-Arab conciliation to confront challenges and dangers against the Arab Nation and finding new methods to upgrade joint Arab action on all levels.
- 5- Bolstering relations with countries of the Horn of Africa and east Africa including sharing Africa in finding peace and stability to its peoples to preserve safety and security of the Red Sea, protect its environment, coasts and natural resources. Finding means for regional cooperation among littoral countries of the Indian Ocean.
- 6- Strengthening cooperation relations among all Islamic countries including trade exchange and economic, technical and cultural cooperation. Boosting role of

the Organization of Islamic Conference in support of just Islamic questions and enhancing dialogue among various religions in service of international peace.

- 7- Affirming Yemen's principled stance in the rejection of violence and all forms of terrorism and all kinds of racial or religious discrimination.
- 8- Consolidating efforts for reforming the U.N., the security council and all affiliate bodies.
- 9- Supporting the call for increasing role of regional and international institutions working in the field of economic and social spheres and exerting efforts for the sake of benefiting from their activity in Yemen's comprehensive development program.
- 10- Constant development of Yemen's ties with sisterly and friendly countries especially those backing its development process in all fields.
- 11- Backing international efforts targeting combat of organized crime, drug, trafficking, contagious diseases and environment pollution in addition to backing efforts for the elimination of mass destruction weapons in a just manner away from double dealing or selection in execution of international resolutions.
- 12- Boosting the role of the non-aligned movement and elevating its performance to face new challenges facing the developing nations in addition to enhancing Yemen's relations with all international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights, protection of public freedoms and attaining justice and equality among peoples

With the participation of delegations from 26 countries, the Women's Conference concluded with the answer of the question **How Can Women Play a more Significant Role in Yemen?**

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

The International Conference on Challenges of Women's Studies in the 12th century held during the period 12-14 September in Sanaa was a stronghold landmark. It tried to gather people from different countries to share views and experiences in the field of women's studies and the challenges faced by them. The conference is also good for the Yemeni women to exchange ideas with more experienced people in the field of women studies. To shed more light on the importance of this conference and how it can be helpful for the Yemeni women, Yemen Times conducted the following interviews with different participants from different countries.

Here is what they said.

Elmazabinader, a professor, writer and performer from California, United States, said: "This conference has two points of importance for me; one of



them is that I am very interested in the development of women studies in the Arab countries because they need so much work to evolve so that they can help women throughout the region. Secondly, the importance for me personally as having connection with the people of Yemen through a topic which is important to us.

I am basically presenting and talking about the way women tell stories to tell the history of the family and the country and I do that by presenting my home stories of my family and by talking how women can present stories about their families and countries in their culture.

I think we will be helpful by showing women if they have enough shared experiences with one another. Not only in the same culture and country but across countries and across the world. That even if there are different problems in terms of economic or political power. These are similar concerns about the family and how to make advancement in education.

I think the Yemeni women are very ambitious women who want to see themselves developed. One of the ways that they do is that by sharing and exchanging views with women from the rest of the world and by making connections with other women. The thing that impressed me most here is the involving of men in this conference. In the USA if you had a similar conference, there will be very few men. The support of men to women is very important because it helps them feel strength in their concerns. The position of women varies in Arabian areas from that in villages. There are some women who have economic power and education, consequently they are in better conditions than women who do not have education and economic power. I believe that women are not in a tradition of speaking up or taking a voice especially here in Yemen. However, because of their ambition and desire they will do something. In order to develop the Yemeni

women, I think first of all women have to be healthy and they need to be safe. That is because the issues of health and safety have to be addressed first. Then women have to be educated and given some kind of economic stability. In that way, they can speak themselves up, have their own literacy, express themselves and take care of themselves when the situation becomes difficult for their families to survive. Finally, I love being here. This is my second trip to Yemen. It is still my favorite country in the world and I am so excited to see the Yemeni people have great energy to see themselves grow and develop."

Dr. Annalies Moores, social and specialist from Tilpury University, Netherlands, said the following: "I am here to participate in assertion about law and that is because I will do a



paper to show the impact of women studies on the way how in the west studies are done about family law. So I will make a comparison between how before women's studies came to being people wrote about family law and how it changed after that. What I mean is that the old orientals used to emphasize very much the classical family law. There was a great emphasis on the negative situation of women, now new studies influenced by women's studies and theories put more emphasis on the way they look on what women themselves are able to do with respect to family law. So it is not sim-



ply a question of being negative but also looking at the opportunities and possibilities if they are available to women, like for instance the possibilities they have for getting their own property by means of dowry or that of inheritance right, etc. So the elements that are positive are much more highlighted nowadays. That is a strong difference from women studies because in women studies you do not only look at women as how they are victims but you look at how they are active. Another difference is that in the old oriental studies women are seen as one group, however, in the new studies they are recognized that there are many differences between women according to classes.

I think this conference is very important to Yemeni women not simply to talk about the problems Yemeni women are facing, which are very real, but also to focus on the activities women employ both in organizations and in the individual level as well. For example, how a woman tries to negotiate her relations with her husband based on the fact that she has access to her dowry. Also, to look at points of strengths from the Yemeni culture. There are positive points, such as, the strong segregation in Yemen between women and men, which can give women certain strength that they can use. So it is not that women are excluded from the public world. But you can also see in which ways women managed to be active in the public world. Secondly, what source of strengths these strong women's ties proved."

Tineke M. Willemsen, a professor of Women studies, said "the focus of my paper is a study over many countries in Europe on the divisions of work and that of house tasks between men and women. More women are going to participate in the labor force working, but at the same time they have to do the tasks at home. However, there are differences in this situation among countries. So we try to find out using theoretical model what exactly influences and "who does what?". To put it simply, I can say that in order



to understand how men and women live we have to look at the cultural level as a whole in a certain country. Moreover, to look at individuals to see what opinions, attitudes, feelings are about women and men should do. Because it is not only, for example, an economic decision to go to work for a woman, for it has also to do with whether a marriageable woman should do this or not. We are trying in our project to combine both levels of research on the level of culture, nation as a whole and on the level of the individual, and to combine this into a model to explain why the division does not work. In the end of my paper, I propagate that it would be good if we could do such kind of researches in Yemen and in the Middle East as whole to compare the different countries in this respect, to see the differ-

ences though there are a lot of similarities in terms of culture, religion and language. On the other hand, there is a very big difference between the situation of women in Yemen and women in Saudi Arabia, Gulf countries in general. It would be interesting to find out what the cultural factors are and what the opinions of men and women are that make the situation different. There are many experts from different countries who show that women can do researches, studies and be successful. There are also a number of scholars about development projects, how you can support women in their struggle. If this got published and spread then I think it will be very good. The Yemeni women could use such a gathering to get the best of it."

Dr. Reina Lewis, from the University of East London, in the United Kingdom, said the following: "I am here to give a paper at the conference. I have been working on Turkish women writers from the early of the twentieth century. They are writing in English for the European and North American English. They are writing about the Middle East and female life. What they are doing specifically is challenging westerners about the life of women studies.

The challenges of women in the Middle East based upon many things; on work, education and the ability to take advantage of educational opportunities that may be available chosen. We need to assist their right within the family to have access to the health care quality for themselves and their families, and to be able to frame the aspirations for themselves as individuals and members of the communities. They need to be supported by the national and international structures and local organizations.

I think this conference is very important as regional and international. There are scholars and activists who are working in related field to get together to learn each other's experiences and get work from each other. I really impressed by the work they do and the existing links they have with other centers of women studies in the Arab as well as the international World. I also admire very much their ability to formalize these links. I also believe that the academic work of people's concern for women studies and the issues of development are always political and personal, so I do not see these two things as separate. For example, my work in London University, concerned with literary studies, is not specifically in politics or health studies or women studies. Looking to the voices of the autumn in the Middle East is a very important way of attending to the voices who are suppressed or silent. I think that it is very important for students of all religious denomina-



tion to understand that women have voices to speak about themselves, to find a critical framework and to make studies and to think of them as created people."

Eqball Barakah, Editor-in-Chief of "Hawa" Magazine in Egypt said the following: "I graduated from the Department of English in Alexandria University and from the Arabic Department in Cairo University. The focus of my paper is women. I am very much interested in women's status and problems. I have written short stories, novels, scripts for movie and TV. All I can do is that I am trying to express my own views through these forms of writings.

I do not have any paper because I am only going to talk about the image of women in the Arabic women's magazines.

I think that the most dangerous challenges is illiteracy because we are reading and we are not sure that 80% of women are receiving what we are writing because they can not read. This is a real problem. Usually, we are writing to each other, to the highly educated who do not need to be informed. So, I think it is the role of the media, TV and the radio to help in this problem.

This conference is very important because studies are a major item now. We have to think very deeply about them, they are dangerous at the same time because in some cases we have foreigners who are coming to our countries under the label of making studies and you do not know what they are doing in such conferences. So, we have to be very careful about this because some times they go back with wrong ideas and images. They assert themselves that women in these countries are treated very harshly in the Arab Society. The sexuality of women is a very important thing, and all are usually interested on. When it comes to our universities in most cases studies can not be read by normal people who are graduated from schools because they are not ready or are not used to reading highly academic studies. So,



what I am doing in "Hawa" is something like a study in a very simple language to be read by middle class women and families. For example, in the last few weeks I wrote about sexual Arabic writers made by jurists. I have been reading different books and simplified them. I did that to criticize and analyze the image of women in these books, such as "Tohfat Alaroos wa Motat Alnufoos", which is a very old book. The image of woman in that book is completely sexual, nothing but sex. They do not think of her as a human being. Furthermore, they do not care about her own feelings. It was written as I said by a man to men, and it has nothing to do with women. They look at here as a doll and as some goods. They are only concerned about how to buy the best one in order to enjoy themselves be happy.

I have written fifteen books through which I made all my ideas clear. The last one is a political criticism which used to be published in weekly articles in "Roz Elyosef" Magazine, in which I was criticizing the officials in the government. It was funny, I collected all these articles in a book titled "Fadfadahand" which I am really very proud of."

اختيار سيندي كروفورد



كونستبلشن
أوميغا - صنع سويسري منذ 1848

Omega -- my choice Cindy Crawford

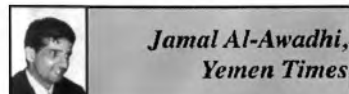


The sign of excellence

وكالة اتحاد الساعات السويسرية
عبد الرحمن نصر محمد المعمرى وأولاده

صنعاء، شارع النصر - ت: 01/27 28 27، فاكس: 01/27 24 79، ص: 3732
تعز، شارع 26 سبتمبر - ت: 04/22 79 43، فاكس: 04/22 83 28، ص: 5384
معدن، شارع الميدان - ت: 02/25 66 88، فاكس: 02/25 66 80، ص: 5384
الجمهورية اليمنية

Immigration and Passports Authority: 'We need a lot of support to carry our duty properly' Trying to Control Fake Yemeni IDs



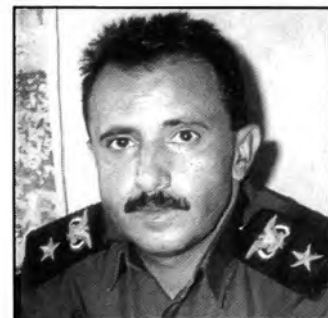
Jamal Al-Awadhi, Yemen Times

It is very easy to any person, who has a Yemeni father and a foreign mother to get an identification card or passport. The complicated process which was practiced before, never exists any more. The one who wants to get a passport has just to show the possible proof, and then get it easily. I have seen this process being practiced in the passport authority, in spite of the humility of authority facilities. Most of the employees try to do the best in their work. Therefore, a number of foreigners got Yemeni passports to use them in travel or in any other areas of the Republic to improve their affairs. The new passport is a big achievement for the Authority Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Najad and his employees. In addition to this, the accurate investigations which being done in some doubtful cases is one of these good achievements.

"Some half-breeds persons do not give us the true information.. Hence we refer them to investigation and then to prosecution."

Yemen Times did an exploration to Passport and Immigration Authority to know the fact of what is happening there. It also supervised the process of getting passports, talked with the employees and did the following interviews:

Abdulhamed Saleh Ali, an engineer: "The process of getting passports became better than before concerning the half-breed persons. Most of the immigrants or refugees who came from the



"They (immigrants) arrive in the country in an illegal way, and getting the Yemeni passport as means of travelling abroad."

neighboring countries went to get passports. They arrive in the country in an illegal way, and get the Yemeni passport as means of travelling abroad. Before it was very easy to get the Yemeni passport, which caused a bad reputation to Yemen because those people did many problems in different countries, and after long investigations with them, it was clear that they have Yemeni passports. We can say that these faults is caused by some employees in the authority".

Abdulrahman Basheir, Somalian: "I am a Somalian refugee, for the time being I am studying at Sana'a University. I have been in Yemen three and a half years. I renew my passport without any difficulty, except some difficulties while giving the residency for other nationalities, but I have learnt that they do this in response to security requirements. We have a nationality card given to us by the United Nations Association for Refugees Affairs.

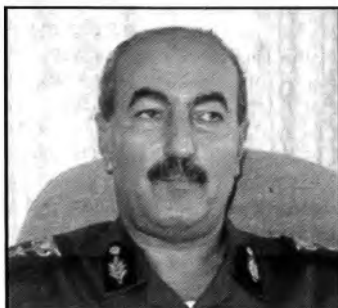


All these Yemeni IDs are simply fake

It simplifies the residence in Yemen for us, but we can not travel to any country. Indeed, we are treated respectively by the passports authority because we give them the true information.

Ali Honaish, Vice-Chairman of Sana'a passports authority: "The special treatments of passports is implemented in a normal way.

"The citizen has to fill the application according to the information of the identification card. As we interview with him, he should clarify to us if he is Yemeni or if he was just born in another country or lived there for a long period. Some half-breed persons do not give us the true information. For example, he writes in the application that he was born in Sana'a, but as we make our investigation, we discover that his father's nationality is Yemeni while his mother's is not. They need the passport just to travel out of Yemen. So, we discover that this problem is being in the personal status authority, the place where they can get identification cards. This fault is reflected negatively upon the country. When we discover something like this, we refer them to investigation and then to prosecution. Thereupon, any wrong which may happen in



people who speak the Yemeni Dialect well. They bring with them Yemenis, to show they are their brothers, but after a strict investigation, it is being clear that they are not Yemenis. However, every day, we face many cases like this, but it is difficult to forge a passport like the new one. Finally I ask the personal status authority to make an accurate investigation".

Fa'eq Ahmed Al-Adani, director of the computer department: "After we faced lots of problems, and as a number of different nationalities got Yemeni nationality in an illegal way, we began to make a strict treatments

A Somalian Refugee admits, only people who do not provide true information are treated well.



before issuing any passport. So, the new passport was issued in 1997. It is too difficult to forge a passport now. We use computer to stored information instead of putting them in archives. The computer webs are linked in eight governorates. Any one who get a passport from Sana'a for example, can not get it from Aden. We in the computer department get the information of the citizen

False Information provided by a non-Yemeni just to get a Yemeni ID

"Yemen is a member of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), so any member of this organization can discover in the airport if passports are legal or illegal."

the passport authority, we regard it as a responsibility of all. I ask everyone who would like to get a passport that he must give us the true information to avoid any difficulties. We arrested some Iraqi



before he can get the passport. We first make sure if the citizen never got a passport before. We also

"This strict investigation is being done in response to security requirements."

linked the passports web with the Yemeni Embassies. They also make sure of the information that come to them from the ones who want to get a passport. The new passport has been distinguished, which is being difficult to forge. In addition to this, Yemen is a member of International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), so

any member of this organization can discover in the airport if passports are legal or illegal. Regarding the half-breed Yemenis, they have to give us the right information about themselves".

Colonel, Mohammed Abdulqader Al-Ramli, vice-chairman of immigration authority: "The Yemeni passport is given to citizens according to accurate and clear conditions of the identification card. So, it is not a complicated problem if the citizens give their true information. This strict investigation is being done in response to securi-

ty requirements. Now, we simplify the process by deleting the guarantee. In spite of the personal activity of the authority, the bonus authority employees is very simple, they need more than what they are getting because they do a heavy work".

Dr. Mohammed Najad, Authority Chairman has affirmed to Yemen Times that the employees of the authority are taking special courses in the Computer and English language because it is necessary in this sector. Finally, he added "we welcome any support to the authority, and any new qualifications for the employees".



Yemen Telecommunication & Information Technology Co. Ltd.

A licensee of NIIT Lt. (a global I. T. services company engaged in computer education, software exports and consulting, having over 750 Education & Training Centers worldwide), requires the following personnel:

FACULTY

Profile: Graduate/Post-Graduate in Computer Science OR Diploma holder in relevant computer technologies with thorough knowledge of DOS, Windows NT, OFFICE 95/97, UNIX, C, C++. Knowledge of SQL server, Visual C++ and RDBMS required. Two years of relevant work experience required.

ACADEMIC COUNSELORS

Profile: Young graduate, with a pleasing personality and a flair for interacting with people to help them select the right course. Familiarity with standard Word Processing packages preferable.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Profile: Graduate with 2-3 years. Secretarial Experience, familiarity with Word Processing, Spread Sheet and Internet.

Excellent communication skills and good command over English & Arabic essential for all positions.

Mail/Fax detailed resume within 7 days, to:

The Personnel Manager, YTEL Ltd., (a Licensee of NIIT Ltd.),
Algeria St.
P. O. Box: 520, Sana'a
Tel: 265101
Fax: 207047
Email: ytel@.y.net.ye



Children: The Butterfiles of Heaven



By: Dr. Azza Mohammed Abdo Ghanem
Professor of Psychology

So much is being said these days about female rights and to some extent, children's rights. United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, humanitarian groups and even opportunists are wagging the same flag, though for diversified reasons. I will not be surprised if men started considering creating their own charter of rights, it is high time they started to entrench themselves somewhere along this complicated equation.

Let me share with you a beautiful article written by a poet from Dubai- Dr. Shihab Ghanem, who summarized the Islamic stance on children's rights:

"Islam is a comprehensive system that covers all aspects of life; including the spiritual, political, economic and social aspects. It pays great attention to the inter-family relationships, since the family is the building block of society. Both the Holy Quran and the sayings of the Prophet Mohammed (P) elaborate the rights of parents over their children, the rights of the husband and wife over one another and the duties of people towards their relatives. Similarly, the rights of children over their parents and the society at large are similarly elaborated". Shihab Ghanem then goes on to explain the first rights afforded to children 1400 years ago in order to protect them.

1- The Right to live and survival:

"And when the news of the birth of a female child is brought to any of them, his face becomes dark and he is filled with inward grief. He hides himself from the people because of the evil he has been informed. Shall he keep her with dishonor or bury her in the earth? Certainly evil is their decision". Surah Al-Nahl 16-58.

"And kill not your children for fear of poverty. We provide for them and for you. Surely, the killing of them is a terrible sin." Surah Al-Isra 17-31.

This is self-explanatory, but let me just add that before Islam, baby girls were buried alive. Islam, emphatically, stopped this practice. This was the survival dilemma then. Today, the survival dilemma is between primary health care.

2- The right to carry the biological father's name only:

"Call them (adopted children) by the names of their real fathers. That is more just in the sight of Allah" Surah al-Ahzab 33-5.

This does not forbid adoption in Islam, but rather the giving of the adopting parents name to a child whose name is known. This was also because of the confusion it could have caused in matrimony.

3- The importance of breastfeeding and nursing:

"The mothers shall breastfeed their babies for 2 years, that is for those who desire to complete the term of suckling, but the father of the child shall bear the cost of the mother's food and clothing on a reasonable basis". Surah Al-Baqarah 2-233.

If the mother could not breast feed or had no milk, a healthy foster mother was to be chosen carefully. Omer Ibn Alkhattab, the second Khalifa, set the first child allowance benefit in the history of mankind when he allocated an allowance to children when they were weaned.

4- The safeguarding of inheritance of children who lose parents:

"And give the orphans their property and do not exchange your bad things for their good ones, and devour not their substance by adding it to yours. Surely, this would be a great sin" Surah Al-Nisa 4-2.

Islam specified exactly the shares of each relative and child. Boys got the double of girls because males carried the responsibility for the family while girls did not. Except for this logical difference all children received equal shares and the parents cannot exclude them from inheritance, even if they wanted to bar them.

5- Government care of orphans and poor children- Bait-al-Mal

The treasury is responsible for taking care of them until they grow up.

6- The right to an education and upbringing

Seeking education in Islam is a duty of males and females. The Prophet (P) said "Teach your children, for they will face a time different from yours". "Seek education as far as China". In Islam whoever teaches young children well will be rewarded.

7- The right to be give love and compassion

The Prophet (P) would kiss his grand children and play with them, he even prolonged the prayer if they climbed on his back while paying. Omar was about to appoint a governor to one region, but refrained when he learnt that he never kissed his children, i.e. showed no compassion.

8- Equal treatment of boys and girls

The Prophet (P) encouraged equal treatment of all offsprings, boys and girls. "Your best children are the girls." "If you go home with gifts start with the girls."

These are some of the rights that Shihab Ghanem stressed. In addition, Islam sets the most intricate details about child development, nutrition, health care, cleanliness and guidance.

In Islam, children are like beautiful butterflies and most touching, is the way parents love and protect them, even when there are so many of them in the same extended family home. Often, it gets difficult for grand parents to remember all their names.

"a man of peace in a country that does not believe in peace" Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

Ayman Mohammed Nasser Mohammed
Attariq Chief Editor

In ongoing writing about the important moments in the life of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, it is important to highlight the role he played in the field of the non-official Yemeni strategy.

In a distinguished self-confidence and pride, he got into highly important issues that were double edged. He used to be at the center of things with the spirit of the professional warrior.

From the beginning of his career, he held issues that concerned Yemen; civilian organizations, press freedom, human rights, elections, etc. He even exceeded this, to reach Yemeni relations with other countries: the Yemeni-Saudi relationship, the Yemeni-Eritrean relationship and other issues on international levels. He, many times, appeared on different satellite channels defending the political attitudes of Yemen. This led a lot of people inside, as well as outside Yemen to raise the question, why is such a man not placed in the Ministry of Exterior?

Among these issues, "peace" in the Mideast was at the top of Al-Saqqaf's agenda. He showed a mature prospect for what our attitude towards the issue of peace with Israel should be.

In February 1995, the Attariq weekly newspaper disapproved what Dr. Al-Saqqaf wrote in his weekly column, Our Viewpoint, about the Israelis after his coming back from Jordan. He wrote "I spent the better of last week in Amman, Jordan. My hosts reserved for me at the Forte Grand Hotel, which is also a place Israeli delegates use as their base in their dealings with the Jordanian officials. My first contact with them was at the lobby. The Hebrew language was quite visible, and I felt it. You bet, I avoided "them."

Then a couple of times, I was "stuck" in elevators with "them." I felt a little bit awkward. As much as I tried to avoid thinking about my "temporary" situation, I could not. The main question that kept coming back to me was, "What did I have against these people, other than the brain-washing of the years?"Most Arabs were raised to hate Israelis, and even Jews..... Most of these people I met in elevators, coffee shops and the lobby were nice, and some were even lovely and attractive."

That time we commented: "here is Dr. Al-Saqqaf trying to pave the way for normalization with Israel." Two years later, I met with Dr. Al-Saqqaf and listened to his stand-points which were based on sound proofs, and was convinced of his opinions.

There was something in common between the late Dr. Al-Saqqaf and Dr. Abdu Al-Kareem Al-Iriany in their attitude towards the peace process in the Middle East. Both of them insisted on Yemen having a role in the pushing forward of the peace process in the Mideast. This common point between the two men did not change Dr. Al-Saqqaf's attitude towards Dr. Al-Iriany, which was full of displeasure with the spread of Al-Iriany lobby in the administrative system as well as the diplomatic corps.

In 24/03/1997, the Yemen Times met with Mosa Al-Shar'aby, the President of the Yemeni Jews Community in America during his visit to Yemen. The interview was published during the parliamentary elections of April 1997 and I was asked by Dr. Al-Saqqaf to republish it in Arabic in Attariq newspaper. I hesitated a little bit in the beginning because I looked at it as a call for the normalization with the Jews, but he was able to persuade me of their right to inform their Yemeni brothers of their stand point. He told me how they were oppressed, even in Israel, and how their children were kidnapped to be sold in Europe and America to the rich families looking for children to adopt. At last, I was persuaded and the interview translation was published. Soon after it was published, I received a lot of phone calls and letters of disapproval and condemnation saying that it was a step towards normalization. In addition, I was warned against my relationship with Dr. Al-Saqqaf which, as they said, would lead me to regrettable consequences. I was calmed down by Dr. Al-Saqqaf who used to tell me, "Go on. Don't pay any attention to them, you will succeed and they will fail. Let's prove to all that we work for our homeland as well as the principles and values in which we believe and fight for. These principles are the freedoms and the human rights disregarding race, blood and religion." It was his humanitarian sense that caused him a lot of troubles in his life.

Regarding the peace issue, all the Yemeni authorities knew that Dr. Abdulaziz was Yemen's key to this field. The good level achieved by Dr. Al-Saqqaf on the international level in his life is considered to be a great achievement that the official organizations have been unable to achieve. Hence, I do hope that my colleague, Mr. Waleed Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf will follow the footsteps of his father and keep such relations hale and healthy.

A Society for the Handicapped, sometimes called: The Challenge Society

Ahlam Al-Khawliani
Yemen Times

It was established on October 14th, 1999. A lot of facilities were granted for it by the government, which also supported it financially. In fact, it depends heavily for its support on the non-governmental organizations, embassies, companies and the well-doers. Though the society has not completed a year since its start, people have responded to it in a remarkably fine way.

The Challenge Society does its best to help the handicapped women by providing them with all possible services. Sometimes the woman's handicapping can be treated, but due to the carelessness of the family or the lack of financial support, the situation might worsen. To avoid such a situation, the society puts health care at the top of its priorities. Education is also a priority. About 95% of the handicapped women are deprived of the right of education. This high rate of illiteracy among the handicapped women is a result of the financial condition of the family or the negligence of the family, which sometimes looks at the handicapped woman as a useless and helpless creature. Another priority which is as important as the previous ones is improving the handicapped financial condition. It is very hard to be a woman, handicapped and poor. These three dimensions are studied carefully by the society in order to reach a solution that will enable this

category to help themselves and their families.

When asked about the reason for the Society's separation from the Handicapped Society, Gamalah Al-Baidhani, Head of the Challenge Society, said, "We used to work for the Handicapped Society where the woman wasn't paid the proper attention. Day after day, the situation of the handicapped woman moved in wide steps from bad to worse. The handicapped woman was looked at as nothing more than an ignorant sewer. She has been ignored and marginalized, in spite of all of her great efforts in the social field. It was her disappointment with her condition in the Handicapped Society that led to the establishment of this separate society. In our new Society the handicapped woman enjoys her rights and she is the decision maker."

"The Society consists of the Administration Office, two sewing rooms, a room for nursery training, a room for housecraft training and a kitchen. It has seven members as well as seven employees. Of course, all of them are female and most of them are handicapped. Besides, there is a number of teachers and designers like the dress designer Nadheera Abdu Al-Galeel. Nadheerah is not handicapped and she is loved by all the handicapped who regard her as a mother. The number of the handicapped female studying in the Society is 85 between 6-30



years old, and it has the capacity to accept every handicapped female. In fact, all of us here form a family. We do never use terms like members or administration board, we do rather feel that we are all mothers, sisters and daughters."

"In cooperation with the International Society for Women, we have participated in seven exhibitions and one bazaar", said Al-Baidhani, "All the products of the Society were sold. We have met with a number of Yemeni ministers and discussed with them the issue of the handicapped, in order to include it in their programs."

The society serves all handicapped women, as well as the deaf and the dumb. "We are planning to open a classroom to teach the sign letters to the deaf and the dumb. As far as the tuition is concerned, we ask for only YR 100 and two photos. After this the enrolled

woman is given a card of membership which makes her entitled to join any training section in the society according to her interest and to what suits her. Moreover, two classrooms for eliminating illiteracy and teaching the young handicapped girls will be opened in the beginning of upcoming November. Regarding this point, I would like to thank the Minister of Education for his highly appreciated cooperation with us. After we discussed the problems of all the handicapped people in Yemen, The Minister positively responded to them and issued three decrees concerning this issue. The three decrees were the exemption of all the handicapped from tuition, mandatory acceptance of handicapped in schools and introducing some amendments in the schools' corridors, bathrooms and classrooms," said Gamala Al-Baidhani.

ANNOUNCEMENT For SCHOLARSHIP

In honor of Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd's 10th anniversary in Yemen and as a reflections of their friendship and commitments to assist in Yemen's human resource development as well as part of its initiative to establish an educational program to facilitate the post-secondary education of twenty Yemeni students in various selected Canadian Universities and Colleges. Canadian Occidental Petroleum Ltd. together with its partners in Yemen Republic Occidental Petroleum and Consolidated Contractors (CCC) - represented by the national steering committee - announces the following:-

- 1- The Second Phase of Ten (10) scholarships to commence in September, 2000.
- 2- The fields of study are in the following areas of specifications:-

Energy studies
Communications studies
Computer studies
Information Technology
Project Management
Food Processing
Accounting training relevant to the Petroleum Industry
Legal training relevant to the petroleum Industry
Environmental Studies.

- 3- The study period shall lead to a first University of College degree.

Requirement

Candidate must be:

- A Yemeni citizen
- Aged 19-25 years
- Have good English Language skills
- Score of 80% and above with high score in Maths and Science subjects in the Secondary School Certificate.
- Commitment to undergo up to 20 weeks English language course in Yemen, if necessary.
- Commitment to return to Yemen after completion of his/her studies in Canada.
- Submission of all the Required documents, that are listed in this announcement.

Selection:

Selection will be based on fulfillment of the entire above requirement personal interview and performance during the English language raining in Yemen. The attainment of level of 560 (five hundred and sixty) score in the TOEFL examination may ultimately be required for academic programs.

Required documents:

- An application form in English
- Certified copy of the secondary school certificate
- Certified copy of ID CARD of family card or Passport
- Six certified passport-size photos

- 4- The Steering Committee on behalf of Canadian Oxy and its partners, is committed to give al Yemeni applicants equal, fair and competitive opportunities.
- 5- Application and other forms can be obtained from the following addresses:

AMIDEAST, Inc
Algiers St., House No. (66)
Sana'a - Rep of Yemen
Tel: 01-206222/206942
Contact Person: Mr. Najeeb Al-Sharafi

Mohamed Ali Othman School:
Near Road Constr. Authority
Taiz.
Tel: 04-211247
Contact Person: Mr. AbdulHafiedh Al-Solwi

AMIDEAST, Inc.
Khormaksar, Near Dept. of Educ.
Aden
Tel: 02-235069
Contact Person: Mr. Shakeeb AbdulHamid

Hadramout University:
University Campus, Alfowah Area
(Previously Construction Area)
Mukalla, Rep. of Yemen
Tel: 7952290
Contact Person: Dr. Salim Awadh Ramoda

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Misconceptions about Democracy

While just the mere admission by a ruler that the position of Head of State is bound to be the object of public will and detriment in itself represents a significant breakthrough in the transformation of a country from autocratic rule to a viable democratic framework, it goes without saying that the process towards full democratic attainment and civil society in Yemen is far from being complete.

The latest "political campaign" effort for the Presidency of the Republic of Yemen seems to only underscore the need for substantial efforts to harness true political activism from downstream to upstream rather than from upstream to downstream, as the present political theatrics are flowing. There is no doubt in the mind of this observer that President Ali Abdullah Saleh is seriously desiring to have the election process for the office of the Presidency planted as a permanent institution in the political life of the Yemeni people and, it is the belief of this observer that this is a sincere desire of the President to gain a public mandate for his continuation as the undisputed leader of the country. In all fairness to him, this is an important step towards democratization. But, in all fairness to the Yemeni people and to the democratization process, should we acknowledge the fact that we have

gone as far as we need, to feel satisfied that the people are really the reason and the source of the desire for full democratization of the process of electing our officials to the important positions of state, especially those officials who truly stand for the aspirations and the interests of the people they are professing to stand for.

If not for anything else, we must look at the present election for the office of the Presidency of the Republic of Yemen as another learning step towards the right path that will lead to the democratization of Yemen. After all, democratization is not an overnight process that can be put in a bowl and placed in the oven overnight to ferment from the leftover heat from the previous days cooking, and the next day we shall have a full democracy in full swing, i.e. like making yogurt. When studying the democratization process in the more advanced countries of the world, which coincidentally are the countries that hold the fate of the world in their hands now, despite their disproportionate weight in size, numbers and possession of the resources of the world - a result of nothing more than having fully matured institutionalized democratic governments, we understand that the democratization process is truly a reflection of experiences over the ages



as to how to adjust political life in a country to the dictates and aspirations of the people being governed. In this kind of a

situation, the wishes and the desires of the rulers become themselves nothing more than answering to these dictates and aspirations, setting their own selfish and narrow interests aside, and in fact believing that they themselves have to share these aspirations, in order to have any true meaning to their rule. In other words, when accepting to rule by the mandate of the people, it is impossible to believe that the interests of the people and the interests of the rulers should ever part ways and maybe meet once every election term, as seems to be the case now, as the campaign for the Presidency goes into full swing.

In an election campaign of any level, the prevailing issues of the nation are thrown to the floor, and it is usually those issues that seem to touch the people the most that are the subject of debate between the contesting candidates. We have seen some of this, surprisingly brought on by the hitherto unknown candidate, who as one observer puts it: "This guy really is beginning to really believe that the office is up for grabs, and that the few cheers he has gotten here and there provide enough momentum for him to become a true 'opposition' candidate. While perhaps the limited resources he has and the lack of control over any

of the state institutions which the incumbent enjoys - and uses, to help in the campaign process, will never give the opponent the victory needed, and even if he is able to attain a sizable chunk of the expected very small turnout for what most are now convinced to be a staged political game, it goes without saying that Mr. Qahtan Al-Sha'abi is trying to make use of the process to fully reflect that the issues are really the important deciding factor in choosing the right candidate for the office of the Presidency, or any other office for that matter. Of course there are those who say that he is only playing his role as an opponent should, to justify his part in the game and to try to show that this is not the easy game that most people contend it to be. Nevertheless, the opponent has really chosen the right course notwithstanding the justification. Had there been more widespread awareness among the electorate, it would seem that the populist platform the "opponent" is embarking on would be more appealing than the continuation of a regime that has been beset by so many difficulties and challenges to its undisputed hold over the reigns of power in the country.

We have an opponent who is actually telling the people: "You have a choice: to continue the chaos and mismanagement that you have been going through for so many years, or to decide for a turn for the better, just by simply putting your vote for the other candidate. Here is your irreplaceable chance to say, enough is enough!"

But practically speaking, we know that the chances of the 'opponent' are very slim, given the poor political

awareness among the general population, the use of the network of muscle and money which the existing regime has well-entrenched in an imprisoned society, that lacks the comprehension of the power of the vote and the means to assure that the power of that vote is not subject to any foul-play. Yet we must urge the opposing candidate to nurture this drive with all his might just to instill within the people that you can change things by simply thinking about what it means to vote and how to make sure that vote is truly the last resort for the people to get out of the mess we are in. It is not easy, especially when considering that the pressure put on by the machinery of the ruling regime is very strong and is not hesitant to make a mockery of what public will really means, and the public mandate it is seeking is nothing more than a superficial façade of what the democratic process is really all about.

The unfortunate factor that has a bearing on making this election what it should really mean, is that the many officials and even some of the enlightened ones among them have forgotten that they also can insist that this game should really be fair and really succumb to public feelings and aspirations. Regrettably, some have seen this as another chance to add more to the wealth they have accumulated and perhaps jump up another point or two in the hierarchy of a well entrenched regime of proponents of narrow interests and carpetbaggers, who have no ambitions in life except to amass as much wealth and status as possible, without any thought or meaning to the interests of the people and the aspira-

tions they have for their country. For this reason, it is my strong belief that it is these people who are guilty of transferring the democratic process from a true reflection of public will to nothing more than another schema for the powerful elite to squeeze out of the government treasury whatever they can to further enrich their holdings and to add on to their false pretensions of power and influence. A friend of this observer had once asked a very important well-educated personality in the present reigning power structure: "If you people profess to be so close to the wielders of power and intrigue in the country, then why are you not advising your bosses on the true and meaningful course they should embark on, which will put them in the history books of Yemen, if you really want to serve your bosses' interests?" Our not so wise intellectual, who is well entrenched in the regijist said: "Look my friend, I have learned that in Yemen, you should never volunteer any ideas or suggestions to those who supervise you unless you have been asked to do so-and even then, these have to be carefully put so as not to offend the bosses."

Maybe the only one who has decided to deviate from this policy of appeasement to the bosses is Qahtan Al-Sha'abi - a needle in the haystack. For sure Qahtan may not win the Presidential race, but obviously he seems to have picked up on what a true democracy should really be all about - answer to the issues that most effect the people and sincerely laying out everything on the table - putting the incumbent on the defensive. Carry on boys!

Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Editor,

Greetings Yemen Times and readers. It is altogether obvious what is going on with only kidnapping foreigners; any Yemeni knows that he would precipitate revenge and bloodshed immediately by kidnapping another Yemeni! It is really an act of great ignorance and cowardice to prey on outsiders-how could any self-respecting Yemeni justify this sort of behavior? It destroys the development of tourism, prevents the understanding that could develop when strangers encounter the authentic friendliness native to most Yemenis, and keeps the nation locked in a prison of medieval isolationism. If tourism is dismissed as unimportant, remember that through tourism strangers begin to develop every other attitudes, based on personal encounters. Does anyone think any business, investments, development, or aid will be possible in a country that can not guarantee basic security?

I was in Yemen briefly and have rarely seen such a beautiful place or met such warm, friendly people. It is really painful to contemplate that I can't think of returning any time soon because of the foolishness of desperate tribesmen-who would see my skin color and feel free to abuse me as a pawn in their extortion directed at a corrupt, detached government. I'll keep track of the news-as soon as it's safe. I'll be planning to return...but this may be a fantasy waiting for a new government!

A Suits St Louis - USA

Dear Editor,

I just wanted to say that I am an avid reader of your issues and you guys are going a great job at it. I'm also living here in Sana'a and your paper is mainly what I read to get the top news stories around the area. I only want the paper to succeed because I think it is a good thing for Yemen and it's future. So, I have come up with a couple of ideas to other newspapers, especially the ones in the States have to enhance their own news. First, I want to commend to you all on the great job you did on the Hadda Bombing, the picture was indeed a one of a kind. Keep it up. Second, Abdulrahman Al-Mikhlafi, you did an excellent job on your article. I am also at that age of yours and I am in the same position. Why not keep it up on all of the issues, by ask-

ing what Yemen's future is among the teenage adults (19-25?). What they think about those things which include, where Yemen is going. Remember that they are our future, and many are interested in education instead of qat, I hope. Also, you would get a lot more of those same youngsters buying the paper. The crossword puzzle was an ok idea, but make sure it has the answers of last week. Your articles are great, but on the Important Numbers section, if you can add the e-mail addresses if possible, to the banks, airlines, etc.. Another idea I had in mind was to add a World News section. This only is because with me being here, I had to look at Time magazine about the Turkey Earthquake, when I would have preferred to read it in your paper to help support it. Thus, if any other ideas come to mind, inshaallah, I will give you all a ring. Again, you guys are doing great, and to help with suggestions and ideas; think, what would not only the mature adults want to read about, but the post-teenagers too. I've seen so many of them, Arabic-English speakers, you'd be surprised. Good luck to you all.

Sadig Algazzali email-Truth967@aol.com

Dear Sadig,

Thank you for your suggestions. We are working on some of the things you mentioned. -The Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank the editor and stuff of the Yemen Times. I am originally from Yemen, but I live in the NYC,USA. Your newspaper makes me feel like as if I were in my own country. What bothers me a lot is the latest blast in the City Center supermarket. I hope that the government is going to do something about it? Will it stop the kidnapping incidents because it is a major industry for our economy. I was so mad, sad and angry at everyone when I heard of the recent incidents. Well, I do hope that our leaders will do something about it.

Abdussalam Hidarh Abdul711@hotmail.com

"It was a Factory Here"

Unfortunately, with unknown reasons till now, United Industries Company Limited has been burnt completely.

The remaining? Just the skeleton of the body. The burning had started at about 10:30 am, continuing to 3:00 o'clock PM. It was a destructive one that cleared the name and the whole body of the company. It was long, when we were gazing at the burning company with disappointed endeavors to control the area of the burning. At the beginning of the incident, we had noticed the burning from the above ceiling, namely in the middle. However, it is thought that the system of controlling the fire was inadequate; even the fire brigade had reached the fired place lately, remarkably with no experience to face such great happenings.

As a matter of fact, it is a harmful incident that will be followed by so various vandalistic outcomes. There will be economical ruin for all concerned people, including the government itself. Socially, there will be a ceasing of the company staff until an unknown date. The only interesting thing is this incident may be exploited as a political theme. Satirically, it was said that the reason beyond this fire is the terrorists, namely the so-called Abu Al Hamza, as he always claims. The only condolence is that there is international insurance that will undertake the whole reconstruction of the company. Finally, we have considered this a disaster. We have to be ready to face such a disaster if we have the ability to restrain the problem from being a catastrophe.

Moh'd Azzain, YCPMI - Taiz

Dear Editor,

I must say YT has improved well above limits. Keep up the good work!!!

I would like to comment on the article written by Ali Moh'd Al-Hamzi-Ezzani. It is really good when, for a change, you get a well educated, young Yemeni/American man, preferring Yemen to a country like the States!

All points mentioned in Mr. Ezzani's letter are spot on and I wish we got more of such patriotic Yemenis.

I just hope the frustrations everyone faces in Yemen will not soon get to him and make him change his mind!! Good luck Ali!

Ms. A. Mohsen

Dear Editor,

no rights up to now. They have one right and that is to work at workshops, bakeries and markets.

Where is our right to participate in the development program of our country? The government just gives us the right of vote. "What a pity!" There are many graduates in our society without a job, where is their proper position? "In the street or abroad!" Is there a supervisor who paid them any attention? "NEVER!"

Finally, I wonder who is responsible for these kinds of human beings? Please save our youth before it is too late.

Atif A'Moula Saleh, Taiz

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my happiness that Yemen Times is going on strong despite its troubles. But Now I'm sure that Yemen Times has the ability to develop in all aspects and I can say that the symbol of democracy, the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is still alive among us as long as his newspaper is alive. In fact, I think that the new chief is following the steps of the founder. We all will never forget Al-Saqqaf's lessons he taught us. Lastly, as a constant YT readers, I propose to open a window for English literature.

Adel Fara'a Al-Mamri Sana'a University

فاین کریم
یغذی الشعر
وینیک القشرة

فاین کریم
مضاد للقشرة
يجمل الشعر انيقا ولماعا

Yemen 21 Forum and Okaz Newspaper hold a Discussion Session titled: "Relation of Political Parties and the Presidential Elections: Present and Future"

Organized by the Yemen 21st Forum as well as by the Saudi-based Okaz Newspaper represented by its correspondent in Yemen Mr. Hafiz Al-Bukari, a seminar on "the Past and Present Relationship between the Political Powers in the Light of the Upcoming Presidential Elections" was held on Saturday Sept.18. It was chaired by the Editor-in-Chief of the Yemen Times, Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and attended by a number of intellectuals, journalists as well as politicians.

The first speaker in this gathering was Nassr Taha Mostafa, a well known journalist, who said "the presidential elections lack the essence of democracy which is the strong competition. The elections are going to be between two candidates who belong to the same party. Despite what the component of the President boosts to possess -and he has right to say so- a different platform, we find that our presidential elections suffer from the non-existence of competition in its correct and well known sense.

In reference to the participating and not participating sides in elections, I believe that there is not a dispute over this at all. For it is clear that the participating parties are urging its people to participate. However, the non-participating parties try their best to gain the public sympathy so as not to participate.

Gar Allah Omar, chairman of the political department of the YSP, said the following: "The opposition did not take the decision not to participate, however, the decision was taken by the ruling power. Therefore, the opposition deems the presidential elections were practically over on July 21, 1999. The opposition is not obliged to make a big fuss or dispute over the size of participating or not and that the negative attitude, in this regard may be the better choice for there will be only one player in the field. The opposition do not want to be the side that creates disputes in the international community. Our role is that we declared our hopes that the people will not participate in these elections. What the administrative authority is doing is that it compels people to attend such ceremonies and festivals for every districts' manager is obliged to bring people from villages otherwise his position is in danger. Even the arranging of these festivals are done by the governors and their supervisors. Therefore, the partisan process is not at all existing. Even the role of the BGC is not at all there. On the other hand, the Islah Party is satisfied with a minor presence and the authority is planning everything out. So our absence helps to a great extent in revealing things in their real colors, that there is an administrative and military power that is handling this process and that there is not any partisan system that could be mentioned.

The opposition parties sees that after all this it is a foregone conclusion the current President Ali Abdullah is going to be the President. So everything has been settled down. The current legitimacy is the legitimacy that came after war 1994 and its results. So whatever exists now is just a continuation of this legitimacy and



we do not want to get involved in clashes with this power. We, as a result, declared that the presidential elections are over and that we are prevented from participation and we wish that the people will not participate. However, we are fully aware that the people are subjected to threats, many are threatened to stop their salaries. Even in Taiz's festival we find that allowances as well as salaries of teachers will be paid after the festival. This is not a voting, however, it will reflect a rosy picture during this time and may be later translated in terms of number on papers.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Maktari, a member of parliament, said "If we try to relate the title of the seminar to the parliament we will find that for any practice there must be some kind of relation to the institution. We have also to look at this from two angles in regard to this legitimacy. The theoretical side is related to the constitutional relevance and the other side is that who explains this legitimacy. Then the executive side carries out the theoretical side. The constitutional side, in fact, does not give the right to participating in the presidential elections only to the political parties. However, it is the right of every Yemeni who meets some conditions to be a candidate as well as to elect. Therefore, the constitution indicates this in a general sense and does not indicate that presidential elections should be held in a partisan categories. However, what we have right now are elections based upon partisan categories. Article number "106" of the constitution points out these conditions and gives each person the right to be a candidate as well as to elect. Even in the confidence which was held in the parliament it was made under partisan categories which are groundless in ref-

erence to our constitution. Moreover, article number 107 "a" necessitates that elections are competitive which does not at all exist here. This is if we are applying the spirit of the constitution. On the other hand, if we talk of procedures which were made, we find that they were not based upon the law and the constitution for the constitution states in article "107" certain procedures, which are not at all applied in these elections. First of all, the confidence procedures were arranged in a way that it was an outrageous violation of all the electoral norms that are generally known all over the world. Every member of the parliament was given a card in which he had to write the person he chose and under that he had to write his name and signature. So "what does this mean? It means that this is just a security procedure that was done to make sure that no votes will go to other candidates that are not approved of by the ruling power. This goes to prove that the is not the confidence in members of parliaments.

Mr. Mohammed Jassar, editor in chief of "Ra'ay Newspaper", said the following: "Considering the political parties existing in the arena, we find that there are three dominant sides: The BGC, those fill in the line such as the Islah Party, the National Opposition Council. Then, the Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition and finally, The Sons of Yemen League. The nominee of the BGC's is obvious. The Islah Party and the National Opposition Council have actually examined the political situation very carefully and accurately. As a result, they discovered that the situation is not at all appropriate for a fair and just competitive elections in the country. However, their attitude was very much negative for the democratic process in the country as they took their opponent side. On the other hand, Supreme Coordination Council of the Opposition made a mistake when they based their hopes upon a baseless promise. The third attitude is the attitude of the Sons of Yemen League who tried its best to join the Yemeni opposition powers on the basis that the political situation is not at convenient to hold elections, however, it failed.

The ruling party considers itself the foster father of all the other parties existing in the arena. So whatever exists in the society is a property of the ruling party and its leaders. The environment is not also appropriate for all including, the ruling party, opposition inside as well as outside, even those in charge of it admit that the voters lists are full of faults and defects. Moreover, some have declared that they are forged. So when we find that it was almost difficult to gather the opposition sides into one force, we decided that we would not participate in these elections. We leave the option to the people either to participate or not.

Dr. Fares Al-Saqqaf said we were having fancy hopes in having real presidential elections. However, the number of approving members is actually very exaggerated. In regards to non-confidence of the opposition's nominee, we find that this has given a clear picture and a thorough analysis of the political process in reference to the political power in Yemen. The evidence is that both the existing nominees for the elections do even criticize each other's wrong deeds. They are rather talking about the opposition which goes all-out to prove that the opposition is there. They speak about it forgetting that they have the National Opposition Council on their side. The opposition attitude to keep aloof is, in my viewpoint, the right thing for the ruling party is doing what the

opposition is supposed to do by its wrong decisions. For example, the choosing of Najeeb Al-Shaabi to be a competitor of the President and not giving the rest of the candidates the confidence which if given to any other nominee, the ruling party would have saved himself the trouble. Then, by talking about the opposition in that way in front of the people, this gives the feeling that they are oppressed and that they are still resisting and struggling. The festivals, bringing children and employees out to streets, holding teachers' salaries and allowances until the end of festivals, all these are proofs to the flagrant wrong deeds done by the ruling party. The opposition has a nice chance that they should not let it go. The opposition should join hands and come together to be one force.

Mohammed Yahya Shonaif said "he who says that the competition is not there, he himself has no existence in the political arena. There are two nominees for the presidential elections and each one of them is a candidate of a specific section of the existing parties. Ali Abdullah Saleh, for example, is the candidate of the BGC and Islah, while Najeeb Qahtan Al-Shaabi is the candidate of the National Opposition Council. Each one of them has his own platform which gives a clear picture of each one's prospective view of different issues in our society. The media is also playing its role in publishing all that is related to these two candidates. And he who says that the elections are not based upon the constitution, he himself did not verify the constitution which states that the elections should be direct, competitive as well as free.

In a general sense we find that the opposition did not decide not to participate for the Islah Party as well as the National Opposition Council has declared that the President, Ali is its nominee. Only four parties out of twenty five parties declared not to participate and this does not at all affect the electoral process nor it affects the voters whose numbers reach to five and a half million.

The political powers' relations in the future will be better than they are now for the presidential elections will point out those who are supporting the unity of the country and those who are not. The relations between Islah and BGC are the same as the relation between the BGC and the National Opposition Council.

I also want to assert that the upcoming President is going to come through the voting polls and not through the conspiracy or through coup d'état. Therefore, elections are one of the pillars the BGC has called for so as to build the modern Yemen.

The discussion was further elaborated to include Sultan Hizam who said "the presidential elections have lost their spirit and what remains now is just some procedures that will be carried out. Furthermore, article number 13 states that the confidence should be given in a secretive way. Even those who applied to be candidates for the Presidency, we find that we had no ideas about them." Mr. Nassr Taha Mostafa said that the Islah's attitude in electing Ali Abdullah Saleh is something normal, for there is not any constitutional article that prohibits this. Islah has found that competing with the President especially in these times is not proper. They found that there were some priorities for the country as well as for the party. The Islah decision to nominate the Ali Saleh for the presidential elections is not a hostile attitude against the Coordination Opposition Council. Islah has his prospective view and it is his right to choose and nominate whoever they like.

شعيرية
مكرونه
المائدة



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GenPack

PASSION FOR PEOPLE

Chef Jean Pierre-Neu, the New Executive Chef

Topped with his dedication and commitment to his work Chef Jean-Pierre Neu joined Sheraton Sana'a Hotel as the new Executive Chef.

For 39 years of experience as Executive Chef, he is also a consultant in setting up French fine dining restaurants in various well-known restaurants and hotels in Paris, France "Café de France", New York "La Mere Poulard", Germany "Leinsweiler Hof Hotel and Restaurant" and Hotel Le Bristol in Beirut.



Chef Neu has been an active member in various professional Association such as "Committee National De La Gastronomie" in Paris, France where French chefs serving samples of their specialities as well as fine French wines and champagnes and proceeds of the money benefited selected New York City public schools and art institutes. Groupe Alsace Cuisine, Paris, France and Euro Toques, Chicago, USA.

We Welcome the New Executives of the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel

Mr. Mylvaganam Prabaharan, Director of Finance, Mr. Godfrey Vella, Director of Eng'g. Chef Jean Pierre-Neu, Executive Chef, Mr. Maik Schaefer, Assistant Food and Beverage Manager, Mr. Hatem Al Omari, Credit Manager, Mr. Amin Al-Huneidi, Sales Executive.

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Yasser Mohamed Ahmed
Yemen Times

Yemen has been a wonder to many people throughout history, it is distinguished for its most beautiful views that are of a magnificent beauty. As a result we find flocks of tourists coming here to see this beauty that many countries envy Yemen for. Many are the places that if given the attention needed, treasures will be gained. Yemen Times has always been a strong advocate of a trend to exploit the natural places that scatter all over Yemen, to be better used for the welfare of the society. This field survey was made to one of the captivating places in one of the districts of Dhamar, Utmah.

Utmah has recently achieved an international interest and attention. Many well known personalities including ambassadors, diplomats as well as Yemeni officials paid a two-day visit to Utmah, recently. This is undoubtedly a sure sign that this district has a pivotal location as well as importance, otherwise these great figures will not bear the trouble.

Utmah is a district of Dhamar and is 58km far from Dhamar. Its geographic location is important for it is located on the natural extension of the Al-sarah Mountains which start from Aden and end in the North of the peninsula. It consists of five areas "Makhaleef" and its people are around 132,628. The climate variations has resulted in a variation of crops which vary between the crops of cold and moderate districts to that of tropical districts. So Utmah is a main source for grains' production.

In Yemen Times survey, a number of people were met who talked about Utmah and its importance. Some of them are the following:

AbdulMalek Solaiman Al-Malami, from Utmah, worker in the Ministry of Education and Chairman of Administrative Organization of Utmah Sanctuary said the following: "Utmah district has different kinds of trees, medical as well as incense trees. It also has lots of forests that spread in different parts of the district. All this qualifies Utmah to be a wild sanctuary. The idea of making this district a wild sanctuary was thought of long ago. However, the first step to accomplish this goal was made last March when the Council of Protecting Environment in the Ministry of Agriculture organized a symposium in which quite a good number of academic personalities participated. The symposium came out with a number of instructions which were made best by presenting a request to the Cabinet to declare Utmah a wild sanctuary. Fortunately, a decision was declared on 8/6/1999. Furthermore, a meeting with the UNISCO was held to draft the maps of the district and to specify what are the plants, areas and medicines that will be included in this sanctuary. What I really hope is that coordination with different governmental or non-governmental organizations will take pace so as to obtain much support and services that will help develop the district, especially in respect of dams that are of much importance. Utmah lacks a lot of facilities and the people suffer a lot. However, we are still cherishing the hope that the government will do something to improve things in this district for the President paid a visit to this district in 1993 and inaugurated a number of projects that are in the completion period."



Regarding declaring Utmah as a wild sanctuary he said "declaring is not enough because it is just mere words. However, we consider it as a first step to go a long way to develop and improve things here to make it a captivating tourist resort. The UNISCO has provided assistance and strong support. The UNISCO has supported the primary studies, researches and making maps of the district. We very much appreciate all their efforts and help."

Abduh Mahdee Saleh, General Manager of Tourist Investment said "We have been well-informed of all that Utmah is distinguished for, either in the agriculture or animal level and that of its geographic location. However, this district lacks lots of projects despite the fact that the people of this district have natural factors that if better exploited, would be a good source of gaining and earning money. There are some services which are very vital for protecting this district from disappearing. For example, gas services that can be a good alternative for destroying trees and forests. We are also in need of water tanks as well as dams to keep water of rain."



Abdullah Mohammed Hizam, Vice Executive Manager of the Tourist Council in the Ministry of culture, said "I am invited to visit this district to be acquainted with the place here. I have been to many places and districts of the Republic and I have written two books called "The Tourist Guide" and "The Tourist Guide For the Republic Of Yemen". I am also well informed of many places and districts that could be declared as wild sanctuaries, however, the district of Utmah is absolutely different from the rest for it is very much distinguished for its green lands, there are also variations in plants and in climate. For the sake of example, we find that there are around 650 different plants in Soqatrah. However, they can never be compared to the green landscape of Utmah District. Utmah is a very fertile land that should never miss the attention and care of people as well as of government.



Ahmad Abdullah Saleh Al-Gaouri said that the decision issued to make Utmah a wild sanctuary was right. He also expressed his hopes that such a decision will be throned by providing projects that the district is in a dire need of. Another problem that is really faced by the people living in Utmah is transportation; roads are not paved and are very difficult to drive on. Moreover, there is no electricity.

Naser Mohammed Abdullah, Chairman of Activities Department in Utmah, said that we really approve of declaring Utmah a wild sanctuary, however, we are still waiting to the things that will come after this decision. He also pointed out that "we are good at making decisions, however, when it comes to practice we prove failure. The people even lack the basic needs such as water, schools, and electricity. Hence, the people in charge will prove now whether they still following the trend or that they have changed their ways. So we want to taste the fruits of this decision or there is no use of it. It is true that electricity project was established a year ago, but until now what we have are just some posts and we are still living in the dark." In short, Yemen Times as well as the people of Utmah asserted that we all should join hands to make Utmah a real nice wild sanctuary.



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SPORTS IN BRIEF

A Chinese Kung Fu Coach in Sana'a

The Chinese Kung Fu coach, Tsai Kan, has arrived in Yemen to train the Kung Fu national team. Mr. Tsai said that he had come to lay down the principles of the game as well as to make a new strategy for it. "The Kung fu the Yemeni people watch on TV is old-fashioned. There are many new styles, and I have come to Yemen to teach them," said Kan.

Gymnastics National Team to participate in Tunisia

The General Union of Gymnastics is preparing for its participation in the Tunisia Championship Open. The General Secretary of the Union, Mr. Abdul Mageed Hail said that the Union was also preparing for holding the Republic Championship in the few coming days.

New Coach for the Taekwondo National Team

The General Union for Taekwondo has appointed Mr. Mohammed Ishaq for training the national team for taekwondo in its peroration for Sidney Olympiad Qualification 2000 held on Sept. 25-26, 1999. The participants have been already chosen from Sana'a, Aden and Taiz.

Saba Agency Honor the Yemeni Champions

Last Thursday, Saba Agency represented by Hussain Al-Owadhi honored six Yemeni champions for their achievements in the Ninth Arab Tournament. Mr. Al-Owadhi said that honoring the Yemeni champions was a sign of appreciation from the Sport Department in the Agency. By the end of the celebration, Al-Owadhi confirmed that the champions were to be honored again by Mr. Ali Naji Al-Rawi, Chairman of Al-Thawrah Establishment the following Thursday.

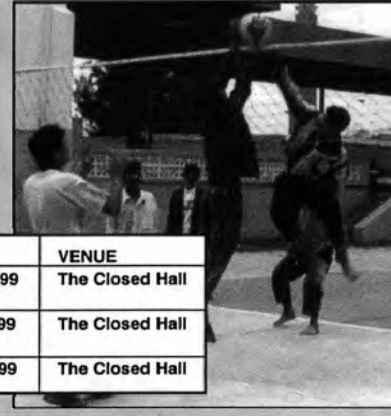
Football Coaches Training Course Inaugurated

Organized by the General Union of Football in cooperation with the Asian as well as Japanese unions the First International Olympic Tournament for classifying nation-

Volleyball Finals

The championship is organized by the Volleyball General Union in Sana'a and Aden for the clubs qualified for the finals: Ahli Al-Hodaidah, Al-Shola, Erfan and Al-Saqr clubs. It will kick off on Sept. 29th, 1999 as follows:

TEAM	DATE	VENUE
Ahli Hodaidah vs Al-Shola	Tues. 28 Sep, 99	The Closed Hall
Erfan vs Al-Saqr		
Erfan s Al-Shola	Wed. 29 Sep, 99	The Closed Hall
Al-Saqr vs Ahli Hodaidah		
Erfan vs Ahli Hodaidah	Thur. 30 Sep, 99	The Closed Hall



al coaches was inaugurated last Wednesday at the Olympic Center Hall, in Sana'a. The number of participating coaches are 17. Mr. Ali Al-Ashwal delivered a speech in which he said that all the coaches in the Republic will be evaluated in this tournament. The successful ones will be given chance to participate abroad. The Japanese lecturer gave also a speech in which he asserted that all the coaches should do their best in order

to get the benefit out of this tournament which is held in Yemen for the first time. Hamoud Obad, deputy of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, gave a word in which he hoped that the tournament will be a success.

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Correction

We would like to notify to our readers that an error occurred in the Aden Free Zone Supplement in issue 37/99. The position of Mr. Bader Ba Salmah, a prominent businessman and investor, is the General Manager of the Aden Commerce Chamber and not -as mistakenly mentioned- the Chairman of the Aden Commerce Chamber. Also, the name of the Aden Free Zone Supplement reporter, Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf on the same issue was mistakenly omitted.

Teachers Demonstration in Taiz

The teacher law, approved by the Parliament two years ago, made an extreme echo among teachers in Taiz. This law gives some privileges to teachers, and promises them to increase their salaries. Moreover, it asserts the teachers' rights to live in better conditions.

It is worth mentioning that, teachers have been struggling hard to make the parliament verify it. So far this law has not seen light till the coming of the Presidential Elections. Then, it is taken as an electoral campaign by the Controlling Party and the the Islah party, because most of the teacher are enrolled in the 'Islah'.

During the electoral festivals, teachers and workers in the educational sector were forced to attend the festivals. They were promised that their system would be implemented before the Presidential Elections. The teachers were always waiting for the "new comer" who will change their miserable life into a luxurious one. Indeed, salaries and allowances were given to teachers in Sana'a and the Capital Secretariat. Teachers in Taiz waited for a long period of time for committees and salaries arrival in their city. Some of them kept waiting for any good news on Somarah mountain in order to spread it among their colleges in the city of "thirst". At last, salaries arrived in Taiz. Teachers were



extremely happy, but unfortunately, their happiness did not last long. More than 8000 teachers' names were not enrolled in the exchange lists.

Therefore, teachers in Taiz made a demonstration last Monday, September 12. The demonstrators reached the Governorate Office and the Education Office. They all appealed for justice and equal treatment of teachers. They still threaten to go on demonstrating and striking if the Ministry of Education refuses to settle down their problem.

By: Farouq Al-Kamali, Taiz

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Ministry of Culture Honors '11' European and American Scientists

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has honored '11' European and American scientists, who are specialized in Yemeni ethnographic tradition. Those scientists represent; Germany, America, Britain, Austria and Russia. They were honored for their studies and thesis in the Yemeni material tradition, and for their active participation on preserving Yemeni material tradition in the International Scientific Wealth which was held in Yemen. Minister of Culture and Yousif M. Abdullah, chairman of the general association for ethnographic material and museums have attended the honoring ceremony.



Issue no. 38 Yemen Times Weekly Competition مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

Search for the answer of the below question within the contents of this issue and write the answer clearly along with the article's title and page number. Please cut out this coupon and send it to our Head Office in Sana'a. The winners will be selected through drawing lots. The awards are YR 8,000 for 1st place, YR 5,000 for 2nd place, YR 4,000 for 3rd place, and YR 3,000 for 4th place. The winners' names will be announced on the issue after two week's. Answers will be acceptable within only 13 days after the date of issuance. Please write the number of the issue of the Yemen Times that you cut the coupon from on the envelope. One person can send more than one coupon to have a higher possibility of winning. Answers sent by fax or photocopy will not be accepted.

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 الي عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء. لا تقبل الاجابات من دون ارفاق هذا الكوبون الخاص بالسؤال. الاجابات التي تصلنا بالفاكس غير مقبولة. سيتم اختيار الفائزين من بين جميع المتقدمين بواسطة القرعة. وسيمنح الفائز بالمركز الاول مبلغ 8000 ريال والثاني 5000 ريال والثالث 4000 ريال والرابع 3000 ريال. وحتى يتسنى للجميع ارسال الاجابة اى بريد الصحيفة فان باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحا لمدة اسبوعين من يوم الاصدار (اي بعد 13 يوما من الاصدار). ستنشر اسماء الفائزين في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهم. كما نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على منظور الرسالة. كما بإمكان نض الشخص ارسال اكثر من كوبيون باسمه.



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Question of the Week

Who is the third and last victim of the City Center Blast?
(The question is related to a previously issued article!)

Answer: _____

Article's Title: _____ Page no. _____

Your Name: _____

City/Province: _____ Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____

Answer of Issue (36) Competition:

"The person who made a study on 10 kinds of coastal sanctuaries and when is Kellcher in 1982. On page 12."

Winners of the Issue (36) Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Anisa Mohammed Ali Nasser, Sanaa

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Abdulmagid Kassem Othman Ahmed, Taiz

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Omar Mohammed Abdulwali Al-Surouri, Sanaa

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Ahmed Mohammed Thabet, Taiz



Draw of the lucky winners

Congratulations to all winners

To receive their prizes, winners should come with their IDs to the Yemen Times Sanaa Office, near the Palestinian Embassy, Hadda Street. Tel. 268661. No prizes will be given to winners who do not come within one month from the day of announcing their names.

Internet for the Beginner

Continued...: Reasons to Enter the World of the Internet

6. To Release Time Sensitive Materials

What if your materials need to be released no earlier than midnight? The quarterly earnings statement, the grand prize winner, the press kit for the much-anticipated film, the merger news? Well, you sent out the materials to the press with "The "do not release before such and such time"" statement and hope for the best. Now the information can be made available at midnight or any time you specify, with all related materials such as photographs, bios, etc. released at exactly the same time. Imagine the anticipation of "All materials will be made available on our Web site at 12:01 AM". The scoop goes to those that wait for the information to be posted, not the one who releases your information early.

7. To Sell Things

Many people think this is the #1 thing to do with the World Wide Web, but we made it number seven to make it clear that we think you should consider selling things on the Internet and the World Wide Web after you have done all the things above and maybe even after doing quite a few more things from this list. Why? Well, the answer is complex but the best way to put it is, do you consider the telephone the best place to sell things? Probably

not. You probably consider the telephone a tool that allows you to communicate with your customer, which in turn helps you sell things. Well, that's how we think you should consider the WWW. The technology is different, of course, but before people decide to become customers, they want to know about you, what you do and what you can do for them, which you can do easily and inexpensively on the WWW.

When you are ready to sell, make sure you have the best in current Web technology without paying so much that you won't make a profit until the next century. That's smart business.

8. To make pictures, sound and film files available

What if your item is great, but people would really love it if they could see it in action? The album is great but with no air play, nobody knows that it sounds great? A picture is worth a thousand words, but you don't have the space for a thousand words? The WWW allows you to add sound, pictures and short movie files to your company's info if that will serve your potential customers. You're also virtually unlimited in reference to text. No brochure will do that.

9. To reach a highly desirable demo-

graphic market

The demographic of the WWW user is probably the highest mass-market demographic available. Usually college-educated or being college educated, making a high salary or soon to make a high salary, it's no wonder that Wired magazine, the magazine of choice to the Internet community, has no problem getting Lexus and other high-end marketer's advertising. Even with the addition of the commercial on-line community, the demographic will remain high for many years to come.

10. To Answer Frequently Asked Questions

Whoever answers the phones in your organization can tell you, their time is usually spent answering the same questions over and over again. These are the questions customers and potential customers want to know the answer to before they deal with you. Post them on a WWW page and you will have removed another barrier to doing business with you and free up some time for that harried phone operator.

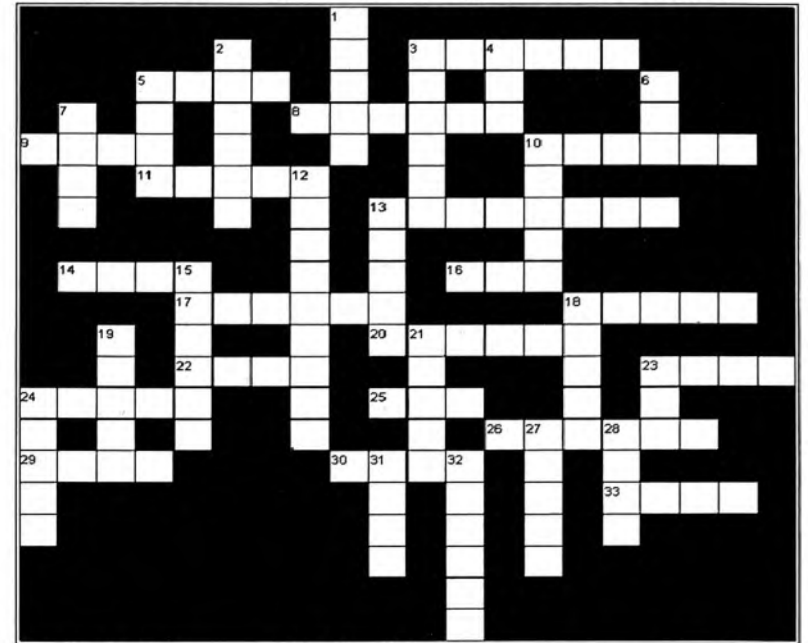
11. To Stay In Contact With Salespeople

Your employees on the road may need up-to-the-minute information that will

Crossword Puzzle: Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

Across Clues

- Water _____s when it gets very cold. It turns into ice.
- Seven days is a _____.
- I like to _____ a ball. I drop it and it _____s back up.
- When I cry, _____s run down my face.
- A _____ is a small pool of water. There are always many _____s after a rain.
- The Yemeni city famous for its ancient dam.
- A _____ is a shape. It has 3 sides.
- There is a _____ on top of our house. It keeps the rain out.
- I play with _____s. My favorite _____ is my truck.
- Ann was not at school today. She was _____.
- When I want a drink of _____, I turn on the faucet.
- I used a _____ to drive a nail into a piece of wood.
- I cut my sandwich in _____s. Now I have two equal parts.
- I bake cookies in the _____.
- I _____ a letter to my grandfather.
- A _____ is a small animal, which looks like a mouse with wings. It flies at night.
- I am _____ at math than reading.
- I _____ a new pair of shoes. I must have a new pair of shoes because my shoes are too small.
- Seven days is a _____.
- A _____ is a large animal. It is a member of



the cat family. Male _____s have manes.

Down Clues

- My brother and I play catch. We _____ a ball to each other.
- The number 1 comes _____ the number 2.
- I have four _____s and a thumb on my hand.
- I use my _____s to see. I have two _____s.
- The weather is _____ when it is not too hot and not too cold.
- Every story has a start and an _____.
- We take _____s at school. We write the answers to questions on the _____.
- A _____ is worth 1 cent.
- A _____ is an insect.

It has beautiful colors on its wings.

13. I have a new _____ in my mouth. One _____ fell out and another grew to replace it.

15. My _____ is one of my parents.

18. My _____ is between my hand and my arm.

19. I drink _____.

My favorite _____ is orange.

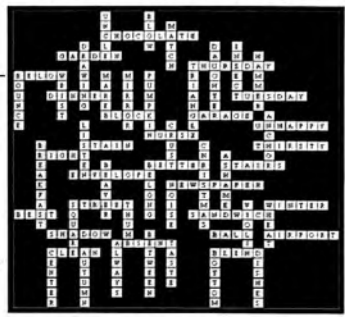
21. I am _____ during the day. I am not asleep.

23. I have _____ nose.

24. Birds have _____s. Some insects also have _____.

27. I _____ my house through the door. That is where I go

Last Week's Answer



into the house.

28. My older brother is _____.

He is several inches _____er than me.

31. Something, which is not difficult is _____.

32. A baby cat is called a _____.

help them make the sale or pull together the deal. If you know what that information is, you can keep it posted in complete privacy on the WWW. A quick local phone call by way of the nearest provider number (when using a national provider) can keep your staff supplied with the most detailed information, without long distance phone bills and tying up the staff at the home office.

12. To Open International Markets

You may not be able to make sense of the mail, phone and regulation systems in all your potential international markets, but with a Web page, you can open up a dialogue with international markets as easily as with the company across the street. As a matter-of-fact, before you go onto the Web, you should decide how you want to handle the international business that will come your way, because your postings are certain to bring international opportunities your way, whether it is part of your plan or not. Another added benefit; if your company has offices overseas, they can access the home offices information for the price of a local phone call. Plus, you can find markets for your products that could never reach you before at a reasonable cost.

13. To Create a 24 Hour Service

If you've ever remembered too late or too early to call the opposite coast, you know the hassle. We're not all on the same schedule. Business is worldwide but your office hours aren't. Trying to reach Asia or Europe is even more frustrating. But Web pages serve the client, customer and partner 24 hours a day, seven days a week. No overtime either. It can customize information to match needs and collect important information that will put you ahead of the competition, even before they get into the office.

14. To Make Changing Information Available Quickly

Sometimes, information changes before it gets off the press. Now you have a pile of expensive, worthless paper. Electronic pubchanges with your needs. No paper, no ink, no printer's bill. You can even attach your web page to a database which customizes the page's output to a database you can change as many times in a day as you need. No printed piece can match that flexibility.

15. To Allow Feedback From Customers

You pass out the brochure, the catalog, the booklet. But it doesn't work. No sales, no calls, no leads. What went wrong? Wrong color, wrong price, wrong market? Keep testing, the marketing books say, and you'll eventually find out went wrong. That's great for the big boys with deep pockets, but who is paying the bills? You are and you don't have the time nor the money to wait for the answer. With a Web page, you can ask for feedback and get it instantaneously with no extra cost. An instant e-mail response can be built into Web pages and can get the answer while its fresh in your customers mind, without the cost and lack of response of business reply mail.

16. To Test Market New Services and Products

Tied into the reason above, we all know the cost of rolling out a new product. Advertising, advertising, advertising, PR and advertising. Expensive, expensive, expensive. Once you have been on the Web and know what to expect from those who are seeing your page, they are the least expensive market for you to reach. They will also let you know what they think of your product faster, easier and much less expensively than any other market you may reach. For the cost of a page or two of Web programming, you can have a crystal ball into where to position your product or service in the marketplace.

17. To Reach the Media

Every kind of business needs the exposure that the media can bring, as we touched on in reason #5 "To Heighten Public Interest", but what if your business is reaching the media, as a newswire, a publicist or a public policy group. The media is the most wired profession today, since their main product is information and they can get it more quickly, cheaply and easily on-line. On-line press kits are becoming more and more common, since they work with the digital environment of more and more pressrooms. Digital images can be put in place without the stripping and shooting of the old pressrooms and digital text can be edited and outputted on tight deadlines. All these can be made available on a Web page.

18. To Reach the Education and Youth Market

If your market is education, consider that most universities already offer Internet access to their students and most K-12's will be on the Internet within the next few years. Books, athletic shoes, study courses, youth fashion and anything else that would want to reach these overlapping markets needs to be on the Web. Even with the coming of the commercial on-line services and their somewhat older populations there will be nothing but growth in the percentage of the under 25 market that will be on-line. Excellent examples of educational sites are Pinewood Preparatory School Physic by Dr. Robert Carroll, and the Francis Beidler Forest (Audubon) site.

19. To Reach The Specialized Market

Sell fish tanks, art reproductions, flying lessons? You may think that the Internet is not a good place to be. Well, think again. The Internet isn't just computer science students anymore. With the 27 million and growing users of the WWW, even the most narrowly defined interest group will be represented in large numbers. Since the Web has several very good search programs, your interest group will be able to find you, or your competitors.

20. To Serve Your Local Market

We've talked about the power to serve the world with a Web page. How about your neighborhood? If you are located in San Francisco Bay Area, the Raleigh NC area, Boston or New York, there is probably enough local customers with Web access to make it worth your while to consider Web marketing. A local Palo Alto, CA restaurant even takes lunch orders through the Internet! But no matter where you are, if the big client has Web access, you should be there too. You can make the Web a cost-effective retail location no matter where your market is.

These reasons were on the part of the service provider, or business operator. Next week, we will give the reasons to surf the Internet from the user's perspective. Stay tuned to discover this new world!

To Be Continued ...

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



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Universal-Zubeiri	245888
Universal - Bonia	272861/2/3
Universal Aden	221146, 243475
Universal Taiz	225383/4



Sana'a:	
1. Embassies:	
Algeria	209689/206350
Bulgaria	208469
China	275337/341
Cuba	417305
Czech Republic	247946
Djibouti	415985
Egypt	275948/9
Eritrea	209422
Ethiopia	208833
France	268888
Germany	413180/413174
Hungary	263586
India	243440/264872
Indonesia	414633
Iraq	413552/3/4
Italy	269571/4/5/6
Japan	207356/208753
Jordan	413275/6/7/9
Kuwait	268876/9
Lebanon	203959/733
Libya	267636/4
Mauritania	264188
Morocco	247964
Netherlands	263323/4/6/3
Oman	208874/5
Pakistan	248812/3/4
Palestine	264236/66
Poland	413523/4
Qatar	269654/7/11
Romania	205515/209003
Russia (FR)	278719/283142
Saudi Arabia	240429/30
Somalia	208864
Sudan	247885
Syria	414891/2
Tunisia	240458/9
Turkey	263476/241395
U. A. E.	248777/78
U. K.	264081/4
U. S. A.	238842/52
2. Honorary Consulates	
Austria	266725
Belgium	286965
Canada	208814
Denmark (Taiz)	04-215170
Finland	207018/20/21
Greece	272218
North Korea	272987
Norway	272983
Spain	208745
Sweden	207595/470
3. International Organization	
European Union	248495
FAO	207331/607
UNDP	415505/6/7
UNHCR	201856
UNICEF	211400/1/2
WFP	415199
WHO	252220
World Bank	413706/8/10
UNEPFA	417713
Aden Consulates:	
China	233115
Egypt	231270
Germany	232162
Libya	233611
Oman	233433/460
Russia (FR)	232792/232625
Saudi Arabia	233009
Somalia	241101
U. K.	232712/3/4/5

Universal Hodeidah	226980
Universal Mukalla	(05)354842/4/5
Bazara Travel	78093/270879
Ilias I. T. T.	273338/275554
Al-Nasim Travel	270750

YEMENIA BRANCHES:

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

HOTELS:

Sana'a (01)	
Sheraton	237500/1/2
Taj Sheba	272372/3
Plaza Suites	209074/903/205483
Hadda Hotel	415212/4/5
Shahran Hotel	418320/1/2
Aden (02)	
Movenpick	232911
Elephant Bay Beach Resort	202055
Crescent Hotel	203471/2/3
Hodeidah (03)	
Ambassador	231247/50
Al Burj	239336
Al-Fakhama	247881
Bristol	239158
Taiz (04)	
The Plaza Hotel	220224/26
Mareb	210350
Qasr Hemyar Tourism Hotel	223129
Yazan	217997
Mareb (063)	
Bilquis Mareb	2666/2371
Sadah (0751)	
Al Mamon	2203/2459
Mukalla (05)	
Hadramaut	2060

Al-Itimad 552493

COURIERS:	
Aramex Sana'a:	240741
Aden:	255333
Taiz:	213489
Hodeidah:	218168
DHL	268551
American Express	272435 / 6
FedEX Sana'a:	412604
Hodeidah:	247422
Aden:	232911
Taiz:	232838
SkyNet	212698
UPS	416751

FRIEGHTS:

AEI	285540
GAS Aviation Services	412309
ITS Agency	218142
Pacford Int'l Forwarding	203375
Red Sea Pac. & Gen. Services	26489
Sheibani Shipping and Clearing Corp.	212989
Hodeidah:	207028
Sana'a:	243319
Aden:	219292
Taiz:	303913
Mukalla:	272135
Yemen Freight Agency (YFA)	208898
YEMPAC	208898

LOCAL TEL. CODES

Sana'a	01	Al-Gayda	05
Aden	02	Al-Shuhr	05
Lahj	02	Soqatra	05
Al-Dhale	02	Dhamar	06
Yaf'e	02	Al-Bayda	06
Abyan	02	Marib	0630
Hodeidah	03	Al-Jawf	064
Taiz	04	Mahweet	07
Ibb	04	Amran	07
Mukalla	05	Saada	07
Seyoun	05	Hajja	07
Attaq	05		

Supreme Elections Committee Chairman and EC Ambassador Inaugurate Computer Facilities

Abdullah Hussein Barakat, chairman of the Supreme Elections Committee and Mr. James Moran, head of the European Commission Delegation to Jordan and Yemen inaugurated today at the SEC premises in Sana'a a state of the art computer system financed from a European Commission grant of EURO 250,000. Present were also Mr. Rainer Freund, head of EC Technical Advisory office in Sana'a and Mr. Walid Al Khirbash, Managing Director of IBM Al Khirbash, the supplier of the equipment and developer of the application software.



Mr. Mohammed Hassan Mothana, head of SEC's computer department added "we have been working in shifts for the past 10 days with the server and their high speed matrix printers operating basically 24 h/day with out breakdown. We have thus far printed the voters lists of over 150 of the 301 constituencies at a speed of 30-90 minutes per constituency depending on the number of voters. With the old system, we needed approx. 8 hours per constituency."

"Obviously, this is only the beginning of the computerization process at the SEC", said Dr. Barakat. "Our plan foresees the electronic link up of the SEC headquarters with our field offices and the forward and backward linkages of the system with the printing of forgery proof, registration and voters cards. We look towards the European Commission and other interested donors in supporting these plans."

Ambassador Moran expressed his satisfaction with the implementation status of this project and stressed "This is one of a number of important commitments of the European Commission to strengthening democratic institutions in Yemen. It is gratifying to see that this project is now already contributing in a meaningful way to the forthcoming elections. I am impressed with the commitment of the SEC to successfully concluding this activity".

Dr. Barakat concluded the inauguration by thanking the ambassador for the Commission assistance and by highlighting his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the European Commission TA Office in Sana'a and that of Walid Al-Khirbash and his staff.



Walid Al Khirbash explained "the IBM AS/400 based computer system is designed to handle Yemen's voters register of currently approx. 5.5 million registered voters (capacity for records of up to 8 million voters) and moreover allow for sophisticated statistical analysis of the register as well as election results".

Dr. Barakat responded "although there have been some bumps on the road to successfully implementing this project, we are now almost there and without the system, it would not have been possible to remain on schedule for the forthcoming presidential elections."

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