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AL-MIH DAR EXECUTED!



SANAA: Yesterday, Sunday the 17th of October, official sources indicated that the execution of Abulhasan Al-Mihdar took place. This gives the conclusion that indeed, President Saleh had endorsed the sentence, and ordered the immediate execution of the terrorist leader. This happened few days after the supreme court has upheld the sentence of death against the commander of Aden Abyan Islamist Army, Zein Al-Abidin Al-Mihdar, while it reduced the sentence against Abdullah Saleh Al-Junaidi to 20 years in prison. Al-Mihdar had already confessed that he aimed at killing the 3 Britons and an Australian whom he kidnapped in December 98, however the defendants deny that they were the ones who killed them, accusing the rescuing forces of having done the crime. The other defendants who were tried in absentia and acquitted by the primary court, had their files reopened by the supreme court. However, the death sentence was not to be executed until the permission came from President Saleh endorses to do so. This decision of the President gave a strong signal to terrorists and has shown that there will be no further tolerance for any terrorist action against tourists, such as the latest one committed by the Aden-Abyan Army which led to the death of westerners, causing the tourism industry severe damage, and a horrible decline in tourism revenues for the year 1999.

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THE CONFESSION IN THE CITY CENTER EXPLOSION TRIAL

SANAA: The three Yemenis and two Indians who were involved in the City Center Explosion that rocked Sana'a city last August have confessed to their complicity in the crime. They admitted that they helped detonate the explosion that killed 4 for insurance reasons. Yesterday, the trial continued against the six men, including a Yemeni tried in absentia, who are charged with killing four and injuring 20 others in the explosion. The men on trial confessed that they had helped the owner, Al-Omeiry, who was

among the victims of the explosion, to bomb the supermarket in order to collect the insurance money of USD 3.5 million. This confession of the victims was an unexpected development, as most of the observers thought that the incident was planned in order to kill the owner. Despite the confessions, some people still cannot understand why the owner did not escape from the spot of the explosion. In other words, they cannot believe that Al-Omeiry was too foolish to have caused the explosion before getting away from there to a safe place. His son, who was in the car, was among the ones who confessed that all this happened for insurance reasons.



More on page 18.

40 BILLION RIALS TO BE ADDED TO 1999'S BUDGET

SANAA: A total of 40.1 billion Rials (approximately \$250 million) will be provided to supplement the 1999 budget to cover the costs of services that are lined up to be implemented and also to cover the debt of the year. The government expects that the additional resources will be generated by higher oil prices and levy of income taxes. The parliament is expected to approve this amount within the coming days. Yemen's 1999 budget was around 335.5 billion rials with a projected deficit of YR 41.1 billion. With this supplement, the deficit will unexpectedly reach YR 81 billion. According to available economic information, this supplement has already been taken by the government but the government wants the approval of the parliament to avoid embarrassment when discussing the year 2000 budget in the parliament. This was a shocking demand for the public as they expected the deficit to be covered by increasing oil revenues. At another level, the government requested the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund last April to raise its loan for 1999-2003 to USD 876 million from USD 340 million for the last 4 years. Hence, the loan from the WB would reach \$1.2 billion.

Yemen is ranked the fastest growing country in population MERCY ON OUR ECONOMY!

SANAA: Last week witnessed the birth of the 6th billion baby in Sarajevo. As the world is becoming smaller and smaller to accommodate the number of inhabitants, we at Yemen, are still suffering from an extremely high rate of population growth. According to a report by Reuters, and the statements of the Yemeni government, Yemen is the fastest in population growth. It is not something we should be proud of, as this is devastating our economy and bringing the country to the verge of a disaster if nothing is done about it. Planning and Development Minister, Ahmed Mohammed Sofan stated that while the annual growth rate is about 3.7%, the latest statistics indicate that our country's population is around 17.58 million, and is expected to double in twenty years. President Ali Abdullah Saleh, had many times expressed his concern over the dangers due to the high population rate in Yemen, which is

caused mainly by illiteracy and unawareness. This growth will definitely continue, putting a heavy strain on the economy of the republic, which is already under heavy strain contributed by several factors including the decrease of oil prices in the last months. The main solution for this population growth can be found through a joint effort between the media, education, and internal ministries in trying to spread awareness about the dangers of over population for our children and for the next generation, which will be devastated by economic hardships if the current economic conditions continue. On the other hand, we should also focus on the importance of the official media in this campaign. The government can certainly do something about this if it has the true and honest intention. It is high time to implement family planning measures. It is time to act now!

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YEMEN TIMES SITE AT WWW.YEMENTIMES.COM, GETS 1,000,000 HITS

Yes, indeed, last week, the most famous and prominent Yemeni site on the Internet, at www.yementimes.com got its 1,000,000 hit. The number of visitors had drastically increased in the last three years to a level that has never reached before for any other Yemeni Site on the Internet. Not only was Yemen Times Online rated the best among all other sites by its readers, but it has also set a good example of how to reach a wide block of readers from all over the world. The unique thing about Yemen Times Online site is that unlike other newspaper sites, it has a very wide variety of services which makes it a target of not only users, but also many others interested in using these facilities. The most interesting one is the postcard service. Other services included are Classified sections, links, feedback, chatting room plus many other services. Moreover, the site is in continual development to obtain a daily news section that can be used as a bulletin after printing it directly from the home page. This will in some ways help hotels and offices which want daily news about Yemen.



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YT Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Question

Do you have hope that the parliament will endorse the Local Governance and/or Privatization laws?

Result

Yes, I believe that both laws will be endorsed. (39%)
No, none of the laws will be endorsed. (22%)
Local governance law will be endorsed, but the privatization law will not. (4%)
Privatization law will be endorsed, but the local governance law will not. (17%)
I have no idea, and cannot guess! (17%)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

In Your view, what should be the next step of the president in his campaign against chewing qat?

Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

The Fight against Qat is the Fight for the Future

The other day, I remembered an incident that happened to me in one of my flights to Istanbul from Amman. During the flight, I met with a Turk who did not hear much about Yemen. After introducing myself to him, he said "You are from Yemen? Where people eat grass?" I was so embarrassed at his statement, and expressed my discomfort with the sentence that he just said and replied, "what grass?" He said, "my brother was in Yemen for one week a few years back, and said that Yemenis chew some kind of grass and fill their mouths with it." I told him, "You mean qat? That is no grass, that is a plant" He replied, "I sorry, I do not know good English, yes, I mean plant not grass." I told him that chewing qat is a habit that is adopted among Yemenis through the years. He said that the view of Yemenis while chewing qat is ugly, for he once saw them on TV. "At the beginning, I thought that they had tooth ache, later I discovered that it was qat! I am sorry if that hurts you." Indeed, from inside, I felt the pain, and it was deep. But I still kept my pride, and said, "No, not at all. I know that qat is not a good habit. But our government and people are trying to get rid of it."

You are saying that Yemeni people are trying to get rid of it, but my brother had chewed it because of the insistence from his Yemeni friends to try it and see how good it is. How would they want not to chew qat while they invite my brother to do the same? That statement hurt me further, for I tried to fake the reality. Indeed, most Yemenis still insist on living with qat and inviting others to it.

In my last years in Turkey, I watched a program on TV reporting about Yemen and Yemenis. The program showed ugly pictures of skinny Yemenis chewing qat in the streets with dirty clothes and unshaved beards. When imaging myself in the place of a Turkish viewer, I disrespect myself. How can he live with no clean clothes, with nothing to eat, with his family starving, and he is on the street lying on the sidewalk with 'grass' filling his mouth. That truly gave me the impression that we are indeed chewing grass like goats and sheep, forgetting about our responsibilities and families.

What is also so sad is that many diplomats and tourists who come to Yemen are invited to join qat sessions and chew qat with others. They think that this social activity that is unique to Yemen and that should be preserved. They feel that qat is an element which enables families and friends to meet in gatherings and to strengthen the social relations between them. However, they forget an important thing, Qat is a factor behind Yemen's backwardness! Not only that, qat is also considered as a drug in many countries in the world. Moreover, in Yemen, it is a poison, as the latest statistics show that it includes dangerous chemicals that are caused by pesticides. This has led to the death of dozens in the last years. Diplomats, foreigners, intellectuals, government officials, and all Yemenis should join hands to destroy this habit that is eating our country's wealth away like termites. For the ones who are yet not convinced, here are 9 reasons why qat is considered the truly most important factor behind our backwardness:

1. The total expenditure on qat by consumers, on a low estimate basis, is about YR 36 billion every year, yielding a daily average of almost YR 100 million.
2. Land area allocated for qat growing is about 100,000 hectares.
3. Of the farmers who grow qat today, 90% were growing something else in the 1970s.
4. The qat sector represents 39% of GDP.
5. 55% of all the underground water extracted goes to qat fields.
6. 20 million man-hours are wasted daily on qat consumption.
7. Qat has serious detrimental effects on physical and psychological health, and on over-all well-being.

The President has just on time realized the true dangers of this devastating plant. Within this short period after he was elected as president, he has given his orders to ban the chewing of qat for military personnel during work, and for passengers on local airplane flights. He started with himself by announcing that he stopped chewing this plant, and advised all Yemenis to do the same, but to no avail. He has intelligently started some good steps towards getting rid of qat for good. The initial steps may be simple, but they are considered a milestone, which brings the anti-qat strategy on the move. As I congratulate the President for his steps, I wish he would continue them by forbidding chewing of qat in government offices, and in time will at the end be the rescuer of Yemen from this disgusting habit of chewing qat. I believe, as all anti-qat intellectuals who see the facts behind them do, that there would be no future with qat in Yemen. I am truly glad that the president has become one of them.

Words of Wisdom

"Human resource development is a key factor for our future. The future of Yemen is in education, vocational training, continued re-education and re-training, family planning, health services, etc. These sectors have to be re-structured so that they enhance self-confidence, responsible behavior, and the ability to do productive work among our people."

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



In Brief

CPJ Urge President Saleh to Stop Journalists Harassment

After a verdict was made to close Al-Haq newspaper, the Committee to Protect Journalists urged the President in writing to stop the closure orders of Al-Haq as well as Al-Shoura newspapers. The committee also asked the president to "use your good offices to ensure that Yemeni authorities cease all legal and other forms of harassment against journalists in response to their professional work and that you initiate meaningful legislative reforms aiming at halting state restrictions on the free expression of news and opinions in Yemen."

The 30th Anniversary of Yemeni-German Relationship

The Federal Republic of Germany and Yemen are going to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relationship between the two countries. The embassy of Germany in Sana'a will present a colorful cultural program on this occasion. On 23rd of October 99 at 10 a.m. the official ceremony will be held with H.E. the Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen, Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iriani, (in the Yemeni Cultural Center-Sana'a). On 24th of October 99 at p.m. the German Film Festival in the Yemeni Cultural Center-Sana'a will be inaugurated. Several German movies, subtitled in English, will be screened every night the festival will continue till 28th of October.

On 1st November at 8 p. m. there will be a Concert presented by the German music group. Between 2nd and 5th November 99 at p.m. the Taj Sheba Hotel is going on to organize a German Food Festival with specialties of the cuisine of different German regions. On 7th November 99 at 11 a. m. an art matinee (in the house of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation) will inaugurate the Exhibition on Yemeni doors and German impressions. From 15th to 18th November the first conference of Yemeni and German intellectuals will be organized in Aden and Sana'a.

Yemeni-Omani Exhibition Inaugurated

The Minister of Finance and Commerce and Saleh Obad Al-Khawlan, the governor of Hadramout joined inaugurated the Yemeni-Omani Exhibition which organized by the chamber of commerce (in Hadramout and university center for Exhibitions). Mr. Omar Bajarash, the vice chairman of the chamber of commerce in a statement to the Yemen Times saying: "we inaugurated this exhibition of Yemeni and Omani products, which will continue from 14th of October to 3rd of November. Seven Omani companies will participate and exhibit their products (as Dhofar soft drinks company and Salalah mills company). About 17 Yemeni companies

will participated in this exhibition". This exhibition is the second of its kind which takes place in Hadramout.

Handicapped Course Activities

The activities of the handicapped training course are going on in full swing at the Handicapped Training Center. It was inaugurated at the beginning of this month in the presence of colonel Saleh Bin Shamlan, the vice general of Hodeidah governorate. This course will continue for about three months. It is organized by the Training Center, and is sponsored by the British OXFAM Association. Ten trained women will participate in this program. They will be trained how to deal with the handicapped children.

The course is the second phase of the training project which was mounted during this year and is sponsored by the British OXFAM Association. Yemeni Child Rights Society has expressed its appreciation for the British OXFAM Association on its support to this program.

National Committee For Local Government

The National Committee called upon the Parliament to initiate steps to fulfill the national commitments concerning the local governance, and to usher in modern Yemen. The committee said that the Parliament should discharge its historical and national responsibilities, and protect the aims of the Yemeni Revolution. The committee said that the members of the Parliament cannot afford to overlook the aim of the National Committee which is to found the modern Yemen, to support the unity of the Yemeni society, to help the Parliament implement its mission and to help Yemeni people to achieve their ambitions. The right should be granted to Yemeni people to choose the governors. The National Committee called upon the Parliament to discuss all the provisions, which were envisaged offered by the Committee.

Solidarity Meeting

The Sons of Yemen League (RAY) held the solidarity meeting on October 13, 99 at the party headquarters in Sana'a. The participants discussed the dangers which threaten the stability of the opposition newspapers and journalists. They also discussed the suspension of the Alshoura and the Alhaq newspapers and the fate of a number of journalists and politicians who were arrested like Mr. Abdulatif Kotbali Omar, t. , Ali Haitham Al-Qareeb, Hassan Bin Hissenoona and Mr. Hassan Ba'oom, the secretary general of YSP in Hadramout. They said that the victims symbolized criminal violation of the democratic values, freedom of press and opinion.

They called upon all the political movements to raise voice against these violations. They have decided to squat near the Parliament on the morning of Sunday 17 October. Besides, they also called for the abol-

ishing of the Ministry of Information

Care Project in Ibb Governorate

The Governorate of Japan has agreed to support a primary health care project by extending a financial grant to Charity Association for Electoral District (102), for constructing a health unit in Shalaf, Udain district. The grant totaling US \$ 28,589 will be provided for the construction of the health unit.

British Government Support Global Cultural Diversity Congress 2000

The congress will take place in Cardiff city in UK on 20-23 March 2000 and will focus on efforts to promote racial and ethnic diversity and combat discrimination.

The British Government is giving strong support to the Congress. The Prime Minister Tony Blair will attend the congress with a number of Ministers. The main theme will be: Employment and Business, Health and Welfare, Education and Training, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, justice, Policing and Racial Violence and Harassment and Racial Discrimination.

Party at Rainbow Pre-School

A magical halloween Party is going to be held on October 22nd at Rainbow Pre-School. Many surprises, gifts, games, costumes, fire works as well as different other things are in store for comers. The entrance fees is 200 riyals.

Seminar on Women's Rights

In cooperation with the Canadian Program for Information Development and Rehabilitation Center for Human Rights organized a seminar on "Women's Economic and Social Rights" from Oct. 17th to 18th in Aden Hotel. During the seminar a number of papers were presented by Dr. Suad Othman, Dr. Radhiyah Shamsir, Nadhirah Al-Shargabi, Dr. Ibtihaj Al-Khaibah and others.

Fatal gift

Sheikh Ali Kalkal from Al-Safra'a in Sadah met his death after trying to use a mobile he received as a gift from a mysterious person through a mediator who said that it was a gift from another shiekh. It is said that he was asked to open it the gift when being alone. Although the victim's family asked him to open the present while they were riding a car together, he refused. He opened it when he became alone in one of the houses. No sooner he opened it, than a huge explosion was heard. The whole body of the victim has shattered to pieces due to the explosion. This case is the first of its kind and so far mystery is covering the whole case.

Youth and Starvation

In cooperation with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation organized a press conference yesterday in the Ministry of Agriculture. The conference focused on the youth's role in fighting starvation. In his speech the FAO's representative in Yemen highlighted the role played by the Telfood Program in rising the people's awareness about the nutrition security, as well as developing agriculture.

N.S.C. for Human Rights Hold a Symposium

The National Supreme Committee for Human rights holds its first awareness symposium for human rights during the period 17-20 October 1999. The symposia was conducted for employees in the judiciary system and the prosecution. It was attended by top officials in the government.

Spectacular Success of the Yemen Times Tourist Guide

Almost all Yemen Times copied were sold last week, as Yemen Times released its first ever tourist guide for free with every issue. Yemen Times readers and the public in general admired the tourism guide. The paper received calls from in and outside Yemen to complement it for its work in publishing the guide. Despite its very few mistakes that did occur, its contents, pictures, design, and layout were thought by many to be "spectacular".

Amat Al-Aleem Al-Susuwa called the editor to say, "you succeeded in publishing a guide better than the last government's."

This encouragement by the readers further pushed the staff's motives to release more supplements.

The Yemenia Airlines are expected to have

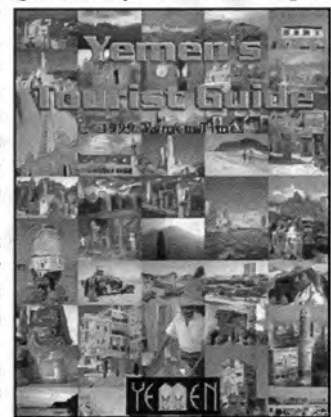
these guides placed in front of every passenger on its airplanes as part of the government's efforts for the promotion of tourism for the country.

We have received many complements regarding the guide, here is one of them: "Dear Yemen Times, We thank you for all the faithful and frank efforts that you have made in terms of renewing the design and excellent lay-

out. I wish you all the success in the future.

I also particularly thank you for your support to the tourism sector through your articles and through your wonderful tourist guide that you recently released. I present you this letter of gratitude and wish that you will continue supporting the tourism sector in Yemen."

- Munif Mutahhar Al-Aghbary, Taiz



Aden Ex.Com 2000



The Scientific Exhibition for Computer, organized by the Computer Center in Aden University ended last Wednesday. The exhibition which was held in the Mövenpick Hotel was considered to be a major scientific phenomenon, since it was held for the first time in Aden since 1994.



Dr. Nawal Abdulla Salem, Assistant Professor at the College of Engineering and head of the Preparation Committee said: "Hopefully, it was a good start for holding such scientific exhibitions that can benefit many organizations, university students and many others. In spite of the absence of some of the leading companies which were apprehensive of loss, the exhibition was a success and very well attended. This was the first time I was given the responsibility to mount this exhibition. I initially found some difficulties in persuading the companies to participate. There were altogether 12 companies besides Aden, Sana'a and Al-Hodaidah Universities. What we really lacked in the exhibition was the presence of visual media."

Mr. Abdulla Marouf Bajirsh, General Manager of Bajirsh Computer Center said: "The exhibition was concluded successfully and it was attended by many visitors, specially students. Unfortunately the Commercial Chamber did not invite the businessmen to attend the exhibition. Anyhow, it was a good start and we hope the coming exhibitions will be more successful. The last time we participated in a similar exhibition was five years ago in the college of Engineering. When we make a comparison between the two exhibitions, we notice a change in the people's attitudes towards computers this year. We are the representatives of MITAC Company for Computers in Yemen. We offered a 50% discount during the exhibition. We are the main computer providers for the university and the government offices in Aden. We hope that in the future such exhibition will be more successful and the media will do its best to cover the event."

Protest Against Price Hikes in Mukalla

Hundreds of people went on a peaceful protest last Wednesday morning in Mukalla. Demonstrators protested against the price hikes of bread and other food stuffs. On the other hand, it is reported that big quantities of rotten flour has reached Hodeidah Port on an American Ship. High officials have given orders to unload the ship. A grumbling as well as resentment atmosphere has clouded all over the country.

there has clouded all over the country.

Eradicating Polio Campaign

The fourth national campaign for eradicating polio, first round started giving vaccination to people from 24-26 October. About 7,500,000 doses have been prepared according to international standards to be distributed to 5560 centers. About 5700 health workers as well as 130,361 volunteers are participating in this campaign.

Qualified Yemeni Employees Hold High Positions in Yemen Hunt Oil Company

Yemen Hunt Oil Company has started promoting qualified Yemeni employees and giving them access to high positions in the company. This is done as a result of efforts exerted by Ministry of Oil to qualify the Yemeni staff. Yemen Hunt Oil Company was the first to respond positively to these efforts. The question that crops up is "Will other companies follow suit and give a chance to Yemeni qualified employees to hold high positions?"

Continued from page 1: Taken from official sources. Abulhassan Al-Mihdar Executed!

Sunday Oct. 17, the execution of Zein Al-Abidin Abubakr Abdullah Al-Mihdar (Abulhassan) took place in Sana'a for forming an armed group, kidnapping a number of western tourists and injuring and killing some of them, resisting police forces, and committing a number of explosions in some Yemeni governorates. Based on rulings of the primary court of Moudia and the appeal court of Abyan, both which are approved by the supreme court in Sana'a and endorsed by the President of the Republic of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, the capital punishment execution was witnessed by representatives from the attorney and the court a security forces. The supreme court had already approved the primary court's decision of death penalty, and ordered the direct implementation of the rulings which include: Death to Abulhassan Al-Mihdar and 20 years imprisonment for Abu Hureirah, and Ahmed Atif, and Abdullah Al-Junidi. The court has also rejected the appeal of the defendants and ordered the immediate implementation of the verdict. After the President had approved the verdict, the execution took place in order to complete the judicial proceedings. This to signal a strong and stiff measured era against terrorists in Yemen.



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Yemeni Press Scanner

Al-Sahwa, weekly, mouthpiece of the Islah:

An Yemeni court clears all the accused in a bombing case:

1) The Sheikh Othman Court of Aden declared on Tuesday morning not guilty all those accused in the bombing case No. 468. The case deals with the explosions which occurred at Sheikh Othman on the night of 22nd of May 1998, after which a number of people were accused of sabotage and of having connections with foreign powers.

Judge Adnan Mohammed Ahmed justified his ruling as a result of the lacking of any legal or convincing evidence by the prosecutor. He said also that the minutes of interrogation were not valid because because the lawyers of the accused were not present in addition to their complaints of some of the accused that they were coerced during interrogation.

It is noted. That this is the first time in a case on bombing in which a Yemeni court declares all the accused innocent. The accused had already spent 17 months in prison.

Parliamentary Committees investigate the Feminine Studies Center:

2) Three Parliamentary Committees have begun investigating the status and activities of the Feminine Studies Center of Sana'a University which is headed by Dr. Ra'oofa Hassan in order to submit a detailed report on the center's activities and curriculum specially on the subject of "gender".

This development comes in the aftermath of a Parliamentary decision to charge its committees for Sharia'ah Rules Codification, Higher Education, and Justice and Endowment Committees with studying the activities of the center, in compliance to demands by a big number of MPs, especially with regard to symposiums and curriculums which insulted Islamic Sharia'ah, and are contradictory to the principles of Islamic Education.



Al-Tareeq, weekly, independent:

Letters from Yemen to an Israeli Minister:

1) The Israeli newspaper Ma'arev disclosed last Tuesday that the Government of Yemen, intends to begin a dialogue with Israel, aimed at establishing diplomatic ties.

Ma'ariv made it clear in a report that was carried also by the Alquds Al-Arabi of London in the same day that Yemen has of late made a number of hints towards Israel, expressing its wish to start discussions with Israel. It said that some individuals who are near to high Yemeni authorities have dispatched letters to an Israeli Minister saying "in the eyes of Yemen, the Barak Government isn't a taboo".

The newspaper added that the Israeli government, has of late intensified its efforts to start diplomatic ties with a number of Arab countries, such as Algeria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates.

Al-Quds Al-Arabi quoted Yemeni sources as saying that a high a Palestinian official has mediated between the Yemeni and Israeli sides in order to improve bilateral relations and arrange a visit to Sana'a by the Minister of Security in the Netanyahu Cabinet, Mr. Avigdor Kohlani. The Yemeni side has rejected such a visit. It is noteworthy that, who only eased from a Yemeni origin and has expressed more than once his wish to visit his place of birth at Sa'ada.

Shining objects continue appearing in Ja'ar skies:

2) Flying space objects continued to appear in the skies of many locations in Abyan Governorate. Last Saturday a flying object was seen coming from the west and going eastwards.

On the evening of the same day, another object was seen flying in a horizontal and vertical movement. It had white and red lights, with a circular light on it. It was seen with the unaided eye. Its speed couldn't be estimated.

Both these flying objects were seen by Al-Tareeq reporter and by a number of his family members.

A Saudi Ship is confined at Bir Ali:

The Saudi fishing ship, Sarawat 6 was detained at Bir Ali in Shabwa Governorate. The ship is rented to the Yemen Fishing and Sea Creatures Company was confined after found fishing between A'arqa and Hora only one and a half miles away from the beach. Instructions organizing fishing in the area allow similar ships to fish beyond five miles in the Gulf of Aden and the Arab Sea.

Smuggled Antiquities seized at Al-Ghaidha:

3) The Criminal Investigation Department in Al-Mahra Governorate has seized a number of antiquities that were being smuggled to neighboring countries for prices that exceed imagination. Sources of Al-Tareeq have reported that the amount confiscated consisted of statues with writings on them in Musnad. Our Sources said that the group with whom the Antiques were found was released without any action taken against them.

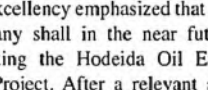


26th SEPTEMBER, Weekly: Armed Forces Newspaper:

Iranian Companies to build Oil installations, Water and Electricity Projects:

An high level delegation of Iranian ministers and officials, headed by Mr. Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, Chairman of the Consultative Council in the Islamic Republic of Iran shall visit Yemen next December. Discussions shall cover bilateral relations and ways to develop and enforce them. His Excellency Mr. Murtadha Rahimi The Iranian Ambassador to Yemen said that Mr. Nateq Nuri shall hold talks with Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament and other House officials on cooperation between Parliaments in Yemen and Iran, and their positions towards Islamic, International and regional issues of mutual interest; in addition to exchanging views on the efforts made towards the establishment of a Union of Islamic Parliaments under the light of the Iranian initiative in her capacity as the current Chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization. His Excellency added that during the visit, meetings of the 4th Session of Joint Yemeni Iranian Committee shall be held. Economic, Cultural and Investment bilateral relations shall be discussed and a number of agreements shall be signed.

His Excellency emphasized that an Iranian company shall in the near future begin executing the Hodeida Oil Exportation Port Project. After a relevant agreement had been signed with the Ministry of Oil and Mineral Resources. He added that other Iranian Companies shall begin in the near future the execution of other water and electricity projects in Yemen.



Al-Ummah, Weekly, Al-Haq Party: A Demonstration against Hike of Bread Prices. Is the Rotten Flour an American Aid?

Hundreds of laborers demonstrated Wednesday morning at Mukalla, against the recent 50% increase in flour prices. The demonstration that headed towards the Governor offices and consisted mostly of citizens from the Northern Governorates ended peacefully. On another hand it is rumored in Hodeida that quantities of rotten flour full of worms, moths and other insects have arrived to Hodeida as American Aid to Yemen. Rumors say that orders were given by high level officials that the flour be moved to warehouses; despite the fact that a committee was charged by the office of the Governor and the local offices of Supply and Preventive Health to test these quantities. People are wondering whether American Aid can be rotten flour? And why?

It is noteworthy that a high level of anger

and discontent prevails among the population as a result of the increase of the price of the loaf of bread to seven riyals.

Al-Shumoa'

Al-Shumoa', independent, weekly:

1) A plan to establish a Joint Gulf/Yemeni Bank fails:

An unconfirmed reports say the efforts pioneered by Mr. Mohammed Al-Zubairi, the prominent businessman and former Secretary General of Sana'a Chamber, are being made to establish a joint Yemeni/Gulf bank.

The reports adds that a number of businessmen received a feasibility study of the bank, and that most of them were reluctant to join due to many reasons; the most important of which, the reports claim, that there is no participation from the Gulf side; especially after a number of Omani investors withdrew from the project. The reason behind this withdrawal is that it was discovered that hidden hands (Hayel Establishment) were behind the plan and moving Mr. Zubairi. Claims say that it was clear during the Sana'a Chamber and Union of Chambers of Commerce dispute.

It is noteworthy that the headquarters of the bank were rented at Al-Shurta St. for a monthly rate of half a million of rials

2) An unsurpassed questioned move by the Ministry of Communications!!

Within the corruption episode which surrounds our national economy and investments moves and decisions are taken aiming directly at hurting our nationals' interests for the benefit of some companies and their officials. On of the most dangerous of such moves was, as our sources in Teleyemen and the Ministry of Communications report, is the hike of the price of calls in Yemen to any mobile phone. Calls cost now 15 riyals, and the difference which is paid by callers goes to Teleyemen. Sources told Al-Shumoa' that the move was designed to compensate Teleyemen for what it used to receive from mobile owners for calls received by their mobiles.

Some circles consider that adding additional burdens to our nationals in the aim of benefiting Teleyemen is an unsurpassed abnormal move of looting nationals. They add that by not announcing this decision to consumers the Ministry of Communications is in fact practicing an act of fraud and cheating; which is penalized by law. The Minister of Communications bears responsibility for that.

On another hand some political and economical circles report the possibility the possibility that there are forces which are against the President and his policies. Such forces might be behind the recent increases in the prices of wheat, flour and telephone calls which were simultaneous with the conclusion of elections. They might be aiming at raising doubts about the creditability of the President's Election Program.

These circles consider that the Minister of Communications and the high officials of Teleyemen and the Government Corporation for Communications should be put on trial for fraud against the people. It should be noted that many (private owned) communication centers and companies has suffered big losses because of ignorance about this increase of phone calls price to mobiles.



Al-Ehya' Al-Arabi, weekly, Iraqi Ba'ath Party:

A Solution for the Problem between Haraz and Gahm:

Sources in Ma'rib told our newspaper that the Sheikhs of Sanhan have reached a field agreement to the dispute between the tribes of Haraz and Gahm. According to the said agreement Haraz has agreed to commission the Sheikhs of Gahm tribe to announce a resolution and to deliver to Gahm as a token of commitment a hundred of rifles. The Gahmi sheikhs accepted the agreement last Saturday. The dispute between the two tribes had led

to confrontations and kidnappings between them. Gahmis had kidnapped more than ten of Haraz; who disturbed traffic on the Sana'a-Hodeida route.



Al-Usboo', independent, weekly:

1) A Fatwa on Dr. Ra'oofa halted:

A previous leader of the Yemeni Islah Party reports that what he calls 'the enlightened' inside the party have succeeded to convince their more adamant brethren to halt issuing a Fatwa on Dr. Ra'oofa Hassan, Director of the Feminine Studies Center, declaring her and another Moroccan researcher, Mr. Abdul Mu'ti Al-Dayalmi as 'kafirs'. The Fatwa was to be issued because of some opinions that were expressed by Mr. Al-Dayalmi during a symposium organized by the center recently. Our source said that a lot of efforts were made to convince the most unyielding elements into refraining from issuing the Fatwa so that they are not called extremists or terrorists. They were convinced that it is better to take Dr. Ra'oofa to a court of law.

A number of Imams of mosques who are considered very near to the Islah have condemned in their speeches the Center and the call made by Al-Dayalmi to open the gates for rethinking some issues in Islam.

While Dr. Ra'oofa is abroad in a "study" leave that shall continue for five years, Dr. Khadija Al-Haisame was nominated a provisional leader for the Center by Sana'a University. Huge pressures are exerted at Sana'a University by the Ikhwan members of the PGC to dismiss the Center completely or merge it with the Faculty of Arts.

2) Al-Beedh one of the most Influential Personalities:

Mr. Ali Salem Al-Beedh, the former Deputy President of the Republic of Yemen was among the ten most influential personalities in the history of the Yemen in a survey organized by the Center for Future Studies.

A number of intellectuals and university professors took part in the survey, and selected Al-Beedh as one of the most influential personalities. He was also considered the real creator of the Unity of Yemen and the later secession attempt.

President Saleh was also selected one of the most influential personalities who could through his reign for more than 21 years achieve the Unity of Yemen and to keep it intact in the face of the secession attempt. He made available a democratic system during his reign.

Former President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi was also selected as the builder of modern Yemen; while Imam Yahya was selected as the liberator of Yemen.

Among those selected were five who ruled Yemen in addition to Ali Abdul Mughni (the real maker of the 26th September Revolution) and Rajeh Labuzah (symbol of 14th October Revolution) and the leaders of the 1948 Movement.

The list included also three individuals who played an establishing role in political and partisan movements that influenced Yemeni history. They are Faisal Al-Sha'abi, who began the Pan-Arab Nationalist Movement, Abdo Mohammed Al-Mikhlaifi who established the Islamic Movement known as The Muslim Brothers, and the third is Mohammed Ali Al-Gifri who established the League of the Sons of the South.

Al-Noa'man and Al-Zubairi, both cultural personalities, were selected for expressing the conscience of Yemen. The only personality which was selected for its role in developing industry and economy is the late businessman Mr. Hayel Saeed Ana'am.



Al-Thawri, weekly, YSP:

Imported Seeds ruin a 1000 Greenhouse Plantations:

A court in Sahar, Sa'ada is studying a serious case concerning a plant disease that ruined about 1000 plantations which

resulted from using imported seeds which genetically processed then imported and marketed by the Agricultural Consultations Company.

Judge Hussein Ahmed Zaid, Chairman of the court said that his court received tens of cases raised by farmers accusing the company of supplying them with virus contaminated seeds which led to the ruin of their harvests which they can neither consume nor market.

He said that a number of Agriculture officials in Sa'ada Governorate have testified that this virus makes soil lose its characteristics and harvest become very weak and eventually perish.

Notice

Yemen Times would like to notify that the article published on the first page of the last issue of Al-Usboo newspaper concerning the cost of the presidential elections was mistakenly referred to Yemen Times as the source, while the actual source was Ray Newspaper. The article was taken from Ray and placed on the Press Scanner page (page 3) on our last newspaper.

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We will publish a complete report about these categories in the next issue.

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Local Government: Important Benefits and General Basis



Dr. Ahmed Al-Shaikh Abubaker

effort and a noble demand for the Yemeni people in the existing era. This will give an impetus, which will provide a comprehensive integration for the projects of the socio-economic development, and will secure fair allotment of utilizing the national wealth resources.

General Basis :

It is necessary to stress the importance of establishing the local government Authority as the cornerstone of democracy. Such existence of the local government must have jurisdiction clarity of defining the responsibilities with equality and clear flexible balance between.

1- Jurisdictions

Achieve the constitutional Democratic principle, based one state. Communications between them should enable stability, investment achieve development and create productive results.

2- Representation

Take into account the adequate democratic representation for the local units, to secure interaction and positive mutual conciliation between the people.

3- Financial Resources

The local government unit should entertain independent financial resources, which protect them from the obstructions of dealing with the bureaucratic proceedings, the rigidity of the routine, and the failure of the central administration.

4- Elections

Elect the authorities with their different positions of the local government, as well as their exciting departments by a free, fair, equal, comprehensive and direct ballot, and according the appropriate terms for conducting the responsibility, provided also the members should be from the citizens of the area

5- Control

Any dispute over powers or field of specialization between the central and local authorities is to be controlled and settled by the relevant judicial authority.

Local Administration Bill, MPs and the Constitution



Dr. Saadalddeen Talib
Member of Parliament

After a long wait and much political wrangling, the "Local Administration Bill" finally made its way into the parliament floor for discussion and approval. The "Local administration Committee" in parliament has put in a lot of effort to finalize its report. The People's General Congress (PGC) parliamentary block was also very much involved in discussions with its government to widen the scope of jurisdiction of local councils to make them more

for improvement suddenly diminished as a result of the obstinate resistance to change. Differences of opinion soon surfaced when the article of definitions (article 2) was debated. The majority of MPs had suggested amendments to the definition of "Head of administrative unit" (i.e. governor, district director) to be ELECTED. The parliament presidium objected and the article was postponed. It was apparent during the discussions of other articles that the issue of "election" or "appointment" of governor and district directors was the crucial issues in the bill and that it was necessary to settle it before continuing the debate.

The MPs initiating the amendment motion had a strong argument in accordance with the constitution which stated clearly that governors and district directors are to be elected persons.

The constitution contains a section entitled "Local Authority Organs"-articles 143 to 146. Article 143, read that the legislated act should define the division of administrative units, the procedure of nomination AND election AND selection of its directors (i.e. governors and district directors.) It is the interpretation of this article that has caused disagreement among MPs on the one side and parliament presidium and government on the other. The argument of the government that "selection" in the article allows "appointment" is difficult to digest. The word "appointment" has appeared many times in the constitution. But 'selection', it is argued, meant selection from those elected to local councils. This argument is strengthened by Articles 4 and 144 where it is clearly stated that local councils are "elected" directly by the people.

Continue on page 12

SILVER LINING



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

Population Explosion: A Global Menace

The world celebrated on the last Tuesday, October 12 the Day in which the world population reached 6 billion. The occasion should be taken as a chance to alarm the whole globe population of the menace of population explosion. This is because within 12 years only the world population rate reached 1 billion, half of them are under the age of 25. The number of the youth is one billion whose ages range between 10-24. Around 95% of the world population explosion is found in the developing countries.

Yemen is one of such developing countries in which the situation of the annual growth rate of population offers a scary and staggering picture. Reports say that if present fertility rates of 7.2% and an annual explosive growth rate of 3.7% continue, Yemen's present population of 17.8 million will dramatically grow to 19.6 million by 2002, to almost 22 million by 2005, and is projected to jump up to 27 million in 2010 and to a crashing 40 million by the year 2020. In 1975 the Yemeni population was 8.1 million and in 1994 it reached 15.5 million. What is more worse is that a high proportion of the population is young people. Around 2.5 million of Yemenis are under four years old, and another 5 million are between the ages of 5-14 years. Thus, infants and children represent 42.4 % of the total population today. In addition, this proportion will rise to 50% by 2010.

The population explosion is of multifaceted dangerous aspects. The most important one is the economic factor. More people means more services and developmental projects which our fragile economy can not afford. Therefore, this will keep the number of the poor people

constantly on the rise. Approximate estimates indicate that the annual income per capita is less than a dollar. Around 30% of the population live below the line of poverty. Nearly 95% of them live in the countryside, where a father has approximately a dozen of children. Of course, he can not afford providing them with proper schooling, dress, food or health care. We find, therefore, that roughly 45% of the Yemeni children are out of school. Giving birth to many kids, moreover, substantially affects the health of women.

Another plight of population explosion is the increase of unemployment rate which extends to roughly more than 40%. The rise of unemployment means a lot of people are to be labeled below the line of poverty. This situation of joblessness will accordingly make a lot of people fall victims to crime and other bad habits.

I believe the rising rate of illiteracy, estimated at 65%, is one of the main substantial factors of this population situation. Therefore, controlling the situation should start by drawing a fully-fledged family planning mechanism to stop this population inflow. The government has to keep its eyes peeled to the resultant impacts of population explosion. Furthermore, it has to educate the people of the hazard of this problem. Media should take part in this regard. In addition, access to the tools of family planning should be made easy and available for everybody in the society with token prices. This is to maintain a sustainable development. Otherwise, if this population growth rate continues, efforts of development will get stuck and scrambles. To cut a long story short, we should all be fully aware of the menace of population explosion on our future generation.

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Private Investment companies out of the Blue: Life and Death for the People's Money

By: Imad Al-Saqqaf &
Farooq Al-Kamali
Yemen Times, Taiz

The people in charge in Al-Monked Company stated that this verdict was illegal. The verdict has made big controversy among the people. The Yemen Times contacted Sheikh Hamood Hashem Al-Tharihi, member of the Highest Organization of the Islah Party and deputy of Al-Monked Company who said the following: "Al-Monked Company for Investment and Trade Investment was established after the unification as there was a national call to speed up national investment. Many people rushed to invest their money in the company so as to gain fair and legitimate profits. It started pursuing its projects after the war of 1994. Furthermore, a Cabinet law was issued in



1995 to organize activities of investment companies. We were vigorously going on investing the money of shareholders in different parts of the country till we bought some lands in Celics, Aden. We bought these lands and we have lawful, official documents that vindicate their legacy. These documents were signed by official organizations including the prosecution, state registration, Lawful Administration concerned, etc. Then, Aden was declared a Free Zone and these lands consequently became part of the Free Zone. People in charge in Al-Monked Company tried their best to contact all institutions concerned as well as top officials in the country to have due compensation in accordance with the constitution and the relevant laws. The stand of our

company is crystal clear and we still endorse that the company was established with the shareholders' money. Their money is not at all going to be lost due to some ignorant and high-handed persons. With regard to the verdict given by the Public Money Court, I would like to make clear the following:

1) The verdict as well as the trial made were illegal according to the law. It is so because the Estimate Committee's final decision can not at all be challenged in accordance with the law for the public benefit.

2) What has happened is a violation of judicial provisions, an apology to escape the fair, legal and constitutional compensation.

3) The president has given the following assurance to shareholders from Mareb, Noham, Ghawlan, Goham, Taiz, Ibb, Sana'a and Al-Gawf sheikhs: "Justice will be done to you." The president has also gave instructions to the vice president as well as the brigadier general Ali Mohsen to suggest appropriate ways and means for a solution. However, the mafia of Aden went on to take a quick decision after holding regular sessions of consultations to subvert the process.

4) The verdict was a partial judgment for only the poor owners of these lands, some employees, and the legitimate owners of these lands. Those found guilty, such as Anas Al-Ahdal and Mohammed Ismail were sentenced to prison. However, the judge and the prosecution dared not bring the errant manager of the Area Authority and that of State Registration in Aden to book, those who signed and sealed the legacy of selling of lands. Nor could they penalize those influential persons who tampered all the procedures in the two authorities. This goes to prove that the trial made was a discriminatory one done to exercise pressure on legal owners so that they would restrain from asking for compensation.

5) All the underlying mysteries deliberately covered up in this trial should be disclosed and uncovered in a press conference. We would appeal against this ver-

dict and all allied illegal actions and expose all who have twisted facts.

6) This tangled verdict cannot confiscate the money of 20,000 shareholders from all the governorates of Yemen. Their rights for compensation according to the Estimates Committee will never be lost. Nor will we dispense with the shareholders who have been patient for five years. Their money can not go with the wind by a certain whim of some crooks.

8) If officials have a clandestine design of putting some employees in prison, how does one explain the role of Mohammed Ismail, the ex-manager of Al-Monked Company and Anass Al-Ahdal, the current manager of the company who bought the lands according to official legal documents? Moreover, these lands were recommended to Mohammed Ismail by some influential officials. Even the procedures were carried out by them and the prosecution dared not hold them accountable for.

We request the president on behalf of 20,000 people including those who live in abject poverty and those who have put all that they had in life in the company, to put an end to this imbroglio and to order for payment of compensation to the company in accordance with the law and constitution."

This is Mr. Altharehi's comment on the verdict of the Public Money Court in Aden.

With regard to the Al-Emad Company, the shareholders concerned have filed a case against the company in the Trade Court through lawyer Abdullah Abass Al-Molayki. We asked him to shed some light on the case filed against the company and he said the following: "I was present five

months ago in the Trade Court and saw the victims with the Manager of Saba Company Taiz and Al-Emad branches. I stood by the victims and took all the cash receipts, purchase shares documents and other documents as well. I tried to protect their rights and submitted to the court to imprison the manager of Al-Emad Company Ibb branch, Abdoh Mokbel till



he brought guarantee. Besides being the manager of Ibb branch, he was also the Cashier, accountant and financial manager. He used to give people profits from the assets of the company, from their deposits. As matters stand now, we are still collecting shareholders documents. The court has released Abdoh Mokbel on condition that he attends the sessions held in the court. However, the point is that the judge himself avoids attending these sessions. Al-Emad Company is a fake company that was floated to swindle people's money. If it was a true company then the question that pops up is "where is the fulfillment of the government condition according to the law No 34 for the year 1991 with regard to trade companies and the role of the government observance? This law stipulates the following:

1) Clause No (a) of article (184) of this law states "Trade and Supplies Ministry conducts observation to make certain that these companies are carrying out articles stated in this law.

2) Clause No (b) of the same article states "The Ministry has full authority to have at any time inspection and to check the company accounts, commercial records, documents and all its activities. It has also the authority to ask for any information, data, clarification from the administrative council as much as it has the right to appoint at any time an account auditor to carry out and make a report on this task."

3) Clause No (c) of the same article states "The Ministry has to inform the concerned judicial department of any illegal action that do not adhere to this law.

However, this what has never been applied to Al-Emad Company and Saba Exchanging Company. Consequently, the non-existence of the government observance has posed the people to these swindlers and frauds. Had the government done what it should be done and carried out this law, it could have saved these poor with their money.

However, what we find is that our government is excellent in passing laws that never see light.

The situation of shareholders is horrible. One of them has invested around 1,300,000 riyal and now he can not afford the expenses of filing a case against the company. Another one has invested around 800,000 Saudi riyal which was all he had in life. Now he has not got transportation fares from Ibb to Taiz so he could attend sessions held at court.

I on the behalf of all these shareholders ask the President, the Supreme Power, in the country to have mercy on his people and to give orders to put an end to such suffering and miseries and to hold those swindlers accountable for their crimes. Poor shareholders highly rely on him to act as they could not find justice where it should be found."

The UAE ROUND THE WORLD TOUR OF 7 who arrived in Sana'a on Thursday and stayed at the Taj Sheba Hotel.



Seen here being welcomed by the UAE Ambassador in Sana'a



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Impression about Yemen My Life in Yemen

By: Judith Brown

A British nurse/manager working in Sana'a with ICD, managing the Refugee Health Project. She has been working in Sana'a since February 1999.



I was offered my present job in Yemen in December last year, which seemed to fit perfectly with my hopes and aspirations. I am a nurse and I have worked with refugees before in Burundi and South Lebanon, and I enjoy living amongst Arabic people. But just after I accepted the post in Yemen, some tourists were kidnapped and later killed in Yemen, and the British foreign office no longer recommended people to travel here. I decided to ignore the foreign office advice and this was supported by my very loving family, who knew how much I wanted to take this job.

With the support of work colleagues and new friends in Sana'a, I started to settle into my life and work. Press reports in England were of anarchic tribes and chaotic jurisdiction but I found a country trying hard to develop a democratic system. I was told that the health indicators in Yemen were amongst the worst in world, and although I've seen much suffering here, I've also met many committed and knowledgeable health professionals and I've seen the beginnings of a sustainable health service in many parts of Yemen. I've seen much poverty amongst Yemen people, and I've also seen how many Yemenis work very hard and for long hours to try to improve things for themselves and their families. I see hope for the future of Yemen, which has many resources which could be used to give all Yemeni people the chance of a better life.

I've had the chance to travel to many parts of Yemen; Hodeidah, Aden, Taiz, and Hadramaut, as well as the countryside around Sana'a, and seen many fascinating places. The tourist industry which last year earned a lot of money for Yemen has now virtually collapsed, leaving many people unemployed and without income. I've met many people who previously worked in the tourist industry, who ask me why tourists no longer come to Yemen, as they have always treated visitors with respect. It's a hard question to answer, but the tourist industry can only make certain growth if visitors think they will be safe. There are many beautiful countries in the world, and if Yemen is considered to be unsafe then holiday makers will go elsewhere.

In Yemen, like in every country, I have met a few people who have been dishonest and rude, but the large majority of Yemeni people have treated me with generosity, friendship and warmth. I take advice from my employers and friends,

and I take no risks which would knowingly put me in a dangerous position. I've been made to feel safe and welcome here, and I enjoy my life in Sana'a.

On 26th September, I was driving through Sana'a with my husband in the daytime when we stopped at a junction on Fifty Metre Road, near Shahrani Hotel. Suddenly and unexpectedly, my car door were thrown open, and I found myself looking at a face which I did not know, filled with venomous hate, and two Kalashnikovs were pointed at me. On the other side of the car, my husband had a similar experience. Our first thought was that we were about to be kidnapped, but it transpired that these bandits wanted our car. After a few confused minutes, it was all over and they were driving away with our vehicle. Since then, people from all countries have been extremely supportive, the passers by who helped us, my employers, our friends and neighbors, my work colleagues. If we needed to restore our faith in human nature, then the display of kindness and thoughtfulness following this incident left us in no doubt of how wonderful people can be.

The incident was reported to the police who took careful statements, but so far, the car has not been recovered, although rumors reach me of where the car is now located. But unless the perpetrators of this type of crime are caught and punished, the views of the West is that Yemen is a country where tribal criminals are above the law. This will mean foreign people will no longer visit Yemen and tourism will not recover, foreign investment in industries in Yemen will decline, and aid agencies and their workers will eventually want to leave. The people who will suffer will not be those from the rich countries in the West, but the people of Yemen, who deserve a better life for themselves. The men who committed these crimes do not have the well-being of Yemen and the Yemeni people in their hearts and minds. My husband and I are survivors of a vicious crime, but the whole country of Yemen in the suffering victim.

My message to the men who commit these crimes is that you need to think more deeply about the consequences of what you do, to your country, your tribe, your family and yourself. My message to the Yemeni government and jurisdiction is that whilst Yemen is beset with these problems, it cannot develop into a respected nation throughout the world. And my message to the people in Britain and the West is that Yemen is a wonderful country with deserving people, and I hope that one day you will feel confident enough to come to discover Yemen for yourselves. It has been a special privilege to be here, and I hope in the future I shall have many more happy times living and working in Sana'a.

Queen Arwa



Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor
Yemen Times

During my last visit to Ibb, I felt how important it was to see the traces that one of the most outstanding women in the entire history of the world has left; a woman that successfully ruled Yemen for about 79 years. It is queen Arwa who once settled in Djibla and ruled the whole Yemen from it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Abdu Al-Majeed Mojahed and Mr. Qasem Ali who provided me with the information I needed to know in detail about this outstanding personality. The following account has been extracted from a book entitled "The History of Yemen" by Najmaddin Amarah Al-Hakami Al-Yemeni

Queen Arwa was born in Sanaa in 440 Hijrah. Since she was a child, people knew her as Assaidah Bent Ahmad Ben Jaafar Ben Mosa Assoalaih. Her mother was Al-Horrah Arroaah Bent Al-Fare Ben



Mosa.

Her father died very early when she was still a child. Therefore, she was adopted and brought up by Aamer Ben Salman Al-Ziwahi who married her mother. From this marriage, Arwa got a brother named, Salman Ben Aamer Al-Ziwahi, who later on was poisoned by Prince Al-Mofadal Ben Al-Barakat Ibn Al-Waleed. Arwa then was adopted by Al-Horrah Asmaa Bent Shihab. It was said that, once Arwa told Asmaa about a dream. In her dream she saw that she was cleaning the castle, to which Asmaa replied "It is you then, who will 'clean' it of the corrupt"

Queen Arwa was fair and a little bit reddish, tall and buxom. She was pure-hearted and a lover of reading. She was learned and loved poetry and history.

In 461 Hijrah, she got married to Al-Mokarram Ahmad Ben Ali. They had four children: Mohammed, Ali, Fatima and Oum Hamdan. The two boys died in their early childhood. Aum Hamdan got married to her cousin, the Sultan Ahmad Ben Salman Al-Ziwahi. They got only one child Abdu Al-Mustala. Fatima got married to Shams Al-Maani Ben Ali Al-Dai Saba Ben Ahmad. In 519 Hijrah Aum Hamdan died. Fatime also died two years after the death of her mother.

After the death of Al-Mokaram's mother, he took to drinking and abdicated the royal throne to his wife, Arwa. In the beginning, Queen Arwa tried to persuade her husband that she was more suitable for the household work and not for running a country. However, Al-Mokaram did not pay any heed for her. After this, Queen Arwa left Sanaa for Dhi Djibla with a big army. She arrived in Djibla in 480 Hijrah when she started her new life as a queen. The first thing she did was building her castle which was

called Dar Al-Iz Al-Oula (1st).

As far as the name of the town is concerned, it is said that Dhi Djibla was a name of a Jew who was living in the same place Queen Arwa chose for building her castle.



Abdulla Ben Mohammed Assolaihi was the first person to build near the Queen's castle.

In 458 Hijrah she gave orders to build the Queen Arwa's Mosque and Dar Al-Iz Al-Thaniah (2nd), which was a walled field full of trees. The Dar Al-Iz II, was located on a tall mountain overlooking two rivers adjoining her grave.



In 481 Hijrah, Al-Mokarram joined his wife in Djibla and left Sana'a to be governed by Amran Ben Al-Fadl and Asaad Ben Shihab. In the same year Queen Arwa managed to kill Zaid's King, Saeed Ibn Al-Ahwal. She asked Al-Habashi

Attobai to write to him that Al-Mokarram had become very weak whereas he (Al-Ahwal) was the strongest king in Yemen at that time. In the letter Al-Habashi suggested to Al-Ahwal to surround Djibla till it surrendered.

After that the whole country would be led by Al-Ahwal. When Saeed read the letter he felt happy and thought of it seriously. He left Zabid with 3000 soldiers. At the same time, Queen Arwa wrote to Asaad Ben Shihab and Amran Ibn Al-Fadl in Sanaa ordering them to leave Sanaa with 3000 soldiers and follow Al-Ahwal. When Al-Ahwal arrived in Al-Shaer Castle he was surrounded and killed in the encounter. His head was cut off and presented to Queen Arwa who hanged it on one of the Castle's windows.

In 484 Al-Mokarram died. His wife, Queen Arwa outlived him by 48 years after she ruled Yemen for 79 years. Although she is dead, she

is still living in the memory of all Yemenis. People in Yemen still remember how she contributed to strengthening the foundations of Islam through her mosque whose minaret is still piercing the sky. May God bless her soul.

Mohammed Helail, a Star in the Yemeni Religious Chants

The Yemeni literary tradition is very fertile and rich with different artistic figures who have substantially contributed to it throughout its multidimensional, long history. The Yemeni chants art has witnessed many classical chanters. The traditional chants were deep-seated in our literature and are by no means a new phenomenon that has recently come to light.

The Yemeni chants have played a vital role in our literary growth and prosperity. They have also been very dominant over different literary forms. These chants have different features and characteristics. Some of them have an overtly religious purpose, others are designed in a way to thank God for all His blessings He bestowed on us. Such chants are frequently common and spread in our society, especially in Sana'a, Hadramout and Tehamah. These chants are frequently used in religious festivals as well as wedding ceremonies.

In this account, I will shed light on one of these well known chanters. He is Mr. Mohammed Nasser Helail. He is considered to be a distinguished figure who has a distinct place in the field of chants art in Tehamah. He is a talented chanter and has a melodious voice. He was born in 1978 in a village called Al-Ebrah, Al-Garahi, Zabeed, Hodiedah governorate.

Mohammed was very much influenced at the beginning of his life by these religious chants in Tehamah. He was a constant listener as well as supporter of these chants. He used to come in contact with different chanters. In course of time, he became part of the classical school that is called Al-Shilalleen pioneered by great figures such as sheikh Yosef Ragab, Omar Afeef and Ahmad Ali Afeefi. Mohammed started his career as a chanter and polished his skill in chant singing. He, then, participated in different sessions as well as night ceremonies that were held at Al-Garahi. He became acquainted with different ingenious as well as talented figures. In course of time he gained the admiration of all who supported and encouraged him till he became very popular.

The year 1990 marked the beginning of a new stage in his life. He became very con-



fident of himself and started singing in different wedding ceremonies. He devoted his life to the cause of his chosen career. In return, he commanded great popularity and respect of all sections of people. He is, by far, one of the very few who have excelled in this art. Speaking about his popularity he said "I pay much attention to all the chants I sing. I also focus on the chants that are in some way related to the society. As a matter of fact, religious chants used to have a strong presence in our society. However, it is a pity that now they are fast disappearing. I hope that organizations working in this area should do something to preserve these chants from disappearing."

I also do hope that the Ministry of Information will pay such talented figures the attention they deserve and patronize their talents, enabling them to polish their merits.

Will this happen? let's hope so.

Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

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The History of the Yemeni Jews

3rd in a series

By: Mohammed Halem Al-Qadhi
& Mohammed bin Sallam
Yemen Times

Traditions and conventions:

All the Eastern Jews including the Yemenis, the Iraqis and the Northern Africans knew nothing about their destiny before they migrated to Palestine. They had never expected that they would be second class citizens in the Zionist territory. Though they formed the majority among the people of Israel, they had never reached any high positions in Israel. Although, they have a strong electoral force, being a section with specific features in the partisan as well as social conflicts in the Zionist society, they could not reach any top places in the existing parties. The first reason behind the victimization of the Jews and the mounting suppression on a certain section is the following: most of these Jews especially those who came from Arab countries held fast to their conventions which they embraced in these Arab countries and transferred with them to Palestine. They never showed any tendency to abandon them.

The Yemeni Jews were among those who were harassed and suppressed. They were famous for their love for music, especially the Jews of the old city of Sana'a. Very often they used to arrange festivals and ceremonies that had common Yemeni features. They also brought Qat plants with them so as to have Qat sessions. Furthermore, they exported this plant to different countries where Jews existed.

In America there was a huge Jewish congregation estimated to be more than 5000. They were headed by Mossa Al-Shara'abi, the leader of the Jewish community in America. He had visited Yemen along with his wife at different times. During his last visit in March 1997, he was interviewed by the Yemen Times in which revealed all the difficulties they had faced in Israel. He also talked about the Jews whose children were stolen or forcibly taken away from them after they reached Palestine in 1948. He

also said the following: "I, like many other Jews, persist a nostalgia for Yemen and a longing to come back. Even in New York, where I live, I associate with Yemenis whether Arab, Muslims, or Jewish". Concerning the stealing of the Yemeni children



Jews after their arrival to Palestine, he said that the Jews were shocked to find their children disappearing. "They were stolen and shipped to the USA where they were sold to parents who adopted them. They told their parents that their children had died.", Mossa Al-Shara'abi said. "They refused to show the parents their children's bodies, graves or even issue date certificates. They just ignored all basic human matters. We did not know what was behind the scheme", Mossa added that "almost every family at that time lost one, two or sometimes three children." Parents who tried to complain to the police were ignored completely. They found all doors closed. To make matters still worse, they were treated brutally. We tried hard to get a formal investigation. The complaints reached the Knesset in 1950, but were ignored completely. We still ask ourselves what the motivation was for such cruelty. This can only be explained by the attitude European Jews have towards Middle Eastern Jews. They look down on them. You can

not imagine that a people that suffered from such racism and cruelty could turn around and practice the same on others, on their own kind. They treat us unjustly. They considered us primitive." Mossa explained.

"In 1966, we formed a small group of Yemeni young people to try reveal the truth. We thought in the beginning that we were dealing with tens or at most hundreds of cases. To our surprise, we came to some 4000 cases of missing children right at the beginning of our work. Today, we know that there are about 10,000 such cases. The issue is being forced on the Israeli community. Israelis have to face the reality of what happened and came to terms with it. We discovered that most of the children were sold in the USA. They were sold to holocaust survivors who had lost their children. We learned that there was a black market for adoption in the 1950s. Between \$5,000 and \$10,000 was paid for each child. We now know the name of the person who was in charge of the operation in the USA. His name was Bernard Bergman. He was the head of one of the religious parties in Israel called Mabdai. The action is against any of God's order."

"In the 1985, a new committee was formed because of the unrest among the Yemeni Jews community. But again there was no break-through. The real change came with the efforts of a Yemeni rabbi named Zvi Meshona. He used a different tactic. For 20 years, he was smart enough to collect material about this affair. He was well posted in the intelligence service. He got hold of the relevant documents. He decided to devote all his life for this case. He has thousands of students around him. This rabbi publicized the whole affair. The media played a terrible part. Much of the blame falls

on them." Mossa Al-Shara'abi explained elaborately.

He said that he himself could have been one of the stolen children had not his mother hidden him. "My mother was clever enough to constantly hide me in the shower whenever those people (stealers of children) came.", he said. When asked about the Jews preservation of their Yemeni folklore like the dresses, songs, cuisine and others, Mossa replied by saying, "In fact, we have preserved this culture and tradition more than Yemen itself has. In addition, there is now a serious revival and renaissance. We are working on reviving the old ways without obstructing progress."

The Jews had also the traditions and cultures of the countries they used to live in the same way as the Arab Jews, especially the Yemeni Jews who have been deeply affected by Yemeni conventions and culture. The European Jews refused to be treated equally with the Yemeni Jews and never allowed them to practice the same technical jobs as theirs. The Arab Jews in general were used to construct buildings and



seated and more original than any other Jewish sect. This may be due to the fact that Yemen was in the past ostracized from the rest of the world. This also applies to their way of life, their cloths, arts including songs, dance, handicrafts, making gold and silver ornaments, sewing, etc. Their wives continued to do the same crafts even after their migration to Palestine. Sources also confirmed that the strong adherence of the Yemeni Jews to the Yemeni traditions attracted different research studies into of the Yemeni traditions throwing fascinating as well as valuable light on the social as well as the artistic aspects. Yemeni songs also have an outstanding status among the local repertoire of songs in the Israeli Community. A telling example is the Yemeni Jew singer Afra Haza'a who is living in Europe. She sings Yemeni songs as if they belong to the Israeli tradition. As far as the presence of the Yemeni Jews in Yemen at the present time is concerned, it is actually hard to say for certain their exact number. Many have converted to Islam either by force or on false pretenses so as to keep their possessions safe. A rough estimate shows that they are hundreds in number scattered in different parts of Yemen such as Sana'a, Sa'ada and Raidah. Stay tuned till the following issue to know more about the state of the rest of the Yemeni Jews, their worries as well as ambitions, in Yemen.



guarding agricultural settlement camps. It was obviously difficult for those who used to be skilled technicians as well as talented people in making jewelry to becoming masons and guards in the emigrant community. Writers in the Palestine have noticed that the cultural heritage of the Yemeni Jews was deep

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The Problem of Water Shortage in Yemen

By: Eng. Hassan Hizam Attiah
WWWPU Project

Water Shortage has been a problem in Yemen for many years and through the ages. Yemenis have all the time been looking for new wells and water sources. That is the reason behind their frequent travels in the old times. However, today, even though we have the modern technology that helps, the water shortage problem still exists, and is affecting our community in many ways. There are reasons for this shortage, there are solutions. These can be listed as follows

1) **Investment in Sewage Re-Use.**
In Yemen the lack of water is the biggest problem. From this point of view, investment in sewage treatment has become more and more crucial in the last few decades. Since improvement of public health is very important, it is better to achieve that target by giving

wastewater treatment priority. This might as well prevent pollution in Sana'a where the raw sewage is presently discharged. This process will help to save the water for re-use in agriculture. Yemen produces many thousands of tons of sewage annually. This needs to be exploited, and to be made national resources for improving agriculture. It is a problem in small towns, in big cities, for farmers and for apartment dwellers. However, the hygienic management and disposal for human excret is of central importance for the control of these diseases in both, poor and rich countries and across all climatic zones.

Most people in the development countries do not have adequate disposal systems for human wastes. A survey of developing countries by the World Health organization "WHO" in 1975 indicated that 75 % of urban dwellers did not have sewers and that 25 % had no disposal system of any kind. In rural areas, 85 % lacked any adequate excreta disposal facility. Major national and international initiatives are clearly

required if any substantial improvement in sanitation systems in the developing world is to be made. The relationship between sewage and health must not be lost sight of.

There is also a marked shift of emphasis from disease issues towards amenity and aesthetic values. People want more than re-assurance of safety from disastrous germs. They want a clean environment as well. This attitude needs to be accompanied by increase in expenditure on expertise and equipment. At present, some countries spend about 0.5 % of their gross national products on sewage and sewage disposal, an average of 8 % per day on sewage treatment although there are great variations.

1.2. The Drought Problem

Drought, which has occurred frequently in Africa in recent decades has attracted worldwide attention as economic and social conditions have considerably deteriorated.

Epidemics and difficulties caused by the world recession have compounded the problem. As early as 1970, most of

Africa was self sufficient in food. By contrast, in 1984 about 140 million of the total population of 531 million were dependent on imported grain (and this excluding the emergency shipment required in the latter part of that year). Agricultural production per capita in many countries is lower than it was 10 or 20 year ago. The decline has come about due to three well-established trends:-

- (i) Rapid population growth.
- (ii) Increasing Soil erosion.
- (iii) National and International support to agriculture.

These factors have contributed towards a realization of the benefit of using sewage to provide both water and nutrients in agriculture. Many unsophisticated communities are now becoming more familiar with the use of sewage for agriculture to improve their water supply. Sewage disposal initially consisted only of the process of removing the sewage. But the second new element in the situation is that we can not simply dispose of sewage as unwanted waste. Growing

demands for water supply such as in the Sana'a region make inevitable the use of treated sewage effluent in order to help meet the water supply problem.

In fact, in previous decades, Sana'a old city was self sufficient in water supply obtained from wells in the houses. The city has now become larger, resulting in shortage of water. Shortage of rainfall, the abuse of water and random digging of wells have affected the underground water which may be the cause of the present crisis worst in Sana'a long history. From this point of view, research and studies must be undertaken to alleviate the problem. In spite of the scarcity, little has been done to reduce the misuse of water, in Sana'a. examples of such misuse are:

- (i) The use of fresh water for building construction either from wells or transferred by vehicles to the building sites.
- (ii) Destruction of the old system of wells inside Sana'a old city which until recently have been used but which have now fallen out of use or become dry. This misuse of old wells in Sana'a adds an extra load to the new piped water supply network which obtains water from outside of Sana'a (Alrothah and other places) and also adds to the cost.

- (iii) Neglect by people to conserve ponds in both in the outskirts of Sana'a, and in Sana'a itself.

- (iv) Use of many people both in old Sana'a (Sauna- Hamamat Sana'a Al-Kademah). A huge quantity of water is boiled and evaporated into the air as a consequence.

- (v) Increase in the number of cars wash stations and the number of cars being hand washed too. This consumes huge quantities of fresh water.

- (vi) Increase in the large number of swimming pools, which use fresh water such as the Assar swimming pool and other hotels. Further more, the idea of having swimming pools in private houses is becoming more popular from year to year.

- (vii) Extension of and increase in the number of factories and industries which depend on water.

- (viii) Use of large quantities of fresh water for ablution in all mosques, which discharge to sewage. One wonders why it is not possible to obtain

some benefit from this water.

(ix) Numerous fountains in Sana'a all use fresh water.

(x) An increase in irrigation of Qat cultivation that has become and important source of use for fresh water from wells.

(xi) Runoff in the city during the rain season which is not collected but allowed to run to waste.

Generally, these are some of the points which must be considered if we are to try to improve the water supply and its conservation in Sana'a and other cities by introducing a system of treating sewage water, and investing in sewage, sludge, and effluent re-use systems.

It is perhaps worth noting that poor farmers in Yemen do not dream of making a fortune out of large houses or buy luxury cars but of getting sufficient fertilizer and water to grow crops. This limited dream can be achieved by careful design and implementation of sewage treatment.

What is clearly needed for Sana'a water supply and agriculture, is a cooperative effort specifically between the Ministry of Agriculture and irrigation, Ministry of Electricity and water, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Planning and Development, Environment Protection Council and National Water Resources to monitor, investigate and regulate the environment.

The question is how we can supply enough water to Sana'a and what are the general consequences of attempting to waste reusable water for different purposes.

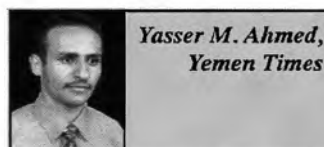
Notice

In the Tourist Guide Released last week to the following corrections are to be noted:

1- In the Ambassador Hotel Advertisement on page 20, the general Manager's name is Saleh Ahmed not Salem Ahmed.

2- In the Shammr Advertisement on page 11, the Shammr Hotel is a 4-star not 3-star hotel, as the fourth star in the picture in the right low corner of the picture dropped from the right by mistake.

Expired Foodstuffs in the Yemeni Market: Too DANGEROUS To TOLERATE



Yasser M. Ahmed,
Yemen Times

One of the many faces that chaos in societies can take, is playing havoc with the lives of the innocent people before the very eyes of the government. This can be done in many ways. What I am going to focus on, is what I came across during my wanderings through the streets and allies of Sanaa. I turned my head right and left to see heaps of canned food and other food stuff scattered in front of hawkers who were surrounded by tens of people attracted by their familiar voices. I, too, was attracted by one of the voices which sounded, somehow unique, offering his articles for less than half of their real prices. When I approached him, I held a canned food in my hand. I was hardly surprised as I scrolled my eyes searching for the expiry date and read it carefully. That was the reason then, I told myself, for offering goods for less than half of their real prices. It was very painful to me, yet more painful was the sight of little children surrounding a hawker selling expired bars of chocolates. Adults are able to know whether what are they buying is eatable or not, but who can prohibit children from buying very cheap bars of chocolates attractively covered. What about the illiterates who can not read or do not understand the meaning of food having crossed the expiry date. What is the root of this problem? Is it the smugglers who bring such articles into our country? Is it the hawkers, especially, when they know that what they sell is no longer eatable? Is it due to the absence of the government security? Is it the consumers themselves? Many questions struck my mind one after the other. Let me begin with the consumer:

In my opinion, the consumer is the core of the problem since he is the person who buys. In our country, a good number of consumers do not care for what they eat. In my stroll around the streets I asked some of the people gathering around the



hawkers if they knew that the goods they were gazing at were fit enough to eat. Most of them gave ambiguous replies. What these people had ignored was that those goods were directly exposed to the heat of the sun through the day and that had worsened

consumers or because of their low price. Whatever the reason is, it does reflect the state of the people's awareness and understanding. At this point, the media must intervene and do what is proper.



the quality of the goods even more. What prompts consumers to buy such goods? The reason might be because these goods are easily available to the

Control

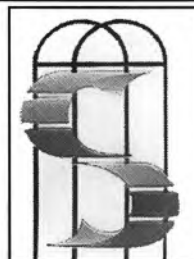
Governmental and non-governmental control is necessary for protecting consumers. The government must keep a watchful eye on the land, sea and air inlets to stop smuggling. The public should be aware of the importance of this noble work. In addition, the government must make available a number of bulletins to control all the eatable goods entering our country.

As far as the non-governmental organizations' role in protecting the consumer is concerned, only one society, The Yemeni Society for the Consumer's Protection, has been established. This

society mainly aims at:

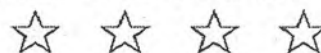
- i) Raising the consumer's awareness about the products' quality
- ii) Carrying out researches and laboratory check ups for products
- iii) Encouraging issuance of regulations to protect the consumer.

Unfortunately, instead of safeguarding the interests of the people, this Society is prone to the traders' pressures who see in its work a threat to theirs. Will this Society live on? I hope so. Now, as heaps of expired and smuggled food stuffs have filled the market, will the authorities concerned try to do something to stop this MUDDLE!



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A Yemeni Girl That Passed the Red Lines.

Bushra Maqtari: Distinguished Works and Unlimited Aspiration

After a long period of downbeat; new life revives in the cultural circles of Yemen. Cultural sections appear in newspapers. New institutions come to life. A number of young writers and authors break all limitations and declare their presence. That includes some women who just passed over old traditions and long preserved red lines, forcefully presenting themselves. One of these is Ms. Bushra Fadhl Maqtari, author and story writer. She first appeared on the pages of the new-born cultural section of Taizzi Al-Gumhooria Newspaper, which concerned itself with literature, arts and intellectual issues. Bushra was able to firmly establish herself within cultural circles and to take off with remarkable success. She asserted those women writers of Yemen can challenge and face without fear of the mischievous. Farouq Al-Kamali interviewed this young story-teller and filled the following

Q: Will you introduce yourself?

A: In short I am a citizen who is consumed by the fire of our beloved homeland, and dreams for a better future that can embrace all brave and passionate lovers like me. I want to glory to the the homeland and to create for myself in its cultural memory a highly esteemed cultural canvas a highly esteemed place. I want to open a window in the darkness so that the future can be lit up. Very modestly, I am ardent devotee of ink and paper who confidently boasts as a writer.

Q: How did you take to writing? Which authors were you influenced you most, locally, internationally and on the Arab level?

A: My beginning was fire and live ember!! Then roses and dreams. My beginning was not easy. There was something hidden in the depths of my soul which I couldn't exactly know. It rebelled against me, forced me to write and stay very late at night, then to quarrel with my writings and tear them to pieces. Gradually I felt the writer inside me come crystallized. It disputed with my secluded soul, inflamed my stubborn and soul. Thus I started a relationship with writing that was violent in the beginning, as I fled from it and considered it a social and moral burden. With time, this relationship developed into a subdued one that became a refined and transparent and existentialist. I started to see things and events in the eyes of a

philosopher. My pen began acquiring my respect and affection. As for influence, I think my talents were polished by my readings of the Arab writers Edward El-Kharat, Gamal Al-Ghitani, Yousef Al-Qaeed, Ghada Assamman and others. Globally, there are Hugo, Dostoievsky, Brost, Zola, Bushkin, Hemingway, Schikhov and many others who attracted me into their human, innovative and great worlds.

Q: As a story-writer of the nineties how do you see the status of story-writing in particular and of literature in general? How do you see future Yemeni literature?

A: Story-writing in Yemen is promising now as new and warm blood has joined, especially those of the eighties and nineties. This kind of literature has become a reality. It began getting Yemeni characteristics and local features. It also began exploring broader horizons. This means that it is no more isolated as before. There are many new voices now in Yemeni literature and they need more support and objective criticism so as to take their place in the Yemeni Literature. As for the Yemeni Literature in general I think the same is valid. For example there are new visions and ideas and names in our poetry and there is the same pre-determined waylaid absence of the state. Official cultural periodicals are being a rarity. There is absence of official festivals



of Culture and Arts. Publishing of books is no more subsidized. And the censorship process lacks any objective or superior vision. In the light of all of these the future of literature in Yemen seems cloudy. We have on one side a qualitative and quantitative accumulation of new innovative voices that are fed up with the traditional frames of innovation, and try to create its own space rejecting those standards that have proved themselves unsystematical. On the other side the readership is diminishing: ie the absence of the conscious and sensitive reader who can comprehend innovative and creative works and thus become an additional resource for literary works; now, he can neither add or give any additional reading to the text which can serve it or give it any inner meanings. Slowly readers disappear! There remains only the deliverer with nobody to deliver to. Thus Text Dictatorship or one-side reading takes over while the official cultural institutions that are capable of making an innovative mentality and creating a more developed literature atmosphere are absent! It is a cloudy future as I have said before.

Q: Do you think women of Yemen have gained their right to share with men? What do you think are the main hurdles that block the way of female innovation in Yemen?

A: This subject is one of sorrows and leads to many others. It has religious, moral, social and political dimensions. The women of Yemen are still ruled up to now by many traditions and social residues and need hundreds of years to get rid of their features or inhuman ideas. Women in Yemen have not acquired their rights because they are not conscious of them yet. They are not aware of their strength and activity. They had been marginalized by many factors and they have submitted to it since a long time. We can say that the women of Yemen have of late gained some presence and occupied a number of posts and entered some new domains.

Despite this, Yemeni women are still maiden and a fertile land that promises a lot. Our women need a suitable atmosphere in order to be able to release their huge and eternal capabilities and energies. Difficulties for women to be innovative in a society that gives man monopoly of science, innovation and love need an objective study and a neutral viewpoint. As for my personal experience I faced many social difficulties and psychological pressures when I began writing. In addition to narrow views that consider us inferior, the are moral criteria that scrutinize female writers and red lines they supposed not to cross at all. Then there is the mentality of the reader to whom the text is delivered whose taste differentiates between texts on the base of the their writers' gender - a concept of male society mentality that is not fair to female society. Add to that the publishing difficulties; as publishing needs mediation and contacts. For example I am still looking for an official institution to help me print my first book of stories. As I am not ready to beg any official or somebody to go between I continue to pay that tax and wait for heavens to rain.

Q: They are preparing to declare Taiz as the Town of Culture, do you think that Taiz is qualified for that?

A: Taiz is the capital of love, hope and innovation. People of Taiz are different from those of any other area. This is not town or territory fanaticism but the truth which every intellectual, politician and official knows. Taiz has many features and characteristics that make her pre-qualified to be declared Capital of Culture and Innovation. There are many young and innovative people that fly in the skies of Taiz; but there also many factors that hinder such a possibility: Marginalization of Taiz by the Government, the lack of cultural institutions to welcome young innovators and provide them the necessary atmospheres and references. There are no public libraries in Taiz. There is a neglect of Taiz and its writers. There are some efforts made by Al-Saeed Foundation to make Taiz a Capital of Culture, and I hope that Taiz shall gain back its old status, and be a platform of innovation but I am not optimistic because there are many who want to abort these patriotic efforts.

Q: We are saying farewell to a century and receiving another. What hopes (personal and general) would like to see as realities in the new century?

A: To the century that is leaving us I say: Well, you have good enough!! To the new one, I say: You shall good enough for us to dream. As for my own hopes: I hope to complete my university studies and to join higher studies, to achieve a scientific rank for my self besides the one in the field of literature and to publish a number my collections. I hope that other wishes of mine shall take place in reality. My general wish is for the general situation in Yemen to improve so that it is rid of all material burdens that are exhausting it. I hope there shall be more freedom and real democracy. I wish our homeland to be more commodious and able to bear the dreams, creations and aspirations of its innovators.

Q: I you were the Minister of Culture in Yemen what spheres shall gain your attention?

A: If I were a Minister of Culture in some other country that shall be something honorable. In Yemen, the Ministry of Culture is hardly a Ministry. If you insist and call it so, then it is suffering of many sicknesses.

There is no hope of medication for her even if I become the minister! I don't like the word "if" as you it opens the way for Satan to have a role. What the Ministry of Culture already has suffices her.

Q: What does "The Dreaming Taiz" mean to you?

A: It means to Bushra Maqtari and to the new generation that is trying construct an existence for itself, it means love, creation and dreaming. There is an existential relation between me and Taiz, with its streets, people and even to its crazy ones. In short Taiz means my other face with all its dreams, fractures and wanderings. "Dreaming Taiz" is a love project that have never been concluded

Q: A last word?

A: I hate the word "last". Let's say "first". In the beginning and at the conclusion of this interview, I would like to thank you for this beautiful opportunity that Yemen Times gave me to intercommunicate with its special kind of readers. I hope that I succeeded in that. They should forgive any inadequacies vagueness in my answers. I intended to be so, because I do hide some things for them in the future. Lastly I hope that I can make a new addition to the Literature in Yemen and to declare myself as a story-writer of the size of Yemen. I hope also to have another acquaintance at which both are more free of the other side's sway!

Myth and Misconceptions Revisited



By: Dr. Azza Ghanem
Professor of Psychology

In response to my previous article 'The myth of oppressed Yemeni females', Mr. Alan Suit raised the issue of genital mutilation of females F.G.M, execution for the adultery, and the veil in his letter to the editor. I do believe in freedom of speech, thought and judgement but it should be based on facts and truth rather appearance and emotions.

Let me first clarify that I was talking about the specific case of Yemen females. Equally important is the assertion that there is a wide difference between the actual teaching of Islam and what is externally practiced in various Islamic states by Muslims who have at time mixed up customs, traditions and secularism with Islamic teachings. The new trend of Islamic resurgence trying to distinguish between facts and myths, some successfully others are causing great confusion because of either narrow or profuse interpretations. Moreover, there are various sects in Islam which offer differing interpretations in modes of practice, but not in Basic Belief. Some of the major sects are Alshafey, Alhanbaly, Alhanafy, Almaliky and Alshich. For example in the issue of acceptance of a female judge in law, Alshafey, Alhanbaly and Alshiah do not accept female judge. Alhanafy accepts female judge in minor issue such as property but in major such as crime. Almaliky accepts female judge in all methods, such as the democracy of Islam, and no sect should pass judgement in the other sect to avoid dissension and 'Alfitna'. Even though, the sects are all under the umbrella of Islam, they may use differing the boundaries of basic belief and teachings for example in the case of marriage, the Sunnis insist on declaration of it, while the Shiah approve secrecy of necessary. The problem with modern new democracies and cultures is that they can only judge others by their own line of reference and can not see others points of view. For democracies that is paradisaical.

I fully comprehend that not only all Muslims women would agree with my views, it is their prerogative. These are always the moderates, the extremely strict and the rebellion in all cultures. For example, in the case of the veil there are those who cover every thing, there are some who dress modestly and cover the hair and there are a few who wear short dresses and uncovered hair. The annoying thing is that some do not due to belief and acceptance but rather as a social tradition.

In my previous article, you misconstrued my intention. I was not offering a polarize for our stance and state of affairs, but rather explanations. Three important issues were raised by you as examples of oppression: female mutilation F.G.M adultery and the veil.

As regards F.G.M, it is no where in Qur'an or the Hadith stipulated as an optional or a mandatory practice to circumcise soon after birth or upon adoption of Islam even as an adult. Yet nobody from the West has even raised the issue as being a crime or unfair to males. Is not this a gender issue? Why is it only right to patronize Muslims women and not Muslim men? Islam is not responsible for the practice of F.G.M, but rather the traditions of the Red Sea Basin. The practice is unheard of the inner cities of Yemen and is prevalent along the coastal towns. Moreover, not only are Muslims girls along the Red Sea Basin are circumcised but also Christian girls in Egypt for example. Hence the social mores factor is stronger than religion in enforcing conformity. But it is always easier to use a more obvious correlate such as religion as a scapegoat. Even more cruel is the practice of closure of genitals of girls in order to avoid sexual abuse before

marriage. This is again a practice of the red Sea Basin countries, most of which happen to be Islamic states. But this is not tantamount to designating the practice to Islamic Teachings. I have to repeat this, and I am not apologizing, I am merely stating facts.

Survey have show that some of the reasons given for both circumcision and closure are misconceptions such as: it helps in cleanliness, it helps reach puberty, it curbs sexual desire and pleasure, it prevents adultery, it protects girls from rape, it gives a better chance of marriage, it is customary and traditional, it makes females more desirable, it ensures equality with male circumcision and it is a religious rule.

F.G.M which is prevalent in 20 % of female Yemeni population that lives along the coastland as compared with 90 % along the Egyptian coastal (according to some studies) will disappear when greater awareness of its detrimental health and psychological effects are realized through education, openness and transparency. I agree that it must be stopped but not through laws which can be "circumcised" but rather through understanding and awareness.

As to the issue of the veil, the details are a debatable issue with many different interpretations portrayal by the different ether of women in Islam countries. as far as I understand, there are the common factors of modesty, covering of the hair, loose long attire leaving no parts of the body showing except the face, hands and feet. But there extreme interpretations in both directions, total courage and no restriction. Perhaps some of the Muslims in America can write about this and explain it further. We need to hear the views of experts.

Now we come to the most arduous of all issue, that of adultery. I would not be qualified to dare explain the Islamic details that exist, and again learned Muslims in jurisprudence can do that efficiently. The only thing I can summarize is that Islam holds equalitarian views and rules as to the punishable of male and female adulteries (look at the verses in the Qur'an). Islam differentiates between punishments for the married and non-married, being the lighter for the latter. It also considers homosexuality punishment as adultery. You have said that Muslim men go to the west to seek indulgence because of our repression or oppressions, I presume. Those are the exception rather than the rule. Western society is not repressed, yet we heard of rapes (of children as well) every day. So who is fault a repressed society or a non-repressed?

whilst I did say that I was not going to discuss details, I would like to remind the reader that although Islam stipulates execution for the married adulterer, no Islamic country to my knowledge carries out the sentence except in horrific cases of child rape and some sporadic offensive cases such as the well known case of the 'Arab Princes'. So here we notice a non-espousal of rules. The point irrespective of whether one agree with the magnitude of the punishment - is that men and women are held equally responsible. In practice both are let loose, but more so powerful men. Customs here plays a very prominent role, it is traditionally considered very shameful for women to indulge in relations - let alone sere - outside marriage. But then customs, traditions and social milieu are powerful forces, and carry strange connotation.

Economically one culture may control another, but never morally or spiritually. In the old colonial, the British ruled Aden and had economic power over it but as a British official had "we do not interfere with your beliefs, morals or customs". Now that colonialism has recede, Globalization not only steps in to fill the economic vacuum and take advantage of it, but it also wishes to interfere with codes and values and it starts with the most vulnerable of all, female issues. If we want to help women, we must start by concentrating on issues that help in their participation in development pragmatically.

Tender Announcement

GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) is inviting interested bidders to supply computer hardware and software for one of its projects in Yemen. Interested bidders are invited to contact the GTZ Office to collect the bidding documents until 20 October, 1999, upto 2.00 PM at the following address:

GTZ Office Sana'a
PO Box 692
Al Siten Street, Outer Ring Road
Sana'a
Tel.: 417411, 417385, Fax: 412539

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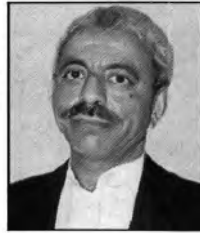
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غسان

جعله الله قرة عين والدية ونفع به اهله ووطنه.

COMMON SENSE



By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Have Gun Will Travel

"Look, the Sheikhs of Yemen are entitled to all the rights that their positions as social dignitaries allow them to have. I do not understand why all this hassle about the Sheikhs having to enjoy these rights, especially as some of them are distinguished members of Parliament and other important public institutions". Najee was talking to the other people who were standing by the driver's seat waiting for the road blockade to end. The road blockade was one of several that was put to cordon off the area around the compound of one off the Sheikhs, who had some problem with one of the security men in the Airport that lead to a physical confrontation. The Sheik escaped after that and was chased by the security men, who immediately cordoned off the area around the compound, bringing a lot of military gear, as a show of force that would overcome the militia that was guarding the Sheik's compound.

Someone beside him looked at it another way: "Look, what are you talking about? Where do the rights of Sheikhs begin and where do they end? It seems that these guys think that they own the whole world and that they are immune from any laws and procedures which you and I are obliged to surrender to. It is not

enough that they are getting money left and right and have taken up all the positions of any meaningful authority. Yet, that is not really my concern, I am just wondering if they should not succumb to proper codes of decorum and public conduct given their stature in the community."

"Hi, Abdullah! How long have you been there waiting? It seems that we only meet in funerals or road blockades these days, does it not?" asked Najee, recognizing the guy who had just finished talking, while at the same time continuing on the problem at hand, "the way I see it is that the Sheikhs have been so busy with their public duties and functions that they have not had enough time to oversee the upbringing of their kids, who are causing a lot of embarrassing problems for their fathers, sometimes on the pretext that they are defending their fathers' rights and privileges, which they consider to be the eventual inheritors of."

Abdullah was not sure if the justification given by Najee should be an excuse for neglect of proper public conduct by the dignitaries and their heirs: "Look Najee, I have been here an hour and now you are here for a half hour. We are here wasting time just because one of the Sheikhs' sons got carried away and

forgot that he must also obey the law just like any citizen. He had no right to manhandle the security officer, who was only doing his duty by telling him that he cannot pass through a certain point at the airport."

I think this clearly shows that the government should have set out the clear parameters that guide the relationship between the Sheikhs and the government and the military and security organs as well as the public at large. There seems to be a fuzzy line across all the borders that no one really knows where it should be drawn.

A guy in a military uniform standing by his car behind them commented: "Look you guys, it all boils down to, Sheikhs or not Sheikhs, they must obey the law and have respect for this uniform and the uniforms of all the gallant men who work day and night to protect the safety and the security of the country and its people." He pulled at the jacket for emphasis to show the uniform he was wearing. Abdullah continued his general treatment of the problem: "I agree with you, dear brother, the Sheikhs are just as responsible as any other citizen for keeping in line with the other citizens when it comes to public conduct and procedures. But I think the issue is more than that. If

only the government had taken advantage of the Sheikhs by keeping them in the areas where their 'sheikhdoms' lie and imposed upon them the duty of maintaining the security and the stability of their domains. I cannot see any purpose to giving them substantial budget allocations and having them live here in their sumptuous palaces while their areas are suffering from so much lawlessness and unrest."

The soldier came back with another comment to add to Abdullah's idea: I also do not see why they should be allowed to maintain such a sizable army, which is incidentally paid for by the public treasury, in the city. What, then are we here for, if they need all these militias for protection. Besides what are they afraid of?"

Najee wanted to clarify something: "The Sheikhs cannot stay unguarded for there are people who may have a grudge or two against a Sheik or there maybe a blood feud between a Sheik and some other sheikhs in the same tribe or another tribe. Thus they need protection." The soldier was not impressed by the justification: "Again, I say what are we here for, then, if everybody can set up their own mob to guard himself or herself with? I say rather than waste the money on exaggerated budgets for the Sheikhs for these 'popular armies', pay the regular soldiers and security men of the government well and you will see how well protected we can keep everybody, whether Sheikhs or common citizens. Besides, the Sheikhs are not staying here to serve their public duties. They are here to make sure that their public funding is not cut off or reduced

and to peddle influence. Look at the parliamentary sessions. Most of the Sheikhs who were elected to Parliament only show up for a fraction of the sessions - unless the President addresses Parliament. Then, you will suddenly see a full house."

Najee still felt that the Sheikhs could serve a meaningful purpose: "The Sheikhs are important, and it is just that the government did not know how to make use of them. They thought that by placating them and giving them big budget allocations they could keep their areas, or 'sheikhdoms' subdued. But what they should have done was follow the example followed in Oman and some of the other neighboring states by making sure that the Sheikhs are given some degree of responsibility in their areas and some powers, but through the institutions of the government and not their own militias. This way they will not get carried away with their authority and will not use these powers outside the law and the regulations that control such responsibilities. Moreover the Sheikhs should be given clear guidelines as to what they can do with such authority. On the other hand the Sheikhs of Yemen should develop a code of conduct for themselves on how Sheikhs should behave with the public, sort of like the 'dos and don'ts of a Sheik'. On the other hand the Sheikhs should only be in Sana'a if they are members of Parliament and then only when Parliament is in session. They should not have to keep a sizable force of paramilitary units for personal protection. This will do much to reduce the risk of violent con-

frontations arising and will set an example for the rest of the public to follow".

Abdullah agreed: "I agree with you Najee. But, to be fair to the Sheikhs, while not meaning to hurt the feelings of our military friend here, I think that the same should apply for all public officials as well, whether military or civilian. The problem seems to be that anyone who has been given some degree of authority or responsibility in Yemen believes that they can get away with anything and that they have become above the law and above the codes of decent public behavior. It is pathetic that in these days you will find that most public flare-ups or incidents are either caused by public officials, military or security officers or sheikhs or their offspring. The sad part is that usually the victims of such incidents are helpless victims, who are passers by."

The soldier came up with a possible solution to the problem: "Why not just give the Sheikhs some of these uninhabited islands we have, to go as wild as they like to in them, without hurting anybody or tarnishing the image of Yemenis as a civilized society, and for their overseas travel I suggest that they be given a separate passages in the airports and entry/exit points to/from Yemen, like they have in some European countries for travelers who come from the European Union and other travelers, and to have separate facilities for them, with the security forces there armed with armor plated uniforms to guard against reckless travelers who forget that they are not above the Law!"

Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Editor,

I refer to your Issue No 39 of 27 September and in particular to THEY SAY ... I SAY (Salwa M Sarhi). I have visited Yemen annually since 1993 and witnessed the decline in tourism consequent upon the various kidnapping incidents and reported acts of terrorism. In January this year I met with the Australian Ambassador to Yemen (resident in Saudi Arabia and on his first visit, I believe, to Sana'a) to discuss the perceived threat to Australian citizens touring your country.

His attitude reflected the Australian Government's: there was a big threat and Australia has placed Yemen on a list that includes Chechnya and Afghanistan as places not to visit! Those of us in the know recognize the nonsensicality and unfairness in this, but until the Australian Government relaxes its formal advice to travellers there will be few visitors to Yemen from Australia, which is a potentially large market. Only this month I was due to accompany a group of 20 distinguished people from Melbourne but this has been postponed for 2 years. I speak Yemeni Arabic fluently and worked in the south of your country during the British era. I have many friends from that period and care deeply for Yemen and its people.

When I was last in Yemen I also met with the Director of Antiquities and have also corresponded with your Tourism agency, to recommend that Yemen send a cultural display to Australia which, with local sponsorship, could tour the country and thereby help to dispel the myth of savagery that so discourages visitors. In spite of my efforts absolutely nothing has eventuated from your end and, until there is some official and commercial interest in improving the country's image, it will be a long time before we can have groups of visitors from this part of the world. I would like to help further but feel helpless!

Michael Crouch
East Perth, Australia

Dear Editor,

I am from Yemen and I live in Saudi Arabia Riyadh city. I am working in King Faisal hospital for the last 17 years in nutrition department. I love my country and I am planning to move there by next year if any one like to e-mail me my address is below I will be happy to replay, and thanks.

Samir Kaifah
E-mail:sammer62@hotmail.com

Dearest Yementimes,

One of the things I mention to my friends outside Yemen, is my favorite newspaper that is Yemen Times. I am very proud to do so cause the paper is a light in this tunnel in which Yemen doesn't seem to be able to leave . until...

Well keep up the good work.

Today I was very happy to read about the banning of qat chewing by the military personals.

It is indeed a small step but we should never forget that mountains are made up of stones, so we should take these

small steps seriously and try to do our part in helping to implement what is eventually good for our country.

It is our soul responsibility to bring up a better tomorrow for our people and country.

The president is one and so every one of us so if we could help change ourselves like the way we keep asking him to change for the better than trust me we are heading for a better tomorrow, and I think we can help him too.

lets say by not selling qat to the guys in green.

Khaled H. Al Azbi
India

Dear Editor,

As I was reading today and in the front page where i saw the "PRICE RISE." I think its a good idea so that the Yemen brothers would Work on the land and farm their own land instead of others. We got the best land in the world, what else do we want, laziness or we want the fruit to fall into our mouths. That will never happen, stop dreaming and chewing and start Planting corn, wheat, bamboo, fruit, vegetables, COFFEE, and stop dreaming. I want to see my country in it's best. Wake up people! What are you waiting for? You have everything you need in your country. You can live without the need for anybody else>. Did you forget the gardens, heaven, Paradises your country were known with? Did you forget what the Quran said about the land of Sheba?

Believe it or not am reading these letter and the tears are on my eyes and every time a got to bed I start dreaming about Yemen, but I have no choice till I graduate which is coming up soon. In the night I got to bed and said how can I improve my country how can I improve the equality of life and the land itself. We need to work together. If we don't, then who will work with us? We will not be able to move further. We must not depend on others. I repeat: We must not depend on others. I hope my message is received.

Abdussalam Allinai

Dear editor and readers,

I surfed into your page while searching for information on the Internet about Yemen. I am interested to learn more about this beautiful country and I thought a good way of doing this is through correspondence. I was hoping you can help me find penpals in Yemen, from whom I can learn more about the country, and with whom I can be a friend. I would like to write with young women, like myself, in Yemen. Thank you very much and I hope you can help.

My address:

Box 375 AAV
1799 Muntinlupa
Philippines

Jansie Fdez

Dear brothers,

I am a Ph.D. Student at UMIST Microelectronics group. I feel so bad that I can't even dream a good future in my

country. My story is so long in the commercial court. Can you imagine that judges don't know how to deal with cases. If I told you that they are asking me to pay partner YR 40,000,000 as his profit of YR 200,000 that he paid. Can you believe it? Our work together starts in 1990 and he close at the end of 1992.

The court give him my new shop including about YR 4,500,000 goods and furniture some of the goods is not yet paid. They gave him the shop we gain together including YR 1,80,000. I got to go to jail for many times. They prevent me from travel they issue an order to reserve

any thing expensive that belongs to my, my wife and my sons. These judges are more serious than kidnappers. Kidnappers prevent tourism from coming to Yemen, but judges turn Yemeni's people into refugees.

I don't need to eat some thing not main. I need a fair judgment. I spent seven years working day and night. My reward is the jail. Can you imagine it?

I will keep a saying as a ring in my ear: "a place where a dog tie you and a mouse release you, leave it."

Munir Kulaib
United Kingdom

فاین کریم
یغذی الشعر
ويزيل القشرة

فاین کریم
مضاد للقشرة
يجعل الشعر انيقا ولماعا

A Trip to Tarim

When one thinks of the kingdoms of Qahtan, Sheba and Hemiari, one simultaneously thinks of the South of the Arabian Peninsula. But where is it situated? Where did these kingdoms start and develop? Are they still existing? Answers to these questions come along with a host of probabilities.

Tarim which we shall be focusing on in this issue has been a town in the Kingdom of Sheba. Around 25 km far from the hot sand of the Quarter, Tarim lies peacefully away from the pickaxes of the excavators hunger for antiquities. The name of the town is derived from the name of one of Sheba's sons that once ruled the country. Tarim is situated in Wadi Hadramout (the Hadramout Valley) that extends along 360 miles piercing the heart of Hadramout Dessert. The Arabic word 'wadi' means a valley where water flows in a torrent. However, Wadi Hadramout is not a wadi in the real sense of the word. It is, in fact, a rocky valley which dried a long time ago. It widens and narrows according to the districts it penetrates. In some places it becomes more than 20 miles wide.

Tarim was very famous for myrrh, frankincense and sugar trading. Through the 3000-year-old road Sheba traders used to travel along with their merchandise.

The Tarim's Berlin Wall

Tarim, as well as Shibam were under the regime of "Al-Qoaitien." However, it was different from Shibam by the huge five-door wall that was surrounding it. The wall stood tall with 20 tall towers piercing the sky to separate the town from the State of the "Al-Kuthairien."

Tarim Palaces

Many palaces, as well as beautiful building surrounded by trees and green gardens are found in Tarim. These palaces

were the residence of the Sultan, his family and followers. Two of the most beautiful buildings are Mr. Abu Bakr Al-Sultan's palace, as well as his brother Omar Ben Sheikh Al-Kaf's which are very wide and decorated with a lot of shiny colors. Their outside is dark blue while the tall windows are covered with yellow, green and rosy colors. As far as the style is concerned, it conforms to an Indian rather than Hadrami style.

Al-Naeem Palace

Many tourists are attracted by this palace, especially the English. Tarim has been and is still a seat of knowledge. From the early days of Islam, Tarim has been known as a spring for Islam from which the most well-known clergy men have got their knowledge. It is said that once there were as many as 300 Mofti from one tribe in the 16th century.

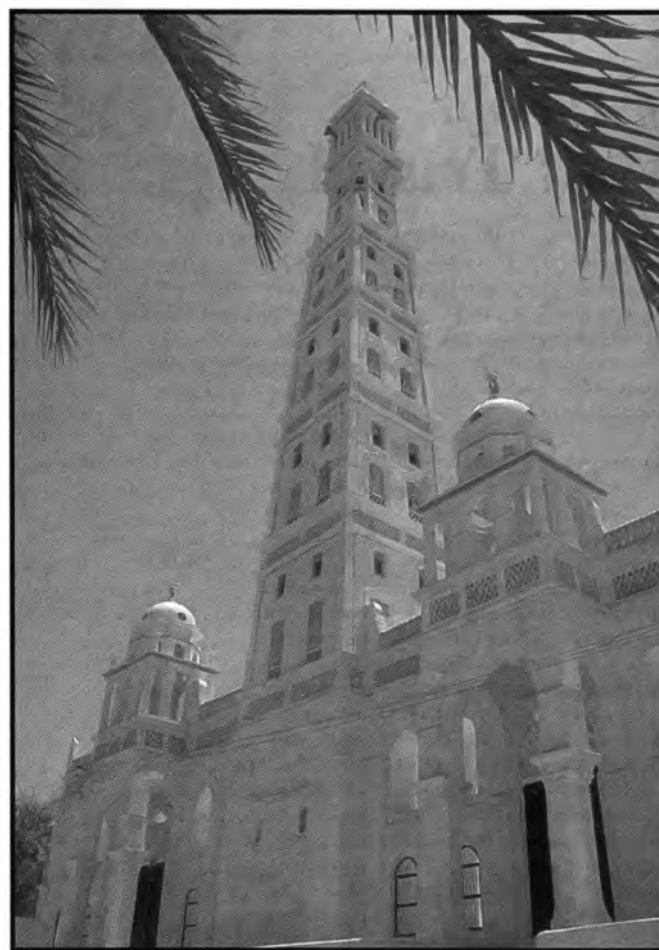
Ribat Tarim

It is called the Azhar of Hadramout. Many clergy men graduate from it and its branches in the whole republic every year. Even Yemenis who are in the other Arab countries have a chance to join this Islamic institution for it has several branches in the Arab world.

Tarim the town of Assadah

Tarim is considered to be the town of "Assadah" because it was chosen by Al-Hussain Ben Ali Ben Abi Taleb for settling down after he left Al-Basra in 320 Hijrah. He settled there for 26 years during which period he helped spread the Creed of Al-Shafai. Presently, his successors enjoy high positions and are highly respected by the people.

Tarim Mosques and Al-Mohdar Minaret



Tarim is also famous for its many mosques. More than 4006 mosques are present in Tarim, 365 of which belong to the pre-Quaitian period. The most outstanding among these historic mosques is Omar Al-Mohdar Mosque with its high and distinguished minaret. Wherever you are in Tarim, you can see it piercing the sky. Omar Al-Mohdar minaret is considered to be one of the most distinguished minarets in the Arab world for its 87 year old history.

Hood Grave

Tarim has been a place for many historic tales that have been mentioned in the Holy Quran. For Example, the tale of Aad and Thamud, Lot's people and Saleh the prophet. Moreover, it is the town where Hod was buried. Many people come from different places to visit the grave of Hod for three days in a year. It is said that he was a giant since his grave is 120 feet long.

Birhoot Well

Some historians say it is situated in Aden. Others say it is in Tarim. According to Al-Masoudi, it is in Hadramout. In his book, "the Creatures' Wonders" - 1250 BC, Al-Kazwini said that it was in Hadramout. He has also quoted the prophet Mohammed as having said that the spirits of the unbelievers were imprisoned in it. Late Assaid Ben Aqeel, one of the clergy men in Hadramout once said that he was the first author to see the well. He also said that he climbed it down and heard the sounds of snakes and smelled the turtles. Near the well, there is a wide open mouth leading into an awe inspiring fearful cave in the heart of the rocks.

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What is to Come After the Presidential Elections?



Tariq Al-Shami
Vice Secretary General of
the Popular Forces
Federation

Regarding the future of Yemen after the Presidential Elections, I do not see any reason for optimism. This can clearly be seen in the aftermath of the elections. If the President of the Republic is capable of over-coming the influence, the political to combat the corruption, and the legislation of the President of the Republic is concentrated on the public structure and democracy. Thereafter, I will talk about the fulfillment electoral agenda of

the President Saleh. This program does not go beyond its political limits. It does not reflect the real level which ought to be taken into account.

For instance, it does not deal with the local regime. The program also does not give priority to reconstructing local authority, which may ensure practice of its rights freely. The Presidential Elections expected to help the citizens and make the ruler implement his national agenda work at the same time. Even though, this is the first time in the history of the country, yet when we have a novel experiment with democratic processes, I have a feeling that President Saleh has the ability of coping with the new developments.

As it is well known the opposition is a part of the political regime in the country. As such they should know that the opposition's project is not confined to the Presidential Elections only. The Opposition has difficult responsibilities. For instance, it should think how to find a solution for the economic, social and political reforms. Our aim is not to find fault with any one in the government. We aim at reform of the whole regime. I only wish that this complicated problem came to an end. As early as possible the opposition's project aims at serving the national interests. The decision of the Opposition Coordination Council for the non-participation of the elections was taken because of a feeling that there was no possibility for democratic competition as nominee was already chosen. But we wanted only to show our faith. When

our nominee had no fortune of getting voices of the parliament, our decision was quite expected.

The Federation Popular Forces is preparing for holding the second conference. The Federation will be the first party which will hold a conference after the Presidential Elections. The Federation was also the first political party which held a conference after the War of 1994. Al-Shora Newspaper is the first newspaper which continued editorial policy that existed before the War. The conference faced a lot of crucial problems, but it overcame all those. When, Mr. Ibrahim Bin Ali Al-Wazeer was elected as the security-general of the Federation. Al-Shora Newspaper was stopped for a year. Up to now, we have faced many problems. We wish to conclude the forthcoming conference successfully without any interference from any source.

Continued from page 5

Local Administration Bill, MPs and the Constitution

The constitution did not exempt the directors of local councils from such elections but merely allowed the contract authority to select from elected members of local councils, its directors. The debate has assumed proportions of an important constitutional issue and it is in effect testing the will and courage of many MPs to abide by the constitution in its straight-forward directives against political allegiances; preserving the sanctity of the parliament presidium, from the possible outrage by political heavy weights and other far-fetched interpretations. The matter touches on the basic right of citizens to elect governors and district directors who directly control their lives and well-being. This is a constitutional right. It is painful and sad to think that MPs are requested to eventually execute the nullification of a basic right of the very same citizens who elected them to the parliament.

The government has its reasons in tracing the election of governors and district directors, but these reasons do not tantamount to a constitutional breach.

Other solutions should be sought without violating the provisions of the constitution. In has taken Yemen many decades to arrive at this point of constitutional stability and many have sacrificed their lives defending the rights of Yemenis to serve freedom, democracy, law and order as well as the right of the people to elect their representatives for public posts.

We can not afford to overlook the fact that officials and MPs are sworn in to uphold the constitution and to serve the interests and safeguard the freedom of the people.

There are other important issues in the 'Local Authority Bill', such as the powers and jurisdiction of local councils at governorate and district levels, in addition to their financial resources. These matters have not been debated yet. We first have to overcome the first hurdle, safely, peacefully, in a democratic manner and most importantly, with the framework of the constitution.

Centralization is rooted in the draft law presented to the Parliament

What I would like to highlight first is in regard to the proposed amendment to the local governance which is being discussed in the parliament. It relates to transferring the local administration to local authority. Secondly, what we are discussing right now is no more than a means which would increase the problems that we are currently suffering from. It is also a maneuver to establish places without any authorities, in so far as the local councils are vested with no powers at all. Centralization is rooted in the draft law presented to the Parliament to the extent that nomination of the governors and district directors will be made by the ruling party. In other words, the Central Authority will nominate the chairman of the administration unit who is at the same time the chairman of the local council. Hence, the elected local council will be chaired and led by the chairman appointed by the center.

On the other hand, all the authorities are concentrated in the hands of the appointed chairman. In regard to the articles mentioned in the law, the elected secretary-general in local councils is nothing more than a writer and a subordinate executive of the elected chairman of the council. The draft law currently discussed in the Parliament completely violates the form as well as the content of the constitution. Article No (143) of the constitution states that "the Republic is to be divided to different administration units. It also defines the procedure of nomination, election and selection of its directors. The law also defines the scientific standards that these units are based upon." This is the article that defines the scope of nomination of the



Yahya Abu Usbaa
Member of Parliament

chairman of the administration unit as the governor or the district directors. However, the article stipulates that the nomination will be made through elections. The word "selection" has been exploited by the government, that is, to select the governor or the director from a three members elected by the local councils. Besides, article No 144 of the constitution clearly states "to have free, direct, secretive and equal elections." This means that chairmen of local councils are to be elected. However, the draft law, presented to the parliament, has ignored all this by deciding that it is not proper to take the risk of electing the governor or the directors. This is so especially under the current circumstances of the country which might lead to anticipated harmful results negatively affecting the unification and leading to the divisions of the country. The ruling party wants to say that the Yemenis are still too naive to create and shape their future. In fact, they want to play the role of the guardian who is not willing to renounce the elements of control. By presenting such a draft law, the administration wants to get back what it was compelled to give as a

result of the necessary requirements for building the modern country in which the local

authority is the main cornerstone. The ruling power has superficially adhered to the law by legitimizing the elections of local councils. However, it assures itself of the full benefits in the form of retention of the right to appoint the governors as well as district directors who have full power.

What is strange in the centralization of power is that on one hand it trusts the people in electing the president and the members of the parliament. However, they withdraw such a trust in defining the procedure to elect official in this administrative unit, district directors and governors, on the other. The draft law presented is thus another disaster that is imminent. It is also a new frankenstein that is going to undermine the budget. It is also a violation of rights as well as authorities preserved by the constitution.

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علي عبدالله صالح

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وإلى الحكومة اليمنية الرشيدة برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني،
وإلى المجلس الاستشاري برئاسة الأستاذ عبدالعزيز عبد الغني،
وإلى الشعب اليمني بمناسبة العيد السادس والثلاثين
لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر.
وكل عام و اليمن في تقدم وازدهار



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and the Yemeni people

On the occasion of the 36th anniversary of 14 October Revolution
Many Happy Returns

14 October

Employment Offices in Yemen: Are they selling illusions?

Abdulkareem Hashem

It's crystal clear that the economical status in Yemen is decaying and is by all means unpromising as we could see extreme indigence, high living expenses and worst of all the absence of job opportunities among those who have high certificates and those of intermediate education. These conditions enabled some devious charlatans to make use of those people who are in need of job opportunities. These frauds use Visa's and job contractions as a decoy to lure their victims into their traps.

Worth mentioning is that getting the information was difficult because the victims found it embarrassing to talk of being swindled by these frauds. These people do not want to be thought of as naive and credulous people, therefore, only a few number of such cases were reported to the police.

In the following lines we will try to give you some pictures of this tragedy. We will begin with this story which shows how people who disparately look for an escape from these deteriorating conditions soon find themselves in worse conditions.

The victim stated: "We thought that we finally found the solution to our problems when we finished all the necessary procedures for emigration to Saudi Arabia. We were supposed to work for a wealthy business man who owns a factory in the Saudi Arabia Kingdom. He promised us excellent jobs and tempting wages but once we arrived there, we soon discovered that all his promises were nothing more than a pie in the sky. He made us work like slaves let alone that treated us badly and scolded us all the time."

This is not the only story of its kind. Every day an unaware citizen falls into the trap and becomes a victim of one of these employment offices. Here are some more stories.

1. Mr. Amin Al-Najar, an engineer, said in the interview: "I heard of an employment office which provides excellent jobs in the same field of my profession. I was promised a high salary and many other privileges which one of was that the work will be in the United Arab Emirates. I first went to their office in Taiz which was located in Gamal street near Al-Jodyri police station. The name of the office was Job Finder for Employment and Businesses. I paid them 1100 YR Then they asked me to prepare a file containing my certificates, a guarantee and a medical report. I prepared the file spending 3000 YR and therefore totaling a sum of 4200 YR. Later on, they

gave us membership cards of their office. We, then, waited for days and months but unfortunately we came to know that the office had closed. At this point, I did not know what to do or who to ask for my lost money." He also said: "I was not the only one, there were tens of people who registered and prepared files but every thing was over."

2. Mr. Mohammed Mansour Al-Hemari, a worker, said telling his story: "Just like every body else I applied to the Job Finder for Employment and Businesses. They asked for a personal ID along with some personal photos. After we prepared our files, they gave us ID's which belong to their office. We paid them approximately 1100 YR. Of course, this incident took place a year ago but we had received nothing. They had told us at that time that we will travel to Qatar or the United Arab Emirates in stages and that an advertisement will be published in Al-Thawrah newspaper telling the names of those who shall travel first."

Those were some stories but there are more to tell. There were many other advertisements calling for people to travel and work in Sultanate Brnway. These advertisements spread widely along with the application form assuring that they prefer Yemeni workers in that country.

Moreover, some of these fakers used a more alluring decoy. They promised those needy people of finding them jobs in the Saudi Arabia Kingdom and in the United States. We could notice that this kind of activity is prevailed by secrecy. They tell people that there are only limited chances to make it even more alluring. Take for instance this story about a person who promised people to give them entering Visas to the United States. He took \$ 5000 from each person and when those people started demanding their money back he gave them forged checks. After a couple of days, one of the victims filed a complaint to the police department. The general manager of the department sent and official message to Aden's branch to arrest this person who, apparently, lived in Aden. The General Administration, sana'a, which is still investigating this case, had got lots of other complaints from different people in regards of the same person.

These offices are found everywhere and you could see their signs in all places. They also distribute papers in minibuses, coffee shops and in any other place where these needy people assemble. For this reason we interviewed some of these offices.

1. Job Finder for Employment and businesses: We searched for hours all along Al-Qiadah Street until we left no stone unturned to find this office. Later on, we found out that the office had closed and had

removed the sign which shows where their office were. We asked about them but no body seemed to know where they had left to. However, we were able to interview a relative of the building owner where this office was located. The man said that the owner still has some problems with those who opened the office because of some unpaid electricity and telephone bills. He also added that the case is now in court but then he refused to give us any further details or to tell us his name saying that it was of no use to do anything because the owner of the office was a well-connected person.

2. Al-Kawtari Office for Emigration Procedures: We tried to find this office in the address shown in their advertisement but all our tries went in vain. A while later, we found out that this office had another name which was Al-Dalil office for Real Estate. Then, we headed for this office which was composed of a small room, a telephone and one man. We asked this man about the kind of business they run and he answered: "Our office is specialized in making emigration Visas to Canada. The rules we follow are: first the applicant must pay a 200 YR fee for the application form. After he fills in the application form we ask him to prepare a file containing their certificates and a medical report. Then, they pay for the mail and we send the file to Canada. If we receive a positive answer the candidate must pay \$2000 for the office and another \$500 tax for the Canadian government. At this point he has to wait until an agent comes from

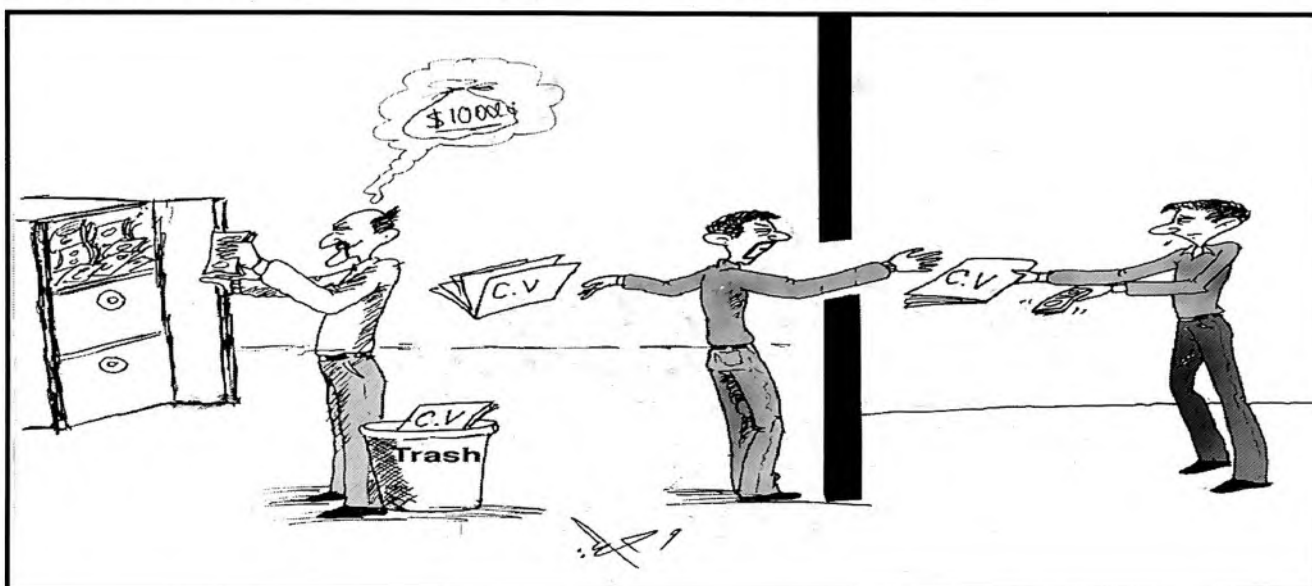
Canada to interview him. Once the interview is over he gets the Visa and he pays the office another \$2000. Then, he can travel to Canada on his own expenses knowing it is non of our obligation to find him a job there." He also added: "The person who gets this Visa could get the Canadian Nationality whilst his stay there. We also require from the candidates to have good command of either the English or the French Language. I would also like to add that we give \$100 commission to anyone who brings us a client."

3. Al-Helal office for Employment: This office is composed of a ground-floor room which is divided into two sections by a piece of cloth. There are three employees in this office, two women and a man. We talked to Mr. Ahmed Al-Sanabani, Public Relations Representative. He said "The documents we ask for are the highest certificate the applicant has obtained, a photocopy of the personal ID and personal photos. After he pays 200 YR we register his name in our lists. We, then, try to find him a job and contact him if we found any. When we get him a job we sign a contract with him in which makes a commitment to pay the office 50% of his first salary and another 50% of his second salary and in case he delayed the payment it will be doubled," he also said: "The field of our activities is broad. We provide all that the job market needs in both sectors, the private and the governmental, inside and outside Yemen. Moreover, our activities are not limited to finding jobs we also help those people who want to move or change their jobs

because we have good connections in the work market." We then asked him to give us some examples of what they have done and he told us that they had found jobs for many workers in Al-Babeli Companies, drivers in Al-Wedian Company for Paints, secretaries in some private companies and nurses in private clinics. Then he continued that they give commissions to any one who bring them a client and that they had a license from the Ministry of Construction. We asked him if the Ministry of Work supervises their activity but his reply was that he was not aware of such a supervision.

After hearing all these statements, we went to the Ministry of Work to investigate this matter. The staff there told us that the Ministry does not supervise such activities. We also tried to meet the manager several times but he was constantly absent. Then we talked to one of the employees who refused to give us his name. He said that these activities are illegitimate according to the work law number five that was released in 1995. He also added that such offices must get their license from the ministry of work before they can proceed such an activity.

Finally, Why does not the government do something to protect its citizens from these deceptions though it is the one to be blamed for their conditions? If this case, then, on what bases do these offices open and who is responsible for supervising such activities? These are important questions which seem to have no clear answer.



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Applications received after this date will not be considered.

بقوليات الهناء... بالهناء والشفاء

الهناء



English Literary Studies in Yemen: Need for Interfacing WLWE



By: Dr. Murari Prasad
Department of English
College of Education, Sana'a

The history of English teaching as an academic discipline at university level in Yemen is relatively recent - or as old as the inception of Sana'a University in 1971. The 4-level integrated courses are aimed at imparting proficiency in language skills as well as making the learners acquainted with literary pieces, authors, forms and trends. Advanced courses in language and literature are taught at MA level whose objectives, too, are arguably holistic. To be sure, English language teaching has justified primacy in the context of Yemen and the program is being executed in a functional and goal-directed way, but literary studies do cry out for certain alternative enterprises within the space of English studies in Yemeni universities. It relates to a lot that is going on in language, literature and culture outside of the 'metropolitan' canons of standard British or World Literature Written in English (usually abbreviated WLWE hereafter). Since institutional arrangements for area studies program, multicultural curriculums or ethnic studies have not yet been organized, WLWE with its perspectives on a wider range of societies carries important implications.

While there is a degree of inbuilt flexibility in the selection of study items within the prescribed course frame, what we have practically is a cloned version of English literature which was taken by British to the empire in the early 19th century to fortify their fragile colonial foundation in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Pacific territories, and later by the USA in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Philippines etc. Of course Yemen is free from colonial antecedents; the control of Aden was too peripheral to lead to any subtle social engineering, but in some of the subjugated regions, where stakes were very high, native resistance was sought to be diluted by implanting English literary studies. The agenda has survived decolonization in that the

English literary curriculum in most parts of the world including Yemen is still cast in the colonial mould. For example, the disciplinary formation of English literary studies in England beginning tentatively at the University College of London University in 1828 stabilized only in the last decades of the 19th century in the premier British universities, but it was institutionalized in India much earlier as a result of the 1853 Act. Reverend Thomas Dale, the first Professor of English in England, organized the first university course in English literature but soon became 'the profession's first economic casualty'. On the other hand, in the colonies its study lent respectability and ensured proximity to power and privilege. Around the same time Britain's Lord Macaulay slighted the whole literature of India and Arabia, belittling it to "a single shelf of European books," and the school boys from Rangoon to Reading began to bone up on English writers in a state of colonial cringe.

Now, the boot is on the other foot. The empire has written back with compelling moxie and energy. Edward Said, an expert on Arabic literature and professor of English at Columbia University in New York, who pioneered the study of postcolonial writing with his widely known book *Orientalism* (1978), has interrogated the complex ideological agendas of imperialism. While Said has vigilantly demystified the canonization of western works, the writers of Britain's former colonies have appropriated the Queen's English and emerged, in a manner of speaking, as the makers of World Fiction. It is a thousand pities that most of the universities in the Middle East haven't yet got on to it.

Various terms WLWE, postcolonial literature, contact literature, postcolonial literature, resistant literature, Commonwealth literature, new literature in English, or the Third World literature in English, this alternative body of writing remained marginalized by a mainstream dominated by England and the United States till recently. But during the last two

decades it has attracted attention for its quality and variety. Universities like Leeds in the UK, Flinders and Macquarie in Australia which warned towards the subject long back have joined up new takers in India and Singapore, Malaysia as well as South Africa, and several other countries. Still, many of our academics are grudgingly accepting this new component of English studies; their pedagogical assumptions wedded to the colonial and canonical flavour of the English syllabi have not yet opened up to the glassnot in literary productions in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nigeria, the Caribbean countries etc. They tend to dismiss new literature in English as mere modish output by mediagenic writers with funky erudition and tricky craft. Well, maybe in some cases. But WLWE deserves to be well-weighted at least for the critical mass it has already had to dislodge its mainstream rivals.

Why should the corpora of English literary studies in Yemen be turned around to make room for new literatures in English and current theoretical issues facing the discipline today? Much as tenable the idea is, it is not unproblematically acceptable. But polemics apart, certain points heave into view. A student of the modern English novel from Yemeni universities, or for that matter from any part of the world, will find his gears seized up among peers if he is ignorant of works like *The Remains of the Day*, *The English Patient*, *The Famished Road*, *Sacred Hunger*, *The Bone People*, *Sour Sweet*, *A Suitable Boy*, *The Fine Balance*, *The God of Small Things* etc. Not that these books have hogged hype for their heft and gloss and British fiction is down in the dumps. Their authors twirl phrases with a blaze of confidence and do engage the tumult of the wider world. They are compulsory page turners with a potent subterranean pull and resonate with readers for a good measure. Not for nothing have the majority of the Booker Prize recipients or its redoubtable runners-up during the recent years been non-British English writers, and one of them, Derek Walcott, a poet of African and Dutch descent, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1992. Weaned merely on

the staple diet of Anglo-American classics, students of English literature today will be cut off from a rich vein of experience effectively mined by the postcolonial constellation.

Collectively, World Fiction in English stars a pod of stand-up and feisty exponents. With prodigious talent and admirable performance these writers including V.S. Naipaul, Kazuo Ishiguro, Michael Ondaatje, Ben Okri, Wole Soyinka, Chinua Achebe, Vikram Seth, Rohinton Mistry and, of course, Arundhati Roy constitute a tectonic shift in contemporary English literature-changing as it were - the very implications of English literature. The term has long ceased to men the literature of England and today covers a wider range of national productions than ever before. As a matter of fact, WLWE is the glittering tiara of the English language and the English establishment has already begun to acknowledge it. Do these writers click by virtue of their command of the language, as Bill Buford, the American editor of the bouncy London magazine *Granta*, suggests? Or, have they been pole-vaulted into prominence by sheer hype?

Aggressive marketing blitz, huge advances, book launch parties, rave reviews and other frills have no doubt helped the World Fiction titles to hit the market. However, hype alone can't sustain high explosion in the sales of books. The potential or hunger for reading can be tapped only by a book which has a certain amount of integrity to it. As regards media recognition, even P.G. Wodehouse titles were recently reissued by Penguin with a theme party. So it is part of the game, notwithstanding purists who cock a snook at the elite club of megaselling authors pushed up by a splurge.

The fact that the publishers have made capital of the consumption of postimperial literature in English and readers have agreed fills one with eager anticipation that the harbingers and heralds of the 21st century literature will be the new breed of literary lions from the decolonised world, not the writers of the Anglo Saxon ancestry. And sure enough, in the run-up to the millennium foreign publishing firms are set-

ting up their imprints outside Europe and America. New authors have been introduced by English language presses in Singapore, Australia and India. This year has seen the launch of Picador India and the Routledge India Liaison office in New Delhi. When asked why Picador decided to launch in India, its chief spokesperson, Peter Straus, made no bones about the markedly high standing of Indian writing in English: "... the success, prestige and profile of India writers ... more recently of course Arundhati Roy, who is a bestseller in every single country she has published, a huge bestseller, outselling many of our English writers by kind of ten to one often. The prestige of Rohinton Mistry, the only writer to be shortlisted for the Booker for his first and second novels, these writers have led to a certain kind of confidence and an ability that we have not seen for a long time in many countries. I don't think anybody believed that Indian Ink would sell ninety-eight thousand copies of *The God of Small Things* (a novel by Arundhati Roy, which won the Booker Prize in 1997 and had 22 editions worldwide in the four months of its publication, and has been translated into many European languages including Catalan and Estonian), but that surely suggests that it must testify to a hunger and an interest in such writing and such literature that we hope to tap." Peter's point gives us cause to ponder.

A fascinating component of WLWE is the growth of pointillist literary enterprises by Asian immigrants and diasporic communities in Britain and America who have been historically denied visibility. These writers offer up a new perspective on the ethnic minority groups in the society in which they live. They yank up slivers of their lost roots, their struggle in and reaction to the new land, clash of Asian and European values to leaven their writings with new energy, allusiveness and intelligence. Thus Amy Tan and Maxine Hong Kingston, who helped bring the fiction of Chinese Americans into the American mainstream; Bharati Mukherjee, who lives

in the US and writes about Asian immigrants in America; Hanif Kureishi, Farrukh Dhondy and Atima Srivastava, who are prominent Asian writers in Britain, and several others, embricated in their own traditions, constitute a collective indication of the transitional literature in the new millennium.

Where do we go from here? Should the English literary curriculum in Yemen cope with WLWE? Or the new literary variant may be discarded because it will clutter up the process of teaching English literature. Or why, it might lead to a slide into uncritical endorsement of popular literature - a tad thin and superfluous. The answer to these questions entails close engagement with a clutch of the writers who have signposted WLWE with their trail blazing works. Competing points of view are bound to be there, especially when academics jealously guard disciplinary boundaries. Can Jane Austen and R.K. Narayan, Margaret Drabble and Yasmine Gooneratne, Kingsley Amis and Rohinton Mistry lie cheek by jowl? Some of us sneer. Well, it's like asking how Andrew Motion and Ted Hughes can be Britain's fellow poet laureates. More to the point, we should not forget that a good part of the Eurocentric curriculum in Social Sciences is being rejected. Multiculturalism in the US has already been centered around the educational curricula. During my speaking engagements in Spanish universities in 1997 I found graduate students on the prowl through the pages of postcolonial writers and the course has caught on. Many Asian universities, too, are chafing under academic dependencies of the West - half the Indian universities have broken off from monolithic English syllabus at the tertiary level. If literature is vitally valid for its perspectives on society, then we do need transcultural literature in a world language undergoing steady adaptation, variation and change. Also, it not only purveys multiple perspectives on non-western societies in 'new English' but also bypasses the difficult process of translation.

However, the idea is not to replace English literature with WLWE because it will result in a rueful grand dismissal. What is suggested nonetheless is common pursuit to nudge our normative considerations of genuine writing to proliferating diversities of WLWE and negotiate gradual curricular adjustment.

Democracy and Development

It is only two months left and the whole globe will move into a new millennium described by many experts as an era of globalization. In this global context, democracy is seen as a substantial and best way of governance.

Yemen, as a part of this global context, is witnessing marvelous changes and transformations in democratization. Holding parliamentary and presidential is, of course, a good stride towards building a new modern civil society based on a pluralistic and democratic system. I have participated in the presidential election actively and was happy to find people in queue waiting for their turn to vote. Elections are an outcome of democracy. To be more real, we are facing a lot of ordeals and problems in our democratic transitions, which should be considered a price for our democratic movement. This transition is actually a courageous step. However, we should not keep singing and praising our democratic process and our achievements in this regard. It is high time that we moved into action and deeds. President Saleh has oriented the government to give an overall program to overhaul the situation. That is very promising. The government must find all the potential ways to solve our problems and implement the instructions of the president. His election program substantially translates the

aspirations of the people. We felt that he would do something concrete to alleviate the sufferings of the people. The government should work hand in hand to salvage the country. President Saleh has contributed well to the betterment of the people. Moreover, he is tabled as one of the most important pioneering figures in the modern history of Yemen. I could understand from his speech that he is willing to change the society. But, corrupt officials are there to hinder any effort for change and reform. We should say that that is enough and now we should start building our own society. A war should be launched against corrupt people. This is in order to ensure a more stabilized situation that makes us able to build a new society based on law and order. Reforming the economy and improving the living standard of the people should be prioritized in the agenda of the people in charge. Our democratic transition will not be fruitful and promising unless it is accompanied by development. In other words, transformation should not take place only in the field of democracy. Development and transformations in all aspects of life must occur too.

In conclusion, democracy and development should go hand in hand. That is, development should be one of the outcomes and fruits of democracy.

By: Yahia Ali Abdu





يسر مؤسسة

أوشن يمن

أن تزف أسمى آيات التهاني والتبريكات

إلى القائد الرمز الأخ المشير

علي عبدالله صالح

رئيس الجمهورية

المتوج بحب الشعب وثقته

بمناسبة أعياد الثورة اليمنية المجيدة

سبتمبر وأكتوبر

ويأتي ذلك متزامنا مع الافتتاح الرسمي

والتدشين للشركة الحاصلة على

إمтиيازات على الأرض اليمنية الطيبة

وكل عام واليمن في تقدم وإزدهار

الرئيس والمدير العام

ريك بوت

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President Ali Abdullah Saleh

and to all Yemeni People on the
Anniversary of the September and
October Revolutions which coincide with
the Inauguration of the Work of
Ocean Energy in the Field of
Petroleum Exploration in the
Land of the Arabia Felix

President & General Manager

Rick Bott

Ocean Energy

26 September 14 October

From The Agenda



Ayman Moh'd Nasser
Al-Tariq Chief Editor

As I still believe that late Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-saqqa was not given a fair deal, so I continue to write about him in a bid to show the minimum of fairness and faithfulness that he deserves. * Time was shortly after 6pm on Wednesday, June 2nd., 1999 when the telephone rang. It was a call from abroad, from the Associated Press reporter, Dubai who started with a somewhat Syrian (Sham) dialect. He was speaking as a person speaking to someone he trusts. He said: "By God! We all love Dr. Al-saqqa, who visited our office. We can't believe this news." Cautiously, I replied: "Which news?" He said that Dr. Abdul Aziz was hit by a speeding car and he died right after that!

* As I was not sure of the credentials of the caller, I asked whether he could re-introduce himself, specify the purpose of his call and the place he was calling from! He repeated the whole thing again! I still thought that there is some kind of "leakage". I asked him how he got my name and phone; and he clarified that they were provided to him by Ahmed Elhaj, their reporter in Sana'a.

* I was stunned! He felt that perhaps he was the first to tell me this painful news and apologized. While apologizing and condoling, he continued asking about Dr. Saqqaf's age, offsprings and about other details he needed for completing his story.

* I immediately called my colleague Ahmed Elhaj. His brother confirmed the news, saying that Ahmed had left for the Yemen Times office. I was unable to convince myself that Dr. Al-

sacqaf was no more; somehow in the depth of my heart there was a flicker of a hope that the last spark of his life might still be struggling for survival; But the icy hands of the unconquerable destiny had ordained a most tragic end to a truly benevolent soul, pushing all of us into a pool of grief out of which we have not been able to pull ourselves up to now.

* I contacted my other colleague, Sadeq Nasher. The rattle and throttle in Nasher's voice were the same that I heard in his voice last March when I called to check the news about the death of Mr. Saeed Abdul Wareth Al-Ibbi. For the first time during the last fifteen minutes I felt a choking sensation in my chest as my friend was confirming that Dr. Al-saqqa has left us for ever.

* I continued to look for Bin Sallam; the 2nd. in command at Yemen Times. All lines were busy. I felt suffocated and disgusted, a feeling that overtakes me at the time of overpowering sorrow. I quickly left the Qat and headed towards the office. I found Bin Sallam at his home. He told me how it happened in parenthetical clauses, in his own way of saying things: He was "hit" his head and ribs were broken. He was carried by the front cover of the Mercedes and thrown at twelve meters away. When I asked about the funeral; he answered that the family was insisting that he be buried only after the culprit was punished. He read to me the obituary announcement which was issued by the Yemen Times within thirty minutes of the incident. From the first paragraphs I could feel how massive, disciplined and robust was the establishment which the Late Dr. Al-saqqa had created.

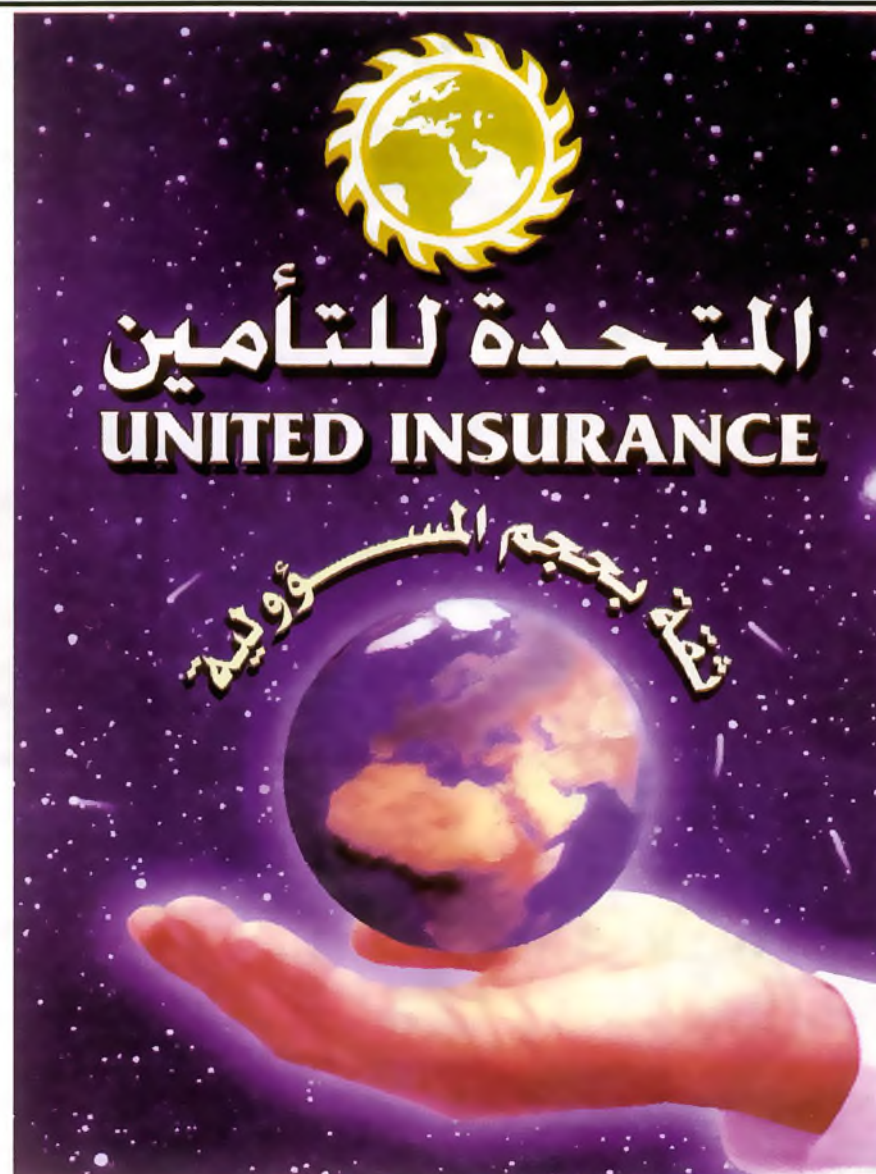
* By 7am next day I was driving towards Lahj and Sana'a with my son Ahmed, my uncle Kamal and a friend. During a call to Bin Sallam in

course of the trip he added that the culprit driver never used the brakes or tried to save Dr. Al-saqqa. I was extremely surprised when I heard that the funeral would take place by Friday afternoon. I didn't know why the family changed their mind.

* During the whole journey between Aden and Sana'a we hardly talked about anything other than the incident, its possible background and the possible consequences of the tragic incident. * I recalled my memories like a tape. I remembered the workshop for journalists organized by the World Bank which brought us together for 4 days. The program was hectic and full of activities. We used to exchange our ideas on small pieces of paper written by pencils. I still remember how he criticized the policy adopted by the Bank in very clear and convincing terms.

In fact I wrote a story on it. I passed my draft to him and he liked it very much. We passed it also to Ali Al-Sirari who suggested some additional points. By Tuesday morning the story was in "Attareeq". Dr. Abdul Aziz felt a trifle shy and said that I was trying to flatter him.

* On the last day of the Workshop, at lunch, as we were sitting together, he spoke about the painful state of affairs, the squandering of public funds and of power and influence centers. He told me that I was in a better position than many others to know about many things that hindered the development of our country. He assured me that his campaign against corruption would intensify, hinting at the extent of my cooperation in giving coverage in Arabic in Attareeq the stories he was intending to publish in Yemen Times. I told him that he had a high position in our hearts and that Attareeq was and shall always be a window for his ideas and analyzes which are always sought by our readers.



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Aden:	P. O. Box 80169	Tel: 240971	Telefax: 240972	Tlx: 6406
Mukalla:	Tel: 304845	Telefax: 353075		

Was The Book Fair a Success?



Tawfeek M. Al-Shra'abi
Yemen Times

It is a known fact that a generation that reads is a developed and a progressive one. As a result, a special focus is paid to students who will be the builders of a better tomorrow. The habit of reading should be developed in them. This is a fundamental way of expanding horizons which will bear fruits to students' benefit as well as their communities. This is why there is a universal trend to emphasize the importance of books and reading. Books shape people's way of thinking.

I have heard a lot about the international book fair that is held annually in Sana'a. Each year I felt sorry for not attending and picking up some precious books. I used to have fancy dreams and hopes of the day I will be able to visit such an exhibition and obtain the books I always dreamt of. When I heard about the latest International Books Fair kicked off by the Vice president on October 3, 1999, I thought that my hopes materialized. A great number of people, especially the educated ones, were also grounding their hopes on this exhibition. Official reports stating that "around 230 Printing and Publishing Houses

are participating in this exhibition" assured all that everybody will have a nice chance to get valuable books that are out of stock in the local bookshops. Many students bore the trouble, expenses, waste of time and money to come to Sana'a from different governorates to get books they are in dire need for in their studies. They thought that the exhibition would include lots of books on different specializations for cheap prices. However, all their hopes came to ashes when they could see nothing of what they were looking for. It was the first time for me to attend such an exhibition, however, I wished I did not do so as to keep the rosy picture I used to have about such exhibitions.

If you had gone around the departments in this fair, you could have seen what I mean. Only a few books on specific topics were available. Foreign English Printing and Publishing Houses did not participate. The only department that contained English books was Daar Al-Hekmah Department, representing some books from Daar Al-Hekmah Library in Sana'a which could not at all satisfy the students' needs. Besides, these books were too expensive to be affordable by students. Many students, studying in English departments in different universities, regretted their coming to Sana'a, wasting their money as well as time.

One of the visitors of this fair was a university teacher in Dhamar who said "I came here to buy some references, books and dictionaries for the English department, however, it seems that I will go back barehanded for there are not many English books. Besides, they are far much expensive than their prices outside. For example, an Indian edition of one of Shakespeare's plays costs 800 riyals, however, it is for 550 riyals outside. If a student wants, for instance, to buy some dictionaries, he needs between 15,000 to 25,000 riyals. Can a "student" afford this?!"

This is distinctly a big problem that should be taken to board by our officials. Those in charge of the education process should maintain and grow students' interest in reading and do not do the opposite. Such high prices will make students shun books. Hence, books will be restricted only to a select few.

The only thing that impressed most who visited the exhibition was the National Council for Culture, Arts and Literature from Kuwait. It represented different books of "Alam Al-Marefah". This department was the only virtue of this exhibition. Many precious as well as invaluable books were on sale for 150 riyals. Its books were earlier out of stock. You could see people in the other departments, however, they were just looking.

To cap it all, I hope that our officials will admit facts and try to overcome such limitations in the coming exhibitions. Will they lend me their ears?! I hope so.

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متمنين لطفلتهم الصحة والعافية.

وحياة مديدة مليئة بالسرور والأفراح.

فألف ألف مبارك.

المهنيون، وليد عبدالعزيز السقا، ريدان عبدالعزيز السقا،

محمد بن سلام، محمد حاتم القاضي

وجميع طاقم صحيفة، يمن تايمز،

Sciences Conference 99 Inaugurated

Yemeni Scientific Researches Association organized the conference of the year 99 for Sciences in Aden city from 11-13 of October. 180 Yemeni scientists participated in the conference. They discussed the basic scientific researches.

The conference ended its works at Aden Hotel Movenpick in the presence of Dr. Yahya Al-Shoaibi, Minister of Education and Mr. Taha Qhanim, governor of Aden. Dr. Mostafa Haran, vice-chairman of the Yemeni Scientific Researches Association praised and welcomed the participants, who contributed in this conference. He praised the private sector on its participation in the activity of the scientific corporation.

The speech which delivered in the inauguration of the conference by Dr. Abdulkareem Al-Iryani was appreciated and welcomed by all the attendance. They called upon the private sector to support the Scientific Association. The conference marked 11th of October of every year as the day of Science, whom the scientists, creative and researchers are being honored on this occasion. They indicated that the association should hold a meeting every year.

The conference recommended Ministry

of Agriculture to use new technology for the natural resources, and to make plans of the new projects concerning buildings. There should be a meteorological center of earthquakes in Dhamar.

They presented their congratulations to President Ali Saleh on his success in the new presidency and thank him for his support to this conference.

Dr. Mostafa Haran, the counselor of the President and the vice chairman of the Yemeni Scientific Researches Association said "we are very happy to see this conference holding in the city of Aden. The participation of the national and international scientists was successful and distinguished. The conference aimed at recognizing the different scientific researches. It gave opportunity to all researchers to recognize the scientific materials. This conference expressed the activity of the successful corporation. It created a relationship between the scientists and the private sector to support the economic and social development in Yemen. Again we say that the aim of this conference is to serve the private sector via the scientific researches in Yemen".

Ridhwan Al-Saqqaf
Aden Bureau Chief

City Center Explosion: The Confession

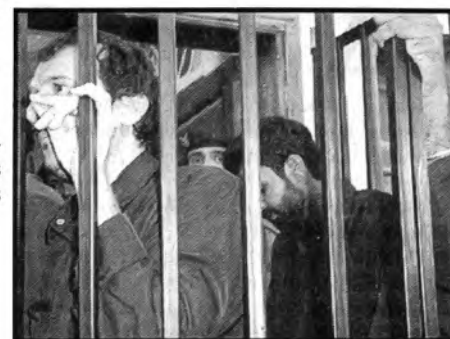
Continued from page 1

The horrifying City Center Supermarket explosion ended up to be no more than an insurance scam. At the beginning, it was thought to be a result of a missile. Some thought that it was an attempt to disrupt the security conditions in the republic through such terrorist attacks. Indeed, the results of the inspections led to an unexpected surprise, which truly amazed the public in various ways.

During the trial hearing that continued yesterday, Sunday, October 17, the testimonies of the defendants, who were two Indians and 3 Yemenis were shocking. They all confessed that they have done what they did, and organized the explosion by orders from the supermarket's owner, who was the first victim in the disastrous explosion that rocked the capital.



The five people involved in exploding the supermarket confessed that they used 29 petrol bottles and 15 gas bottles in the explosion. The persons involved were:
Abdulla Hussain Al-Baziah, Yemeni
Saeed Abdul Rahman Saeed Samnah, Yemeni
Abdul Karim Samnah, Yemeni
Mr. Sukudev Singh, Indian
Mr. Sukchain Singh, Indian
The eldest son of Al-Omairi, Mohammed Abdulah Al-Omairi who is tried in absentia had fled out of Yemen several days back. Lawyers Mohammed Ahmad Al-Harazi, Mohammed Ghaleb Al-Wakeel and Abdulla Mahdi were present during the persecution as the accused defenders. After the confessions were made, the case seems to be almost over, as all the evidence gathered shows that the explosion was planned and implemented by the owner and some others who have all agreed that this incident resulted because of the greed of the owner to get the insurance money. Too bad for him he was the main victim in his attempt. Not only did he lose his life and money, but he also caused many foreigners and tourists a spectacular supermarket in the heart of Sanaa City.



الف مبروك

اجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها إلى الاخ/ عبدالله
مقبل عبدالله الاهدل بمناسبة مولوده الثاني الذي

اسماء
اسامة

فالف الف مبروك

المهنئون:

عبدالواسع صالح الاهدل، منصور احمد الاهدل، ثائف
عبدالله السقاف، قاسم احمد حميد القدسي.

WARNING

Dr. Faisal Ali Salem Al-Beedh announces that he is the real owner of his house, as well as its yard no. 19 in Al-Fath street, behind "Arosat Al-Bahr" in Al-Tawahi, Aden, according to the contract of ownership no 115 issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Planning, Aden Branch on July 9th 1999. This was also confirmed by the Civil Registration and Documentation on July 17th 1999. Hence, Dr. Faisal Ali warns anybody or party against claiming the ownership of the above mentioned house or being involved in any procedures relating to it.

اعلان تحذيري

يعلم المواطن د. فيصل علي سالم البيض عن ملكيته لمنزله الشخصي رقم (19) شارع الفتح، وحدة 17 ابريل، والذي يقع خلف عروسة البحر-مدينة التواهي محافظة عدن، مع مساحة حوش، المنزل المضاف اليه، وذلك وفق عقد التمليك رقم (155) والصادر من وزارة الإسكان والتخطيط الحضري فرع عدن بتاريخ 1990/7/9م، والمصادق عليه من قبل ادارة السجل المدني والتوثيق بتاريخ 1990/9/17م.

ويهذا الاعلان التحذيري يحذر المواطن د. فيصل علي سالم البيض أي شخص أو جهة من الادعاء بملكية المنزل المذكور، كما يحذر أي شخص أو جهة في التورط بأي تصرفات أو معاملات تخص المنزل المذكور.

WARNING

Citizen Hani Ali Salem Al-Beedh announces that he is the owner of the house built in 1993 and located in Al-Fath Unit in Al-Tawahi, Aden, next to the house of his brother Dr. Faisal Ali Salem al-Beedh, has been illegally assigned to the family of the late Mohammed Ali Haitham. Hani Ali Salem Al-Beedh announces his ownership of the mentioned house. All documents proving his legitimacy are in his possession. hence he warns anybody or party against claiming the ownership of the said house or being involved in any procedures relating to it

اعلان تحذيري

يعلم المواطن هاني علي سالم البيض بأن منزله الشخصي الكائن بمنطقة الفتح وحدة 17 ابريل بمدينة التواهي بمحافظة عدن بجوار منزل د. فيصل علي سالم البيض وفي إطار المساحة المملوكة والتابعة للمقار رقم (19)، بأنه قد تم وبطريقة مخالفة للقانون والدستور الذي كفل حماية الملكية الشخصية صرفه لأسرة المرحوم محمد علي هيثم.

كما يعلن المواطن هاني علي سالم البيض بأن المنزل المذكور تعود ملكيته كاملة اليه وأنه قد تم بناء المنزل في عام 1993م وتوجد لديه اتفاقيات البناء والمستندات وكافة الأوراق التي تثبت ذلك.

وبناء على ما تقدم فإن المواطن هاني علي سالم البيض يحذر في هذا الاعلان التحذيري أي شخص يدعى حقاً أو ارتباطاً بالمنزل، كما يحذر أي شخص أو جهة من التورط في أي تصرفات أو معاملات تخص هذا المنزل.

تذرف صحيفة يمن تايمز بجميع

موظفيها وبالأخص رئيس

تحريرها أسمى آيات التهاني

والتبريك للشاب الخلق الأخ/

وليد عبد العزيز

عبد الغني

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نهني و نبارك للأخ/

شفيق عبدالولي

و ذلك بمناسبة إرتزاقه مولوداً جديداً

اسماء:

محمد

فالف مبروك يا ابا محمد

الف الف مبروك

نتقدم باحر التهاني القلبية للأخ/

رشيد عبدالولي السقاف

بمناسبة خطوبته وقرب الزفاف،

المهنئون:

جميع الاهل و الاصدقاء

و طاقم صحيفة يمن تايمز.

Issue no.
42

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

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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 يخط واضح وارسلها إلى عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء. لا تقبل الاجابات من دون هذا الكوبون الخاص بالسؤال. الاجابات التي تصلنا بالفاكس غير مقبولة. سيتم اختيار الفائزين من بين جميع المتقدمين بواسطة القرعة. وسيتم المنانز بالمركز الاول مبلغ 8000 ريال والثاني 5000 ريال والثالث 4000 ريال والرابع 3000 ريال. وحتى يتسنى للجميع إرسال الاجوبة إلى بريد الصحيفة فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحاً لمدة اسبوعين من يوم الإصدار (أي بعد 13 يوماً من الإصدار). ستُنشر أسماء الفائزين في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهم. كما نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مقرووف الرسالة. بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوپون باسمه.

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 Sana'a Head Office. 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.

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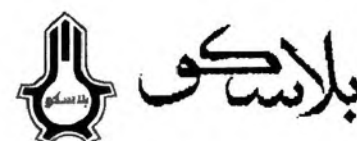
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Question of the Week

What is the estimated rate of unemployment in the Republic of Yemen?

Answer:

Article's Title:

Page no.

Your Name:

City/Province:

Address:

Tel. No.:

Answer of 40th Issue Competition:

The Percentage is 45% on the Silver Lining Article titled "Stuck Promises" on page 5

Winners of the 40th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Hamoud Saeed Ahmed Hasan, Sanaa

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Taha Mohammed Ali Shaiban, Sanaa

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Abdulkarim Othman Kaid, Sanaa

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Mohamed Abdo Mohammed Saeed, Taiz

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.

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

A note from the Editor:

Starting last week, the Yemen Times will begin to run a short, but structured English lesson for its readers. This is oriented towards people, who are already able to use some English, but still need some work at it.

Lesson 2

I) What to say....

Formal Introduction

Ahmad: Abbas, I'd like you to meet dr. Abdul Amir.

Abbas: How do you do, Dr. Amir.

Dr. Amir: how do you do.

Ahmad: Dr. Amir is our new professor. He has come to sanaa for the first time.

Abbas: Welcome to sanaa doctor. Hope you'll like sanaa and our college as well.

Dr. Amir: thank you very much. I am sure i will.

Ahmad: dr. Amir has just finished writing a book on how to pronounce english sounds correctly.

Abbas: i should like to have a copy when it comes out.

Dr. Amir: well, i shall certainly give you a copy when it is ready.

Abbas: thanks a lot doctor. It was nice meeting you.

dr. Amir: you're welcome. The pleasure was mine, too.

Points to note

A. Mark the 'd' in I'd. It is important to include 'd' in the expression.

(I'd like = I would like = I want)

B. 'how do you do' has the form of a question (and is sometimes followed by a question mark), but it is not a question in meaning. It is only a polite expression used in formal greetings and formal introductions.

C. The response to 'how do you do' is simply the same phrase. In fact, both the expressions should not be seen as a statement and the response to it, but rather statements uttered by two speakers separately and , perhaps, at the same time.

D. Dr. Amir has just finished writing..... This pattern indicates an action which is recently completed. Remember, 'just' is generally used with the present perfect tense.

You can practice this pattern in various contexts such as the following:

I've just finished writing a letter.

Fatma has just finished reading the book

The same pattern is also used with the verbs 'start' or 'begin' to refer to an action recently begun.

I've just started writing a book

E. Here are some other useful expressions you can use in introducing someone.

* Have you met.....?

* Hello, ali, have you met mansour?

Morning khalid. Do you know dr. Singh, our new teacher?

Yes, I think we've met before. Good to see you again!

Yes, we met in....., Didn't we? Nice to see you again!

That's right. Hello again. How are you?

* Yes it was last summer , I think. How are things?

* * * * *

- May I come in, sir

- Yes ahmed, you may. You are usually on time to the class. Why are you late today?

- The train arrived nearly an hour late.

- Oh, did it? Trains do not keep to time these days. By the way, ahmad. We don't say 'a hour late' we use 'an' before a word beginning with a vowel. For example 'an airy room', 'an exciting journey', 'an interesting film.' we also use the article 'an' before a word beginning with a silent 'h'. For example, 'an honest officer', 'an hour', 'an honorable settlement', etc. Do you understand? Yes, teacher. I should have said "the train was an hour late."

- What is the difference between 'in time' and 'on time', teacher?

- Well, 'on time' is used when we mean 'not late', punctually, at the specified time. For example, the train is on time.

'in time' is used when we mean the following two things:

A) Not late, early enough:, for example, we were in time to catch the train

B) Sooner or later. Example, you should learn how to finish your lessons in time

- Oh, I see. Thank you very much

- You're welcome.

II) How to say it correctly.....

Nouns -

1- Though my means is small, I help my younger brother with money.

2- I must help him. After all we are brothers of the same profession.

3- He does everything for conscience's sake.

4- Has the agendum for tomorrow's meeting been drawn up?

5- Custom on exports and imports is collected at airport.

The above sentences are not grammatically well formed. We can correct them in the following way:

1- Though my means are small, I help my younger brother with money.

Note: when the noun 'means' is used in the sense of 'income' or 'wealth', it is always plural.

2- I must help him. After all we are brethren of the same profession.

Note: 'brothers' refers to brothers in a family. However, 'brethren' refers to members of a community or society, or guild.

3- He does everything for conscience sake.

Note: there is no need to use an apostrophe after conscience

4- Has the agenda for tomorrow's meeting been drawn up?

Note: 'agendum' is not used in english.

'agenda' (program of a meeting) is treated as singular.

5- Customs on exports and imports are collected at airport.

Note: 'customs' if used as a countable can take an 's' in the plural. It means 'usual and generally accepted behavior among members of a social group'. But when it refers to duty or tax, it is always in the plural.

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

Across Clues:

3- There is ____ in my lunch box because I ate all of my lunch.

6- the traditional weapon wore by most men in the northern and mid-section of Yemen.

7- sometimes the ____ is warm and sunny. Other times the ____ is cold and rainy.

10- Ann was not at school today. She was ____.

11- ____ is a grain. Flour is made from ____.

13- When I need to move very fast, I ____.

14- We must ____ so we are not late for school. We must go quickly.

17- Be careful. The stove is very _____. If you touch it, it will burn you.

18- I wear a ____ on my wrist. I look at it to see what the time is.

19- My father ____s a car to work.

20- I have a ____ book. I just got it.

21- First name of our country's president.

22- I use my ____s to see. I have two ____s.

24- I am ____ when I get water on myself.

25- I ride on the ____ of a pony.

26- The ____ is a furry animal with a flat tail. It makes dams in streams.

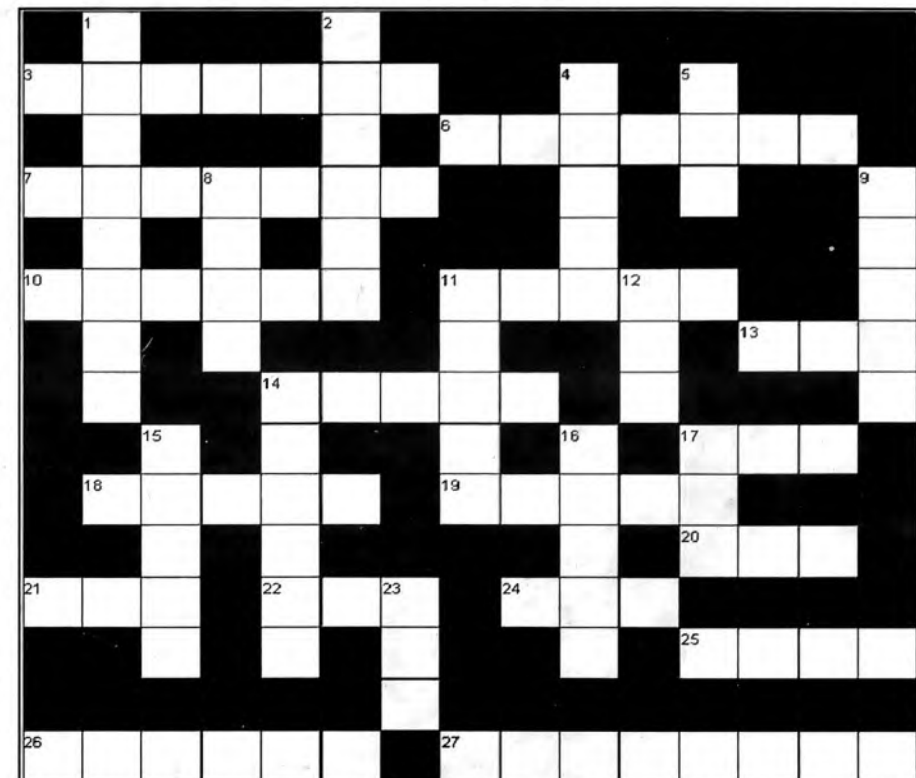
27- I know the letter of the ____.

Down Clues:

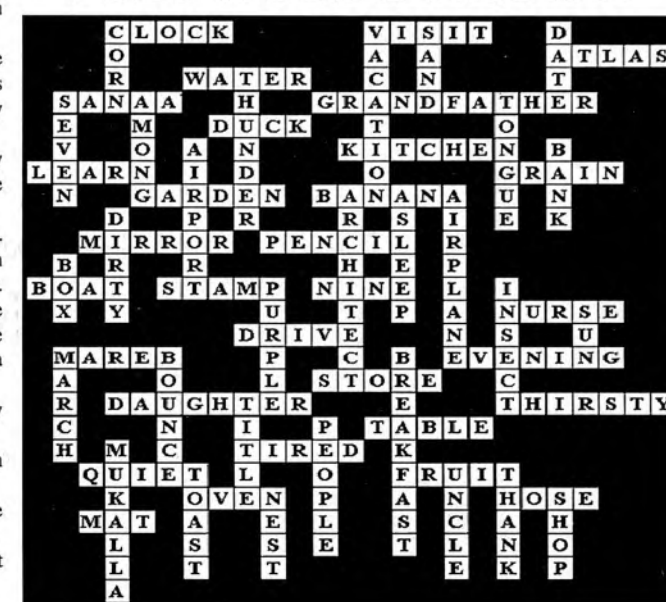
1- ____ is the eleventh month. It is a winter month.

2- Flies, bees, and butterflies are types of ____s.

3- I ____ when I am happy. I frown when I am sad.



Last Week's Answer



III) How to express it in one word.....

Quiz 2

- 1) A person who can neither read nor write
- 2) A person who spends his money recklessly
- 3) A person who lives by himself
- 4) A woman whose husband is dead
- 5) A man whose wife is deaf

(answers in the next issue)

IV How to spell it correctly.....

Make english words from the following groups of letters:

Mowna, onrige, ntuset, lowflo, wasnsre

(answers in the next issue)

Answers to quiz 1

1) One who knows many languages- **polyglot**

Some people say that one who knows many languages is a **linguist**. But it is not correct. In fact, a linguist is a person who knows the principles of scientifically analyzing a language in terms of its components such as morphology, phonology, syntax, semantics, etc. A linguist need not know many languages. But a polyglot, by definition, knows how to use more than one language, but does not know the mechanisms of a language. So we can say that a linguist is like a mechanic, but a polyglot is like the driver of vehicles.

2) Being unable to pay one's debts: **insolvent**

3) Having an evil reputation: **notorious**

4) One who leaves one's country to settle else where: **emigrant**

5) A person who lives at the same time as another: **contemporary**

Quotable quotes

"Patience and perseverance can overcome mountains"

"There is no substitute for hard work"

"We are planning to expand the present format of the page on education with a view to making it more useful for young learners in schools and universities. The expanded format would include articles / features on different branches of academic discipline such as law, medicine, biology, and so forth with particular emphasis on providing useful tips to students studying these subjects. If this aim is successfully accomplished, the yemen times would virtually set up a country-wide classroom adopting the distance mode of learning.

We solicit the support and cooperation of teachers / professors / researchers to contribute short articles in english on different areas included in the curriculum. The yemen times would offer a small honorarium for those articles accepted for publication.

Articles, contributions, questions, and comments should be sent to:

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الشيخ صالح باثواب - رئيس مجلس الإدارة
وجميع الموظفين والعمال في

شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة

يتقدمون بأحر التهاني العطرة وأطيب التبريكات القلبية لقائد المسيرة الديمقراطية
وباني نهضة اليمن، فخامة الأخ

علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية

والى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر
والى الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني
والى الشعب اليمني

بمناسبة العيد السادس والثلاثين
لثورة الرابع عشر من أكتوبر المجيدة

سائلين المولى عز وجل أن تعود هذه المناسبات الوطنية والوطن
يشهد المزيد من المكاسب والإنجازات الوطنية في ظل قيادتنا الحكيمة
وكل عام والجميع بخير

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and all staff and workers of
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present their congratulations to
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The Parliament headed by
Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar,
Dr. Abdul-Karim Al-Iryani and Cabinet,
and the Yemeni people on
**The 36th anniversary of 14th of October Revolution
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