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DISASTER IN TAIZ Flames Force 300 People to the Street

TAIZ: In Jamal Street, behind the Yemeni Commercial Bank, more than 26 reed houses sheltering more than 300 people of African origin (Akhdam) were set to fire on Wednesday, Oct. 27. The fire was foolishly caused by one of the men who lived in a small reed house in the area. This man chase tried to the mosquitoes out of his room with smoke. But it was not long

before the gas tank that was in the same room exploded when the flame touched it. The whole house was gutted. The fire quickly spread to other houses as there was gas in every house, to light lamps due to the unavailability of electricity. Although five days have passed since the incident, yet the government has not been able to find an alternative shelter for all these homeless

people. The Akhdam community in Taiz is planning to stage a protest to pressurize the government to build homes for them. They blame the government for ignoring them over the years. They see this wilful neglect as the main reason behind their miserable conditions, and this particular incident as well.

More on Page 6



American Marta Colburn and her parents FREED IN 2 DAYS

GOVERNMENT TACTICS GETTING BETTER

SANAA: It was a completely novel experience for Mrs. Marta Colburn, the Resident Director of the American Institute for Yemeni Studies and her Father Don and Mother Gladys who were on a visit to the country. After 2 days of captivity in the hands of the tribesmen of Iyal beni Jabr tribe, the kidnappers handed the hostages to the army chief of staff Abdullah Ali Alewah who had led the negotiation for their release. The government's action in this incident led to the release of the kidnapped in a short time of less than 48 hours. Official sources claim that the reason behind this is that the government has stepped up its measures against kidnappers and

has launched very strong campaigns against such activities that harm the national interest of Yemen. Even though Marta's old mother was exhausted because of the incident, the hostages who were seized on Tuesday, 26 of October and released on the 28th were not harmed by the tribesmen who had taken them from one hideout to another to escape the forces who surrounded the area for two consecutive days. Mrs. Marta hailed the government for its efforts that resulted in their rescue. The Yemeni government has shown promptness in this event which is a sign that it is not going to tolerate kidnapping incidents any further.

The president himself was deeply concerned about this incident and decided that forces should pressure the tribes until they release the hostages through negotiation. President Saleh's decision of setting up independent courts for kidnappers in an effort to stop this practice which has far reaching consequences, has found a lot of support from various sectors of the community. It has also made the tourism sector feel optimistic for the future. It will certainly make a difference if the measures are activated and sustained. Interestingly enough, Mrs. Marta Colburn continued her tourist journey with her parents even after the kidnapping incident. Mrs.



Mrs. Marta Colburn, still loving Yemen despite the incident

Marta thus confirms that Yemen's beauty and attraction can not be tarnished by such incidents.

Nominate Your 1999 Yemen Times Person of the Year

The Yemen Times hereby invites your nominations for Yemen Times Person of the Year for 1999. Nominations should be based on the following main qualifications:

- 1) That the nominee must have a successful private life in terms of family and career;
 - 2) The nominee must have made a visible contribution to Yemen.
- The Yemen Times persons of the year for the past eight years were Dr. Tariq Sinan Abu Luhum (1991), Engineer Ahmed Al-Anisi (1992), Ali Mohammed Saeed (1993), Dr. Abubakar Al-Qirby (1994), Dr. Wahiba Ghaleb Fare' (1995), Dr. Mohammed Al-Naqeeb (1996), Dr. Yaseen Al-Qubati (1997), and Dr. Ahmed Al-Saqqaf (1998).

Nominations for YT 98 Person of the Year should be addressed to:
 Person of the Year Committee - Yemen Times,
 P.O. Box 2579, Sanaa; OR fax: (01) 268-276
 OR Email: Person99@yementimes.com

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Words of Wisdom

"Leading a nation or even a company requires a certain legitimacy. It involves a contract. The leader has to command certain moral authority in the way he/she behaves. If this moral authority is eroded, the ability of that leader is badly undermined. That is why many Yemenis who can defy the authorities do so. Many more would have done the same if they knew they could get away with it or they could withstand the backlash of the authorities."

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



YT Weekly Opinion Poll

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

Question

Did the measures of the government in controlling the carrying of weapons contribute in decreasing kidnapping incidents lately?

Result

- Yes indeed, it is a direct result of the governmental efforts. (%34)
- I think it played a role but unless the situation stays stable for several more months, one cannot assure it was because of the government's efforts. (%32)
- No, not at all. There are other reasons for that. (%23)
- I have no idea! (%11)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Do you think that the president should agree opening the way for a free media in Yemen?

Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

Next Step in Privatization: Opening the Way for a Free Media

We have received the news of the issuance of the privatization law with joy as we have been waiting for it for so long. Within the relatively short period since the beginning of his legal first term as president, Ali Abdullah Saleh has proven that he indeed is determined to change, change to the better. With the many laws and regulations that were issued lately, such as the work-day system, banning the chewing of qat for military officers during work, legal reforms, destroying private jails, and now issuing the privatization law. All of these are good marks in favor of the president. However, there is still a long way ahead. The public is waiting for yet another accomplishment by the president to be registered as a historical step towards a country with a stronger democracy and a higher level of freedom, and that is opening the way for a free media. Anyone you ask, "Do you think that private TV channels and radios should exist in Yemen?" would most probably answer "Yes."

There are many reasons for us to believe that a free media is better for Yemen, some of these reasons are as follows:

- 1- A free media will bring about competition, and will certainly raise the level of quality in the governmental channels.
 - 2- People will have a larger choice between all sorts of cultural, scientific, political, economical, and other programs, all of which must be guided by certain rules.
 - 3- These private TV and radio channels will create job opportunities for thousands of employees and would raise the overall standard of living.
 - 4- The government would benefit from these establishments through taxes and other fees, which will in the long term create a significant revenue.
 - 5- This would encourage businessmen to advertise in different channels because the scope of viewers would widen.
 - 6- Freedom of expression through talk shows, and other interesting topics (provided that they abide by the law) would spread awareness among the public.
 - 7- These channels would once again regain the public's interest in watching Yemeni channels instead of ignoring them (as happening today) and turning to other Arab channels.
 - 8- Because these channels would reach villagers and illiterate people in rural communities, they would help a lot in spreading awareness of health and social issues and help the public channels in delivering such information to them.
- There are also other reasons, but these are the main ones. It is true that private TV and radio channels are strategically important in political terms. But who is talking about politics? There are many ways to monitor what is being broadcasted, and in case is urgently needed, censor the channels for a certain time frame. There are many ways to secure that these channels would not harm the national interest of the nation. On the contrary, their benefits would be much more than what they cause of possible risk.

In my view, the decision of enabling private sector to launch its TV channels would be a major change in the country to the better. If the authorities are still not so sure about this issue, I suggest they permit the launching of commercial TV channels (that do not include political-oriented news items), and see the difference. While such a step would not in any way cause any risk to the country, it will serve as a milestone in the history of Yemen. Will the president think about it, and decide to do it? I hope so!

In Brief

Trial on Booby-Trapped Car Explosion

Al-Tawahi Primary Court took up the suit of car explosion which happened in Almoa'la in 1997. The court accused Mr. Mohammed Saleh Al-Kohali as a guilty. The penalty was to arrest him for ten years. On the other hand, the court is looking on the suit of the accused; Mohssen Mohammed Qhasem, Mohsan Saleh Ali and Taha Saef Saeed, who are accused on the explosion of Moa'la area. The court will take up the crime of the explosion which happened near the Private Bank of Aden.

Habab Still Surrounded by Military Forces

The military forces still surrounding Habab valley, 100km. far from the capital Sana'a. The military forces arrested the car which belongs to the kidnappers. At the evening of last Friday, there was an exchange of gunfire between the military forces and the people of the area.

The resources mentioned that the tribesmen gave three hostages to the government in order to withdraw the military forces from the area, but this demand was rejected. Finally, the kidnapped released, and the kidnappers were extradited.

Press Harassment in Yemen Concerned Americans

In a letter to President Saleh, two members of the American Congress expressed their concern with regard to freedom of the press conditions, especially what the Shora and Al-Haq have been exposed to recently. "We write to express our concern about reports that the authorities in the Republic of Yemen have yet again ordered the indefinite closure of the Al-Shora newspaper. It is even more troubling that another newspaper, al-Haq, has also been closed under similar circumstances," they stated. The letter also includes some of the problems that Yemen is suffering from including weapons proliferation, crimes, economic problems, etc. The speaker of the congress asserted "The government's repeated crackdown on press freedoms will only serve to ostracize Yemen from the community of nations." Besides, this will jeopardize the international support to Yemen. The President was urged to overturn the suspension of these two newspapers.

At another level, some Americans academics, scholars, lawyers and journalists wrote another letter to the President urging him to "take immediate steps to ensure that the ban on Al-Shora is lifted and that all coercive measures against the press are discouraged and renounced."

Yemen Moves to the 5 Working Days System

SANAA: In an effort to get rid of qat and, the government had decided to take a courageous step in implementing the 5-working days system in Yemen for the first time ever. This means that government offices, including ministries, schools, and other establishments will only have 5 working days starting from Saturday until Wednesday. However, the number of working hours within the week-days would increase from six to eight to be from 8:00 to 15:00. This step was welcomed by the majority of employees in the public sector because of two main advantages. First it will cause difficulty for employees to chew qat within the limited hours between 15:00 till sunset. Second it will enable them to have 2 days as a weekly vacation. It is worth mentioning that the Yemen Times had once placed a poll

question regarding whether to have this system implemented or not, the poll results approved the change. However, the only problem in this is with banks because most of the banks in the world have Saturday and Sunday as vacation, hence there will be a 4-day lag of money transfer, etc. between the Yemeni and world banks.

Al-Soswoah Yemen's Ambassador to Holland

Ms. Amat Al-Alim Al-Soswah, former deputy Minister of Information, has been appointed as Yemen's ambassador to Holland. Ms. Al-Soswah is the first Yemen woman to hold the office of an ambassador in Yemen ever and the second Arab female ambassador to Holland. It is worth mentioning that Amat Al-Alim is one of the most instrumental female figures in the Yemeni society.

A German and an American Injured in a Traffic Accident

On Thursday morning around 11:00, an American, David Sklar and a German, Susan Havez Da who were driving to Ibb on a motorcycle rammed into a Hilux vehicle coming from the opposite direction. They were immediately taken to a hospital in Ibb for treatment. The German embassy has shown a great deal of concern over this incident. According to the report from the traffic authorities, the fault was of the motorcycle driver David who tried to overtake a lorry without taking into consideration the speed and angle of the approaching Hilux. The two were in the intensive care unit of the hospital before being transported to Sana'a to get a better medical treatment in the Kuwait Hospital. Their conditions seem to be fine.

Ahmed Al-Asbahi, a teacher in Sana'a University said, "David and Susan were on their way to my home to attend my wedding, which took place on the same night of the accident. I was informed that they were in the hospital one day after the accident. The hospital staff and traffic officers were very helpful and cooperative. They have done a lot to make sure that my friends recover. I hope my friends would recover soon." The good news is that the two will be out of the hospital soon.

Al-Wahdawi newspaper on Trial

West Sana'a court will take up the charge which was taken against the Alwahdawi newspaper because of the report written by the Journalist, Jamal Ahmed Ammer dated on August 10, 99, which was considered by the Ministry of Information something against the Yemen-Saudi relations. The court delayed the session to the next Wednesday. The lawyer, Nabeel Al-Mohamadi indicated that the court accused Ammer of offending King Fahed ben Abdulaziz. This offence will effect the relation with Saudi Arabia.

Scientific lecture on Hypertention

With the presence of more than 50 doctors, PFIZER American Company held a lecture on October 30, 99 at Aden Hotel Movenpick on

Hypertention disease. Dr. Zaki Kasemo and Dr. Hossam Adden have delivered a lecture discussing the advantage of the new drug. The company will hold another scientific lectures in Taiz, Hoddeda and Sana'a, the company also will hold a scientific lecture at the end of November.

Mysterious Death of a Major

Investigation into the death of Abdulaziz Al-Moghalis, a police security major, is still on. Major Abdul Aziz died Wednesday under mysterious circumstances while checking wheat being unloaded at Al-Hodaidda port, suspected to be among the expired shipments of wheat unloaded at the Yemeni ports recently.

Honoring Ceremony at Taiz University

Taiz University organized an honoring ceremony on September 28, 99 on the occasion of the Inauguration of the Faculty of Medicine. The governor of Taiz, Mr. Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hajrei attended the inauguration ceremony and some of the chancellors of the universities.

Commemorative Ceremony
Yemeni Authors and Writers Union organized the activities of the commemoration on the occasion of the forty days of the death of the critic and author, Adnan Abu Shadi. These activities spent three years with the participation of a number of poets and dramatists.

Scientific lecture on Hypertention
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Auto Car Exhibition

APOLLO group is organizing the International Exhibition for Cars (Auto Car) from 1-5 of November 99 at the hall of Expo Sana'a with the participation of a number of the giant cars companies. Mr. Omar Al-Nahmi, the Manager of marketing indicated that many cars companies will partici-

pated in this Exhibition as Land Rover, Ford, Skoda, Hyundai, Nissan, Dawoo, Folx Wagon, Opel, Pirilli tires, Caltex lubricants, Lincoln, B.M.W, General Motors, Mitsupishi and Boch.

Solidarity Siting Down

A number of political and social personalities made a solidarity siting down with the Alshoura newspaper near the Parliament. The participants raised a letter to the Parliament. The solidarity committee organized a symposium at the office of People's Confederation Forces on last Thursday.

National Day of Eradication of Leprosy

Yemeni Society Eradication of Leprosy will organize the National Day of Eradication of Leprosy. It will revive the day of Kaedoon festival of Sheik Saeed Bin Essa Al-Amoodi for more than 850 years. This festival is an opportunity to cooperate with this poor group. It will take place at Kaedoon village in Daw'an valley in Hadramout on November 5, 99.

Training Programme of ISFNB

A training programme (part of the ISFNB li project activities) titled Refreshment Training Course in the Commercial Accounting, was held from the target group was Managers, Heads of Departments and Accountants

form of extended from October 23-October 28, 1999. It had two primary objectives: The first one was broadly theoretical enabling the trainees to understand the theoretical form of the financial accounting. The second one was practiced that is making them competent to deal with the financial transactions. On the trainers side, the field of auditing and consultation was represented by: Omar M. Ghaleb, Nabil H. Saadi and Ahmed A. Al-Matari. All of them were public accountants.



YOUTH FORUM

With a view to encouraging creative abilities of students of all levels and young writers in English, we have proposed to devote a column captioned YOUTH FORUM in the Education Supplement every week. Students and young writers are invited to send in their poems, short articles, jokes, Arabic wisdom, anecdotes, etc in English for publication. The articles should be original creations and be within 300 words, preferably type written on one side of the paper. However, due to space limitations and other conditions, not all letters may be published. Envelopes should be superscribed YOUTH FORUM and Addressed to:

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Yemeni Press Scanner



Al-Ayyam, independent, daily:

1) The unemployed demonstrate: Hundreds of unemployed Yemeni University graduates expressed their anger for not getting jobs within the Government administrative system or agencies, so that they can live with dignity in their homeland. They demonstrated last Monday demanding that the Government provide them with jobs and bring their sufferings to an end.

Al-Ayyam learnt that the demonstration went to the Council of Ministers Building where they delivered a memorandum addressed to Dr. Al-Eryani, the Prime Minister.

2) Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Saqqaf is back:

The prominent Arab thinker Dr. Abu Bakr Al-Saqqaf is back home from Russia where he underwent some medical treatment after completing a period of assignment at the Lyon University in France.

Al-Ayyam welcomes the return of Dr. Saqqaf to the homeland to continue his enlightening mission with the University and the Media.

3) Al-Mahwit Attorney demands execution of Al-Tawilah's Security Director:

The Office of the Attorney of Al-Mahwit, demanded the heaviest penalty (execution) on the Security Director of Al-Tawilah Province Ali bin Ali Abdul Karim and a number of soldiers at the Security Department who are accused of the killing of Ahmed Mohammed Al-Kokbani last June. Mr. Al-Kokbani had been sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment and dismissal from office by a first-degree court. Al-Mahwit Court of Appeal, headed by its Chairman Judge Yahya Al-Mawiri, last Sunday was appealed by the Defendant's lawyer to release him because the accusation is "baseless and he is innocent" Representatives of all parties attended the hearings.

The defendant's lawyer, Jamal Al-Ga'bi said in his argumentation: 'It will be very dangerous for any citizen to believe that walking into Police Stations means coming out in a coffin'.

4) Canadian-Yemeni Medical Symposium to be held in Aden:

The First Yemeni-American Medical Symposium was held during 24-26th October in Sana'a. Dr. Abdullah Abdul Wali Nasher, the Minister of Health said in a statement that it was excellent. He added that many research papers were discussed. Participants, especially students at the Faculties of Medicine and Yemeni doctors greatly benefited from the deliberations. The visitors from America appreciated many researches that were done in Yemen." He said that most of the studies concentrated on Cardiac diseases, Bone diseases and Medical Care.

Dr. Nasher added that the Canadian-Yemeni Symposium on Heart Diseases shall be held next March in Aden, while the 2nd Yemeni American Medical Symposium as well as other similar events shall be hosted by Aden.

5) Prince Nayef: Extradition of Bin Laden doesn't concern Saudi Arabia:

His Highness Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Minister of Home Affairs confirmed yesterday that the Kingdom is not concerned with Usama Bin Laden whose extradition was demanded by the U.N. Security Council before mid-November. When asked whether Saudi Arabia might demand that bin Laden is repatriated to that country, he said: 'I have repeatedly said that he doesn't concern us. We are con-

cerned with Saudi nationals, and he isn't one."

The daily AlSharq Alawsat of London quoting the prince added last Tuesday that the Prince referred about Al-Sayegh who was recently extradited to Saudi Arabia by the U.S.A. and is accused of being linked to Al-Khobar attack: 'He is similar to other accused persons, and we believe that no one of the accused shall be given any privileges whatsoever, and Sayegh isn't going to have any'.

Prince Nayef also said on the "guarantor" system adopted by Saudi Arabia for the residence of foreigners in the Kingdom as hinted by His Highness Prince Abdulla, the Crown Prince designate: 'The system is reviewed and it shall guard the rights of both sides: the Saudi national and the incoming laborer'

6) American Delegation concludes visit to Yemen:

President Saleh received in attendance of Vice-President Hadi, the delegation of the American Foreign Affairs Council led by Mr. Henry Sigman. Yemeni-American bilateral relations, the Middle-East peace process and the role of the Council were discussed. American investments in Yemen and other issues of mutual interest were also dealt with. The delegation expressed its admiration for the 'Democratic Path' policy adopted by the Government of Yemen, which rests on the respect for human rights, freedom of the press multi-party system and plurality. President Saleh confirmed the stand taken by Yemen for the development of the peace process saying that 'Just and comprehensive peace can only be achieved when Arab rights are regained and the Israeli occupation of lands in Palestine, South Lebanon and the Golan Heights is brought to its end. The President emphasized the role of the U.S.A. in the peace process and made reference to the importance of interlacement of interests of states and peoples in our world.



Al-Tagamoa', weekly, Y.U.G.:

1) They are angry with the President:

A big number of tribal dignitaries and politicians are still angry with the President due to his remarks at a press conference that hinted that those who had some links with Saudi Arabia as a result of previous conflicts in Yemen, continue to receive payments from the "Big Sister" despite the fact that the circumstances in which these payments were decided don't exist now. The angry dignitaries consider that the remarks despite being nondirect still revile them. They seem unaware of the fact that remarks touched many, including those who are very near to the authorities.

2) Sheikhs to be searched in future:

Semi-confirmed reports say that the relevant authorities have conveyed to tribal Sheikh circles through a number of means that from now on, Sheikhs shall be dealt with when leaving or entering the country in the same way as others. No exceptions or privileges shall be given. 'The sooner they accept that as a fact of life the better', they were told, 'and in case of any kind of resistance or objection they shall be responsible for the results'.

The warning comes in the aftermath of the recent Sana'a Airport incident with Sheikh Al-Shayef, and the events following it including violent clashes between the regular Armed Forces and the Sheikh's men which resulted in an undecleared number of casualties. The clashes stopped only after the interference by Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar the Speaker of

Parliament.

Some Sheikhs are known to have pledged their support to the new rules on condition that Sheikhs shall be equally subject to the rules, hinting at a very prominent Sheikh and his sons who have in a number of cases broke the laws or just defied the rules.

The stories about the Sana'a Airport Al-Shayef incident are many, but all of them indicate some sort of disregard to the rules, and a slap to (or shooting at) a security officer.

The public, however, received the news of toughness of the authorities with joy. Though they consider the level of law enforcement as mild, they believe that it is only the beginning of a series of moves, if the authorities are serious.

3) Decision Emerges as a Big Lie:

The decision banning foreign diplomats' contacts with Yemenis came out as only a big lure that opposition circles readily swallowed and publicized. However, during the days in which the false news was spread, it was noticed that contacts did really decrease between foreign diplomats and the natives. The first to uncover the truth were the diplomats themselves. Currently foreign diplomats' Qat diwans are receiving those belonging to the opposition and the Government.

4) More Women High Officials Appointed:

Observers believe that the appointment of Ms. Asmaa' Al-Basha as a Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Planning comes as an indirect reaction to the fierce campaign being waged against Dr. Ms. Raofa Hassan by the forces of darkness in Yemen.

They expect that a number of additional resolutions shall be adopted during the next few weeks by which a number of political, economic and social women activists shall be appointed or promoted to higher posts. Ms. Amat Al-Aleem Al-Susuwa is one such activist who is nominated as an Ambassador to a European country.

Dr. Hasan had left the country for Holland for good unless the campaign against her resides and the foolish shut up. The campaign against her reached a level at which even non-Yemeni Arab mosque imams participated. A large number of worshippers are very angry and ask openly that the stupidity be stopped in favor of Yemen's dignity and the sanctity of mosques.

5) A Resolution with Clear Borders:

In the aftermath of the campaign against private prisons that belong to some Sheikhs and/or other very influential dignitaries in Ebb Governorate there were no news about similar campaign(s) against more fiercely anti-human rights prisons that belong to other Sheikhs and/or influential dignitaries inside Sana'a, the capital itself, and in other Governorates.



Al-Ra'y Al-A'm, independent, weekly:

A New and an Old Idea:

Oh God!! What is the wisdom in making the official duration of work-hours seven hours instead of six while there is no work to fill up the six-hour working day? In addition to that Thursday is given as a holiday. Didn't our Council of Ministers know that Yemen is a part of the World, which has become a small village? Contacts and dealings with the World are a daily affair. If Yemen is on holiday on Thursdays and Fridays, and the World's holidays are Saturdays and Sundays, which days of the week remain for dealings with the outside world? Only Mondays,

Tuesdays and Wednesdays??

The idea is not new, but an old one suggested by former Prime Ministers. When they considered it carefully, it was discarded because it was found unsustainable by prominent economists and administrators. What a foolishness?! Oh God, Relieve us of foolishness!



Al-Ummah, weekly, Al-Haq party:

1) Burial of the Dead:

Our Sources report that the body of Usama Al-Masri who was killed during the kidnapping of foreign tourists in Abyan Governorate at the end of 1998 was laid to rest. Four British and Canadian tourists were killed in the kidnapping incident.

It is reported also that the body of Galal Al-Khadher, a leader of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army, who was killed during the same event, was delivered to the next of his kin.

These moves come after the announcement that Abu Al-Hasan Al-Mihdhar the leader of the said Aden-Abyan Islamic Army was executed.

2) After the Saudi Rejection, What's New?

The Saudi-Yemeni relations are back to their previous status of thickness and secrecy in the wake at the aftermath of the Saudi rejection of the visit of Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Eryani, the Prime Minister. Official Yemeni press had last Thursday confirmed the visit. He was to carry a letter from President Saleh to King Fahd ibn Abdul Aziz and meet other high officials of the Kingdom and discuss the Saudi-Yemeni border issues in a way that leads to an accepted and final solution.

The news of the visit came after a recent round of meetings of the joint border committees at which it was announced that 200 border posts were specified and that a very small number is pending.

Media sources attributed the Saudi refusal to the haste of Yemeni diplomacy in announcing the visit before being fully sure of Saudi agreement. Observers consider the Saudi refusal to receive Dr. Al-Eryani as an indication that a satisfactory solution to the border dispute was not reached; although Yemen- as previously claimed by high Yemeni officials- had made many concessions to the Kingdom. Some observers anticipate that this situation might lead to a degree of tension in relations, which improved since the last meeting of President Saleh and King Fahd in Spain a few months ago.



Al-Sahwa, weekly, Yemeni Islah Party:

1) The Liquidation of the Industrial Bank:

Economic circles are puzzled by declaration that the Industrial Bank was liquidated. While some sources attribute the reason to the Bank's inability to retrieve the debts given to prominent and influential personalities, the situation continues to be very vague especially regarding the true reasons and the details of the Bank's status before its liquidation. Some circles urged for disclosure of the real reasons and a policy of transparency of information in such important issues that directly affect the state and national economies.

2) Islah Welcomes Dialogue, Demands Corrections:

Dr. Abdul Rahman Ba Fadhl,

Chairman of the Islah Parliament Caucus told Al-Sahwa that the dialogue between the Islah and all main parties is open and continuous. He said Islah welcomes any serious or fruitful discussions between all political parties in Yemen for the general interests of Yemen.

He added in an interview with 26th September edition of the newspaper that Sheikh Abdul Majid Al-Zindani didn't intend to be nominated a candidate in the last Presidential elections.

As to the lifting of subsidization of food materials Dr. Ba Fadhl pointed that he himself, when he was the Minister of Supply, called for lifting the subsidization of wheat and flour. His call was, however, on the condition that the amount of money used for that purpose should be given to him, and shouldn't remain in the pockets of the those spoiled so that a disaster isn't multiplied.

Dr. Ba Fadhl wondered about the fate of \$700 which was previously used for that purpose and was lifted.



Al-Ehya'a, weekly, Ba'ath Party (Iraq):

An Yemeni patient at the Military Hospital cut off his tongue in protest against the ill treatment the Doctors showed him.

Sources told our newspaper that the patient was taken ten times into the operations room and every time his operation was postponed till the next day. They added that he had protested several times before, but to no avail. So he cut off his tongue with his own hands.

A witness told us that the patient said since nobody heard his loud complaints he cut his tongue to protest against such callousness.

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Views on the Private Sheikhs Jails

The government led a campaign against the prisons controlled by the sheikhs of Al-Odein in Ibb on Oct. 22nd. These prisons were out of government control and were under the control of the sheikhs who proclaim to have the ultimate control over the villagers in their areas. They think that they can imprison or even kill the innocent people who try to resist them. Such behavior violates all norms of humanity. The government took the initiative to immunize the country of such scandals but, unfortunately, all its attempts were nipped in the bud. The ringleaders or the sheikhs of Al-Odein arrested in the campaign were soon released by orders of high ranking officials. How have the Yemeni people reacted to this event? What is the real objective and meaning of this campaign? Why were those responsible for such prisons released so quickly? Let's see what some of the Yemeni prominent figures say about this matter:

Fadl Ali Abdullah
Secretary-general of the Yemeni Committee for Defending Human Rights

It is undeniable fact that private jails have no real existence anywhere all over the world except in our country. The government is always preaching democracy and human rights, though these personal private jails are still haunting the Yemenis. They remind us of the medieval ages in Europe at a time we are at the threshold of the 3rd millennium. It seems that the idea of sheikhs' abandoning their jails is a far-fetched hope that will never be implemented unless a decisive political will was exists and is strongly implemented.

What these sheikhs have been doing in terms of imprisoning, torturing, suppressing, enslaving their victims is an outrageous violation of all constitutional norms and human values. The Yemeni constitution provides for lots of articles that clearly envisage that all human rights are sustained and asserted in the Republic. The government has also signed all the international treaties pertaining to political, civic, economic, social, as well as cultural rights that assure a dignified life for all Yemenis. These rights do also give them the right to fearlessly express their opinions and to have personal freedom and security.

However, the fact remains that the continuance of these personal jails distorts the image of Yemen in the outside world. Although, the government has denied the existence - of these jails in Yemen on many occasions, cases of violations and reports of suppression continue to occur. These jails have their adverse effect on the personal liberty of the individual who ought to have absolute independence in his private life. He has also freedom of expression. He has the



The government bears the onus of destroying these jails that are undeniably the legacy of the infamous past epochs. We urge upon the President Saleh to take a decisive action regarding these jails and to breaking them irrevocably, especially after he won the elections again.

Using such hard-fought gains as a propaganda to beautify the democratic decoration will very much impinge on the credibility of the regime in Yemen before the outside world. However, Yemenis have become considerably disillusioned that the objectives of the revolution have been perverted and exploited. As Francis Fanoon said "Revolution is planned out by the shrewd, carried out by the brave, stolen by the thief, and none squanders it but the lily-livered."

Therefore, all the Yemenis should be very keen to cling fast to the democratic principles that they have chosen no matter what obstacles they face, especially during the current time when the world has become a "global village" and where information is transmitted from one country to another within the twinkling of an eye. What should actually have happened is that this revolution should have affected the mentality of these sheikhs and the influential people in our country. It should have altered their policies and opened their eyes to the new order that all are struggling for. How much we wished that such sublime objectives would have a positive impact on them!

In my view, the action pursued against these sheikhs is a test to know the reaction of the tribal institution whether there is a strong reaction, in which case these actions will come to a halt.

Dr. Yasseen Abdul Aleem Al-Qubati

The new changes that have been witnessed after the presidential election such as fighting Qat, carrying arms in the major cities, etc. are really auspicious. All of these are signs indicating the government's determination to proceed in the right path to save the society from the dangers blocking its progress and development. The main job of the government is consolidating the

right to freely complain about all that difficulties and problems he faces in life. Suppression makes the productive, ambitious and virtuous individual an oppressed and a disabled person. Therefore, this is a crime against the humanity which should not be tolerated and must be uprooted at all costs.

principles and values of justice and security and equitably distributing the country's wealth among its citizens.

The weakness of the judicial system and the security system which carry out the judicial decisions has led to the appearance of a group of people known for their violence and their disrespect for law and ethics. This group of people spoil the image of their leaders who overlook what it does. They reach high positions through unfair means. Sometimes they call themselves sheikhs, society leaders, military leaders, or religious men. Such people are king makers who have their own rulers and judges having the right to construct prisons and put other people behind bars. This brutal behavior has been rightly characterized as symptomatic of middle ages. This, obviously, strikes on the roots of the central power of the government and shows the government's failure to maintain peace and stability in the society.

What the local government of the Ibb governorate has done when it set free all the prisoners who were imprisoned for a long time for their opposition to injustice and inhuman behavior practiced by the sheikhs is the best example of what the strong government should be like. The government should depend on strong and honest people and not flatterers or hypocrites. I am sure that the president, who has already proved himself, will also prove that he no longer needs such people and will support the actions of the governor of the Ibb governorate who took the initiative to improve the situation in his governorate.

The prisons under the control of the tyrants in Taiz, Sanaa, Al-Hodaidah and the other governorates must be recovered to make the people feel they are protected by a strong central government.

Lotfi Al-Noman, Writer

These private jails constitute a flagrant violation of human rights, the constitution and the laws. This is actually a clear sign of the absence of the veneration of the government authority. The government has to do its best to restore its prestige and dignity.

What I believe is that the government's action to destroy some of these jails recently is not a propaganda campaign. On the contrary, it seems to me that this was a declaration of its resentment over all the violations that took place. If the government do not continue its efforts to obliterate these jails, it will inevitably fall through. Many suspect that this action may include other sheikhs. Hence, the government should better start dealing with its tyrannical people in Sana'a. To conclude, I feel more optimistic to see the fruits of this campaign.

Dr. Abubaker Al-Saqqaf

The last part of the question contains a large chunk of the answer. Obviously, the military campaigns against common people are always fierce and violent. But sheikhs are part of the ruling party. Therefore, any military campaigns against them is bound to be temporary.

This question implies that in the present newly established order, the issue of private prisons has been controversial since the abolition of the Imam's regime. The existence of these prisons shows that there is another power block other than the government that has the locus of control. Moreover, it is a sign of lack of equality of citizenship rights.

I don't think that the campaign will go on. The tribal 'institution' would be forced to allay the dangerous consequences of the manoeuvre.

It is virtually impossible for the military campaigns to reach all the sheikhs and tribe leaders or the private prisons in the capital city. So, the reign of terror unleashed by the sheikhs continues unabated. The other day, the opposition papers mentioned the news of imprisonment of the well-known businessman, Al-Ghannami in a palace in Al-Hasabah street. He was released only after he paid a large amount of money. A year ago, al-Thawri newspaper mentioned about the death of Sheikh Nassir in the prison of Sheikh Abdulla Ben Hussain Al-Ahmar. People also talk about separate cells in the Central Prison used by the son of Abdulla Ben Hussain Al-Ahmar to imprison his opponents. They also talked about a similar prison used by Sheikh Al-Shaif. These prisons are similar to Al-Habs Al-Shareef (the Honest Prison) owned by the 'Imam' before the revolution of the 26th of September.

After the civil war, a huge amount of money and weapons came to the possession of the sheikhs and tribal leaders. This helped them restore the "Akiaal's government" which was abolished by the collapse of the 'Himiari' reign and the spread of Islam. This 'Himiari' system was a natural consequence of the fragile central government. The same history is repeating itself nowadays in the form of sheikhs and tribe leaders who cling to their respective places, enjoying uninterrupted autonomy, negating the concept of a centralized power. During the reign of the Imam, the sheikhs and tribe leaders of the northern governorates were part of the state, while the those from the southern governorates were merely ordinary citizens. The same situation has not changed even after the revolution. One of the main reasons that led to the collapse of the government of late president Ibrahim Al-Hamdi was that it posed a challenge to sheikhs and tribe leaders. On the contrary, the present government from the very beginning of its formation has taken into consideration rehabilitation of sheikhs and tribe leaders. In fact, the event of Al-Odain proves that the equal citizenship is not available even to the Sheikhs from the southern governorates. It seems that the modern state is still a distant prospect.



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

Great Deeds Deserve Sacrifice

History stands a witness that great events and deeds are not easily achieved. They are demanding and challenging at the same time. However they yield good fruits for the whole well-being of any nation and the world at large. For any society seeking progress and modernization, it will certainly be faced by a lot of pitfalls, ordeals and great challenges. But the most important thing is overcoming these challenges and standing tall. Of course, we can not face our challenges and win without any price in return. Some people lose heart in the implementation of reform and change. But they are very few. The fruits of change will reach the general public who suffer a lot and tolerate all ailments of corruption and lawlessness. This will come true as long as there is a strong will. The way to achieve those national goals are long and needs sacrifice. Yemen is a country caught in the web of lawlessness, corruption, illiteracy, shaky educational systems, poverty and other evils of such stuff. These problems give rise to others and all make our development scramble. These evils are there due to the absence of accountability due to the lack of a fair judicial system, not influenced by the big guys at the power center.

Given rise to the vitality of a just judiciary in the life of any society, the most important thing the government should conduct is reforming the perverted judicial system, since it has an instrumental role in our life. To drive the point home, a fair and just judiciary yields stability since all people become equal under the provisions of law. In this context, a sound society free from social diseases like nepotism, favoritism, corruption, etc. will exist on earth. Our society is troubled with such diseases because of the absence of law and order and just and fair judiciary that can protect the rights of the rank and file. Violations of human rights, justice and law are very common in our society. These violations are committed by the people who have hand in the power center. Only commoners are held accountable and subjected to the application of the provisions of law. The big guys do whatever the like and are never held accountable.

In Yemen, one should have a tribe to support and back him. Otherwise, he becomes an easy prey to every Tom, Dick and Harry. One has to be violent and well-armed to protect himself. In the absence of a powerful government, tribesmen of Khowlan can reach Taiz and kidnap their 'enemy' because of a conflict even over a small piece of land. Businessmen are blackmailed by some people due to the absence of law. In this way, most people feel they have no other choice except for taking the law into their hands.

Feudal lords have left the screen of life in Europe a long time ago. However, they still exist in Yemen. In some areas in Yemen, sheikhs do still behave like the feudal lords of the medieval age. They even consider people their slaves and a part of their ownership. They have big chunks of land and have these under trodden people work on them.

These people do not take any decision unless they get the approval of their sheikhs. What is more unfortunate is that these sheikhs have even their own jails. Any person who doesn't fully obey his sheikh is considered mischievous and troublemaker and accordingly deserves the curse of the sheikh and his tribe. Moreover, he is put in prison owned by his sheikh. One can hear horrible stories from people living in such areas. I am not against sheikhs, but I am against the way they think of their people. These jails owned and made by sheikhs are against the provisions of Human Rights Declaration.

The world will move into the third millennium with hopes, ambitions, knowledge to be achieved in the future. But we will move with a lot of problems including our feudal lords. What a scheme?

It is high time we wake up and got ready for the future. Law and order and a fair judicial system should be prioritized in the agenda of the government since they are our passport towards a new modern and civilized society. As a matter of fact, I was happy to know about the execution of terrorists and destruction of the jails of sheikh in Al-Odain. I am also happy with the speech of president Saleh to the judges of Yemen sometime ago. These events represent a silver lining and a good omen towards putting an end to a time characterized by lawlessness, insecurity and injustice.

However, I should say that the government should always show no leniency with any terrorists or feudal sheikhs. The government should continue its campaign against sheikhs-owned prisons all over Yemen with no exception. It should also make these sheikhs wake up and make them know that we are living in a country claiming to be democratic. In fact, people all over Yemen should feel the power of the state. Of course this act by the government will face a lot of problems and confrontations. The act will be challenging but fruitful. The result will be in favor of the government. The victory over these social evils, hindering our development deserve our sacrifice.

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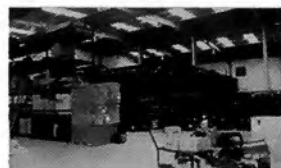
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Akhdam's' Cottages of Taiz Caught Fire

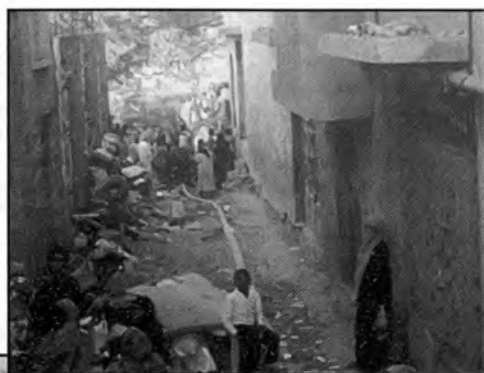
The Flames and The Humanitarian Disaster



Imad Al-Saqqaf
Taiz Bureau chief

The Akhdams or the 'black' of Yemen are the less privileged people in the Yemeni society. They lead their own life which is totally different from that of others. They usually live in the slums with neither water nor electricity. Last Wednesday afternoon, one of the akhdams wanted to get rid of the mos-

quitos inside his cottage. He found salvation in making fire inside. Gradually the smoke began to fill the cottage. He left the cottage to escape the smoke and returned only after the disaster had taken place. The fire gutted the small wooden cottage into ashes. As all the adjoining cottages were made of wood, fire rapidly spread and burnt all of them in minutes. The residents could salvage nothing from the fire except saving their life. The fire brigade which soon arrived at the scene



prevented the fire from reaching the Yemen Commercial Bank and other building adjoining the Akhdams slums. Fortunately, they were able to put it out before it spread further. The Akhdam's leader, Ali S'ad Abdulla, said in a short interview with the Yemen Times that the 26 houses were gutted. These were inhabited by more than 250 people most of whom were children. He also said that they had been living there for more than 30 years exposed to cold, rain and hunger. Jameela, one of the akhdams, said that the fire spread rapidly because each cottage used gas and petrol as fuel. Jameela also said that she suffered a lot from the lack of water and electricity



quitos inside his cottage. He found salvation in making fire inside. Gradually the smoke began to fill the cottage. He left the cottage to escape the smoke and returned only after the disaster had taken place. The fire gutted the small wooden cottage into ashes. As all the adjoining cottages were made of wood, fire rapidly spread and burnt all of them in minutes. The residents could salvage nothing from the fire except saving their life. The fire brigade which soon arrived at the scene



services and also from the way the other people treated them. Mohammed Abdulla Qasim, driver, said that he did not think the fire was started by anybody. However, as he said, they had always been threatened by a person claiming the ownership of the land of dire consequences if they failed to vacate it. Mr. Abdul Majeed Al-Kibsi, Vice President of the YCB, urged upon the governor to help the victims. Almost all the Akhdams in Yemen work as street sweepers or shoemakers. Their very low income can never enable them to build new houses for themselves. It is worth mentioning that they had to spend three nights in the open air.



Aden Emulsion and Paint Copany a Sucessive Story for Yemeni Economic Market



Aden Emulsion and Paint Company is one of the experienced and successful companies in Yemen. It propounded in 1966 before the independence. As the two owners of the company could not continue their partnership, the Ports Authority bought stocks in 1972 to keep the production of the company. The company was known for its high production. Redhwan Al-Saqqaf, Yemen Times Aden Bureau Chief has conducted the following interview with Mr. Salem Mohammed Balfakeeh, General Manager of the company.

Q: Could you please give us some information about the company?

A: Yes, the company works under the license of Denmark Hempel Company. It is one of the great international companies. It occupies the eight position amongst international paints companies. The production is being observed by international experiences. The factory gets good advantage from its products.

Q: What are the activities of the company?

A: The company produces different categories of paints as sea and industrial paints. In other words, it produces more than a hundred categories. The company can produce such categories according to the demand of the clients.

Q: Do you export your products?

A: Yes, we try to export some of our products, but we have given the priority to the local market.

Q: How do you evaluate local markets?

A: At present Yemeni markets are good as well as bad because of the economic stagnancy. We hope to the economic condition would change to enable us to improve our transaction in the local markets.

Q: What is your point of view about privatization?

A: Privatization gives freedom to administration to companies. It encourage the private sector to practice its work freely.

Q: What is the volume of employment in the company?

A: There are 80 employees, which means that we depend upon Yemeni employment 100 %.

Q: How do you evaluate investment in Yemen?

A: I think that the foreign investor, will face problems. So, it needs a lot of time to get over our internal problems.

Q: What are these problems?

A: First, we pay 15 % of our manufactured materials, and 5 % of the imported materials as taxes. In addition to this, we pay taxes before we sell our goods, and we also pay 35 % as income taxes. This means that we pay 80 % of the totality of products. This affects our production in particular and the future of Yemeni products in general. We call upon the government to look to this matter.

Q: What is the effect of the smuggling material on your products?

A: I think that there is no need to smuggle any industrial material because the taxes

will not cost more than the cost of smuggling. We, in the factory of paints raised complains to the authorities, but did not receive any response up to this moment.

Q: What are the future plans of your company?

A: There are a lot of plans, but there must be a support for that. It means that the country should take serious steps to protect national industries. For instance I myself prefer to found a factory in one of the Yemeni islands and pay 5 % of taxes.

Q: What are the problems that you face?

A: Taxes is the big problem that we suffer from. We can solve other problems. There is also another problem which is the problem of false checks. This means that we face long hassles during the trading process.

Q: What are the solutions for this problem?

A: The first thing that we have to do is to find solutions for the problem of taxes. The other thing is to protect national industries and investment in the country. Industry in our country is deteriorating because there are many employees who are out of work. So, we have to exploit the Yemeni laborers. If we look at the industrialised countries, we find that they improve their industries through exploiting national workers. We, in Yemen have to encourage the national industries.

Q: Any last words?

A: I call upon the government to pay attention to the national industries and work to develop new technologies in order to achieve good results in the field of industry. They have to encourage industrial investment in the country. Finally, I would like to thank Yemen Times for its interest in the industry field.

Impression about Yemen



H. E. Alexander Kalugin
Ambassador of Russia

I was appointed as an ambassador of Russia to Yemen on December 1998. That was the first time for me to come to Yemen because I did not have any chance before. I knew a lot about Yemeni civilization of culture. I also recognized the importance of the relationship between Yemen and Russia, before and after Unification. I handled the Middle East affairs, the vice-secretary general for Yemen and Middle East affairs. This is what made me close to Yemen. I worked in Egypt and Iraq, and I have visited a number of the Arab countries. There is a close relationship between me and the Arab Countries and me for over thirty years. So, I am closely familiar with the Arabic customs, culture and policy, but Yemen for me is something different.

I would like to express my own impressions about Yemen during this period. I would like to present them under three categories. The first one is the historical relationship between Yemen and Russia. Russia signed a friendship treaty with Yemen in 1928. There was a relation between Yemen and Russia during the period of Imam, and after the revolution in 1962. Russia also kept friendly relationship with the South and the North before the unification. At present, we are making sustained effort to improve relationship with the united Yemen. We are promoting our relation with Yemen. I can not speak Arabic, but I do not find any difficulty to deal with the Yemen people in general.

More than 30,000 Arab students have completed their studies in Russia. They studied in different fields. If you talk with those students in Arabic, they would talk in Russian because they want to express their respect for Russia. We have not on this quality in students of any other nationality. Recently, we offered fifty scholarship to Yemeni students in order to continue their higher studies in Russia.

The second point is that Yemen is passing through transition because Yemen aims at political and economic reforms. We, in Russia keenly observing this trend, but

unfortunately, the result of this reform has not been quite encouraging. People face a lot of problems. They expect the government to fulfill its commitment. We find that the problems of Yemen and Russia are the same, but for us, we have been able to come over our difficulties. Yemeni people should depend upon their own abilities to come over their problems, and to ensure development. This needs cooperation and sacrifice from all sectors.

The third point is the characteristic features of the history of Yemen. Yemen has an ancient tradition. Yemen has a distinct architectural pattern buildings. I admire Yemeni traditional buildings. My wife too expresses her own admiration. She visited a number of the world countries, but she had not seen any as Yemeni interesting architecture. The Yemeni architects are professional. They use the old traditional means in building windows and Kamarias. Bab Al-Yemen market contains different handicrafts. My wife is always fascinated to see these handicrafts because she appreciate the originality and excellent in the tradition of the Yemeni people. Regarding the relationship between Yemen and Russia, I am not quite content as far as the economic relationship. We can develop this relation in spite of the difficult conditions we face. Russia has an economic problem, while Yemen is passing through a difficult phase.

We, in both the countries, Yemen and Russia have to develop the economic relation in order to face the challenges of economy. We must cooperate in the field of health. There are about 400 Russian doctors and nurses who work in Yemen. We aim at developing this cooperation. In addition, there are a number of experts working in electricity sector in Al-Heswah station in Aden. Concerning the cultural field, there will be a Russian festival the next year in Yemen. This is a good step in the Yemeni and Russian relationship. The vice-minister of Ministry of Foreign, Mr. Abdullah Al-Saidi has visited Moscow. He has made substantial contribution to build a strong relationship with the Russian Ministers. We share a view point concerning the international and regional policies. We know the strategic importance of the Yemen geographic location of the South of the Arabic Island. Finally, I would like to call upon the Yemeni press that it should cover the events which is happening in Quosqaz, Pakistan and Kashmir faithfully and objectively.

Ben Ali Al-Anisi, A Success Story of a Yemeni Singer



Saleh Abdubaqi
Cultural Editor

Ali Ben Ali Al-Anisi is one of the great singers Yemen has ever witnessed. His appearance in the world of music has paved the way for many other singers to reach the stage of stardom. If you like to know how great he is, just listen to his songs, feel the rhythm and taste the unique choice of words. In the following article I will try to shed light on his career from the very beginning with the help of an analysis made by Mr. Jaber Ali Ahmad.

Singer Ali Ben Ali Al-Anisi was born in 1933 in Sanaa. Although he was born at a time Yemen was suffering under the regime of the "Imam", he was able to prove himself as a distinguished singer in Yemen. His melodious and sweet voice was first discovered during his singing the school anthems. When his teacher, Abdul Rahman Arrahbi, discovered the little singing talent, he adopted him. In his early days, Al-Anisi used to sing Yemeni folklore songs which were sung at that time by the great old singers: Eqbal, Ibrahim, Mohammed Al-Mass, Saleh Abdulla Al-Antari and Ahmad Obaid Al-Qatabi who influenced him very much.

At that time, a strong desire to be like one of these great singers was growing in him day after day. Fortunately, he found himself surrounded by a group of educated patriots who were singing the suffering of their country. It was easy for our little singer to pick up those sad words and add to them a touch of hope for a better tomorrow. As he grew up, his dreams and ambitions grew as well, till he became a well known national singer before the revolution took place. Among the greatest songs of his, "Adhan Al-Fajr" (The Dawn's Call) and "Fi Assohoul Wal Widian" (In the Valleys and Planes) are still remembered. All his songs before the revolution were of a sad and sometimes angry tone till the success of the revolution of the 26th of September was broadcast by the radio. As soon as he heard that happy news, Al-Anisi overwhelmed with happiness and joy. He hurried to his friend Ali Ahmad Al-Khadhar. His happiness was even greater when he found the great poet, Ali Ben Ali Sorrah, in Al-Khadhar's house. The meeting of the three "Alis" just after the declaration of the coun-



try's freedom marked the beginning of a new turn in the general attitude of Al-Anisi songs. The three "Alis" decided to celebrate the happiness of freedom and liberty by presenting a -- work of art. Their cooperation resulted in the great song, "Jeetana Ya Dha Al-Batal" (You've come at last, hero). It was written by Ali Ben Ali Sorrah, composed by Ali Ahmad Al-Khadhar and sung by Ali Al-Anisi. The song was instantly popular and was repeated by all Yemenis men and women, young and old.

After the revolution, many political attempts were made to nip the republic in the bud by organizing a number of conferences with evil intentions. Such conferences and intentions were rejected by the great national singer who beautifully expressed his sentiments through "Iradat Ommah" (A Well of a Nation).

No doubt, Al-Anisi's enthusiasm about the national songs resulted from his enthusiasm about the

revolution. Such a revolution was enough to provide an atmosphere full of artistic inspirations. His nationalism was an everlasting spring of artistic works of various themes.

As he sang for his country, he sang for love as well. When you listen to his love songs you get the real meaning of human relationships based on mutual love and affection. His choice of diction and rhythm was unique that added a special flavour to his songs. Some of his masterpieces on the theme of love are: "Nujoum Allail" (The Night's Stars) written by Abbas Addailami and "Alhob Wal Bon" (Love and Coffee) written by Mutahar Al-Iriani. These two wonderful songs show the unenviable artistic maturity the singer enjoyed. Undoubtedly, the singer's greatness flew from his adherence to the classic and traditional Yemeni arts.

Although he is dead, his songs have immortalized him in the hearts of all Yemenis.

Frank Talk: The Silent Revolution



Dr. Pramod Kumar
Talz University

You may sniff it in the air. It is no more the same. The good old days are gone with the wind. I mean the young people. They are a different crop altogether. It has been happening all along the last few years and there is no mistaking the fact. You can miss it only at your own expense.

I appreciate the change others may not. I understand it as a major shake-up at the grass-root level. The thrust is indeed in a positive direction, the adjustment from the agrarian mind-set to a more market savvy up-surge.

What defines such a radical departure from the established? Indeed, the rules of the game have changed. With the margins squeezing and completion hooting up for every inch of space, the quality conciseness is increasing by the day. The young, left to fend for themselves, realize the need to strike a deal. In their guts they have a feeling that they have to rise up the stringent standards whose demand. Supply situation is already titled against them. The security of a confirmed job-placement has given way to competitive entry. The need to enhance competence and skill has fully sunk into the consciousness of the new generation.

The earlier image of Qhat chewing easy going student force is giving way to a more professional, self-disciplined batch of achievers. They are making more demands on themselves, stretching themselves that

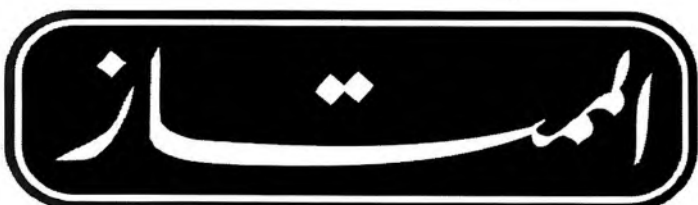
extra bit. The over-mushrooming language institutes and computer training centers to the fact in no uncertain terms.

You can read it in their eyes the hungry, scratching look, scanning your value-worthiness. These are the eyes more penetrating than ever before, reading for a go. Perhaps, the growing impatience is simpatico of the emerging reality of shifting priorities. The new tenticks order of a more stable era. Yemen is transforming itself into the definition of a modern state. The tension of transition are formidable.

The flashy ads, the glamour of good life and the expectations of upward mobility have produced a cumulative effect on the young impressionistic minds. The old habits are crumbling and these is eagerness to enter into uncharacterized territories. The trend is towards a more concentric nuclear sub-culture that supports itself and is self-dependent. The reality, the illusion and the disillusion are all packed into this formula.

The nucleus is emerging as the support base. The new middle class ethics requires a furnished house in a respectable locality and a comfortable, regular liquid flow of cash, among other conditions before you start a family. The gestation period can be extended indefinitely. This is proof enough of the way things are shaping up.

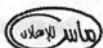
Opportunities have multiplied manifold, but so has the competition. Procuring a degree is no guarantee of success. To complete in the job market, where already dog-eat-dog situation easier is top on the agenda of these talents. It is a silent revolution taking place out these in the open. They deserve our best wishes.



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The History of the Yemeni Jews

4th in a series

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

The status quo of the Yemeni Jews:

From the early 90s, new Jewish groups came to Yemen from America to persuade the Yemeni Jews for migration. This happened to be the reason that their number had been distinctly decreasing from about 20,000 to approximately 250. These are still living in Yemen. However, from time to time some Jewish rabbis come to Yemen from America.

We went to Raydah where some of these Jews still live. Raydah is 85 km away to the East of Sana'a. We met some of them and also their old rabbi, Yaish bin Yahya bin Ibrahim who is considered to be the father of all the Yemeni Jews. He is 71 years now and has got six sons and a daughter. Four of his sons and the daughter are in Yemen. 26 old years Suliman is in Britain while Isaac is studying in America. During our talk with Yaish, we discussed different issues pertaining to the conditions of Jews and their problems including education, health, labor and employment. We also talked about their migration, the reasons behind the migration of the youth and of his continued stay here in Yemen. He said he traveled to Israel only once last year. He said he went to visit his uncle Ibrahim and stayed there for one month. He also met different Jewish Groups in Israel. The Israeli government, as he stated, had offered him a house and a pension; But, he refused all that for he found that the Jewish religion in Israel was not as he expected. He said that some Israelis are secularists; they do not believe in religion, prayers, Saturday, or in the religious rituals. He also added that the Yemeni Jews are practicing their religious rituals in accordance with their religion. He was very much apprehensive about his sons and daughter being victims of the current wave of immortality. He advised the rest of the Yemeni Jews not to migrate to Israel.

With regard to the problems they face, he said "We suffer a lot. We did not have an access to



education for there are no especial schools for them. Some of them were compelled to study in Muslim schools. His son Yahya was one of those who had their secondary schooling in one of the government schools before studying mechanics. He regretted that most of the Jewish youths are shunning studying in these schools for study of Islamic subjects is obligatory in these institutions. He also mentioned that Jewish girls are not allowed to get into schools at all. He also said that the Yemeni Jews have the right to elect. "We pay taxes and what we receive in return is protection only which is not sufficient. We need special schools to teach our children. We should also be given all the facilities for gov-

ernmental employment. My son Hameem has been trying to get a job for a long time, but to no avail," he said. Regarding the political rights of the Yemeni Jews, Yaish said "We elect the person chosen by the sheikh of the Muslims tribe. However, I am not that interested in politics. It is not my business."

Another thing that has attracted our attention is that we have not seen any Jew carrying any kind of weapons. When asked, one of the Jews called Aaron replied that they are protected by the government and that they are not allowed to carry them because they are considered to be free non-Muslims enjoying Muslim Protection. However, he said that they keep their weapons at home which are used only to protect themselves.

The Islamic religion has been very just as well as fair in dealing with this sect. They have been given this name "the non-Muslims enjoying Muslim Protection" only to remind Muslims and their leaders that these people are under their protection. All the Islamic instructions as well as principles, reveal

that they should not at all be suppressed, or harmed.

The leaders of the Yemeni Jews have been given the complete freedom to handle the Jews affairs throughout their long presence in Yemen. At the same time, these leaders are to hold accountable to the Muslim leaders.

Why do they immigrate?

Generally speaking, the migration of the Jews either from Yemen or from other countries, as some writers have pointed out, started in (1681-1776) during the reign of Al-Mahdi, Ahmad bin

Al-Hassan bin Kasem. Some of the reasons that made some of the rulers take measures to help immigration of some of them were to suppress the rebellion by some of the sects of the Jews. They stated that these rulers were not doing that act willingly; On the contrary, they were forced to do that as these Jews started taking some steps that offended Muslims as well as the Islamic religion. It was also triggered by some political events from inside or outside these countries.

For example, some writers say that the case of expulsion of the Yemeni Jews from Sana'a in the 17th century was due to a revolution of the Jews. It is said that they had started threatening Muslims that they would destroy mosques and then humiliate them. They, furthermore, had the courage to defy the ruler Al-Zaidi. They also made attempts to plunder the public treasury. They even dared to curse the Prophet and Islamic religion in their temples.

Yemen has witnessed times in the past when some of these Jews had claimed to be the Messiah. These sources indicate that in 1172 a Yemeni Jew claimed that he was the Messiah and that he had taken it upon himself to work for the confluence of the Jewish religion with Islam. Despite the fact that sources did not mention his name, it may be said that he was the same Al-Fayomi bin Sadih, the author of "Bostaan Al-Okool" which talked about the way to unify religions.

This self-proclaimed Jesus has served the Yemeni Jews who wanted to bring the Jews



together and then suppress the Muslims. His preachings had strengthened the Jews' hopes to take control. He also propagated his versions among the Yemenis on the advent of the Ayoobees invasion of Yemen. He, furthermore, tried to be in closer ties with the Ayoobees and gained their support. However, what this self-



styled prophet prophesied was in total contradiction with the beliefs of the Jews about Christ. So he was not given great publicity. Many Jews came to look down upon him as a heretic. The rabbi of the Egyptian Jews wrote a book titled "Epistle to the Yemen" in which he advised the Yemeni Jews to hold steadfast to their religion and not to be swayed-away by him.

He, furthermore, outlined the circumstances in which the real Christ would appear. Finally, this self-proclaimed Christ was killed and the Jews' rebellion was nipped in the bud.



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First Yemeni-American Medical Conference A Step Towards Achieving a Healthier Yemen

An American medical delegation came to Yemen to attend the Yemeni-American conference which took place on May 21, 1999 in the capital city of Sana'a. This delegation came to help the Yemeni positions. The delegation consisted of many specialists and surgeons who worked with the Yemeni doctors doing some surgical operations at Althawra hospital. Mohammed Bin Sallam of Yemen Times has conducted an interview with some members of the medical group and participants.



Q: Could you kindly please introduce yourself to the readers?

A: I am Charles H. Rosenfarb, Regional Medical Officer. My position is here in the Embassy of the United States in Sana'a.

Q: What is your impressions about this conference?

A: I love Yemen. I have been fifteen month here, I am very happy and enjoy to know the position here in different hospitals and to know many Yemeni people. So, I have good impressions about Yemen. The conference is being a great opportunity to bring American positions here to interact with Yemeni positions. It is being trained now a lot of good lectures. We have a lot of medical students who ask many medical questions about the Yemeni positions to interact with the American doctors, and I think that they are working together to come up with some solutions to help problems here in Yemen.

Q: How did you organize this conference?

A: Well, it was an idea which started last spring after seeing the Yemeni-German medical conference, and I had spoke with doctor Abdulnaseer Monabary. We both have an idea to put an American equivalence here. We have organized a committee of which Dr. Monabary and myself were a co-chairmen, working very hard to make this conference successful.

Q: What are the subjects which being discussed in this conference?

A: This is being a general medical conference. We try to include something for everyone. The major topics we spoke on were life diseases, medical education and heart disease.

Q: What is the benefit of this conference?

A: The major benefit in bringing some American professionals with the Yemeni professional positions, and hopefully they will have lasting relationships to be a continuous bridge between Yemen and America to improve health care here, and to educate knowledge and skills of some good Yemeni positions.

Q: How can you evaluate the results of this conference?

A: After the conference, we are trying to come up with a list of recommendations that we can give to the Ministry of Health. Ideas which come from American and Yemeni speakers after a discussions of the conference. I hope that a lot of recommendations will come to place.

Q: How can Yemen get the advantage of this conference?

A: It can get it through the sharing of knowledge information with American experts, I think Yemeni positions have improved a lot. Once you teach a doctor something, the doctor can make all his patients better.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I am very happy to work with my Yemeni friends to organize this conference. It was a hard work, but it means a pleasure for me. I impressed

by the interests of the Yemeni doctors and the medical students.



Q: Could you kindly please introduce yourself to our readers?

A: Yes, I am doctor George M. Abouna. I came from United States. Was invited to the conference by the organizers of the American Embassy.

Q: What is your impressions about this conference?

A: This is my first visit to Yemen. It is an excellent idea to have a conference here and to see experts from U.S and Canada participate and give their experience to the medical professions and the Ministry of Health in Yemen. So, Yemenis can get benefit from their experience. I have three lectures here. One of the organ transplantation, the second one is medical education and the third one is of the use of artificial level. Conference is being well organized and it will help Yemeni doctors and the Ministry of Health to improve health care.

Q: How do you evaluate the results of the conference?

A: After a period of time, we will see what effect of the type of presentation was given the lectures and how doctors from Yemen benefited it.

Q: How can Yemen get the advantage of this conference?

A: I think it can get the benefit by the doctors who attended on the conference and contacted with professional here to get their experience and I think there will be conferences here by the Ministry of Health to attend to provide services for patients in the Yemeni hospitals and train the doctors there. So, a conference by itself will not serve any purpose unless the experts must be brought to work with the Yemeni doctors and help them developing new techniques and procedures. I am sure that Minister of Health Dr. Nasheir is very aware and concern about improving health care.

Q: Would you like to add something?

A: I think that the impression is excellent. The experts from abroad, who invited to attend this conference came to train Yemeni doctors. This conference should be repeated by cooperation with Embassies as U.S and Canadian.

Q: Can you please introduce yourself to the readers, and give us some clarification about this conference?

A: I am Dr. Abdulhakeem Al-Nadari, specialist in blood disease. As you know that the medical sciences is being developed by the passing of the time. Conferences like this give benefit to Yemeni doctors and help of transmitting information and experiences between countries.

Q: How did you see the subjects being discussed in the conference?

A: A lot of things were discussed as the epidemic diseases, pulmonary, organic diseases and cardiology. Today there was a report that Dr. Ba Mashmoos will be the representative in Italy in order to contact with foreign doctors.

Q: How do you evaluate this conference?

A: The conference was well organized, a number of problems were solved. Yemeni doctors got experience through this conference because the conference discussed many of the medical subjects. The results were very good. I hope to see many conferences like this one.



Q: Could you give us something about yourself?

A: Yes, my name is Anya Simeonova, I am from Bulgaria. I have been working in Althawra hospital

for five years. A lot of subjects were discussed, but the conference concentrated on the medical and surgical subjects. I was involved in the cardiac team, so I could not join all conference.

Q: How do you evaluate it?

A: I think it is great because Yemen and America have a great relation. I am glad to see this conference and to be invited.

Q: Do you see any benefit of this conference?

A: I think that there are a lot of benefits because Yemeni doctors can learn and get experience from the American experts. They can exchange skills with the American professionals. I wish to see more conferences like this, and I want to see good development in Yemeni-American relationship.



Dr. Abdulla Abdulwali Nasher, Minister of Health.

"I would like to thank our college who came from Italy to help Yemeni

children in cardiology and surgery. Of course, the Yemeni Italian relationship in medicine is not one or two weeks old, it is fifty years old. Italian positions used to come to Yemen as far as 1940s and 50s and the Amman Ahmed traveled to Italy to seek medical treatment. That show how strong are the links and how deep in history relations between both, Italian and Yemen. We are glad in our colleges who came to Yemen for the first time. They have done a great job, and we hope that they come again and again to support such missions. The Italian took Yemeni children to Italy for cardiac surgery. I hope to see them again in Yemen and if there is anything we can do, we will not hesitate to do it to facilitate the mission of the delegation. I am sure that the benefit is great."

Q: How can you evaluate the cooperation between Yemen and Italy?

A: There is a cooperation in many fields but the medical cooperation between Italy and Yemen mostly either personal or through non-governmental organizations and through the other medical organizations. I am very glad to see our Italian friends came to Yemen. I hope that this project will start very soon and here in Yemen it will be represented by Dr. Abdulnaser Al-Monabary, general director of Althawra hospital, and Dr. Mohammed Ba Mashmoos will be our man in Italy. we are grateful to him because he brought the Italian team.

Q: What is the benefit of the first Yemeni-Italian conference?

A: As all know that Yemen is a poor country and under-developing country. We always welcome any support on the medical and health care from Italy, America, United Kingdom and other countries to gain some benefit. This benefit is shared by the medical students and the young positions. The Yemeni-American conference was successful as some of the Italian doctors have seen patients. On the whole, we try our best to benefit as much as we can from any visitor.



Q: Could you please introduce yourself to the readers?

A: I am Dr. Ali Al-Rabo'ei, the Advisor of Heart Surgery in

Switzerland.

Q: What is roles on this conference?

A: Every Yemeni knows that since 1990 I have tried to establish the National Center of Cardiology. As I came to Yemen, I contact with officials and Ministers with the collaboration of Dr. Nasher, the Minister of Health and Dr. Monabary. We could profound a cardiac center at Althawra hospital. It will be completed be the

end of upcoming six months as we heard from the reliable official resources. This center has special budget. All the medical instruments are available. This means that the center will be successful. Regarding the delegation, it was excellent. We appreciate the work of Dr. Ba Mashmoos who brought this delegation. A number of open surgical operations were successfully done by the collaboration between Italian delegation and Yemeni doctors.

Q: How about the Yemeni-American conference?

A: The conference gave the opportunity to the Yemeni medical students to recognize all the new things because it is difficult for Yemeni doctors to travel abroad. I presented a paper concerning the surgery of heart disease. It was appreciated by all. This means that we can do heart operations here in Yemen instead of traveling abroad.

Q: Did you decide to stay in Yemen or to travel again?

A: I come from Switzerland for a mission, which is to founding Cardiology Center and I we finish this work, I will come back to Swiss.



Dr. Ba Mashmoos, the organizer of this conference and the medical representative of Yemen in Italy.

Q: Dr. Ba Mashmoos, could you please enlighten on the development in the relationship between Yemen and Italy?

A: Italy has a great relation with Yemen. Italian experts are available in Yemen. They have many medical centers in Yemen as those in Taiz, Aden, Lahij and others. They are here to help Yemen to get over its medical problems. They only want to see action, and to contribute in many projects. As I went to the High Italian Institute to show them the problems of Yemen in the field of health, they responded to this matter. The High Italian Institute has a school which is called

International Heart School. This school awards fifteen scholarships every year to the students who come to get their Master's Degrees. It is difficult to say whether they would give earmark one scholarship to a Yemeni student because they want to choose the best students of the world. I discussed with them about the need of Yemen to the medical services; They warmly interacted with me and have awarded two scholarships to us. They affirmed that they will help us in the future; They willing to come to Yemen as volunteers. This delegation has come to teach Yemeni doctors and to offer new mechanisms in the field of health care. Ministry of Health has to encourage these activities, and give the opportunity to the Yemeni doctors who are able to interact with the foreign experts. At the end of the conference, we feel that the Minister on Health and the other officials will have the desire to work together and to develop Health care in Yemen.

Q: What are the problems that faced Italian experts here in Yemen?

A: Frankly, I do not feel that there is any difficulty or problems. So, the things which are available are easy to be implemented, while the things which are not here are difficult to be achieved. We just have to work hard, and there will not be any problem. Dr. Abdulnaser Menabary encouraged me to contact with the Italians to organize a conference. I brought the best Italian experts. They have valuable experience as they have also gone to Albania and Kosofa.

Q: What are the things which must be ensured by the Yemeni officials?

A: As I said before we need cooperation from Yemeni doctors and the Ministry of Health. We need a collective work from all.



Dr. Abdulnaser Monabary, Director of Althawra Hospital.

Q: Dr. Abdunaser, can you give us some clarification about this confer-

HARWARD BRUCE OSTLER THE FOUNDER OF YEMENI AMERICAN MEDICAL RELATIONSHIP TO SERVE THE OSTRACIZED

First of two parts



Dr. Yasin Al-Qubati, Director of the National Leprosy Elimination Programme Skin & Venereal Diseases Hospital, Taiz

Prof. (Dr.) Harvard Bruce Ostler was born on 6th June 1927 in Eureka. Bruce was the youngest of five sons in the family. Just after two years, on 29th October 1929, the New York stock market crashed in what so called 'The Black Tuesday'. The United States faced a very miserable time. This period was called "Great Depression". During this miserable situation, Bruce's parents got divorced.

Bruce took all the science classes at high school. Then, he went for navy training in San Diego, California. After this, he got his BA degree at the University of Utah. Then, he entered medicine and graduated after three years. Then, he got his master degree. At that time, Bruce was just twenty five years old. Bruce had an internship for one year at the University of Iowa, a residency for three years and a six month period for research there. Finally, Bruce had achieved his cherished ambition! He became a fully qualified ophthalmologist.

During the time of his study Bruce met a young lady called Marian and it did not take them a long time to get married. Marian was a wise and a virtuous wife. She had been his beloved, wife, and secretary.

Bruce pursued his career as an ophthalmologist for ten years. At the same time he was teaching at the medical

school of the University of Utah. He held different posts for eighteen years, the last one being the Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology in the University of California.

He had to his credit ninety-nine publications in different medical journals. When one of his books "Disease of the External Eye and Adnexa" was released, the American Journal of Ophthalmology highly appreciated and recommend his work. Within a few years, Professor Bruce became the president of Proctor Foundation for Ophthalmology. He never smoked, drank alcohol or took to any stimulant like tea, coffee or cola. He was well known all around the country. Patients were heading for him from different states, and ophthalmologists were coming to him for training from different parts of the world like Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Egypt, Germany, Canada etc. Over the years he supervised approximately 130 research fellows at the Proctor Foundation.

He traveled to many poor and developing countries like Somalia, India, Nepal, China, the Philippines, Egypt, Ethiopia, Brazil, Peru and Yemen. In summer 1982, I met Bruce in Mogadishu where we were attending the Leprosy Strategy Conference of WHO, Eastern Mediterranean Region. I believed that he could help the patients in Yemen. After a small chat, we planned for his first visit to the City of Light hospital which was the only organized leprosorium run by Mother



Teresa. When Bruce along with his wife reached Sana'a, a very honorable reception was given by the Protocol of the President. Dr. Noordeen, the then Director of WHO, Geneva who was the chief guest at the Mogadishu conference, also was on a visit to the Noor City for one week. After this visit all of them collaborated and published an article about leprosy situation in Yemen in the Leprosy Review International Journal. This article drew the attention of the international non-governmental organizations to the problem of leprosy in Yemen. More than fifty operations were conducted at the Al-Noor City. Some major operations were conducted in different general hospitals in Taiz city. Junior ophthalmologists seized the opportunity to benefit from the extraordinary genius of Bruce. It was a surprise for the people of the Al-Noor City that an American refused to have coffee, tea, cola or any other stimulants but readily accepted the invitations to lunch in the houses of the patients.

Continued on Next Week's Issue.

As the number of prosecuted and blocked newspapers increase Is Yemeni Press Freedom At Stake?

Jalal Al-Shar'abi
Sanaa

When the law is silent and chaos is taking over in dealing with issues of opinion, talks about the freedom of press as an ideal career is nonsense. Therefore, we realize why many newspapers are blocked and closed forcibly without any previous warning. Some are brought to courts, others are confiscated and so forth. This is also done with a massive motive of aggression and harassment against journalists who were beaten up and sometimes imprisoned. More than 53 cases were filed until now against newspapers; few of them being won by the Ministry of Information, while most of them by the newspapers. The Yemen Times was one of these newspapers that the Ministry of Information had filed a case against some years ago. However, the newspaper won the case.

At present, the Al-Shoura newspaper was made to stop publication in accordance with a decision made by the Ministry of Information. Al-Haq newspaper's staff are subject to investigations and fining. Another verdict was passed to fine Al-Umma newspaper. More than five newspapers were charged with defamation and vilification of some social dignitaries during the past three months. Statistics reveal that there are many journalists kept in prisons, while about ten journalists have recently been arrested and then released. This, in fact, is not a congenial atmosphere and services to increase fears about freedom of the press. The latest news is that Al-Wahdani has been taken to court last week for an article that it wrote (against national interest) and is facing the possibility of fine or closure. In this detailed field inquiry, I am going to shed light on different vantage points of various personalities in the ruling power, opposition, civic community organizations and lawyers. The outcome of this general survey is the following:

- Dr. Mahmood Gamal Mohammed, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Information said "The cases filed against newspapers can be looked at from two sides; the first pertains to the law of the press which is considered to have made sufficient safeguard for journalists. Therefore, this law should be upheld and respected. Any action that is not in line with this law constitutes a grossly offensive violation that hinders the journalists' career. According to my experience, I see that there are



These are the last two newspapers that have been closed by the authorities. Readers wonder "which's next?"

many actions that are not in coherence with the spirit of democracy. I have also asserted that we all should pull together to strengthen freedom of the press.

On the other hand, there are some newspapers that do not abide by the norms of the national sovereignty, religion, or national issues. Only then any lawful procedure is justified. Therefore, any action that does not go with this is an illegal act that negatively affects the freedom of the press, the society in general making it suffer a lot. It also reflects a very bad image of the regime which seems to strangle this sacred privilege in its infancy. With regard to the attacks on journalists and their effects on freedom of the press, I believe that it is an outrageous violation of all constitutions of the world, all religions and human rights."

- Journalist Gamal Amer, who was arrested in Ibb two months ago after publishing an article in one of the opposition newspapers pertaining to the boundaries between Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen, said "Democracy in its real sense has not taken root in our country. A sure sign of this is the arrest and beating that journalists are exposed to. As a matter of fact, the ruling power has become very much intolerant to the journalists and their work. We wonder at high-ranking officials who state that they support democracy and freedom of the press; For example, there has not been any opposition newspaper that does not have a case in the court. This is a clear signal

that real democracy has not been strengthened yet in our country. These personalities understand it as it serves their interests. This means that the state of the ruling power has reflected itself in all strata of the society. Many were eagerly awaiting the outcome of cases filed against these influential people as it is the last solution that could be looked forward to. But, unfortunately, efforts to take sides has increased an atmosphere of fear and anxiety among all who seriously doubt the fairness of the judiciary system. Personally speaking, I have a strong conviction in the fairness of many judges. Some of them have

already proved this for there are some newspapers that won some cases against the Ministry of Information. So what journalists should do is that they should take it upon themselves and struggle hard for their rights irrespective of aggressive actions of the those who want to put the clock back."

- Abdulrahman Ahmad Abdo, Managing Editor of the Al-Shoura newspaper which has been stopped a month ago spoke about the procedures followed to seize the newspaper: "What is happening now for newspapers is something far from ordinary. Most of them are having cases in courts. The ruling power decision to stop and submit these journalists to law courts is a clear evidence

of their inability to uproot corruption and total chaos that pervade the governmental institutions. Even the judiciary system is also corruptible for it is not impartial in dealing with cases filed."

With regard to the seizure made over the Al-Shoura newspaper, he said "The Ministry of Information found some shortcomings in the law and used them illegally to take a decision to close the newspaper which had become a national voice against the corrupt in the ruling party. What we really would like to ask the Ministry of Information is whether it is not true that the Popular Forces Union is a legitimate party and that the Committee of Parties' Affairs had attested it as such. Mr. Abdullah Ahmad Hizam, chairman of the committee stated last August in Al-Thawrah newspaper that it was very much a legal party. Moreover, the Ministry of Information did nothing when a fake newspaper was issued bearing the same name. The editorial staff of the fake newspaper were not even registered in the Ministry of Information."

- Mr. Sami Ghaleb, Editing Secretary of the opposition Alwahdani newspaper believes that subjugating newspapers and journalists to the tangle of judicial procedures is a way to exercise some pressure on them so that they will be intimidated. He said that most of these newspapers standing trial were not served any lawful warrants and procedures. He also said that there should be a special court that deals with cases pertaining to the press. He justified this by saying "It is so because freedom of the press is something new in the Yemeni community and it is only natural that there may be some confusion in organizing its work. There are still some disputes with regard to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Information to file cases against newspapers. Moreover, there are many newspapers that are commit-

ted to trial without any lawful procedure or constitutional sanction. However, the point is that there should be an awareness about the importance of the press and its role. For example, things that are banned to be published in the law of the Print and Publication were accepted hands down by the journalists which proves their law abiding character. On the contrary, the ruling party itself does not abide by the laws. There are numerous instances when it has gone to the extreme. For example, it increased the banned publication in the executive standing of the Law of the Press which has been taken as a basis for curbing the liberty enjoyed by journalists and newspapers. On the other hand, some judges are not always fair and decent. They may be liable to be very much influenced by those in position as the judiciary system is not totally independent. The fact that the chairman of the Executive Power has the same Judicial Power is a case in point. He is also the same person who appoints members of the Supreme Court and is the one who chairs the Supreme Judiciary Council.

Our new experience in the field of press is very distinct in the context of some cases filed in courts. One can easily observe that there are some judges who pass verdicts without being fully aware of the principles of freedom of the press and its status in the political and constitutional framework. Therefore, we find strong contradictions between verdicts passed in the preliminary as well as appeals courts."

- Mr. Abbas Adailami, Secretary-general of the radio programs in Sana'a asserted that referral to courts in issues that pose controversy is a

positive thing. The existence of laws is also a necessary thing that ensures discipline. As he said: "There is no democracy without freedom of the Press and as everything is based on discipline and order, it does not harm to have these laws which contribute a lot to organize works. However, they should not be misconstrued. There are around 53 cases filed in courts either by the Ministry of Information or journalists and I see this as a positive thing meaning that if there are disputes and controversy court should be the supreme arbiter that settle these rather than people taking laws into their hands. Besides, frequent referral to the law strengthens the democratic forces and consolidates freedom of the press."

Mr. Abdullah Al-Khawlan, assistant teacher in the National Institute for Administrative Sciences sees that any civilized country respects freedom of the press and human rights; The Press in such countries is considered to be the fourth power, not any less important than the other three wings of the government. The Press is the instrumental of surveillance over the executive, legislative powers and even the judiciary one. He added: "The Press can not effectively carry out its role in scrutinizing whatever is perpetrated by the ruling power unless it enjoys all its privileges to have access to information and publish them to the public, not of course running the risk of tarnishing the country's image. When newspapers started meticulously scanning all actions of the regime, the regime was infuriated. The regime was not used to be criticized. It has never been asked why it violated the provisions of the law, squandering the public revenue and so forth. It has been accustomed to the official media that

works as a sycophant for the regime and never asks why. The media started uncovering the deeply rotten actions of the ruling power to the public. The ruling power would obviously consider such newspapers as working against the law and understandably started to drag these newspapers to courts.

There are some cases in courts which are disposed of according to the extent of tension between the ruling power and these newspapers. All this happens because of a corrupt judiciary system. As a matter of fact, the role of the Ministry of Information can be redefined as follows: the first and the foremost is that it legitimizes the rotten actions of the regime. The second is that it keeps track of the trend of the newspapers and exercises pressure to threaten and intimidate them so that they will be throttled and can not expose things to the people."

The devil should, of course, be given its due. It is fair to give the Ministry of Information a chance to explain itself after all that massive campaign of journalists, different organizations, newspapers to suspend this ministry. The Yemen Times met

- Mr. Mohammed Radman Al-Zarkah, Deputy of the Minister of Information who had the following to say: "We are very much committed to freedom of the press and we have one reference that sorts disputes out. We have no evil intentions against any newspaper and what we depend upon is the Law of the Press. However, there are some newspapers that put many of the national principles to grave danger and what we do is that we refer such newspapers to courts. In other words, there is no scope for any

aggressive action against any newspaper and it is the role of the honorable court to pass a verdict for or against us. To make this more clear, I still remember one case filed against the Yemen Times which was won by the Yemen Times.

With regard to the seizure of the Al-Shoura newspaper, it is because the party was not duly registered in the Parties Law; Besides there are so many problems as well as loopholes within this party. So it is rational that we refer to the law that solves such problems out. It is the court, and not the Ministry of Information, that will pass its verdict."

Regarding the demand for elimination of the Ministry of Information, he said "What I really want to ask is: will elimination of the Ministry of Information solve the problems of the Press? and Won't there be some other

Ministry that would apply the law?

Those who ask today to eliminate the Ministry of Information, will ask in the future to eliminate the judiciary system itself. To make a long story short, I say

that democracy will never prosper unless both the ruling power and the opposition are there." With regard to the journalists' harassment, he said "The Ministry of Information is not the prosecution to investigate when a journalist is beaten up in streets or in any other place. I myself have been exposed to such incidents while I was working in the Thawrah Organization. The Ministry then did not take any measures except issuing a report condemning the attack."



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Oktoberfest Celebration which Held last September 30, 1999 was a great success.

Seen in picture: Mr. Fadeel Wehbe, Sheraton General Manager, H. E. Mr. Werner Zimprich, German Ambassador to Yemen, H. E. Mr. Abdulmalik Mansour, Minister of Culture & Tourism.



Godere Vella, Director of Engineering Fresh from Sheraton Nanjing Kingsley Hotel & Towers in China is taking over his new post as Director of Engineering of the Sheraton Sana'a Hotel. We wish him the best in his new posting and welcome o Sana'a.

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Due to the accumulated number of *Letters to the Editor* (in hundreds), we have decided to have the whole page in this issue dedicated to our precious readers' letters. Al-Haifi's Common Sense column is on page 12.

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,
Reviving past hatred and malice is not a trait of a regime that believes in democracy peaceful transfer of power. Therefore, stability, peace, prosperity would never be expected to prevail in our country if the ruling party continues its illogical attitude towards other political parties. In other words, instead of repeating the past disputes and wrong acts done by others, a wise leadership will better seek a settlement. It is better if it paves the way for concrete achievements for nation that has constantly stood beside in difficult times and crucial situations. Unfortunately, the government doesn't seem to show any serious consideration for the public. The country requires burning issues and participation of all Yemenis in this endeavour rather than engage its attention on past disputes, conflicts, wars and whatever. The people have naturally become totally pessimistic and hopeless nowadays when as they see the government officials in any gathering, press meetings or interviews repeatedly recalling and talking about their oppositions' past deeds. Would this be considered national achievements accomplished by the regime? What I would like to state is that everybody has a past life which is a mix of good and bad. However, it is fair to deprive someone of one's rights because of one's past. In that sense, all the people living in this planet can be considered guilty. But, they should not be denied of their political rights, neither should the ruling party block their way to gain power. In fact what has happened so far is enough, and I believe that it is time we did something for the next generation. So let's leave at least some good precedents for them to remember.

Dear editor,
I will be very glad and thankful if you gave me the chance to express my views through your esteemed newspaper. We looked forward to the presidential elections to usher in a new hope for a better tomorrow. Giving people a chance to choose their president is certainly a good sign for a better future. So we hope that the elected president will not fail us and that he will do his best to combat corruption which has prevailed in almost all spheres of our life. Fighting corruption will not be effective by mere speeches; it will be better seen in concrete actions. We do hope that the president will be sincere in his commitment to build the new generation based on education. Reforming the judiciary from corruption should be one of the presidents' priorities. To put the right person in the right place is also a very crucial thing. However, we should not expect that the president will do this all by himself alone. All the people should come together to achieve what they desire and aspire for. Therefore, the president should be very careful to select a good team different from those in the past who proved themselves as nothing but crooks. By this he will be able to carry out what Yemenis look forward to. Finally, all my thanks and wishes to all the staff working in the Yemen Times headed by the son of its late founder. Hats off to the Managing Editor Mr. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadi for his marvelous articles.

A Promise Is A Promise

As a permanent reader of the Yemen Times, and one who has a strong interest in following all its articles up, I want to be among the first to congratulate you all on the new and magnificent complexion of the newspaper. The only thing that I want to remind you about is that a promise is a promise. You promised that Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Sagqaf's life would be published in a book. You also mentioned that fur-

ther information regarding this would be published in the forthcoming issues of the Yemen Times. But you did not do so and we saw nothing. I wish that you would be able to explain this out. We are longing to see the book of the person who made history. Will we see it soon? I hope so.

Abdulrahman Khaled Al-Meghlafi

Dear Abdulrahman,

The Yemen Times has already published a book about the life of its founder in Arabic only to commemorate the 40th day of his unfortunate demise. However, that issue was not distributed and was not for sale for various reasons. The YT will be issuing the second version of the same book in the year 2000. Please bear with us as the book will not take long; it may be worth your waiting for.

The Editor

Illiteracy

Our society suffers from various problems which hinder its growth and development. One of the most serious problems is illiteracy. As for example, I live in a building which consists of 22 flats. There are only three women who can read and write. Can you believe it? They are all mothers and there are at least five children in each flat. When I ask them why they do not join literacy classes, they say "When can we do that?", "there is no time!" However, they spend their afternoon's in chewing qat, smoking Mada'ah and chatting. Their children, on the other hand, play all the time with the dirt in the streets till late hours in the evening. They bother people, fight and are more exposed to accidents. When their bad results show up, their mothers start crying and ask why they failed. I really wonder how we can have a good future for our society if our future generation is being raised by illiterate mothers. We need to eradicate this illiteracy. There should be some efforts made to create an awareness. Illiterate mothers should know the importance of education for themselves and their families. Therefore, we should cooperate and leave no stone unturned to build future the generation.

Aswaan Abdullah Taiz

Today's Youth

If we look carefully at the youth of today, we will notice that they are moving towards a destructive destination. This horrible condition compels us to appeal to God and say "God we do not ask you to change the destiny, we only ask you to be merciful." The youths of today are divided to three main groups; the first of these groups is pursuing the latest fashion which really gives a dismal, a disgusting picture. The second group is pursuing singers, films and songs. They seem to know nothing except these singers and heroes. Furthermore, they go on wearing T-shirts that have the pictures of their favorites. If you ask anyone of these guys about scientists or inventors who have devoted their lives for the sake of well-being of the humanity, the casual answer you get is "I don't care" or which is very distasteful to say. The third group includes those who have nothing except hanging around in roads killing time, courting girls, troubling passers-by, etc. What is worse is that the younger children are following suit. In short, the situation of the youth in our country is really very critical and needs to be remedied. The youth should not waste their time in an idle manner. They should invest each and every minute they have in creating a better tomorrow for themselves and the country. They should not imitate the world of stupidity but pursue achievements and creativity. Will they

do so? We hope so.

Hilal Abdul Gabzy Taiz University

Dear Editor,

I am from Yemen and I live in Saudi Arabia's Capital city Riyadh. I have been working at King Faisal Hospital for the last 17 years in the nutrition section. I love my country and I am planning to move there by next year. I welcome any messages to me through e-mail to my address below. I will be happy to reply.

Samir Kaifah
E-mail: sammer62@hotmail.com
Saudi Arabia

Dear Editor,

I'm a British citizen who lived and worked in Hodeidah for eight years. Since then, I have returned to Ecuador, South America, where I previously worked for more than 20 years. Living in Yemen was one of the most valuable experiences of my life. I am very happy to have found the Yemen net on the Internet. I wish to send greetings to all my friends in Hodeidah.

Richard Allen
Email: rcallen@impsat.net.ec

Dear Editor,

I usually visit your very advanced web, which is great and doing a tremendous job for such web sites in the Yemeni democratic sphere. I was teaching an American diplomat Arabic, and I asked him about his impression about your paper. He said it neither fits the British nor American variety of English but is styled in the local tongue. Moreover, every now and then it gives some paraphrases which may be intended to have the same translation meaning in Arabic while it does not have that exact phrase in English. That is the only candid advice I wanted to give you. There is another comment concerning your beneficial and informative site. Why don't you lay out an area in the web for advertisements exactly as in the paper, as many of people I met told me they look for jobs through your great web. Unfortunately they did not find their desire fulfilled. I think such a page may give opportunity for them to take part in skipping out your pages and contribute in the opinion poll. I request ask you kindly to give this comment a careful consideration. With my best regards.

Abdullah Mohamed Taki

Dear Abdulilah,

We are seriously considering your advice. In the near future, you will witness a lot of change in the standards of the paper regarding the way articles and columns are written and translated. We are currently working on it. Your other comment is interesting, and we will propose it to our advertisers and study the feasibility of such an idea. Thank you for your follow up!

The Editor

Dear Editor,

Thanks for an excellent newspaper. One request - please do not put a colored background on articles (as the "fight against qat" article this week.) It takes longer to print out and does not copy as well as a white background. I use articles to circulate to my college students. So this is important to me.

Margaret Curtis
Western Kentucky University
U.S.A.

Dear Margaret,

Thank you for your letter. We will try to not have a background in articles in the future. However, you can still avoid printing the background by deselecting "print background" from the page setup item of your browser.

The Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing from 'TTG Middle East and North Africa', the leading travel trade publication in the region. In our December issue, we will include a special feature on Yemen, which will look at developments in the tourism industry.

I noticed that you recently produced a supplement, 'Yemen's Tourist Guide'. Would it be possible for you to send me a copy? I am interested in receiving as much information as possible about the country's tourism industry. Our address is below. Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Sarah Antoniou
TTG Middle East & North Africa,
Cyprus

Dear Sarah,

We have actually received hundreds of such requests, and the number of the guides in stock is getting lower. Despite that, we will hopefully be sending you one copy of the guide. Wishing you all the success in your project.

The Editor

Dear Editor,

I am a Yemeni living abroad with dual nationality, I am very interested in young graduates from the Sana'a University in order to create a local Yemeni research institute. I knew Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Sagqaf very well (may his soul rest in peace). Please help me in this regard.

M. A. Al Sayadi

Dear Al-Sayadi,

The best we could do is post your letter here. Perhaps whoever is interested can contact you by email. Or we, at the Yemen Times, can be the intermediary between you and whoever wants to join you in your noble efforts for your country. Good luck.

The Editor

Naseem's Point of Weakness

Naseem is a very good boxer, and alhumdolillah a Muslim. But in my opinion, as a Muslim, he should be more humble, and the music and dancing that he enters the boxing ring with are not the acts for Muslims. I believe that Naseem prays to God all the time and reminds others that he is a Muslim and thanks "Allah" after every win; But the things that I mentioned above give a false impression about Islam.

Naseem has received many blessings; He should now practice Islam more strictly, and with the will of Allah he will continue to be blessed and continue his success.

Yazakala Kairan
Email: salah@candw.ky

Dear Yazakala,

Naseem has an official website on the Internet, and you could turn to it when you have time. I think that it is the best way you could reach him through the net. Go to (www.prince-naseem.com) and send an email to him through that web page. On our part, the best we could do is have your letter posted.

The Editor

Dear Editor,

I have working experience of more than seven years as a feature writer with major English dailies of Pakistan including The Frontier Post and The News International. I have contributed

a large number of stories on social-political, environment and health issues and several articles including features and book reviews to the Sunday magazines of the above mentioned newspapers.

In a global village every newspaper has to cover events happening in every corner of the globe to keep its readers abreast of the changes around the world. And in important regions special correspondents are needed for exclusive coverage to the happening there.

In Pakistan, which is an important country of the region, reputed newspapers have correspondents.

I offer my services for appointment as your correspondent in Pakistan. If given chance I would prove my worth.

Ahmad Naeem Khan

Dear Ahmad,

I regret that we cannot accept your application, as we do not for the time being cover international news. However, we are studying the possibility of having an international news page, and if we ever decide to have that page, be sure that we will contact you.

The Editor

Dear Editor,

I have composed four humble lines, which I take the liberty to send you. I hope that you will appreciate them, and find them worth publishing in Yemen Times. I assure you that I will take no offense if you decide otherwise. These four lines would be dedicated to Anne-Catherine et Jean-Christophe.

FOUR LINES

"Wait, wait, don't hesitate, be patient, Let the days go one by one, don't count, Life is laugh, joke and only gay, It doesn't deserve a tear in your eye."

Abdul Qawi Deehan

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 nonsense 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 I feel helpless!

Michael Crouch
East Perth, Australia

We will wait!

Many teachers are not teaching, though many schools are waiting for them. Those teachers are not teaching, not because they do not like to teach, but because they have not got the chance. They studied for 16 years or more having the hope of being employed after their graduation. But alas, they did not find what they dreamt of. Two batches of graduated students are eagerly looking forward to the day they become employed. Most of them have become disappointed, and on the other side, students in colleges are disillusioned. How could they concentrate on their studies well when they feel insecure about the future.

Let's assume that schools do not need more teachers; but then why should there be so many foreign teachers. I am not against the idea of bringing foreign teachers, for some of them are well qualified and useful. But I am against the notion of delay in giving employment to those frustrated teachers at the cost of their efficiency in future.

Efforts are being made to ensure a high performance in teaching. It is a fact that can not be denied. But I want to ask, how many times do teachers receive any training since they enter the domain of teaching? Also, why has not the new prescribed book for the third level of the secondary school been distributed yet? And where are the cassettes of the English books to be taught, or why are they prescribed if they are not important? All these questions remain unanswered. Until we know the answers we will try to be optimistic, because we know that the circumstances are to blame. So hoping for a better tomorrow, we will wait.

Khalid Ali Ali Al-Qazahy
Al-Dhubr - Mahweet

Congratulations


Congratulations from Amsterdam to the Yemen Times at www.yemen-times.com for getting your 1,000,000 hits at your website.

G. Wassink

Dear Wassink,

One million thanks to you my friend.

The Editor





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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Consistency is Also Necessary for Development

One of the major drawbacks to the progress and development of the so called "Least Developed Countries", if not the principle reason is the continuous erratic and often volatile changes, which are often imposed on a massive scale on the societies of these LDCs. While development, in essence entails change one must bear in mind that change should not always corroborate development. One of the chronic symptoms of autocratic regimes – which is the common political denominator of the overwhelming majority of the regimes in the LDC list – is rule by the issuance of ad-hoc and generally whimsical decrees, with the overriding consideration always being the sustainability of the political status quo. More often than not, such rule by decree tends to ignore: 1) the variance of such rule on the interests of the of the overwhelming majority of the population – the national interest; and 2) the merits of the existing systems involved or the possible other alternatives decrees that might have been more worthwhile and that would have far less adverse effects than the decree that was issued and has become "effective from the date of issuance". The process by which such decrees are enacted may be a long and intertwining one, with many government organs and branches involved. But, as is the case in Yemen, where presumably some semblance of marginal democracy have been allowed to be implanted, all legislation and regulation originate from the central government – and more specifically its executive branch – the Council of Ministers. The "law-making branch", or Parliament tends to become nothing more than surface dressing to give some aspect of "due process" manifestation and some degree of legitimacy to the legislation being enacted. The formulation of the law or decree is usually the job of the ministry with "jurisdiction" over the function involved, which is usually initiated by political decisions or to a need to overcome the absence of a legal framework to regulate the ministry's operations or the functions it oversees. Sometimes, and this is the problem we wish to look at, they are often the issuance of a law amending an existing law that may go against the maintenance of the existing autocratic order, that may have taken power after the existing law was issued. We have seen this often in the legislative history of the Republic of Yemen, where laws and systems, which may have been fairly good and proven to have worked, become the victims of total amendments that have done much harm to the disruption of successful institutions and systems. This is true of the Investment Law and the Law of the Cooperatives, where previous laws have proven to be far more successful

in harnessing investments, both foreign and Yemeni and activating a successful cooperative movement that was able to carry out several successful local development schemes and in building up local management potential for the running of such schemes, with a high degree of accountability. But the subsequent "amendments" to such laws have lead to the full stop on incoming private foreign investment (non-oil) and the government intervention in the cooperatives has literally frozen their attractiveness and their progress, if not killed the movement altogether.

In retrospect over the past thirty seven years of Yemen's history, since Yemen's break from its stubborn impregnable isolation and strong cling to the middle Ages and the subsequent sudden full fledged interaction with regional and international developments, politically, economically, socially and culturally with less intensity as one goes from left to right, Yemen has undoubtedly undergone significant changes. But unfortunately many of the changes were erratic sometimes volatile and often not productive or helpful towards introducing development on a wide scale that will filter down to all the elements of the society. The political changes have been many and often violent with many casualties and little in the sense of political progress for the general population. Regimes have come and gone over the years, shifting from military to civilian to partisan (South Yemen) and finally to tribal-military, as is the present status. Perhaps the most favorable form that the Republic has taken was the 1968-1973 regime that was civilian and generally democratic and which raised the hopes that the Republic was really on the right track. The military ended that in 1973 with the Al-Hamdi coup d'etat. While many would regard that period (Al-Hamdi, from 1973-1978) as the best years of the Republic – and they are right, economically speaking, but they tend to overlook the fact that the revolt brought the military back to the forefront politically and thus ended civilian rule. On the other hand with the Revolution came several erratic changes, which included the massive executions, imprisonment and exile of the vanguard of the Imam's regime, some of which could have helped to make a smooth transition to Republican rule, in view of their experience. But this created a big administrative vacuum that was filled by generally young inexperienced political opportunists, who could do no more than succumb to the "advice" of the Egyptian expeditionary forces that were sent to bolster the young Republic that was threatened with the return of the Royalists. Accordingly, the Egyptians introduced much of their bureaucracy and red tape that has lead to the creation of a similar bureaucratic order in Yemen, which

eventually developed into a conglomerate of constraints that, in fact, became a hindrance to real development.

When the Egyptians left and the Civil War ended, the surviving Republic tried to redirect Yemen's future towards meaningful progress and as stated before the 1968-1973 period represented the best political environment that the Republic could create. Al-Hamdi did not try to remove some of the institutional progress, economically and to a certain extent politically, other than giving the last word to the military. In fact the cooperative movement and local municipal rule were given the green light to develop on their own and indeed there was considerable progress made towards having effective local participation in many facets of public life.

The subsequent regimes, however were not so keen on allowing greater popular participation in political and economic decisions. In fact the subsequent regimes opted to remove much of the progress that was made in the Al-Iryani and Al-Hamdi regimes that eventually lead to the development of the tight centralized structure we have today. Many of the laws that were effective have been either "amended" or made useless, thus creating a lack of consistent legal frameworks for the Republic to operate on and creating confusion, as in many cases the amended laws were no improvement over the previous laws.

On the economic front, the government's insistence on removing local powers and ownership of resources has done more to hinder any hopes of fast development, as centralization has increased investment costs and removed the local management criteria, that is essential for the sound management of the natural and human resource base.

The point to be made here is that for development to be meaningful and progressive, there must be some consistency in how we manage our affairs. Moreover there must also be consistency between what we say and what we do, as that has been also a leading handicap of our dissemination of information. Words tend to not mean what they are commonly understood by most thinking people and tend to mean just what the government wants people to understand them to mean, which leads to problems in formulating policies and the strategies that are necessary for their implementation. This is probably evident by the pending Local Administration Law that is under debate and which has totally retranslated the concept of local government to reflect the same thing we are in now, but in a somewhat different format. There is no indication that there are really sufficient grounds for empowerment or ownership of resources implied. There are no indications that we have achieved the progress we were opting for by a new Local Administration Law.



Yemen Times Certificate of Merit Handed to Ayman Al-Gabiry

On Thursday October 28, Yemen Times honored Mr. Ayman Al-Gabiry by handing him the Yemen Times Certificate of Merit for his noble role in saving a man's life.

Our readers of the issue 39 - Volume 8 would most probably remember Mr. Ayman Al-Gabiry and recall his humane efforts in saving a worker's life. For the ones who did not read the article, here is a briefing. Mr. Ayman Al-Gabiry hurried out of his apartment upon hearing about a worker who fell into a pest and was pulled out as a dead body covered with dirt, etc.. Determined to help this person, Ayman used his first aid knowledge to save his life. He worked so hard on CPR until the worker came back once again to life before all the staring people who were shocked to see a miracle happening in front of them as they were all convinced he was dead and did nothing about it. Yemen Times paid its utmost gratitude to Mr. Ayman for his noble act, and invited him to the newspaper to hand him the Yemen Times certificate of merit. After submitting him the certificate, Mr. Ayman, who is a petroleum engineer working in Masila/Hadramout gave a short statement to the Yemen Times, "I thank the Yemen Times for this invaluable certificate which I will keep as a memory forever. I did what I did in the belief that every soul is important, and one must do his best to save it. I also would like to thank my company and my manager who had supported me all the way and taught me the techniques of first aid that truly paid off in saving the worker's life." Yemen Times once again congratulates Mr. Ayman for his courageous act, and wishes him and his company more success in the days to come.



YEMEN TIMES Certificate of Merit

Yemen Times has the honor of awarding Mr. Ayman Al-Gabiry this Certificate of Merit for his role in saving a worker's life through first-aid despite the seriousness of the worker's condition. We, hereby express our utmost gratitude wishing him all success in future.

Date: 15 October 1999

Chief Editor and Publisher



Chief Editor (right) handing Mr. Al-Gabiry the Certificate

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS (WFP) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The WFP is seeking to fill following vacancies in its Office in Sana'a. Interested applicants should deliver their applications alongwith their detailed CV's in English. Applications from qualified female candidates are encouraged. Applicants should be Yemeni nationals only.

1) PROGRAMME ASSISTANT

Under the supervision of the Programme Officer, the responsibilities of the Programme Assistant shall include but not be limited to the following:

- Prepare commodity distribution plan of each shipment.
- Monitor project implementation activities in various provinces through regular filed visits and formal reports, which include recommendations for management action.
- Prepare the Quarterly and Annual commodity progress reports based on review of, and extraction of information/statistics from, incoming monthly commodity reports submitted by project managers.
- Research, analyze data and prepare statistics, tables and charts on issues, such as, area production by province, agricultural production by crop; areas of national food "insecurity; and WFP delivery demographics.
- Support the Logistics section by monitoring financial and administrative arrangements for discharge, reception, transportation, storage, distribution, and accounting of WFP commodities.
- Draft correspondence relating to the Programme section in Arabic and English.
- Informal translation in Arabic and English for any incoming and outgoing correspondence.
- Assist for Technical appraisal and evaluation of project requests, particularly data collection.
- Arrange appointments for Programme Staff in Sana'a or visiting the field.
- Perform other duties assigned.

Qualifications:

- Completion of university.
- Accepting work in the afternoon and evening time and travel within the Country.
- Thorough knowledge of computer/Word processing and Excel and modern office experience and good knowledge of Arabic and English languages.

Experience: 2 to 3 years experience in the same field.

2) SENIOR SECRETARY (BILINGUAL)

Under the supervision of the Representative/Country Director, the responsibilities of the Senior Secretary shall include but not be limited to the following:

- During the absence of the secretary, register the incoming and outgoing mail/faxes and file of all correspondence.
- Draft routine letters and other correspondence/telexes as required.
- Assist WFP Country Director and other international s/m's by performing other duties, as required.
- Maintain the office's confidential file as well as personal status files.
- Assist in compilation of preliminary information and data required for the preparation of annual budgetary estimates for the WFP local operation costs and assists in preparing the estimates.
- Act as petty cash holder for office in Sana'a.
- Compile data and information from the monthly WFP IOV's which are required for the preparation of the Quarterly Allotment Status Report (S)
- Keep daily attendance leave records of WFP international and national staff and forward them to Personnel.
- Sort correspondences, faxes, reports and telexes for distribution to action officers.
- Send fax messages.
- Perform other duties assigned.

Qualifications:

- Completion of Secondary Education.
- Accepting work in the afternoon and evening time.
- Thorough knowledge of computer/Word processing and Excel and modern office experience and good knowledge of Arabic and English languages.

Experience: 2 to 3 years experience in secretarial work.

All applications to be submitted to the Representative by 7 November 1999 (12:00 hrs) inclosed envelope clearly marked from the top of the outside (APPLICATION) as well the post which you applied for at the following address: UNDP/WFP Building, Off 60 Meter Road, Sana'a or P. O. Box 7181 Sana'a, Republic of Yemen.

إربح الذهب

تتبنى صحيفة يمن تايمز بالتعاون مع مكتب (رفاه للإعلان والإعلان) مسابقة جوائزها ذهبية حيث ستقدم عدداً من الاسئلة على منشورات ملونة توزع مع الصحيفة. الشركات الراغبة في المساهمة والإعلان الإتصال بمكتب (رفاه

للإعلان والرعاية) المنظم للمسابقة. هاتف: ٢٠٥٠٩٩

هذه المسابقة تحت رعاية صحيفة (يمن تايمز).

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The Rafah Advertising Agency will organize in cooperation with the Yemen Times a new competition for GOLD. A number of questions will be presented on a colored advertisement poster. Companies, factories, etc. are hereby invited to seize this chance and advertise in the poster. For more information, please contact the Rafah Advertising Agency, Tel: 205099



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LANVIN

To commemorate the anniversary of the 26th of September and the 14th of October, and to celebrate the re-election of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, MAM International Corp. has

inaugurated its new showrooms - ROYAL and MAJESTY - the most prestigious in Yemen, as Sana'a Trade Center on the 10th of October under the auspices of, Mr. Hussein al Maswari, the

Royal, has very wide activities which contributed to the development of the country as it represents well known international groups including ALCA-TEL, OTIS Elevators and others.

After our visit to these showrooms, we can say that no one should miss enjoying the beauty of these two showrooms. They are really a step in the right direction.



Mayor of Sana'a and in the presence of many official dignitaries, diplomats and businessmen.

Yemen Times was there. We were impressed as were all present, by the unique finesse of the interior decoration, the high quality of displayed products which and the competitive prices.

MAGESTY, the ladies showroom, carries the latest make up and cosmetics, perfumes, hand bags, shoes and ready to wear, tableware and gift items... all of the most prestigious brands well known all over the world.

ROYAL, has the best brands of watches, pens, lighters, leather goods, and men shoes and clothes such as Lanvin, Hugo Boss, Lacoste, Church's...

It is known that MAM International Corp., the owner of Magesty and



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Teaching The Old People and The Literacy Drive

Abdul Galeel Radman

Many are the conferences and seminars held in various parts in the world to discuss illiteracy and means of its elimination due to its crucial importance at the

cation that suit the old people's abilities.

II) The home teaching for those who have no enough time to study in educational institutions.

III) The technical and training as usually in short courses.

IV) The social welfare programs

work included in the educational programs that aim at improving the general qualification and expanding of one's horizons to enable him to get better jobs

VIII) Encouraging the talented people to teach and train themselves by visiting libraries and conducting researches, and pursuing other activities

Teaching the old people has been given a special attention by the Yemeni government which has always tried to support the educational and training programs in all the training centers irrespective whether they are public or private. While marshalling support to strengthen the National Campaign for Illiteracy Elimination in 1981, Mr. Ahmad Mokhtar Ambu, General Manager of the UNESCO appreciated the efforts made by the Yemeni state in this regard.

Besides the contribution of the training centers in the Yemeni governorates, in training people especially in the field of electricity, mechanics, sewing, house craft etc, these centers offer courses according to the needs and interest of factories, organizations and authorities.

So far, the outcome of these two kinds of education has been limited in Yemen. Consequently, The need for another kind of education has emerged. This new kind of education is called the continual education. It is more flexible which explains why it has proved a great success in Japan.



present time. It is hardly surprising to find so many organizations all over the world devoted to promote the level of literacy. For example, one of the outcomes of the UNESCO meeting in 1976, held in Kenya, was the emphasis on the necessity of defining the nature of such kind of teaching. The participants defined the whole set of the organized educational operations disregarding the contexts of the curricula used and the method followed. Teaching the old people can take place in various levels according to their importance. Harris specified an order as follows

I) The primary or the Technical edu-

which, as Harris indicated, are the educational programs based on self-planning and self-aid which include programs of illiteracy elimination, raising the public awareness and others.

V) Education through the media including posters, general exhibitions, movies, and the like,

VI Entertainment studies, like skills training and teaching, teaching languages and sports

VII Cultural activities and library

Program	1979/1980	1984/1985	1988/1989
Basic skills	1167	1894	2541
Women skills	295	757	1328
Illiteracy elimination	213	751	7876
Agricultural guides	200	17	275
Total of the trainees	1675	3419	11950

A timetable showing the number of the trainees enrolled in the training centers during 1988-1989.

NATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (NBY) AND YEMEN COMPUTER CO. LTD. (YCC) JOINTLY SUCCEEDED IN OVERCOMING THE Y2K PROBLEM

National Bank of Yemen (NBY) is one of the major, fast growing reputed banks in the Republic of Yemen. Its roots go back to the beginning of the 1950's earning good reputation both inside the country and abroad. It has now 33 branches spread all over the Republic of Yemen. NBY, like all other major banks in this country, depends almost entirely on computers in carrying out all its banking and accounting work. Before entering into the third millennium, as in the case of all banks, companies and organizations all over the world who use computers for their transactions/work, NBY also had an unavoidable task of solving the Y2K problem for error free functioning of the computer system in the new millennium.

Mr. Sami Abdulhameed Makawi, Deputy General Manager for Statistics, Banking Credit and Computers, said that NBY, under the leadership of Mr. Abdulrahman Al Kuhali, Chairman of the Bank, had taken prompt decisions and acted early at the middle of the year 1998 to solve this problem.

NBY and YCC (who is the computer and applications software supplier and the computer together in full cooperation right from the beginning and have achieved the goal with great satisfaction to both the parties:

At the middle of 1998, NBY signed an agreement with YCC to do the following:

- 1) Upgrade the Operating System to Y2K compliant.
- 2) Modify and Update all the applications to suite Y2K and after.

As per the contract YCC successfully installed and tested at NBY Sana'a Branch, the first Y2K compliant OS. By March 1999 all branches of NBY had the new Y2K compliant OS successfully installed and tested.

The upgrade of the Application Systems was accomplished

in two phases:

- I) Preparation of essential programs to modify all the data from the old system to the new system.
- II) Updating and modifying all the banking programs to suit to the Y2K, printing, logics and accounting operations.

In April 1999, the modified banking system was installed in Queen Arwa branch. This was tested by running both the old and the modified systems running parallel for two days during which checking of daily and monthly transactions and reports was completed with correct results. The branch faced no problem during this test application. On the 2nd of May 1999, the branch started using the modified applications without facing any problem. After this successful installation at the Queen Arwa branch, the modified applications are successfully installed in all other branches.

After the successful installation of Operating System and Applications System, the Management of NBY and YCC decided to carrying out actual test on the Y2K compliant Operating System. This test was carried out at Queen Arwa branch for 3 days starting from 10th October 1999. Opening and closing of the system accompanied by entry of sample transactions with new millennium dates were done. The tests were completed successfully with the right results on the screen and in the printout reports. Cross-checking is done by manual calculations. The NBY Committee constituted for dealing with the Y2K problem has approved the modified systems.

The Management of National Bank of Yemen, while conveying its message to all its customers and dealers that it has successfully solved the Y2K problem, takes this opportunity to convey its assurance of full cooperation and prompt services in future.

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To obtain an International Driving License:

- an application form must be filled
- valid driving license (Yemeni, Mid-eastern, European or American)
- Two 4X6 photographs
- Fees: YER 4500 for Yemenis and US\$ 45 for non-Yemenis

For more information, please visit or call:

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Issue no.
44

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

This Competition is sponsored by

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برعاية الشركة الوطنية لصناعة الإسفنج والبلاستيك المحدودة

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 بخذ واضع وارسلها الى 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، وسيمنح الفائز بالمركز الاول مبلغ 8000 ريال والثاني 5000 ريال والثالث 4000 ريال والرابع 3000 ريال. وحتى ينسحب للجميع ارسال الاجوبة الى البريد الصحيفة فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحا لمدة اسبوعين من يوم الاصدار (أي بعد 13 يوما من الاصدار). ستشتر أسماء الفائزين في العدد بعد الاقدام لاستلام جوائزهم. كما نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مظهر الرسالة.

بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون 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.

Answers sent by fax or photocopy will not be accepted.



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بلاسكو

Question of the Week

What is the most important thing the government should conduct?

Answer:

Article's Title: _____ Page no. _____

Your Name: _____

City/Province: _____ Address: _____

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تعزية

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وكامل اخوانهم

وذلك بوفاة والدهم

الشيخ / أحمد حسن ضبعان

تقدم الله الفقيد بواسع رحمته وألهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان،
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محمد سلام الأصبحي، توفيق يوسف فارع القدسي

تهانينا

نهني ونبارك للأخ العزيز

محمد علي قاسم الدبعي

بمناسبة زفافه الميمون، وألف مبروك

وعقبال البكري إنشاء الله

المهنؤون: أسرة صيدلية الشرق

عنهم:

صلاح الدين الدبعي، شهيد محمد الدبعي،

محمد أمين الدبعي، رافع صلاح الدين الدبعي،

محمد أحمد القباطي، عثمان علي جميل

نهني ونبارك للأخ

حافظ طريوش

وذلك بمناسبة سفره إلى مصر لدراسة

الماجستير في الاقتصاد

نتمنى له التوفيق والنجاح.

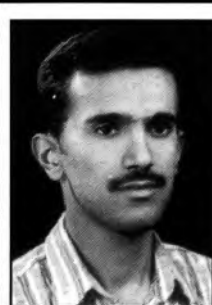
المهنؤون:

ريدان عبدالعزيز السقاف،

نصري أبو بكر السقاف،

هشام القباطي

وجميع موظفي يمن تايمز.



Answer of 42nd Issue Competition:

"The unemployment rate in Yemen is more than 40%" - Article
"Population explosion a global menace - Silver Lining - Page 5

Winners of the 42nd Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Wafa'a Ali Mohammed Hatem, Taiz

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Saeed Ahmed Ghaleb Al-Adeemi, Sana'a

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Mohammad Hassan Mohammad Kaid, Dhamar

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Fahd Nagy Mohammad Saeed Al-Samei, 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

This weekly education supplement is presented every week by
Dr. Ramakanta Sahu,
 Associate Professor,
 College of Education, Mahweet

LESSON 3

I) What to say.....

INFORMAL INTRODUCTIONS

- Mohammed:** Bakil, who's that tall boy in black suit, next to Yahya?
- Bakil:** That's Khalid Al-Qazahy. Didn't you meet him at the City Center market complex?
- Mohammed:** I think I did. But I didn't speak to him.
- Bakil:** Oh! Then let me introduce you to him. Khalid, this is my friend Mohammed.
- Khalid:** Hi. Mohammed. I'm glad to meet you.
- Mohammed:** I'm glad to meet you, too. Can't we talk over a cup of tea?
- Khalid:** Sure. Let's go to that restaurant and sit over there.

Notes:

- a) **Who's** is the contracted form of **who is**. Its pronunciation is very similar to **whose** /hu:z/. You should try to understand which is being used from the context.
- b) **Didn't you meet him?** Notice the use of the negative question. A negative question is generally used when we expect a positive or an affirmative answer. But here it is used to express surprise and a negative answer.
- c) **Khalid. This is** Notice the introducer first mentions the name of the person to whom someone is being introduced which is a courteous way of introduction. When the name is uttered, it is usually done with a rising intonation.
- d) **Hi** is an informal equivalent of **hello**.
- e) **I'm glad to meet you.** While saying this statement, you emphasize to indicate the speaker's interest or inclination.
- f) **Can't we talk.....** This means 'would you like to talk.....'
- g) **Sure** is often used in informal conversations to give the same meaning as 'yes, certainly, of course, etc.'

II) How to say it correctly

Nouns

- The old lady who was crushed to death by a speeding truck was walking in the center of the road.
- My uncle's friend's son is a doctor.
- Good night. How do you do?

Quest for Excellence



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

We live in times of great change, times of innovation, times which demand more of us than ever before. As individuals preparing ourselves to welcome the new millennium, we have to embrace such change and wake up to the new challenge in order to stay at the forefront of socio-academic life. Only then can we continue to maintain its tradition of excellence and opportunity.

No country can ever achieve allround progress and development, in true sense of the term, without ensuring adequate development of its human potential and other resources. Human resource is one of the key areas to be harnessed. It is crucially linked with the maximization of the inner potential of the individuals. This, in turn, implies proper and timely identification of the inner reserves of the human being and finding out an appropriate channel for their self expression. This brings to focus the tremendous value of the quest for excellence.

It is now widely realised that consequent upon our adoption of the policy of liberalisation of economy in the era of globalization, there is a felt need to project ourselves as self-sustaining human beings capable of adopting the framework of global mainstream and adapting ourselves to the latest challenges. At the same time we can never afford to close our eyes to the immense need of ensuring full flowering of the moral, ethical and spiritual values for carving out a healthy social order, consistent with the rapid technologization of the human life.

All of us are painfully aware of the fast and phenomenal decadence of humanly traits in the recent times, making life spiritually hollow and sapping inner strength and substance. It is this endemic degeneration of sterling human values which poses a potentially intimidating threat to the growth and sustenance of the quality of human life on the globe, thereby making the quest for excellence an unavoidable imperative.

Excellence can be achieved at the intellectual, personal and social planes. At the intellectual level, the pursuit of excellence can take the shape of achieving an open mind, a mind alive to new ideas, sensitive to innovation, willing to contribute one's best not only in the realm of ideas, but in the domain of life style, and social practice. We, especially the younger generation, should relentlessly strive to imbibe lateral thinking, and harbour novel scaffolding of ideas. We should have the courage and the strength to combat orthodoxy of rotten and decadent ideas and revive seminal ideas propagated by our ancient sculptures. A network of thinking fora and NGO's can strive to make the socially useful and productive ideas percolate to grassroot levels. We can collectively turn the ancient vedic dictum into tangible reality: "Let knowledge come to us from all sides".

At the personal or individual level the quest for excellence may be characterised as enrichment of the self. This can be achieved by sincerely trying hard to minimise infirmities of various types, idiosyncrasies of temper, and maximization of the qualities of head and heart as well as cultivation of strength of character. We should perceptively look around to identify instances of excellence of character

and manners. Our objective should be to edify ourselves by emulating the life and ideals of men who by virtue of their inherent virtues, have made themselves faces in the crowd. As a poet says "Lives of great men teach us to make our own life sublime". Purity of mind, transparency in manners and a general feeling of empathy should form the tripod of our being. Only then can we reflect the best in our pursuit of excellence at the individual plane.

In the social sphere, we should leave no stones unturned for an ideal neighbourliness and a healthy social cohesiveness. A robust community life at the macro level is heavily contingent on a crystalline personal life at the micro level. If each one realises his/her share of the responsibility in this regard, it is a small wonder that we archive the haven of peace on the earth.

Excellence is a journey, not a destination. It's a process, not a product. It involves a constant quest for the conquest in thought and action. Clear sighted determination in crystallising this into a concrete action plan tempered by continual self-monitoring is the very foundation of achieving excellence. In the fitness of things, let us mobilize and integrate our inner reserves for nurturing the spark of the divine in us, culminating in the truest reflection of our worth as human beings. As we are fast approaching towards the new millennium, every individual needs to look back in retrospect, reflect on his strength and shortcomings and decide upon the agenda of action for promoting innovation and creativity. Then only can we truly belong to the 21st century. May the motto of the new millenium be: Quest for excellence.

- One of these men's sons was killed in the recent police firing.
- The juries consist of ten members.

The above sentences are not grammatically well formed. Can you identify which part of the sentence has the error? (Answers in the next issue)

III) How to say it in one word?

- A child whose parents are dead
- A Minister representing a sovereign or state in a foreign country
- A person sent on a mission (usually official)
- A person who is indifferent to pleasure or pain.
- One who defends his country's freedom.

(Answers in the next issue)

IV) How to spell it correctly.....

Make meaningful words from the following groups of jumbled letters.

trycnuo, pelsruea, nrtesiet, elscet, iexepcnere

Answers to last week's Quiz

- A person who can neither read nor write: **illiterate**
 A person who spends his money recklessly: **spendthrift**, **prodigal**, **extravagant**
 A person who lives by himself: **recluse**
 A woman whose husband is dead: **widow**
 A man whose wife is dead: **widower**

Solutions to last week's Spelling Quiz:

woman, foreign, student, follow, answers

Quotable Quote

"A stitch in time saves nine"

Articles, contributions, questions, and comments regarding this section should be sent to:
Yemen Times (Education Supplement)
 P.O. Box: 2579, Sanaa - Yemen. You may also fax them to: (01) 268 276

Developing the Art of Acquiring Information

Acquiring a mass of relevant information, preserving it for future use and presenting the same in the examination script in an orderly fashion constitute the basic requirement of all students, to whichever faculty or discipline they may belong. As a matter of fact, one's success in studies is to a large extent determined by the efficiency with which one is able to accomplish this task.

Some students are quite adept in the art of locating the source of information, selecting the ones necessary for them in terms of the degree of their importance, preserving them for the right time and right occasion, as well as utilizing them in a proper manner. But others are not so particular about these points. As a result they end up groping in the dark about necessary information when the examination is round the corner. In their utter despair, they do not know what to do. They run to others for help, but hardly find any. Some of them resort to malpractice in the examination. In trying to cheat others, they actually cheat themselves.

In order to avoid such an unfortunate situation, all students should be familiar with the simple techniques of acquiring information and storing information in the form of notes. For this purpose, students should know the principles of note taking and note making. If they practice these techniques, they would be more and more self-dependent or autonomous learners and less and less dependent on external sources. They would, further, know how to utilize the library for their purpose, how to use the dictionary and thereby be confident language learners. Our purpose, here, is to discuss some of these for the benefit of our students.

Let us first discuss the different ways in which a student can acquire information. In the first place, he/she can acquire information from his/her teachers, in three main ways:

- listening to the lecture in classrooms,
 - interacting with the tutor during discussion sessions in tutorial or proctorial sessions, or,
 - gathering information from the tutor's lecture notes, called handouts.
- However, without always depending on the teacher's lecture in classrooms, one should keep one's eyes and ears open and acquire a lot of information from outside. In fact, one of the differences between intelligent students and less intelligent ones is this, that the former keep the antenna of their mind sensitive or active and absorb the necessary information quickly as it comes. Such persons naturally develop a more complete, wholesome outlook. They don't just have bookish knowledge, but a lot of practical wisdom about other things as well, which makes the knowledge they acquire from the books more meaningful and helps them build a multi-faceted personality. The latter kind of students only depend on the tutor or the books. Such people have an essentially narrow outlook. Their mind is not as sharp as their friends.

So, what are these outside sources? These 'outside experts' are by and large, reading outside books, listening to the radio such as BBC or programs cassette recordings, or watching educational TV programs. In the new age of information technology, the print media such as newspapers and the electronic media like the TV and radio play a very important role to supplement the classroom teaching. Admittedly, in the modern age, if a student depends only on the tutor, he/she is very likely to remain very limited in his outlook.

Thirdly, a student can get much of the vital information he/she needs by discussions with his/her peers during informal discussions or seminars or classroom discussions. As one of my students in Mahweet has reported, some girls have set up a study circle there where each member of the circle

reports in its weekly session what she has read. This is an admirable way of sharing information.

Last but not least. One can be a powerful source of information for oneself. He/she can acquire information from himself/herself by critically thinking about his/her subject as well as comparing and contrasting it with what he/she has already acquired from various sources. By such an exercise, one can sharpen one's mind and develop a way of evaluation of experience.

Now let us try to arrange the aforesaid information in a note form, using headings, numbering, etc. as a worked out example for you:

Gathering information from:

I. Tutors

- lecture
- tutorial
- handouts

II. Other experts

- reading outside books/journals
- listening to radio, cassettes
- watching educational TV programs

III. Peers or fellow students

- classroom discussions
- tutorial/proctorial work
- informal conversation

IV. Self:

Thinking about the subject and linking it with what one has heard and seen before.

You can now see how a lot of information has been condensed into a simple chart which is easy to remember. At the time of need, you can develop each point in order to make it into a coherent composition. In this way you can practice preparing a note when someone is giving a lecture, or gather useful information from some other source for your future use.

I hope, you'll try similar exercises and derive benefit from it for acquiring information more efficiently.

Good luck to you.

Crossword Puzzle

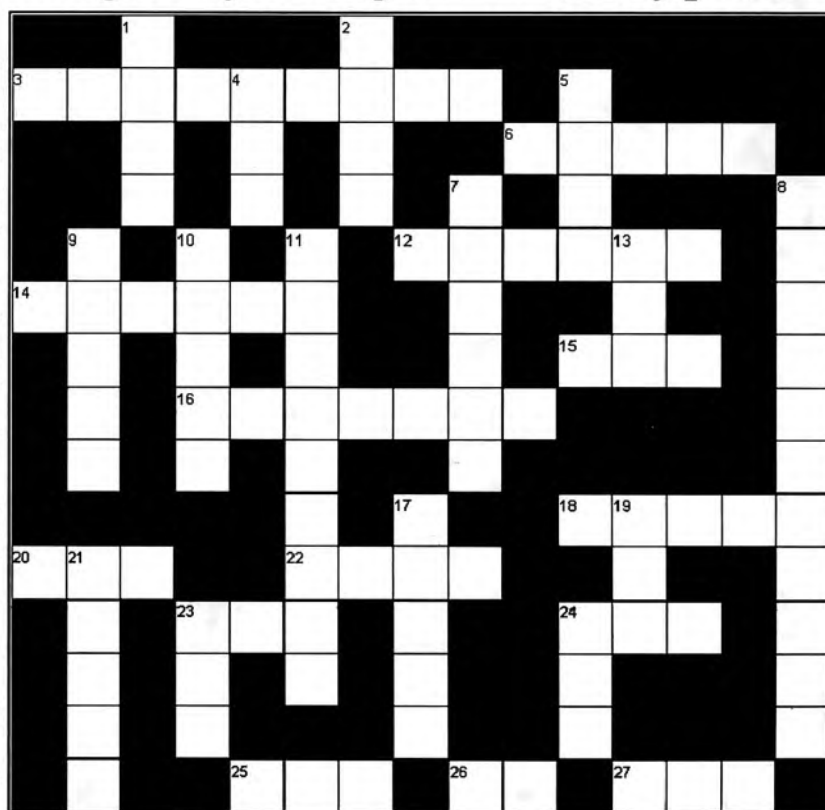
Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

Across Clues:

- People read the _____ to know what happened in the last day.
- I was _____ when my mother came home. I was glad to see her.
- The ship dropped its _____ so it would not drift out of the harbor.
- _____ is made from milk. I like cheddar _____ and Swiss _____.
- _____ your apple to my apple and we have two apples.
- _____ is the tenth month of the year. It is fall month.
- A _____ looks like a horse with black and white stripes. _____s live in Africa.
- I have two _____s. I use them to h_____.
- A _____ is a loud noise.
- A _____ is an insect that makes honey. It has a stinger.
- A _____ is a female chicken. _____s lay eggs.
- A _____ is a small insect with wings.
- An _____ is a tool which is used to cut wood.
- This loaf of bread has n't been sliced yet. I will _____ a piece for myself.

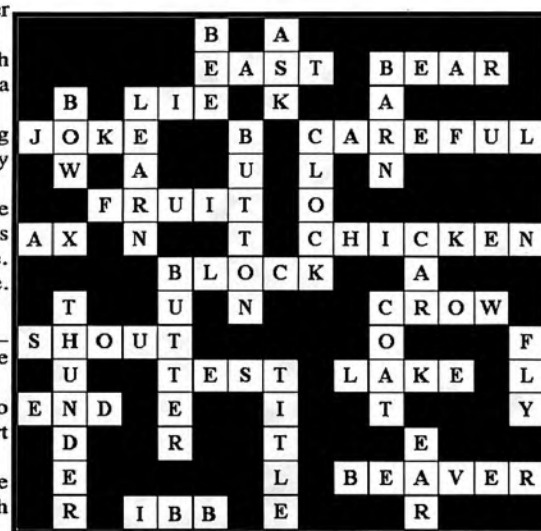
Across Down:

- Mona and Afaf are _____ sisters. They were born on the same day.
- I must _____ the door before I enter my house.
- _____s are raised on farms. Pork comes from _____s.
- I always _____ my hands before I eat.
- When I know the _____ to the teacher's question, I raise my hand.
- I have two _____s. One is my mother's father. The other is my father's father.



- When I want someone who is far away to hear me, I _____.
- Ants live _____ the ground. They live under the ground.
- _____ is the ninth month of the year. It is a fall month.
- My pet is getting _____. It has lived many years.
- I _____ my house through the door. That is where I go into the house.
- I use my _____s to see. I have two _____s.
- I am standing _____ my friends. I am in the middle of them.
- A _____ is used to shoot an arrow in the sport of archery.
- Be careful. The stove is very _____. If you touch it, it will burn you.

Last Week's Answer



Handicrafts in the Old City of Sana'a on the Wane

Yasser M. Ahmad,
Yemen Times

The old city of Sana'a has sustained a number of handicrafts and public markets that help Yemenis earn living, especially in the present time. These markets as well as handicrafts have become part and par-

decades. Here they used to meet to sell and buy commodities to sustain themselves. In general, Yemen has been famous for its markets, however, the old city of Sana'a is still very much distinguished for its special features reflecting the past. The handicrafts products are scattered in many shops of these markets which include the following:



Many tourists are fascinated to see all these things in Yemen and they appreciate such talented people. This is evident from the fact that they sometimes stand

There are also some other markets such as perfume, animals markets, etc.

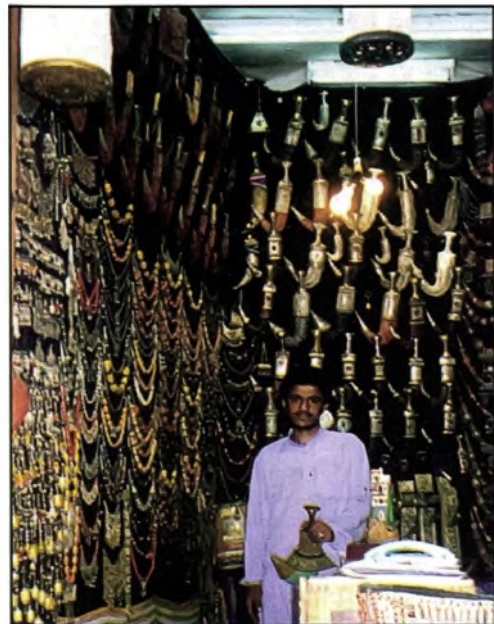
So far, the government has done nothing to preserve such a heritage that is

on the wane. The best they could do is to conduct a very drastic campaign against peddlers who vend in streets. They believe that by doing this, they help preserve our old heritage and such handicrafts. On the contrary, they are only worsening the conditions of these poor people who have nothing in hand to do.

What the government can do is that special attention and support should be given to these handicrafts. It is also required to maintain these

places and make them places fit enough to be visited by tourists. Exhibitions should also be organized so as to make our handicrafts known to all the people. The government should also provide all these handicraftsmen with all the facilities and assistance to encourage them.

If such places and workers are well looked after, the old city of Sana'a will be able to retain its old features that are gradually disappearing from the face of earth in course of time.



cel of their lives. These public markets have been related to the Yemenis throughout the past

Carpentry Market:

In this market you can buy wood from farmers outside the city of Sana'a. Wood is dried under the sun, after being cut, so as to lose some of its weight. The most important of these wood giving trees are "tanab" which are used to make doors. Then, it is the job of the craftsmen to give these doors a distinctive stamp of beauty which illustrates the great artistic skills Yemenis still possess. Such doors are actually very expensive as there is a scarcity of this kind of trees. Therefore, some



people have started using some other trees that are cheaper and more readily available. As a result these craftsmen have started forgetting those magnificent engravings on doors.

Molding Gold, Silver and Copper's Market:

Workers in these markets shape silver, gold as well as copper to be used as jewelry for women. They also make beautiful types and antique forms. They make very beautiful rings, necklaces, medals, Yemeni swords, etc. Lots of people tend to decorate their Jambias with golden pieces.

Manufacturing Iron tools Market:

A small manufacturing complex where you could see various products used in digging out wells, or earth in the old city of Sana'a. Farmers use such tools in ploughing earth as well as in harvesting.

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CONSTRUCTION OF MECHANICAL
AND HEAVY CIVIL PROJECTS

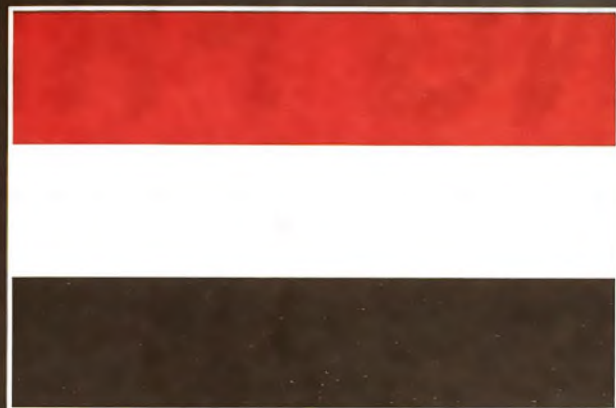
- ⊕ Petrochemical plants, refineries.
- ⊕ Heavy, light industrial plants.
- ⊕ Power and desalination plants.
- ⊕ Fuel and water storage tanks.
- ⊕ Oil fields ancillary installations.
- ⊕ Air purification for industry.
- ⊕ Marine docks, harbours, deep sea berths & refinery terminals.
- ⊕ Offshore structures and underwater works.
- ⊕ Pipelines construction and maintenance.
- ⊕ Prefabricated accommodation & office facilities.
- ⊕ Sewage treatment plants & collection networks.
- ⊕ Airports, roads, highways, bridges & fly-overs.
- ⊕ High quality buildings & sports complexes.
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YEMEN TIMES



**YEMEN
&
GERMANY**



*Thirty Years of Continuous
Cooperation and Strong
Friendship*

30 Years



THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

AN EVERLASTING FRIEND OF YEMEN

The day 14 July 1969 marked the historical day of the resumption of the diplomatic relationships between Yemen and Germany after an alienation of 4 years. Following that, a conference took place in Bonn to discuss the continuation of the cooperation and development policy between the two countries. This stage was a herald marking the birth of a new period of prosperity of the friendship between Germany and Yemen.

There is no doubt that the Yemeni-German Friendship has developed since then intensively and is now more solidly established. This is attributed to the fact that both countries have had common experiences in their history, which on top of, is the reunification of both republics that came to being in the same year. Since their unification, Germany proved to be of great support through its tenacious stand on the side of Yemen's reunification during the separation war. One also can not deny the economic and financial support that Germany had granted to Yemen during the previous three decades which had contributed a lot to the development of various sectors in our country. Therefore, in the event of celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Yemeni-German friendship we as the Yemen



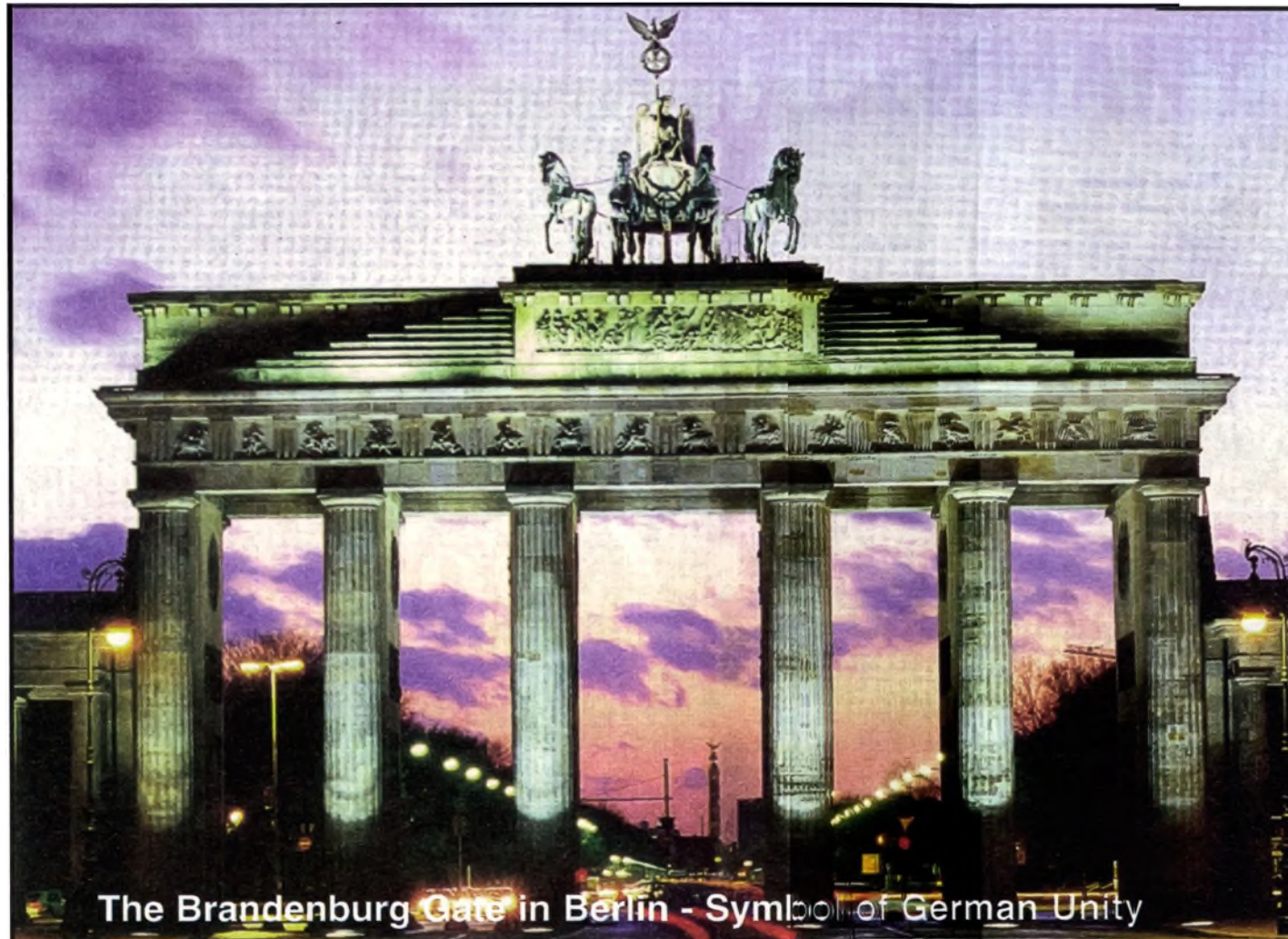
Times, hereby, would like to present some facts about the Federal Republic of Germany to all our readers:

The Federal Republic of Germany is situated in the heart of Europe. It has nine neighbors: Denmark in the north, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and France in the west, Switzerland and Austria in the south, and the Czech Republic as well as Poland in the east. The Federal Republic of Germany covers an area of about 357,000 square kilometers.

German tribes such as the Franks, the Saxons, the Swabians and the Bavarians. These old tribes have of course long since lost their original character. But their traditions and dialects live on in their respective regions. German is one of the large groups of the Indo-Germanic languages, and within that one of Norwegian, Swedish, Dutch and Flemish, but also English.

Germany is friendly towards foreign-

The total length of the country's borders is 3,785 km. Germany has a population of approximately 82.0 million (including 7.3 million foreigners) and is one of the most densely populated countries in Europe (229 people per sq. km). Only Belgium, the Netherlands, Great Britain and Northern Ireland have a higher population density. The German nation essentially grew out of number of



The Brandenburg Gate in Berlin - Symbol of German Unity

ers. Of the country's approximately 82.0 million inhabitants (1996), 7.3 million are foreigners. They were all glad to come and stay in Germany, for decades there were no racial problems. The Category of "guest workers", initially consisting of Italians, was extended to include Greeks and Spaniards, and then Portuguese, Yugoslavs and Turks. Occasional tensions in everyday life were far outweighed by the friendships made with neighbors and colleagues at work.

Up to the last century, it was a widely held belief that German history began in the year A.D.9. That was when Arminius, a prince of a Germanic tribe called the Cherusci, vanquished three Roman legions in the Teutoburg Forest (southeast of modern-day Bielefeld). Arminius, about whom not much else is known, was regarded as the first German national hero, and a huge memorial to

him was built near Detmold in the years 1838-1875. Nowadays a less simplistic view is taken. The fusing of a German nation



was a process which took hundreds of years. The word "Deutsch" (German) probably began to be used in the 8th century and initially defined only the language spoken in the eastern part of the Franconian realm. This empire, which reached the zenith of its power under Charlemagne's death (814), it soon fell apart. In the course of vari-

ous inheritance divisions, a western and an eastern realm developed, whose political boundary approximately coincided with the boundary between German and French speakers. Only gradually did a feeling of cohesion develop among the inhabitants of the eastern realm. Then the term "deutsch" was transferred from the language to its speakers and ultimately to the region they lived in, "Deutschland".

The Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany was adopted in 1949. Its authors intended it as a "temporary" framework for a new democratic system, not as a definitive constitution. The Basic Law called upon the people "to achieve in free self-determination the unity and freedom of Germany". As the time passed, the Basic Law was proved to be a solid foundation for democracy. Its requirement of national reunification was fulfilled in 1990. The preamble and concluding article of the Basic Law were amended in the accordance with the Unification Treaty, which formed the basis for the accession of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) to the Federal Republic. They now state by virtue of the GDR's accession, the German People have achieved their unity. Since 3 October 1990 the Basic Law has been valid for the whole nation.



The constitutional bodies

The Federal President. The head of the state of the Federal Republic of Germany is the Federal President. He is elected by the Federal Convention, a constitutional body which convenes only for this purpose. It consists of the members of the Bundestag and an equal number of members is elected by the state parliaments. The Federal President is elected for a term of five years with the majority of votes in the Federal Convention. He may be only re-elected once.

The Bundestag. The German Bundestag is the parliamentary assembly representing the people of the

reached with the other party in a coalition.

The Federal Constitutional Court. The Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe is the guardian of the Basic Law. It rules, for instance, on disputes between the Federal Government and the federal states or between individual federal institutions. Only this court has the power to declare that a party constitutes a threat to freedom and democracy and is therefore unconstitutional, in which case it order that party's dissolution. The Federal Capital. On 10 May 1949, the university town of Bonn on the Rhine, which at the time had a population of about 100,000, was chosen as the provisional federal capital (in the face of strong competition, especially from Frankfurt and Mainz) by the parliamentary Cou. The Bundestag confirmed this decision on 3 November 1949. After the reunification of Germany, the German Bundestag on 20 June 1991 resolved by a majority of 337 to 320 to move the parliament and the government from Bonn to Berlin.

Since the epochal changes of 1989/90, Germany has found itself in a fundamentally altered policy arena. The end of the confrontation between East and West has created new freedom for all the states which were once caught in the maelstrom of ideological tensions. Previously inconceivable forms of cooperation are now possible in the whole of Europe and the world. Germany's foreign policy will continue to be guided by its interests and oriented towards fundamental values. As in the past, it will also be based on the country's permanent anchoring in the community of free democracies and its membership in the European Union and Atlantic Alliance. This translates into six major foreign policy objectives:

1. The continuing progress of European Union;
2. The further development of NATO;
3. The stabilization of the reform process in Central and Eastern Europe together with the necessary support;
4. Responsible participation in the United Nations;
5. Partnership with developing countries; and
6. The safeguarding of Germany's attractiveness as an industrial and business location.

Currently, the Federal Republic of Germany maintains diplomatic relations with nearly all of the countries of the world. It has more than 230 embassies and consular posts as well as twelve missions at international organizations.

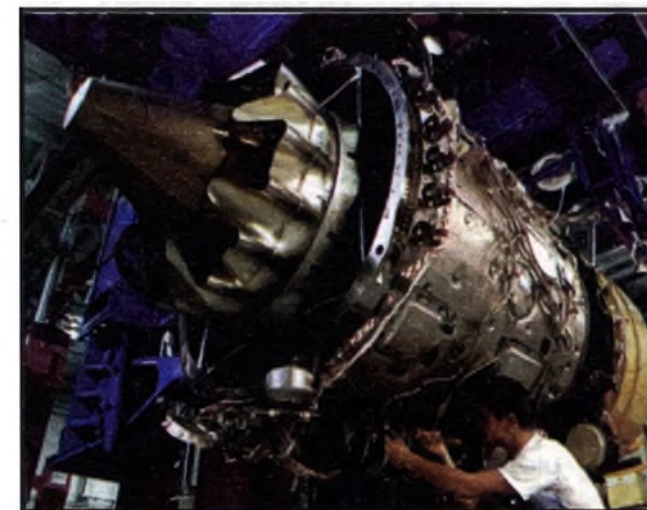
The mainstay of the German economy is industry. In 1996 the approximately 47,000 industrial enterprises in Germany employed close to 605 million people. However, only about 1.7 percent of industrial enterprises are large companies with more than 1,000 employees; nearly three quarters are firms with fewer than 100 on the payroll. Thus the great majority of industrial enterprises in Germany are of small or medium size companies. Yet, about 32 percent (2.2 million) of the total workforce in the industrial sector are employed by firms with more than 1,000 employees. Siemens alone, for instance, employs 373,000. The relatively small number of big companies account for just under 40 percent of industry's total turnover. Many of these firms are known throughout the world and have branches or research facilities overseas. They include the

car makers Volkswagen, BMW and Daimler Benz, the chemical corporations Hoechst, Bayer and BASF, the Ruhmkohle AG, the electrical equipment manufacture Siemens, the energy group VEBA and RWE, and the Bosch group. Nearly all of them are a stock corporations. They are extremely important for a wide variety of small and medium-sized suppliers. Germany is not only a highly industrialized country. It also has an efficient agriculture sector which produces a broad range of high-quality foodstuffs. About half of Germany's total area of just under 36 million hectares is given over farming. The German agricultural sector also has functions which are taking on increasing significance in a modern industrial society; it insures that rural settlement can function efficiently and preserves cultivated landscapes that have developed over centuries. But like other sectors of the economy, agriculture has undergone profound structural changes in the past 40 years.

For decades the commercial sector in Germany has accounted for about ten percent of gross value added. Just under five million people - one eighth of the total work force - are now employed in approximately 620,000 commercial enterprises (wholesale and retail). Although there has been a

marked tendency for companies to merge, most are still in the small or medium-sized category.

Nowhere is the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany more evident than metropolis comparable to Paris in France or London in England. The considerable cultural autonomy of the federal states has led to the formation of the large and small culture centers with different profiles. Cultural and scholarly activity is to be found even in small towns and communities. The country's federal structure ensures the cultural diversity will be preserved and that the intensive exchange will take place between its cities and cultural institutions - at the international level as well. This diversity is apparent simply from the regional distribution of the different cultural institutions and activities in Germany. The Deutsche Bibliothek (German Library) is located in Frankfurt am Main, with branches in Berlin and Leipzig. The Federal Records Office is headquartered in Koblenz and has branches in a number of cities including Bayreuth, Berlin, Freiburg im Breisgau and Potsdam. Hamburg had the largest concentration of media; Cologne, Düsseldorf and Kassel are just three of the centers of modern art. Berlin has the most the-



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aters. The Academies of Science have their seat in Berlin, Dusseldorf, Göttingen, Heidelberg, Leipzig, Mainz and Munich. The principal museums are situated in Berlin, Cologne, Frankfurt am Main, Hildesheim, Munich, Nuremberg and Stuttgart. The two most important literary archives are in Marbach and Weimar.

Sports are a favorite leisure-time activity in Germany. This is reflected not only in the popularity of television broadcasts but also in the fact that there are more than 86,000 clubs affiliated with the Deutscher Sportbund (DSB; German Sports Federation). Approximately 26.3 million people are members of a sports club - nearly 25 percent of the entire population - and another 12 million "do their own thing". Sports organizations in Germany are self-governing. They receive support from the state only where they lack necessary funds. The most popular sport in Germany is soccer. It is played by thousands of amateur clubs. It is also an immensely popular spectator sport, attracting hundreds of thousands of people to professional games every week during the regular season. The German national soccer team has won the World Cup three times. Sports such as Tennis, golf, ice Hockey and baseball are enjoying increasing popularity.

Finally, Germany has proven to be a country of great-doings throughout its history. It has contributed a lot to its people in particular and to the world in the larger scale. Yet, Germany has not run out of resources and it still has got a lot to donate to the humanity in the upcoming millennium. We as Yemenis feel privileged to be a friend of such a great nation.



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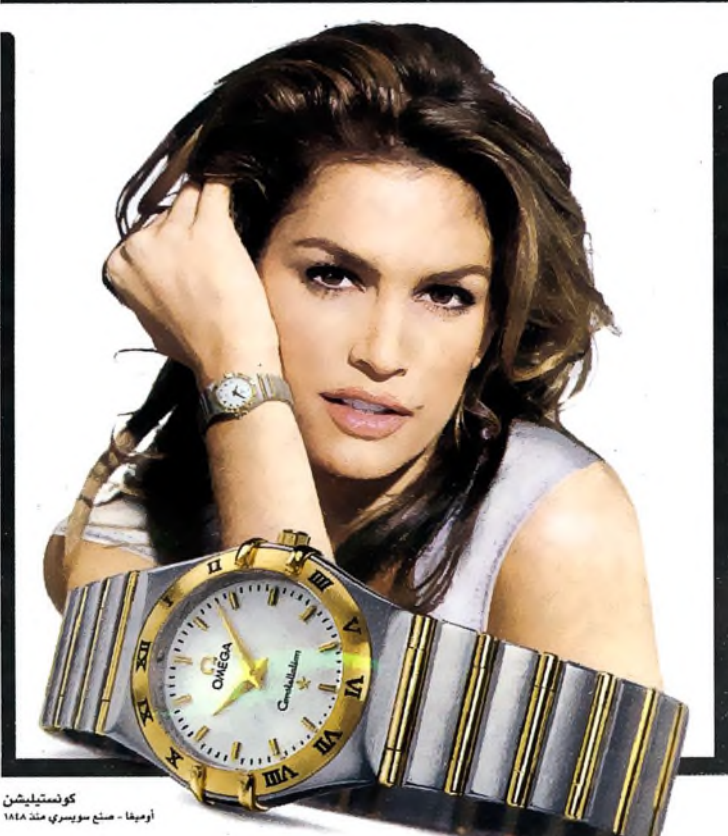
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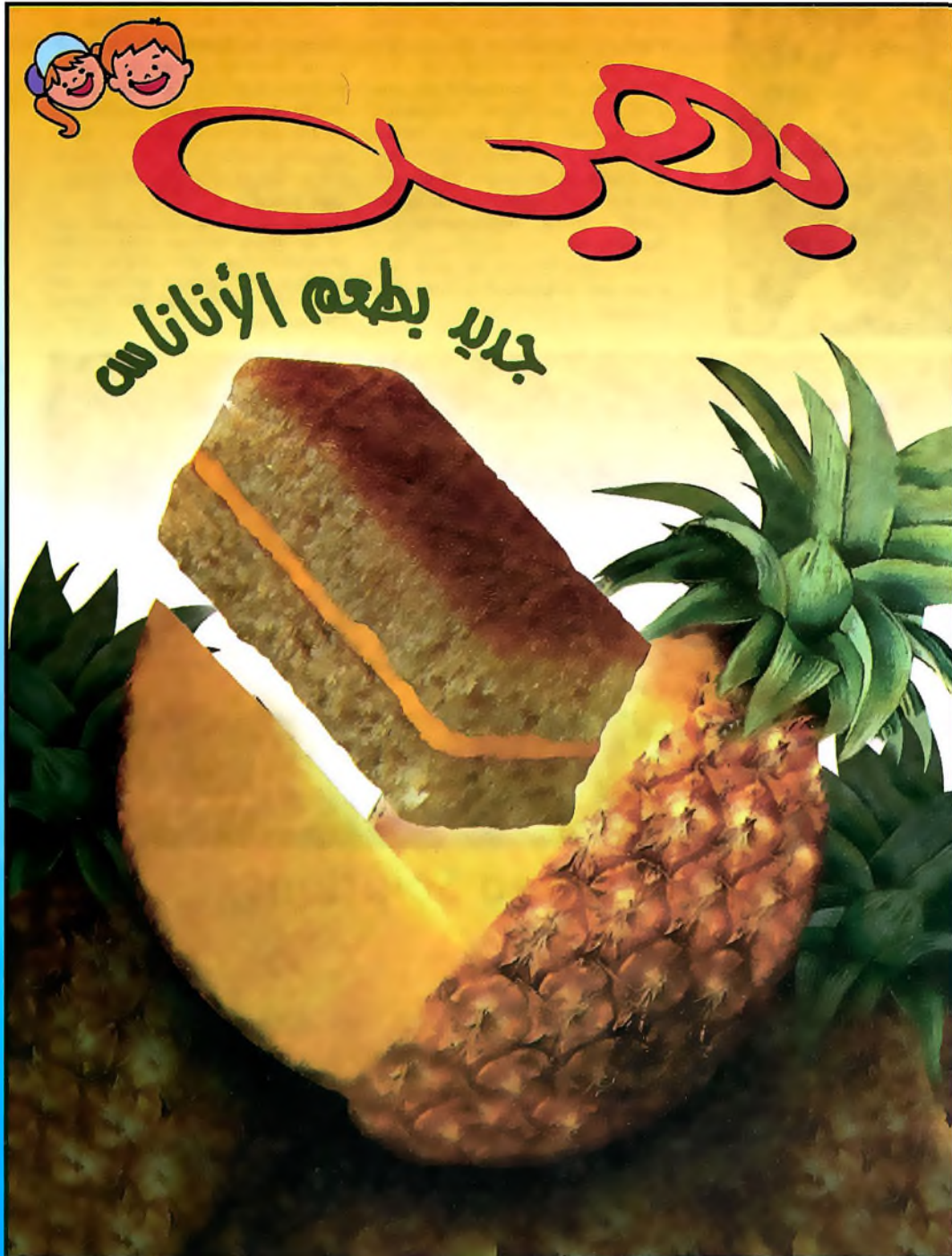
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الجمهورية اليمنية

Beautiful Scenes from The Federal Republic of Germany

No one can deny the fact that there are many beautiful sceneries in Germany. It has greenish mountains, fabulous natural beauties which capture the minds of tourists and visitors alike from the first seen. On this wonderful occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the resumption of political relations between Yemen and Germany, we here display a number of beautiful images that indicate the true dimensions of natural beauty in a gorgeous and friendly country like Germany.



١-٥ نوفمبر 1-5 November

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