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YEMEN TIMES



Sana'a: (01) 268551, 249878 Aden: (02) 221223; Taiz (04) 225383 Hodeida: (03) 217490; Mukalla: (05) 354844 Seiyoun: (05) 404288; Ibb: (04) 407418

Monday, 8 November, 1999 - VOL. VIII . Issue No. 45 Price 30 Yemeni Riyals Founded in 1991 by Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

No.1 Cooprate in the world C.E.W Red Block 60 metres Rd. Sana'a - R.O YEMÉN-PO BOX 119243 Tel.: (967) 2- 14180/413330. fax: 414179 E-Mail Address: cew-yemen@o





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Partner

Your Reliable Logistics

As always, Yemen Times continues to investigate the truth. Our readers know that all we publish in our articles and reports is the whole truth and nothing but truth. We have been working from an unbiased perspective for almost 9 years, with no leaning to any side. This scheme continued even after the demise of the founder, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf.

Yemen Times published articles in the paper that include reports about the public response to the latest orders of the president in regard to the extension of working hours, prohibition of qat in official and military compounds, abolish of private jails, measures to enhance the judicial system, and so forth.

As the newspaper that is mostly interactive with almost all sectors of the community, including the Yemeni public, Yemeni immigrants abroad, diplomats, officials, and all other sectors, we have been quite amazed at the level of positive response from all these sectors. Week after week, we have been following the president's steps taken after the presidential elections and the public response towards them. We have been totally impressed!

What we have found is overwhelming and promising. This is not a praise or glorification, it is a mere statement of fact. For the first time ever the public have begun to feel the change. Change in the will of the president to develop a country that can march with the rest of the world in the 21st century. They have seen with their own eyes that some rules are indeed being implemented after years of negligence and ignorance. They have felt that their leadership is determined to have a country without qat, without kidnappings, without corruption, but with security, with justice, with infrastructure of a modern state.

At Yemen Times, we can not ignore all these positive responses and good developments. We are not a mere news reporter or a news agency, we are more of an institution that has a noble objective to achieve, and that is to develop our country, encourage whatever positive steps are courage whatever is wrong

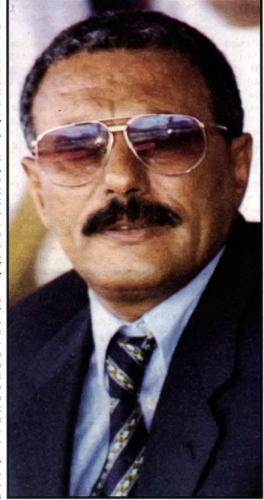
Hence, after observing all the measures the president has undertaken, we are convinced that President Saleh needs our support and encouragement now more than ever before. He is doing the right things after, and it is our duty to stand beside him in developing the country and getting it out of its current unfortunate situation. This move may not please some opposition figures, but yet we are sure it is right, and if the president continues, we are willing to

do it again and again.

All who raised the posters of the president praising him all the way through elections, calling him the man of change, why are they silent now that the president is taking action and showing his will to implement his program? Where are all the supporters who were so vocal before the presidential elections? Can't they see that now is the time that they must encourage him as he is taking courageous and strong decisions that reflect his desire to have Yemen out of its isolation and push it forward as one of the modern states in the region?

On this occasion, Yemen Times organizes a seminar titled "Hand in hand with our president towards the 21st century." This seminar purports to display the public response to the measures taken by the leadership since the presidential elections. The seminar intends to pay gratitude to the president for his good intention and strengthen his hands to do more, as the country faces many challenges ahead. The seminar's objective is to make sure that this atmosphere will continue. We hope that it will do a lot in motivating the president to have a Yemen that is able to confidently enter the 21st century.

It is truly impressive to know that the after quitting qat himself, the president promulgated many laws that discourage the chewing of qat in many areas, and encourages





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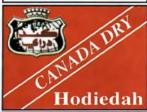
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quitting it for good. We hail our president and ask for more of these measures to secure a better tomorrow. Today, our president today needs us to stand by him more than ever. As long as he is committed to change, Yemen Times will be committed to supporting him. 2000 BUDGET LIFTS Hope to Lift Ban on Travel to Yemen

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OIL REVENUES

SANAA: Sources in the Finance Ministry indicated that the government has approved the budget for the year 2000 on Monday, the first of November. Due to the increase the price of world crude oil, the 2000 budget expectedly raised oil and gas revenues significantly by 51%t to the tune of 246.52 billion rials.

According to officials at the ministry, the increase of the oil revenues was a direct result of the recent improvement in world oil prices. The government is hoping that this development would help in strengthening the devastated economy because Yemen depends on oil for about 65% of its revenue. The picture is clear when we compare it with the 1999 budget, when the spending reached 335.5 billion rials, income 294.4 billion rials with a 41.1 billion rials deficit. The 2000 approved budget envisages spending of 422.25 billion rials, revenue of 388.95 billion rials and a net deficit of 33.29 billion rials.

Last month, the Central Bank of Yemen mentioned that the budget deficit for the nine months till the end of September was 7.81 billion rials and said that the state budget could be in surplus if oil prices continue to increase.

Yemen's production of oil from all oil rich governorates such as Marib, Shabwa and Hadramout reached a total of 390,000 barrels per day.

The Yemeni government had also lifted subsidies on wheat and flour at the start of 1999, but had continued to subsidise petroleum products for local consumption at around 11.1 billion rials.

Lufthansa

SANAA: The Yemeni government had called European countries through their Ambassadors to Yemen to lift the travel ban that has been devastating the tourism sector for almost a year. The request was made at a meeting at the Foreign Ministry attended by the Ambassadors of Britain, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and France, and representatives of private sector tourism agencies. The government had confirmed to the ambassa-

the Foreign Ministry to help encourage their citizens to visit Yemen and extended an open invitation to European countries and other states to invest in the tourism sector. Several western countries have issued heightened warnings on travel to Yemen after a spate of kidnapping of foreigners. The U.S. State Department issued a travel warning on Yemen on October 21 with the excuse that the level of risk for foreigners in Yemen is very high. The commonwealth countries have also issued a similar warning for the same reason.

DEBATE ON BANKS WORKING SYSTEM OVER

SANAA: At last after a long standing debate over whether to have the banks in Yemen implement the new 5 working days system or not, the final decision came out and all banks agreed on it; It was decided give freedom to every bank to decide to work on Thursdays or not in the way that is suitable for it. According to this, some banks have the option of having the department that deals with international money transfers, etc. open on Thursdays, while the other departments will have an off-day on Thursday.

dors that a number of strict measures had been

taken and would soon be implemented to protect

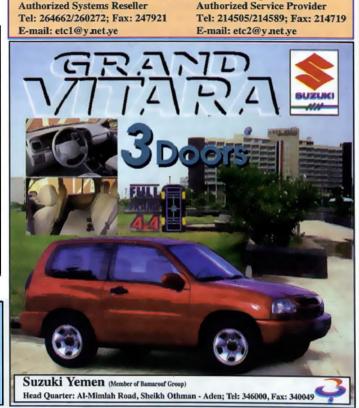
tourism and foreign tourists in Yemen

Banks were the only establishments that would have been a effected by the he new 5 working days system. "If we agree on letting our work stop on Thursdays, that would mean we will be having a 4 day lag behind the banks in the rest of the world. The reason is simple. Almost all international banks are off on Saturday and Sunday every week, so if we have Thursday and Friday off, we will have a 4 day gap between our banks and the rest of the world" said a bank manager.

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Words of Wisdom

"I would like to send a direct message to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The president has already done a lot for Yemen. He has brought a sense of political stability. He has achieved re-unification



of the land. He has introduced democratization. He has embarked on economic reforms. His contribution to creating a new sense of destiny for Yemenis is evident. That is all good and fine. But it is not enough."

> 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

Ouestion

ree media in Yemen?

Result

Yes, of course, it will be an excellent step (73%) No, it still early for that, let's wait for some more time (17%) Never, there should not be a free media in Yemen (8%) I have no idea (2%)

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

In your view, did the presidential elections weaken or strengthen the stand of the opposition?

Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf **Chief Editor**

Time for Solidarity

We in Yemen are in a situation that forces us to join hands and try to unite our efforts in favor of our country. We might belong to different political parties, to different sectors of the community, and to different areas in Yemen, but we all have one thing in common, we are all Yemenis. Being a Yemen has to force us to work hard for the interests of our nation as a whole, and not only for our political party or region. We must work together to develop and improve a country tha needs our joint work now more than ever.

Being the leader of the country, President Saleh must always look for ways to gain the public's trust. He must show that he is sincere in his efforts to get the country out of its curren situation, so that the rest of the people would join hands with him. It is impressive to say that there are signs that the pres ident is indeed beginning to gain more trust from the public No one can deny that our president these days seems to be pushing for change, determined to have a modern country by getting rid of whatever holds us back from the main stream that is heading to a new millennium. This fact is undeniable even by the people who disagree with the authorities. It is like trying to hide the sun from appearing in the sky. The strongest oppositionist of the authorities and government car not but admit that the president's steps taken so far within the ast few weeks indicate a will to change for the better. The opposition members should not favor their party over the interest of the country by opposing every good effort the president makes. Such people would not only be opposition members, but they would be enemies of the whole country We should look at this issue from a clear, logical, and fairly neutral perspective. If the government is doing something good, we should always hail it and ask for its continuation rather than insulting or accusing it of making a propaganda for the president or so. After all, encouraging it would push it to do even more good things, while discouraging it would most probably give it an excuse not to continue.

Today, we are feeling the hope in the people of Yemen for change in the near future. The president's determination to destroy this evil drug (qat) that has been destroying our economy and resources must be appreciated.

The president's efforts to crack down on terrorists, preven the carrying of weapons, and implementing other strict measures are truly paying off.

The steps that the president took in this regard have disturbed many people who are benefiting from poisoning our people by selling gat grown in their vast farms. These people are prominent figures that own hundreds of hectares of this destructive plant, and they were truly disappointed by the do not think of the country, but rather of their own interest How wonderful it would have been for them if they were the first to support the president instead of trying to invent obsta cles in an attempt to slow down the implementation of the orders that decrease the level of gat in our community.

There are good indications around us coming from the leadership, the government. In return, as Yemenis we should no stay still, but we should join hands in solidarity to implement these rules and try to have every good measure taken by the president appreciated and implemented. I believe if we do so, the ones who will most benefit from this is the people of Yemen. Let us join hands and stand beside our president in these moments of faith and courage to build a stronger

Fight Between Hushaish and Khawlan ended

Members of the Assalam Social House for Arbitration along with Sheikh Ali Mohammed Maqsa, Sheikh of Sanhan, have been able to end a conflict between the tribe of Bani Saham Khawlan Al-Taial and Bani Hushaish. The fight between the two tribes followed the killing of Al-Qushait from Bani Saham in Barian, one of Bani Hushaish villages. The Bani Hushaish tribe pledged to investigate into the murder of Al-Oushait and to hand it to the victim's tribe.

Failed Kidnapping Attempt

An armed group tried to kidnap Saturday the 6th of November 7 tourists; consisting of 3 men and 4 women, who were on the way to

Fortunately, the kidnapping attempt failed as a result of the tight security grip that lead to the escape of the kidnappers. The security forces are still in search of the tribesmen whose leader is said to be a wellknown figure in the district. Furthermore, the sheik's son was sentenced to death for killing six persons, two of whom were sol-

YSP to Participate in the XXI Congress of the Socialist International

The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) has received an invitation to the XXI Congress of the Socialist International held in Paris on 8-10 Nov. 1999 hosted by the Socialist Party of France. On his part, the YSP has accepted the invitation. Mr. Iar Allah Omar, Chairman of the Political office of the YSP and Mr. Ameen Qasim, the well-known businessman will fly today to Paris to attend the conference. Mr. Jar Allah Omar said that the YSP had applied for membership of the Socialist International and that its application had been accepted.

Norwegian Support for Mine Clearance in Yemen

The Norwegian Government has recently contributed NOK 2.25 million (USD 288,000) to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for mine clearance in Yemen.

The Norwegian Government hosted the 1997 conference that successfully negotiated the international convention on a total ban on anti-personnel land mines that was signed in Ottawa, Canada. Norway, Canada and Yemen were among the first countries to join the Convention.

Conference on **Banking in Yemen**

Organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Aden, a conference on 'banking in Yemen' is to be held from Nov. 28th to 19th in the Chamber. The conference aims at drafting a strategy that would develop banking work in Yemen and enhance the role of banks in the economic development. Discussions in the conference will be centering on five premises; importance of banking work in Yemen, problems of banking, challenges to banking, ambitions of the financial market and a program for improving the banking sector in Yemen.

Amnesty Objects on Violations

Amnesty International made a report to high ranking officials in Yemen about the violations of human rights; Fear of torture or illtreatment to Mr. Omar Ibrahim

Muhammad Al-Asadi issued in 1986 by the Supreme Court. Amnesty International is concerned that the trial of Yahya Najji Muhammad Al-Asadi may have contravened international standards for fair trial. Therefore, Amnesty international asks all people to send their appeals to the President asking him to give Mr. Omar immediate access to his lawyer, his family and to medical treatment and to express their concerns that the trial of Mr. Yahya may

Dagah who was arrested on 27

August, 1999 by Political security

after the explosion that occurred in

the Tuwahi area of Aden. He was

put in incommunicado detention

and his family was denied any

access to him. The Amnesty

International also made another

report to condemn the death sen-

tence against Mr. Yahya Najii

Hunaish Reversion

ognized standards for fair trial

not have met the internationally rec-

The Future Studies Center, headed by Dr. Faris Al-Saqqaf has recently published a book titled 'Hunaish Reversion' including important documents about the Eritrea-Yemen Arbitration over Hunaish Island. The book includes the complete original decision of the tribunal on this matter and different political papers about the same matter.

81st Anniversary of Poland **Independence Celebrated**

On the occasion of the 81st anniversary of Polish independence, Mr. Kazmierz Romanski, first secretary of the Polish Ambassador to Sanaa, held a press conference on Thursday Nov. 4th. The conference was attended by a number of Arab and Foreign journalists and correspondents. In the conference, Mr. Romanski talked about his country and the diplomatic relationship between Poland and Yemen which he described as historical.

He also expressed his hope to improve the commercial and business engagements between Poland and Yemen.

Arbitration of the Jahm Tribe

This coming Monday a good number of mediators headed by Sheikh Ali Maksa'a and some of Haraz sheikhs are going to arbitrate the Jahm Tribe in regard to what Ahmad Al-Sagheer Al-Harazi did on June, 1999. Ahmad has seduced and eloped with a lady from the Al-Ali bin Falah Jahm. The arbitration is done to release 10 Harazi hostages held by the Jahm

Destined to Misery

It is been reported that some political, parliamentary and economic media in Sana'a and Aden are demanding the government to abide by its commitments to edict a new law to improve the conditions of the workers in the public and economic sectors, in approximately 47 enterprises and factories, which are subjected to be laid off within the few upcoming days. Those media stated that the government should edict the law of the privatization along with the law to ameliorate the conditions

exceeds 150,000 people.

There were some governmental studies that assured that proceeding in the privatization project without finding a concrete solution to the problems of the worker will effect immense economic problems among those who depend on the wages they get from the enterprises.

Mr. Fuad's

Assignment in GAO's Mr. Fuad Saeed Fara'a Al-Majhadi has been selected for an assignment in GAO's Resources, Economic and Community Development Division, located in Washington DC, from 8-16 November, 1999. This assignment is an on-job-training experience in the Environmental Issue.

Japan Support Woman's Activity in Abyan Governorate

The Japanese government extended its support to women activities in Abyan by providing a financial fund to the Yemeni Women Union. The agreement was signed at the Embassy of Japan on November 7, 99, by Aminah Mohsen Al-Abd, Chairman of Abyan Branch of the Yemeni Women Union and Mr. Akira Hoshi, Ambassador of Japan to Yemen. The grant totaling US \$ 31,015, will be provided to purchase equipment needed for vocational training and income generation. The project is aimed at satisfying basic human needs, such as primary health care, education, poverty relief and public welfare.

Interagency Demining Group

Robert M. Beecroft, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political and Military Affairs in the Department of State, and Chair of the Interagency Working Group on Humanitarian Demining, paid a visit to the Humanitarian Demining Training camp and a minefield in Aden to get a first-hand view of the progress made by the Yemen Humanitarian Demining Program last Saturday. Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Beecroft held a press conference for local, Arab Foreign jour-

of these workers whose number nalist and corespondents in Sana'a.

Demonstration against Ethnic Cleansing in Chechnya

More than ten-thousand people led by the Reform Party (Islah) demonstrated at Attahreer Square, Sanaa Saturday, November 6, 1999 against what they called the ethnic cleansing against the Muslims in Chechnya. Demonstrators moved from Attahreer to the Russian Embassy and burnt the Russian national flag in front of it. They then handed a letter to the Russian charge d' affairs expressing their ITEC alumni of Yemen attended the condemnation of what Russia is doing in Chechnya. Policemen were

deployed around the area but the demonstration was over without any clashes between demonstrators and the Mohammed Hamoud Alpolicemen.

ITEC Day Celebration

The Ministry of External Affairs as well as several Indian Embassies handling the ITEC Programs celebrated the ITEC Day at the residence of H.E. the Ambassador, on Thursday

28 October 1999 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The ITEC Program, established in 1964, has contributed a lot to the Yemeni Government through prompting cooperation in the field of development. It has provided Yemen with the opportunity to draw upon Indian Experience and work towards self-reliance and it also has allotted Yemen twenty seats every year in their program. Members of senior officials representing the Government of Yemen, a number of prominent Indians in Yemen from the academic field as well as the

inger Al-Harethi Flies to USA

Yemeni singer Harithi prepares to fly to America in the coming few days to hold a numper of musical parties



mong the Yemeni community. Mohamme Al-Harathi was supposed to travel to America last month but was delayed by the nonor celebration made to honor his great contribution to the Yemeni musical lore.

VACANCY

SANA'A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Sana'a Community College Has an announcement for three assistance Deans

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Head office.

First English Newspaper in Yemen Founded in 1991 by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saggat

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi

Telephone: +967 (1) 268-661 P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

Branches: Aden Bureau Chief:

Ridhwan Alawi Ahmed Tel: +967 (2) 347-057; Fax: +967 (2) 347-056 Imad Ahmed Abdullah Tel: +967 (4) 227-717 Taiz Bureau Chief: P.O.Box: 5086, Taiz

Website: http://www.yementimes.com/ Email: yementimes@y.net.ye



Yemeni Press Scanner



Al-Wahda, Weekly 3/11/99:

1) Historical Cemetery in Abyan Discovered

An operation of historical sites scanning executed by the Office of Antiquities in Abyan Governorate has uncovered an old cemetery with stone-built graves. It is located in Wadi Hatat, 50 kms to the east of Zingibar, the Governorate's capital. A report prepared by the Director General of the Office said that graves were discovered at the location called "Saheb" at the valley, northeast of Khanfar Province. The event came close on the heels of discovery of small old silver coins. Those coins bore the figure of a woman, the symbol of the Moon God and some writings on one side and the shape of a deer and the symbol 'N' and some letters on the other side. A statue of a legendary creature with a human face, a horse's body and a lion's back was also engraved. Three letters of Musnad, the pre-Islamic alphabets were on the statue. A number of broken swords and trinkets were also found.

2) Anti-Tribal Revenge Document

The Head of the Information Committee of the Conference of Social Peace of the Thua'yn Tribes in Hadhramout, recently convened in the towns of Qusaye'r and Rayda, told our reporter that a document outlining modalities to deal with cases of murder within the tribe or involving outsiders was signed by the elders. The document states that in case of a crime only the culprit shall be responsible and the tribe shall have no responsibility in the matter (implying no sympathaizing with the killer). The state shall be free to implement the relevent law in such a case, the document stated.



Al-Ummah, Weekly, Al-Haq Party Journal 4/11/99:

1) American Military Delegations Visit Sana'a:

A press release of the American Embassy announced that the State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Political and Military Affairs arrives here today for a visit

The American Official shall have talks with high ranking military officials of Yemen and visit, what the press release called 'The Human Yemeni De-mining Camp. The objective of development of relations between the military of both countries was pointed out.

It may be recalled that another American military delegation had concluded a visit to Yemen only two days earlier. He had met the Chief of Staff and discussed areas of cooperation between 'The Special Forces'. The leader of the American Special Forces offered a package for training some members of the Yemeni Special Forces in the USA. The United States which is helping demining efforts in Yemen refused to sign the international treaty for demining which has already been signed by many countries under the auspices of the United Nations.

2) Al-Haq Lawyer Still Seeking File:

25 days after the verdict against 'Al-Haq' independent newspaper, its owner and chief editor is unable to obtain a copy of the order that stops publishing of Al-Haq for a month in addition to payment of a fine. Al-Haq's lawyer needs the document and the file of the case, as called for by the higher court he is appealing to. Without these documents the Constitutionally guaranteed right of appeal shall not be admissible.

3) Sheikh Al-Ahmar: Cabinet Resolutions Don't Apply to MPs: Members of Parliament were extremely annoyed with the announcement of the changed working hours in Government offices with effect from the current week which they considered unconstitutional. They believe that the Government should have discussed it in the Parliament and got its prior approval.

Sheikh Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament said during last Saturday's session that any resolution taken by Government shall not apply to the working hours of the Parliament. It may be recalled that the Minister of Civil Service was asked to be present in the Parliament and participate in the deliberations on the subject.



Al-Thawri, Weekly, YSP 4/11/99:

1) 74000 Workers Threatened with Joblessness:

Some economic circles have urged the Government to implement its commitments and promises of passing a special law to protect those working at some state establishments that are expected to be laid off in the next few days.

They added that this law should have been passed at the same time as the Privatization last week, so that the rights of nearly 74000 workers could have been protected. The affected workers shall have difficult times if the establishments they work in are wound off in the way our Government is used to doing. Among the most important establishments that are expected to be closed down are the Aden Refinery Co., and the Companies of Drugs, Transport, Communications and Airport Land Services.

2) Two YSP Leaders in Total

The YSP Secretary General, Br. Ali Saleh Ubad 'Moqbel' has confirmed that there are no disagreements in the Party's Politburo. Answering questions by Al-Ittihad of the UA Emirates which had published baseless reports on disagreements and on his being in house arrest at his Aden resedence, he said that the reporter concerned should have confirmed about the incident before such reports were published; especially as there are no clandestine activities on the part of the YSP leadership. He further added that the YSP leadership is committed to transparency in expression and actions. He attributed the rumors about strong disagreements among the YSP leadership to the media kitchen concerning the ruling leadership.

He said that this campaign against the YSP and other opposition parties came in the aftermath of the recent Presidential elections scandal, aiming at diverting the opposition parties attention from the core issues. Mr. Moqbel demanded clarification by Al-Ittihad's reporter as he doesn't have any malice against journalists

3) Reports on 30 Million for Kidnappers:

Tribal and political sources have confirmed that a deal was behind freeing the three Americans who were kidnapped by Bani Jabr of Khawlan tribe. According to the said deal a sum of 30 million Riyals was paid by Government to the kidnappers in addition to commitment to set free all those detained for bombing the oil pipelines or previous kidnappings of foreigners.

4) Mediations behind Cancellation of Trials:

Tribal and political circles in Sana'a confirmed that mediations by tribal behind the Ministry of Interior suspension of legal procedures against 46 persons accused of being involved in kidnappings and bombings that took place in several Governorates.

Some sources indicated that the confirmation of the Minister of Interior last week that the accused shall stand trial didn't materialize.

They added that many question marks were raised as a result of this development, arousing suspicions on Government's seriousness in combating acts of subversion and sabotage.

5) Sharp Disagreements at Parliament:

Sheikh Abdulla Al-Ahmar, Speaker of Parliament has abided in his home for 3 days before presiding over a Parliamentary session. The reason was that some members of the Presidium of Parliament had bypassed the Speaker of Parliament on resolution of the Parliamentary Year 2000 budget.

A number of MPs confirmed that the budget was the subject of many disputes especially when the presidium headed by Yahya Al-Rae'y stalled discussions of the new budget and the final accounts of the current budget.

6) Diplomats: No breakthrough on **Visit Prohibition:**

Foreign diplomats accredited to Sana'a said that they expected no breakthrough in the near future regarding the position taken by some European Countries on warning their nationals not to visit Yemen because it isn't safe.

This comes in the aftermath of a call by Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Eryani, the Prime Minister during a meeting with European Ambassadors that they should urge their Governments to encourage their citizens to visit

The sources pointed out that tourism had deteriorated to an extent that forced the Government to look for solutions to the problem which intensified because of the increase in foreigners kidnapping and other security disrupting incidents.

Al-Shumoa'

Al-Shumoa', Independent, Weekly:

1) Corruption and the Future:

To say that a promising future is nearing, completely contradicts the truth, and is logically rejected for a simple reason: There is no clear view (or understanding) of the least characteristics of any aspect of delight for such a future, not to mention the lack of any political will to define a strategy for fighting corruption that is taking over every thing. Corruption has become the past, the present and the future!

2) Dangerous Breaches Foreign Affairs!

Well-informed sources told Al-Shumoa' that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs witnesses kinds of administrative and financial abuse and deviations from its supposed line of implementation of foreign

Our sources hinted that some grave breaches were performed by the leadership of the Ministry including issuing passports to people who are not entitled to hold them. Sources added that tens of Diplomatic, "Special" and Mission Passports were issued to businessmen who have nothing to do with the functions of the state system. On those who were responsible, our sources mentioned Mr. Ba Jammal the

sheikhs and other officials were Minister, his deputy Mr. Al-Sayedi and Mr. Ghaleb Al-Adoofi.

> Our sources also linked what is going on at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to mediation of Mr. Ba Jammal for trading deals with the Iraqi ships anchored at our ports. Trading deals are made whether regarding passports or ships, and above all, Mr. Ba Jammal is expected to join our next cabinet.



Independent 3/11/99:

3 Yemenis Among the Drowned:

Three Americans of Yemeni origin were among the 217 passengers drowned in the Egypt Air flight 990. Because they were travelling with their American passports they were counted among the 120 drowned Americans. They are Abdulla Saleh Al-Marfadi, his 4 years old son Nasim and brother in law Sami Mohammed Abdo Rabbo.



Al-Balagh, Weekly, Independent 2/11/99:

1) Government Notifies the UN on Poor Yemenis:

The Government of Yemen notified the United Nations about Yemenis who live below the line of poverty. They are 9% of those living in the countryside of Yemen and 12% of town residence based on data by the Central Organization of Statistics.

It is to be recalled that unofficial studies indicate that Yemenis living under the poverty line are more than 20% in towns and 15% in the coun-

2) Beware! New Books and Maps Ignore Palestine:

'Al-Balagh' has learned from informed Lebanese sources that new books and atlases were printed to be used in schools with the state of Palestine being confined to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, i.e. 23% of the area of Arab Palestine. Damage didn't stop there: The name Palestine doesn't appear on the pages of these prints and was replaced in some maps by Al-Quds besides Tel Aviv.



26th September, Weekly, Armed Forces Journal 4/11/99:

1) Minister of Defense attends Reception for American Guest:

The Minister of Defense attended the reception and dinner party that were held in honor of General Frank Tony, commander of the American Special forces who is currently visiting Yemen.

Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Abdulla Saleh, the commander of Special Forces in Yemen made a speech in which he welcomed General Tony and praised the development of Yemeni-American relations in many areas. He pointed out the USA assistance to Yemen through the de-mining program of mines that were laid in the eastern and southern Governorates by the secessionists. The commander of the Special Forces in Yemen stressed that the visit would enhance bilateral cooperation and the exchange of expertise between the Special Forces of both friendly countries.

2) Sheikh Jaber's Son on **Private Visit:**

26th September has learned that His Highness Prince Fahd Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, son of the Emir of Kuwait and the Chairman of the Kuwaiti Horsemanship Club shall pay a private visit to Yemen in the near future. During this tour that aims at being aquatinted with the historical and tourist sites, Prince Fahd is expected to visit several towns and areas in Yemen, especially Marib. Sana'a, Aden and Hadhramout.

3) Next January Old Yemeni **Passports Cancelled:**

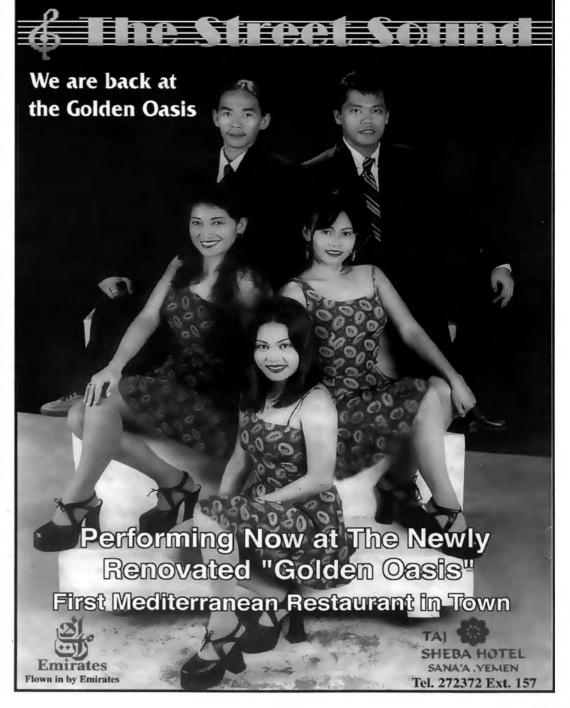
Major General Dr. Hussein Arab, the Minister of Interior disclosed in an interview that the Ministry has given Yemenis, especially those living abroad, a six-month time limit to replace their old passports with new ones. From next January nobody will be travelling using his old pass-



Al-Tareeq, Weekly, Independent 2/11/99:

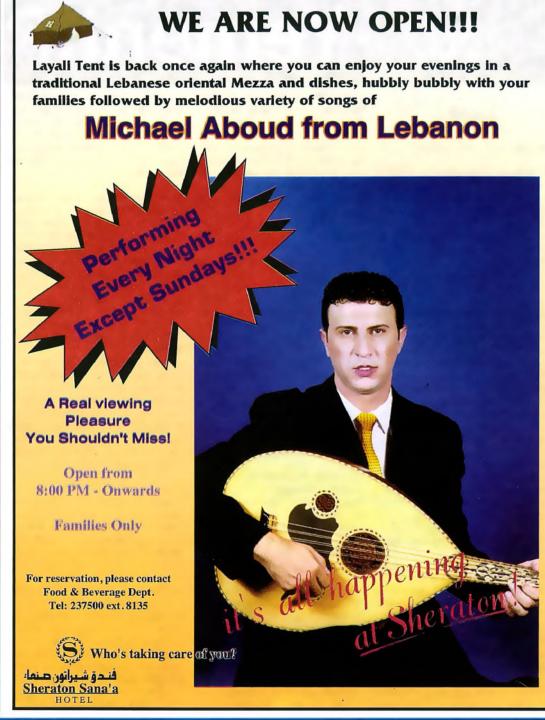
Secret Israeli-Yemeni Talks:

Monte Carlo Radio has quoted the Israeli Yedeaot Ahronot as reporting that Israel has had secret contacts with both Yemen and Bahrain in preparation for full diplomatic relations. The radio said that both Bahrain and Yemen denied that either of them has communicated with Israel. The Israeli newspaper confirmed last Thursday the same report and added that American officials are pressuring both Yemen and Bahrain to establish relations with







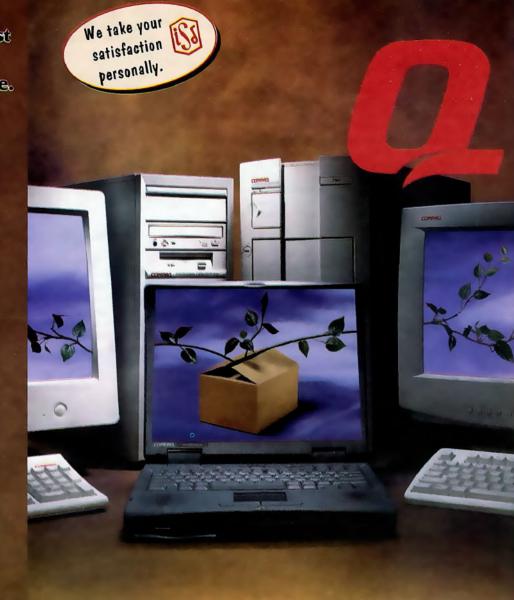


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SILVER

Two Prominent Figures Speak Their Mind about the Latest Privatization Measures



Dr. Ahmed Abdullah Bin Al-Sheik Abu Manager of the Main Bureau of Rabitat

e in Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen (RAY) believe that the dissociation of solutions is not a good enough measure. Hence, the embarkation on introducing economic, social and judicial reform in our country will be inoperative and lacking the factors of success in absence of a real and comprehensive political reform. Also, under implementation of a law by force it in turn loses its power to achieve its purposes. Law of privatization will turn to be as a legal cover to take hold of state institutions and companies under pretext of privatization. In this case, the victim will be the country and the people because all properties of the country belong in fact to the people. The process of selling or privatizing must be according to accurate and honest criteria and impartial fair studies. It must pass through careful stages starting from conducting comprehensive surveys of productive and public services utilities intended to be sold along with studying the local market and the economic and social impact of this process. Information and data derived from the surveys should be analyzed in order to define priority of the projects to be privatized taking into account significance of the project, its financial value and its performance in the former period. This process should take enough time to be done fully. We must seek advice from private corporations such as the stock market. This corporation is the specialist corporation which can do an accurate and fair evaluation according to the standards and systems adopted in the countries which adopted privatization ahead of us. The stocks of these corporations and factories will then be offered for sale to the people in order to get better prices and to prevent monopoly. The opportunity should also be given to the employees and workers of these institutions. There should also be a guarantee on how to use the huge amounts of money procured from the selling process to accommodate the surplus workforce and create new jobs for those liable to lose their jobs because of the privatization.

The government did not seek the opinion of the parties and other specialists before issuing the law, moreover it has not been published yet. So, I will put forth some of the brief points presented by the Study and Research Department of the Rabitat Abnaa Al-Yemen (RAY) to study the project of privatization in general, befitting from privatization experiments of some developing and European countries such as Italy, Britain and Sweden:

One of the main obstacles in the implementation of privatization is the big cost. In the process of privatization we must employ thousands of laborers from the private sector, taking in consideration the calculation of the average cost of compensation and re-training of those employees which could amount to thousands riyals for train-

In spite of the expected big gains of high efficiency, there are dangers of mismanagement of these operations.

Efficiency of the privatized institutions will depend mainly on effective monitoring and supervision of their performance, especially in the sectors where public projects could become private

If it was necessary for someone, or a group, to get the opportunity to control a certain institution, it should be transparent and small shareholders must get their shares according to the same conditions obtained by those selling to those

Generally, the law of privatization must include clear and definite rules preventing control of influential groups and protecting small shareholders and encouraging small investors. Also, law of privatization must provide an opportunity for the authorities to diminish the degree of centralization and guarantee a chance for a bigger number of stock owners.

Therefore, the programs of privatization must not be done in haste. It must follow a careful and accurate study based on scientific and just criteria. The issue is not that the state relinquishes its property of an institution or a company, because if the objective is so it would then be at the expense of the citizen whose suffering has been unprecedentally aggravated when the majority of the society are already living under the line of poverty. A certain sector of the society has got its control over most of



Faruq Nasser Ali

rivatization has been basically suggested by multi-national companies, which considered that the whole world must be as a market of their own. Therefore, they called for "capitalism without a limitation". At the same time, they requested the World Bank to exert its pressure on the third world countries through loans, interests, etc. They aimed at disturbing the process of economic activity of the developing countries, which means that poor countries must not play any roles, and cannot achieve economic and social development in this field. The intention of those countries was to control the main productive sectors in the third world countries. In addition to this, they want to control markets of the developing countries. In spite of the important role which was played by third world countries in the development of capitalism, the capitalist countries played as the spinal in the development of capitalism. At the same time they aim at removing third world countries from economic activity, claiming that these countries are an obstacle in the face of the economic develop-

Those who are calling for privatization in our country are talking about the ability of the private and capitalist sectors to achieve social and economic development. They indicated that the economic and financial failure was due to the interference of the state in the economic activity, and also because of the heavy financial burdens borne by the state budget. They forget that the taxes levied by the state from the employees amount to 90% of total tax revenues, while the private sector pays 10%. During the last five years, we discovered the position of local capitalism in the social and economic development. Why did the government sell public companies and factories in the Southern governorates?

We have not heard about any economic or social plan of the private sector. We have just seen them running after lands and investment in the easy activities through which they can earn money. Of what economic and social development are they are talking about? How can they make economic and social development according to the capitalist concept? In such a developing country, and in such a private sector which does not have the ability of realizing the economic development? The private sector works to be a successful agent for public sector corporations or to buy these corporations. Now, which economic and social development are they talking about? Those people have excluded the developing countries from participation in reconstruction of the national economy. What positive results could be gained out of privatizing all of the majority of state institutions in the Southern governorates? So about which social and economic development are they talking about? In this case, the country will not witness any development in this field because the development will be confined to a small group of people. This is what we are

Deterioration, corruption and absence of law in the country have turned the private sector into a sector which puts property of the public sector under its control, which means that it does not aim at contributing to its develop-

witnessing nowadays!!

Now, we come to the perplexing question! How does a government complaining of the permanent deficit in the public budget, and complains of the increase in expenditure and low revenues decide to sell its corporations which provide large revenues covering an important percentage of its spending? Indeed, this contradiction arouses questioning about the meaning of privatization? Why didn't they make solutions of the ill-performing corporations?

How can we talk about law in which most of the corporations in the Southern governorates are privatized in spite of the fact they are rated among the most productive corporations in the country? Why weren't the Northern institutions put on the list of privatization.

he country has abandoned its successful corporations a did not develop new projects. It has also surrendered to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund Conditions. This process is not the process which we have seen in all sectors. The participation of the country according to economic, social, national and democratic policy will improve national economy and help those people who suffer from poverty. Now, what will remain for those people after the government has sold the companies to the private sector? What will be the fate of the coming generations in this developing country? This country which aims only at developing the private sector.

After the events of July 7, 1994, the extent of organized plunder of public sector institutions in the South has become very clearly seen. It has become clear how certain groups benefited by plunder under the banner of privatization when they controlled over some institutions even without any law or even a decision being issued.

The actual problem lies in the absence of the state of law and order, an institutional state, a state where the judiciary is not independent. Under such circumstances a comprehensive economic and social development would not be achieved. Unless the institutional state, the state of order and law is founded, long-range change of our society can-



Corruption: Is it Out of Control? Corruption is defined as the misuse of public power, office or

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

authority for private benefit through bribery, extortion, influ ence peddling, nepotism, fraud, speed money or embezzle-In most countries corruption is a criminal offense. But the real crime is that everybody suffers, particularly the poor and vulnerable, including women, who can not afford to pay bribe even for the bare necessities and whose share in economic

wealth is already scant. Corruption also damages economics the environment and, in developing countries, can slow development because it diverts resources and discourage international aid and foreign and domestic investment. In extreme cases, law and order can fall apart as rules and regulations fail to be enforced. Crime, violence and social unres

The question of corruption in Yemen is the major headache of the Yemeni society. In fact, it is an epidemic virus devouring everything that might lead to the development of this society It has generated a lot of problems for Yemen. This is because corruption denies the poor their share. It increases poverty breeds injustice and violates human rights. It also cause political discontent and social unrest. It diverts resources reduces income from tax and customs fees, increases the cos of the contracts, lowers quality, disturb policies, reduces investment and subverts companies and NGOs. In short, corruption damages the economy and can even reverse develop

Corruption in its various forms has taken its toll of the devel opment of the Yemeni society. We can visibly notice that bribery, nepotism, favoritism, mediation, looting of the pub lic wealth, etc. are devastating all the potentialities of devel opment in the country. Moreover, these evils have become a daily routine for the majority in the Yemeni society. One feels that s/he can not get employed or have any other procedure done unless one of the aforementioned evils are applied Visiting the public offices, one get staggered by the perverted situation in these institutions. Bribery takes various names in Yemen like "Haq bin Hady or Haq Al-Qat (bribe) or whatev er else. What is more unfortunate is that the rule in Yemen is select few are honest. These honest guys are even accused of being foolish and persons lacking alert minds and manliness So, in such a chaotic situation and absence of accountability we find that some people become wealthy in a flash, having lavishly fashionable cars and villas.

The Central Department of Control and Auditing has recently issued a report in which it put the number of violations issues of the public wealth at 66 cases only in the first half of this year. The wasted money in these cases soared to YR 5 billion. What a pity!

From time to time such cases of wasting and looting of the public treasury are disclosed to the public opinion Unfortunately, in the absence of accountability and a fair and independent judiciary not influenced by the big guys, corruption piles up constantly and corrupts become free riders. They are never held accountable. Rather, they get promoted because they are protected by people at the power center and decision-making core. They have gone to the extreme in wasting the public wealth and looting very big chunks of

The government of Yemen, in collaboration with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, embarked on the policy of the economic and administrative reform in 1995 The implementation created a big fuss and affected the Yemeni people considerably. However, since that date the situation is deteriorating gradually; poverty and unemployment have soared up dramatically. I should say that the Yemeni people will tolerate the harsh outcomes of the program a long as it pays off. But because corruption still predominate and is eating up everything, the reforms seem to scramble.

The government has been lifting the subsidies on foodstuffs and petrol gradually which, of course, increase the economic hardships of the people. Moreover, it is now privatizing most of the public institutions, particularly the successful ones. The most important example is the Industrial Bank of Yemen.

The anti-corruption campaign as stated by President Saleh is a good omen. It shows that he is fully aware of the hazards corruption on development. This new blood in the pr dent, moreover, shows the necessity for change to salvage the country. However, I believe the corrupt and crooked officials at the decision-making core will be affected by the change considerably. Therefore, they will nip this effort by the president in the bud. They will not let the man do it. They are a pain in the neck.

Therefore, to ensure the success of his endeavor, the president should start his campaign against corruption by eradicating the corrupt guys at the power center. He should nip these rotten apples off and replace them by honest people of new blood who are willing to back him up in his effort. Yemen is full of such people who are willing to breathe a new life into Yemen. They have their own ideas that can positively contribute to push the endeavor ahead. It is in this way only that corruption can be controlled. As I said in the article of last week, the price of such an effort will cost a lot and face many challenges. However, it will have good and positive outcomes. President Saleh can do it and I am sure that all the Yemeni people will support him wholeheartedly. Otherwise, in the existence of the corrupt lobby, his efforts will not be able to hit the nail on the head and corruption will continue to be out of control.

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Privatization: A Cure or a Ris



By: Ismail Al-Ghaberi Yemen Times

rivatization Since the early seventies "Privatization" reflected a new meaning in economic literature. Privatization refers to the process of transferring property from public to private ownership. Some see privatization as a set of policies that aim at setting market mechanisms, self-initiative and competition to work. All these will help in achieving development goals and social justice.

About one hundred countries have implemented privatization since the early seventies. The aim is to make domestic prices more consistent with international prices, thus encouraging the private sector.

A study on forty-seven developing countries by the International Development Association shows that the private sector is contributing more to the National Domestic Product. Its contribution increased from 12% in 1985 to 16% in 1991. Moreover, privatization and switching to market mechanisms resulted in fundamental changes in political and social structures.

With respect to developing countries that have private sectors, the matter is one of adjustment, including liberalizing more trade, tax system reform, getting rid of labor market rigidity and privatizing of public institutions. All these reforms have been accompanied by procedures to stabilize the economy, such as procedures to reduce government expenditure.

We Are with Privatization, However Privatization as a new economic trend means that the government renounces

all economic activities and gives the helm to some individuals who will take over through their organizations and establishments.

We don't disapprove of privatization. However, we would like to draw people's attention to the danger of transferring important centers in the country to individuals. If it is inevitable, we should have a prospective and long-sighted vision that makes us aware of our actions and our aims behind them. However, the point is how we can create a real harmony between all the active segments of the society and surmount the contradictions.

pursued by having a competent administration that is characterized by its ability to make proper, decisive decisions based upon the national interest. It should also be able to construct all opinions and consider disparity of opinion as a positive thing leading to facts. We have also to bear in mind that the new

program of total privatization has given

The privatization movement should be

rise to many concepts and ideas, creating strong controversy among the peo-

The questions that crop up as a result of this new trend are the following: How will the Private sector deal with

the people, especially in the production and public services sectors?

Is there any other way to solve the problems of these centers without privatizing

How can the private sector take over despite the fact that it lacks the trust of the people?

All this has increased the people's concerns. Some people are concerned because of some personal benefits, others are concerned because of their attempts to settle personal accounts. While some other people, the virtuous and decent people motivated by their loyalty, are concerned about the lower class who may be oppressed in these conditions. These people are very assertive that the policies adopted should have some goals that will help the development process.

One of the most important pillars that should be stressed is to have an overall evaluation process of the past. If we have transferred the national economy to a modern one that has a legislative prospect and that attracts, even on a small scale, investments, therefore we should keep momentum and follow the same policy. The shortcomings as well as the achievements that have been accomplished so far should also be pointed out. The question that may arise here is, "How to accomplish our goals?" To find an answer to this question, we should consider and view the beginning steps of production, for when we started manufacturing we started doing that without a prospective, clear and effective policy. We have never tried to get rid of the obstacles we faced; idleness of workers and the sense of irresponsibility of the people in charge. All this happened beside the traditional ways of doing things, the greediness to buy lands and the desire to earn without exerting much effort.

We should focus on the specialization and duties along with enhancing the respect of time and raising the people's awareness to have better concepts which will make them fully conscious of everything taking place around them. There should also be a balance between modern economic organization and holding a good technological position. The comparison becomes so difficult, if we keep in mind that we in Yemen have started from scratch. Our start was to establish a strong economic basis for the development and to enhance and strengthen the infrastructure in terms of improving the public services. It is so because there can never be any real development in any field if it is based upon a fragile stand. Besides these development programs should not be looked upon as a mere economic

process, for the social aspects should be there and should be comprehensive for whatever is done, is done for the welfare of the people.

As I mentioned earlier, no-one opposes the principle of privatization itself. However, what is being carried out is a legitimate ambition of some people to guarantee its success and insure that there will be no adverse reactions. Hereby I present my humble vision of this field:

1) Defining the government trend in the future in regard to investment in general and privatization in particular to evaluate everything that has taken place in the past. All the facilities rendered should also be evaluated. We should also make sure whether these facilities have been used properly or were exploited for personal interests.

2) If some projects are for sale, workers should be given a percentage of the shares sold. Besides, there should be a balanced ratio for signing contracts as a sure sign to take care of the social dimension of the investment and devel-

3) Checking the establishments' conditions and helping some of them to improve their production to achieve self-dependence before they are sold. The people in charge should administer these establishments in a balanced economic technique that relieves some tensions on the budget of the government. They should also take measures to

lishments.

4) There should also be a strong determination to use all the revenues of privatization to support the budget of the government

5) Applying transparency in propagating these establishments for sale and making the people aware that privatization is a positive step to get rid of the old heritage that put everything on the shoulders of government.

6) Devoting the social as well as human dimensions to face the obstacles that may result from the privatization and sponsoring the affective side.

7) Paying due attention to the evaluation and studying the resulting phenomena that arise due to the transfer of control in a way that will maintain the development process.

The Political Dimension

The aforementioned is a humble vision of the privatization process in case it is serious and prospective step. However, if it is a way of strengthening the government's grip on the elements of power in a way to decompose the social wealth, eliminating the existence of the public services as a sacred duty of the government, this will weaken the framework of the government, weakening the social structure and limiting accountability. Thus, due to the transfer of control from the government to some specific individuals, the ties of trust will be damaged beyond repair.

TAIZ: The Dreaming City and The Plight of its Intellectuals

Imad Al-Saggaf Farooq Al-Kamali Yemen Times

any intellectuals like to refer to it as the dreaming city. Some say so because of its beauty. Others do so because of its lack of the basic essential services. Anyhow, nowadays it is preparing to be the capital of culture, or as others like to call it, the 'cultural city.'

Many aspects distinguish Taiz from other governorates. Its beauty, fresh air, marvelous tourist sites along with its considerate and generous inhabitants make it one of the most beautiful cities in Yemen. A tour of the narrow alleys makes us remember the glorious past of the neglected city. The Al-Mudaffar mosque, Al-Ashrafeyah mosque, the Al-Qahirah Citadel, the National Museum, the traditional markets (souks) and the traditional houses which beautifully mix tradition and modernity, leave unforgettable impressions on whoever visits them. In fact, one can talk about many things. However, we shall here try to shed light on only two aspects, which are; tourism and culture.

Taiz is considered to be the capital of Yemeni culture because it is fit enough to be so. It has been a source of qualified elite in various fields through history. If it is really targeted to be the cultural capital of Yemen, there should be more attention paid to its basic demands: water, electricity, modern streets, public libraries, parks, etc. In spite of ignoring and neglecting it, it is still the most deserving city to justify the title of the cultural city.

To know more about Taiz and its worries, as well as its ambitions, Imad Al-Saqqaf, met with three well-known figures from Taiz: Mr. Izzaddin Saeed Al-Asbahi, Mr. Faisal Saeed Farae and Mr. Mohammed Al-Mojahid.



We first met with Mr. Mohammed Mohammed Al-Mojahid, General Manager of Tourism Office Taiz. who answered our queries. He said, "Concerning the number of tourists coming to Taiz, more than 50,000 tourists come to Taiz every year. Of course, tourism in Taiz has been affected by the Abian event as well as other kidnapping incidents. The impact has been very clear, especially

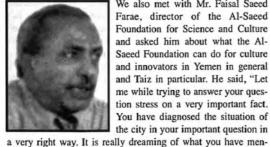
after some tourists canceled their reservations in the city's hotels. These events, of course, have tarnished Yemen's image. The government has been trying its best to restore Yemen's beautiful image through a lot of activities during the last few years. For example, it hosted the Regional Conference for the Ministers of Tourism in 1997 and this year it hosted the conference of Arab Ministers of Tourism. Before these, it hosted the Emerging Democracies Conference. However, what is built over years can be destroyed in seconds."

About the future plans to improve and activate the tourist industry in the governorate, Mr. Al-Mojahid said, "Taiz is a city of culture and tourist sites. Personally, I am one of its passionate lovers. As far as our plans for the future are concerned, they are mainly based on inviting private sectors to invest not only inside the city but even in places like Al-Mokha seashores, Djabal Sabir (Sabir mountain), Al-Barakani, Warazan and many other places." On the subject of announcing Taiz as the cultural capital Al-Mujahid said: "Taiz has provided Yemen with a lot of thinkers, literary figures, politicians, etc., so it is the most suitable city in the Republic to be claimed a cultural city. I believe that this aim needs a strong will to be accomplished.

Izzaddin Saeed Ahmad, vice chairman of the Yemeni Authors Union, Taiz said, "Taiz means a lot to me. She has inspired me to write my second collection of short stories, 'For the Faces and the Places,' and I am still unsatisfied. I feel that I need to adequately reflect about her. Taiz and I are a strange couple of lovers. I love her and I love her streets on which I scatter my days. I don't like it to be called the dreaming city. I would rather love to call it the city of lovers.

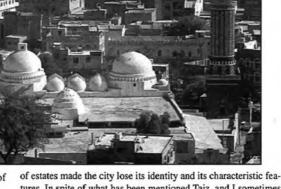
Gunmen fired and shot her and she showered them with nests of singing birds in return.

"Taiz has been a cultural city in the past. Its population is the highest in the Republic. It embraces the highest number of students and educated people who have been the first people to sow the seeds of development. Therefore, it has been always the most preferred city in the whole Republic to bear the title of the cultural capital of Yemen. Announcing Taiz a cultural capital has been a dream of many people. It was the slogan of the Third Taiz Cultural Festival which was organized by the Yemeni Authors and Literary figures Union. What we need to accomplish this aim is a strong infrastructure. We need libraries, stages, galleries, lecture halls in order to make this dream come true. It is true that in general Yemen does not have the means for an impressive cultural stride. Therefore, accomplishing this aim will very hard but it is not impossible."



We also met with Mr. Faisal Saeed Farae, director of the Al-Saeed Foundation for Science and Culture and asked him about what the Al-Saeed Foundation can do for culture and innovators in Yemen in general and Taiz in particular. He said, "Let me while trying to answer your question stress on a very important fact. You have diagnosed the situation of the city in your important question in

tioned. When we call any place a cultural place, certain factors must be made available. Otherwise, this nomenclature loses its credibility. In my opinion, no city, including Taiz, can hold this title especially if we take into consideration the wide meaning of the word 'culture.' In a city like Taiz, no organized supply of water is available nor sanitation or health services. The streets need more attention. Rehabilitating some of these streets may need a history by itself. Much worse is that what is available to these streets is prone to deteriorate. The random planning of this city of the unique natural geography gives an image of man's ugly treatment of his surroundings, let alone the heaps of garbage and the lack of recreation places. And above all the crazy pursuit



tures. In spite of what has been mentioned Taiz, and I sometimes wonder if it is worthy of being called a cultural city, is more qualified than other cities to hold such a title. This is because it embraces the largest number of thinkers and brilliant people who have always been the initiators throughout history.

Concerning the Foundation's future plans, he said, "Although the institution hasn't completed its third year yet, it has contributed much to culture and science in our country. The Al-Saeed Foundation was established under directives by the Hail Saeed An'am Group of Companies in memory of the late Hail Saeed An'am as a token of gratitude for the outstanding services he had rendered to his society in the economic field in general, and charity domain in particular. In that he was proceeding from his sense of patriotism and embodiment of his hopes for development of sciences and technology in Yemen. The institution's objectives

- * Encourage and contribute to the Yemeni scientific researches.
- * Support the national economy sectors in general and the agricultural sector in particular by providing them with researches, as well as scientific and practical experiments.
- * Create a generation of Yemeni scientists and experts in the fields of natural, practical, technological sciences and the like. * Organize competitions to encourage scientists to conduct scientific research and to carry out new experiments.

* Award the wining research and experiments. From the very beginning of its career, the institution has chosen a scientific and objective path. It has also chosen many ways to accomplish its aims such as organizing symposia, seminars and lectures in Sanaa, Taiz, Aden, Al-Hodaidah and the other governorates. This will be more organized when the Saeed Public Library is opened. The library will start with more than a thousand titles and they are planning to reach more than 100,000 titles in the course of time. There will also be a lecture hall, an information bank and a center for children's culture. In addition, the institution publishes the scientific research and studies that agree with its objectives."

"Like the other Yemeni cities, Taiz needs more attention paid to its infrastructure to enable it to do what it should do. The present situation of the infrastructure is discouraging. Taiz is distinguished among the other governorates in many aspects in gener-

Impression about Yemen



H.E.Mr. Mortaza Rahimi Ambassador of Iran

have stored a lot of unforgettable sweet memories as well as impressions during my residence here in Yemen. Yemenis are among the most passionate, sentimental, faithful and humble people. Besides, they are still holding fast to many valuable customs. All these features will always stay in my memory. The progressive strides that Yemen is making in the democratic process are quite impressive and make any one feel proud. This is a signal that Yemen is moving on a strong base to the future to build the modern Yemen. The presidential elections that took place in September 23 were the milestone for the democratic transition in Yemen. Yemenis' habit of chewing qat is also another thing that I will always remember, however, I really approve and support the leadership's continuous efforts to raise the awareness of the people to give it up. I wish that when I visit Yemen next time I will find that Yemenis will have got rid

The most beautiful thing I would never forget is the strong, unbreakable harmony that ties the people and the leadership, for any individual could set and discuss things with anyone of those high ranking officials. This is a clear sign of the secure democratic atmosphere in Yemen.

The last word I would like to say is that I hope from the bottom of my heart that Yemenis will achieve more and more progress and prosperity. The great bonds that tie me with many individuals and great social dignitaries in the country prove that Yemenis are very friendly. I have also found that they are very sincere, faithful, passionate, and that they have the most beautiful sentiments. Their simpleness and warm welcomes make you feel that you really live in the company of nature. This is what I felt from all, especially from his Excellency the President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his officials.

I wish all the best for the Yemenis and a permanent, mutual and close relations between the two sisterly Muslim countries, the Republic of Yemen and the Islamic Republic of Iran .

al and in the cultural aspect in particular. We do not claim that Taiz possesses features over the other governorates because it really does. With this regard, Taiz needs public libraries to quench the people thirst for knowledge. It also needs lecture halls and galleries. Its ancient monuments and places need more attention. We, in the Al-Saeed Institution do our best to cooperate with the authorities concerned, especially the governor, Mr. Ahmad Abdulla Al-Hajri to organize a program that will lead Taiz to be a capital for the Yemeni culture in 2001. This has been announced by the governor himself," Mr. Faisal added.



ueen Arwa Mosque

Saleh Abdulbaqi Cultural Editor

emeni historical towns have been linked throughout history to many political cultural changes which coincided with the various successive kingdoms which succeeded in power in Yemen.





al landmarks which still preserve their historical features.

I will narrate the story of one of those historical landmarks. This historical landmark is Queen Arwa Mosque, located in Jiblah town, Beit Ahmad village, in Ibb governorate. This city has been known since the period of Queen Arwa Bint Ahmed. It was the capital town of Assaleheen State. Oueen Arwa practiced her rule in Jiblah town until her death in 532 Hegira. She was buried inside the mosque, which is known as Queen Arwa Mosque.

Jiblah is one of the historical towns of Ibb governorate. It is 5 km from Ibb. It is connected with the city of Ibb by a long paved road. As I reached the town, I walked through an old mountain way which leads to the top of the town. The roads of the town have a distinguished style. I was impressed by the historical landmarks of the town and thought that it was an oil painting. Then I continued walking through its old narrow streets until I reached the main gate of the Islamic mosque.

The town has fascinating weather all through the seasons of the year. Its mountains are always green. It still

contains such historical landmarks as Al-Azz House (Queen Arwa dwelling). The minaret of the mosque is located behind that house, which is known as 'Hafat

The mosque is one of the remaining landmarks of the Assaleheen State. It became one of the tourist and historical landmarks in Jiblah. Tourists come from different coun-

tries to see these ancient landmarks of Oueen Arwa State, You can see the whole town through the

located at the top of the mountain. This mosque contains a wooden board, which has some information about the old town. The mosque is 950 years old. It is surrounded by old buildings, which are built of mud. You can pass to the upper door of the mosque through a stone stairway. There is a

decorated wooden door which contains some of the Qur'an verses. The whole town can be seen clearly from the front of the mosque. At the corner of the front there are two small rooms. which were used for the jurists, who were active in Islamic affairs. At the back of the mosque there is a swimming pool and a steam bath. A number of classrooms are found near the mosque where the students were taught the Qur'an. The mosque and the grave of Queen Arwa were repaired in recent time, but they are still preserving their historical features. The reparation was done by the tourist sector of Jiblah.



The old buildings which surrounded the mosque on all sides are distin-



guished. They are different in style, adornment and in outward form.

These buildings embody the originality and civilization of that town in particular, and Yemen in general. He who comes to visit these historical landmarks, will really realize the value of the Yemeni tradition and civilization. He will have great impressions about this dreamy town.

I urge upon the tourist sector to pay more attention to these landmarks because they reflect the reality of the country. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has to pay more attention to the importance of these precious land-

Frank Talk: The Wages of Sin

Dr. Pramod Kumar Taiz University

you are dealing with a Yemeni, do not despair. He is among the most cultured, prudent and profound humans on earth. The ancient values of shared compassion and fellow-feeling abound in his heart. If you happen to ask a Yemeni what his top priorities in life are, he will look at you deep and after a moment's lapse give you a whimsical smile. Hang on a wee bit, do not despair. If you are still there, you are his confidante. He has revealed his passionate longings: a residence in a posh area, a customized car and a second wife. These secrets cut through all classes and all manner of people with small variations in details.

The first two desires confirm to universal norms. They relate to comfort and social status. As an alien to local custom and aspiration, you may be left wondering what to make of the last one. A middle-aged person as an exception. But when a not-so-longago married young man with two children opens his heart to you, your heart cringes. If only he had the resources, he tells you, he would get another wife. Do not you think your current wife will be traumatized. Of course not. Rather, she will be pleased. Pleased? Yes. She wants me to be happy and if I am happy, she is happy. Conceded. It is perfect reasoning. You cannot beat it. But a doubt lingers. What about your children? What is wrong with the children? What have they to do with this?. Will they not suffer an emotional stock? No, no, why should they? This is usual. Look at me, I was six years old

when my father married again. I am the same. It did not pinch me at all. You are left speechless with no counter-arguments, maybe a bit wiser. One thing is clear, even though the option may never be exercised, it is a deep seated desire rooted in the male psy-

Children are strangers to the grown up world. They are unable to explain a lot of things taking place around them and cling to us for emotional and psychological comfort. Our presence is reassuring to them. They need us not merely for emotional support and as role-models but also for their intellectual growth. It is a wellknown fact that a child in close physical proximity to its father grasps the intricacies of its learning tasks much more easily than in any other learning environment.

Times have changed. The current trend is towards a breaking up of the joint-family structure. There is very little support base left for a child in a nuclear family set-up other than its parents. Even in the best set-up in a two-spouse arrangement, physical and emotional fracture is inevitable. A child caught in such a situation may find it being taught to cope with the increasing demands of modern education. It may silently slip into depression and despair and turn into a laggard.

We have seen this happening in the West. With broken homes and single parent families becoming the norm. The worst-sufferers are the children. They feel forsaken. The violent incidents indulged in by the adolescents may serve as warning bells. It is time we sit up and take note. In the final analysis, fidelity to a single spouse may well turn out to be a virtue worth rigorous pursuing, both in mind and



Tender Announcement

- (1) The Republic of Yemen has received a loan from the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development to cover the cost of Sana'a sanitation networks and intends to apply part of the loan has been earmarked to cover the supply of pipes and fittings to be used in the environmentally affected areas in Sana'a.
- The Sana'a sanitation networks implementation Unit invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to supply the above mentioned materials.
- Bidding documents may be purchased at:

Republic of Yemen

Sana'a Sanitation Project

Sana'a Branch Executive Board for Water Supply & Sanitation

Itha'a Road Management Unit

Tel: 250163, Fax: 205163

- (3) Documents are available on payment of a non-refundable fee of US\$300. Bids must be accompanied by a bank guarantee of (2.5%) of total the value by a payable cheque or a bank security.
- (3) Bids will be publicly opened at 11.00 a.m (Yemen local time) on 11/12/1999.

دوق العربي الصحي-صنعاء، وتم تخصيص جزء من القرض لتوريد مواد للمناطق المتضررة بيئيا وصحيا من طفح المجاري في صنعاء.

وعليه تدعو وحدة تنفيذ مشاريع الصرف الصحي في صنعاء الأخوة الموردين الراغبين الدخول في مناقصة توريد المواد المذكورة (مواسير مع ملحقاتها) التقدم إلى العنوان التالي،-

> وحدة تنفيذ مشاريع الصرف الصحى- صنعاء الحصبة جوار مبنى الإذاعة والتلفزيون صنعاء-الجمهورية اليمنية 250163 - 250163 - · مقابل مبلغ وقدره (300) دولار أمريكي

وذلك لأخذ وثائق المناقصة، وسيتم فتح المظاريف في تمام الساعة الحادية عشرة الموافق 12/11/1999م، في مقر وحدة تنفيذ المشروع بحضور من يرغب من الأخوة المتقدمين أو مندوبيهم، ويرفق مع العطاء ضمان ابتدائي بواقع (2.5٪) بشيك مقبول الدفع أو ضمان بنكي صالح لمدة تسعين يوما.

ملاحظة ترفق صورة البطاقة الضريبية ضمن وثائق العطاءات اللموردين المحليين.

The History of the Yemeni Jews

: Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi Mohammed Bin Sallam

his is the last part of the story of the Yemeni Jews. In this article we will talk about the Jews' access to education, technical training and getting jobs.

When the number of the Yemeni Jews increased, they used to have a total independence in education and worshipping. They used to have special schools that existed in different parts of Yemen. Besides they used to have special places for performing their religious rituals. Furthermore, they studied Maths, astrology, literature, along with the handicraft activities which the Jews were famous for. They used to teach such jobs to their children so that these activities would never become extinct. This used to exist in the past when their numbers increased a lot in Yemeni society.

However, after the migration of the Yemeni Jews in large numbers to Israel and other countries we find that all these educational centers that met the basic requirements of life have disappeared.

The charge fund or the "Omah Fund,", a fund that was established to receive donations for supporting the Jews' schools and temples has also ceased to exist. And even if such funds are found, they have trivial sums of money that will do nothing. Hence, the Yemeni Jews lack the basic essentials of life in Yemen. The Yemeni government, on the other hand, do not pay them the attention they need. Therefore, some Jews were com-

pelled to teach their kids in the governments' schools, meaning that their kids would have to study Islamic subjects. Thus, whoever stayed in Yemen was saved the humiliation and oppression he would be exposed to in Israel, however, he came to face another humiliation here.

Some Yemeni Jewish youth were fed up with their conditions here in Yemen. They traveled to Israel seeking a better place to work. However, they came back some months later as they could not find jobs. They said that their being unqualified made them unable to find jobs there. Furthermore they could not stay in Israel for it is beneath their dignity to work as sweepers. Some other Jews believe that migration is the only way to be qualified and to get a job. However, Yayish said that the Yemeni Jews in Israel face a lot of difficulties and troubles as the Western Jews are still holding themselves superior to the Yemeni ones. They consider them to be of a lower class.

Job opportunities are also very rare in Yemen since they are not qualified, save for some of them who depend upon their own abilities.

For example, Yahya bin Yayish, a Jewish rabbi, who studied in government schools until he completed his secondary study and then studied mechanics. He is now considered to be the best mechanic in the Raydah region. He is trusted by all the Muslims as well as the Jews. The Israeli organizations tried to persuade him to go to Israel. However, he refused. Finding that he was adamant not to leave Yemen, they plotted a plan and set his workshop on fire. However, he never lost hope and would never leave Yemen. He is married and has got six daughters. He said "I cannot leave Yemen and go to Israel for I am very much afraid to let my daughters live in a society of immorality." This is an example of a person who lit both ends of the candle to find a place for himself in such miserable

The Yemeni Jew, furthermore, feels that he is inferior to other people here in Yemen. They feel that they are suppressed and are not given their due rights, especially by the sheikhs. One of the Yemeni Jews said that they are not allowed to carry weapons like other Yemenis to defend themselves in case of danger. However, Arone, another Jew, said that they do not have to carry weapons as they are protected by the government.

When we asked the rabbi Yayish, who is more than 70 years old, about the source of his living, he said that he and other Jews have nothing except their houses. He said that Raydah is not his origin. He said that he used to live in Arhab in Sa'adah but then he was forced to move to Raydah. He said he earns his living by treating people by using herbs. He said that he treats those who are possessed, affected by the evil eye, etc. This is his career, however, his sons have their own activities and interests; One sells clothes, the other repairs cars and the third one repairs shoes. His sons who are studying in America and Britain, do not provide him with any financial support. They are studying there at the expense of a Jewish organization. When we got into Yayish's house, we noticed that all the walls were embellished with different Hebrew expressions. He told us that these expressions are for teaching Jewish children the Yemeni Hebrew letters which are the original letters of the Hebrew language. He said that the Hebrew language used in Israel is different from the Hebrew language used by them here. At the beginning, we tried to convince him that we came for the sake of treatment. While we were talking we noticed that he was wellinformed of many Islamic sciences and the Holy Qura'an. He gave us some information of the Old Testament and said that on Saturdays they do not work at all. "It has been stated in the Old Testament that it is banned to work on Saturdays. God

> created the universe within 6 days and had rest on the 7th day which came to be Saturday. Thus, it is banned to work on Saturdays. Those who do not abide by these instructions may be even sentenced to the death penalty. We do not stop working only on Saturdays, the 7th day of the week, but also on the Seventh Saturday which is called "Sabt Al-Saboot", the Saturday of Saturdays and also the Saturday of the months which is the 7th month and the Saturday of the years which is the 7th years. In this year we do not plant our lands."

Then he told us that he was very busy and that he had-

of people waiting for him to be treated. One told us that he is a famous doctor and that people come from different places to be treated and cured of their diseases.

The Jews celebrate Easter which is on August 14; the Penance day; a day in the 7th month of the Hebrew year; and the cleaning day on December 25 of each year. All these celebrations, however, have become a matter of formality rather than sacred ones. This is very much different in Yemen where the Yemeni Jews highly appreciate and glorify them.

The migration of the Jews happened throughout history and their inability to find a national home so long in the past was due to so many reasons including their books' instructions which tend to raise their status above that of other people. Their rabbis tend to defend this and say, "we are a special race, our appearance, body shape, our nose shape which we are distinguished by from other people, are all sure evidences that prove that we are from another race. We have proved this throughout history and despite our dispersion, we are the most united nation and the most supportive for our

The Yemeni Jews Very Much Distinguished for Growing Girdles Yemeni Jews were distinguished for maintaining their habit of growing their girdles. These girdles are two long threads of hair hanging from their heads. It is said that they were asked to grow them by Yussef Yassr who is well-known for Yussef Tho Nowass in the second decade of the sixth century AC. When some of the Jewish sects started breaking this habit, the Caliph Haroon Al-Rashid gave instructions to his ruler in Yemen to force them to grow girdles. He also asked him not to allow Christians to imitate Muslims in their appearance, nor to allow them to ride on their back saddles. They, furthermore, are not allowed to wear clogs. However, some books indicate that the Abbasid Caliph Al-Motawakel was the one who asked them to have specific clothes and signs that make

From the view point of the Caliph whether he is Haroon or Al-Motawakel, it is important to keep the conventions that they are used to. Such conventions are approved by the Islamic authority and a sacred habit of the Jews.

them different from Muslims.

Al-Shabizi, a Great Rabbi

leaders in Yemen. He was born in 1619 in a village near Taiz. He studied the Jewish religion in Sana'a and stayed there for several years. Then, he traveled to different villages inspecting the Jews' conditions. He loved Sana'a very much and this is distinctly depicted in his peotry verses. He suffered with the Jews when they were driv-

en out of Sana'a to Moza'a during the reign of Al-Mahdi. He was very famous also for his beautiful and exquisite verses. He has written many poems about the beauty of Sana'a. In one of his poems he said: "Oh you who thirst for wisdom and

knowledge, Go thee to Sana'a, the place of utmost

happiness,

Its sages will guide you in all respects."

He has got another beautiful poem that starts with the following line:

"Oh, how deeply I gulp of the disasters" This line's equivalence in Arabic is \Wa kam atagarra alajban\

We do not know for certain when he died exactly. However, it is said that he died after the crisis of Moza'a was over (1681-1686). The reason behind driving out the Yemeni Jews from Sana'a is due to their revolution and rebellion against the Yemeni authorities during that time. They felt they have become strong, therefore they started looking forward to build their own regime. They started creating many problems and chaos in Yemen, especially in Sana'a. As a result Al-Mahdi gathered his forces to end the rebellion. He suppressed their revolution. Consequently, most of them became homeless. He expelled all the rest to the Moza'a village near Al-Magha. Experiencing the miserable conditions of the Jews in Moza'a, Al-Shabazi tried to intercede with Al-Mahdi to forgive and allow the Jews to get back to Sana'a. Al-Mahdi was very considerate and accepted his mediation for he was loved and greatly admired by Yemenis.

The name of Al-Shabazi is commonly repeated these days. Some Arab media have said that the government of Israel has requested the government of

to his homeland, Israel. Sources state between Jewish figures including Mosaa Domti, Salem Kahyoot and Yemeni politicians to build a monument for him beside his grave in Taiz, after normalization between the two countries takes place. It is also reported that Israel is interested in some specific Yemeni places such as Ka'a Al-Yahood in Sana'a; Ka'a Al-Yahood in Al-Kana'a Rada'a: the Jewish cemeteries that are spread in different places in Yemen and in Yafruss district where the grave of Bin Al-Wan lies. Many people do wonder whether the subject of Al-Shabazi's monument will be the beginning of the normalization course between the Yemen and Israel.

The history of the Yemeni Jews is

wide and multidimensional. Many books giving different information have been written about them. However, what it should be asserted is that they had a strong presence in the Yemeni society in the past. The only question that preoccupies many interested people is "What has remained of the Yemeni Jews?" But it is actually hard to find a satisfying answer except for that their number is roughly estimated around 250 and they are settled in different places of Yemen. The Yemeni Jews are still suffering in Yemen from some pressure of some Jewish groups which often come to Yemen to urge them to travel to Israel. If any Yemeni Jew is deceived by these Jewish groups, he will find himself a mere Eastern Jew belonging to "Al-Safardim" sect who suffers terribly and is oppressed by the Western Jews "Ashkenaz". However, what a pity to realize the heinous actions exercised on the Yemeni Jews either here in Yemen or in Israel by Zionism and to do nothing to put an end to that.





Careless Car Drivers in Yemeni Cities

Recklessly Jeopardizing People's Lives



is frequently crowded with people and

cars. All of a sudden I heard the

shrieking sound of brakes of a vehicle

and loud screaming voices of some

people. I rushed to the spot to see what

happened. I saw a small boy run over

by a car. The boy was bleeding pro-

fusely. I asked, "Where is the driver?"

One the people gathering at the place

said in a low voice, "Here he is." The

driver was a young guy who appeared

to be from a well-to-do family. He was

looking indifferently at the boy who

was groaning with pain. I could hear

him utter some filthy expressions in

English. His car was three meters

away. Traces of his cars tiers due to his

brakes were clearly Tawfeek AL-Shara'abi seen on the road. Another one standing there told me that he was driving like a maniac moving from

t came as a shock! I never one side to another and that music was expected that there could blasting from the car. He tried to be some people devoid of escape after he hit the boy but could not as there were two cars in front of mercy and kindness to such a degree. Let me narrate him. There were some young guys in his car. "I'll take him to hospital," the what I experienced a few young man said. Then, he called one of his friends inside the car who took I was walking in Haddah street which the boy in and drove away.

He told us this sentence in such a casual way that made me feel as if the accident was nothing to make a fuss about. I was among many who were standing there spellbound.

Car accidents have of late become a frequently occurring phenomenon in many cities of our country, especially in Sana'a. Every day we hear about an accident that ended up killing victims or seriously injuring them "in our large and big roads." Statistics reveal that the death toll in such accidents have reached a staggering number. What a pity that more often than not, children are the main victims of these speedy cars whether in cities or on highways. These children, who spend most of their time in streets, become an easy prey to such speedy cars.

Another tragic event that cost a small girl her life and injured her sister happened near the building of the Yemen Times. The car belongs to a well-off person holding a good position in a prosperous company. It happened around 10 a.m. The road was empty except for some children who were playing. However, the driver was driving at break-neck speed and could not stop the vehicle in time to save the small girl who was holding her small sister in her arms. He ran over her and killed her on the spot. He also hit the small one and threw her some meters away. She was fatally injured.

I myself have almost been crushed three times since I came to Sana'a. Each time I escaped these cars by chance and each time the drivers stared at me arrogantly and drove away.

Some months ago we learned about catastrophic accident which occurred to the late Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saggaf and claimed his life. This accident cost Yemenis one of the very few patriots who if were spared would have done miracles for the welfare of his society. It was again another reckless, ignorant guy driving madly in a crowded street. The accident is over, the victim gone and the punishment that may befall the accused is still a far cry off. Until now the criminal is still at large.

Such accidents are common in Yemen. I cannot understand why such people are left without an exemplary penalty. While I was discussing the issue of increased incidence of car accidents with a friend and the unruly drivers, he said, "Money is the reason. There is a specific segment of the people who went from rags to riches. They want to show that they have means of power and as the English proverb says, 'Money talks!'." He said that they use such fabulous cars just to show off before the public. Naturally, the sons are influenced by the fathers' attitude and follow suit. Some fathers encourage their sons by not teaching them good driving manners. No sooner than there is an accident or break-down and their fathers buy new and better cars for them. Therefore, these children have come to believe that their father's money can buy them everything; new cars and even the lives of people they crush.

However, showing off one's wealth and entertaining oneself should not be at the expense of people's lives. Such drivers have become so alarmingly indifferent to pedestrians and people crossing the streets. The moment they get into their cars, they forget themselves and they become the monarchs who have absolute power and control. These people are extremely snobbish and have not got any sense of mercy in their hearts. This is evident from the increasing cases of car accidents resulting in colossal loss of lives. Furthermore, some drivers find amusement and joy by crushing people in streets. It has become a fashion these days. If a driver sees his friend in a street, he welcomes him by trying to crush him. Can you believe it? What an expression of love!!

It is actually distressing to see these drivers drive madly through streets fearing none. Sometimes you can only listen to the noisy music that is booming inside. What is most agonizing is that you sometimes see young kids driving "Army" or "Police" cars. Such cars have been granted to these officials to help them maintain law and order. However, what happens is that those officials who are supposed to protect lives are those who are instrumental in killing them. Sometimes you could hardly notice the driver because he is hardly noticeable. All this makes me wonder, "who should Obviously, the tenets of law and order

are honored more by their breach of the law than by their observance of it. Otherwise we could see that these violators are subject to the heaviest penalties as a warning to prevent such events. The Traffic Administration has always played the role of an onlooker or a bystander. They are indeed the ones to blame. They should frame strict rules and apply them without fear and favor, equally to all. Kids should not be allowed to drive at all, and strong penalties should be imposed when such cases occur. Unfortunately, nothing like this ever happens in this country. Officials should be the model in maintaining law and order. Army as well as Police cars should be used to save people's lives and protect them. Their owners should be regularly supervised and monitored to check if they abide by the rules or not. In cases of proven violation of rules severe punishments should be imposed, and their cars should be confiscated. We look forward to seeing a concrete agenda of action by the Traffic Administration and not mere empty words.

As the Leadership Starts War Against Qat, people admit: ! "We Want a Country Without Qat!"



he President's latest orders to ban chewing Qat while on duty filled many people with relief. They considered it a courageous step towards the elimination of this negative phenomenon which has had its regrettable impact on the national economy, as well as on the social standards. Yet, many of them still question the sincerity of its implementation. Personally, I think it will soon be ignored and neglected as many other orders that have proven to be difficult to implement on the ground. However, last week, the government surprised all again by its decision to extend working hours

During our visits we also talked to some people who expressed their feelings about the newly issued decisions as follows:



Major Abdul Kafi Sharian I am a coach at the Military Sport Union. have large

equipped with sport many tools. One of the problems I face is the weak-

ness of some of the soldiers training here. This is partially caused by chewing Qat. Many of them chew Qat in the afternoon and come to do some exercises after that. They used to chew Qat in the camp, particularly in the soldiers' residence. However, after the President's orders of banning Qat at work places, this phenomenon van-Carrying ished. out the President's orders was supervised by the Ministry of Defense which has imposed a punishment of 6 months imprisonment on violators.

Chewers among the military officers found it very difficult to find an alternative. They found salvation in heading for training halls. Unfortunately, some of them go outside the camp in order to chew Oat. However, these have to come back to the camp with no traces of Qat.

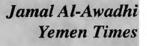
One of the good features of these orders is the fact that they restore the dignity of the military work as well as to the military uniform. It was a very tarnished image seeing military officers and soldiers in the Qat market in military uniform. Now soldiers are forbidden to buy Qat when they are wearing the military uniform. A number of overseers have been appointed to watch the implementation of these orders. In fact, they are very wise decisions. I am sure that Yemen will be better off without Qat,



Mohammed Al-Harazi, sol-

I used to chew Oat because I usually feel bored in the afternoon. Whenever

saw my friends going to the Qat market, I accompanied them in order to spend time together. Fortunately, the President's orders made me think of finding an alternative. So I thought of doing some exercises at the camp club and saving the money that I used to spend on Oat. Though I have been doing exercises for a short time, I feel well. I also found many of my friends, who I used to chew Qat with, present at the club, too.'



from 8 am to 3 pm and by making Thursday an official holiday. This will help accomplish a lot of work on time and at the same time will delay the times of chewing Qat which usually starts at 1 pm. Consequently, this will help chewers, especially people of the low income, get rid of this habit or at least minimize it.

To make sure that these decisions are really implemented on the ground, the Yemen Times visited a number of military sites, state offices and sports and cultural clubs in Sana'a. During our visits, we found that the government orders were carried out in all the places we visited. Many people who used to chew Qat, were present at clubs to do some exercises. Outside one camp we noticed some military officers chewing Qat and all of them weren't wearing the military uniform. When they went back to work, they threw it out. It is a good start to establish the country of law and order.



Mansour Al-Soraihi, first lieutenant

"After issuance of orders banning during Qat work hours. military offi-

cers, as well as soldiers began to look for an alternative. All of them agree that Qat causes many sorts of damage to health, society and economy. We used to buy Qat and chew it during working hours and at the workplace. But the strong orders of the President have stopped this. Many people thought that these orders would soon be forgotten, but directives to the military leaders were very strict that any person caught red-handed to be punished by imprisonment or even by firing from work. This has led military officers and soldiers to look for an alternative. Some of them go to the sport hall to do some exercises and others began to look for other work to keep themselves busy. Therefore the government should not stop at the issuance of these orders but it should also

> do its best to provide alternative."



Hamoud Al-Tauhary, second lieutenant used to spend almost all my salary on Qat. Due to

the lack of an alternative, we used to spend our time in (magials). But after chewing Qat was banned in camps we were compelled to try doing other things. So we have started doing some exercises at the club. I felt tired in the beginning but then I felt the opposite. I think these

> will orders youth give up chewing'



Yahia Shihari, Secretary of the Al-Ahli Club Library. Banning

chewing Qat during the work hours and extending the work hours were very wise decisions. This step might help people reconsider the damage Qat causes to them. But the government should not stop at this stage, it is now obliged to provide the alternatives. For example, organizing language and computer training courses for officials in the afternoon. This, of course will reflect positively on their work quality. In fact, our economy is in dire need of such decisions.

As far as the Qat growers are concerned, they can consider

this decision as a warning to reduce the number of Oat trees and to start growing other kinds of vegetables and fruits. We, in the Al-Ahli Club have positively responded to the President's orders by banning chewing Qat at the club's halls. We have noticed that the exercise halls have began to crowd with young

people have on their turn decided to abandon Qat and look for some other things to do.

Mohammed Ahmad Haidar, eco-

nomic researcher One of the priorities of passing any decision on any development activity is the availability of a complete study on all dimensions of that decision in order to accomplish its aims and avoid any negative consequences. I don't think that the Ministerial decision to extend the work hours which comes as complemantary the to President's order to ban Qat while on duty is the best solution to the phenomenon of Qat chewing. This socially inherited phenomenon has been connected with deep rooted habits and traditions until it has become dominant and one of the main constituents of the backward social structure. It is very difficult to rid Yemen of this phenomenon. Therefore, these decisions are unable to present scientific and practical solutions to minimize the spread of it. Wiping out this phenomenon requires a national strategy based upon economic, social, cultural and health studies. This strategy should be made by all governmental and non-governmental organizations and people concerned, and it should be implemented on a phased basis in order to evaluate them one by one.

To implement this strategy, the government should present new remedies for all the negative phenomena that hinder develop-

The government has to organize qat chewing in holidays and occasions. Mere thinking of the eradication of this phenomenon does not agree with the social reality for the following reasons: 1- Many families depend on growing Qat for their living. This sector of people has to be compensated with a suitable alternative.



of Qat chewers are young people who form 50% of the whole population of the Republic, they should be pro-

2- Since most

vided with their needs and demands that satisfy them.

Jameel Mohammed Ahmad, Chairman of Aden Radio

Oat is considered to be an abnormal phenomenon which has no equivalent in other Arab countries. The President's latest decision concerning Qat chewing is right and it could have been passed long ago had the circumstances been suitable. However, it needs to be backed up by all if it is to succeed because if people are dissatisfied with it, I think it will be impossible to implement on the ground. Fortunately, I can see some positive response from the people. These people need to be provided with alternatives. At this stage, all social and charitable organizations are asked to help these people, especially chewers, by providing them with satisfactory alternatives. Media is also supposed to raise the people's awareness about health and economic problems resulted from Qat chewing.

One of the greatest problems of Oat is its wide spread at the expense of other crops and the great amount of water it consumes for its growing. This, of course, affects the national economy.

We, in the Aden Television and Radio Corporation, have banned Qat chewing or even carrying it at work. Many used to chew Qat at the Corporation's studios which were always changed into magials (long rooms where people gather in groups to chew Qat). This situation no longer exists. It seems as if people were awaiting such decisions. Many of them wanted to give up Qat chewing, but it seemed as if they needed encouragement to do so. However, the problem is not that easy to get rid of in a short time. Many alternatives should be made available. For example,

> public libraries. clubs, etc.

Ahmad

Thabit, Vice

Chairman of

World

The

Bank



fact. In extending the work hours will help employees get rid of thinking about Qat. We, at the World Bank have banned Oat chewing, too. Some people were disappointed in the first week but gradually, they got used to it.

When asking for the substitute, **sports** comes as the first answer. Why doesn't

the government encourage sports activities and redirect the youth to all kinds of

sports by enhancing fields, launching campaigns that call for promoting sports

As far as work times at banks working in Yemen are concerned, we will face a problem in contacting other World Banks for which Saturdays and Sundays are holidays if we implement the latest decision of making Thursday an official holiday. Representatives from banks working in Yemen met with Dr. Abdul Kareem Al-Iriani, head of the Cabinet, who positively responded to our problem and gave us the freedom to choose the time suitable

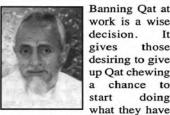
for us.



Abdulla Al-Kibsi, Assistant Secretary General of the Yemeni Olympic Committee

The decision of extending the working hours passed by the government recently will cause some confusion at the beginning. People are not used to spending such a time at work. In my opinion, this will help people shake off the habit of chewing Qat at specific times. However, implementation of this decision should be overseen till people get used to it. I don't chew Qat and I hope that its trees will be uprooted everywhere.

Hassan Mohammed Abdul Hammeed, employee



Banning Qat at work is a wise decision. gives desiring to give up Oat chewing a chance to doing start

been postponing for a long time. I hope that the latest decision to extend the working hours will help increase and improve productivity. I also hope that people will comply with this decision. I know that it will be difficult at the beginning, but I think it will yield its fruits in the long run.



Mohammed Abdul Wali. advisor at the Ministry Youths and Sports These decisions

are very useful. I think that they

have been passed after careful studies of its social, economic and cultural dimensions. Many people are very enthusiastic about these decisions. They look at them as a strong beginning by the government to carry out its reform programs. People have positively responded to these two decisions. Now they have a two-day holiday in which they can relax and enjoy their time with their families. Concerning banning Qat, sports clubs have banned Qat availability on their grounds.

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Israeli Satellite Channels - Inside Yemeni Hotels

Jalal Al-Shar'abi Yemen Times



Involvement of TV satellites in world countries political conflict, has made the recipient an easy prey for them and the ideas they promote. While at the threshold of the 3rd millenium, it becomes difficult to presume that we can stand up to this torrent of information poured by the huge communication network whose modes of expression are no longer hindered by time and physical frontiers. Thus, the confrontation has become that of keeping race with this technology and upgrading our country's mass media, more expressive of our people needs of freedom and honorable living and of satisfying their psychological and social needs proportionate to their religious doctrine.

It is really shocking to witness the extent of corruption and decay of manners and principles promoted inside some Yemeni hotels by the use of Israeli Satellite Channels for the sole objective of procuring more money. Those in charge in these hotels are heedless of the detrimental impact of the Israeli channels corrupt programs on their recipient lodges.

Yemen Times has conducted interviews with a number of jurists, Journalists and others. Galal Al-Sharabi of Yemen Times has conducted these interviews.

The first one who talked about problem was Mr. Hussein Daif Allah Al-Awadi. Chairman of the Board of Directors of N e w Agency



He indicated that the (Sheba). advanced countries were trying by many means to attain a media invasion the underdeveloped countries. These countries aim at corrupting the Islamic, national, and cultural values. They realize that they cannot conquer us by war, so they turn to this dangerous weapon with which they plan to achieve their purposes successfully. Local information media should be aware of those people who have satellite dishes at homes. They have to be

made aware of the danger of these receivers. We do not mean that they should give up these receivers, but there should be control and discipline conducted by parents.

The reason behind this problem is that there are no scientific symposia where people can spend their time, and take the advantage of these seminars. In this case, people are forced to sit and watch Television to see whatever programs they want. We have to develop our libraries and all cultural activities in order to keep the minds of people fresh. People have to pay more attention to this problem. They have to work and read books in order to fill their free time. We have to study the social and psychological effects of youths who stopped reading and turned to watch television. We have to save this group of people (youths).

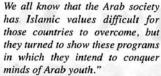


Yahya Abdulraqeeb, Chairman of the Information Department in the Cabinet: "In fact these programs are one of the deteriorating factors which cor-

rupt minds of the youth. I see that there must be a control by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Interior. In addition to this, I believe that the long leisure hours from which our Youth suffer is the main factor creating this problem and aggravates it in the society. If we look into this problem, we will find that people themselves are the cause of this problem because they go to hotels to watch these programs. At the same time, we have to find the substitute for this means. All people believe that there should be another thing to replace these channels. We have to join hands to put an end to this dangerous problem, which will affect the infrastructure of the Yemeni socie-

Yemen Times had also Dr. Fareed Abdulkareem, a professor at the psychology department, Sana'a University, who illustrated some of the psychological problems of youth: "These channels do not intend to enter-

tain people, but they intend to corrupt youths by broadcasting some programs to arouse sexual excitement of those youth. The other dangerous thing is that the Arab youth believe as they watch these channels that this is the real culture. They have curiosity to know everything because they do not fully know the Islamic and social val-



If we look with a discerning eye at these channels, we find that we cannot prevent them. In this case, Arab Information has to play crucial roles to educate youth by broadcasting cultural programs.

Mr. Q. S., an owner of a hotel in Attahreer St. "Frankly, a lot of customers especially young people come

to my hotel just to watch such channels as 'Vinous.' They ask about these channels before they ask about the rooms and prices for example. If we have these channels, they come and stay, but if we do not have them, they will not come. In addition to this, we have these channels in our hotel because of the big costs that we pay." An owner of a hotel in Taiz St. says: "As we make available

the service of these channels, it is easy for us to raise the price of a room. The youth ask about these channels before they pay any fees. He indicated that these receivers are supported by Israeli companies. For example the price of the receiver was YR

40,0000. Now, the price is only YR

Mr. Ahmed Alawo, Manager of Al-Bonian Company For Advertising and Relations Public mentioned that these channels aim at corrupting the cultural

identity of Arab society, and what is hapening at the Yemeni hotels is the mistake of the government and people. Reliable resources at the Ministry of Information said that the law does not

prevent programs like these because there are huge numbers of satellites in Sana'a and Aden and in most of the gover-

Ali Al-Saqqaf, Managing Editor of Alwahdawi newspaper said that Israel launches defamation campaigns against Arab society.

> of these channels threaten our generations. h International Information aims at spreading globaliza-

So the presence

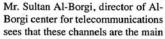
The situation raised its climax in answered him. He fell official places vexed with notifiin her trap and repeated cations. "This act is disgusting," the attempt till he got says one officer, "Once we what he wanted and received a call to take the necessary steps but it turned out to be a fake call".

As this detestable phenomenon is more likely to be found in our society, it raises a serious signal for the topsy-turvy minds of a particular class. They are devoid of any kind of sensitivity or

fering from certain psychological problems almost resulting from leisure. They kill time by doing nonsense and never caring for others. Therefore, the chance should be caught to bring notice to the Ministry of Youth which partly share the blame. It is time to lift a finger and offer miscellaneous outlets and appropriate drainage to the energies of the young. This is not the sole solution to uproot this loathsome phenomenon, but it undoubtedly par-

American culture especially in Arab society, with the aim of corrupting Islamic values. We have to stand against these channels, and realize that our struggle with

Israel will not come to an end.



danger which threatens our Islamic values. Authorities should work to stop this danger. Yemen Times con-

ducted some interviews with jurists to gather more responses to this affair. Dr. Saleh Bin Yahya, professor in Our'an interpreta-

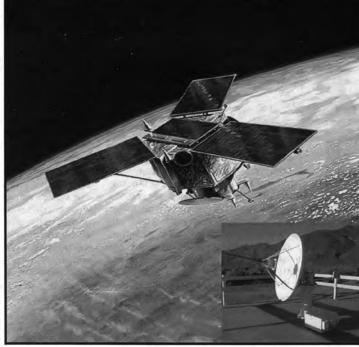
tion in Sana'a university: "Now, we are witnessing giant developments in technology and information, we feel that the world is a small village. To judge on this matter, we cannot say that these channels are forbidden at all, but the

forbiddance depends upon the programs that they broadcast. We can give permission to those channels which show Islamic programs.

If we watch these channels, we find that most of them are forbidden, especially those channels which broadcast from the foreign countries. Those countries which do not know what the meaning of Islam is. We, as Moslems, see that all of these channels are for-

bidden because they contradict our Islamic ideology. So' as we judge on this matter, we have to turn to the Qur'an and Sunna. Now, we have to ask a question, who is responsible for this? What is the role of the country and people? Hence, I can say that all of us are responsible for these things. I urge each one to cooperate to change this practice. The father must not pay for a satellite for his sons, owners of the hotels should not offer this service at their hotels. We do not have to corrupt our behavior by our own hands. We have to perceive the purpose of those countries who aim at corrupting our values. If we are concerned about this, they can not conquer us by any

We, as Moslems, are responsible to stand against these dangers. In other words, we have to take the advantage of these new technologies through broadcasting and showing Islamic programs and the Arabic culture".



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The last date for submission of applications is December 20, 1999. Application Forms and complete details are available at the World Bank Office, Sana'a.

> The World Bank Hadda Street No. 40 P. O. Box 18152 Phone: 413708

Note

We notify our readers that the telephone numbers of the Shammr Tourist Hotel published in the tourist guide were wrong, and the actual numbers are as follows: Tel: 418564

We also notify that the Shammr Hotel is a 4 star hotel and not a three star hotel as might have been understood from the advertisement in the tourist guide, because one star was mistakenly omitted.

ASSION FOR PEOPLE

Mansour Al Izzi war hero brings tennis to children and adults.

War hero Mansour Al Izzi has enlisted for another battle helping a generation swap guns for tennis racquets.

These days, the only volleys of shots Mansour encounters are on the Sheraton Sana'a tennis courts where he tutors many of Yemen's young hopefuls and expatriates. Tennis tournament for diplomats, United Nations, and members of Thula

recreation center will start from 26th November until 3rd December 1999.

*Yemen Times will be a sponsor of this event.

New Executive Floor Lounge for Executive Guests can now enjoy our facilities, exclusively for your guests.

إ آل شرف الدي بقلوب مؤمنة مملوءة بالأسى تلقينا نبأ وفاة

والدة الأخ عبد السلام شرف الدين و الدكتور محمد شرف الدين تغمد الله الفقيدة بواسع رحمته وألهم أهلها وذويها الصبر والسلوان وإنا لله وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

محمد بن سلام، مازن أبو شنب وليد عبد العزيز السقاف وطاقم صحيفة يمن تايمز

تهانينا

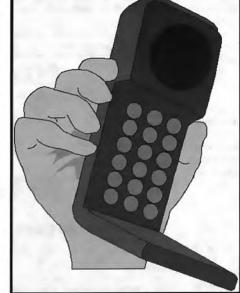
نتقدم بأحر التهاني والتبريكات إلي حرم محمد أنعم بمناسبة ارتزاقها مولودا جديدا أه «مصطفى»

جعله الله قرة عين والديه، وألف مبروك المهنؤون؛ حرم عدنان السقاف، حرم حسين الكبسي، حرم رضا الس حرم يحى الكبسي، حرم غانم الدبعي، حرم محمد الأشول



Nada Yahia Qanbar

he truth that everyone of us has in one way or another a pastime. favorite Some like reading, others are fond of painting and so on. However, believe it or not, some people's cup of tea is to harass others and fly high when seeing others annoyed. This harassing in fact, takes many shapes and the most distinctive thing I would like to throw light on is telephone testing. Almost every house has a problem with this kind of trouble. Some houses are unreasonably bombarded with testing calls day and night from anonymous callers. The telephone keeps on tinkling and when the hand is lifted up, none is there to breathe a word and at times the caller may offer you a song to answer your "hello!" They keep on calling you until



you see red and pull out the plug. One interesting story that I have come to know recently is that a phone testing has gathered a man and a woman in a marriage. The man rang up accidentally to a

married the woman. But not all phone calling are promising and starry-eyed. You can receive a telephone call at late time fabricating a sob story about one of your close relatives who has had a fatal accident or threatens or warns you not to do such and such. This happens a lot when a soft voice tells your wife that you are in love with another women! Such matters are not only a mere teasing but also a bar-

barous playing on nerves which demands the interference of the people in authority. Sometimes the receiver of the call can get the telephone number of the caller in his way and then one if not both responsibility. These pains in the neck are suf-

ticipates in reducing it.

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Dim Horizons

here have you been all these y e a r s, F a r i d?" asked Mubarak as he struggled to get out from behind the counter of his textiles shop, which was full of several rolls of fabric that he had been showing some customers just before Farid walked in. He continued talking to Farid, as he managed to get out of the multitude of colors and textures that was unrolled in the counter.

"It is so good to see you again. Where have you been over the last ten years?"

Farid jubilantly hugged Mubarak, while at the same time giving his friend just the right amount of support he needed to prevent him from falling, after Farid's feet had become entangled in some of the hanging fabrics by the door of the shop. Farid had not forgotten Farid's astigmatism and the tendency of some parts of his body to insist on having a race with the rest of the body, not exactly sure where the finish line is; he answered his friend's question, happy that he was able to save him from falling on the mannequin standing next to them sheathed in loose unsewn fabrics, which was put there just to give an indication of how the different

fabric colors would look on the human anatomy.

"You will not believe this, but I have not gone anywhere since the last trip we went on together through the Ta'ez-Hodeida-Sana'a triangle. Where is there to go these days? If you have money, you are afraid to go anywhere with it these days, because you are liable to get caught in the crossfire of warring tribes, or your car could break down and it will cost an arm and a leg to get it fixed, if you are lucky enough to find any place where it can be repaired. Tell me, do you see any of the guys in 'our group'? We realhad some good times together. I do not think there was one day when we met that we did not go home with muscle pains from the laughter and merriment we had. It all seems like a dream now. What about all those trips we had together, so many times a year. Just like that, we would abruptly decide to go on to Ibb and within two hours we would be there. Now we never meet at all. Even if perchance we would go to the same wedding feast, it is hard to get everyone together, as there are so many people spread out in three or four houses. Some of the guys have passed away. Others are lying sick at home afflicted with a chronic ailment.

Moods have also radically changed. There does not seem to be anything to laugh about these days."

"You are quite right," said Mubarak. Looking out the door, he thought he saw the "tea boy", so he yelled out to him: "Two teas, please with plenty of sugar and mint," hoping that his nearsightedness had not deceived him. Soon the tea boy came by, but

without the tea!

"You have to pay last month's bill," said the boy.

Mubarak tried to tone down his friend's embarrassing situation: Don't bother Farid, I just dropped by to say hello and I just had tea a half hour ago at the office. It seems like business is not so good these days, is it Mubarak?" asked Farid, feeling sorry for his pal. He continued, "We employees thought we were the only ones who had it bad, those days. Why, I remember coming to your store, not being able to talk to you, because you were so busy with all the customers crowding at your shop. Even with two salesmen, you were still always busy. You even used to buy cakes and refreshments for the customers!" This was said in the hope that Mubarak would not blame himself for the lack of business these days.

"You can bet your life that all

the shops here are facing hard times. Rents have gone up; business has gone down; costs for utilities and other services have risen. Nobody buys textiles anymore. People can't afford to go to tailors or dressmakers; they can't afford to buy sewing machines any-Ten years ago, a sewing machine could be found in every house that I knew of. There was always at least one woman in the household who could sew. But nowadays, if you had a machine and it broke, you couldn't afford to repair it, or replace it; or you don't have enough money to buy fabrics to sew! I have stopped ordering new stock, because I can't pay my suppliers for the old stock, you see in front of you. Three stores down the street have just closed down. Their creditors just came in and took everything that was left, including the lighting fixtures and bulbs. Even at cost price. nothing is selling. I have already sold my other house and the piace of land, which I had bought from your fatherin-law fifteen years ago. I had to do that to meet the tax bill and the other expenses that had been accumulating on me. Farid cut in: "Why pay taxes if there is no business?

My friend, the phrase 'economic recession' does not exist in the Tax Authority lexicon. They will keep pestering you and threatening you with arrest - and even arrest you to pay the YR 400,000 tax bill or else! Eventually after they hassle you to the last drop of sweat, they will give you a 25% to 50% "discount," provided you pay half of the discount 'off the record."" Mubarak gave his friend an idea that it does not pay anymore to go it alone these days. 'Mubarak, with all these hassles why bother continuing to open the store?" asked Farid. 'Farid, you are employed, and I am sure your salary is not enough to meet the transport costs for you and your family over the month. Yet, you still go to your job everyday. What else can one do? We still look towards the future. believing that it just could never get any worse. But, it does get worse! Frankly, speaking I am not going to be able to continue after next month, as the money of the land will dry up by then. Maybe the only thing left to do is go back to my wife's viling that even looking at the alternatives has its problems. Farid cut in again: "Now wait a minute, Mubarak. Since when do you know anything about farming? You lack the physical stamina and your eyesight is no encouragement either, let alone, the fact that you lack of the feeling for farming!"

Mubarak thought he had the answer to that: "My wife is very good at it. You might be surprised if I tell you that most of our food these days comes from what she grows in our backyard!"

Just then, Mubarak's hand abruptly clutched at a sizable area of his chest, and his body wavered and began to fall to the floor. Farid tried to prevent him from falling, but Mubarak's leg would not provide the needed steadfastness. In fact, all of Farid's rather wiry physique had lost its ability to resist the pull of gravity.

Just then, the tea boy came back with two glasses of steaming tea and their mints floating on top, saying: "The Moallim (coffee shop owner) has decided to give you another week of credit, not wishing to embarrass you again'..., hey what happened to him?"

Mubarak was just getting his breath back again, after overcoming the shock of seeing his long time friend come to his inevitable end. He explained to the flabbergasted tea boy:

"When all hope is lost, the human soul seeks greener pastures elsewhere, in the vast realm of the unknown. It is the kind will of Allah and the unkind folly of men finding common grounds amidst dim horizons"



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.

"Feed your Dog, Guard you"
Proverbs are considered to be products
of various experiences and thoughts of
individuals and communities. They
usually have no irregulars because
they are not scientific facts but they
are regarded to be as theories which
can be developed or changed in the
course of time. They sometimes differ
from one place to another.

If we present, for instance, the Yemeni saying "starve your Dog, follow you", that has been already applied by the Imams in their political life; take it as a primary rule for the reigning Yemeni Nation by adopting starvation and ignorance policy. However, this theory "saying" has proved to be a dismal failure and led the Imams to an immense disaster. There is clear evidence that this concept has become completely invalid.

If we state the opposite proverb as it is in the actual culture of America, we find the matter the contrary to that of American concept "Feed your Dog, Guard you" which, at the same time, has been practiced in their political life for the sake of reinforcing their rule as other advanced countries have been doing. This is the main reason of stability and development of those countries and their people.

Thus, we advise our leaders to look for

an improvement in their policy to improve the living standards of individuals and to put the economic starvation policy away, that only aims at increasing reforms that have never been seen yet!! Which actually enhances the government budget with as much liquid assets in order to strengthen the position of the corrupt. Being adopted, in our opinion, such a policy will undoubtedly lead to a miserable failure which will, at last, cause

indignation of the majority of people when patience is over .

Salah Ismail Al-Himyari

Presidential Elections

First of all, I would like to say to every one in the world, that Yemen has achieved many things in several ways. One of the achievements is the support to make success of Yemen Times, and may Allah bless the deceased Dr. Al-Saqqaf, the founder of Yemen Times.

Anees Al-Najjar, Ibb University

Will they be secured?

The Yemeni Bank for Reconstruction and Development has been one of the most important economic institutions that have been participating in supporting the national economy and providing investment projects with needed capital since the 1960s, but our government does not take that into consideration. It does not give this bank what it deserves.

In support of the above contention let me give this example. The bank has a lot of contracted employees who have been working for more than 10 years. Whenever those employees demand to be regularized as official employees, the general administration of the bank tries to evade the issue by saying that this has no relation with the government decrees, and that the Yemeni bank has nothing to do with the laws and systems of the government, though it possesses 51% of the bank's

I asked some of those employees about their version of the story. One of them told me that he started working in the Yemeni bank (Mahweet branch) in 1989, but he hasn't been employed officially yet. He said that though he

capital.

was promised more than once to be fixed in his work, nothing happened. He did not continue his study for the sake of work, but now, he feels that his time was wasted in vain.

It is not a mere personal problem, but it is a disaster threatening the future of more than 750 families throughout the country. Suppose, God forbid, one of those employees died leaving nothing for his family. What a catastrophic life they will lead after the death of the only one they depended on?

In Mahweet branch, there are 6 unfixed employees whose destiny is hanging in the balance like their colleagues in other branches, under the control of some high-ups in the general administration of the bank. Who are always trying to avoid talking about the reason for the delay. Once they said that it was the government that was to blame. Another time they said that it was due to the employees' rights of the former years of work that was responsible for the impasse. It is said that if those employees agree to dispense with their former rights to go somewhere else, everything might be settled. But, then will they be secured? At last, I want to say that it is favorable presidential elections, when Yemeni people gave their opinions frankly, and expressed their feelings toward their president Ali Abdullah, and elected him with out any force or compulsion.

What I'm with the Yemeni people by being interested in is the rapid progress of democracy in Yemen during the past 9 years. We have witnessed many accomplishments under the reign of president Saleh. So Yemeni people put all their confidence in their president.

Finally, I congratulate the president Ali Abdullah Saleh and the Yemeni people, on occasion of the 26th Sept. and 14th Oct. revolutions. I offer my thanks and admiration for their fine qualities and rich sense of responsibility.

And I offer my best regards to the employees of the Yemen Times, who contribute to publishing concerns of so many families threatened by the danger of poverty after the death of the father or husband before being officially employed.

Khalid Ali al-Quzahy Mahweet

Suffering

There is no doubt, that the main reasons behind the appearance and increase of many abnormal phenomena nowadays in our country are simply the bad economic situation and corruption. Some of these observable phenomena are: 1) Briberies 2) Constant crimes 3) Robberies 4) Explosions 5) Unemployment.

Let alone the increase of beggars in our community. Unfortunately, most of these beggars are women and children. They are increasing every day because of poverty, limited income and high price of the necessary commodities that are important for their daily lives.

Frankly speaking, all of the constant crimes, robberies briberies, etc. are because of the corruption which our country suffers from, and absence of government supervision on most important issues that concern the people. So, on whom can we put the blame?

Who is responsible for the emergence and increase of these phenomena? In short, our government should change its present plan to rebuild the upcoming future, the future of stability, and this will happen if there are serious steps for solving most essential issues that concern citizens. Otherwise, more tragic phenomena will appear to destroy these innocent citizens.

lage and work on the land she

inherited from her father. The

only problem here is that her

brothers refuse to give her her

share of the land. They say

they will 'compensate' her for

giving her what comes to less

than 10% of the land's market

value." Mubarak was show-

But to them that means

Abdo Mohammed Alabadi

Dear Editor, I'm glad to write to you and to partic-

ipate for the first time in your useful and wonderful newspaper "Yemen Times" which we all admire. Many reasons have encouraged me to write to you. One of them is, the continued advancement in our weekly newspaper. This advancement is embodied in the various and valuable items in it. So, I want to congratulate you for this great success, and I hope you accept me as your friend. Also I want to thank you for your tireless efforts in presenting this beautiful picture for the English language, especially, the Chief Manager, the sons of the great teacher Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, the

Managing Editor and all the staff.

Shihab Abdullah Saif Sabber, Taiz.

Dear Editor.

I have the pleasure to write this letter to express my due respect and full regard to our competent writer Hassan Al-Haifi about his valuable and significant writings in Yemen Times newspaper. Although I have no experience in writing much complimentary words of which our big writer duly deserves. As I would also believe that our honorable writer would not be in need of any rhetorical compliment or commendation. His arduous activities and high-principled targets are utterly enough to show and convince anyone of his sincerity, love and patriotism toward the country and the oppressed people of Yemen. However, I would politely assure that I have known our efficient writer through his objective and useful articles and noble picture on the page of Common Sense in Yemen Times Newspaper. That has

been since the first article he wrote in the paper. Whilst I have also been associated with the paper since its first year of issuance. Though our big writer had disappeared for some months, that was before the death of YT great and beloved founder Dr. Abdulaziz (God mercy upon him).

But fortunately he has come again with energy and strong activity contin-

uing his credible writings honestly and confidently. Now I may politely refer to our reverend writer the following simple complaints of a friend of mine who has recently become a reader of YT. It was by chance that I met my friend outside the mosque after we had performed our prayers. He was standing by a small bookshop where YT used to be sold. I approached the bookshop and bought a copy of YT. Meanwhile my friend asked me about the paper and how I could read it. I told him that I could read the paper, most of time with the help of a dictionary wherever more need be. He said that he also could use a dictionary in order to know the new or difficult words for him. But he said that sometimes he finds it difficult to understand some sentences and paragraphs in Common Sense column even by the help of a dictionary. Because there were usually many punctuations, long and many punctuated sentences to form a paragraph which caused him confusion and that he could hardly pass the column after reading it three or four times. So, I tried to convince him that he would gradually get used to the column by constant and persistent reading and then it would be easy for him. He accepted my idea, but asked me to beg our great writer to rather simplify the sentences and shorten the paragraphs in his writings. We all like to read the column, but we hope our writer would kindly make his English easier in order to make it easy for us to understand his writings without wasting much time and missing the most important contents of the col-

Many Thanks to our writer Al-Haifi.

Abdul Majid Ahmed, Mukalla

School Children and Uncovered Foodstuffs

month ago schools, institutes and universities opened doors for students. Children went back to their schools, too. Before them, hawkers along with their various items of uncovered foodstuffs were already at the doors of schools. Every morning that children go to school, they find many attractive kinds of food awaiting them at school doors; bread, potatoes, sweets and others. Eating cold pieces of sweet in the early morning has its bad effects on children's stomachs. In addition, some of the sandwiches, due to their exposure to wind and dust cause many cases of diarrhea which may sometimes lead to

Many people can be held responsible for such a muddle: For example:

1- The Ministry of Education, represented in the school health offices is responsible for observing school cafeterias and what is sold to children at school doors.

2- Family. The family role in this regard is to raise the awareness of their children about the uncovered food and its effects. Beside this, mothers can provide their children with home made sandwiches or any other kind of food. 3- School Administration. In my opinion, schools can play an important role in this regard. For example, teachers can highlight the hazards of having such uncovered food, observe the cafeterias available in their schools and prevent the hawkers from approaching schools.

Due to the high importance of this issue I met with some of the people



I first met with Mr. Ismail Mohammed Al-Jormouzi, director general of the School Health office in the Capital Secretariat who talked about the role of

the School Health offices as follows: 1- Prevention:

"Prevention is the most important role that we can play", said Al-Jormouzi. "This is done through keeping the school clean and spreading the awareness of cleanliness among students."

2- Providing medicine and first aid services

3- Administration's role

"This is very tiring, because we have to sign a lot of sick leaves. This sometimes leads to interrupting teachers while performing their duties."

"We also cooperate with policemen to conduct campaigns against hawkers with their uncovered food available at

school doors. We do our best to drive them away from school, but to no avail. As soon as we disappear from the scene they come back. The solution must be through cooperation with the families which can persuade their children not to buy anything from such hawkers. They can at

the same time supply them with sand-

On the other hand we check all school cafeterias regularly. During our visits to schools at the beginning of every academic year, we issue certain rules to be followed by workers in such cafeterias. A few headmasters understand the importance of this issue. Some of the considerate headmasters close their school gates at the breaks. By so doing they prevent the student from being in touch with the hawkers. However, some of the schools' yards are not large enough to accommodate all the students at the break. In these schools it is impossible to close the

In our latest campaigns we seized a lot of expired foodstuffs from hawkers and cafeterias."

Concerning the problems the School Health offices face, Mr. Al-Jormouzi said they were many. "Some of these problems are the very low financial support which do not exceed a yearly YR 50,000. Another problem is the lack of medicine and medical staff. We hope that the charitable societies will help us in this regard. At the same time I urge upon the Ministries of Education and Public Health to pay more attention to this important sector, and to revive their old habit of making immunization campaigns at schools," said Al-Jormouzi.



Mr. Ali Abdulla Al-Qaiz, Headmaster of Martyr Al-Dailami School in the Capital Secretariat said: " In fact, we depend solely

on the social overseer to warn the students against any uncovered food sold in the streets. Concerning the hawkers gathered at the schools doors, most of them come to us and start complaining about their deteriorated social situations requesting us to allow them to earn their living. Of course, we do not accept anyone selling uncovered food. There is a cafeteria at our school which is totally supervised by us.



There are also some students trained by the Red Crescent who help keep an eye on the cafeteria. This cafeteria is planned to be enlarged in the future to make it a small restaurant for the teachers, too. The problem we face in this regard is the lack of a professional cook. This makes the students refrain from the meals made at school and go elsewhere seeking other kinds of food." " As far as the School Health office is concerned, they come to schools only once a year for nothing but collecting fees from cafeterias available at schools," Mr. Al-Qaiz



'We prevent all hawkers from gathering at the school gates. We have informed the parties concerned to stop this health-hazardous

phenomenon. We have also held many meetings with the teaching staff to discuss the importance of warning students against uncovered food, formed a team of scouts to watch hawkers if they try to approach the school and appointed a person to observe the cafeteria.

"About the School Health office. unfortunately, they come at the beginning of the academic year to take the fees from schools' cafeterias," said Mr. Ali Al-Shami, Headmaster of Tariq Ben Ziad school.



We also met some little students and asked about this matter. Manar Mohammed Al-Ashwal, primary

school student, talked firstly and said, "Uncovered food is not OK. It causes diarrhea. The covered food is OK and does not cause diarrhea. I don't like to buy anything from hawkers. If I want to buy, I buy covered food. I prefer to



bring sandwiches from home because they are OK."

Yasser Abdul Wali Kaid Al-Ghabiry, primary school student,

Folk Dance in Ibb

lolk dance is one of the most important pillars of culture which our heritage is very rich for. This form of our tradition is very fixed in our history so long in the past and has done a lot to the enrichment of other cultures in the Arab lands.

Yemen has participated in many international exhibitions and in all of them all could not help but admire our art. Many Yemenis could show themselves well and make exquisite performances that help the audience really appreciate the Yemeni culture. The Yemeni city is characterized by a specific dance and each one is still holding fast to it also called "The Green City." Its landscape of beauty has reflected itself on the people and their culture. One of the most famous dances in this city is "Al-Bara'a." It is very much common in Ibb and in some other governorates as well. This dance has specific features such as the dance's swift-moving and quick pace which all should be in harmony with the drumbeats. The dancers also hold their Jambias in their hands. Besides using the drums in this dance they also use what is called Al-Tassah which is made of concave silver and is covered by the leather of animals.

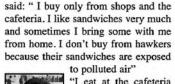


such as the Sana'ani dance, Al-Hadrami dance, Al-Lahji dance, etc. It is generally believed that these dances reflect some of the people's ambitions and desires of each and

There may be also different dances within the same city or district. For example, in some districts there are some specific dances for the time of harvesting, for weddings, for planting, etc. If we get so deep into its artistic features, we will find that there are lots of human concepts that are encompassed by these dances. After the revolution, many talented people started showing their desire to study these dances and excel themselves in them.

In this article, I will shed some light on one of the famous dances that Ibb city is distinguished for.

This instrument should be beaten with two small sticks by the dancers. This musical instrument is called 'kairawanah' and it is usually hun from the neck. The performance of this kind of dance needs four or five dancers according to the size of the dance floor. Dancers move in a circle. After some time the tone changes. During the change, two new dancers are added to form a circle inside the other one forming a new kind of dance called al-Hawshaliah. One of these two dancers holds a piece of cloth in his mouth and the other has to pick it without using his hands. All this is done through a very attractive piece of traditional dance. The dance stops if the piece of cloth remains in the dancer's mouth. If the other dancer succeeds in picking it out, the dance continues.



to polluted air" "I eat at the cafeteria because the food is clean there. I sometimes bring sandwiches from home. Our teacher does not tell us

anything about the uncovered food and its hazards on health. My friends and I have decided not to buy from hawkers, but unfortunately, they backed out," said M'an Daood Mohammed Al-Shaibani, primary student, said.



like the sandwiches sold by hawkers because they cause diarrhea. My parents warn me against uncov-

'I eat at home. I don't

ered food but our teacher does not," said Muad Abdul Rahman Hamid, primary school.

At the end of this survey, I came to the following conclusions 1- The School Health office does not

have means enough to visit schools regularly.

2- The role of the Ministry of Public

Health is insufficient.

3- Some families are not aware about the hazards of eating uncovered food. 4- The Ministry of Education should prepare specific programs for school students to raise their awareness about

5- I suggest checking what hawkers sell and allow only those who sell clean food.

Diseases resulted from eating uncovered food are increasing day after day due to the carelessness of the parties concerned and families. I hope there will a remedy for this negative phe-

Yasser Mohammed Ahmad

HARD BRUCE STLER THE FOUNDER OF YEMENI AMERICAN MEDICAL RELATIONSHIP TO SERVE THE OSTRACIZED

Second of two parts



Director of the National Leprosy Elimination Programme Skin & Venereal Diseases Hospital, Taiz

e arranged for atten: City again for dance of a training course on leprosy at the Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana for Dr. Roshdi Mohareb from Egypt and me. He also went to Germany and held discussions with the headquarters of German Leprosy Relief Association in Wurzburg to support the leprosy control activities in Yemen.

Then, in December 1994, Bruce and Marian visited Yemen again. During this visit he rendered his services for leprosy patients and trained the junior ophthalmologists in Sana'a, Taiz and other cities. In addition to that, he also visited the people in different inaccessible villages in the rural areas to asses the situation relating to other eye problems.

Bruce continued to help leprosy patients in Yemen through his visits, as well as providing equipment and different drugs.

Bruce and Marian visited the Al-Noor

one month in December 1988 along with Dr. David

Heiden. They also started another project for help of Sowda patients in the Taiz province. He visited the American Embassy and the American International Development Program (AID) in Sana'a soliciting their help to eradicate leprosy through PL-480 (the international agreement for American rice and wheat). Plans for another project involving the construction of a skin and eye hospital in Al-Noor City by the University of California were also initiated.

In 1989, Bruce's efforts in fighting leprosy in Yemen were crowned with success when an agreement between the Ministry of Public Health -Republic of Yemen and the German Leprosy Relief Association (GLRA) -Wurzburg - Germany was signed in this field.

After the unification of Yemen, on

30th May 1990, Bruce held a meeting in Washington with Director of State Department of A.I.D., Mr. P. H. Deinken and the Architect, Mr. MJ. Griffiths who was appointed by Bruce to design a plan for the new skin and eye hospital in Taiz. The participants voiced their concern for the increasing incidence of

corruption in Yemen. However, Bruce convinced them that I was a powerful crusader who could stand as a barrier against corruption for the success of the project. An agreement was drafted, feasibility study maps were drawn, and a budget was allocated from the PL-480. But the frankenstein of corruption became so overpowering in the country that after three years Bruce had to pay for the cost of the architect himself.

His last visit to Yemen was on 2nd June 1991 with two of his colleagues. He went to the so called Southern Yemen and worked under very difficult conditions in Hadramout; using kerosene lamp for conducting external eye surgeries. 151 leprosy patients from Taiz, 19 from Mukalla and 9 from Wadi Dawaan in Hadramout were treated. When he left, he donated equipment and instruments worth USD 7,015 for the Al-Noor City leprosy hospital. In July 1991 Bruce financed a scholarship to Dr. Al Amrani, a junior ophthalmologist from Taiz for attending a short training course on Ophthalmology in San Francisco.

Inspired by his letters to finalize the skin and eye hospital project, I did my best and traveled many times between Taiz and Sana'a to finalize the project. However, it failed to take off specially after the termination of the USA A.I.D. projects in Yemen and the PL-480. Then in 1993, I

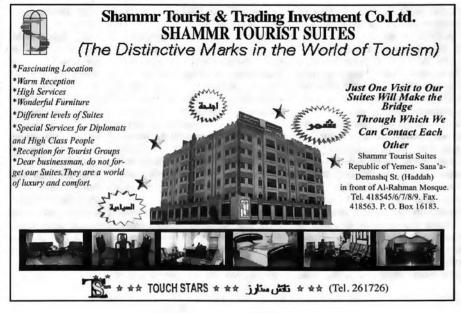
met him while attending the International Leprosy Congress in Orlando, Florida. noticed that his health had run down - considerably as evident from his frequent coughing even at rest.

On 3rd April 1994 Bruce sent a letter to me informing me about his ill health and that he had undergone several

investigations confirming diagnosis of progressive pulmonary fibrosis. He seemed to be losing hope of a cure but at the same time expressing the hope that he would be cured. Still he did not lose his sense of humor. In one of the paragraphs he mentioned that he had less cough and that he was sad because with an eighty percent capacity of his lung he could not run a marathon race. To me it seemed as if he wrote this letter under the obsession of his memories of the pigeon race. He also mentioned that he had delegated his duties to Dr. David Heiden. Finally, he remembered his

Easter Sunday in 1982 when he was in the Al-Noor City Hospital comparing it to the day of his writing that let-

On one of the darkest days of Civil War in Yemen, the telephone bell rang. It was Bruce! As soon as he heard about the war on the television, he called me to ensure that we were all right. That was for the last time I heard Bruce! On 6th May 1994 Bruce passed away leaving unforgettable memories about him, his love for this country and his indelible impressions in our hearts.



IBB: Past and Present

Abdulrageeb Mansour

he old city of Ibb occupies a strategic location amongst the of Republic. It was Alknown as Thogah city. The remaining archaeological landmarks are still existing there. The resources indicated that the old part of Ibb city belongs to the Islamic Era. During the ancient periods, it was a big trade center. There is a historical mosque which relates to the ancient period of Caliph, Omar Bin Al-Khatab.

The city is built on top of Baadan mountain. There are such famous valleys as Al-Sehoul, Al-Dehar and Maitam. These valleys witnessed a prominent development during the

ancient Yemeni eras. The glorification

of this city coincided with the old peri-

Aljazair street

cities are still evident. Castles and fence built during the period of Sultan, Al- Horaibi bear testimony to it.

The purpose of this brief research is to draw the attention of the rich families to revive cultural and historical tradition of the city, and cooperate to focus on the fabulous cultural heritage. The information should be added to the incomplete book, which was written by the late Mohammed Yahia Al-Hadad, titled 'The History of Ibb'. Most people have historical texts about Ibb city. So, they must contribute this information in order to make a complete book. Ibb is supposed to be one of the ancient cities in Yemen as Old Sana'a and Shibam.

If we look with a discerning eye at the historical and archaeological landmarks of Ibb city, we will understand the real history and tradition of the

The originality and the historical wealth of Ibb can be summarized in

the following points:

1- It contains about 35 mosques. It has

with a number of manuscripts. The most prominent is the great mosque which is located in the heart of the city. The waterways of the mosque is divided into two paths. The first one heads towards Aden Gulf. The second one runs towards the Red Sea. The author Amin Al-Raihani has mentioned about the minarets of the mosques in the city as he visited Ibb in the beginning of the twentieth century. He said that those minarets are not different from those minarets of Jiblah. The old city has the same architectural style. It has the same height of the minaret of Yemen, which was built by the II Assad' edeen. The Qour'an was being taught at the center of mosque. 2- The old city is surrounded by walls. It has five gates. These gates are Al-Nasier, Sonbal, Al-Kabeer, Rayha and Al-Rakizah. The buildings of the city were built with strong volcanic rocks. Limestone had not been used in those buildings. It did not have limestone. All the buildings had the same style of Kamariah and variegations. There are such historical houses as Al-Thogah, Al-Hamam, Al-Qalam, Al-Sabse, Safeir, Al-Hakeim, Al-Ezwah, Aqeel, Al-Shoja'a and Dolamah house.

3- Among the landmarks of Ibb, there are 14 water canals. Water flows through these canals into the mosques and to the near villages.

4- The city is surrounded by beautiful fruit gardens. The famous fruit gardens are Hawl Al-Hamam, Al-Ahowaiter, Omqi, Al-Rakezah and Komaish. In addition to this, there are fascinated mountain passes as Al-Mazeha, Al-Moqairah, Al-Geloud, Al-Makhaba, Al-Karneen and Al-Akhdam mountain pass.

5- Each house contains a basement suede, used as store for keeping wheat. The Alms are kept inside those

lead to the main gates of the old city. They contain a lot of pools and dams as Jorafa, Allapa'a, upper Jabanah, lower Jabanah, Al-Armah and Iblan which filled up with dust.

7- As we come to talk about the social life, we find social cooperation between people. This cooperation is manifest during by the occasions of marriage, funeral ceremony and at the harvest time. The Al-Dawreah or Al-Yask system needs a specialmentio. This system threatened the life of people at that time. It envisaged taking contributions from people whether they were rich or poor. Hence, the generation need for the present to know the salient features of the city at that time.

Preface to the History of the City:

The beauty of the city attracts visitors and arouses their curiosity. It reminds us of the memories and profundity of the glorious heritage. One who has walked through its pastures, saw waterfalls and fountains and wandered about the old landmarks and zones, will not forget those fascinating views, and also that fragrant perfume, which comes from fruit gardens. But since the city lost those views of ancient landmarks, everything changed. Unfortunately, people do not pay attention to those historical landmarks and remains now.

However the dreamy city, still preserves its beautiful face. Inspite of all these, the city has archaeological land-

We took stock of the traditional architecture as a result of the meeting which we conducted with Colonel Abdulkhader Ali Hilal, governor of Ibb, who contributed a lot in the founding of the new city of Ibb. He also contributed to found the sports stadium and Ibb university. He has unleashed efforts to initiate and reconstruct several projects. The historical landmarks of the city will be always alive in the hearts of the coming generations. Now, the city occupies a strategic and tourist location in the heart of the country. For example, we saw the colorful festival of the Independence Day, on 30 of November, 1997. This means that Ibb will be a carnival center in Yemen as Kortaj, Balabak, Jarash and other cultural centers in the world.

Ibb is in the heart of Yemen. It is the connecting link between all governorates of the Republic. It is the fountain of vegetation, and the connecting link between mountains and hills. Ibb is the cradle for immigrants and patriots and the stronghold of liberation movements.

We must join forces to develop this city and preserve its immortal tradition. We found a lot of enthusiasm among the intellectuals, from those who perceive the importance of the city.

We have to shed light on some of the different services which were an inseparable part of the old city. It gives a challenge and and an opportunity to the present generation to work hard to blend the past with the present. These services are as follows:

First: Tourist Field: These days we attach a lot of impor-

tance to domestic tourism which may help raise income of the people. New buildings have posed a threat to agriculture because they have changed large areas of green oases to modern buildings. As the foreign tourist comes to Ibb, he does not look for comfort. but rather he seeks for archaeological and traditional points of beauty of the city. He aims at getting acquainted with the ancient ways of life of Yemeni people. We are pointing to the main gate of the old city, which was destroyed by some unscrupulous elements ignorant about value of our tradition. This gate was one of the prominent landmarks of the old city of Ibb. which does not exist now. Even the dams situated outside of walls of the old city as upper Japanah, lower

Jabanah, Eblan and A'alabi dam have disappeared. The demolition of the walls was caused by absence of control and of the ignorance of people. The underground water canals are now filled with earth. A number of manuscripts drawn on the walls of the ancient mosque had been defaced. We have learned that a number of traditional manuscripts had been sold to neighboring countries. We call upon all to revive the historical landmarks. and to set up a big university library to collect the remaining gems. We appreciate those who work to develop the new city, and every one who participated in achieving that development. All should know that the present is an extension of the past.

Second: Public Associations:

According to the information, we have got a clear idea on the needs and facilities for the new city. Hence, we recommend that people should make good use of the remaining areas. They should preserve public gardens. We also recommend people to organize a proper planning for the total landscape of the city to supplement the services offered by the government. The villages of Ibb city are close to each other. They are also near the ancient town of Jiblah. It is difficult to allocate a general budget to the city. It has narrow streets and fivefold crossroads as in Al-Odain crossroads which is a very crowded street.

We must not forget Taiz city which suffers from the same problem, and from the problem of water shortage.

Third: Local Investment:

The President of the Republic and the governor of the governorate has dealt with this matter on different occa-

sions. The businessmen did not pay attention to develop the different services at hotels inspite of the assistance by the government. On our part, we see that this ignorance interrupted the progress and development. We can say that this is the legacy of the Amam, who aimed at inciting battles

amongst tribes. This city has fertile areas for agriculture which cover the needs of the population of the city. Most of people have moved from the rural areas to the city. They have ambition to get more and more development in the future. But the difference between the new generations and the old ones still exists there. So, the one who can change this is the government. People should forget the unhealthy customs. They must glorify their ancient tradition. People should change their attitude by themselves.

Fourth: Environment Pollution: People should pay attention to the following points:

1- Removing garbage from the streets, and covering the open sewage, which help spread bacteria. Chronic diseases are caused by this. They should develop the Health Sector, Red Crescent and the Civil Defense Association.

2- The high voltage cables should be removed from the main streets of the city to avoid danger and make the safer.

3- The old garden of Al-Hamam which turned into a pit of garbage should be removed or filled up. People should cooperate to keep their city

4- The old city was built on high rocks, while the new city is dispersed around the high mountains. It has a hot weather. The crowded streets and the large number of cars are causing pollution and different diseases. Hence, we call upon the health sector to adopt timely measures in this regard. All should take the responsibility of giving correct statistics to make accurate scientific researches concerning environmental pollution.

5- They must make an accurate study on water wells. Most of the sewage pour near the wells. The burnt oil poured there as well. As it is commonly known one liter of oil pollutes one million liters of water. This means that the city will witness a big crisis in future. We appeal to the government to put an end to this problem. We praise the activity of Mr. Mohammed Al-Mansoub, and appeal to all doctors who are specialized in this field to offer their medical researches on the epidemic diseases. We also have to painful mention about the failure of the campaigns of tree-planting because there is no mechanism to preserve plants.



6- Cultural and Traditional Field:

(a) We have to re-establish a university library, through which we can collect and preserve our cultural tradi-

(b) We should found a local museum to collect the archaeological gems, which are available in the city.

(c) We should activate creative and cultural work of the Yemeni authors and Writers Union. We must contact the international associations to help preserve and develop our national tradition. The old city of Ibb must be considered as one of the archaeological cities in Yemen.





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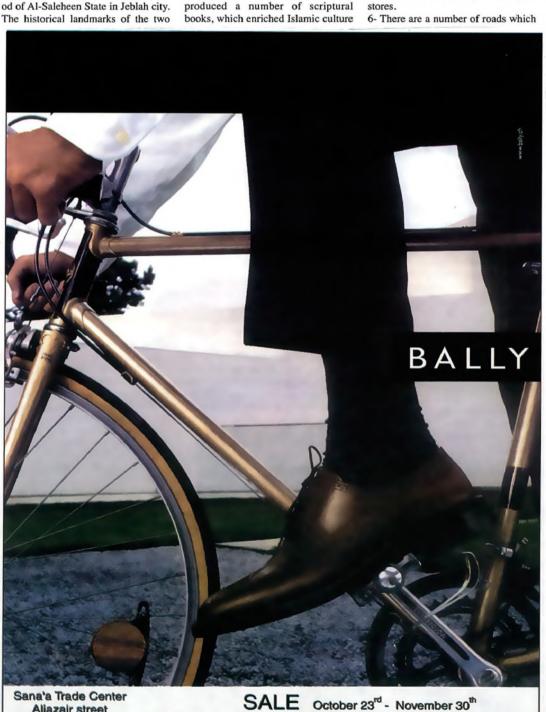
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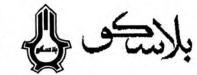
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Answer to Question 1: "German Food Festival at Taj Sheba" Answer to Question 2: "In 1978" - Page 2

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| Yemen Times Weekly Competition How to be a Pioneer in Press

believe that there are many sacred missions which are widespread among people to serve them and to offer help when it is needed with full efforts and sincerity so as to come to the high standard of success in those missions. Some of these are education, health, security, fair judges and the press. Here the press is our focus as it is the most important means by which political, social, educational and economical events can be communicated to all. Besides, the accurate analysis for such affairs is to make it comprehensible, as well as the freshness of news to bring about the interesting impression and credibility.

Admittedly, press could not stand tall with giving attention to the ingredients of success which make use of press as a mirror reflecting the reality as it is. Exactly as we see the shadow in the mirror. Those ingredients are as fol-

- Initiative: It is admitable that the reason behind the success of some papers is their taking the initiative in publishing the news. To make it easy, the paper that mentions news freely, could attract more readers, who make use of the press in general and local press in particular.
- Independence: In this regard, we witness more than one hundred

However, the rate of selling differs from one to another. That is up to the independence extent as some papers are zealously partisan. So, trust is no longer there in some papers to the extent that such papers are used in wrapping food and other things, instead of reading them. In other words, the more independent, the more trusted and best sold it is. A way of biding higher or cunning which we feel up.

- Credibility: Frankly, the readers of such papers are looking for reality whenever it exists as well as to get the news from wellinformed sources to depend on in political, social and economic affairs. It is regretable today to see that most of our local papers do not pay attention to such an element, i.e credibility as it is a very important factor in making the paper's future bright as well as its publishing stuff.
- Accuracy and objectivity: Press should be accurate and objective in communicating an idea or a question to its readers. In other words, the number of publication should be put in mind but not to be the major concern of the publisher. Hence, paying more attention to this side or not, is what separates one paper from another. Patriotism: It is considered to be the most important aspect since dealing with the country's reputa-

ly and friendly countries. So, press should not intentionally do evil to the country and disfigure its picture for this effect negatively on the tourist industry.

Every one has to be proud and honored to belong to Yemen and should work together to explain clearly its beautiful phenomena. Thus press can play an important role in developing tourism and attracting visitors to the happy Yemen.

There are many newspapers that prove to be playing a good of our country. A vivid example is the newspaper YT, founded by Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. However, after his death many have heard to bet that the paper would lose its good reputation forgetting that the success of such paper is not related to particular persons, rather to the best press standards. YT has proved to all it is still the pioneer of press led by a highly qualified staff under the brother Waleed Al-Saqqf and my friend, Mr. Mohammed A-Qhadi, who could disprove others ill betting and continue in following the steps of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. Besides, the last important appeared on its size and layout adding some interesting topics to the paper which make it the best seller and run in readers' hands. Many people wish it could be possible to have it translated into Arabic to be in the hands of the majority of people for what it contains of all dimensions of life. Finally, review should be taken into of our local press account.

Linguistic and Professional Equipment Desirable for the Secondary School Teachers of English.



Dr. Bushra Sadoon M. Ibb University **English Department**

anguage is a means of communication among human beings. It is characterized by arbitrary spoken or written symbols that make sense. More broadly, language may be defined as an instrument for understanding in general. It is regarded by many linguists as a form of knowledge, thought or cogni-

Throughout the history of civilizations, one can not get any society without language. In other words, language is so important that no society can exist without a certain language. This is so because language is a means of communication among the members of the same culture. It is best suited to convey the meanings, current in that particular culture. This also means that no development is conceivable in any society without language through which its members interact, cooperate, and work.

On the other hand, learning a foreign language is also necessary for any society to develop. This is asserted by the fact that any advanced or developing society makes it imperative for its members to learn a living foreign lan-

To study a foreign language and know the intellectual treasures available

بالمولود الجديد الذي أسمياه

جعله الله قرة عين والديه وألف مبروك

حرم عبد الله شرف الأولاد لمياء وأحمد وخالد

حرم يحيى الزلب ووالدته

والبنات إلهام ومنى

وحرم جميل وتبيل الزلب

وأم خالد السنحاني ويناتها

وعفاف يحيى الزلب

through that language are the primary means to develop the necessary trends and skills for human needs. Besides, to study a foreign language is not to develop the efficiency in a foreign language only, but to extend the members' understanding of a national language, too as well as to enrich the recognition of linguistic principles in general. Moreover, it enriches the person with a background of culture knowledge which serves him in his work and in his role as a citizen.

In the Arab countries, English is taught from the primary stage. It is considered the starting point of learning English through a preplanned program. In the secondary stage, there are follow up programs for consiledating the knowledge of this language. Learning a foreign language at the college level, is also necessary in developing the student's personality and his potentials.

Educationalists, specialists, and researchers assure that teachers play an important role in this respect. As a matter of fact our great prophet "Mohammed" (peace and prayers be upon him) said "I was sent as a teacher" where he himself directed and led Muslims reading and memorizing the Holy Quran. The great prophet, Mohammed (peace be upon him), had sent teachers to people to teach them religion. The kholafa Al-Rashidin (The Orthodox Califs) had followed him. The Caliph, "Omar" had sent religious men to help people learn their religion.

So, the teacher is considered to be the most important factor in the educational process among the three main elements, of learning which are the teacher, pupil and the program. In fact, there are some crucial factors which are influential in developing the teacher's personality and compe-

In order to improve the professional competence of teachers, the following attributes are vital:

A model teacher of English should:

- 1- Have good manners.
- 2- Be well educated and cultured.
- 3- Organize his work. 4- Develop himself in the field of his
- specialization. 5- Be fair with his students.
- 6- Prepare clear and relevant ques-
- 7- Choose suitable techniques of
- teaching. 8- Present the materiel clearly.
- 9- Consider the individual differences
- among his students.
- 10- Like his profession.
- 11- Encourage the students to participate in the classroom activities.

The desired linguistic accomplishments of a model teacher of English are that he should:

- 1- Have clear voice.
- 2- Be good at spelling of words.
- 3- Have acceptable pronunciation.
- 4- Speak clear and simple language
- 5- Have knowledge in testing.
- 6- Have a full mastery in the art of reading to the students.
- 7- Be highly qualified and well trained.

YCA Cricket Tournament 1999

YCA Cricket Tournament 1999 enters into its finals stage. This year 8 teams participated in the tournament and after finishing the league matches, following 4 teams reached in the semi finals. They are:

- 1- Arabian Cricket Club
- 2- Pakistan Cricket Club
- 3- India Cricket Club
- 4- Pakistan Tigers XI

The first semi final will be held on 12th Nov. 99 B/W ACC & PTE, the second semi final will be held on 19th Nov. 99 B/W PCC & ICC.

The final will be played on 29th Nov. among the winning teams of semi finals & same night award giving ceremony will be organize at Taj Sheba Hotel. And the winning team will be awarded "British Petroleum Cricket

This year sponsors are: BP Yemen, Yemen Commercial Bank, Taj Sheba & Yemen Times. Cricket fans are invited to watch the above events to encourage cricket in Yemen.

كما يقدم المهنؤون أعلاه تهانيهم للأخ/ خالد محمد السنحاني وحرما بمناسبة ارتزاقهما بالمولودة الحديدة والتي أسميت

هنل

MPROUE YOUR ENGLISH

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

What to say...

Rizq: What time is it?

Bakil: It's a quarter to four. Rizq: Aren't we supposed to be at the college by four

Bakil: Four or four thirty? I think the teacher said the lecture today was at half past four.

Rizq: Then may be we could call on Yahya and take him

Bakil: Yes, of course. We have plenty of time.

Points to note...

a) It is a quarter to four. This is one of the most common ways of expressing this time. Other possibilities in certain varieties of English such as American English are: It's a quarter of four or It's fifteen till four.

It's three forty five is not very common in casual conver-

Similarly, fifteen minutes after the hour would usually be expressed as follows:

It's a quarter past four or It's a quarter after four. Some people also say It's four-fifteen although this is less frequent in casual conversation.

An alternative form for four-thirty is half past four

For times other than the quarter-hours or half-hours, num-

In casual or informal conversations, frequently the speakers omit It's or It's a and answer simply A quarter to four or simply Quarter to four.

If it is very near the hour, the phrase close to is used. Ex. It's close to four O'clock.

b) Aren't we supposed to be? This is a negative question indicating a positive belief that the speaker's assumption is true. He expects an affirmative response, a confirmation of his assumption.

c) Supposed to.. expected to

This meaning of 'suppose' occurs only in the passive.

Let's look at some more examples using supposed I'm supposed to present a paper in the seminar next week.

You were supposed to go to Sanaa last week.

All the students are supposed to revise their lessons at home every day.

Children are supposed to obey their parents. d) By four O'clock- not later than four O'clock

e) Then = in that case; since that is so

f) May be we couldwe can also use the expression May be we can in this situation. Both can and could in this sentence refer to a future possibility.

We can indeed use either of them without any difference in the time-reference.

Some more examples of the use of could

Could I help you? Could you do this for me?

I would be grateful if you could come to my house.

How to say it correctly...

The following sentences are not well formed grammatical-

Can you identify which part of the sentence contains an

Some Assumption about Learning Revisited



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

evitalization enrichment of the teaching-learning process is primarily dependent on a sound understanding of the process. This makes teaching purposeful and caters to the changing socio-academic needs of an emerging new society. Teacher development is an integral part of this process. One of the most significant components of teacher development is the awareness on the part of the teaching community regarding certain basic assumptions about learning. This short essay aims at highlighting some general principles that every teacher needs to bear at the back of his/her mind in order that they understand the technology of teaching better and contribute to it in a more meaningful

1. Learning is divergent. It is open ended.

It is a myth that learning takes places within the four walls of the classroom. Indeed, school is a part of a broader domain of learning which includes the broad environment of the child. However, in the context of the school, the learning mode needs to be compatible with pace, mode and quality of learning achieved by the child from the environment. Then only the learning organism will not find any discrepancy between the two sources of knowledge and will stay tuned to both for acquisition of knowledge. To make this happen, the teacher has to adopt a flexible approach. He has to remind himself that there are no right ways of learning. As such, he needs to adopt an open attitude and a way of working that does not suggest that the teacher is some kind of an expert oracle who, as the so called 'jug-mug' theory suggests is full of knowledge ready to fill the empty mug namely, the learner with information.

2. Learning is Confluent

Effective learning is a natural out come of the confluence of the affective domain and the cognitive domain. As we know, the affective domain is concerned with the learners' feelings, emotions, attitude and motivation. The cognitive domain is usually associated with their intelligence, knowledge and awareness.

Heart is, obviously, the seat of the former, and head is that of the latter. If we think that our job is to dole out or transmit information to the students, we are, indeed, putting the cart before the horse. We are ignoring the primary objective of teaching and giving all the importance to something which is secondary.

On the contrary, we should attach more significance to our efforts to produce in the learner a genuine desire or motivation to learn. We can do so by taking care of the affective domain of the learner, by inculcating in him qualities of self-confidence, self-concept and the willingness to learn. Then the knowledge we impart to the learner, would be more mean-

In this sense, the affective domain and the cognitive domains are mutually complementary and they flow together. We must remember that while the learner is thinking, he is feeling, and while he is feeling the learner is thinking.

There are several factors influencing learning and teaching in general and learning/teaching of a foreign language in particular which need to be taken care of. It is incorrect to assume that whatever the teacher teaches in the classroom, naturally produces learning in the learner. In other words, Input does not equal Intake in all instances of teaching-learning.

In order that our 'input' becomes learners' 'intake', we have to reckon with the following factors in order of significance.

Input → motivation → personality → Attitude to learning situation → self concept - Intake

As the above diagram clearly indicates, intake by the learner is significantly affected by his/her level of motivation. This leads to personality development, generating in the learning organism a favorable attitude to the whole business of learning.

In view of the above discussion, it would appear evident that there is an abiding need to include affective learning in the content of the curriculum and pay attention to both the cognitive and affective development of the learner.

3. Learning is interactive

As we discussed above, the view that learners learn what teachers teach is over simplistic. Learning is an interactive process between the teacher

and the learner, between the learner and the teacher, between learner and learner, and between the learner and him/herself. No learning worth its name can genuinely take place without the active participation of the learner. That is why it is rightly said: 'You tell me, and I forget,

You teach me, and I understand, You involve me, and I learn'

The significance of learning by doing or learning as a problem solving activity is universally recognized now. In the fitness of things we should dispense with the outdated teacher-centered approach, where the teacher is at the center stage, and instead adopt a learner-centered strategy in the classroom. In this approach, the focus is on the learner, on their perception of what, when, and how they learn. Discovering the hidden agenda of the learner is undeniably a necessary precondition for an effective actualization of the teaching learning process.

In the present times, the accent has shifted from a focus solely on the teaching methodology and the teacher's perception of what, when, and how learners learn to the learner and his/her needs. The preference is in favor of an interactive or transactive mode of sharing of experience.

Learning cannot and need not be taught

Last but not least, teachers should bear in mind that learning is the outcome of not only teaching. As a matter of fact, learning is synonymous with a human activity which least needs manipulation by others. It is the result of unhampered participation of the learners in a meaningful setting. As Carl Rogers, an eminent thinker said: "I know I can't teach anyone anything, I can only provide an environment in which she/he can learn". So we should adopt an attitude of 'unconditional positive regard' for the learners - an outgoing feeling without reservation, and without evaluation Let us be prepared to offer our excellence, our expertise, knowledge, training and attitudes, but it is unnecessary to impose these resources on the learner. Let us not make our learning a liability for the learner.

I hope and trust that members of the teaching fraternity would reflect on the assumptions about learning and adopt appropriate strategies paving the way for achieving a higher learning dividend by the learner.

error and correct it?

- 1- The jury was divided in its opinion
- 2- My father is in the teaching line
- 3- Women's clothes are generally more expensive than
- 4- All his family members are lovers of music.
- 5- His hat was blown off by a strong air.

(Answers in the next issue)

Answers to last week's **Quiz:**

1- The old lady who was crushed to death by a speeding truck was walking in the middle of the road.

Note: Since 'center' is a point on the road, it is appropriate to use middle of the road

2- The son of my uncle's friend is a doctor.

Note: The use of double possessives is avoided in English. So it is not correct to say my uncle's friend's sun.

3- Good evening: How do you do?

Note: Good night is a parting salutation when we meet someone in the evening time, the salutation should be 'Good evening.' When we take farewell, we can say Good night

4- One of the sons of the man was killed in the recent police

5- The jury consists of ten members

5- I have two

them to h_

I wrote a

the mail.

9- I wear a

12- A

sides.

17- An

_s. I use

sent it to her in

that live in the

see what the time is.

Arabia Felix.

13- Two of the chil-

of land which is sur-

rounded by water.

sick.

der.

22- A

wood.

Down Clues:

1- I always

I am

shape. It has three

is a

_s help doc-

tors take care of

people who are

19- Something which

is not difficult is

21- My ____ is between

my hand and my shoul-

24- An ____ is a tool

which is used to cut

insect with wings.

hands before I eat.

used for storage. I

hang my clothes in

after Susan. I am

my friends. I am in

the middle of them.

my grandfather.

the street. He is now on

11-Bill walked

the other side of the

songs at

_ a letter to

behind Susan.

I am standing _

_ is a space

_ in line

is a small

water. They have fins and tails.

are animals

How to express it in one word...

- 1- One who makes an eloquent public speech.
- 2- One who undergoes penalty of death for sticking to his
- faith. 3- One who abandons his religious faith.
- 4- One who is given to questioning the truth of facts and the soundness of inferences.
- 5- One who resides in a country of which he is not a citizen

Answers to last week's **Quiz**:

- 1- A child whose parents are dead: orphan
- 2- A minister representing a sovereign or a state in a foreign country: ambassador.
- 3- A person sent on a mission (usually official): emissary
- 4- A person who is indifferent to pleasure or pain: stoic 5- One who defends or is zealous for his country's freedom

Quotable Quote:

"Rome was not built in a day"

Crossword Puzzle

Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle! Across Clues:



street.

14- I was my mother came home. I was

her. 15- A large

glad to see

stream of water is called a

16-_ is a season. The weather is hot and we don't go to school during _

20- Two apples plus four apples apples.

24- When I need to know

when Last Week's Answer

23- a baby sheep is called a something, I question.

N E W S P A P E R HAPPY A A N C H O R R S S A HEESE Р W N 0 A D D OCTOBER D E M ZEBR BANG B E E HEN

Training Course & Workshop

The Organization Structuring and Human Resources Planning is regulating a Training Course and a Workshop, targeting General, Technical and Financial Administrative Managers of branches of the organization. The aim of this project is to make the participants aware of the shortcomings in the organization structure and the manpower situation on the target branches and to equip them with tools to better divide and coordinate the activities in the Branches and structure their organization, to assess the human resources situation and prepare a human resources staffing plan and to enable them to make adequate decisions on whether or not to outsource activities.



One Word to Describe the 30th Anniversary of the Yemeni German Friendship Festivities in Sana'a

SPECTACULAR!

Tel: 413873

pectacular! One cannot think of a better word to describe the glory and fascination of the festivities that took place in the last several days. They were indeed "spectacular." The celebrations continued for their third week with various cultural and musical activities. So far, all the scheduled programs went on smoothly and on time as follows:

- October 21: festive meeting in the Yemeni-German Friendship Association, Goethe evening.

- October 23: official ceremony on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relationship and continuous co-operation between Yemen and Germany

- October 23: opening of the exhibition on Yemeni-German development co-operation was celebrated, exhibition was open until November first

- October 23: launching of the commemorative book on the occasion of the double 30th anniversary

- October 24: opening of the German film festival and announcing the awards of the literature competition

- October 25 till October 28: German film festival with a very good response (almost full every night)

- October 26: meeting of Yemeni NGOs in the House of Friedrich Ebert Foundation with German

co-operation officials - October 27 and 28: co-operation consultation

- November 1: concert of "Lose Skiffle Gemeinschaft Leipzig-Mitte" and dancing of a Yemeni group in the Yemeni cultural Center that went on in a marvellous atmosphere. The cinema Hall (606 seats) was packed up with no spare places.

- November 2 till November 5: German food festival and German music in the Taj Sheba hotel -Yemen Times was a sponsor- with food from three different German regions (Hese, Bavaria and North Sea) and music from Leipzig.

However, that is not all. Yesterday, at 11 am, an exhibition was opened in the Old city (House of Friedrich Ebert Foundation) on "Yemeni wooden doors" by Traugott Wohrlin and "German impressions" by Fuad Al-Futaih.

Today, the exhibition has opened its doors to receive visitors every morning from 9 to 11 a.m. (except fridays) for the public

The Musician Band (Taj3mitnamen) onsists of the members (see photos); Massa (Michael Grosswig): the only eal musician, plays saxophone, clarnette, percussion tiffen (Stiffen Pfennig): technician

ays the big bass argen the philosopher (Dr. Jurgen unz): philosopher and poet, plays numpet, flutes, sings and is respons le for the lyrics mma (Gerald Biehl): works in the

cultural department of Leipzig's City Hall, plays wash board, percussion, cazoo und does the German modera-

until November 28.

The pictures of Mr. Wohrlin will be sold and the money gained to be contributed to a Yemeni social project. Prices are available at the exhibition.

On Monday, November 15, a conference in Sana'a for Yemeni former scholarship holders in Germany who are now working at different Yemeni universities will be held in the Hadda Hotel. The conference will then be repeated in Aden on Wednesday, November 17. These two conferences are organized by the DAAD (German Academic Exchange programme). The Secretary General of DAAD, Dr. Bode will come to Sana'a for the conference as well as a Bundestag parliamentarian, Ms. Antje Hermenau and some German professors. The delegation will also visit the university of Taiz.

The festivities have given a colorful picture of our special relations, and signalled a great event that can only be surpassed by the 50th anniversary!

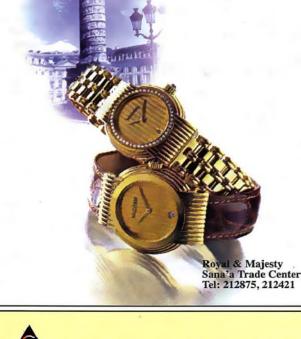
Gert (Gert Steinert): dentist, plays gui tar, kazoo and sings sometimes Hansa (Hans-Walter Molle); has been Leipzig, president of the Skiffle group sings and plays guitar, romantic Apollo (Dr. Matthias Dietsch):

Africanist (studied African languages especially Amharic), sings and plays accordion, he is the decorative team









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