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The IKONOS Space Imaging Satellite Starts its Operation in Space

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The image below was taken on the 24th of October by the Satellite IKONOS, the first ever commercial satellite to be used to capture photos which sell for an average of \$5 per picture.

Yemen is among the countries that are under the direct access of the satellite. Hence, it would be quite easy to deliver photos of Sanaa or any other city in Yemen with a precision up to 10 square meters. If the

weather is clear, the satellite can take high-resolution photos of you walking in the street and show them to anyone else in the world within minutes. It is a new technology pushes us fur-

ther towards globalization. In other words, it begins a new era of information and satellite technology which will give us instant information about military moves, natural disasters and other things.



This 1-meter resolution picture can have 1-meter long objects viewable from space. It was snapshot by the famous IKONOS satellite system. The picture shows Al-Hasaba area north of Sanaa, the Yemenia building is zoomed on the top right.

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Yemen Times Seminar Concluded: "Good Steps Have been Taken, and More Must Follow!"

SANAA: Last Tuesday, November the 9th, Yemen Times held a seminar titled "Hand in Hand with Our President Towards the 21st Century." The seminar was attended by the Chairman of the Consultative Council, Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulgani, a number of ministers, members of the consultative council, members of the parliament, diplomats, university professors, journalists, and other intellectuals. The seminar continued from 8:00AM to 12:30 and was concluded by sending a letter to the president indicating the objective of the seminar and a motivating statement for him to continue on the path he is on, which is a path towards improvement. **Complete Report on Pages 8 and 9**

Chairman of Algerian National Council Concludes His Visit to Yemen

SANAA: Mr. Bashir Abu Mi'ze, the Chairman of the Algerian National Council concluded a successful visit to Yemen and flew back to Algeria Yesterday morning. Mr. Bashir's visit was in response to an invitation by my Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulgani, the Chairman of the Yemen Consultative Council. During his stay, he met with President Saleh and discussed how to improve the bilateral relationship between Yemen and Algeria. Yemen Times had the privilege of interviewing Mr. Bashir on the night before his departure and chatted with him on several issues. **Interview next week...**



Slow Improvements in the Tourism Sector

SANAA: According to several tourism agencies, the tourism sector is slowly beginning to pick up after almost 10 months of devastation. The number of tourists is slowly increasing with eye witnesses at airports and hotels confirming the improvement. According to the tourists themselves, they claim that the security conditions in cities has improved drastically since it has become difficult to find armed tribesmen walking around in cities. However, the security condition in areas such as Hashid, Mareb, etc. are not yet completely safe for tourists to visit. The latest two kidnapping incidents assure that stiff measures going to be implemented by the government against any such terrorist activities. The signs are promising, but there is more to be done.

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Aden Sea Pirates Arrested in Less Than 24 Hours

ADEN: Official sources confirmed yesterday the arrest of the 4 armed pirates who attacked an Australian family: Mr. Gary Tucker, his wife Mrs. Maria, and their children Monique, 9 and Martin, 6, last Friday noon while sailing on board their yacht Afroty-3, between Ahwar and Shabwa, 180km north-east of Aden. The government's response to the situation was swift and strong in search for the attackers. In less than 24 hours, police forces were able to locate and arrest the pirates who belonged to Al-Mashariqa area in the Abyan province. All the stolen equipment were retrieved and handed to the family, which was received by the British Consul at the Aden Port on Friday evening. Yemeni authorities promised to repair the boat on their own expenses and vowed to speed up the trial of the pirates in one of the quick affairs courts. On Saturday, the family visited the Christ Church with the consul, where no journalists were allowed to enter. Later on the same day, the authorities hosted the fami-

ly in one of the military resorts where they described the incident to reporters. Mrs. Tucker, who is from Crookwell, west of Sydney in New South Wales, said the family was sailing near the Aden coast when 5 pirates in a fishing boat stopped them, claiming they were policemen. After shooting at the yacht and coming aboard, the pirates robbed the family of almost all their belongings and money before leaving the boat. The family was later rescued by the Saudi oil tanker, Isra.



Oil Blast Leads to Outragous Military Campaign Against Iyal Saeed

MAREB: Local tribesmen from Iyal Saeed caused slight damage to the main oil pipe to the Red Sea because the government did not give them what it had promised. Security forces surrounded the area after the incident and captured Faisal Juzailan, who is the kidnapper of the French couple several weeks ago. The security forces started a military campaign against the shocked tribesmen who did not expect such a reaction. **More on P2**

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EditorialWalid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor**The Power of Independence**

After the successful seminar held by Yemen Times last week, the public, the government, and several opposition and independent figures hailed the efforts of the Yemen Times. However, despite that, some small minorities from the opposition disliked the effort of Yemen Times saying, "How can you organize a seminar entitled hand in hand with our president while he is the reason why we are in our current circumstances? You should not have had the seminar under the auspices of the government, which is the side responsible for our pain. In this way, you have totally and blindly submitted yourself to the government. Shame on you!"

It was truly sad to hear these words from those few people. Their words do not reflect a good sense of responsibility. They wanted us to be negative, stay still despite the efforts that are being exerted by the president. They perhaps thought that when the president sees that no one is on his side even when doing some good things, he would go back to the old days and decide not to continue. Then they will have the chance to accuse him of not doing something for the country. It is a wicked way to think about things, and shows they prefer criticizing all the time or staying negative over the national interest.

Yemen Times thinks differently. On the contrary, even though the president was not as efficient in the past as today, and even though there are some things that he did wrong, as all human beings do, we still need to stand beside him when he is doing something good. We need to forget all the past and try to concentrate on the future. Let us ask ourselves this question, "What if he is motivated? Won't he improve?" The answer is a typical 'Yes,' and hence we need to encourage him to take more of these good steps. If we want our country to flourish, we should try to push him to do more instead of staying idle waiting for him to commit a mistake and then criticize him all the way. There must be justice in the way we treat our government and president, and that justice can only be found when thinking independently.

The night after the seminar, I received a phone call from the president, thanking me for my efforts in the seminar, assuring me that he will continue to do more and make a lot of changes in the future. I then told him, "Please Mr. President, do not think that this is some kind of praise or so, this is a motivation for you to do more of what you are doing. Don't think that your steps are not appreciated. They are, and if you continue on this path and push harder for change, we as the Yemen Times staff members are willing to encourage you more and more to show that we are on your side." But the other probability is also there. I said in the seminar, "Even though we as an independent newspaper are hailing the good deeds and strong commitment of the president and the government for change, we still do not want them to be surprised if we hold another seminar that is against their actions, criticizing them for their wrong doings. We are a newspaper that bravely criticizes what is wrong and supports what is right!"

It is for this reason that we have the trust of the readers more than all the rest, because we are independent! It is indeed tough to hold on to a straight independent line because you cannot please all sides at once. If we were an opposition newspaper, we would have pleased the opposition bloc only, and if we were a governmental newspaper, in this case we would only need to please the government. But we are independent, and if there is one bloc that we want to please, then it is the public. It is our precious readers who appreciated the last move of the Yemen Times in supporting the president's decisions. The 9-year history of Yemen Times cannot and will not be subject to any change in policy. It is our readers who judge our contents and evaluate whether we have abandoned our independent line or not. We are happy to stress that they see the newspaper solidly independent today more than ever. According to an interview with several readers, we discovered that they sincerely valued our efforts at the seminar. They believe that Yemen Times is a truly independent newspaper that is giving priority to the national interest before anything else. They know that our slogan is "supporting what is right and fighting for it, condemning what is wrong and fighting against it." We are proud that once again, we proved that the newspaper has the power of being independent!

I personally want to thank our readers for standing beside us, and want to assure them that it is our conscience that made us think of the country more than a political party or group's interest, or anything similar. We as Yemen Times staff, feel we have something that makes us stronger than any other newspaper, independence! Our independence is the strength that enables us to say, 'NO' to what is wrong, and 'YES' to what is right without thinking about the consequences. We may sometimes satisfy one side, and not the other, after all, we can never think of pleasing everyone. If some figures want us to say YES to the government all the time, then to those we say, "No way!" If some figures want us to say, 'NO' all the time, even though right things are being done, I want to tell them, "Go find another target. Yemen Times is independent and will always stay independent!"

Words of Wisdom

"New blood is badly needed for the regime to move into the 21st century. Unfortunately the old guard continues to hold on to the reigns of power and the younger people are still waiting in the wings. The ability of the system to correct this problem is going to be a key factor in its future."

Prof. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf (1951-1999)
Founder of the Yemen Times**In Brief****Minister Abdulmalik Mansoor Escapes an Attempted Assault**

Mr. Abdulmalik Mansoor, Minister of Culture and Tourism escaped an attempted assault by a group said to belong to a well-known party Monday Nov. 18. It is rumored that attackers were pushed to assault on the Minister to threaten him of serious consequences if he does not quit his position.

Kidnapped Khawlani Woman's Crisis Over

The Khawlani woman kidnapped by a man from Haraz, which has escalated in a very tense atmosphere between the two tribes has been over after a successful mediation by Sheikh Ali Maqsa, brigadier Ahmad Saleh Dowaid, Sheikh Ali Wahban, Sheikh Ali Ahmad Faraj and Faisal Manna, members of the Assalam Social House for Arbitration.

The story has come up to be of passionate love between the two couple of lovers. Due to the objection of the woman's family to her marrying to the man mentioned, they found the solution in elopement. As a result of the mediation, the Haraz tribe has to pay YRs 20 million and the other tribe has to free the ten Harazi hostages.

Marib Petroleum Pipe, Again Exploded

For the second time in two months, the petroleum pipe in Marib that connects Safir and Raas Iesa in the Red Sea was exploded by people belonging to Iyal Saeed Ali Bani Jabr Thursday Nov. 11. Next day, police forces surrounded the area and opened fire on one of the villages resulting in the injury to two people, one of whom was seriously injured and was soon taken to hospital. At the same time, police forces arrested five people but failed to arrest the tribe's leader, Sheikh Faisal Juzailan who had fled the area before they arrived.

Court Hearings in Al-Wahdawi Trial Continue

The Capital West Court in Sanaa is still looking into the case filed against the Al-Wahdawi, mouthpiece of the Nasserite Unionist Party and its chief editor, Mr. Abdul Aziz Sultan for an essay written by Jamal Ahmad Aamer concerning the Yemeni-Saudi relationship. The newspaper was accused of damaging the public interest by publishing false news and offending king Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz. For its part the newspaper has denied all the charges against it regarding them

mere excuses to stage a crack down on the freedom of press and opinion.

Ancient Antiquities Discovered in Taiz

A group of villagers came across buried ancient antiquities while digging a grave in Qadas in Taiz. The findings were handed over to the authorities concerned by Sheikh Ali Mohammed Abdul Qadir Moghalis. While excavations are continued, many people believe that there are still other pieces of antique hidden by villagers.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Robert Beecroft Paid a Visit to Yemen

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 an official visit to Yemen, 4-8 November 1999. During this visit Mr. Beecroft reviewed areas of military cooperation, namely, the developments on demining process. He is also visited the Demining Training Camp in Aden to get acquainted with its progress.

Renovation of Arwa School in Taiz

Within the framework of Japanese government's assistance to Yemen, Arwa school, the first girl school built in Taiz after the revolution of 26th September, will receive a financial grant of US\$ 40,388 to renovate the school buildings and purchase some equipment. The agreement was signed between Mrs Amat Al-Rahman Jahaf, Arwa school's principal and Mr. Akira Hoshi, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Yemen at the Embassy of Japan Wednesday, November 10th.

The inauguration of the Third Exhibition of Egyptian Products

Mr. Abdul-Aziz Al-Komaim, the Minister of Supply and Trade, and Mr. Mahmoud Mortadah, the Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt, inaugurated the Third Exhibition of Egyptian Products. This event is organized by the General Authority for Markets Affairs in cooperation with Expo Company for Exhibitions, 11-12 Nov. 1999. The participating companies cover the fields of food industries, medicine, furniture, construction tools, clothes and house holds.

Universal Children's**Day Bazaar**

The universal children day bazaar will be held Thursday and Friday November 18-19, 1999 from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. The bazaar will take place at the Refugee Community Center. The bazaar will include great handicraft gifts, evening music performances, horn of Africa cultural dance, children's art show, etc. The admission cost is only YR100.

Businessman Al-Maqtary's Family, Asks for Help

The family of businessman Jamal Al-Maqtary, pleaded the President, Prime Minister, speaker of the Parliament and local, Arab and foreign correspondents to help free Al-Maqtary who was kidnapped more than four months ago in Sanaa under blackmailing. What is worse, said the family, was that authorities in Marib helped the kidnapers in their heinous deeds.

Reception at the Polish Embassy

On the occasion of 81st anniversary of Poland's Independence, the Polish Embassy in Sanaa held a reception Thursday Nov. 11. The reception was attended by a number of Ambassadors, diplomats, Yemeni businessmen and others. Poland got its independence in 1918 after 130 years under the yoke of colonization. The Polish Embassy in Sanaa was inaugurated in 1991, while the Yemeni Embassy was inaugurated in 1994 in Warsaw.

First DAAD Alumni Conference to be Held
The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) will held the first Yemeni

alumni conference in Sana'a November 15 and in Aden November 17, 1999. The conference will focus on the "Environment and health", "Water Management" and "German universities after the renunciation". This conference is part of the celebrations of the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the resumption of the diplomatic relations and continuous cooperation between Yemen and Germany.

Second Draw of Winners of Abu Walad Prizes

The Yemeni Company for Commerce and Industry celebrated the second draw of winners of Abu Walad Biscuit's prizes in the Company's lecture auditorium Thursday Nov. 11. The draw was attended by Mr. Shokri Al-Forais, company's chairman, Hail Saeed Group's members and many others.

Socio-cultural Factors Workshop On Population

The workshop welcome speech will be delivered by Dr. Wahiba Ghalib Fara'a, Rector of Queen Arwa University. It is to be recalled that the center on society studies of Queen Arwa University has prepared an academic study on the influence of elements of secondary cultures on population behavior. The study has been prepared in cooperation with the UNESCO and the UN on population.

Graduation Party at the Computer & Research Center
Organized by the Computer & Research Center and Oracle Company, a graduation party for the first batch of programmers was held Tuesday Nov. 9 at Taj Sheba Hotel. Certificates were given to

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graduates by Mr. Naji Seed, Oracle director of training in the Mideast. At the same time an agreement was signed between Oracle company and the University of Science and Technology to teach Oracle system at the University.

International Students Day

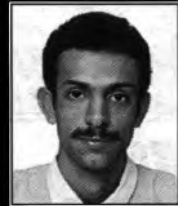
The Embassy of India celebrated "International

Students Day" on November 11, 1999. On the occasion, a Reception was held at the residence of Mr. M. S. Susam, Ambassador of India.

A large number of Yemeni students who had studied in India was also attended by a number of officers of the government of Yemen as well as a number of professors from the University of Sana'a.

WARNING

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Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
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Fax: +967 (1) 268-276
P.O. Box 2579, Sana'a

Branches:

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Yemeni Press Scanner



AL-EHYA' AL-ARABI, Ba'ath Party

1) Multiple Efforts to solve an Old Tribal Dispute:

Highly informed sources reported that President Saleh and a number of prominent sheikhs are working to solve a 30-year old dispute between two tribes of Yemen; Dahm and Wae'lah. The dispute is over the Al-A'fain area, which surrounds Al-Buqa' border center with Saudi Arabia between Al-Gauf and Sa'ada Governorates. The last round of fighting lasted for more than four months and more than 30 members of the tribes were killed or injured. Our sources confirmed that both tribes have accepted mediation efforts for a one-year truce and to choose Brigadier General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar as an arbitrator. It was also reported that the sheikhs of both tribes have arrived in Sana'a and met with President Saleh who ordered that they should be 'hosted' by the Government. The sheikhs of both tribes are 'hosted' at separate places.

2) Court Dismisses Government University's Fee Hikes:

The West Sana'a Court nullified on last Monday, October 31st the resolution no. 105/1999 by the Council of Ministers to raise university fees. The court said in its decision that the Council of Ministers isn't the 'competent authority' for such a decision. The Court decided that the High Council of Universities is the legally empowered authority for such a resolution. The Court had previously rejected the defense point of view that the court itself had no jurisdiction on the case and decided to the contrary. It is to be recalled that two students of Sana'a University took their case against both the Council of Ministers and the University and asked for the nullification of the said resolution, claiming that it was contradictory to law, sharia'h and the constitution. They asked also for the nullification of 'other' fees that were decreed by Sana'a University.

3) Aid Caravan on its Way to Baghdad:

In response to the Coordination Council of Opposition Parties' call, during the mass gathering for solidarity with the brotherly people of Iraq, organized by the National Arab Conference and the Islamic National Conference in mid October, the National Committee for Defending Arab Causes began a new effort in this direction. A Committee official reports that an aid caravan is being arranged to leave for Baghdad by land. The caravan shall move under a slogan calling for the immediate lift of the blockade and halting the continuing military aggression against Iraq and resistance to normalizing relations with the Zionist entity. Prominent Yemeni intellectuals, politicians, thinkers and social activists are expected to join the caravan.

4) U.S.A.: Sponsor of Global Terrorism:

Iraq has demanded in a letter to the United Nations that the international community through its diverse organizations condemns the United States of America for sponsoring international terrorism when it announced its own decision to train terrorists who oppose the national government of Iraq at a Florida Airforce base. The Iraqi demand came in a note by the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tareq Aziz to Kofi Anan, the UN Secretary General. This letter comes in the aftermath of the announcement last week by the Pentagon that it was establishing its first military training camp to prepare the said 'Iraqi opposition.'



AL-MITHAQ, PGC

Specifications of New Yemeni Passports:

The Chairman of the Department of Nationality, Immigration and Passports, Mr. Mohammed Rageh Nigad has confirmed that the new Yemeni passport dealt with by the Department has extraordinary specifications that are capable of eradicating old nagativities. He said that it shall be impossible in any way to forge the new passport as it is mechanically read and written and is compatible with international security, data and specifications standards. When asked about the new method of issuing a separate passport to every family member he said that this is a well-trodden way in all modern countries. He added that our citizens, despite paying more fees should like the new way because it is better and more perfect.



AL-TAREEQ, Independent

Important Leading Armed Forces Appointments:

The UAE daily 'Al-Bayan' has reported that President Saleh has made important changes at some leading military positions that are not declared yet. Al-Bayan quoted a Yemeni source on 6th November that according to these changes Brigadier General Mohammed Ali Mohsen was appointed as Commander of the Eastern Military Front in replacement of the late Brigadier General Mohammed Ahmed Ismail who died last August in the military helicopter crash in Hadhramout. Brigadier General Mahdi Miqwala, the former Commander of the Special Guard and Tareq Mohammed Abdulla Saleh were appointed Commanders of the Southern Front and the Special Guard respectively. President Saleh appointed (his son) Lieutenant Colonel Ahmed Ali Abdulla Saleh as Commander of the Special Forces, a recently formed force chosen from among the best of units of the Armed Forces and the Republican Guard. Brigadier General Al-Dhahiri Al-Shaddadi was also appointed as Commander of the Northern Front, succeeding Brigadier General Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmar, currently on a private visit to Germany, who is expected to be promoted as Al-Bayan reported, to a higher position. Al-Bayan illustrated that the new commanders, all very young, have begun exercising their new authorities. These appointments are consistent with the Presidential efforts to implement administrative and financial reforms and to reinforce the role of the state and its organs and to make an end to breaching of the public security.



AL-RA'Y AL-A'AM, Independent

Military Support to the Brotherly Army of Sudan:

It is reported from very informed sources that our country has made weapons deals with two Republics that succeeded from the former Soviet Union. The said weapons are as a token of support to the Sudanese people and armed forces, through Jordanian Ports. Our sources confirmed that the shipment included 500 tanks and 1000 troop carriers.



AL-WAHDAMI, U. P. Nasserite,

1) Report: Crime Upsurge:

A recently issued report by the Ministry of Home Affairs shows that the ratio of reported crimes has

remarkably increased in Yemen during the first half of 1999 in comparison to previous years. Reported crimes (7702) ranged between assaults against individuals and those against public sector or property in addition to crimes linked to drugs and violation of authority.

Crimes of murders increased to 315, kidnappings to 62, house robberies to 422, vehicle robberies to 514, crimes of fraud to 200, highway robberies to 71 in addition to 109 dynamiting crimes. The report shows that crimes against individuals increased to 3400, and those against private property totaled 2422 crimes with total losses of 2.265.000 Rials.

2) Trial on the Sheikh Othman Bomb:

The Sheikh Othman Court headed by Judge Adnan Abdul Ghani continued last Sunday the trial of the accused for the 26th June Bomb which killed a child and an old man and injured 23 others.

Two persons appeared before the court: Nadeem Abdul Habib and Mohammed Abdul Aziz.

The owners of a neighboring kiosk said during interrogation that they were not able to identify the accused and demanded compensation for their losses due to the explosion. The Court adjourned till 14th November and ordered two investigation officers to attend the next session.

3) Al-Wahdawi Lawyers: Free Press a Precondition to Democracy:

The Court of West Sana'a continues to look into the case against Al-Wahdawi because of the article written by our colleague Gamal Ahmed A'mer on the Saudi-Yemeni relations. Al-Wahdawi's Chief Editor and Mr. A'mer are jointly accused of damaging (Yemeni) common interests, spreading in bad faith of false reports and personally insulting King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz.

The main points of the defence refused the attached evidence that there is no criminal case. Al-Wahdawi's chief lawyer, Abdul Majid Yassin drew the court's attention to the fact that by treading the way of democracy Yemen is following the way of free expression and free opinion and to the role of the judicial system in defending and protecting liberties.



AL-UMMAH, Al-Haq Party,

1) Wide Condemnation of Fatwas labeling People as Unbelievers:

An official of the High Coordination Council of Opposition Parties has announced that the Council condemns the campaign being launched against Sufism and fatwas issued by militants labeling people as unbelievers. He said that what happened recently at Al-Udain was a kind of moral terrorism which contradicts the Constitution and the rule of law which guarantees freedom. He said these fatwas only show the scorn of people's lives and honor, express extremism and ignorance of the tolerant faith of Islam. The incident of Udain has developed when a group of extremists at Ibb Governorate which included a director of Endowments Office and teacher at Ibb University issued a fatwa against four Udain locals demanding they 'repent' or be executed. As believers of Sufism and performers of Sufi rituals the fatwa labeled them as unbelievers. The Governor of Ibb had ordered the case closed so that a door for disturbances shall not be opened especially when the attorney office found the fatwa baseless.

The four persons against whom the fatwa was issued had been arrested at the beginning of October after a malicious complaint, which was found groundless. They were arrested again last Wednesday in the same week during which the fatwa against them, and Sufism in general, was issued.

2) Abu Al-Mohsen detained:

Some sources have reported that some tribes and Yemenis are waging a campaign demanding that Government surrenders the corpse of Abu Al-Hasan Al-Mihdhar, the late leader of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army who was executed last month.

People from Shabwa Governorate had demanded the body of Al-Mihdhar to be given to his family and a will claimed to be written by him before his execution uncovered. It is reported also that other relatives of Al-Mihdhar were detained including his uncle and a brother in law who is a university student whose link to the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army is not yet known. It seems that his detention was caused by the announcements of the Egyptian Londoner, Abu Al-Hamzah who said that Abu Al-Mohsen was elected to lead the said Islamic Army after Al-Mihdhar.

Speedy efforts by some tribes from Shabwa aim at releasing Al-Mohsen and two cousins of him detained with him.

3) Highway banditry on Sana'a-Hajja Road:

The Hajja Governorate Transport Syndicate, in a letter to the Minister of Home Affairs expressed its resentment with the attitude of Hajja Police and Traffic personnel which didn't take a decisive position towards acts of banditry by a sheikh and his followers at the location of Kohlan Affar forcing the use of their own cars on travelers instead of normal taxis. Travel on Sana'a-Hajja road that passes through Kohlan district is currently disturbed. These moves began before the presidential elections last September and continue. The Syndicate added that despite its donation of YR300.000 and 120 vehicles during the presidential election campaign its complaints were not dealt with seriously.

Drivers working on this road expressed feelings of being extremely

Just an Opinion

Mohammed Khidher, Iraqi Journalist

I think I was fortunate to attend the seminar sponsored by Yemen Times weekly on Tuesday, November 9, 1999. Its theme, "Hand in hand with Our President towards the 21st Century," is deep and means a lot. Nevertheless, I do not want to indulge in detail on the proceeding of the seminar and the discussion and remarks permeated through it. For this is not the essence I am after in my observations. As an Arab citizen I give myself the liberty to contribute with some remarks to the ongoing controversy in this country on some very vital social issues. It is no exaggeration to assume that political and social development in any Arab country would be mirrored on this or that twin Arab country because they represent the same nation. I will neither praise nor blame the independent Yemen Times newspaper on the seminar it has recently held because I do not want to take sides. But something has aroused my curiosity to jot my visualization down.

Just a few days after the seminar I noticed that some of the concerned parties have begun to wink at the paper for what it has done. Here again I want to be impartial on this subject and be respectful of anyone's points of view.

I just want to say something about the connotation of opposition in the realm of politics. Democracy, parliamentary elections, presidential elections by direct ballot, oppositions, etc, in the stark meaning of such political terminology, are still young in the Arab world, but will in time grow up to become very familiar, and the Arabs will be more experienced in these civilized activities.

I shall focus here on the concept of the term opposition and put it on the table. Politically speaking, there are two types of distinguishable opposition; one experienced versus a democratic regime, whereas the other vis-a-vis a non-democratic one. In the latter the opposition role is vehemently negative and against the regime. It works to change it and replace it by a democratic one. It must always be against it and critical and will not stop short bringing it to an end. But in the case of a democratically-elected regime, the opposition plays quite a different role. Opposition parties here are not critical in the negative sense of criticism. They exercise a kind of criticism that is constructive and associate it with proposals for cases rectifying power abuse in the regime, if there are any, and they are not against that regime. On the contrary, they offer all the help they could to the regime to exercise its power for the welfare of the people and the regime's accomplishments should be highlighted. They engage in a fervent race and competition with the regime for the sake of realizing the goals intended for the benefit and interest of the people. If such parties score more favorable points in favor of the people against the existing ruling party or ruling coalition, they will be an asset for them in the coming elections. So that is how the peaceful and democratic transfer of power will be. I present here my heartfelt congratulations to you in your democratic experience and wish you more success!

maltreated as their fares were looted and cars emptied of passengers, while Traffic and Police soldiers just keep looking.



AL-THAWRI, YSP,

Inflationary Increases As Government Raises Fuel Costs:

The financial statements of the projected state year 2000 budget showed

that the Government intends to implement new 'price reforms' effective early next year.

According to the determined reforms, expected actions include the implementation of a new price mechanism to modify oil and fuel prices, turning loose electricity, water and sewage fees and taxi and bus transport system and organization.

The projected budget shows that the Government had finalized lifting all kinds of subsidization of flour, which used to reach 2325 million Rials.

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PRIVATIZATION: IS IT REMEDY OR ROBBERY?



Dr. Saaddeen Talib, Member of Parliament

Privatization generally means the transfer of ownership from the state to the private sector. It achieves a variety of goals which may be economic, social, political and sometimes, budgetary. Different countries aim to achieve different ends in their privatization policy. In the global trend towards economic liberalization, privatization has contributed a major component in the package of economic restructuring.

This package, or plan, of economic restructuring may be voluntary or conditional to financial aid presented by global policy formulating institutions such as the World Bank and IMF.

In Yemen, the government began disposing of some small and medium sized establishments about 2-3 years ago. There was no law to discipline these sales and the results were tragic. The assets were sold at a fraction of their market value and 90% of the employees were sacked, except for one or two establishments which were sold to its employees. There was public uproar and a parliamentary committee investigated the issue. This resulted in parliament directing the government to cease all privatization until a "Privatization Law" was enacted.

The proposed law was presented to parliament about mid-1998 and has resulted in much debate and dispute especially on articles on "what to privatize" and "how to privatize."

The government, represented by Min. Mutahar Al Said, had shown extreme resistance to any limitations and guidelines suggested by parliament on these two vital issues. It took several months before government was able to dismantle parliamentary resistance and eventually choose an opportunity day when parliament had less than 50 members to vote and pass the law. The voting was definitively NON-CONSTITUTIONAL. It is sad that such an important law was passed in such a humiliating manner.

In the presidential election campaign candidate Najeeb Qahtan Al Shaabi, had made privatization as a major campaign issue, calling it non-contributory and disastrous, calling upon the President not to pass the law and return it to parliament.

The president, after winning the elections, did refer the law to Consultative Council which produced a stinging criticism of the law in its report.

The president did return the law to parliament, but only on a procedural issue regarding "the returns of privatization." The law was

voted again and later passed by the president.

The report of the Consultative Council must be made available to the relevant parties - even the public for the sake of transparency and truth. Now that the law is forcibly, and irregularly, passed, examination of its important articles is necessary.

Article (3) names the goals of privatization as establishing market economy, reduce state's burden of expenditure, improve efficiency of economic establishments on competitive basis, encourage investment (private) without monopoly, achieve new investment and technology and wider base of ownership by public share offering and finally encourage the establishment of financial markets.

The ways to achieve these goals were listed in Article (5) which was the center of a major dispute and argument. The final draft of this article was as insisted by government and it states:

Privatization is not to be executed in army sector before such sector until after its "liberalization" and supreme privatization committee is to present parliament with all documents of any privatization transaction within one month "after" such transaction. Privatization is to be carried out in "any" of following ways:

1. Public share offering - to be given priority to achieve goals of this law.
2. Employees purchase of all or part of establishment.
3. Partnership contracts in capital or management.
4. Contracts for management or hire.
5. Sale of asset constituents owned by state.
6. Sale of shares owned by state in mixed ownership sectors.
7. Return of assets confiscated previously by state to its legal owners.

The difference between this article and that suggested by parliamentarians is in making the choice of method compulsory and not voluntary, by putting appropriate method for relevant asset - especially in public share offering in important large assets eg. Cement Factories, banks, etc. The aim was to widen the scope of ownership among the people and prevent the monopolization of the whole privatization process amongst the few strong capitalists in Yemen. Also the public works sectors (water, power, communication, etc.) must be guarded against monopoly. Strategic assets (refinery, air transport, ports) must not be privatized before real competitive conditions actually arise.

Mere liberalization does not guarantee competition.

Another important question is whether our economic and political conditions today are favorable to privatization. Is our investment environment conducive to foreign investors with capital and technology? Has corruption been contained for us to guarantee that there will not be any mismanage-

ment and fraudulent disposal of public assets.

How can we protect the public against greedy monopolistic buyers and corrupt officials as sellers? There was an actual experience of this previously and one only has to look at the Russian privatization drama to understand the dangers. Thousands of employees stand to lose their livelihood with no real plan of re-training and new employment.

The total amount of loans in the Y2000 budget is only about \$70 million; is less than 3% of government expenditure. Are we selling our heritage and souls for a bowl of rice?

NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR PRIVATIZATION

For privatization to succeed and achieve its declared goals some conditions need to be established. First, a stock market must be started where shares can be sold and translated amongst the public and make it possible to sell small lots of share at favorable times. The Yemeni emigrants will also be able to invest in such market and become an active part of our economy. No privatization process is known without a stock market.

Secondly, some reasonable stability and security must be reached in the economy to create the right investment atmosphere to encourage foreign capital and technology to the introduced and enhance growth and employment.

Thirdly, corruption must be dealt with and "clean" governance put in place. Competence and credibility in government are a necessity to attract investment.

Fourthly, the judiciary must be effective and free from corruption. Deliverance of justice must be swift and reliable.

Finally, anti-monopoly laws must be enacted to protect the public from exploitation. Privatization can become a driving force in pushing the economy forward in promoting investment and creating new jobs.

This has happened in many economies. It is the meticulous and careful management of the process that achieves this expertise and honesty of decision makers and their effective monitoring and transparency are crucial.

Accurate estimation of the economic and social effects must be made and plans of confronting them be thought of and prepared. Experiences of other countries must be studied to prevent any ill-effects encountered by them. Haphazard and hurried push to privatization has serious economic and social consequences that may need a long time of hard work to remedy.

Privatization is like a delicate and dangerous surgery - the patient may come out better or, on the other hand, completely crippled or simply dead! Dear sirs, we need an expert surgeon. Please reconsider.

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Mohammed Al-Qadhi, Managing Editor

WORKING CHILDREN IN YEMEN:

A GENERATION PRONE TO DISASTER

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Introduction

Yemen will move into the third millennium with a heavy burden of problems and ordeals such as population explosion, poverty, unemployment, economic inflation, etc. In spite of the government's adoption of the policy of economic reform, starting in 1995, the government is not able to avoid its negative impacts on account of the absence of accountability and transparency which could put an end to corruption, the major headache of Yemen. One of these detrimental impacts is the emergence of the phenomenon of a working children class in the Yemeni society. This phenomenon has been able to attract the attention of many people concerned who consider it a major problem deserving our full attention and concrete solutions. This is because it heralds an ominous future for a whole generation. In fact, it is a big problem to the economic and social development in Yemen, the main concern of the government.



Yemeni Children & Legislation

Before we start talking about this phenomenon, I will try to shed light on the children's rights in the international, Arab as well as Yemeni legislation. The convention on the Rights of the Child says, "The CRC represents one of the most important international instruments for combating economic exploitation of children and child labor. Article 32 recognizes the right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing work that is likely hazardous or to interfere with the child's education or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. The article also enjoins States Parties to take appropriate legislative, administrative, social, and educational measures to protect these rights."

The Arab treaties No. 1 of 1966 and No. of 1976 define the age of work of children; children under age of 15 years should not perform any industrial work and children under the age of 12 should not work at all.

The amended Yemeni Constitution dictates in Article 30 "the state shall protect mothers and children, and shall sponsor the young." But the Yemeni Labor Law No. 5 of 1995 doesn't define the minimum age under which children are prohibited to work. However, article 49 of the Yemeni Labor Law prohibits the employment of children without the consent of their parents, and requires that once consent is received, children are registered with the Labor Office so that their conditions can be monitored. It also prohibits children from being employed in remote areas and requires the employer to provide a healthy and safe work environment in accordance with conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Labor.



Article 48 of the same law states that working hours of juveniles must not exceed 7 hours per day and 42 hours per week, and that employers must provide a break for one hour during the working day and not make children work more than four hours consecutively.

Article 145 imposes a fine ranging from YR 1,000 to YR 10,000 on employers in violation of the provisions for child workers. However, the provisions of the Labor Law are largely ignored in practice and the Labor Law itself suffers major shortcomings in terms of its ability to provide legal protection to working children.

Continued next week

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When Corruption Piles Up!



By: Ismail Al-Ghabiry
Yemen Times

Corruption is considered to be one of the great worries of a country. Yemen suffers a lot from corruption and corrupts who are free to violate rules and laws without any kind of control. What is the role of the Central Organization for Audit and Control (COAC) to fight corruption. Ismail Al-Ghabiry filed the following:

Ali Ahmad al-Amrani MP. Head of the Financial Committee in the Parliament.

First of all, I would like to thank the Yemen Times for its focusing on important social issues.

On the subject of corruption, it is a very complicated issue in our country as one of the developing countries. Corruption is connected with many other issues some of which are historical and others are related to the rapid changes in its contemporary history. As you know that Yemen has witnessed a lot of events most of which were bloody. All of these events and changes have had their consequences. Corruption is a result of the wars Yemen has indulged in. However, there must be serious and strict measures to fight corrupts in all offices. Otherwise we will not achieve development.

I think the President is determined to make new changes and reforms. But it seems that all the attempts of either the president or the Parliament to address this problem has been confronted by many obstacles. We, in the Parliament, support the president in any measures he may take to fight corruption. The parliament has adopted a number of suggestions in this regard, and we discussed them thoroughly.

Unfortunately, none of the corrupts have been punished. Only the common people are punished for corruption and as far as the high ranking officials are concerned, nobody dares to accuse them of corruption. There must be no fear to bring this segment of people to account.

Concerning the reports of the Central Organization for Audit and Control (COAC) about the illegal fees, the parliament has made a number of decisions in this regard. These reports are still with us and we will keep on investigating into these problems.

Ahmad Abdulla Maudhah, citizen

Corruption in Yemen has become an evil for which no remedy is available. The president is doing his best to fight the corrupts. However, there are still many hands tampering with the country's wealth. These people must be brought to account and punished. I hope that the government will be very strict in this matter.

The new changes witnessed nowadays are auspicious and they prove the president's determination to make reforms. I hope that all the organizations and parties concerned will join hands to make a better tomorrow.

Muhsin Mojahid Mawdhah, government official

Nobody can ignore the present sick situation in all offices due to bribes, mediation and the like. Since the government has begun its war against corruption, certain procedures have to be taken. For example:

1) Overseeing officials in their offices.
2) Honoring distinguished employees.
There are some auspicious signs of sincere reforms. At the same time I hope that all Ministers will do like the Minister of Civil Services for the positive steps he has taken at his ministry.

Talal Abdul Majeed al-Aghbari, lawyer

It is the COAC that is responsible for calling the corrupts in the governmental offices to account. During the last

few years, many reports about corrupts and corruption were submitted to Prosecution by the COAC. However, these reports were all neglected and thus marginalizing the COAC's authority. Many innocent people are accused of crimes just to throw dust in the eyes, while the real criminals are at large and away from being called to account.

The president has spoken proudly of courageous judges because it is they who can hold corrupts and criminals responsible for their deeds. I hope that they will be up to our expectations.

Hail Al-Ghabiry, MP

As far as there is a sincere will, great steps can be taken. During the last few days, a number of remarkable laws were passed concerning qat, carrying arms and corruption. The COAC sent many reports about corrupts but these should be followed by strict decisions.

Aaqyish Ghalib Rageh, lawyer

Corruption phenomena are felt everywhere in Yemen. This is because of the carelessness of courts and judges and because most of the corrupts hold high posts. As a lawyer, I have noticed that most of the people often accused of corruption or defalcation are from among ordinary people. I have never heard that one of the big guys has been called to account for such accusations. Despite the availability of eight judges at the Public Finance Prosecution office at the Capital Secretariat, many cases of corruption haven't been looked into yet. What is worse is that, criminals in prisons are sometimes set



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Contact: Talal Almashreki

free in return for paying some money. I wish that COAC will play an important role in fighting corrupts and corruption.

Nasr Abdullah Al-Dhahiry, lawyer

Yemen is in dire need of administrative and judicial reforms. On the subject of corruption, reforming should start with



those holding high posts. Mere rhetorical statements will not do. In my opinion, fighting corruption starts with raising the salary of all employees. When they receive enough wages to enable them to lead a decent life they will not think of accepting bribes. The Central Organization for Audit and Control should play a crucial role in this regard because it embraces qualified cadre and is authorized to investigate into corruption cases.

Frank Talk:

Mama or Papa



Dr. Pramod Kumar
Taiz University

And when the clapping dies down you look around and wonder from where all this applause erupted. It is a silent and solitary spread where the eagles soar. Mind is its own subject. Here where ideas jostle and cajole to define each other, in turn, get classified themselves. Simple truth, half truth, relative truth, absolute truth, apparent truth, uncertain truth and all manner of truths take form and dissolve and re-form. It is indeed a protean spectacle! Subjective and objective truths, at two ends of the spectrum, go ding-dong for our recognition. Ultimately, the question boils down to making a choice between Mama and Papa.

Grammar or literature? Which should be the basis of teaching language? Battle lines are clearly drawn. Blood-letting, sufficient to create perennial river, has left the issue inconclusive. Very often, when we beat about the bush, the solution lies just round the corner, perhaps, just a jargon-length beyond. Especially in academic fields we are tempted to presume complexity where none exists and attempt simplification where none is possible. Evidences of such defaults abound. Prejudice, vested interest, personal preference and such tend to get the better of objectivity. Schools are formed around the run-of-the-

mill issues. Unproven, half-cooked theories and doctored facts and figures are paraded as the final work. They come and go like the changeable weather. In fact, there is no dearth of trouble-shooters in every field, least of all in academics. These trigger-happy pundits fall over one-another to masquerade evidences from the works of Shakespeare or Milton to show that they were short on grammar. The Puritans may be tolerated but not her charlatans.

My training and experience tell me to be wary of dogmatism, especially in such a sensitive case. My preference would be not to put the learners in any sort of pre-fabricated strait-jacket. I would rather suggest giving them the freedom to wobble around the shallow waters of the calm sea and through certain confidence building measures induce them to master the art of floatation every passing day. Rather than prescribing a lot of exercises on structure drill, I would suggest wide and intensive reading of select texts and follow up by doing free writing practices based on them. The grammatical corrections (done with a pencil) would only be incidental. An over-active instructor would interfere rather than facilitate learning. My thesis is that if the text is suitable and the learner is absorbed in the content he should be left to himself to sort out the technicalities of sentence patterns.

Time and tense and organization of grammatical class-forms into acceptable sentence structures get automatically assimilated at a deeper level of the mind. There is a threshold, a minimum level of exposure to the quantum of language performance, which, when attained, triggers transformational generative process. Thus, the primary effort in any lan-

guage learning programme should be to create conditions where a pupil is actively exposed to abundance of optional reading material and listening opportunities. The input channels (reading and listening), if fed with appropriate codes, set the mind to classify, analyze, categorize, store, compare and prepare for output (speech and writing) when the need arises. The output is consequent on the input. It is the result of the abstractions and inferences made by the mind working on the input material.

For L1 acquisition, listening forms the base initially and gets enhanced if complemented by reading. The performance in language thus internalized is effortless and unobstructive. A similar pattern seems to emerge for L2 acquisition. A new factor gets introduced here, that is, a comparison between the existing (L1) and the variant (L2) forms. But, this continues only to a certain point. When the threshold level is attained, the L2 exists in its own right independent of L1. The translation or transference or interference gets eliminated from the system. Then it becomes merely a matter of code switching.

Having created a model for language acquisition, the next step would be to conceptualize its application. The sole purpose of a grammar-oriented course should be to aid and facilitate a recognition task. It helps to identify and locate what already exists in a precient state. In this sense, grammar lessons help to sort out and name what already is stored in memory.

The mind is pre-programmed to process language but, as breaking up language into its components is a mechanical process it needs training. The terminology used for this purpose (metalinguistics) is not an essential element of language learning process and does not contribute to the enhancement of language performance capabilities.

The model I am suggesting is valid for a target group aiming at attaining a high level of proficiency in L2. For localized and very

specified needs, there is neither the scope nor necessity for internalization of the various underlying principles of the second/foreign language. For example, a French tourist, on a short-sight-seeing visit to Yemen can manage with merely a handful of catch words and expressions from Arabic, or a receptionist working in a hotel for foreign tourists can handle his traffic with limited number of stereo-typed expressions. Here the difference is similar to that between short-term memory and long-term memory. The language for specific purposes does not get internalized and abstracted while it does as second language. Does it make any difference if rules of grammar are taught followed by exposure to literature of the subject? I think the difference would be substantial, may be as that between a man riding a donkey or a donkey riding a man. Teaching structure and then expecting the learner to impose the pattern on his input content is like putting the cart before the horse. A more profitable course would be to expose the mind to a variety of language contexts and then prompt it, even provoke it, to formulate and respond. Nursery rhymes can do wonders where rules of grammar would flounder and fumble.

So, if I am forced to make a choice between Mama and Papa my preference for Mama would be a fore-gone conclusion. There are too many subterranean roots between us to be over-looked. I can bet on "Twinkle twinkle little star/ How I wonder what you are!" doing the trick any day than teach the rules of grammar to show how to make an exclamatory sentence. I have the fortune of staying close to some illustrious teachers of language and linguistics and when I have scratched them deep below their skin my conviction has got confirmed that they have a vast reservoir of literary background form where they draw freely and profitably. The connection between the eagle soaring in the firmament and the rabbit nibbling the grass is, of course, a linear one. And when the clapping dies down you look around and wonder where the rabbit is.

Impression about Yemen

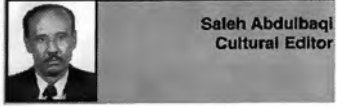


Bader Bin Salem
Ambassador of Oman

I heard about Yemen since my childhood from my father and grandfather who visited Yemen at that time. They passed through Yemen as they were coming back from East Africa to Oman. I read about the history and tradition of Yemen. I was highly impressed with the originality and civilization of this great country. I became well informed about this country, the cradle of the Arab civilization. I heard about the good behavior, hospitality and generosity of the Yemeni people. They are very kind people as they receive their guests warmly. They have retained the original Arabic customs. I looked forward to the day when I might come to visit Yemen. Fortunately, my dream came true as I was appointed the ambassador of Oman to this historical country, Yemen, my second home. There is a close relationship between Yemen and Oman.

I have visited a number of governorates of the Republic as I arrived in this country in the second half of the year 1995. I have seen more than I heard about Yemen. I found the originality, history, tradition which are still flourishing in this great country. I have seen the beauty of the fascinating nature as in Ibb, Taiz, mountains of Tehamah, coasts of Aden, Hodeidah, Hadramout and Al-Mahrah. Along with these fascinating views, I have also seen the skyscrapers of Shibam in Hadramout and the mosques of Yareem. I can not forget the beautiful terrain of Sana'a, Hajah and Amran.

Historical Roots of Yemeni Architecture



Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

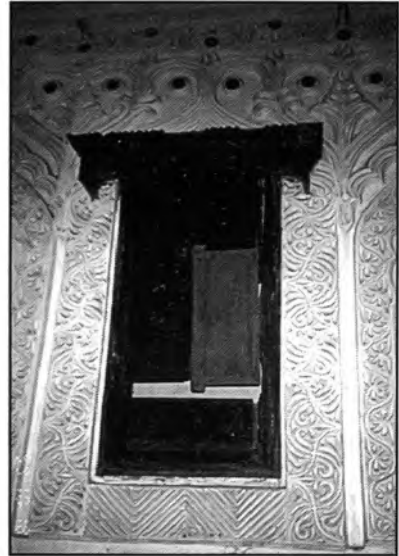
Yemeni architecture is one of the greatest arts which reflects the civilization of Yemeni history through thousands of years. Yemen was one of the oldest countries and civilizations in the Arab homeland and the World. This art became one of the historical landmarks which flourished in Yemen at that time. Yemeni architecture is regarded as a powerful attraction for tourists and one of our cultural and historical resources.

Yemeni architectural art is the real record which expresses civilization of the Yemeni human, and his economic and political development. So, this art embodies the true meaning of Yemeni civilization. During the period which preceded the fifth century B.C, there

Hadramout and Hemiar. The rulers of those states founded trading centers and/or road trading stations and levied traffic taxes on merchants in return for protection and services to them. Hadramout valley, which empties into the Arab Sea is one of the important valleys where the old cities of Shibam, Sae'oun and Tarim were founded. Other important valleys include Maifah, Daw'an in Hadramout, and Toban valley in Lahij governorate, which empties into the Arabian Sea at Aden.

Studies point out that most old Yemeni cities were founded in valleys. Mareb, Barakish and Tomn'a are good examples. Later, other cities gradually appeared on tops of Mountains. Amongst those cities are Sana'a, Almafer, Rada'a, Raboah, Amran and Saddah. Other cities which were located in valleys, such as Al-Mokha, Beit Al-Fakeh and Zabeed flourished at that time, while some of the Yemeni cities, including Sada, Shibam and Hadramout, had distinct Islamic characteristics.

Undoubtedly, those civilizations left us a marvelous architectural heritage, which inspires us still, even in our present architecture. In spite of the expansion and development that we are witnessing in Yemeni cities like Sana'a, Hadramout, Shibam and others, these cities are still preserving their original architecture and historical features. Modern architects are still inspired by the historical styles of architecture.



appeared many Yemeni states including Mo'een, Sheba, Qataban, Aosan,

Ancient Yemeni archi-



itects used the construction materials which were available at the place where they worked. If a building was to be erected on a muddy or rocky area, those materials were used in that construction. If it was on volcanic area, the volcanic stones were the main building material, and so on.

Yemeni Islamic architecture was distinguished by its simplicity and flexibility of planning, design and decoration. All those features helped in providing assurance, calmness and social relations between families. The Islamic buildings bore certain characteristics providing an atmosphere of society and variety that helped

Moslems to gather and discuss their religious affairs. Despite the wave of modernity in all fields, those characteristics still have their appeal to people, and if sufficient care is rendered to them, they can still meet our modern needs

Influencing Yemeni Architecture:

Yemen is featured by three characteristics; hills, geological factors and climate. Topographically, its land reaches as high as 3760 meters at the summit of Nabi Shoa'eb, while its climate is cool and dry.

1-Plateaux and desert-like plains extend along mountain heights. They gradually descend towards the Empty

Quarter which averages 1000 meters above sea level. Since early time Yemenis seriously considered how to cope with these circumstances. They built dams at valley junctions and terraces for agriculture, and they provided themselves with factors for settlement there. This enabled them to establish great civilizations whose landmarks are still standing.

2-Geology:



Yemeni architecture has been greatly effected by such natural materials as wood, stone, mud, marble, etc. At the time they used 'Albolq' stones for buildings, and they also used 'Alzaboob' and palm-tree trunks, especially in Qena and Zaeon and also in the cities which were founded in Daw'an valley and some of the cities in Al-Jawf governorate.

3-Climatic Factors:

As Yemen is situated inside the tropical zone, it is exposed to humid monsoon winds in summer, in addition to sharp variation in degrees of temperature and terrain. Yemen architecture provided that it could deal with these variables. Thus, there appeared distinguished architectural designs to withstand such natural phenomenon.

Architectural designs are associated with religion, especially in Yemen. The

Moslem family wants its residence to provide utmost privacy and protection. Therefore, houses are divided into two sections. One specialized for receiving guests and the other for the household living. This rule also applies to the building of mosques where there are parts allotted for women and others for men.

The thing which distinguishes Yemeni architectural art from that in other countries of the world, is that it is based to meet the requirements of the individual family. That is why the visitor wonders about the different designs of buildings even in the same residential area.

The history of Yemeni architecture expresses the originality of Yemeni people. Architecture was also a historical feature which embodies the traditions of Yemen.



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Towards Achieving a Sustainable Spate Irrigation Development Projects In Yemen (Agro-Rural Development Policies)



Prepared by: **Abdul Kader M. Al-Ariqi**
Environment / Development Consultant

1) Agricultural Aspect:

Agriculture is one of the main factors of the economy in Yemen and contributes 13% of the GDP. More than half (52.9 %) of the active population is employed in Agriculture. In rural areas, those who are involved in agriculture form 67.4% of the population (ref. CSO, 1994 Census). The provision of irrigation water is the main input of agriculture production. Water is a scarce resource in Yemen as no permanent rivers exist. Agriculture is the main user of the available water (more than 90%). The main sources of irrigation are: spate intermittent wadi flows diverted during rainy seasons, and ground water reservoirs where infiltrated flood water is stored. Spate irrigation has been practiced in Yemen for millennia in a sustainable manner, thanks to the traditional technologies practiced by our ancestors in a comprehensive and integrated approach based on rain water, flood harvesting and appropriate tillage systems, in addition easy access to the main agricultural inputs (see, Rain Harvesting System and Sustainable Agriculture Development, Yemen Times, issue No 29). This has been achieved through practicing appropriate irrigation systems, inter-cropping, continuous terrace cultivation and careful farming systems. This stock of knowledge has not been effectively and fully utilized or improved up to the present time.

Hence, this traditional technology should be appropriately innovated and studied in more detail in all

aspects, particularly with regard to water rights, distribution equity in the light of the priority set by farmers and their wishes for improving, particularly their irrigation systems. Any improvement or appraisal should pay attention to the potential of small and medium farmers by addressing the issues and problems hindering their contributions to agricultural development. Knowing that small farm development is efficient for creating a broad-based and long-term agricultural development, thus contributing much to food security and poverty reduction programs, small and medium farmers will play a concrete role in realizing principles of sustainability, e.g. participatory approaches + local empowerment + local ownership and distribution equity.

2) Present situation \ Agro-ecological Aspect.

During the last three decades, the agriculture sector has deteriorated and became unsustainable due to complex interacting factors including physical and socio-cultural problems such as poverty, poor health and nutrition, lack of access to productive resources, and food security, price policies and unfair trade (food stuff) exchange and above all fragmentation of lands, due to demographic dynamics and introduction of inappropriate or misused new technologies such as: Well drilling machines + inappropriate wadi development techniques. These and others led to mis-use of the environment by householders (new poor farmers), such as, abandoned/damaged terraces, defore-

station, mining soil nutrition, cultivating in fragile marginal lands and over-growing range lands in order to feed themselves.

The big farmers\investors practiced mining ground water for producing fruits (mainly banana cultivation) in large areas, thus leading and causing disaster to ground water reservoirs' quality as well as quantity. For example, many deep wells in the Tihama became salty due to the phenomenon of sea intrusion.

Due to the above mentioned factors, mainly mis-use of the environment, it has frequently been noticed that devastating floods cause many environmental disasters including, loss of precious fertile lands in wadis and unfortunate loss of human life, subsequently many wadis became eroded and enlarged from 20m to more than 200m. Consequently, the maintenance of the destroyed traditional structures and lands becomes costly and unbearable as does the rehabilitation of terraces necessary to train upstream torrential floods. In turn, mass movement of poor households who were forced to immigrate to urban areas for survival and for seeking jobs and a better livelihood.

Unfortunately, the introduced wadi developments technology for improvement of irrigation systems and rehabilitation of flood protection works has negatively affected traditional irrigation and became unfeasible, technically, financially and socially while changing the established water rights. In fact, these works were very capital intensive and drastically changed the traditional water distribution pattern, often at the expense of the downstream farmer. Above all they affected the traditional balance of available water resources. In addition, inadequate design criteria were applied. This revealed the unique and complex



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nature of the traditional spate irrigation system which has been underestimated by the consulting firms who designed the structures. These and other factors posed serious O and M issues and problems of destructive floods and related high sedimentation loads.

3) Introduction of Comprehensive and Integral Approach

Presently, due to the problems indicated above, it is evident that there is a need to review the prevailing perception of agricultural policies before implementing the proposed or ongoing agricultural development programs and projects. Thus, comprehensive and integrated agricultural policies have to be pursued. It is advisable to incorporate and adopt appropriately

"Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development" (SARD) Objectives into the framework of agricultural policy formulation. Hence, all the concerned agencies, government, development agencies, donors, private sector and farmers should jointly work to promote, appropriately and effectively, the integration of SARD into policy analysis including identification and improvement of the sustainable traditional technologies and what research and studies are required for focusing on reduction of alleviation of rural\household poverty. Duly, a comprehensive understanding of the Household\Community problems is one of the main objectives, which should analyze how to raise the livelihood of the small\medium farmers who relied totally on fragmented, fragile and marginal lands, and who have no other opportunities beyond farming. Hence, off-farm earning opportunities and access to the agricultural six INS (incentives, inputs, innovations, information, infrastructure and institutions) and productive resources could play a great role in improving our agricultural production system. It should be within the strategy of creating off-farm employment, enhancing rural manufacturing enterprises which should lead to the growth of the agro-business and non-agricultural services. In the mean time, promote adequately the invest-

ment in human capital through improving health care, delivery systems, education, training courses and protecting indigenous knowledge cultures. These could be attained through establishing active community-based systems or centers under the supervision of the central and local governments. This will contribute to implementing development programs aimed at raising the capabilities of the people and their functions within the mainstream of poverty alleviation programs. Within the framework of SARD policy, traditional spate irrigation sys-

tems should be encouraged and sustained through reviving the old skills by teaching the young generation these techniques and in the mean time enhancing the approach to technology innovation. The improvement of the spate irrigation system should be within the prospective of overall water resources management. For example, adopt optimal use of surface and ground water within a water balance, to maximize the overall agricultural production per unit of water in order to benefit all the farmers and their households.

A Training Course in Budgeting and Budget Control for the Management and Financial Staff

Sponsored by the Ministry of Electricity and Water the National water and Sanitation Authority and the Technical Secretariat for Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform.



The Dutch financed Institutional Strengthening of Five NWSA Branches Project organized a training course in Budgeting and budget control for the management

and financial staff of the NWSA Branches at Attaq, Dhamar, Hodeidah, Ibb and Wadi Hadramout and others interested from 13 November to 17 November. In the framework of decentralization of these branches, the importance of proper budgeting and how to to prepare and control budgets a a tool of management will be explained.



Mr. Jack van Hoorn



The World Bank SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

The World Bank is inviting applications from NGOs in Yemen for small grants

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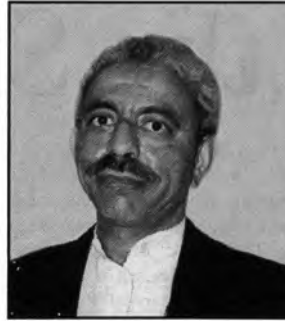
Note

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. 418545/6/7/8/9. Fax. 418563. 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.

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Local Rule or Local Administration? Let's Get it Straight!



Whereas the importance of a law on local administration cannot be discounted, in the overall process of forming a civil society and for the regulation of the administrative organs of the government at the local level, this law should not be regarded as the essence by which government at the local and provincial level is established or "regulated." The guiding framework for local and provincial rule should rest with the Constitution of the Republic. Thus, there is no justification for delaying the establishment of local and provincial councils - municipal council elections and tri-branch provincial government modeled after the Central Government, with their elected senior leaderships, because of the absence of a "local administration law," as the government insists. While it is fairly established that the relationship between the Central Government and the local authorities may require a legislative framework to insure that the constitutional implications of local empowerment and considerable self-rule are not violated, such a framework should not be initiated by the Central Government - the Central Executive Branch - but by the national legislative body of the government. The reasons for this are, first of all, the latter is composed of elected representatives who come from

all over the country, who would presumably take into consideration the maximum interests of their constituents to heart in the formulation of such an important legislation, if it is needed at all. Second of all, it would seem highly inconceivable that a highly centralized executive structure - as our central government is - can ever be expected to issue legislative frameworks that should work to dissolve any of its existing powers and controls, or to translate the constitutional implications of decentralized "federal" models of government and, more important, the aspirations of the people, as to how much self-rule they are entitled to. But, our legislative branch, to my knowledge, has yet to initiate any legislation on its own, in the legislative process, as there are no laws, to this date, which have ever originated from the parliament itself. Thus, our parliament has failed to perform its most significant function, as a "law-making body." Surely, an important element of democratic government is missing, when the Parliament merely becomes no more than a bureaucratic inconvenience that is spoon-fed legislation dictated to it by the executive branch, to which, at best, they can tail-end with "comments", that are void of any legal weight, which have yet to ever be manifested by executive action or judicial ruling. Accordingly, the "Law of Local Administration" can never be expected

to convey any radical advances towards real democratic government, nor should it be expected to give local ownership of locally found resources and true meaning to empowerment over the management of local affairs. As is the case in most of the laws involving political activity, the law under "consideration" by parliament, which will deal with the "local administration" of the country, will only work to undermine the constitutional implications of "local government," or "local rule," in addition to giving legal weight to the de-facto exercise of the powers now enjoyed by the Ministry of Local Administration and the other line ministries, over the local affairs of state. From its title alone, we can clearly see how the "Draft Law" deviates from the constitutional interpretations of local government. By merely having called it the "Law of Local Administration" underscores the devious intentions that are implicit in the Law, that local government, per se, is out of the question, and to instill the status quo, under which the management of local affairs is nothing more than an extended function of central government authority. In this context, even "decentralization", as much of the literature put out by the government, over the last six years, clearly conveys on this subject, is always referred to as being "financial and administrative decentraliza-

tion," again discounting any connotations of political empowerment or community involvement in the management of local affairs. In other words, the Draft Law is really no more than insignificant delegations of some central authorities and functions to local administrative units or even "elected" councils, but with the ultimate control and veto remaining very much at the Center. Therefore one should not expect that the "Draft Law of Local Administration" should really be expected to significantly bring Yemen any closer to real autonomous "self-rule," for those matters of state that could be better dealt with far better - and should be dealt with - at the local level by institutions that should be free from any oversight by the Ministry of Local Administration, which might be good enough logic to do away with the Ministry of Local Administration altogether, since the establishment of such institutions will be based on constitutionally defined frameworks that will have the controls needed to insure that the local governing institutions do not go beyond giving these institutions just enough jurisdictions to ensure that they can do their jobs properly, while at the same time prevent their interference from any roles set for the central government accordingly. The present status of the local administrative units, incidentally, were established by cen-

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tral decrees that are based on purely political considerations, leaving geographic, demographic and social factors of greater significance aside. We should also not expect that, by the present Draft Law, local communities will have gained the right (to even have a say) in setting their own course for development and in deciding what their own destiny should be. As is often the case in the formulation of most of the laws by the Central Government of the Republic of Yemen, the drafting of the Draft Law for Local Administration is not without the deficiencies that underscore the absence of purpose and lack of coherence to the recognized meanings and conceptualizations that are implicit in the terminology related to the structuring of modern civil societies and the institutions that govern them. To put it simply, this means that what is stated and what is meant, especially on matters of government, political activity and even on the due process of law, fail to achieve congruence and eventually fail to achieve common relevance to the government and the governed - an obvious source of confusion which provides an understandable reason for despair, which sooner or later could easily evolve into discontent among the latter. It is easy to understand, then, why national identity and community interaction tend to have meanings of less value to the general population and thus the grounds for national affinity and responsible citizenship are accordingly much weaker. Chaos becomes easily instilled within the society in such a situation, and the Law (in its general context) loses its regulatory role in the society, as well as its intended safeguards. Moreover, especially, with respect to the law being dealt with herein, community spirit and

national interest loose their influence in the determination of political will. The end result is that narrow self-interests have their sway and ultimately mass suffering prevails. We really need to look at ourselves with greater objectivity, with a view towards scrutinizing the deep causes of the seemingly endless state of crisis we seem to be in, with nothing ever seeming to go right and the chronic inability to establish any start for positive trends to set in, in any of the sectors and subsectors that cross our social order. Given the right dose of seriousness and sincerity required for such an unprejudiced self assessment, it will not be hard to come across one important conclusion: the major reason for the many difficulties we are facing as a nation was and still remains the insistence of the Central Government, embodied in the executive branch, to maintain, and sometimes, even tighten its stranglehold on all aspects of our lives, both as individuals and communities, and to persist on the presumption that the Yemeni people, by and large, are not worthy of being masters of their own destiny. The present Draft Law for Civil Administration, does not fail to deviate from such an already highly palpable conclusion and, as usual, fails to take the interests of the people - the Nation - at large, to heart. For sure, the proposed law does not, in any way, move us any closer to being a "Switzerland" with its most liberal decentralized scheme and its powerful display of efficient modern government. Maybe we need to have our mountains covered with snow to underscore the point that our geographic features alone dictate that autonomous local government units (not administrative units) is the only right way for Yemen to move forward.

Letters to the Editor

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

Dear Editor,
Let me first, express my admiration of our best magazine. Every week, this newspaper shows us happy surprises. It is obvious that this newspaper confirms the truth that Yemen has many creative personalities. There are many innate talents all over Yemen whatever the positions they are holding. I'm so happy at the new corner "IMPROVE OUR ENGLISH" as it is very important for all of us to learn English. This page is a window through which we can know more about this language. We, as students of English at university, hope that there will be more development in this section with higher and stronger elements. Another thing we hope that we are

allowed to contribute to this page under the title of our readers our writing and our attempts at poems, process and commentaries on various topics. At last I focus on this hope to let us express our talents.
Saaha'a Abdullah Haza Al-Kobati Taiz
"Why Smoking?"
There is a very good and useful saying, that "Protection is better than medicine." Allah bestowed we human beings with minds to recognize what is good and what is bad for us. By which, differentiates us from animals and makes all our behavior acceptable of all and correct. But sometimes, we misuse it by doing bad things or habits.

remind you that, smoking is the brother of chewing Qat. Add to these, it even causes social damage. How? I think you have heard, many explosions were caused by cigarette. Once, there was a small store, several bags of inflammable material were inside that small store, namely (Barud). A negligent passerby threw the butt of his cigarette near. A second later, a big explosion was heard. Similarly, many clothing stores and gas stations have been destroyed. Furthermore, it bothers the non-smoker beside you, whether he was Yemeni or a foreigner. Particularly, if you were on a bus or at any public place. What a harried view!
For these reasons, international and local organizations were established. They do their best to educate smokers, to make them aware of the effects of smoking. They also try to encourage smokers to give up by any means. At last, believe me, I was a smoker as you are now, but when I noticed that, there were many things starting to happen to me, I decided with hard will to give it up. Hence I did. Indeed, it was a triumph for me. So, if you want good health, to save money and to serve your country usefully, you must give up smoking. I hope you do. Certainly, it was a nice step of the President stopping qat chewing and I hope to hear of him stopping smoking, at least at the public places like, airports, tourist hotels, etc. By doing so, our country and we can get benefits directly and indirectly. The summery of what I want to say is, this saying of one of the famous local philosophers who liked his country and his people: "this would be a welcome decision at many levels. The individual will enjoy better health, more available income, more time...etc. The family will be spared the hazards of the smoke and the chew, and will have more money to spend on other needs. Society will also benefit directly and indirectly." Quoted of the late intellectual Prof.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf's saying, may Allah mercy him with the title 'Words of Wisdom' iss. No. 43, page 2 YT.
By: Fadl Ahmed Abas Ghazi Arhab Education College
We must fight it!
We are not in a war. What I mean by it is qat. We are in an important symbolic war. We are fighting a destructive plant that seems as a huge army destroying everything in our life. It destroys our health, families, finances and other many things. But as I think, if the Yemeni people can free themselves from this curse, our country will turn into a better and a prosperous one. It is difficult to remove this plant at once. It need long-distance strategies since this habit of chewing began 200 years ago and most Yemeni people, men or women, are chewers of qat. But with strong determination we can do it. Now and after two months we will begin a new century, our government finds it important to remove that plant. It begins to make some plans which may help in getting rid of qat. One plan is to make the time of working from 8 am to 3pm. There is also the appearance of some new associations in some governorates, such as (the Association of Friends Free from Qat-Ibb). We hope such things to be useful. Some may say that the government is fighting the people themselves. They say that many people depend on planting and selling qat to earn money. But the movement makes a plan to give those people composition so that they will remove qat and instead they will plant vegetables and fruits that will benefit the country. Finally, and again, it is not easy to do that without strong determination. We must begin with ourselves, (God doesn't change what in men until they change what in themselves).
By: A Regular Yemen Times Reader

أجمل التهاني والتبريكات نرفها للشباب الخلاق

« خالد علوي السقاف »
بمناسبة الخطوبة.
وعقبال الزفاف إنشاء الله.
عن جميع الأهل والأصدقاء
رمزي علوي السقاف

نرف أجمل التهاني وأسمى التبريكات الحارة مصحوبة بباقة من الفل والورد والياسمين إلى الشاب الخلاق

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عقبال الفرحة الكبرى، ألف مبروك
المهتؤون، مدرسي مدرسة الشهيد الغافقي بالأصباح
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء
عنهم أكرم عبد الرحمن السقاف

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المهتتون
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المسني، لطفي علي المسني، صبري محمد المسني،
نايف طه المسني، فتحي عبد الهادي السقاف

اعلان

فقد في يوم الإثنين 99/11/8 جواز سفر رقم 00309809 صادر من مدينة تعز بإسم محمد محمد علي محمد، يمني الجنسية. كما فقد بطاقة Green Card أمريكية مع رخصة العمل الأمريكية.
نرجو ممن يجده أن يسلمه إلى دار الصحيفة أو الاتصال على هاتف رقم: 612906 وله مكافأة

Note

Mr. Mohammed Mohammed Ali Mohammed, Yemeni has lost his Yemeni passport No. 00309809, Taiz, American Green Card and an American work license. In case you find it, please phone 612906 or hand it over to the Yemen Times office and you will get a lucrative reward.

I don't know what can I write for you, but I know only one thing that I want to write now about what I am feeling. I am very happy. One day my father gave me the Yemen Times because he knows how I love the English language. I was very happy when I read it. When I read it I went to another world. I wanted to write to you in that moment, but I don't know about Letters to Editor. It wasn't there. But now when I saw it I decided to write to YT. It is my only friend. I love the most of the articles and especially the Editorial. Now your English lessons section is very helpful for me and many readers. It is like a language teacher for us as well as giving us information of what is going on in the country. Continue with it.
Monia Mohammed Secondary School - Aden

Flourishing of the Second-Hand Markets!

By: **Abdul Hakim Hashem Sana'a**

The Yemeni government has embarked on programs of economic reform as prescribed by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in an attempt to address some of the economic problems. However, this comes to negatively affect the middle class of the Yemeni society. The result has been a large segment of this class's living standard dropping sharply and actually increasing the number of those living below the poverty line. These people have become unable to sustain themselves in such conditions. To make this more clear, the report of the Economic and Social Committee of Western Asia, ESCWA, revealed that the poverty rate has increased from 19.1% in 1992 to 51.19% in 1997. That is, the number of poor people has increased from 3,200,000 to 9,000,000 and the rate of abject poverty runs from 9% to 24%. That is, they have increased from 1,500,000 million to 4 million. Besides, there are more than 90% of families whose income can hardly cover their basic expenses, which equals about \$140.

Poverty has also reached the educated and holders of university degrees due to continuous inflation, unemployment and the devaluation of the Yemeni currency against others.

Then, another menace, unemployment, turns up to be a painful headache that hurts many people, especially those who graduate to find themselves on the street. It was around 9% in 1994. Then it went up to 30-40% according to the World Bank's reports which indicate that the unemployment rate is 69% among the work force in rural areas and 21.7% among the educated, and 1.5% among those who got higher education after graduation.

These problems have been associated with an increase in population and high sustenance rate of about 101.8%, the highest one in the entire world. This has given rise to dif-

ferent old phenomena which distinctly reflect the amount of people's suffering. One of these distressing and heartbreaking phenomena is the emergence of second-hand markets which have lately become common in most of the governorates of the Republic. The number of people who come to these markets increases regularly either in terms of those who come to buy or those who want to sell their things. In this article, I will shed some light on these markets.

I talked to Mohammed Thabet Abo Rajab who owns a shop at Al-Safiah Second-hand Market and he said, "I sell electronic and electric tools for they are very common and people come to buy them regularly. Such tools have very much demand especially during Ramadan, Eids and at the end of each month when employees receive their salaries. People come in great numbers to buy such tools and frequent these markets mainly due to their hard economic conditions that goes from bad to worse. Regarding the tools we put on sale, most are second-hand. I believe that much demand is on TVs, furniture, especially carpets and fridges."

Mr. Mohsen Ahamd Ali said, "Most of the goods found here are TVs, mixers, cassette recorders, etc. People come to such markets mainly because of the big difference of prices in these markets and prices in other ones. If you look for such goods in other markets, you will find them for fancy prices. In regards to the commission we get, it depends upon the kind of goods sold."

Mr. Saleh Ali in Al-Awlaki Second-Hand market said, "I have got a shop to sell furniture and I think that carpets are the most in demand at the moment in this as well as other markets. These goods are very cheap in comparison with others sold in well-known exhibitions and markets. Prices here are less than other markets by more than a half. Most of the goods we sell are second-hand for about one to two years. However, as these goods are imported from outside the country, Saudi Arabia and Dubai, they seem to be very new."

Mr. Mohammed Mahmoud Al-Hobaishi has got a shop in Al-Hasabah market. He sells ready-made clothes. He sees

that the people who come to buy these clothes are not that many. He said, "People tend to come to these markets mainly because of their miserable conditions. Sometimes, we get high profits and sometimes we tend to lose so that we may be able to sell some goods. Most of the people come to buy coats which we buy from some of Bab Al-Yemen merchants who said that they buy them from importing merchants such as Al-Habari and Al-Kabuss."

We can divide these markets into two categories according to the goods on sale:

- 1) General Markets
- 2) Movable Specialized market Places

General Markets:

They are very famous and are located in specific places. They are divided into different shops and each one sells specific things. The most famous one is Al-Awlaki in Al-Safiah, Al-Tawfeek Second-hand market in Taiz street, Al-Safiah Second-hand Market and another one in 45 m. Street.

Movable Specialized market Places:

These markets do not have specific places and tend to follow the customer to wherever he is found. Such markets are found near bus terminals, public yards and crowded street intersections. Some of the most famous markets are Al-Tahrir Market, Bab Al-Sabah, Al-Tahrir Yard, Ali Abdul Moghni, Al-Hasabah, Nokum and Shomailah Market, etc. These markets usually sell second-hand, ready-made clothes, small home supplies, smuggled foodstuff and food supplies that are about to expire."

We can point at other markets which are a little bit different, however. They come under the category of these markets and they deserve much attention and care for they are the most affected by the deplorable economic situations and prices hikes. An example of these is the working class market where you find workers of different technical activities standing from very early in the morning to the end of the day looking for work on daily



wages. The most important of these markets are Al-Ka'a market behind the University and some groups in Shomaila street and Taiz street.

The people who attend such markets are most often employees working in governmental organizations and ordinary people who have been suppressed by poverty. We met with some of them and filed the fol-

lowing interviews:

The first one I met was Mr. Abdul Fatah Abdullah who said, "I work in a supermarket and my salary is 7,000 riyals. I have to support my family in my village, therefore it can hardly meet the basic needs of my family. I have to buy our clothes from these markets. It used to be shameful to buy clothes from these places in the past, however, it has become inevitable these days."

Mr. Najeb Ibraheem, an employee in the taxation office, said, "I work in a governmental organization and the salaries of the government are well-known to all. Besides, I have no other job. Therefore, I come to these markets to buy what I and my family need. I came today to buy furniture for my house instead of buying a new TV for around 50,000 riyals, I can buy that here for half of this price and despite the fact that these goods are second-hand, sometimes you can find very nice articles. I believe that these markets have increased a lot during the past three years."



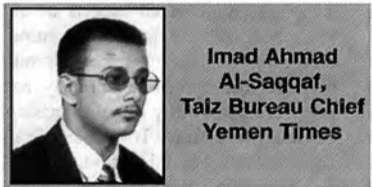
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As Ignorance and Negligence To Sport Activities in Taiz Reach Their Peak:

What a Pity...



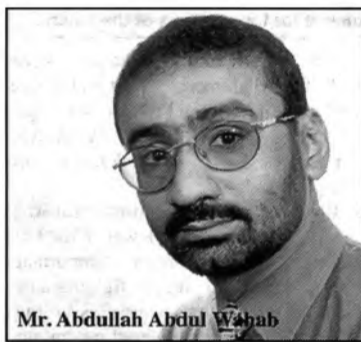
Imad Ahmad Al-Saqqaf, Taiz Bureau Chief Yemen Times

Late in the 1980s the Yemeni national team played a nice football match against the China national team. The Yemeni national team came out in bright colors when a marvelous goal scored by Saleh bin Rabee'a who administered a good beating into the goal of the China national team. As far as I know, this was the only victory our national team has ever won. All the other matches, however, are either depressing and heavy defeats or level-outs or a fragile victory over weak teams. What I want to display here is the state of sports in Yemen. Sport, in fact, is still in its infancy and has a long way to go before it can be compared to the other sports in the region. To speak the truth the point is not that there are not active and talented Yemeni players, it is rather because of the non-existence of sponsorship and care which is to be paid to the Yemeni players so that they can show their merits and polish their skills. This is quite emphatic when we find that many Yemenis have resorted to travel abroad to seek better environments for their future. Many players suffer from the non-existence of clubs equipped with all facilities and instruments. Neither is there a standard or international stadium so players can exercise and practice their games there.

We are actually in dire need of an action like that of Moa'amer Al-Kadafi when he made a decision preventing the Libyan national team from participating in any foreign football matches from 1982 to 1999. Only then the Libyan teams realized the meaning of the president's decision and radical changes concerning capability of the Libyan teams which have now become among the strongest Arab teams. Talking about Yemeni sports will make us very tired. It is so because the number of obstacles that face sports is numerous and they are not easy to get rid of. To come so close to the problems and obstacles of

Yemeni sports, Emad Al-Saqqaf, of the Yemen Times talked to Mr. Abdullah Abdul Wahab, the Chairman of the Al-Sakar Sport Club in Taiz who said, "Despite all the financial support the clubs in Taiz gain, we find that there is a very low and weak performance from all these clubs. I believe that the problems of Taiz sports are many. They need to be paid more attention. I can say from my experience here in Al-Sakar Sport Club that the most detrimental impacts facing sports in Taiz are the following: First of all, convenient places for these clubs do not exist, though there are special pieces of lands for these clubs. Besides, the competent sport staff tends to shun administrative positions. Stadiums that are really suitable to do exercises on do not exist either. The competent training cadre does not exist. What is more clear is the poor efficiency of the administration in most of the clubs. Most of these administrative positions are held by and restricted to a limited number of people who control everything. The non-existence of observation and auditing gives them the liberty to do whatever they want and no-one is to hold them accountable for whatever they do.

Regarding the steps that are going to be followed so that sport in Taiz will flourish and prosper, he said, "There is a resolution to increase the number of convenient stadiums for players to practice their exercises in. For example, there is only one stadium that is planted with grass. The clubs' standing order should also be changed. This should be applied to all the governorates. All the clubs' administrations have to make annual budgets that should be verified by a lawful accountant. The clubs' lands have also to be leveled and clubs' centers should also be built for most of these clubs perform their work in cafes. The clubs' expenses and revenues should be well-defined. Juveniles should be taken care of and each club should have it in its standing order to train many juveniles in different games. The retired players should also come back and work in the technical and administrative positions. Annual meetings of the General Societies should also be held in clubs to discuss the policies drafted by the administrative organizations. It should also be made certain that the financial aid these clubs



Mr. Abdullah Abdul Wahab

receive should be used for the benefit of the players and the club. Finally, membership should also be activated for members of the general societies."

In regards to the assumption of merging Al-Talia'a Club and Al-Sakar in one club, he said, "In the current circumstances, I believe that the idea of merging the two clubs will be of no use. Besides, all the suggestions made to merge the two clubs were made due to the miserable state of sports in Taiz. These suggestions were not based upon solid grounds. Clubs in the past few years were complaining about limited financial support they get, however, now the two clubs have enough support from Shawki Hail Saeed Ana'am and it depends upon them to prove that they deserve this support and that they can rise to the expectation."

Concerning the situation of the clubs of Taiz at the present tournament, he said, "Taiz clubs' performance in the previous tournament was not at all satisfactory. It can not match all the financial support and efforts exerted on the two clubs. Regarding Al-Sakar the administration objective was to keep it within the excellent degree, mainly because the team had been absent from this degree for a long while. It is quite obvious then, that we were grounding ourselves on facts and did not state that our team would hold some top positions. However, this year we have included so many distinguished and talented players who will surely do something we will be proud of. The administration of the club has also eased all the obstacles and rendered all the facilities for the players so that they feel confident of themselves and their abilities."

Mr. Abdullah Abdul Wahab also talked

about the different games and activities held in the club and said, "We in Al-Sakar Club focus on different games and activities, for example we focus on baseball and table tennis. These teams get the same attention paid to the football teams in terms of clothes, boots, medicine. They also get some financial support and, from time to time, they get chances to travel abroad to participate in different tournaments."

Concerning his evaluation of youth and sports of the year 1999, he said, "The problems and their needs are many, either in sports or in other things, and I think that Dr. Abdul Wahab Raweh, Minister of Sports and Youth, is determined to create an atmosphere that enables youth to show their merits. Anyhow, I am very optimistic that many achievements will be met."

In regard to the Yemeni sports and the means that can be conducted to promote it, in general, he said, "If we look at the neighboring countries, we will find that there is a big difference. It is true that these countries have all that can be thought of to make any team prosperous and successful, however, we in Yemen lack all of this. To make a long story short, let me say that the year 1999 may be a real start for a better tomorrow for Yemeni Sports."

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- 1) He should be a beholder of a university degree, preferred to be in marketing
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- 3) He should be fluent in English language, speaking and writing.
- 4) He should be well-experienced in computer.
- 5) His age should not exceed 40 years old and not less than 25 years old.

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Credit Agricole Indosuez (Yemen)
in association with Yemen Computer Company (YCC)
succeeded in overcoming the **Millennium Bug - (Y2K) Problem**



Credit Agricole Indosuez Bank (Yemen Branches) and Yemen Computer Company had recognized the Significance and potential impact of the turning of the Calendar to the new Millennium. A year 2000 Group-wide Compliance program was therefore established to ensure that all Computer Systems were fully "Immunized" against the "Y2K bug"

This Compliance program has been placed under the control and direction of high level steering Committee whose members been drawn from senior Management of Credit Agricole Indosuez Bank and senior engineer of YCC. The Y2K compliance program comprises the following elements:

- Awareness program
- Business process prioritization
- Inventory Review
- Impact Analysis (Business &

Technical)

- Creation of the remedial plan
- Progressing the plan
- Testing Achievement of Compliance and Implementation and Roll-out

We are fully Committed to this process to ensure that Year 2000 readiness is achieved within the targeted schedule. The Y2K program is directed towards ensuring all Computer

Systems are Year 2000 compliant during End of September 1999. Our focus is to ensure that uninterrupted services continue to be provided to all our Customers, prior to, during and after Year 2000 and our strategy to achieve this goal is receiving the support of our Management and our partner Yemen Computer Company (Hardware, Operating System & Technical Support) Supplier and Consultant respectively.



National Bank of Yemen (NBY)
& Yemen Computer Company (YCC)
Jointly Succeeded in Overcoming the (Y2K) Problem



The National Bank of Yemen resembles a solid economic and developing foundation in the Republic of Yemen. Its root returns to the beginning of the Fifties and won a good reputation abroad. It has 33 branches spread through all the governorates of Yemen. NBY, like all the other government and private establishments, depends on computers in carrying out banking and accounting affairs. Entering the Third Millennium, caused users of computer and other electronic equipment to face a problem known as (Y2K). In brief, the computers and hence the application programs depended and counted the Year on a 2-digit basis. That is from 01-99 so that on January 1st, 2000 all computers are going to count the year 00 instead of "2000." Relating to this matter, Mr. Sami Abdullhameed Makawi, Deputy General Manager for Statistics,

banking and Computers declared that in order to avoid the problems arising due to this matter, the Management of NBY under the leadership of Mr. Abdulrehaman Alkuhali Chairman and General Manager has paid great attention to find the Solution for (Y2K), considering that all the banking operations are dependable totally on the dates. Due to this, in the middle of 1998 NBY contacted and sat with the colleagues from Yemen Computer Company (YCC - the agent for WANG in Yemen) because WANG is the manufacturer of the computers used by NBY. YCC is also in charge of the application programs used by NBY such as the banking system, payroll and personnel. As a result, a contract was signed with YCC. According to this contract YCC, with an agreement from

WANG, will upgrade the operating system. The contract also includes that YCC will modify and update all the application programs to suit the Year 2000 and after. At the beginning of December 1998 the first Operating System for the Year 2000 was installed and applied in NBY Sana'a branch. Then in all the other branches, until the end of March 1999 concerning the banking application programs, there were two phases:

Phase 1: The preparation of the essential programs to modify all the dates from the old system to the new system.

Phase 2: Updating and modifying of the banking programs to suit the Year 2000, printing and logical and Accounting operation.

By the end of April 1999, the modified banking system was

installed and applied in Queen Arwa branch. This was done while both the old and the new system were running in parallel for 2 days, during which checking of daily and monthly reports was completed with correct results and the branch faced no problem during the test application. On the 2nd of May the branch started operating using the new system without facing any problem up to now after this successful test. The new system was installed in the remaining branches including the office (Center Accounts). After the successful installation and application of the modified system in all the branches, the Management of NBY and YCC decided to actually test the Year 2000 operating system by moving the Date to the End of January 2000 and a committee was assigned for this purpose from both sides. For 3 days starting on the 10th

of October 1999 the required tests were carried out in Queen Arwa branch, where opening and closing of the system, accompanied by entry of sample transactions with different dates was done. From the results on the screen and the printout reports and the cross-checking done with manual calculations, the committee became certain that the system was completely ready to enter the Year 2000 with no problems, . By this achievement, the management takes this opportunity to convey best wishes and welfare to all the clients and correspondents of NBY in Yemen and abroad and to all those concerned with the Y2K matter assuring them all that NBY is concerned to be in their service and in providing the safety, secure and confidence for all their transactions.



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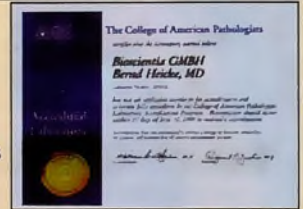
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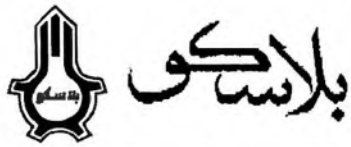
Issue no.
46**Yemen Times Weekly Competition**
مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعيةThis Competition is sponsored by
National Co. for Sponge and Plastic Industry Ltd**برعاية الشركة الوطنية لصناعة الإسفنج والبلاستيك المحدودة**

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Yemeni Boxer Won the Second World Position in Kick Boxing

Captain, Ali Dawood Mohsen Al-Sawadi has won the second position in the world champion "Kick Boxing" tournament which was organized in Lebanon from 6- 8 of November, 1999. Nineteen Arab and foreign countries participated in the competition. Among these countries were Sweden, Britain, America, Egypt, Lebanon and Kuwait. Captain Dawood, who is from Hodeidah governorate, is twenty-seven years-old. He graduated from Algeria, where he specialized in gymnastics. He was invited by the Yemeni Olympic Committee to participate in this championship. Captain Dawood won the first position in Algeria when he was a student there.

Among these countries were Sweden, Britain, America, Egypt, Lebanon and Kuwait. Captain Dawood, who is

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TO LET

AN OFFICE: In 1st Floor apartment, equipped by Off desk, Tel, Fires cabinet, mocketted flour, and situated in business central area, in front of Al-Rawaishan clothes exhibition, Al-Tahreer Sana'a. For negotiation, contact 278493. (Othman Qassem Munasser Al-Yafai)

Answer of 44th Issue Competition:

"The most important thing the government should conduct is reforming the perverted judicial system in Yemen" - Page 5 (Silver Lining)

Winners of the 44th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Mona Hizam Ahmad Al-Hada'a, Sana'a

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Nabil Saif Mudhesh Anam, Taiz

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Mohammed Hassan Dares, Sana'a

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Nawfal Mohammad Ahmad, Taiz

Congratulations to All Winners

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

تهانينا

نهني ونبارك للأخ

أحمد سلطان الصوفي

بمناسبة ارتزاقه مولودة جديدة اسمها

« ملاك »

جعلها الله قرعة عين والديها، وألف ألف مبروك

المهنون، القاضي علي عبد القادر الصوفي، رضوان السقايف،

عبد الباسط الخطيب، عبد الناصر الخطيب

تعازيننا

بتلوب مؤمن بقضاء الله وقدره تلقينا نبأ وفاة المقطور له بإذن الله

غالب عامر

ونحن نتقدم بتعازينا لأسرة التقيد وجيرانه وأصدقائه ندعو له الله

أن يسكنه فسيح جناته، وأن يلهم أهله وذويه الصبر والسلوان،

وانا لله وإنا إليه راجعون.

الأسيفون، أسرة صحيفة يمن تايمز، عنهم أحمد مرشد الخولاني،

أحمد الكحلاني، صدام الأشموري، بيت النزيلى

Nursemaid Needed

There is a vacant position of a qualified nursemaid to work with a foreign family. The nurse must have a previous experience in housekeeping and nursing. Fluency in speaking English language is required. Whoever feels fit for this job, must kindly contact:

Mrs. Drita,

Tel: 218995 - Hodeidah

First Issue of 'The Consumer' Issued

The Yemeni Society for Consumer's Protection has published the first issue of 'The Consumer' magazine. The magazine contains a number of articles that aim at raising the awareness of consumers about products, smuggling and other topics.

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We are national trading company (NATCO) offer an opportunity for elevators electrical engineering.

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Abdulsalam Al-Thari

* Along with you don't forget to bring all certificate that you have.

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فضيلة الأستاذ حسن الحيفي

بسبب مرض عضال ألم بها.

نسال الله أن يدخلها جناته ويلهم

أخيها وأهلها الصبر والسلوان وإنا

له وإنا إليه راجعون

الأسيفون

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about how busy he is.

d) How about coming with me.....?

This is a polite form of saying **can you come with me.....?**
An alternative way of saying the same thing is **would you like to.....** which is a polite form of saying **do you want to?** This, however, has to be carefully differentiated from **do you like to.....** which is a more straightforward 'yes/no' question rather than a polite request.

e) I'd love to = I would love to

This expression conveys more than simple willingness, a somewhat more enthusiastic response than what is expressed by **I'd like to**. Please remember that all of these are 'polite' equivalents of the expression **I want to**. Care should be taken to include 'd' in these expressions in both speech and writing to differentiate them from **I love to** and **I like to**.

f) I have been to I have gone to

Other expressions:
I haven't been to Ibb yet, but I hope to go there soon.
Have you been to the market today?
We have been to Shibam twice.

g) I'll pick you up = I'll come to your house so that we can go together.

Let's learn about the use of **Pick up**.
Pick up is a separable two-word verb. If it has an impersonal object, it is optionally placed between the two parts of the verb. For example, we could say:

Pick your suit up
or, **Pick up your suit**
But if the object is a personal pronoun like **you, him** or **me**, its placement is not optional. It must come between the two parts of two separable verbs. For example,
Pick me up
Pick you up
Pick them up
Pick him/her up
Not * **Pick up him**
* **Pick up me**

This is true of most separable two word verbs.
However, a number of two-word verbs are inseparable.
So in such cases the object is always placed after the whole verb.
Example, **Look at the picture**
not * **Look the picture at**

h) Around seven-thirty = about seven-thirty

This implies a few minutes before or after 7.30.
If we want to indicate a more precise time, the speaker would say: **at seven-thirty**. In order to be more precise or punctual or exact, a speaker can say **at seven-thirty sharp, at eight O'clock sharp**, etc. Please notice that **O'clock** is often omitted in these expressions. Sometimes, the expression **seven O'clock** by the dot is also used.

i) Bye for now or good bye or simply bye:
A telephone conversation usually ends with each speaker saying any of these expressions.

II. How to say it correctly...

The following sentences contain an error in some part of the sentence. Can you identify which part contains the error and correct it?

- 1- These furnitures are new
- 2- If the cattles enter the field, drive them out.
- 3- My cousin sister is a doctor
- 4- Amin was granted freship by the dean
- 5- The judge has passed order for his release

Answers to the last week's Quiz:

- 1- The jury **were** divided in their opinion.
Note: **Jury** is a collective noun. Whenever there is a sense of unanimous action, we use a singular verb with **Jury**; but when it is used in a plural sense, as consisting of individual members, we use plural verb with it.
Example:
The jury was unanimous on the issue.
- 2- My father is in the teaching profession
Note: **teaching line** is an inappropriate use.
- 3- Women's clothes are generally more expensive than **men's**
Note: Here the comparison is between women's and men's clothes and **not** between women's clothes and men.
- 4- All members of his family are lovers of music.
- 5- His hat was blown off by a strong wind.

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

- 1- Belonging to all parts of the world, a person familiar with many different countries.
- 2- One who comes as a settler into a foreign country.
- 3- Being present everywhere.
- 4- Being all powerful.
- 5- One who knows everything.

Answers to last week's Quiz

- 1- One who makes an eloquent public speech: **orator**
- 2- One who undergoes penalty of death for sticking to his faith: **martyr**
- 3- One who abandons his religious faith: **apostate**
- 4- One who is given to questioning the truth of facts and the soundness of interference: **sceptic**
- 5- One who resides in a country of which he is not a citizen: **alien, immigrant**

V Quotable Quote...

"Knowledge is power"

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

I. What to say it....

A Telephone Call
(Phone rings)
Abdullah : Hello
Mohammed : Hello. May I speak to Hamid Zubairy, please?
Abdullah : Just a minute..... Hamid, it's for you.
Hamid : Hello.
Mohammed : Hi, Hamid. This is Mohammed. How are you?
Hamid : I'm fine. Thank you. What about you?
Mohammed : I'm all right. What are you doing this evening?
Hamid : Nothing in particular. Maybe I'll watch the TV.
Mohammed : How about coming with me to Al-Nawar's Supermarket for shopping?
Hamid : Thanks. I'd love to. I haven't been to Al-Nawar's for a long time.
Mohammed : Good. I'll pick you up around seven-thirty, then. We'll drive straight to Al-Nawar's.
Hamid : Fine. I'll be ready.
Mohammed : See you in the evening.
Hamid : See you. Bye for now.
Mohammed : Good Bye.
(Phone clicks down)

Points to remember...

- a) A simple **Hello** is the most common way of answering the telephone. Hotels, business firms, however, usually identify themselves when answering the telephone.
Example:
Good Morning. Park Hotel. Can I help you?
or, **Al-Tawary Communications Syndicate.**
or, **Good morning. Al-Tawary Communications Syndicate**
or, **Good morning. Al-Tawary Communications Syndicate, Sadiq speaking.**
- b) **May I speak to Hamid Zubairy, please?**
This is a polite request to the receiver to call the desired person to the phone. A possible alternative is
I'd like to speak to Hamid Zubairy.
Or The person calling may identify himself:
Hello. This is Mohammed. May I speak to Hamid Zubairy, please?
- c) **What are you doing this evening?**
This is a way of giving a hint to the other person about your offer and knowing

YOUTH FORUM

Some Suggestions for the Education Supplement
Would you kindly lend me your favorable consent and optional approval for my following polite ideas and proposals about teaching and leaning English language in Yemen environment?

1. As you know, unlike many other countries, English language is not considered a second language in Yemen, neither in government circles nor among the ordinary citizens.
2. English language in Yemen is only confined for the interest of casual conversation with foreigners or working in a foreign company to be used as a means of contact at work.
3. English is not practiced among people like many other countries in Asia, Africa, and other parts of the world, where it is spoken between family members in the houses and in the society in general.
4. Your sincere efforts in teaching English language through the Yemen Times is a good encouragement to those who wish to improve their English.

Hence, I politely suggest that your education supplement could include the following:

- a) Lessons teaching all kinds of grammatical idioms, like all punctuation terms, tenses, direct and indirect speech, and so on.
- b) A lesson should be given through three stages:
1st Stage: The lesson and its explanation with sentences and examples.
2nd Stage: An exercise of a page or more about the same lesson with consecutive spaces left in numbers for the learner to fill them with the new words he/she learned through reading the newspaper including the education supplement.
3rd Stage: You will publish the correct answers for the idioms and other terms that were asked on the first issue.

By this way, I hope that we will learn a lot from you. It will take one lesson to be taught along three issues of the paper. The page that I mentioned in no (3) will be about any subject with new sentences leaving spaces to fill in with what we learned, to examine our comprehension. Thanking you for your efforts.
By: **Abdulmajid Ahmed**

Is Saying That Really an Error?

What's life, it full of sorrow?
It makes one sick to his marrow.
Forget today and neglect tomorrow,
Is saying that really an error?
Of course "no" is the answer.
Of every commoner, who does suffer;
Who has no pelf nor has power,
His only right is to dream.
To receive oppression as cream,
Fore he has no right, has no claim.
He must submit himself to that.
He must learn how to be too lenient.
And to help every corrupt.

He must forget the word conduct.
Only that, to live peacefully,
To feel the sense of living happily,
Even if other s dealt with him scornfully.
Tell me dear,
Is saying that really an error?
Of course "no", it is a sin, not an error....

Poem by: **Khalid Ali Al-Quzahy**
College of Education
Mahweet

The Benefit of Reading

One of the negative phenomena in Yemeni society is weakness of knowledge, especially, among youths who think reading is futile and trivial. Such youth don't believe reading is the basis of society's development. Development of societies depends on the ability of its citizens to get knowledge and culture while it seems to us the clear difference between a literate society and an illiterate society. Therefore, youths of a literate society are able to understand social problems and to consider different points of view and be with or against them. Also it does provide them with necessary information to solve many problems that face them. Therefore, reading gives them the feeling that they belong to the world of culture. It also expands their minds' horizons. By this they will become able to change their society for the better. Thereupon reading is still an important means by which to get culture, knowledge, and entertainment, in spite of the availability of radio and TV. The main reason is that books represent the main source recording what man has already achieved. Therefore, a reader will be able to choose the subject which serves his interests and he will be able to know the opinions about any problem when he takes a book or a newspaper to read it, and makes use of it whenever he wants. Also he may stop while reading to ponder the ideas and opinions which would extend the scope of his thinking and he could reread it to give his own opinion and to get into the depth of it. Therefore, our youths must not think that reading books is a difficult and boring job, and not to believe they could be more modern and civilized by watching television channels. In my opinion, one is mistaken if he assumes that we can be modern and civilized by watching these channels. Through we will in fact be facing the danger of illiteracy against our culture, because some programs on these channels have no objectives except very few programs which they screen from time to time. Thereupon the country must face this danger through the establishment of a center of culture and support it. Also there must be availability of books at fair prices so that all segments of society may be able to buy. By society segments I mean those of people of low and limited incomes. For example, workers and students, those who cannot buy an expensive book, even if they are in dire need of it to enrich their minds and be well-informed on what is happening in the world they are living in. By this the country must focus the attention on making such a center as available as food secured for the people.
By: **Nihad Nasser Al-Muraidi**
Sana'a University

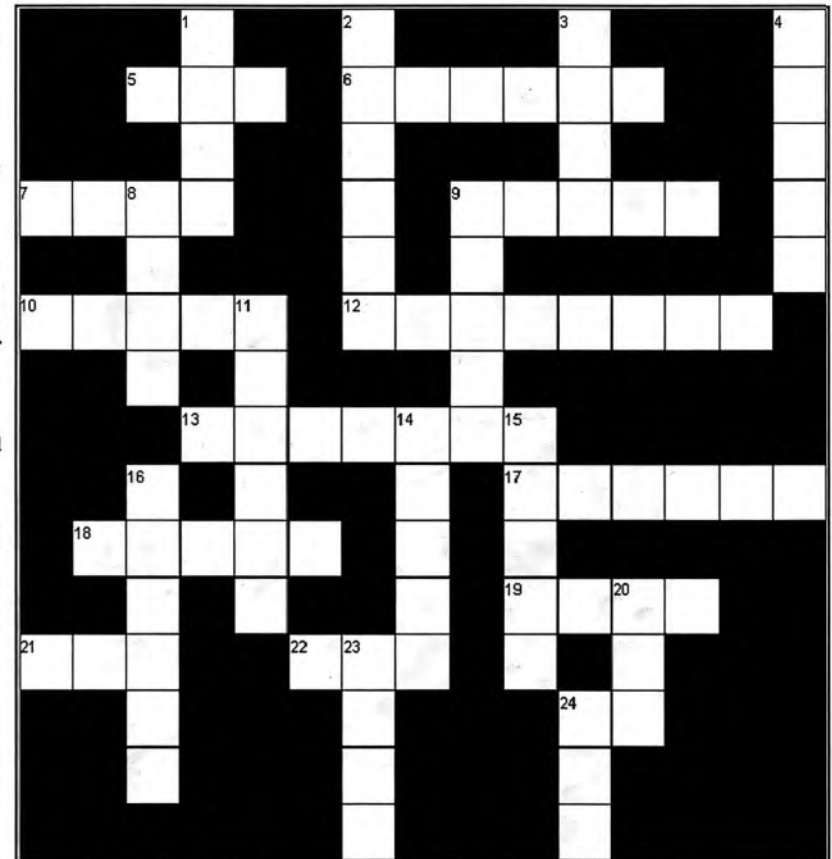
Crossword Puzzle

Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

- 5- I was _____ when my sister broke my toy.
- 6- _____ is a day of the week. It comes between Sunday and Tuesday.
- 8- I like to eat _____s. My favorite kind of _____s is string _____s.
- 9- Most of the world is covered with the water of the _____s.
- 13- Sometimes the _____ is warm and sunny. Other times the _____ is cold and rainy.
- 15- My _____ is in my mouth. I use it to talk and to taste.
- 17- I don't feel well. I am _____.
- 20- Two people _____ on their wedding day.
- 22- _____ is a yellow grain. It grows in ears on stalks.
- 23- I wear _____s on my feet.
- 24- Be careful. The stove is very _____. If you touch it, it will burn you.
- 27- I know the letters of the _____.

Down Clues:

1. _____ is the eleventh month. It is a winter month.
2. I _____ my house through the door. That is where I go into the house.
3. _____ is a color. _____ is also the name or a fruit.
4. I heard a funny _____. It was a silly story.
- 7- My baby sister drinks from a _____. A _____ is a container which holds liquids.
- 10- My balloon is full of _____.
- 11- I ride on the _____ of a pony.
- 12- _____ is a season. The trees loose their leaves in _____.



- 14- Something which is not difficult is _____.
- 16- _____ is a direction. Canada is _____ of the United States.
- 18- I am standing _____ my friends. I am in the middle of them.
- 19- _____ is a game played on ice. Players use sticks to shoot a puck at a goal.
- 21- I have a pet _____. He likes to run and bark.
- 23- _____ are raised on farms. Wool comes from _____.
- 25- I have _____ nose.
- 26- _____s are raised on farms. Pork comes from _____s.

Last Week's Answer



A German Artist Reveals the Beauty of Yemeni Doors

Mr. Traugott Wohrlin is a German artist who is currently showing his pictures in the House of the Freidrich Ebert foundation (old Sanaa City, near Bab Al-Shaub). He came to Yemen several times in



order to explore the country for its touristic sites. He went to different corners of Yemen and discovered the beauty of

being interested in somebody's explanations or not accepting somebody's excuses. In Yemen, doors may have a special meaning as well, because in some regions of Yemen, the doors are the only beautiful thing on a mud house and are very often well maintained.

Mr. Wohrlin took photos of Yemeni doors and drew them afterwards in order to explain the sensibility of Germans for the treasure of Yemeni architecture and in order to open Yemenis' eyes to see their own coun-

try's beauty and to do some conservation of these unique antiquities. He thinks that doors speak about the history of the house, its owners and



the visitors. He found out that different Yemeni regions have common door traditions and he started classifying doors of different regions. Mr. Wohrlin was the Director of a German professional training school, especially in the field of architecture and construction work. He is a person with a seventh

Yemeni doors decorations.

In German language, doors have a special meaning to be found in proverbs e.g. "opening doors for somebody" means not only welcoming somebody but opening the heart for somebody and facilitating someone's else life. "Closing the door before somebody's nose" means not



sense for architectural beauty and structure. He is an active member of the German-Yemeni Society. The exhibition will be open from November 22, 1999 in Freiburg, Germany as well as during the Universal Exhibition 2000 in Hannover, Germany as part of the Yemeni Pavilion.

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إن دهانات جوتن فائقة الجودة تصنع في ٢٥ مصنعا منتشرة في أوروبا، الشرق الأوسط، والشرق الأقصى مع شبكة عالمية للبيع والتوزيع تجعل من جوتن الأولى في عالم الطلاء والرائدة في ابتكار حلول لاحتياجاتها دوليا.

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فاكس: ٠٢-٢٤٠٦٠٠	فاكس: ٠١-٤٠٣١١٠	فاكس: ٠٤-٢١٤٣٥٤	بيجر: ٥٨٢٠٤٤٧

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