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PRESIDENT SALEH TO INAUGURATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SEMINAR BY YEMEN TIMES

SANA'A: President Ali Abdullah Saleh confirmed that he will inaugurate and give a speech at the seminar to be organized by Yemen Times on the occasion of the 51st anniversary of the universal declaration of human rights, which falls on the 10th of December, 1999. The seminar will be held on Saturday, 4th of December at the Police Officers Club in Sana'a.

The president's interest and participation at the seminar indicates his willingness to promote human rights in Yemen, and to push forward intensively any efforts in this regard. The seminar will start with speeches by the organizer, Yemen Times, the Supreme Committee of Human Rights, and the president. Then there will be several working papers presented from individuals who are closely linked to issues concerning human rights, such as the conditions in prisons, the judiciary system, child labor, women's rights, and a general study about the future of human rights in Yemen. Hundreds of participants from the government, opposition, diplomats, media, and other sectors will attend the seminar which will be the first ever in Yemen to be broadcasted live on the internet for the whole world to witness. After all, human rights have become ultimately universal for all, and Yemen with its leadership's will is no exception.

Yemen celebrates the fifty first anniversary of the universal declaration of Human Rights

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BUSINESSMEN MEET TO DISCUSS THE INVESTMENT FUTURE IN YEMEN

4th BUSINESSMEN CONFERENCE IN ADEN STARTED

ADEN: On Sunday, November 28, 1999 President Ali Abdulla Saleh inaugurated meetings of the 4th conference for businessmen in Aden under the motto "Banking Business in Yemen," (Reality- Problems- Horizons), which was organized by the Aden Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The conference was attended by 400 businessmen, the Central Bank of Yemen and commercial banks. Representatives of the International Bank, Arab Monetary Fund and Arab Labour Organization are also attending the conference.


The conference aims at promoting banking business in Yemen and consolidating the role of banks in economic development. It also aims to develop mechanisms for the financial and monetary policy to prepare a convenient climate for the establishment of a stock market and to set up a reform program for the banking sector. Over four sessions and five premises, the conferees are to discuss more than 21 working papers on importance and reality of banking business in Yemen. The conferees are also to discuss the local, regional and international challenges facing the banking business in Yemen, the subject of establishing a stock market in addition to the program for reforming and developing the banking sector in Yemen. More than 250 personalities representing various sectors of finance and business along with two global companies, Microsoft and Oracle, are taking part in the conference.

Among the participants are Linda Van Gelder, a senior economist at the World Bank, Dr. Mustafa Qara, head of the foreign loans department, Dr. Uday Qaisour, the economic researcher at the Arab Monetary Fund, Mr Mohammed Alhaj, a senior economist, as well as the assistant director general at the Arab Labour Organization, Mr Ali Sharafuddin.



Tremendous success for Yemen Times Business Supplement

Yemen Times has tremendously succeeded in issuing a business supplement on the occasion of the 4th Business Conference in Aden. The supplement in the form of a 28-page full color magazine has been distributed in the inaugural day of the conference and was admired by all attendees including the president. The advertisers have shown great satisfaction in the quality and perfection of its printing and material.



The president last picture on the left browsing through Yemen Times Business Supplement

Sana'a University Students on Strike

SANAA: Thousands of Sana'a university students staged an extensive strike and demonstration in the courtyard of the university's general administration on Sunday, November 28. The students chanted slogans demanding the dissolution of the general union of Yemeni students. They accused some hardline students of practicing reckless and irresponsible acts against students of the College of Sciences on Wednesday, 24 November, 1999. The incident took place when students of the college were preparing to hold a reception party welcoming the new students at the hall of "Gamal Abdul Naser" when large numbers of hardline university students locked some of them inside the hall and prevented others from entering it.

The students of the college decided to cancel the party just to calm down the situation. But the other students attacked them and started beating them and threatened to use firearms. A girl student was attacked and beaten in the incident.

Approval of 2000 by PGC Members Caused Dismay among Opposition Members

SANA'A: After the majority of the parliament approved the 2000 budget plan presented by the government, opposition party members expressed their dismay and anger at the budget, which states that the revenues would mostly be gained from oil. However, the opposition members had previously expressed their concern over the total dependence on oil, and asked the government to search and create other resources. They released a statement just before the budget was approved by the parliament.

Here are some excerpts from the statement: "Under the difficult economic circumstances in the country which require joining forces of the government and opposition for the general interest and combating the budget deficit, controlling revenues, cutting spending, developing non-oil local resources.....and with the aim of rectifying the state financial and monetary policy, improving the citizens' living and social condition and boosting the purchasing power of the Yemeni riyal, we are proposing some solutions with the hope of taking them into consideration."

The statement has pointed out the extent of flagrant violation by which the government is running the affairs of the country. In one of its paragraphs the statement made it clear that the proposed budget of the government, "does not reflect the goals pointed at in the government statement submitted to the parliament, as there is no mention of development of local revenues neither of the best use of the available revenues. There also no mention of reducing and rationing public expenditure."

Under criticism of tax procedure, the statement pointed out that "the budget submitted by the government, and in comparison with the years 1998 and 1999, until 2000, reflects a clear negligence, tampering with the public funds and apparent lack of a mechanism for levying these taxes."

The statement added, "we definitely believe that 70% of taxes go to unknown destinations and our proposed alternative is the setting up of a new mechanism and appointment of specialized and technical administrative staff who are away from favoritism and party affiliation."

Despite the fact that the statement did not effect the final result in approving the budget, it shows that there may be negative consequences for the country in case it is approved. Only time will tell whether the approval will be in the country's favor or not.

Continued on page 2

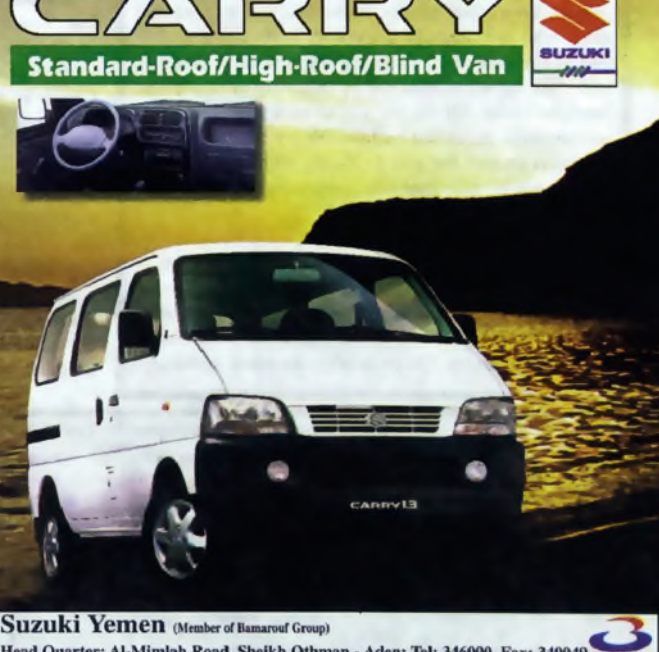
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Many Happy Returns

30 November

Government Budget for the year 2000 Is it real or is it an illusion?

Mohsin Ali Basurrah
Member of Parliament (Islah
Caucus)



On Monday, November 22, 1999 the parliament voted on the year 2000 budget. 139 members voted for the budget, 25 voted against, and 30 abstained from voting (so they would be able to express the reasons for refusal) while 76 MPs were absent. However, only 28 members did not exercise their rights to vote. The preceding numbers indicate that opposition parties blocs (Islah, Baath, Naserites and Independents) have rejected the budget. Besides, the ratio of those who voted from the ruling party is 61% and this means that even members of the ruling party refuse to follow the dark tunnel the government is putting the country in by means of its economic policy. Now, many citizens wonder why opposition parliamentary blocs rejected the budget and whether this opposition was for the sake of opposition itself? The opposition's stand of the parliamentary blocs sort of offered advice to the government for economic policies. This is what made the people in charge in these blocs do their best through accomplishing a careful, specialized and objective study of the budget. Then, they submitted it in a paper to the chairman of the budget committee who in turn did not even bother mentioning the efforts made to present the committee's report to parliament. Now, let us zoom into the negativities of this budget which the government

claims is 'modernized.' We do not deny that the government presented its budget by reading the current statement for the year 2000 as scheduled according to the constitution and this is positive. Another thing is that the government made a new classification which is, "a current budget which includes the first section and five chapters, investment and capital budget which includes the second section and four chapters, funding budget which includes third and fourth sections and contains six chapters." Although the government states that this classification enhances the flow of information for researchers, we find the year 2000 budget just like the former ones. It still lacks in clarity and transparency and is shrouded by mystery. The year 2000 budget is an expenditures' budget, thus, it is a budget for wages, salaries and other current expenditures. The government has allocated 76% of current spending out of the total amount of public expenditures. I wish that the allocations for the first section concerning wages, salaries and new jobs are implemented in order to reduce unemployment. Now jobs have become delayed and stumbled just like investment projects. The government presented this year's budget without specifying clear indexes to rationalize the current expenditures especially of ministries' bureaus and diplomatic corps except for costs and taxes on those of limited income which would, of course, increase their pain and poverty. What's more, the government will lift subsidies on oil products especially diesel which is expected to rise from 10 Riyals/liter to 17 Riyals/liter. The year

2000 budget also shows that it will depend mainly on oil revenues which represent 63.4% of the total revenues that are reflected directly in expenditures. We know that the oil wealth belongs to us and to our generations. It also runs out and is non-renewable. Therefore, the government should use part of it in expenditures and the other in investments so all generations can benefit from this wealth. What is even stranger, is that the government presents umbrageous and phony figures of the government's share of crude oil. For example, while confirmed information stated that government's share is 92 billion barrels every year, the government registered 85 billion barrels only in the year 2000 revenues. As for revenues of the remaining 7 billion barrels, we do not know where will they go. What makes thing worse, is that the government set the price of each oil barrel at \$17 although international energy agencies affirmed the increasing demand on oil and this shows that oil prices would not decrease. So, it would have been wise of the government to set the price of each barrel at at least \$21. Strangely enough is that the government set the exchange price of the Yemeni Riyal against the dollar at 150 Riyals to delude people that the price of the dollar will recede against the riyal and this, of course, makes huge differences that may reach billions. This makes us even more certain of the fallacy of this budget and that the government is not serious in maintaining an entire administrative and financial reform. If the government was serious, the revenue resources would have varied and it would

have reformed the customs and taxes receptacles and improved expenditures in investment fields in the fishing sector which leaves our fortunes wasted and ruined without a controller or an auditor. Central reliability is still present in the year 2000 budget or as some may call it (budget's veto) and it represents over 30%. Although the government stated that it is looking for administrative and financial decentralization and founding a local authority which has all power, the central reliability still prevails over the budget. It is just like a budget inside a budget (a bag inside another bag). Moreover, the year 2000 budget did not point out to the yields of privatization and their spending especially that the government has sold or rented many enterprises in southern and eastern regions with low prices leaving a number of workers unemployed. Although these prices were low, the government still did not present them in the budget. It also did not specify the special fund of privatization revenues after the release of the law which would be an organized swindling supported by law. Regarding the social security net which the government considers the alternative in supporting the poor as a result of liberalizing prices, though the amount allocated was scanty and does not exceed YR7.7 billion, families do not receive more than \$12 monthly. Even these amounts are not fairly distributed. They are still prevailed by the narrow factional characteristics in order to win loyalty for Sheikhs, high personalities or the ruling party. Concerning treasury bonds, the government renders extravagant profits of 20% which is a rate not even found in wealthy countries. This made burdens of the internal public debt (interests of treasury bonds) reach 37 billion YR aside from external debts which reached YR10,799,000,000. These debts have become burdens on our economy which citizens and coming generations have to bear. It also brings about commercial stagnation, increased unemployment and low investment levels because of the absence of a safe, independent and fair economy. As for investment projects that were present in the year 2000 budget, they do not exceed 20% of total expenditures. This indicates that this budget is an expenditure budget and is not in favor of development. The allocated amounts for them would not even be enough for delayed and floundered projects which the citizens were several times promised would be finished by the people in charge when they laid the foundation stones. All these negativities and defects made parliamentary blocs reject this budget including some of the members of the ruling party. So, will the government learn from

this lesson? Will it take citizens out of this economic crisis? And do the members of the parliament mean that it is has become necessary to amend the constitution in order that the parliament retrieves its ripped off right that it can not amend the budget without government's permission and that it can either vote for it section by section or reject it all. Finally, will everybody realize that this budget is unreal and that we have to stand and take this country out of its crisis? We are waiting.

Sultan Al-Barakani
PGC Caucus



The state budget was studied before a committee in the parliament and that committee has given this subject its complete attention. It discussed it with the government, addressed questions about it and listened to government's replies to them. Opposition members participated in the discussions, in drafting the report and addressed questions. What is mentioned in their statement is nothing more than reiteration of what they have previously said. They continually live in illusions and jump over reality. They do not realize that the economic, financial and monetary conditions are not a qat-sitting policy, or party clowning, or merely a process of theorizing. We are convinced that implementing the recommendations presented by the committee's report should be the main basis that parliament must follow and that government should adhere to them without any digression. However, if there were any flaws, we would stand up to their correction. You must not forget that we cooperated with two parties, who signed this statement, in forming the government over a period of seven years. They assumed ministerial posts and we have never heard from them or seen the implementation of their so-called positive policies which they present to people in the form of exemplary models. We are not surprised that the opposition abstained from voting for the budget because that is what they have been disposed by nature for. They would vote against anything presented by the government because they consider opposition as being the absolute rejection of all that comes from the government. For example, the opposition has never voted on the budget in the last few years. As for saying that some members were compelled to vote, that is a logic which utterly contradicts reality and anybody who follows the discussions of the parliament can see the untruthfulness of such allegations. Members of parliament are not subject to guardianship and those who speak of certain coercion practiced on some parliament members, are in fact describing this establishment with improper adjectives. It seems that members of the opposition work according to continuous party instructions. They dare not make decisions on their own or even have a slight room of freedom, therefore, they suppose this is the case with everyone else. Finally, I hope that propositions put forward by the opposition will be characterized by reality and that they will be capable of bearing their responsibilities so that we can cooperate. We always back up positive opinions. We call on the opposition to join hands and to weigh the positive stance free from party squabbles and bidding.

SILVER LINING



3rd in a Series

Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor

Working Children in Yemen: A Generation Prone to Disaster

Of course, there are other factors - social disintegration such as parents separating, divorce, polygamy, etc. - which play a pivotal role in this respect. Finding themselves in a turbulent family environment, children leave their homes and start searching for work. Some fathers even marry two or three times. Being unable to pay all their kids' expenses, they naturally force their children to beg or work. It is also found that some kids get fed up with schools, the boring syllabi and the monotonous way of presenting them by largely unqualified teachers. In addition, children may be unable to afford school tuition fees, which increase continuously. Therefore, they drop out of school and start looking for better alternatives. The absence of a policy of compulsory basic education aggravates the situation. Besides, the rising number of qualified, but jobless, university graduates, makes most people come to the conclusion that education is of no economic value since it doesn't necessarily lead to employment. So, they think the best way for a better tomorrow for their kids is for them to work and be self-dependent. I met a little child named Mukhtar Ali in the city of Taiz and I asked him why he works. He told me that he sells newspapers so as to help his father and because his father wants him to be self-dependent. When I asked him whether he studies or not, he replied saying sardonically, "Damn education! I don't have time to graduate and if I finish my schooling, will I get a job?" Under the pressure of need we find a good number of children leave schools and are bogged down in an endless struggle for sustenance. We find, therefore, that around 45% of Yemeni children are out of school. Because of drought and hard living conditions in villages, people seek the cities in the hope of finding better conditions. However, they get forced by hard economic conditions and increased needs to have their children work in order to face the hard life in cities and to keep their bodies and souls together.

Jobs Performed by Children

As I mentioned previously, most of the laboring children in Yemen are involved in agricultural activities. However, visiting some of Yemen's cities, one cannot fail to see children spreading all over the streets. Estimates of the number of children involved in street work in Yemen vary considerably. This is not surprising given the informal nature of street work, its seasonal variation and the inability of traditional survey methods to capture many of its dimensions. Yemeni NGOs estimate that there are around 7,000 children on the streets of Sana'a alone. Others put the number more conservatively at around 3,000. Most agree, however, that largely as a by-product of increased economic hardship, the number of children street workers is on the rise in all the country's urban centers. Although there are homeless children living on the streets of the major towns in Yemen, especially in Sana'a, most children working in the streets have places, which they define as 'homes,' to go to. The work performed by children in cities varies widely. Some work by cleaning car windshields at intersections while some work as street vendors of many goods and articles including: newspapers, water, house supplies, cassettes, fruits and vegetables, etc. Others work as waiters in restaurants, in car and carpentry workshops or as collectors of bus fares. Still others work as beggars or in the construction industry.

Conditions of Working Children

Article 19 of the Basic Labor Code (Act No. 141 of 1978) promulgated in Aden proscribes the employment of children prior to 16 years of age unless they have completed basic education or are granted a special Ministry permit. Labor Law No. 5 of 1995, however, doesn't specify a minimum working age, a major shortcoming in terms of its effectiveness in protecting children. The results of a Radda Barmen (Swedish Save the Children, an NGO) survey suggest that many working children in Yemen begin working at a very young age. Almost all children included in the sample began work at or before the age of 10, and many began working as early as 6 or 7. Children working at such extremely young ages are obviously particularly vulnerable to various forms of hazards and abuse and their normal development is clearly at risk. Children working on construction sites may carry heavy loads that may result in skeletal damage and/or impaired growth. Children working in brake repair shops may be exposed to asbestos, a known human carcinogen. While those working in petrol stations may be exposed to benzene. Those working in workshops, garages and other industrial sites are likely to be exposed to respiratory diseases stemming from air that is polluted with dust, smoke and hazardous vapors. Ergonomic problems are increasing since many child laborers must maintain awkward body positions for extended periods time. Those working in streets may be liable to physical abuse and other forms of abuse and violence, exposure to cold, infectious diseases, car fumes and cars. In addition, many are denied the opportunity to benefit from any formal schooling. Article No. 45 of the 1995 Labor Law states that the working hours of children must not exceed 7 hours per day, 42 hours per week, and that they may not be made to work for more than four continuous hours. Article 48 proscribes children working overtime or during official holidays. Results of the Radda Barmen study, however, revealed that most working children sampled were forced to work very long hours in direct contradiction of the government's own law. Fully 40% of the sample of working children work an average of 11-17 hours a day, and 42% worked an average of 6-10 hours a day. Many were found to work 7 days a week.

Continued next week

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Yemen Water Sector: Reality and Challenges



By: Ismail
Alghaberi
Yemen Times

- Water resources sub-sector.
- Water supply and sanitation sub-sector (which is subdivided into two functional units: urban and rural) with mainly residential, commercial and industrial customers.
- Agricultural, irrigation, and drainage sub-sector.

These three sub-sectors are interlaced with three ownership sectors, namely: the public, private and cooperative sectors.

The establishment of NWRA was the first step in restructuring the sector, in an effect to create a regulatory and policy making framework, which was conspicuously lacking in the institutional setting. NWRA is now composed of the four water resource units which were previously attached to various ministries and agencies. Entrusted with the task of nationwide water resource management with a mandate to undertake all related allocation, policy making, basin management and regulatory functions, NWRA is organized into three main divisions. These three divisions are; policy and programming, studies and information and implementation and monitoring.

The National Water and Sanitation Authority (NWSA) is the public water utility organ functioning in urban areas. With 4500 employees it is over-centralized, with inefficiencies manifest in almost all its operations as indicated by high losses, low collection, over-staffing, low coverage, and demoralized

staff, etc. National tariffs are artificially set well below levels necessary for cost recovery and conservation of water resources, thus discouraging further development, and adding to the existing financial burdens. Inadequate performance coupled with slow implementation of projects is leading to unsustainable services. To reverse this trend it was necessary to conceive a program of reform which is to be the (WSSS) project, based on the reform of NWSA.

The General Authority of Rural Electricity and Water (GAREW) is the public project management group of water schemes for human settlements with populations below 30,000 inhabitants. After implementation, such schemes are handed over to the cooperatives or the community. Most schemes are lacking in operation and maintenance. GAREW is also lacking in implementation capacity with 500 out of 1783 schemes lying unfinished since 1992.

Challenges:

In the context of the reform process sectarian challenges are translated into institutional challenges, which become a question of how to change the institutional setting to become more responsive to challenges posed by the water crisis situation. In this context this paper advocates the priority of human resources development, and advances the line of argument one step further, inferring that what is defective in the prevailing setting is not really the elements. Such relationships are marked by conflict due to the absence of a grand unifying objective. If such relationships could be transformed to ones marked by force, a healthy situation could be created for HRD, and therefore for reform.

Ongoing Initiatives:

Fortunately, this trend towards accord has already been kick-started with the recent initiative taken by NWRA to prepare an agreement defining their respective responsibilities in the water sources domain. It constitutes an interface or gray area between their respective mandates. If this agreement could be developed to other domains of mutual coordination and cooperation, then one key aspect of institutional failure could be remedied.

The re-election of the government in April, 1997 provided a confirmation of the government's intention to proceed with water reform. The following statement was included in the government's agenda in June.

a. Improving and rehabilitation of existing installations, through intensive maintenance and enhancement of their

capacities to meet increasing demand of drinking water, as well as expediting project implementation and achieving high efficiencies in their performance.

b. Encouragement of private sector and community participation in the construction and installation of water supply and sanitation projects.

c. Institutional restructuring of the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector to meet the objectives of the Local Government Development Program and the principle of financial and administrative decentralization, as well as the appropriate delegation of authority to achieve these objectives.

When the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector Reform project was launched, a Steering Committee and a Technical Secretariat were formed to manage and administer this reform. The frame of reference for the reform is the policy document passed by Cabinet Resolution No. 237, dated 12/11/97. This document defines reform objectives, principles, and policies and is based on the Policy and Strategy Study Report developed between 1995 and 1996. Roles of various bodies commissioned with the implementation of these reform policies are defined. These bodies are mainly SC/TC and NWSA. The document also defines in broad terms the new regulatory functions of NWSA, and executive functions of the Regional Corporations (RC) to be created. Other aspects of the reform process are the ones such as full cost recovery, HRD and community participation as highlighted by the policy document.

The resolution stipulates that the reform process shall be conducted in two overlapping phases during an overall period of 10 years (max). The first phase of 3 years duration shall introduce decentralization by delegation of wider responsibilities to NWSA branches, and prepare them to undertake all executive functions within the legal framework to be established during this phase. The second phase of 7 year's duration comprises the establishment of regional corporations based on detailed studies. This phase, enables NWSA to undertake its new role as a regulatory body and enables the RC's and autonomous branches to undertake full executive functions.

Within the framework of the WSSSR project, Rada'a was chosen as a pilot scheme for decentralization, based on an agreement concluded with the Ministry. This scheme provides a valuable experience which would be applied to other new branches, including Tarim, the secondary towns project and the remaining NWSA branches.

The WSSSR project is financed by German technical assistance. Other donors continue to take a leading role in addressing water issues in Yemen and provide valuable advice, support and finance for capacity building and modernization of the sector institutions.

Impression about Yemen



H. E. Mr. Fuad Batayneh,
Ambassador of the
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

When I was appointed as ambassador to Yemen I was fully aware of the strength of the ties between the two brotherly peoples and the governments of both countries. I felt this very clearly in 1994 when I was then deputy permanent representative of my country at the United Nations. From there I followed up the political events in Yemen in that year.

As a matter of fact I was aware of the strong political and economic ties between my government and the government and people of Yemen.

I also know the importance of Yemen as an Arab country in the Arabian Peninsula region and that it has an influential future, because of its past role in Arab history. I think that during its relatively short modern history, the Yemeni government and people have been able to make tangible long forward leaps. Holding comparison between the sixties and the nineties one can find Yemen at the forefront of other countries in terms of democracy and openness to the world, particularly pertaining to its internal and external interactions and to its stand on human rights. I can witness great economic, social and investment achievements everywhere in Yemen.

As for the climate of Yemen, in my mind there is nowhere where it is so wonderful as in Sana'a. I have never lived in a place where the weather is more beautiful than it is in Sana'a. It is spectacular. Also, I could not have imagined that Yemenis could be so gentle. They are not easily provoked, while it is known that Arabs tend to be somewhat temperamental. This is an indication of the Yemenis' wisdom and reasonableness. It means that the Yemeni person is psychologically stable. I also have never met such a modest people as those of Yemen. Here in Yemen you can not find anyone who makes you feel you are alien.

The Jordanian-Yemeni relations have, for the past eight or nine years, witnessed great progress through high-level channels. Specifically, the Jordanian-Yemeni joint commission has held around 807 sessions, during which we have been able to coordinate and regulate our relations in various areas.

Poverty is the major problem that hinders Yemen's progress. It blocks its way to progress. It impedes the farmer's work and the building of health centers and schools. Had it not been for poverty, the standard of education in Yemen would have advanced in an astonishing way.

The people of Yemen are cordial and friendly. They receive you with respect and friendliness. This has helped me to have friendly relationships with many people and visit places outside the capital. I have visited most of Yemen's cities. I have been to Marib and become acquainted with its ancient monuments and to Saada where I was amazed by its many archaeological landmarks and sites. What has attracted my attention most is my visit to Aden. It is really an enchanting city now. There are numerous projects, including new hotels, under construction on almost every street. Frankly speaking, it is a commendable action on the part of the government, because this will yield important economic results.

I think there is tourist potential in Yemen that must be investigated. Conferences on various topics and indirect methods of marketing the tourism industry in Yemen should be held. The revenues of tourism could exceed many other sectors' revenues. On the other hand, there are places like Hadhramawt and Socotra that enjoy features rarely to be found in other places on earth. Therefore I propose a visit to them be organized for Arab and foreign diplomats accredited to Yemen. For several years we have tried to have such a trip to these places, but have not received positive responses. Diplomats could represent an effective channel between Yemen and other countries. The images and impressions conveyed by these diplomats could be very influential in promoting tourism in Yemen. Once again I propose that Yemen should facilitate such visits for the diplomatic missions here, mainly for tourist purposes.



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Bani Ziad in Yemen



Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

Zabid is situated to the south of Al-Hodeidah. It is one of the Yemeni cities with historic, political and cultural significance. It is known as the city of knowledge and knowledgeable people. Hadiths tell us that this city and its inhabitants were blessed by the Prophet Mohammed (May peace and prayers be upon him) when they went to him after being converted to Islam. When Al-Mamoon appointed Ibn Ziad to rule Yemen, he asked him to build a city near Al-Ashaa'er (a strong Yemeni tribe in Wadi Zabid bounded by the Red Sea to the West, the Haraz mountains to the East, Maqbanah to the South and Beit Al-Faqih to the



Abu Musa Al-Ash'ari shrine in Zabid

one of Ibn Ziad's servants. It was said that even Ibn Ziad himself used to depend on him very much. It was he who prohibited inhabitants of the Tihama from riding horses. In 205 Hijrah, Jafar was sent to Mamoon

tribes and cities soon declared their independence. Zabid was soon invaded by Solaiman Ben Tarf. During the invasion, about 4 thousand people from Zabid were killed while Isaac was able to flee. In 361 he died. The decline of the state of Bani Ziad did not continue for a long time. It was restored by the coming of Al-Hussaini Ibn Salamah. Following his victory, Al-Hussaini gave instructions to build 'Al-Kadara' in Wadi Siham and 'Al-Maqad' in Wadi Dhawal. He was very generous and kind. He built many mosques and tall houses in Zabid, Hadhramaut, Tarim, Aden and other places. He was the first person to fence Zabid. His name is still carved on the wooden gates of most of the mosques he built. In fact, it is impossible to talk about him and his achievements in this short piece of writing. After he died, Abdullah Ibn Ziad took the responsibility of controlling the country with the help of his minister, Morjan. Morjan had two servants: Najah and Nafees. He brought them up and looked after them until they became adults. As the two servants grew up, their hatred for each other grew. In the course of time, Morjan preferred Nafis to Najah. When Nafis heard that Ibn Ziad's aunt, Hena, loved Najah, he told Morjan who then killed her and her nephew Ibn Ziad. This marked the end of Bani Ziad in Yemen.

North). They were among the first people to convert to Islam. Today, there are many cities and tribes descended from Al-Ashaa'er including; Zabid, Heis, Beit Al-Faqih, the Al-Jamaher tribe, Al-Rakab, Al-Zaraniq, etc. When Ibn Ziad arrived in Yemen, he was involved in many wars until he conquered the Tihama. Many other cities surrendered to him. In 204 Hijrah, Ibn Ziad settled in Zabid and made it his capital. He planned the city and built it. Jafar, who was famous for his sharp intelligence, was

with a lot of gifts. He came back during the next year with 1,900 knights from Khorasan. Gradually, Ibn Ziad's control spread to most Yemeni land. When he died, his son, Ibrahim succeeded him. Ibrahim followed in the footsteps of his father and kept Yemen under his control until he died. He, too, was succeeded by his son Ziad although his regime did not last for a long time. He was soon replaced by his brother, Isaac who ruled Yemen until he was 80. As he grew old, Isaac became unable to control and defend the country. Western

Seminar on Higher Education

Yasser M. Ahmed,
Yemen Times

The Consultative Council, in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Development, organized a seminar on higher education from 23-24 November, 1999. The conference was chaired by Mr. Abdulaziz Abdulghani, chairman of the Consultative Council and Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Sofan, Minister of Planning and Development. A number of papers pertaining to higher education were presented at the seminar in addition to various interpositions made by members of the Consultative Council. Majeed Abdulrahman AL-Qobati and Mr Hussein Mohammed Al-Ahjar presented a paper on higher education at present and in future. The paper concentrated on higher education and its contribution to providing a work force for the government sector. The paper contains two important researches. The first one is on higher education policy and work opportunities in state institutions. The second research was about the participation of higher education in meeting the needs of governmental institutions. Until August, 1998 the number of employees in the administrative apparatus and in the



since it began in 1970. Up to 1999, there are (15) universities and (111) faculties in Yemen. The way to overcome the crisis of higher education lies in working out an ambitious and realistic strategy defining trends and components of higher education and its long-term objectives. Dr. Amatt'alrazaq Ali Mohammed, associate professor in the faculty of education, Sana'a University presented a paper saying that only 28.4% of females receive higher education, a proportion constituting a very small percentage if compared to the number of females of the population eligible to receive higher education. Females

sciences, and give independence to academic studies. Dr. Ahmed Sohail Haddain presented a report concerning foreign scholarships. The report pointed out that scholarships should be awarded in different fields which are not available in Yemen. It discussed the obstacles of foreign scholarships due to the increase of students who go to study abroad. This problem is attributed to: 1- Absence of general policy for higher education. 2- Delegating through non-governmental parties. Dr. Nasser Al-Olaqi, president of Ibb University presented a paper titled "Study on Yemeni Private Colleges."



He highlighted the private universities which were established up to 1997-98. There are 8 universities, which participated in exploiting the increased numbers of high school students. These universities participated in improving and developing the social and human sciences. Dr. Bader Al-Akhbari presented a paper about problems of academic education. Dr. Ensaff Abdo Qaseim, presented a paper about woman's position in academic education, and Dr. Mohammed Abdulmajeed Al-Qubati presented a paper about reforming and developing academic education in

public and mixed sectors who have university degrees was 67,400, 16% of which are women (i.e. 12,500). Employees with university degrees comprise 16.7% of the 404,000 employees in the administrative institutions and in the public and mixed sectors. 29,000 of the administrative institutions' employees have Diploma Degrees. 24,100 or 83% during the years 1990-1998 are university graduates. Some papers discussed internal and external problems faced by technical education. There are only two industrial technical institutes, while until now there are not any technical institute in any other area of this field of education. This has led to imbalance and failure in one of the most important sectors of the Yemeni work force. Against this state of affairs there is an increase in university level study which means that there is a slow development in vocational and technical education. This will reflect negatively on future development plans and programs. Dr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Hadrami, professor of strategic administration, faculty of commerce, Sana'a University, presented a paper titled "Higher Education; Ambition, Reality." It concentrated on the problems of technical education and the absence of direction and control in the higher education system. The paper showed that higher education in Yemen is relatively new

prefer to study at the theoretical colleges because it requires that they study for fewer years than what is required of them if they study at scientific colleges. The paper confirmed the necessity of females studying in technical education to benefit from their productive abilities as an important condition for social and economic development. Dr. Mansour Yassine Al-Ademi, vice-dean of the faculty of commerce presented a paper on finding solutions for higher education in Yemen. He pointed out that the problem of higher education was embodied in two things; an increase in the number of scientifically qualified human elements versus the needs of the employment market, and non-sufficiency of the working human element, especially in the state administrative apparatus and the public and mixed sectors. The main factor of this problem is population increase and the inability to provide job opportunities at a rate equal to the population increase. He recommended that we have to stop establishing new colleges of human

Yemen. Dr. Hassan Al-Salami, member of the parliament, provided an interposition asserting that establishing developed higher education requires following new technology and its development. Regarding scientific research, he affirmed that financial assistance must be available in order to achieve new development. Dr. Abu Bakeir Al-Qerbi, member of parliament has talked about higher education saying that the state should issue legislation, control and observation. Universities should have independence, be financed by state and administered by society. Dr. Hameed Galop Ali Al-Khofagi, dean of faculty of agriculture, Ibb University believed that scientific research is very important in developing societies and in the economic and social development. He pointed out that scientific research achieved major successes in the industrial, medical and agricultural fields. He requested more support for consultative centers, and to make a special budget for scientific research.

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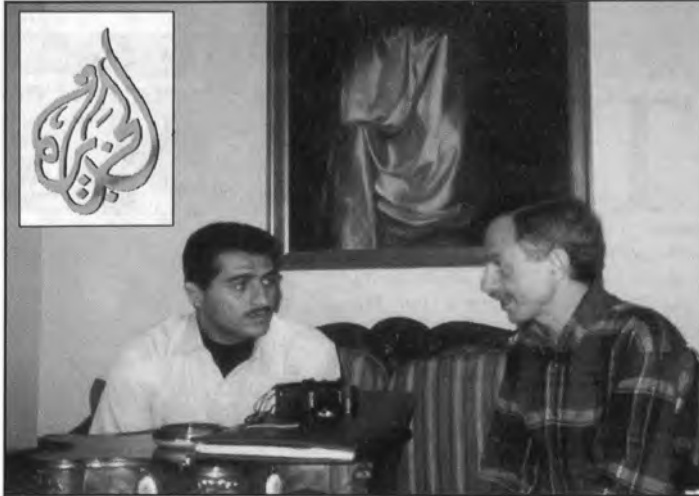
Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Chief Editor to YT

“Independent Media Can Never Work Without a Democratic Infrastructure”

Salah Najem, Chief Editor of Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, graduated from the college of communication, Cairo in 1977. Then, he traveled to the United States of America where he worked in radio. For the past 20 years he worked for the BBC. He has also worked for the Radio of Holland. Yemen Times Managing Editor Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi met him in Amman, Jordan and filed the following interview.

Q: Would you please give us some ideas about Al-Jazeera, how it was established, and what difficulties you are facing?

A: Al-Jazeera was established on November, 1996. It is the first specialist Arab news channel, and the idea was that there was no Arab news channel available in the market. There were only the BBC and the CNN which are in English so we found that there is a need in the market for the Arabic news channel. Al-Jazeera was established as such to provide the audience all around Arab world with accurate and fast objective items, and at the same time to provide them with different points of views about the debatable issues in the Arab arena. Sometimes we are local, sometimes we are pan-Arab, and sometimes we are international, but we provide our audience with different points of view. We allow the audience to share their own opinions according to what they are seeing.



Of course, as with other television stations which are operating in different parts of the world we face difficulties in covering news. If you go to a place like Chechnya, you might get several points of views, but how can they get the Chechen points of view if you are not allowed to enter Chechnya because it is inside Russia? What we are trying to do is to get over these difficulties by trying to interview Chechen officials by telephone or trying to send one of our reporters to find a way of entering Chechnya and getting pictures. This does not happen only in Chechnya, but in different parts of the world such as Kosovo. For example, for about 25 days we were unable to enter and get news, so we only went to Macedonia and to

Albania to find out about the refugees' problems, but we did not get Yugoslavian points of view. There are many examples, but these difficulties face us as well as the BBC and CNN. There are always ways to get over them and we are trying our best. Sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail totally, as in our efforts to cover Afghanistan, for example. By the way, you can not photograph anybody, or interview an official on camera, but you can interview that official by telephone.

Q: Are you satisfied with your work, or have you some other ambitions to achieve?

Of course, the word satisfied is difficult to answer, but in any media you need to continue developing without stopping. That is the best formula. This means that you have to develop it all the time. Our future plan is to put new programs and new services on the air. By doing that we are establishing different bureaus around the world in different capitals. We are producing programs from different Arab capitals, and we are spreading our network of correspondents to cover areas which we did not cover before. And we keep searching for good news to cover. This is the future plan for us.

Q: Al-Jazeera has been able to catch the impression of a lot of people around the Arab world, why?

A: You have to look to the media all around the Arab world. It is usually government media, and government media reflects only the official points of view, be it about local issues or about oriental issues. For us, as an independent television station, we do not need to reflect the official points of view. We present the official point of view as one point of view, but there is

usually somebody who questions it or opposes it, and we also give a platform to all these officials and opposition officials to express their points of view. Some officials or governments might not like to have an opposition figure criticize it. This was difficult for us to accept, but when they find the opportunity to explain their points of view in detail, and they realize that they have the same right as other parties do I think that they are starting to accept the whole pattern of practice since it is beginning to become easier for us.

Q: Have you received protests from ranking politicians in the Arab world against any report?

A: Sometimes we have received protests or criticism which is even harsher than protests. Protests are sent to official government agencies, so we don't receive any protests, but we receive criticism. When we receive criticism, it is easier for us to accept it if we are doing wrong. Usually we answer by stating our point of view.

Q: As an expert in journalism, what do you believe are the problems facing journalists in the Arab world? How can we establish an independent media?

A: Independent media can never work without a democratic infrastructure. The basic problem which faces all the Arab media and journalists is the lack of democratic infrastructure. This means that there should be freedom of the press, and there should not be a loose press. You should have a public opinion which defends journalists, because if you have a strong public opinion it will defend the right to know, and the only way by which the public can know about events is through the media. So, the people protect the media and the infrastructures of free press and democracy which are lacking in the Arab media.

Q: Any last comment?

A: What I want to say is that during the past year what you saw was that Arab media and journalists are moving forward. There are new ideas, new plans and new media being established every day. If there is competition, there is a commercial aspect of the media and of the press, and that will change things very quickly in the coming years. I expect that you will see different voices covering news, topics and political issues than what you have seen in the past few years. We are now on the verge of a great transition in the media.

Italian Food Festival Now Open at the Taj Sheba

“To add impetus to Yemeni-Italian friendship, and to show what Italian traditions look like,” said Mino Remoli, Maestro of the L'Alba Mediterranean Group. “We are again and for the second time here in Yemen, namely

no longer exist. “We don't like the life of modernism,” they said, “there are many differences between Italy half a century ago and Italy today. About half a century ago, Italy was a poor country and food was very simple, but the age of industrialism has



at the Taj Sheba Hotel,” he continued. The group of Italian chefs, musicians and actors have been performing at the Taj Sheba Hotel since Saturday. They will continue their elegant performance until Tuesday, November 30th before leaving for Aden to hold the same show at the Elephant Bay Beach Resort. The show is divided into three parts. The first part is devoted to Neapolitan culture and songs. In the

killed the simple way of life and imposed the life of ‘Macdonalds’ all over the world. Italy today, embraces a new life full of culture and riches but its soul is poor when it replaces its own rich culture with that of the Anglo-Saxon and Protestants which are a world of difference from our own culture and traditions. We don't love the modernized life because we have our own great traditions.” On the subject of Italian folk songs,



second part the cuisine of four different regions; Emilia Romagna, Toscana, Lazio and Sicilia will be served. While they are served, the musical band will play pieces of music of the same region whose cuisine is being served. In the third part, Italian popular folk songs are sung with an open invitation for guests to dance to them.

The Italian group is showing their dissatisfaction with what modernism has brought to being. They have realized the real meaning of the past, the ancient traditions of old Italy which

the most popular one that represents the Mediterranean tradition is “O Sole Mio” (oh my son). “It is an invocation to God of the poor, nature, the wind, the sun, the sky, etc.,” said director, Gennaro Colangelo. Regarding food, the most popular meal that stands out in all the world is pizza. During the show some sketches portray the traditional life of simple ancient people of Italy. In other words, they represent the identity of the real Italy.

By: Hisham Al-Qubati,



ITALIAN FOOD FESTIVAL AT GOLDEN OASIS

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Yemen Celebrates the 51st Anniversary of Human Rights



Jamal Al-Awadi,
Yemen Times

On December 10, 1999, the world celebrates the 51st anniversary of human rights. This is the final

celebration of the 20th century. These rights are incorporated in the international treaties and constitutions of all countries.

Yemen is one of the countries which gives top priority to this issue. Yemen recognizes that human rights are not an alien matter, but that they have deep religious values too. We, as Moslems, have the noble duty to apply these rights and to work towards achieving them. Therefore, the Republic of Yemen has signed all international treaties in the field of human rights. Respect for human rights is one of the basic values necessary for the development of Yemen.

In this respect, the constitution of the Republic provides the following article for the preservation of human rights:

1- Article (6), Yemen abides by the international treaties of the United Nations, and endorses for human rights issues with the rest of the Arab League, and the international rules.

2- Article (40), all citizens are equal in rights and duties.

3- Article (47), the state preserves and protects freedom of people.

Yemen has a close affinity with those countries which support human rights. Yemen has issued legislation which respects human rights. There are many organizations established in Yemen to defend human rights. A committee has been formed in the Parliament, and in the Consultative Council to look at matters relating to human rights. The proper boundaries of human rights in Yemen is well-defined. The current political, economic and social climate in Yemen is due to the bad economic conditions and the weakness of law. In addition to this, there is a deteriorating attitude towards woman, and to people in the lower strata of society. All these circumstances stand as an obstacle for the implementation of human rights. The main cause of these problems is illiteracy and lack of awareness. It is clear that the matter needs a lot of thinking to strengthen human rights in Yemen. All people should work together and cooperate to improve human rights. We will talk about one of the issues in which the President himself had to intervene. This problem reflects the snobbish attitude to some groups of people such as the 'Akhdam,' and those who belong to poorer classes. The late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf and Dr. Abu Baker Al-Qarbi played important roles to put an end to this problem. A citizen complained that an officer, who works in the Ministry of Interior shot him with his gun as he came out of the mosque. The officer complained that this poor man had a charge against him. As the man is a member of the weaker classes, he took the matter to the courts, but he could not get justice. He lost one of his legs, and is now an invalid.

There was no other way for that man than to appeal to the President through the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf. The president immediately ordered the security forces to action, and the officer was arrested, although he was released after a few days. The question arises, 'Is it possible to refer all such matters to the president, when there are courts specifically to hear public grievances?' This instance proves that the law is weak, and there are some people who believe that they are above the law. They also believe that law is not applicable to the poor people. This distortion of judgement helps promote violations of human rights. In spite of the laws which protect human rights, the

situation remains unchanged. Despite the difficulties that we are facing, Yemen has greater freedom of press than other Arab countries. Additionally, opposition forces here can express their ideas freely. One of the important matters in this regard is women's status as human beings who work at home and take care of children. In spite of the slight improvement in women's position in Yemen, they are still victims of different violations. Parents force their girls to leave school and marry men whom the parents want them to according to their tradition. What kind of a democracy are we talking about?

In the field of education, there are many obstacles for the development of women. The low percentage of educated women is due to many reasons:

1- Traditions and customs give priority to men.

2- Decrease in family's income, making it difficult to cover the cost of education.

3- Few girls' schools in rural areas.

4- Widespread illiteracy in the rural and urban areas.

Urban woman are not getting equal participation in administrative work. If we compare women to men, we find that for each 1000 male general managers, there are only 79 women. Regarding political participation, women have not been given the opportunity to participate and work. Women only have one portfolio in the Republic. Women's lack of adequate representation in the judicial corps is due to the same obstacles which prevent women from working in the administrative sector. If we look at the statistics, we find that there are only 32 women who work as judges, while there are 1002 male judges. In parliament, there are two women out of a total of 301 members, but they won in the parliamentary elections under the umbrella of the People's General Congress. We find that the Yemeni constitution provides equal opportunity for women, but we have not witnessed any improvement in this regard. The decrease in women's participation in political activities is due to:

1- Social life of women and illiteracy.
2- Lack of importance of women's opinions.

Women's participation in the political fabric will not work well except with political support. We also have to emphasize women's outlook.

If we visit some prisons in the Republic, we find that women prisoners face very difficult circumstances; There is bad health-care and bad food. Some of those woman are still staying in prisons in spite of orders for their release. There is another tragedy which happens inside prisons. There are some mothers who have their children inside prisons, some of those children are born there and some live inside the prisons up to the age of seven years. Therefore, we find that social discrimination, traditions, and the bad condition that most of families face are the main obstacles for women to enjoy their rights. The flaws in education and a lack of awareness play an important role in the deterioration of women's position.

Until now, women do not have the opportunity to freely express their own ideas, and to assert their rightful place in the society.

There are also a number of matters which reflect the misunderstanding of human rights. For example, there are human rights violations in the offices of investigations, and in some prisons, etc., but we find that there is a positive intention on the part of the state to improve human rights, although we need more cooperation and support. We also need proper implementation of decisions.

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يتقدمون بخالص التهاني والتبريكات
لفخامة رئيس الجمهورية

الأخ / علي عبدالله صالح

وإلى الحكومة اليمنية برئاسة الدكتور عبدالكريم الإرياني
وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر

وذلك بمناسبة ذكرى الجلاء - الثلاثين من نوفمبر

وبمناسبة قرب حلول شهر رمضان المبارك
وكل عام وأنتم بخير



Dr. Waleed Jazrawi, President - General Manager
and all staff and workers of

Canadian Occidental Petroleum Yemen

present their best wishes to

President Ali Abdullah Saleh

The Government of Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani,
The Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar,
and the Yemeni People

On the occasion of 30th of November,
and on the occasion of advent of the Holy Month of Ramadhan
Many Happy Returns



30 November

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

How to Stay a Big Power without Really Trying

Most Yemeni journalists tend to keep their thoughts and pens confined to local issues and affairs. This may be justified by the logic that there are enough problems, agonies and self-inflicted disappointments to be found domestically on which to dwell. On the other hand, it is hard enough for conscientious Yemeni journalists and commentators to influence events and trends at home, let alone try to influence the course of events overseas, where Yemeni press opinion would be of a lesser consequence than it is at home. Moreover, a full grasp of current international events and international affairs in general is rarely to be found in Yemen, even at the Foreign Ministry, let alone in the Yemeni press. It is seldom that real expertise can be found that is capable of analyzing and communicating the perplexities of foreign affairs. This is therefore left to the international press agencies and/or the "we have on the line here the expert on..." that is often heard on the Arab satellite channels, coupled with video footage taken from CNN. As a leading Yemeni newspaper with strong regional and international links, this observer believes that the Yemen Times should give more coverage to regional and international events and should also try to convey the feelings of the people of the Republic of Yemen on international events. This becomes more necessary in light of the often apparent contrasts between the general public mood and the official position taken up by our government on such events and the general passive stance taken by the government on regional and international issues that do not go beyond "expressing concern and regrets" or "joy and encouragement," as the case may be, leaving aside whatever the majority sentiment may be accordingly. In the past, Common

Sense has dealt with several regional and international issues, and will continue to do so, in light of the large expatriate community in Yemen, from where a significant share of the readers of the YT comes, and in the hope of reflecting the feelings of the Yemeni people, or those of this observer based on his knowledge and experience in such affairs. The events in Chechnya, and in every Moslem country, are of interest to the Yemeni people, in view of the fraternal religious bonds that bind the Yemeni people and their Moslem brothers everywhere, and in light of the heavy humanitarian overtones that are bound to raise the conscience of any sincere objective observer. On the other hand, a long history of friendship with the Russian Federation (in its Bolshevik form and in its somewhat unsettled more liberal open political and economic framework - and its somewhat smaller size), and I would assume our Russian friends would surely be interested in finding the views of the Yemeni people on a situation that has become the No. 1 issue facing the Russian Federation today. What becomes clear and obvious to any observer of the Chechen situation is that the Russian official justifications for their highly disproportionate action in the Caucasus region does not add up to any political or even "security" logic. Moreover, it points to a serious infraction of a political arrangement agreed upon in 1996 between the heretofore recognized authority in Chechnya and the government under President Yeltsin himself, with a more pragmatic Prime Minister at the helm. While the arrangement may have been the result of a legitimate struggle by the Chechen people against Russian domination, it goes without saying that the Russians have

renege on a clear settlement that took the interests of both the Russian people and the people of Chechnya into consideration. In fact, the Chechens, in that agreement, were willing to compromise significantly on their demands for immediate full independence, to lessen the political effects of the harsh defeat suffered by the Russians in the first encounter with the Chechens, in order to save the face of the Russian leadership domestically and internationally. But under Vladimir Putin, a more chauvinistic Slavic nationalist, the Prime Ministry of the Russian Federation has considered that revenge of the defeat of the Russians in Chechnya is the only means of restoring Russia as a world power and letting the world know that the Russian Federation is still the inheritor of Soviet international hegemony, and no one should ever forget it. One would think that, as far as the Russian people are concerned, there are more important steps for the Russian government to embark on to restore its prestige and position in the international community than to expensively settle an old score, with a relatively small "menace", that arose out of the blue, and probably is a result of Russian or international conspiratorial intrigues, the details of which have yet to materialize. In other words, it is not the Chechen people en-masse that are the "security" risk that the Russian government must deal with, but a band of international renegades who have found religion to be a worthwhile mercenary enterprise, funded by clandestine operations, that are either non-Moslem inspired or goaded, letting Islam become the scapegoat for half the world's problems (Some Moslem analysts are quick to attribute such activities to Masonic or Zionist clandestine origins cloaked in "fundamentalist" cover-

ups, of which Islam and Moslems, in general, are wholly innocent of). Viewed in another context, the Chechen expeditionary mission of the Russians is not free from international arrangements, as part of the New World Order, in consideration of the Russians pursuing nothing more than vocal distaste for the belated tough Western stance on the barbarity of their Slavic cousin (Milosovic) in Serbia (In fact, the leading Western power has made it clear that the "excessive" Russian action in Chechnya would not influence the continuation of Western aid to the Russian Federation, even though they are not "pleased with it," which obviously entails a prior Western "nod of the head" for the Russian action. Moreover, it may be Western policy to tie up the Russians in whatever adventures that would drain their poorly managed resources and thus keep their claims to world power status in check. When looking at the present state of the Russian federation, one is rather surprised by the inability of the heirs of the Soviet Union to manage the appalling conditions of their economy and administrative capabilities. Even after 10 years of "adjustment" from an erstwhile totalitarian and Communist framework, it is clear that the heirs have failed to channel the vast resources and human resource capabilities which Russia is endowed with towards setting the country on a proper well-defined course of real progress and political development of the Russian people, who are known for their industriousness and obedience. In fact, it is not far-fetched to conclude that the Chechen adventure of the Russian leadership is no more than the exploitation of nationalist fervor, to leap over the rising discontent, both at home and abroad, at the poor performance of the Russian leadership in

the management of domestic economic and social affairs. At home, it is clear that the Russian people would wish to have answers to the question of the high rate of corruption that has been given firm rooting in the administrative structure of the Russian Federation and the inability of the Russian Government to harness the vast resources and assets of the Russian people towards improving the lot of the Russian people from their conditions, which were left by their Communist "predecessors," and in putting the country on a more reliably stable political footing. Whatever the case may be, it is clear that another Islamic people have become victims of an injustice and an obvious lack of "fair-play" under various disguises, that refuse to take into consideration the high humanitarian overtones that Moslems, in general, must pay, so that domestic political opportunists like Putin and Milosovic

can rise to the helms and remain there forever, and so that international adventure seekers can continue to trade in war at the expense of their Moslem "brothers," without achieving for Islam or their Moslem brothers any rewards for their disguised "fundamentalism." Moreover, it would be inappropriate to believe that the present leadership of the Russian Federation, even if rejuvenated by Putin, can convince us that they are a world power to be reckoned with by unleashing their deadly inherited Soviet military hardware in killing thousands and chasing hundreds of thousands of helpless people out of their homes, when at the same time more than US \$10 Billion can fall into unclean hands without so much as mobilizing an extensive investigation probe of the matter by the very same ambitious Russian leadership that seeks to call itself the savior and mirror of real Slavic chauvinism.



لأداء الخدمة الأخيرة لتوأمين الهجرة ١٩٩٩ الحالية توثقه قبل عام ٢٠٠٠ إذا كنت تبحث عن الإقامة والتجنس بالوطن الثاني

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- للجامعيين بتخصصات أخرى لمن يتقن الإنجليزية والفرنسية وله قريب أول بكندا. هل فكرتم وناقشتم مستقبلكم ومجالكم بعد انتهاء عمركم؟

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وإلى مجلس النواب برئاسة الشيخ عبدالله بن حسين الأحمر

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President Ali Abdullah Saleh

The Government of Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani,
The Parliament headed by Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar,
and the Yemeni People

On the occasion of 30th of November
Many Happy Returns

30 November

شكر وتقدير



تتقدم دائرة الخدمات الطبية العسكرية

وإدارة المستشفى العسكري العام بصنعاء

وكافة أطباء وموظفي وعاملي المستشفى

بأسمى آيات الشكر والعرفان والتقدير

إلى صاحب السمو الملكي

الأمير سلطان بن عبد العزيز

النائب الثاني لرئيس مجلس الوزراء وزير الدفاع والطيران

والمفتش العام بالمملكة العربية السعودية الشقيقة

على لفتته الكريمة بتبرعه بمبلغ 7,247,019 ريال سعودي

لتوسعة أقسام الجراحة بالمستشفى العسكري العام بصنعاء.

كما لا يفوتنا تقديم الشكر والتقدير لسعادة السفير

محمد بن مرداس القحطاني

سفير المملكة العربية السعودية بصنعاء

على جهوده وتعاونه الطيب.

Thanks and Gratitude

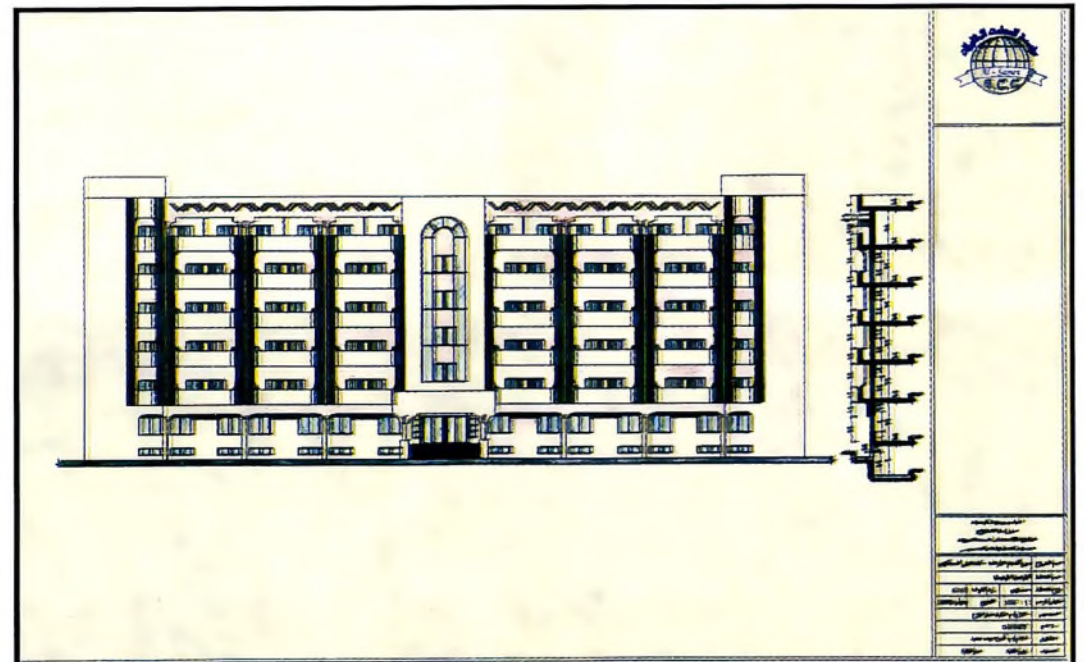
Medical Services Department,
the Administration of the Sanaa Military Hospital
and all its doctors and staff offer their great gratitude and
regards to His Royal Highness

Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz,

the Second Deputy Premier,
the Minister of Defense and Air Force,
the General Inspector of the sisterly
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
for his generous gesture of donating Saudi Rials 7,247,019
for the construction of a 7-story building
to be added to the military hospital in Sana'a.
We also offer our thanks and regard to His Excellency

Mohammed Bin Merdas Al-Qahtani

the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Sana'a for
his good efforts and cooperation.





YemenSoft Thinks of Present with Future Minds!

RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT

While these speedy international updates in the technology of information and communication are taking place, YemenSoft foundation in the beginning of this decade, exactly in 1993 was not just a competitive deed for merely financial profit, but was imposed by an urgent necessity for such a company in the business market here in Yemen. Especially that there was not a company specialized in programming and software development at that time. A national company that devotes all its efforts, capability and potentials to improve this field in our country. Enabling it to compensate what was missed in the past and go along with these global technology improvements.

Since the emergence, YemenSoft carry out this pioneer role in Yemen software market and was conscious of its responsibility for this role.

SERVICES

YemenSoft services are of integrated, interactive and interpenetrated nature, which insure high comprehensive performance. Keep on varying and expanding to satisfy more needs and cover new fields.

- * System analysis and consultancy

YEMENSOFT VITAL AREAS

According to the feed back of a thorough research of the Yemen market, YemenSoft concentrates its activity on the most demanding fields. And After an analytical survey for all foreign and local products in Yemen market followed by inquiry researches for the requirements of the various types of business in Yemen, YemenSoft developed its products on professional bases. Implementing database applications within complex communications and networking environments for both business and public sectors.

- * Database Application Development Systems (accounting & Administration)
- * Computer Telephony Systems
- * Banking Systems

TYPES OF DATABASE MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM:

Administrative Systems:

YemenSoft developed several reliable systems of this kind, which were used by many clients and proved affectivity and sufficiency such as:

- * University Management System

communication technologies getting more interacting and intermixing, YemenSoft was involved in the communication as an integral part of its activity.

and made a very successful partnership dealing form with Brouktrout Technologies- an international British company, professional in communication hardware.

This partnership enable YemenSoft provide call centers with hardware and develop software related.

TOOLS

YemenSoft selected the best programming languages and software development tools for its applications. Packages are programmed and developed based on Oracle Developer 2000, Microsoft Visual C++ and SQL Server due to the cooperation relationship, which connected YemenSoft with these two giant global companies.

HORIZONS OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

YemenSoft global cooperation enhances its quality standard and services.

YemenSoft is a Sale Authorized Representative of:

- * Oracle in database Management field
- * BrookTrout in Computer Telephony Technology



WORK TEAM

High-qualified professionals in system analysis & development are working in Development & Technical Support Departments as work groups in a well-equipped environment with up-to-date facilities. All these conditions are managed by a well-planned, expert and insight administration.

- * System planning and designing
- * Ready made packages selling
- * Net work implementing & consultancy

VISION AND APPROACH

You can say, today, that computer application or use is not restricted in a certain class or monopolized by a defined sector of the society. Wherever there is an organized business there must be always a computer usage. It is very necessary for any businessman in order to get most benefit from his computer in developing his business and facilitating his tasks, to have a computer system. Which carries out the control and the management functions upon his business. And this system should be designed in a way that considers the nature of the business meant and the particularities of the tasks related. No product can serve effectively unless it meets all the needs and requirements of the client. This belief make YemenSoft always adopt a methodical approach in system analysis to get a careful comprehension for all work condition and particularities of the client, providing him with the best product and service which assure him precise control and perfect handling for his business.

- * School Management System
- * Hotel Management System

Auditing Systems:

The products of YemenSoft in this area were described deservedly by many top clients as high professional quality and trusty products. Some of these products:

- * Integrated Accounting System (General Ledger - Purchase & Sale - Stock)
- * Fixed Assets System
- * Payroll System
- * Billing System

Banking System

Through an intimate cooperation and partnership between YemenSoft and Infosys, which is one of the leading international banking software developer companies, YemenSoft became able to develop and provide clients with an integrated solid banking system.

Computer Telephony System

Since the relationship between information and

- * Infosys in banking systems

CLIENTS ARE IN THE TOP PRIORITIES OF YEMENSOFT

Over the last five years YemenSoft has expanded a vast customer base which consists of Varsity of commercial, industrial and public sectors. That was due to the ingrained feeling of appreciation of YemenSoft towards clients. YemenSoft dose not only provide clients with various software solutions in competitive rates but also offer them a technical support, training courses and special services as well through dedicated departments. Spending great efforts to keep clients ahead by enhancing the way they handle their businesses and putting the most up-to-date technologies at their service whatever their field, specialization, or jobs are. With this sense of understanding, appreciation and responsibility, YemenSoft put clients in the top of its priorities and succeeded in building a confident and strong relationship with them making its products self-marketed.

According to the observers point of views YemenSoft has 40% of software market share in Yemen.

By: Abdulkhaleq N. Al-Gaifi

Issue no.
48

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

ابحث في محتويات هذا العدد عن اجابة السؤال المبيّن في الاسفل مع كتابة الاجابة باللغة الانجليزية وكتابة عنوان المقالة مع تحديد رقم الصفحة التي بها الاجابة بخط واضح وارسالها الى عنوان الصحيفة الرئيسي في صنعاء. لا تقبل الاجابات من دون هذا الكوبون الخاص بالسؤال. الاجابات التي تصلنا بالفاكس غير مقبولة. سيتم اختيار الفائزين من بين جميع المتقدمين بواسطة القرعة، وسيمنح الفائز بالمركز الأول مبلغ 8000 ريال والثاني 5000 ريال والثالث 4000 ريال والرابع 3000 ريال. وحتى يتسنى للجميع ارسال الاجابة الى بريد الصحيفة فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحاً لمدة أسبوعين من يوم الإصدار (أي بعد 13 يوماً من الإصدار). ستُنشر أسماء الفائزين في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهم. كما نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مغزوف الرسالة. بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون باسمه.

Search for the answer of the question below within the contents of this issue and write the answer clearly along with the article's title and page number. Please cut out this coupon and send it to our Sana'a Head Office. The winners will be selected through drawing lots. The awards are YR 8,000 for 1st place, YR 5,000 for 2nd place, YR 4,000 for 3rd place and YR 3,000 for 4th place. The winners' names will be announced in the issue after two weeks. Answers will only be acceptable within 13 days after the date of issuance. Please write the number of the issue of the Yemen Times that you cut the coupon from on the envelope. One person can send more than one coupon to have a higher possibility of winning.

Answers sent by fax or photocopy will not be accepted.

Question of the Week

What are the events that are of interest to Yemeni people?

Answer: _____

Article's Title: _____ Page no. _____

Your Name: _____

City/Province: _____ Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____

الف مبروك



وسط تضيف من الاحياء تم الاحتفال بعيد ميلاد الطفل الحبيب، أحمد صالح الجوري بمناسبة إطفائه الشمعة الثالثة. فالف الف مبروك يا احمد وعقبال مائة سنة. المهنونون:

كل افراد العائله في الداخل والخارج وموظفي الأفاق للطباعة والنشر

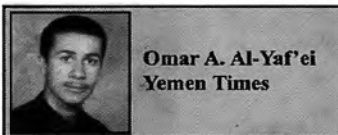
في جوبهيج وسط تضيف من الأهل والأصدقاء أطبات الططفه الجيوبية آية عارف الزريقي شمعتها الأولى يوم أمس الأحد 27 نوفمبر 99م عقبال المائة عام المهنونون: بابا وماما وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

أجمل التهني والتبريكات مقدمة للاخ عبدالله احمد العمراني والأنسة سهيره عبدالله علوس

وذلك بمناسبة خطوبتهما، وعقبال الفرحه الكبرى المهنونون: عمر علي الياغمي، ملال علي الخولاني

تحام تهادينا الحارة للأخت أنيسة الحبشيشي وذلك بمناسبة تخرجها من كلية الآداب قسم اللغة الانجليزية. عن مديرة ومدرسات وطلاب وطالبات مدرسة القديمي غادة حافظ الأهل

Yemen Cricket Tournament 99



Omar A. Al-Yaf'ei
Yemen Times

On Friday, November 26, 1999 at Althawra stadium, there was the final Cricket match. The tournament started in May of this year with the participation of eight teams from Yemen, Pakistan, and India, etc. The Pakistan Cricket Club came in first position, the Arab Cricket Club in second position and Indian Cricket Club in third position. The match ended successfully with the participation of all clubs. It was

prize was awarded to the winner of the first position, the Pakistan Cricket Club, led by Captain Masroor Alam Siddiqui. The second prize was awarded to the Arabian Cricket Club and the third one was awarded to the winner of the third position, the Indian Cricket Club. Other participating clubs received medals. His Excellency the Ambassador of Great Britain, Mr. Tariq Henderson, Mr. Tariq Abdullah, chairman of the Yemen Cricket Association, Mr. Walid Kazmi, manager of British Petroleum, and others, attended the championship. All of them delivered speeches



played in the best possible spirit of true sportsmanship.

Cricket started in the United Kingdom and spread throughout the British Commonwealth to many other countries. This tournament was organized by the Cricket Association. The Chairman of the tournament was Mr. David Pearce, Deputy Head of Mission and H.M. Consul-General at the British Embassy.

A ceremony was organized during the evening of the same day at the Taj Sheba Hotel. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the championship. The first

expressing their satisfaction with this championship. They all indicated that in the advent of the third millennium, we should see improvement in all fields. Mr. Tariq Abdullah, chairman of the Yemen Cricket Association wished that Cricket in Yemen would witness a promising future, and be played in its true spirit and friendly manner. He requested from all to offer their support in order to improve this new game in Yemen. Finally, he indicated that the Yemen Cricket Association will establish two schools in Aden and Sana'a for training in this game.

The ceremony which was organized at the Taj Sheba Hotel was sponsored by British Petroleum, the British Embassy, Yemen Commercial Bank and the Taj Sheba Hotel.

Answer of 46th Issue Competition:

"Yemen Times has the trust of the readers more than any other newspaper because it bravely criticizes what is wrong and supports what is right"

Page 2, Editorial "The Power of Independence"

Winners of the 46th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Khalli Saif Mohammed, Hodeidah

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Entesar Mansoor Yahya, Ibb

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Abdulkhaliq Abdu Salih Al-Mudhafari, Al-Baydaa

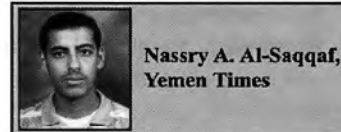
Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Yahia Al-Qossab, Jebbla-Ibb

Congratulations to All Winners

To receive their prizes, winners should come with their IDs to the Yemen Times Sana'a Office, near the Palestinian Embassy, Hadda Street. Tel. 268661. Winners from other regions can contact our bureaus in Aden or Taiz. No prizes will be given to winners who do not come within one month from the day of announcing their names.

Sponsored by Pampers, Al-Otaila to Bike Around Yemen



Nassry A. Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times

The Yemeni traveller, Abdullah Al-Otaila has covered a major portion of the Republic of Yemen for a month on his bicycle. He raised the motto "no poliomyelitis." This motto aims at improving and creating awareness in people to immunize their children.

The traveller will go around the country for the second time under the sponsorship of Pampers. Pampers will support this traveller to cross 4,000 km on his bicycle under the motto: "I am Yemeni, this is my country, and I have to participate in national activities in my own way to make people conscious about the dangers of poliomyelitis disease." The traveller, who is 27 years old has



the experience of many adventures on his bicycle which took him to different parts of the country, the Middle East area and to the Mediterranean Sea. All these expeditions were intended to improve the awareness of people about activities in the Republic of Yemen.

At the ceremony organized at Procter and Gamble (P&G), the producer of Pampers was full of

warm appreciation for this traveller and his nationalist aims. In the presence of a number of managers and employees including the manager of marketing Mr. Faris Al-Sumairi and journalists General Manager Mohammed Samir pointed out that the company supports social and health activities and any activity which serves society and contributes to its development.

Lufthansa

Lufthansa outperforms other airlines between January and September 1999

Revenue increased by 4.6% in first three quarters Nine-Month operating profit of DM 1.03 billion Full-year operating profit expected to total 1.3 billion

In the first nine months of this year the Lufthansa Group earned an operating profit of DM 1.03 billion. "With this performance we remain forerunners in the airline industry. The earnings result underscores Lufthansa's ambition to lead the field," said Lufthansa's Chairman and CEO Jürgen Weber. Following a difficult start, the course of business has improved more and more. "For the full year we anticipate an operating result of DM 1.3 billion," Mr. Weber added.

Like the result of the airline industry, Lufthansa has been handicapped this year by adverse operating conditions. The overburdened air traffic control system, the war in Kosovo and capacity expansion by the airline industry as a whole in excess of market growth have had an impact on the course of business. With timely and anticipatory moves, Lufthansa initiated effective operational measures to safeguard profitability.

Output and revenue raised

Lufthansa raised its market share of international scheduled air traffic, as a percentage of the total flown by all AEA (Association of European Airlines) companies, from 14.4 to 15.5 per cent. The sales trend of the Group's airlines at the three-quarter stage was very gratifying. The number of passengers carried showed an increase of 8.6 per cent; the amount of capacity sold in the Passenger Business segment grew by as much as 13.6 per cent owing to the above-average expansion of long-haul traffic. The passenger load factor was maintained at the high level of 73.4 per cent.

Lufthansa Cargo lifted its nine-months sales by 6.2 percent, outstripping the rise in capacity offered (+4.5 per cent), which pushed up the cargo load factor by 1.1 percentage points to 67.2 per cent. The overall load factor for the period January to September 1999 improved against 1998 by 0.7 percentage point to 71 per cent. Although traffic revenue, at 3.7 per cent, grew more moderately than the turnover volume, the ongoing trend is encouraging. Thanks to a perceptible stabilization of average yields, the rate of decline was slowed considerably in the third quarter. Based on the amount of output sold, the fall in the average yield from passenger traffic came to -8.7 per cent for the first nine months: -9.4 per cent after six months, and then only -7.5 per cent in the third quarter, while the decline in the cargo yield eased to 2.2 per cent at the third-quarter stage (as against -3.5 per cent after the first half-year). Other revenue grew faster than traffic revenue (by +10.1 per cent), resulting in a rise of 4.6 per cent in the Group's overall revenue.

Cost trend under control

Thanks to the rigorously pursued cost management strategy, the rise in total operating expenses, at 7.7 per cent, was kept distinctly below output growth. While staff costs (+6.3 per cent) and depreciation and amortization expense (+6.2 per cent) increased at a below-average rate, the cost of materials expanded by a significant +13.2 per cent. The reason for this was a sharp increase by +15.7 per cent in the cost of services purchased from third-party suppliers, with expenditure on fees and charges showing a year-on-year rise of 8.4 per cent. Shrewdly anticipated and implemented hedging measures limited the rise in the fuel bill to 4.4 per cent. And 80 per cent of our fuel needs for the year 2000 are likewise already hedged against price rises.

Operating profit of DM 1.03 billion

In an environment characterized by fierce competitive pressures and difficult operating conditions, the Lufthansa Group posted a nine-months operating profit of DM 1.03 billion - an outstanding result compared with the rest of the industry. This was 36.8 per cent less than the comparable three-quarter figure in 1998 - likewise based on IAS. The profit from ordinary activities totaled DM 1,134 million, down 39.4 per cent; at the half-way stage the year-on-year decrease had amounted to 55.9 per cent. Hence Lufthansa has managed to further close the cumulative earnings gap between the current year and the record year 1998 - which was massively boosted by the disposal of Lufthansa's stake in Hapag Lloyd. Investing in the development of the aviation group Capital expenditure by the Lufthansa Group totaled DM 2.3 billion, which was similar to last year's high level. However, a much higher proportion of this (DM 0.7 billion) than last year was invested in financial assets, reflecting Lufthansa's strategic evolution into a leading aviation group. On account of the decline in pre-tax earnings and the once-only effect of an increase by almost DM 1 billion in income tax payments, the cash flow contracted by DM 1.4 billion compared with the same period of last year. Consequently, the internal financing ratio was lowered to 54 per cent.

Outlook

The Group's performance in the third quarter confirmed the accuracy of Lufthansa's forecast of the course of business. "For the remainder of the year we anticipate that the decline in average yields will decelerate further on account of the reduction of overcapacity. The cost retrenchment measures set in motion are now having an impact and will positively influence the quality of our earnings," said Lufthansa Chairman Jürgen Weber. For the year as a whole Lufthansa is now confident, despite the persisting uncertainties, that its operating profit will reach DM 1.3 billion.

Strictly embargoed until 10.00 UTC, November 9, 1999 Lufthansa welcomes British Midland into Star Alliance

"We are delighted with the news from London that British Midland plans to join Star Alliance," said Jürgen Weber CEO and chairman of the Board of Lufthansa. At a news conference today, the UK carrier announced its intention to join the global alliance network early next year, and also that it had welcomed Lufthansa as a new shareholder in addition to SAS. Lufthansa, subject to regulatory approval, is acquiring half of SAS's 40 per cent holding in Britain's second largest scheduled airline.

"With British Midland's entry into Star Alliance, the framework will be created for long-term healthy competition amongst alliance systems in Europe. We are proud that British Midland, after careful consideration, has decided that Star Alliance will secure the airline's position as a serious competitor in a market that is becoming ever more global. For Star Alliance the membership of British Midland will open up the British market. We will now have a prestigious partner carrier in the UK," said Jürgen Weber.

British Midland, established in 1938, employs a workforce of more than 6000 and operates from a total of 29 cities in Europe. Twenty of these are served from the airline's principal hub at London-Heathrow. The carrier also operates 17 domestic routes. In 1998, British Midland carried six million passengers on its scheduled services, operating a fleet of more than 50 aircraft.

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JAHALI

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH

This weekly Education Supplement is presented by Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, Associate Professor, College of Education, Mahweet

I. What to Say...

At the Restaurant
Waiter: Are you ready to order now, sir?
Asad: Yes, I'll have tomato soup, roast beef and boiled potato. What would you like, Mohsen?
Mohsen: Chicken soup, mixed fried rice and vegetable curry, please.
Waiter: That's tomato soup, roast beef, boiled potatoes, chicken soup, mixed fried rice and vegetable curry. Anything to drink?
Mohsen: For me any soft drink will do.
Waiter: Yes, sir. We have a whole range of soft drinks.
Mohsen: (looks up at the menu card) Let me have a bottle of pineapple juice, please.
Waiter: Very well, sir. (Looking at Asad) What about you, sir?
Asad: Hummm..... Just water. I'll have coffee with my dessert.
Waiter: Thank you. I'll be back in a minute.

Points to Remember..

- Notice that the verb in the sentence "I'll have" is **have**, not **take** or **eat**.
- Anything to drink?** Notice that the subject and verb are omitted. The question is "understood" to mean something like:
Do you want anything to drink?
Would you like anything to drink?
Will you have anything to drink?
- Hummm...** is a pause sound, used while the speaker is thinking of what he wants to say.
- Just water:** Notice that the expression omits the subject and the verb. What he wants to say is: **I'll just have water to drink.**
- I'll have coffee:** Notice again that the verb in this expression is **have** (not **take** or **drink**) Other examples are; **I'll have tea, milk, a piece of cake, etc.**

II. How to say it correctly?

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

- Credit this sum in my name.
- We should always be true to our words
- I have read these poetries
- Such phenomenon has never been seen before.
- Some of the guests were sitting on the ground of the room.

Answers to the last week's quiz:

- There is no **room** for you on this bench.
 Note: Room in the above sentence means "space".
- The **scenery** of Mahweet is beautiful.
- The police have arrested the thief.
- The wages of sin is death.
 Note: "Wages" here means punishment and not "charges for labour"
- The **climate** of Sana'a suits me.
 Note: "Weather" refers to the conditions over a particular area at a specific time with reference to sunshine, temperature, wind, rain, etc. The "climate" of a place is the typical weather condition of that place.

III. How to express it in one word?

- One who loves and works for his fellowman.
- One who hates mankind.
- One who lives on vegetables.
- One who has belief in the existence of God.
- One who has no belief in the existence of God.

Answers to the last week's quiz:

- Beyond making a mistake- **Infalible**
- One who eats human flesh- **Cannibal**
- One who looks at the dark side of things- **Pessimist**
- One who looks at the bright side of things- **Optimist**
- Not being able to be selected or elected under the rules- **Ineligible**

IV. How to spell it correctly?

Tick the correct spelling from the alternatives given below:

- agrimment, aggrement, agreement, agriement
- alon, alone, allone, alonne
- already, allready, alreedy, alreddy
- alow, alaue, allow
- although, althrough, althrough

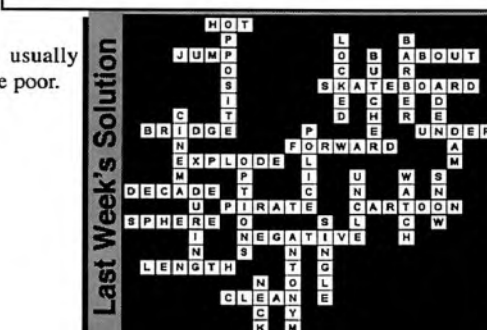
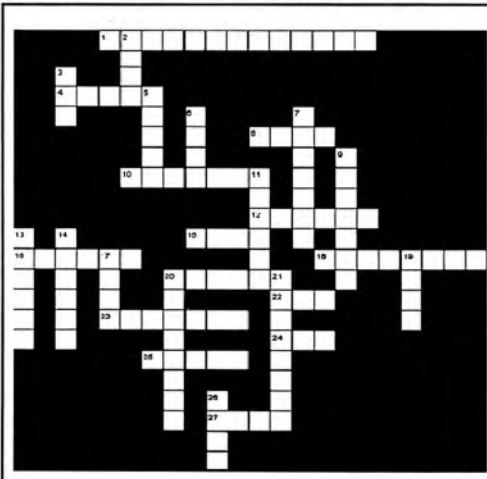
Answers to the last week's quiz:

absent, accident, admire, afraid, again
 V. Quotable Quote
 "United we stand, divided we fall"
 "Self-help is the best help"

Crossword Puzzle

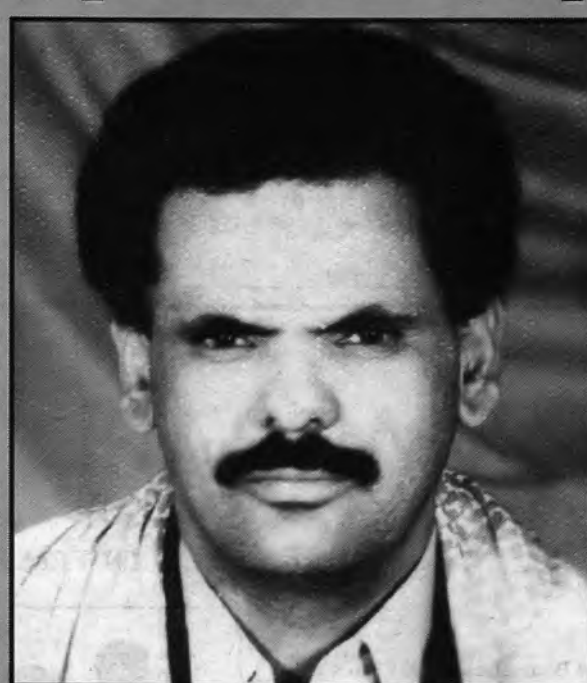
Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

- Across Clues:
- Opposite of appropriate.
 - The side of your face below your eyes.
 - This is strong. It will even stick plastic to wood.
 - I went to the to fix my filling that fell out.
 - Any creatures with six legs, wings and a body divided into sections.
 - The part of an animal, bird or fish that sticks out behind its body.
 - I saw the white..... in the blue sky.
 - He fell down while he was a mountain. Then, he died.
 - A tool used for gripping, bending or cutting wires etc.
 - Our school is too far so our father takes us on his
 - It is out-side. If we go our we will get wet.
 - Fish live in the
 - The planet we live in.
 - We walk using our
 - Down Clues:
 - Do not stick your..... in this matter.
 - Frozen water.
 - She stabbed him with a sharp
 - The sun rises from the
 - A wife of a duke, or a woman of the same rank.
 - The criminals ran away before the police could catch them.
 - A person who cuts and makes suits, overcoats etc.
 - He is still a student. He goes to everyday.
 - A person who is trained to treat ill people.
 - A large flat piece of wood that closes the entrance of a room, house etc.
 - A number of printed or blank sheets of paper bound together.
 - A five-sided shape.
 - A cutting instrument with two blades.
 - In R h a m a d a n Muslims usually pay..... to the poor.



Our Campus: Retrospect and Prospect

A college is the nucleus for educational development. It is the cradle for harnessing the massive human resources to meet the challenges of the future. The dean of the college is its pivot, the chief anchor of its present promise and the principal architect of its future enrichment. The health of the campus is concomitant with the prosperity of the nation. How efficiently and well are our educational campuses fulfilling the avowed objectives and discharging their responsibility in preparing the youths as potential stake holders for the future? What are some of the constraints that may be retarding their progress? What remains to be done for their nourishment?



future?
 AN: We are looking forward to seeing more colleges established in the surrounding areas in the future. Let us hope that this college represents the first step for a new University in Mahweet.

RKS: In general, students in Yemen seem to have poor reading habits. What do you envisage to improve the library facilities in the college that may lead to promoting the students' reading skills?
 AN: Yes, I agree with you. Unfortunately, Yemeni students, in

In our new monthly feature titled "Our Campus: Retrospect and Prospect," we will endeavor to put the spotlight on the premier educational institutions to try and understand their agenda for the future.

To start with, we focus on the College of Education, Mahweet. Dr. Ramakanta Sahu, Anchor for Education Supplement, Yemen Times had the privilege of an intimate dialogue with Dr. Abdullah An-Najjar, Professor of Education and Dean of the college.

Dr. Abdullah is an eminent educator, a leading thinker, a widely known and respected philanthropist as well as a multifaceted personality, who has, since the inception of the college, made sustained efforts to spread the light of education in the governorate of Mahweet.

RKS: Dr. Abdullah, You have been closely associated with the college of Education at Mahweet right from its inception. Rightly, you are the founding father of the college. Could you please tell our readers a brief history of the college?

AN: The College of Education in Mahweet was established in late 1992. When started, in its first aca-

ademic year, 92-93, there were four academic departments: Islamic Studies, English, History and Philosophy with more than 500 students, but without any permanent staff members. However, from 1992 until now, the college has grown considerably to include 7 academic departments, a total enrollment of 1500 students and more than 30 permanent staff members.

RKS: What are some of the major shortcomings or limitations in the college and how do you propose to overcome them?

AN: This college started from scratch, from nothing. Initially, there were only a few empty rooms in the building which was to be the college of education. With strong will and determination, we were able to overcome the major difficulties. It was a challenge, to be or not to be. Now, there are some achievements that make us feel proud. Some of these achievements are the small library, the computer lab, the physics lab, and the new building. In addition to these, the college is now self-sufficient in terms of the teaching staff.

RKS: What are your plans for the future expansion of the Faculty of Education? Do you, for example, plan to open a post-graduate department in the foreseeable

general, don't read that much. Moreover, I could say that the majority of Yemeni high school graduates would not have read even a single book out of the school curriculum. This is a very serious problem which the Ministry of Education and Educational Research Centers must do something about. When the students come to the universities, it might be too late to develop their reading habits. All the college could do with a view to promoting students' proficiency in reading skills is to provide collections of good reading materials and books, also to let the students engage themselves in small scale classroom oriented pedagogic research and write term papers during the college years.

RKS: Do you have any other comments or advice to offer for the benefit of students?

AN: I thank the Yemen Times very much for giving me this opportunity. And all I can say to our dear students in Yemeni Universities is, "Please read, read and read. There is nothing which makes a person educated and cultured in the true sense of the term except reading, not only prescribed textbooks, but all kinds of material in all fields of knowledge."

RKS: On behalf of the Yemen Times and on my personal behalf, I thank you, sir, for your illuminating views.

any compliment of defensive words, I have heard so many students everywhere thanking him, satisfied with his methods of teaching. Moreover, he weekly squeezes his brain to give us some more information and knowledge. As a testimony we see this through his invaluable lessons through the Yemen Times educational page. How much we owe him!

I do not say that there is not any of his kind in our country. There are some who actually need to polish their skills and show their merits. Finally, we highly appreciate efforts of such kind and we send our best regards to all the staff of Yemen Times who are working relentlessly to make the paper distinctive.

Faql Ahmad Abbas Ghazi
 Arhab Education College

What is Democracy?

Democracy is a great experience. Unfortunately, in backward countries it has a lot of contradictions. It can not be established overnight. In fact, it needs so many things to be achieved. It really takes a lot of time and effort to deepen its roots and to raise it to the best level.

Democracy gives us a chance to learn from other experiences of democracies and benefit from their failure and success to achieve progress. It also gives us a chance to exchange views with others to overcome problems or crises facing us in life. Moreover, it gives political parties the freedom to exercise their political rights guaranteed by law and the constitution.

Democracy, in other words, is a modern type of social behavior that should be enhanced until it becomes part of people's lives.

Yemen, in its democratic course, has been highly appreciated by other democracies in the world. So we can proudly say that it is now on the right course. However, democracy is sometimes no more than ink on paper and decorated slogans. Wrong and negative practices may change this dream into a nightmare. The real ingredients of democracy are still absent. For example, the peaceful transfer of power has not been experienced. This is mainly because we misunderstand the concept of democracy.

What is democracy?
 Democracy, in fact, is the peaceful transfer of power between government and opposition. It is encouraging people's participation in making political decisions and respecting other opinions in the society.

The absence of these ingredients has actually tarnished the image of democracy in Yemen and turned it into a joke, because there can not be democracy without respecting the opposition.

Tariq Al-Sharabi

Students' Dilemma

Colleges and universities in Yemen seem to be full of students whose future is not secure. Why can't they consider a variety of career options by which they can earn their living, and insure the life of their children instead of feeling unnecessarily frustrated.

It is a fact that seeking knowledge is urgently needed for both men and women. We acknowledge this fact, while encouraging our children to get educated. Have we thought once about their destiny and the problems they will face? Well, what is your opinion when students study twelve years to complete their high school? Then, men have to face the problem of performing or delaying the military service. After that they enroll themselves in colleges and undergo all procedures of matriculation. They study for at least four years in the college. During this period they spend all nights until the day they graduate dreaming of a promising future. However, can you imagine the extent of the catastrophe when they graduate having certificates, but are unable to find jobs? It looks rather disappointing, doesn't it?

I might add that I am not projecting our personal hopes. On the contrary, I always like to be optimistic all the time.

In conclusion, it would undoubtedly be wise for the government to take care of those students, and pay them some attention. Unless this is done, their future will be in jeopardy.

Mohammed Ali Ahmad Al-Agabi
 Second Level, Eng. Dept.
 College of Education Mahweet

YOUTH FORUM

The Valve of Tears
 At the beach, on the golden sand,
 The crazy waves beat the black rocks,
 There, falls a tear,
 On a black rock, looking around,
 It was sad, warm and alone,
 Again falls a tear,
 On a white rock, looking around,
 Why are you here my old companion,
 Replied the tear,
 It is the sigh that invited me here,
 It is my darling's pensive eyes which poured me,
 She loved a youth with all her heart,
 But, alas! my poor girl,
 She could not win him,
 So, she sought my shelter,
 But what bring you here, dear?

Oh, the mute witness to her craving for him,
 For the cruelest he,
 I'm here to bring balm to her,
 Give her solace and kindle her hope,
 Nabilah Abdullah

Dear Editor,
 There are so many candles in our society, but some of them are distinguished. You can rarely find the few that give us their warmth and light. To make it clear, here in Yemen, whether native or foreign, there are many intellectuals who are like wax. They burn themselves for the sake of others. They are very active, do their best to invent new things for our sake and interest.
 One of this kind of people is the famous, loveable Dr. Ramakanta Sahu. Although he is here for only two years, he has achieved much and made distinct signs. How? Without

Bringing Cultures Closer with a Brush

Henna Khan is a 19 year-old Pakistani girl living in Sana'a with her family. She is the elder daughter of the Pakistani Consul to Yemen. Henna is among the most talented painters that this newspaper has ever encountered. Despite the fact that she is young, and did not come out with an international painting exhibition, her paintings reflect a promising future for her artistic career.



With her desire to get Yemeni and Pakistani cultures closer to each other, she focuses on Yemeni life in many of her paintings. About how she started painting and why she was able to paint Yemeni life styles and cultures, she said, "I started painting when I was sixteen years old, and now I feel that I am addicted to painting as a hobby. Until now I have painted 40 paintings to a high standard."

Drawing and painting takes a lot of concentration and time to complete, but once it is complete and admired by others, one feels the effort was not wasted. On the types of



Artist Henna Khan

painting she explained, "My paintings are basically portraits, landscapes and horses of several cultures, including Yemeni, Pakistani, and Indian cultures." One of her best works is a painting of a Tihama girl with her brother on a donkey. She says, "I have a lot of new



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works in Yemen, which I want people to see through this sole exhibition." Pakistan and Yemen enjoy a special relationship, but it is yet more refreshing to see that talented people from either country are willing to get the countries together through their paintings.

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