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BORDER VERDICT

The Chairman of The Hague-based International Arbitration Tribunal between Yemen and Eritrea announced in London on Friday the final ruling pertaining to the delineation of maritime boundaries between our country and Eritrea. The documents on the International arbitration were received for our country by Dr Hussein Al-Amri, Yemen's ambassador to Britain.

Yemeni Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Mohammed Al-Saidi has confirmed that the decision represents a culmination of a great diplomatic effort and an important historic development in political, diplomatic and civilizational relations between two neighboring countries. They have given an impressive example for all countries and civilized communities that respect international legitimacy and regional legitimacy to use a non-military option in solving disputes. He added that this historic event in itself represents a way that should be followed for resolving Arab,

regional and international disputes. According to the court's decision, the boundary will be split down the middle, starting from each country's mainland shore, although Yemen had said its maritime boundaries should begin at Hanish Island.

The recent International court decision has defined each country's fishing rights. It allows Eritrean fishermen to continue using the disputed islands for repairing boats and drying fish.

The dispute between Yemen and Eritrea over sovereignty over the Red Sea Islands had led to clashes between the two countries in 1996. The two countries then agreed to let the International Court in The Hague decide their dispute over the said islands. The first stage of the Court's ruling gave Yemen the right to sovereignty over Hanish and several of the islands.

For more details please read the Yemen Times interview with the Yemeni vice minister of foreign affairs on page 11.



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Demand by Port Workers to Be Met by the Government

More than 20,000 workers and employees at Yemeni ports called off a widespread general strike which they had announced on Monday December 13, 1999. They were demanding an increase in their salaries, and after negotiation they resumed their work on Wednesday 15, 1999. The move to end the strike came in response to a decision made by the Yemeni council

of ministers Tuesday which stipulated granting of an 80% increase in salaries of the port workers and employees. The workers decision of ending the strike also came in response to some earlier assurances to them by the minister of transport, who had promised to consider their demands.

Continued on Page 2

Yemen Calls for an Arab Summit

Yemen's permanent representative at the Arab League, Ambassador Ahmad Lokman, has pointed out the importance of convincing the Arab Summit to discuss the current problems in the region and confront the new regional and international challenges.

On Thursday, December 16, Yemen reiterated its call for holding an Arab summit with the aim

of achieving the Arab solidarity which Yemen aspires towards. Following a meeting and discussions with the Arab League Secretary General, Dr. Esmat Abdul Majeed, the Yemeni delegate, said the call for holding the summit had become an urgent Arab demand. He expressed his hope that Egypt would actively contribute to preparations for holding the summit.

Celebrating the Third Millennium With YT Style

Despite the fact that we are quickly approaching the 21st century and are about to enter a new millennium, the excitement among Yemenis is practically nonexistent. Yemen Times is going to try to bring some attention to the importance of the turn of the millennium through the THIRD MILLENNIUM COMPETITION. Through the competition, Yemen Times will bring more anticipation of and appreciation for the occasion in Yemen. The competition, which will last at least 4 weeks, will begin on the 3rd of January 2000. The competition is sponsored by a number of prominent companies and establishments. The interesting thing about the competition is that the winner will receive the biggest cash prize this newspaper has ever given. The first prize will be one million rials in cash, and will be delivered in a ceremony that will be held at the beginning of the year. There will be an intense campaign for the competition on TV and through banners and posters. The sponsors will be given top priority in their color ads and will be mentioned in the posters and in the TV commercial designed for the competition. As soon as we published information about the competition in last week's issue, we received hundreds of calls from people wanting to participate and companies willing to sponsor the event. In the end, we are glad that we will be making a difference in this turn of the century.

Electricity Blackouts in Sanaa Disrupt Ramadhan Nights

SANAA: Since the start of Ramadhan, power failures have become a daily problem that have frustrated and dismayed the residents of the Capital. In some neighborhoods in the capital, such as the Al-Asbahi Complex, electricity blackouts may last up to 2 to 5 hours per day. The situation is worst when the blackouts happen at night, just when families gather around their dinner tables. "Just as we are just to break our fast, we were surprised to find the whole neighborhood out of electricity. It was not only the timing of the incident, but the fact that the blackout continued for 3 consecutive hours. This is ruining the beauty of Ramadhan nights. It is interesting that while we are less than two weeks from the 21st century, our country seems to be returning to the dark ages," a frustrated citizen complained.

Saudi Press Barrage Continues

The tension and strain in relations between Yemen and Saudi Arabia has increased these days, especially after some military confrontations took place between the two sides in Al-Aber area, located in Hadramout governorate, upon the Saudi attempts to capture new sites.

Political sources said that it is a likelihood that matters dealt with by the committees would be complicated, especially after Dr. Abdul Karim Al-Aryani, chairman of the Cabinet, sent a message to Saudi officials last week in which he condemned the committees of not really being serious about carrying out any of their tasks over the past four years. The first response to Dr. Al-Aryani's letter has been a heavy press barrage on Dr. Al-Aryani, condemning him for impairing relations between the two neighboring countries.

Al-Gazirah newspaper in its editorial said that what is being said by Dr. Al-Aryani was not correct, and that there are some Saudi officials who approve of what has been accomplished by the committees to specify the borders.

Another press barrage against some opposition newspapers was also conducted by the same newspaper, upon publishing pieces of news that were to be found damaging to Saudi-Yemeni relations by the Saudi authorities.

At another level, on a press conference held Saturday evening his Excellency Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, minister of defense talked about this issue and said that "This is just a cloud that is agitated by you and your brother 'journalists,' both in Yemen or Saudi Arabia. What we hope is that the newspapers in both countries remain calm and hold fast to our ties to the benefit of both countries." Continued on page 2

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Words of Wisdom

"During Ramadhan, people accept an austere lifestyle, though some could afford better. Ramadhan is a time to mend fences and to let by-gones be by-gones. It is a time for reconciliation and forgiveness, In short, people are supposed to be more selfless."

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



In Brief

Longest Saudi Carrier Lands in Aden Port

A longest and deepest Carrier landed at Aden Port. It is called (Saudi-Abha), came from Jedah Port. It is 249 meters long, and 10 meters deep. It carries 2540 tons of rolls. The ship unloaded 1241 rolls for one of the Yemeni companies. It has been noted that Saudi-Abha Carrier chose Aden Port to unload its cargo because of the depth and roundness of the Port which enable it to receive inter-oceanic and international giant carriers. Aden Containers Port has witnessed continuous activities since the beginning of March 19, 99. The number of ships and carriers up to the end of October, 99 is about 134. They unloaded 47873 Containers.

Statistics indicate that incomes of fees in Aden Port kept in increase since March, 99. For example, in March 99 it was (YR 11,450,191), while in October it accounted to (YR 990,315,532).

Mediators ended the Tension

Mediators solved the conflict between Abidda and Dawla tribes. They gave a month as an armistice. The fighting between the two tribes continued for three days till the military forces intervened in that battle. Different heavy weapons were used in the battle. Four persons were killed, and two persons were injured. This battle was caused by the killing of the son of sheik Ahmed Bin Shwdaq in some military stations. Abiddah tribe requested to extradite those who killed the son of sheik. In addition, a car of some citizen was flamed in the battle, and two drivers were also injured. The military forces raised the ban on carrying weapons in the governorate of Mareb.

New Decision of the Government

A reliable resource of the General Syndicate for Transportation and Communication expected that the syndicate will work in the decision of the government issued last Tuesday, which included raising salaries of port employees. He pointed out that the syndicate was informed on this decision, approved by the Cabinet on Tuesday December 14, 99 by the Minister of Transportation. The salary will raise by 80%. The syndicate expressed its happiness towards this decision. This decision came at the same time where there were orders to organize a strike. The demands of the laborers concentrated on raising their salaries and getting

other privileges.

\$ 30 million Grant

The Yemeni government received a grant of \$ 30 million from the Spanish government. About \$18 million was allocated to the fourth energy project (A). The other \$12 million of this grant was allocated to the Al-Sadah electricity project in Ibb governorate. It is crucial that the sum allocated to this project will cover around 70% of the costs of the electricity project in Al-Sadah. The Yemeni government has asserted during the meetings of the organization of the Economic Cooperation and development of the Donor Countries in France recently that it makes the best use of the loans received. Measures to deliver some parts of the loan will set off at the beginning of the coming year.

New Antiquities Discovered in Abian

A number of antiquities were discovered in an archeological site in Abian. Some of these antiquities date back to the middle ages. Reports say the antiquities found by a citizen in Abian are of stone in the form of a slaughtered camel, a safe that is covered with a sugar-like material and that there is a one-meter nail. The nail takes the form of a ruler and contains some writings that resemble Hebrew, however, the nail was stolen as soon as news about the antiquities was out. Among the antiquities discovered is an eight-meter Hebrew writings drawn on a mountain and some signs of horses that are said to date back to the period before the middle ages.

Manufacturers and Businessmen Express Deep Concern

Businessmen and manufacturers centers express their deep concern from some economic changes that may take place in the industrial production in the coming year. These concerns were raised due to the government intention to increase the basis for the general taxes through sale taxes that is expected to be applied to manufacturers and revenues at a rate not less than 10%. Some manufacturers centers state that applying the law of sale taxes passed recently by the government will increase the prices of products and services which will certainly cause great damage to the local industry. These taxes will be applied first to wholesale and retail business and then they will be applied to those products sold to

customers.

And as these taxes will be applied to services, therefore experts assert that a social turmoil may happen as a result of this as the increase of prices will directly affect all sections of the society especially those of limited income.

New Activity of Aden-Abyan Islamic Army

Some news mentioned that Aden-Abyan Islamic Army established a camp on the mountains of Maragisha. They are supported by some of the tribal groups, and control military forces in the country. Press resources in Abyan said that sheik Tariq Al-

Fadli supports the Islamic Party, after they cut their relation with Abo Al-Hassan Group.

Sheikh Faisal Gezeilan's house still surrounded

Sheikh Faisal Gezeilan's house is still surrounded by military forces which attacked it twenty days ago. During the attack, Sheikh Gezeilan could fled the area to an unknown place. It is worth mentioning that Gezeilan kidnapped a French family four weeks ago to force the government to improve his position like others who were accused of political murders.

Continued from page 1:

Demand by Port Workers to Be Met by the Government

The council of ministers had its weekly meeting on Tuesday December 14, at which it approved a motion to grant workers and employees at the Yemeni ports an 80% increase in their salaries. The minister of transport Abdulmalik Alsiyani said the 80% increase approved by the council of ministers was to be considered a victory for workers rights. Mr Saleh Mohammed Al-Alwani chairman of transport and communications trade union said he had been informed by the minister of transport of the cabinet decision to increase wages, adding that when the workers receives the increase it

should have a good effect on their performance at work. He added that he considers this an accomplishment for the workers, and a display of understanding on the part of the council of ministers and the minister of transport of the difficult living conditions of these workers and employees. Mr Al-Alwani offered his thanks to the governor of Aden and the deputy assistant of political security for the patriotic and humane roles they played in reaching this solution. He also thanked the chairman of the General of the Federation of Trade Unions for following up the issues with the official authorities in the capital.

Continued from page one

Saudi Press Barrage Continues

At another level, a Yemeni official said that the current violent campaign conducted by some Saudi newspapers against Yemen will do nothing but negatively affect relations and interests between the two brotherly countries, unless officials in the two countries work together to retrieve the best that may brought about as a result of this campaign. The attacks seem to lack objectivity and reason, to the extent that they are offending Yemen, its people, its parties and its newspapers. If the Yemeni newspapers talk about the borders issue freely and openly, - which the Saudis do not approve of - we find that this comes as a clear result of the democratic atmosphere and freedom of expression that is allowed to the Yemeni newspapers. The Saudis should have both realized and appreciated this. It is worth mentioning that there is a special law that specifies how these newspapers work, pointing out their duties as well as their limits.

It is something promising that the Saudi newspapers can talk in such an atmosphere of freedom even though there are not any rules to control and regulate this. However, if the borders issue is the only incentive for these violent cam-

paigns, then why do not we apply reason to solve this problem, rather than applying a one sided vision and fighting against each other? It is then reasonable that discussions and negotiations should be the basis for deciding any controversial issue among brothers. There should never be exaggeration or falsification of the facts or arguments, or attempts to make everything into a political battle. So we feel that it is urgent to draw the attention of those who offended Yemen, its people, leadership, parties and its democratic system to the fact that when we do not respond to such offenses, this doesn't mean that we are not able to do so, but it rather means that we really do respect relations and do not get involved in pointless one sided disputes. This is done out of our strong belief in not interfering with other people's affairs. We do hope that what has happened was just a "cloud," as it was described by his Excellency Sultan bin Abdul Aziz when he commented about what has been published by these newspapers. We also hope that the commitment to keep good relations between these two brotherly countries is as strong and healthy as it may be.

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Editorial

Walid Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf
Chief Editor

It is Not Late to Build an Infrastructure for Sanaa

A city in general is the most modern and well-organized part of any country. Every city in the world must have a strong infrastructure that can withstand population growth and increases in trade with modern transportation facilities such as railroads, trams, good roads, etc.. However, when we come to the capital of Yemen, we realize something that is truly upsetting. Sanaa is among the few capitals in the world without a true infrastructure. It is even worse to see that our government is not planning ways to build up an infrastructure for their capital.

Since the revolution in 1963, Sanaa has continuously gained importance through the years. The expansion in the city is quite amazing. All Yemenis who have witnessed this expansion realize that the city is truly in a process of rapid growth which requires a lot of attention. Except for a few housing complexes, the expansion has been a serious of random construction of housing complexes and roads, which have hardly been planned at all. The price the country is paying for this random construction is quite high, but it is getting worse everyday. One cannot deny that Sanaa city is built upon no infrastructure. The scene of workers destroying the sidewalk and digging deep through it to install a sewage/water or electricity/phone system for a house or two is a common scene even in neighborhoods in the capital which are known for their high class residents.

One visit to Hayel -now Riyadh- Street would show the extent of carelessness and mismanagement that has been reached in regards to construction and cleanliness. The airport is another issue. Where does a first-time visitor to Yemen get his first impression of the country? It is at the airport. Unfortunately, what a first timer receives at the airport is the stinking smell from the huge open sewage lake in the Rowdha region. It has become a symbol of the absence of an infrastructure and design in Sanaa City.

However, it is not too late to build an infrastructure for the generations of the 21st century. In fact it would be easier now to build the infrastructure than to do it after tens of years, simply because the population is increasing and construction needs are intensifying. The city is in dire need of an organized system of water supply, electricity, sewage, and telephones. We need to realize that it will one day be impossible to achieve what is achievable today.

It is time that our government concentrates on building a structure that will be safe to build on for tens of years to come. Look at Beirut of Lebanon. Who could have thought that it could one day have such a modern structure such as the one that has been built during the last several years? It was costly and difficult, but it was worthwhile, as the construction is in full swing with no fear of any sewage leakage, water shortage, or electrical blackouts.

I hope that our government will think seriously about this issue, as I believe that if they ignore this issue further, they will only be causing a lot of suffering for future generations, who will be faced with a situation where building an infrastructure will be impossible!

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Yemeni Press Scanner

AL-U'ROOBAH Nasserites

Cabinet Reshuffle Expected. Possibility of a First Female Minister. Informal sources report that signs of a cabinet reshuffle are culminating. It is expected that new blood will be pumped into the government. Our sources confirm that some current ministers may continue in their ministries, while others might exchange posts with other ministers. Other ministers might leave the government and gain membership in the Consultative Council, in a bid to modify the structure of the council and expand its membership. The sources indicated that a lady might be nominated as minister for social affairs in the next government. The leadership of Yemen is keen to show that it is pushing towards a quantitative change in the course of social motion. President Saleh wants to provide the women of Yemen with a high rank that conforms to the government's generally declared policies. From another angle, final moves are being made to effectuate a political desire for a wide range of change that might involve ambassadors and governors in addition to public authorities and corporations. The move is considered a step in the implementation of the election program of President Saleh, since he was reelected last September.

AL-SHUMOA' Independent

The elevator at the Ministry of Finance: All over the world, elevators are used in public buildings for the use of the general public, especially old or handicapped people, and they are not to be monopolized by any person. It is really peculiar that the elevator at the Ministry of Finance is reserved almost exclusively for use only by the minister and those near him. The elevator is programmed to stop at certain stories only, and is only available during predetermined periods of time. Inquiries:

- It is rumored that the Minister acquired a flat priced at 1 million Egyptian Pounds by the Mako Company. It is up to the Minister to confirm or deny it.

- It is also rumored that the real reason why the Minister halted the implementation of the agreement is that the Company delayed delivering the keys of the said flat.

- It is also rumored that contracts signed by the Minister by direct order from Mako Company totaled \$4 million.

Well, these are just rumors, and aren't intended to offend or defame the Minister, but we are still seeking the truth, especially after the rate of decrease in prices that was achieved by the Minister after he discovered that the prices were too high.

It seems to us from examining tables that there is a big difference between prices in this deal for transformers bought by the Ministry, costing up to \$440,000, compared to the market price of the same - or even better - transformers. It is a question the Minister shall be wise to answer. Also, where did the difference in price go? This isn't an attempt to defame the Minister, but we want to uncover the truth which he might not be aware of. If he isn't aware it is disaster, but if he is, isn't it a worse disaster?

AL-EHYA'A AL-ARABI Baath Party

Armed Clashes between Abidah and the Army

Seven people were killed and many injured in armed clashes between the tribe of Abidah and Government forces camping in Governorate last Friday. The cause of the clashes, in which several light and medium arms were used, was a dispute between a son of Sheikh Hamad Bin Shawdaq and soldiers of a military check point near the Government building on the Sana'a-

Harib-Mareb highway.

Sources reported that the dispute developed into a confrontation in which the son of bin Shawdaq was killed. As a result, members of the Abidah tribe attacked the checkpoint and the government building from 7p.m. until next morning. Six soldiers were killed in the clashes.

Family Dispute Develops into A Crime

A dispute arose last week at Yahar, Lahj Governorate between a man and his son in law because the daughter refused to return to the marital house. The dispute developed into a clash in which the father shot and killed his son in-law at the spot and injured another who was moved to hospital. The culprit fled to the nearby mountains but was arrested the next day. His daughter, the widow, was arrested in a special prison for females when her father fled, but wasn't released when he was arrested.



RAY Sons of Yemen League

Authorities compensate Aden-Abyan Army

'Al-Khaleej' of the U.A. Emirates reports that influential persons are currently involved in talks with leaders of the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army with the aim of arranging their state of affairs in return for abandoning their armed activities in the country. The newspaper which quoted didn't name the mediators between the authorities and the leadership of the prohibited army. They did say that they belong to the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (the Islah Party), and succeeded in bringing closer together the positions of both parties. The authorities have apparently promised to pay compensations for damages and losses that were inflicted on the said army and its members during and because of the kidnapping of foreign tourists in Abyan Governorate.

Technical and Financial Violations were Behind a Suicide

Informed sources in Sana'a have linked the suicide incident by Mr. Daniel Davis, Director of the American Cultural Center 'Amideast' in Aden, to the discovery of a number of violations at the center. Sources add that a high 'Amideast' official arrived last July from Washington and initiated an investigation about the center after rumors were heard regarding violations, especially the lack of a sound fellowship awarding criteria. It was also heard that bribes and patronage were the reason behind the deprivation of many who qualified for fellowships but didn't receive them. Mr. Davis shot himself on his head Friday night. As of late yesterday, Amideast had still issued no statement on the incident.

A Bad Situation for Human Rights in Yemen

The Yemeni Organization for Defending Human Right and Democratic Liberties said in a statement issued on the annual Anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights that Human Rights in Yemen are currently in their worst ever condition in Yemen. Qadhi Hamud al-Hittar, Chairman for the Yemeni Organization for Human Rights said that Human Rights in Yemen are theoretically much better than in many countries; but there is a big difference between theory and practical life. The Yemeni Organization for Defending Human Rights said that freedom of expression and opinion is nearly gone.



AL-RA'Y AL-A'AM Independent

Corrupted Seek the Closure of Al-Ra'y al-A'm

Some corrupt yet highly influential circles both in and out of the government are seeking to close Al-Ra'y al-A'm by sending petitions to the President. These petitions are loaded with signatures and names of many people who have no idea that their names and signatures are on these

petitions.

These corrupt circles are trying this because they began to lose hope of getting a court ruling to close the newspaper.

Legal and media sources described the new efforts and petitions as outdated, and not conforming with a society ruled by law and order. They described these efforts as 'reflecting the dark side of sick personalities that can not differentiate between right and wrong.'

Mukalla Qat Tax Revenue, Where Do They Go?

Tax Department Mukalla representative distributes free bundles of qat to some security officials and directors of Mukalla government offices. The bundles of distributed qat are taxed from qat traders in addition to 140,000 Rials per qat carrying vehicle. Normally six such vehicles make a daily trip to Mukalla.

Are these amounts of revenue reaching government accounts, or getting distributed like the qat bundles?

AL-TAREEQ Independent

Measles at al-Mahra Governorate

A major outbreak of measles has occurred in al-Mahra Governorate. The spread of the disease is allowed by the lack of periodical vaccines. Al-Tareeq sources report that this disease spread of late because the governorate lacks a network of roads and the necessary budget to fight the disease. As a result, tens of children in Mahra might die because of the disease.

Al-Mahra Governorate is in great need of nursing services and a complete team to survey and fight all cases.

A New Hotel for Tourists in al-Mahra

Last week witnessed the opening by the Governor of al-Mahra of a new hotel. 'Bin Yamani Hotel' is an investment by a Mahri businessman, Mr. Abdulla Mohammed bin Yamani. The hotel consists of 16 suits, 49 rooms, a restaurant and rest halls. Total costs was around 120 million rials. Al-Ghaidhah town, the capital of Mahra Governorate, is witnessing rapid development through major investments from Mahri people abroad.



Al-Wahdawi People's Nasserites,

Read this when Fasting Day Ends only

While NASA scientists were working very hard last week, looking for their space vehicle which was lost after landing on Mars, our great scholars were busy issuing a statement that they had seen the new moon of Ramadhan by their own eyes, despite the fact that the new moon at the claimed time of seeing wasn't yet born. Despite this fact, our great scientists were able to see it before it was born. This is due to a favor and blessing on God our country and especially on its scientists.

Shall the overweening American scientists give up some of their pride and seek help from our scientists in finding their lost vehicle, an easy job because the lost vehicle is a reality on Mars. Our scientists are so efficient and observant that they are capable of seeing more than Christians and unbelievers can by their material means, and they know far more than the superstitious mathematical equations which forecast the path a new moon shall take.

26TH SEPTEMBER Armed Forces Journal

German Minister of Cooperation in Sana'a next January

The German Minister for Development and Economic cooperation will pay an official visit to Yemen in January.

The German Minister shall hold talks with the Minister of Planning, Mr. Ahmed Sufan, on reviewing cooperation in many areas. Vital projects in sewage, health and technical training

shall be studied. The German Minister is expected to hold talks with many high officials and visit the development programs which are financed by Germany.

Yemen Welcomes the Resumption of Syrian-Israeli Peace Talks

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs high official welcomed in a statement to 26th September Newspaper the resumption of peace talks between Syria and Israel.

He said that the position of Yemen always supported a comprehensive and just peace, which should return all legitimate Arab rights.

He also renewed the frank and open support of Yemen of the position taken by Syria and its effort to establish a just peace and gain back the Golan Heights and all Arab occupied territories. He also indicated that the Arab League and all Arab countries should support Syria. He added that efforts should be renewed after the Lesser Bairam for convening the Arab summit which was called for by Yemen, Egypt and the U.A. Emirates.



AL-UMMAH Al-Haq Party

A New 'Jihad' Camp at Maraqishah: Reports from Abyan Governorate say that the Aden-Abyan Islamic Army group, under the leadership of two persons: Al-Ra'wi and Ibn Layl who are close to Sheikh Tareq al-Fadhli, has established a new military camp at al-Maraqishah, Abyan Governorate. High-ranking military and tribal leaders support the group in this endeavor.

Some Abyan sources reported Sheikh Tareq is providing all kinds of support to the group, which left the group led by the late Abu al-Hasan al-Mihdhar who was sentenced to death and executed for his part in the taking and killing of the hostages in Abyan.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

WASHINGTON

Israeli-Syrian Talks Continue

As peace talks resume between Israel and Syria over control of the Golan Heights, attention focuses on families caught in the middle, literally straddling a border that separates traditional enemies.

All the parties involved remain silent on the details of the peace talks conducted between Syria and Israel in Washington over the past three days, but several sources are reporting that it is likely the work towards a lasting accord will continue in the New Year.

IRAQ

Iraq rebuffs U.N. arms inspections resolution

Iraq on Saturday formally rejected a new U.N. resolution that calls for weapons inspectors to return to the country and for suspension of sanctions if Iraq cooperates with those inspectors.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Iraq is "ready to face all of the consequences." The resolution passed 11-0 in a vote on Friday at U.N. headquarters in New York. Russia, France, China and Malaysia abstained.

RUSSIA

Russians go to the polls while Claiming peace in Grozny

More than 100 million voters across the vast expanses of Russia went to the polls to elect new lawmakers Sunday in balloting expected to gauge the strength of possible successors to President Boris Yeltsin. The Communists are expected to win the largest bloc of votes in the State Duma, the country's 450-seat legislative body, as balloting stretched across the country's 11 time zones. The polls close at 1800 GMT Sunday. On the other hand, Russian officials said on Saturday that their forces have virtually taken control of a district in the Chechen capital Grozny, while Chechen rebels claim to have pushed back a Russian attack on a strategic hill.

"The district is practically under the control of federal forces," a Russian defense ministry spokesman told Reuters. He was responding to a question after Russia's NTV television reported that Moscow's forces had seized the Chernorechiye section of southwest Grozny.

MACAU

Jiang arrives for Macau handover

Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrived in Macau on Sunday to bring the Portuguese colony back under China's flag as the colony's police arrested dozens of members of the banned Falun Gong meditation sect. The protests by the Falun Gong movement — banned on the Chinese mainland — threatened to overshadow the handover ceremony, which will end centuries of European colonial rule in China. On the other hand, Falun Gong Kicked Out Of Macau Ahead Of Handover Six members of the banned Falun Gong spiritual movement claimed today they had been expelled from Macau.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lankan leader urges calm after bombings

President Chandrika Kumaratunga has survived an assassination attempt and is appealing for calm in Sri Lanka after two suicide bombings left 21 people dead and 150 people — including herself — wounded. There has been no claim of responsibility for Saturday's blasts, but government ministers say they suspect the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebel group. Kumaratunga was rushed to a hospital with an eye injury and was operated on to remove shrapnel.

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Government and Tribes in Marib: Playing Cat and Mouse?



By:
Hassan Al-Zaleedy
Yemen Times, Marib

It has become no surprise to hear news of clashes between the tribes and military forces in Marib. Has fighting become an addiction to these people? What is it that triggers this violence? Just a few days ago we heard about a clash between the Obaidah tribe and security forces. The result was the death of 7 people and the injury of three others on both sides. The clash took place after the tribe engaged an outpost, following the death of one of its members who was killed by the outpost's soldiers while arguing about a gun he was carrying. In the previous month, military forces camping near Bani Saeed village indulged in a battle with the villagers. The outcome was heavy losses on the side of the tribe and the inhabitants of the village. Before

that, we heard about fighting that erupted between Gahm tribe and the military units stationed a short distance away. About 4 months ago, 50 people were killed in a merciless fight between Al-Jadaan tribe and military forces. All of these events have taken place in one governorate and in the same year. And now, the governorate is bidding farewell to the year 1999 with the report of guns and repeated events of bloodshed. This latest fight reminds me of another fight that took place in the same month, Ramadhan, last year. Why all this bloodshed? Why do children, women and men have to pay with their lives for simple problems that could have been settled peacefully? What is the secret behind the deeply rooted disagreements between the local government and its citizens? Is it the tribe that can not peacefully coexist with the local government? As far as the social structure of Marib is concerned, it is made up of four main tribes:

1- Bani Gabr Khawlan which includes:

Gahm, Iyaal Saeed

2- Al-Jidaan which according to the

tribal division belongs to Nahm Bakeel

3- Murad-Madhaj

4- Abeedah-Madhaj

(source: Al-Ikleeel Magazine)

Each tribe has its own borders that separates it from the others. It should be said that the wars and conflicts which have been witnessed recently were not only between the government and these tribes, for the tribes have also indulged in many wars among themselves, especially when borders are discussed. The latest of these wars broke out last year, immediately after the parliamentary elections. In short, each tribe has indulged in wars with its neighbors. However, this kind of conflict among the neighboring tribes has been disappearing, especially in the 90s. The conflict has now changed: the tribes fight the government, not each other.

The government looks at the inhabitants of these tribes as agents and trouble makers, while they in return accuse the government of exploitation and look at it as the cause of their deprivation and sufferings. Moreover, they think that it helps to widen the gap between tribes. This idea in the minds of most of the tribesmen makes them reject anything they do not like from the government. The government does the same. This, of course, leads to violent reactions from both sides, and if a problem occurs it rapidly escalates and leads to more fighting. Some people think that the reasons for the battles are mainly

political, and such incidents are incited by Saudi Arabia. However, I do not agree with them. In my opinion, the following are more legitimate causes for the combat:

1- Illiteracy, ignorance, blood revenge and the absence of any kind of encouragement and motivation for these people to be educated.

2- Relations and contact between the government and tribes is confined to tribal leaders, and this widens the gap between the government and the society.

3- Chivalry and the feeling of dissatisfaction of the whole tribe if something bad happens to one of its members, which in many cases has led to violent reactions.

4- Officials and soldiers' rough and rude way of dealing with the tribes, ignoring the fact that all tribesmen are armed due to the continuation of blood feuds and the like.

5- Deprivation of essential projects and services.

6- Isolation or the feeling of being isolated for not including the tribes' affairs in the governorate's office.

7- Random arresting of people belonging to the tribe if a problem takes place between the government and the tribe. This only increases anger and spreads the conflict.

8- The special interests of some officials and Sheikhs, who want to keep such things going on from time to time.

9- The false belief that tribes can pose a threat to the government's interests as well as to security and stability.

10- Regarding tribesmen as ignored and backward, and unworthy of care.

These are the main reasons behind the continuation of conflict between the government and tribe. I don't think there are any other clandestine forces behind such events.

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Physicians or What?

The medical profession is one of the most important and well respected professions. It is associated with noble and philanthropic deeds in any human being. In fact, medicine should not really be considered a job but rather a mission. Accordingly, physicians should very noble and kind-hearted people, who will be ready to render help to sick people any time, regardless of their ability to pay.

However, it seems that physicians in Yemen have chosen another way. Most of our doctors are highly motivated by monetary considerations. They have traded away all human principles and ethics. They do not have any compassion in caring for their patients. They do not have any faith in the noble goals of their mission. Man for them is valued by how much he can pay. Having this belief in mind, they deal with their patients in the public hospitals very brutally, and in a way that makes people consider going to such "health" centers to be a nightmarish experience. This is to make people get fed up with public hospitals. If one goes to any public health care institution, the doctor will diagnose him very quickly and then tells him to pay a visit to his own clinic. If it happens that one visits the doctor late in the evening because of an emergency, doctors won't appear at all. This goes against the noble mission of medicine. What is so incongruous, almost funny, is that such doctors become so polite and kind-hearted at their clinics or hospitals. They seem to have a new character and hence deal with their patients in a very gentle way. This is one aspect of the dilemma.

Health reports offer a scary picture of the health conditions in Yemen. Diseases of all types are found everywhere in the country. Yemen is granted medicines from different donor countries and philanthropic health organizations. But such medicines seldom reach the poor people who really cannot afford the price of medicine.

In spite of all the miserable conditions of the public health sector, needy people are forced to go to the public hospitals for treatment. But instead of getting cured, they get victimized. Because of the neglect and the absence of accountability in such unqualified doctors, some patients die. They perform many operations that lead to the death or paralyzation of patients. I have heard of many surgeons who perform many operations a day, as if they were in a slaughter house. They are more or less like butchers rather than doctors. Even worse, they sometimes perform operations on parts of one's body that are still whole and sound. A fairly large number of such cases have been reported. The last case is that of the child Mosa, which was published in the Yemen Times last week. Sometimes they give you medicine for malaria while you suffer from something else. This is due to misdiagnosis. With the move towards privatization in Yemen, the health sector has not been excluded. Moreover, private hospitals have spread like wildfire all over the country. There must be regulations for such institutions. Their work should be controlled and observed by the Ministry of Health.

Due to the neglect and carelessness on the part of many doctors, people have lost trust in the Yemeni doctors. Therefore, many people go abroad for treatment. A good number of Yemenis travel to Jordan to see doctors there. I attended a seminar in Amman last month about independent journalism. One of the Jordanian taxi drivers asked me why so many Yemenis come to Jordan for therapy; he was asking whether it was because of our lack to qualified doctors. I thought he might be exaggerating. But on my trip back to Yemen, I found that around 90% of the Yemeni people going back to Yemen came to Jordan for medical treatment. I was stunned when I realized that around 90% of the Yemeni people coming to Jordan from Yemen are sick. I really felt ashamed. A question popped up into my mind then: Do we actually have a ministry of health, and if it exists, what is its main business? Is it not its responsibility to stop the farce of such merciless and inconsiderate doctors? I would like to know whether we have physicians or what!

The Ambassador of Japan Talks About the Bilateral Relationship Between Yemen and Japan: The Present Relationship and Future Prospects

Since his assignment to Yemen more than 2 years ago, H.E. Ambassador of Japan, Mr. Akira Hoshi, has been trying devotedly to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Yemen and Japan, and his enthusiastic efforts are among the main factors which contributed to the success of H.E. President Ali Abdullah Saleh's visit to Japan in March this year. Ambassador Hoshi is an experienced diplomat who has long served in Arab countries, such as the UAE, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, as well as western countries. In an interview with Bin Sallam of the Yemen Times on the occasion of the birthday of the Emperor of Japan, Ambassador Hoshi talked about various aspects and prospects of the bilateral relationship as follows:

Q: How do you assess the Yemeni-Japanese relationship during 1999?

A: First of all, I would like to say that this year has witnessed significant development in the bilateral relationship between Japan and Yemen, which was particularly achieved by H.E. President Saleh's visit to Japan in March. During his visit, both sides discussed a lot of important issues not only of the bilateral relationship, but also in the regional, international and global arenas: The Middle East peace process, the Iraqi issues and the conflict

between Ethiopia and Eritrea were addressed. Both sides shared common views with regard to key global issues, such as nuclear non-proliferation, ban on anti-personnel land mines, the promotion of democracy, the protection of the environment, and respect of human rights. I would also like to stress that both sides desired strengthening consultation and cooperation for the purpose of the UN reform. In this connection, H.E. President Saleh expressed his country's support for Japan to obtain a permanent membership in the Security Council.

Q: How much is the Japanese annual assistance to Yemen and in what fields?

A: There is no fixed annual allocation of amounts for our assistance. At the end of 1998, Japan's so called ODA (i.e. official development assistance) to Yemen totaled US\$ 558.68 million on a disbursement basis. This amount is classified into US\$ 223.54 million in grants and US\$ 224.14 million in soft loans. Japan has been involved mainly in fields of BHNs (i.e. basic human needs,) such as health, education and water. Since there are various ODA programs we are implementing for Yemen, I am afraid that I cannot go into those full details here. Just taking several examples, Japan has been helping Yemen with the improvement of rural water supply since 1981, and until now has com-

pleted 71 sites in various governorates. At the moment, 2 projects are being implemented in the Hadramaut. Our support for the National Tuberculosis Control Program, started in 1983, proved to be successful, enjoying good cooperation with Yemeni counterparts and adopting a new WHO strategy called the DOTS (i.e. direct observation treatment; short course). Japan has supported the 3 consecutive campaigns of the National Immunization Days for Polio eradication since 1997 by supplying oral polio vaccines and other requirements. Among other ODA schemes are the Non-Project Grant Aid for Structural Adjustment Support, the Grant Aid for Debt Relief and the Aid for Increased Food Production (KR2.) All of these are financial support, while the last scheme is especially conditioned for the purchase of agricultural-related items.

Q: To what extent has Japan's support to grassroots projects in Yemen been successful?

A: First of all, I must tell you how much I have been impressed with the local population who are highly motivated and determinedly dedicated to make contributions to their own communities. Within the framework of the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Project, one of ODA schemes targeting community-based activities, we

usually fund small scale projects costing a few million Yemeni Rials. Despite relatively small amounts involved, however, these projects are always cost-effective because of the strenuous efforts made by motivated local people. I believe our support in this respect is very successful.

Q: How do you see the future of Yemen's democratization process, especially following the presidential elections?

A: I think democracy is an incessant process rather than a complete system. The only way of strengthening democracy is that people struggle all the time for achieving more transparency and popular representation. Nevertheless, democracy can never be built overnight. From this perspective, I highly appreciate what Yemen has already started by holding the parliamentary elections in April 1997 and, more recently, the presidential elections in September this year, and hope that Yemen's nascent democracy will be strengthened further by local elections scheduled for the years to come. In this respect I would like to point out that Japan financially supported the holding of the first Colloquium on the Development of Election Administration in Yemen, organized this March by the International Foundation for Election Systems, an American NGO, and the Supreme Election



Council, and also the Emerging Democracy Forum, organized this June by the National Democratic Institute, an American NGO, and the Government of Yemen. Japan also donated US\$ 220,000 for the presidential elections, which was spent for the purchase of approximately 8,600 voting cabins.

Q: How, in your opinion, do you evaluate the present Japanese-Yemeni trade relations, and what are their future prospects?

A: Trade relations are the area we expect to develop in the future although this aspect of bilateral relationship is, so far, not very active. Attempts are being made to encourage trade relations by the Japanese side. Recently, the representative of the Japan External Trade Organization,

a body under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and International Trade, in Cairo visited Sana'a and Aden Freezone and met Yemeni officials for the promotion of future trade relations.

Q: What about Japanese future packages of assistance to Yemen?

A: There is no fixed package of assistance. However, as both sides agreed during H.E. President Saleh's visit to Japan, a policy consultation meeting was held in Sana'a in July this year with the Japanese side headed by the Deputy Director General of the Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting ended up with the outcome that the health and medical, primary education and rural water supply sectors should be recognized priorities.

Just an Opinion

By Mohammed Khidir

One of the eye-catching phenomena in the capital Sana'a is the speed of driving in downtown, to the extent that one can not be sure he will not be run over by a speedy car, however alert you may be. The majority of motorists seem to pay no heed to any speed-limit, and don't even bother themselves to turn their eyes to the speedometer fitted in their cars. Sometimes all of a sudden you hear the loud screech of a vehicle's wheels, and discover that you were about to be hit by a vehicle as the driver was trying to bring it to a halt. He barely perceived that he was going to run you over, and stopped at the last moment. Pedestrians are instructed by traffic rules to cross the street at the points where zebra lines are painted. But abiding by these rules would not spare them from the chance of being hit by a speedy car. While waiting for the safest moment to cross the street, one notices that motorists, approaching those lines, would intentionally increase their speed, which makes you back off and wait for a longer time until you are quite sure that the street is safely clear of any car. This might take you quite some time before it is safe to cross. There may be many explanations for this abnormal phenomenon, but the most striking of them all is that motorists like these are disrespectful of traffic rules and the ethics of driving motor cars. Their reckless driving can also be attributed to imbalance in their nervous system because otherwise they would think of the consequences of their behavior, whether on themselves or on others. But the fact is that they do not care about others and even about themselves and their cars, all of which represent a national wealth that we must keep intact. Competent authorities, particularly traffic personnel, should pay more attention to this very dangerous phenomenon by adopting more strict rules and measures, especially in granting driving licenses. Psychological analysis is one of the most important tests applicants for driving licenses must be put to, just to find out how they would deal with this machine while running it. Those who prove to be psychologically incompetent should not be given a license even if they prove to be good in handling a car mechanically and have good knowledge of the traffic signs and other tests.

People, whether motorists or pedestrians, are very valuable national resources we are not ready to squander or lose. The state spends huge amounts of money to provide health care, education and numerous other services for the people. Taking care of them and securing their welfare is thus an imperative.

We at the Yemen Times weekly still remember poignantly and bitterly the tragic car accident which snatched the founder of the newspaper the late Professor Abdulaziz Al Saqqaf from among us in such a regrettable fashion. Dr. Al Saqqaf was not only the founder, publisher and chief editor of the newspaper, he was furthermore a prominent social figure and the leading advocate of human rights in Yemen and elsewhere in the Arab homeland and the world at large. He was one of the victims of irrational and irresponsible behavior of some motorists in the streets of our cities and we cite him as an example of the major losses suffered by our society of not only outstanding figures but also of every person in our country whose potentials and energies we are in dire need of, in order to build a better and prosperous future for our country. Citing and naming all of the people we have lost in car accidents would require very long lists and cause us very great sorrow, but by giving examples of these incidents we intend to remind and appeal to everyone to be careful of our human wealth, because it is not easy to replace.

On the other hand, cars and other types of vehicles cost the state budget very large amounts of hard currency every year and this is wealth the state is also not ready to part with. Therefore, providing protection to both human and material wealth should be the primary objectives we all have to contribute to protect and develop. Motorists should have the largest share in the process of protecting the national wealth and resources by mainly observing traffic rules and through this they would also save their own lives and money. Traffic policemen and regulations are there to assist people in protecting and guiding themselves, that is why we must not take the advantage of their inattention to commit traffic offenses. This is an invitation to traffic authorities to introduce more deterrent measures against traffic offenses on the one hand, and to our compatriots the motorists to abide by driving ethics and morals for the common interests of all.

Towards Educational Reform in Yemen: Back to Basics with a Focus on the Future

Part 1 of 2



Dr. Mohamed A. Qubaty
Professor of Surgery, Sana'a University, Advisor for the President of the Yemeni Parliament

It is sometimes claimed that the education system, by definition, is a conservative one, meaning that its function is to acquaint the new generations with the knowledge already agreed upon and the values that enable individuals to be integrated with their society. However, the new fact that we must confront nowadays is that there is no "agreed upon knowledge." The old wisdom is being revised and reconsidered and scientific knowledge is renewing and developing. So the prime responsibility of the education system is to train people in the expectation of change and teach them how to deal with its issues and challenges, and also to help develop the capabilities that ensure the education will influence the direction of change.

The present educational system in Yemen might have been, to a large extent, established on the basis of the experience, concepts and visions of the Egyptian system of education, and those had been transferred to Yemen in association with the Egyptian backing of the 26th of September Revolution of 1962. Educational concepts then prevalent in most of the Arab countries, were of consumptive nature, mostly aimed at bragging and preparing educated people, away from the real approach that dictates that education in general must be kept in line with the reality of the society and its problems.

Throughout the past three decades Yemen has been achieving great expansion in educational opportunities in all of its stages, but in absence of a the vision of a clear-cut educational philosophy confirming that the function of education lies in preparing creative individuals. These individuals must be capable of dealing with the developments of society. We find that the great achievements in increasing quantity are now confronted with scores of problems pertaining to quality. So the educational system, with its high output of poor quality training, has become a burden on society not only because of its high cost but also for impeding the economic advancement and probably its potential dangers to social and political stability,

now represented by the phenomenon of well educated and college graduates being unemployed.

It has become clear that the policies of admission, qualifications and training at university and specialization institutions in Yemen do not correspond with the requirements of economic development, but they have rather become a major impediment to learning, creating impregnable obstacles representing a major challenge to the economic, human and social development in Yemen. A balance should have been created between the said requirements and the policies of universities in Yemen. It seems that such a change will not be realized in the near future. All indicators point out that the problem is getting more complicated. This can be more clearly seen in the uncontrolled and rapid increase in the number of public and private faculties and universities. Their number has jumped from 21 faculties and 2 universities in 1990 to 111 faculties and 15 universities in 1998. The number of those registered at universities has risen from around 40,000 in 1990 to 150,000 in 1998. A report recently presented by the Ministry of Planning and Development shows that the number of unemployed university graduates at the end of 1999 will be around 25,000. On the other hand statistical projections indicate that by the summer of 2004 the number of unemployed university graduates will rise to more than 100,000. All data and indicators show that the institutions of higher education and specialization in Yemen have effected a compound problem which is progressively getting more complicated. The most apparent phenomena of that problem could be summarized with:

1- A large number of graduates of various specializations which vastly exceed the number required in the labor market. Their education is of a low standard, which could not even be accommodated in the markets of the neighboring countries.
2- Graduates in specializations needed in the market, but with low standards and efficiency both in theoretical and practical qualifications.
Undoubtedly, this big failure in the educational system lies basically in the weakness of the relationship between what the students learn and the requirements of the social and economic development. Therefore, the work force, provided for the labor market by such an educational system, lack the knowledge, skills and orienta-

tions which a modern economy requires. The factors behind this failure are very many and there must be an emphasis that they are interrelated and should be tackled as a whole so that the targeted results could be achieved.

Diagnosis of difficulties does not necessarily mean knowing the causes of failure, as the causes may be many and divergent, or they could be of the nature of a vicious cycle, meaning that a society that is suffering from high rate of illiteracy and other dimensions of backwardness is incapable of building effective educational institutions and these in turn are unable to accomplish the intended qualitative change in the society. We know, nonetheless, as a historical fact that some other societies that were also suffering from backwardness managed to succeed in creating educational institutions which in turn worked to modernize and activate their societies.

All indicators and issues related to the quality of performance of higher education institutions confirm that the Yemeni education system is living a progressive crisis. This crisis begins from the university system of admission and affects everything through to the efficiency of graduates. This means that the outlet must be through a comprehensive revision of all the system's aspects in order to effect an overall reform and development in all of its foundations and components. It would not be an exaggeration to

emphasize that reforming the higher education system could not be realized save by reforming and developing the pre-university education system. The situation necessitates a reform of the education establishment as an integrated whole, while putting stress on the aim of reconciliation between the goals of education and the means and particulars of the few environments wherein the educational process is thriving.

In the world of today, scientific knowledge has become the most important economic element and so the relationship between education and economic growth has become an unquestionable axiom. Unfortunately, the philosophy of education in Yemen is characterized by the absence of this essential viewpoint towards education. Educational policies in Yemen are following an orbit having no connection with developmental priorities in general and the actual needs of labor market in particular. Such a deficiency is starkly clear in the predominance of general education over the technical and vocational education in the secondary stage and that of the theoretical over practical at the university stage. All that has led to a sharp contradiction between a surplus in the number of those qualified in the theoretical fields and a startling shortage in other practical areas. This last discrepancy is what has largely caused this high degree of unemployment among graduates.

PASSION FOR PEOPLE

A T S H E R A T O N

PR EXECUTIVE IN SANA'A ON PR MISSION

More than 40 representatives from the Middle East, Africa and India participated in the Divisional Public Relations Conference held at the Sheraton. Representatives from Sharm El Sheikh, Red Sea, and Egypt attended, and the conference was hosted by Ms. Maha Saad, Director of Public Relations for the Middle East.



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The Executive Director of CMF, MENA to YT

"We Want to Establish The Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Arab Press Freedom Award"

Said Essoulami, originally from Morocco, is living in London. For eleven years he worked as the head of the Middle East Program in the Article 19. More than a year ago, he and a group of Arab journalists and lawyers formed a new independent organization specializing in media freedom issues. The London-based Center for Media Freedom - Middle East and North Africa is now doing a good job in the field of media promotion. Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi, Yemen Times Managing Editor, met Mr. Essoulami, the Executive Director of the center, in Jordan and filled the following interview.

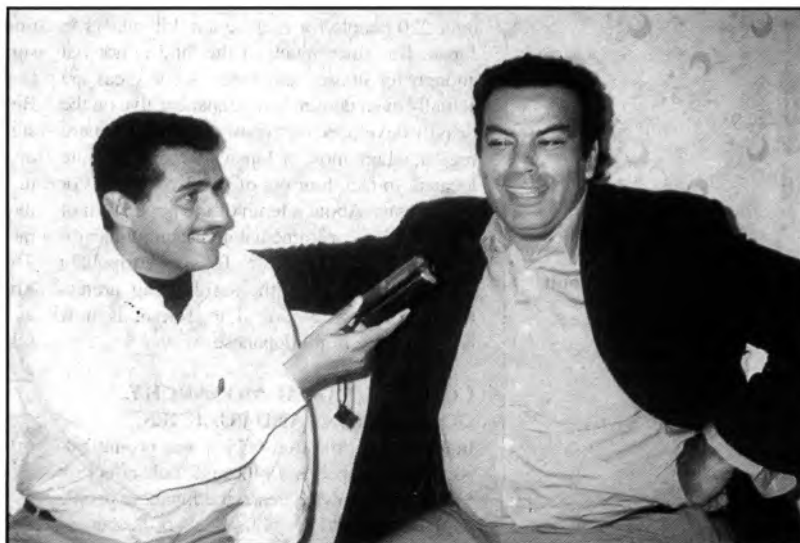
Q: Could you please tell us something about the center and its main business?

A: The center was established more than a year ago. It specializes in media issues. I had the chance to meet the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf to discuss these ideas and projects. He was ready to help us and to be the first member of the center. The center is a research publishing and campaign organization. Our main objective is to try to influence policies which may help to promote a free independent journalistic media in the Middle East and North Africa. One of our immediate objectives is to see how we can protect journalist against the policy of censorship. The most horrible form of censorship is killing the journalist. We have expressed our anger concerning the fate of Algerian journalists, where there were about 16 journalists who have been killed by opposition groups. We are also concerned about the detention of journalists. There are at least 15 Arab journalists in jails. We are seeking their release. Our center will soon launch a campaign on their behalf. The campaign will be launched in March of next year. So, this campaign will concentrate on some activities on the behalf of these journalists on the third of May. The center also is a research center in the sense that we analyze the legal restrictions on journalists. Mainly this legal restriction is contained in laws like penal courts or any other regulations that affect the work of journalists.

We also try to look at the other kinds of restrictions on the media, like economic, political, social and cultural restrictions, which may constitute an obstacle for the development of free media. The center consists of 15 members. They are from different countries such as Mauritania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine, and we had the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf representing himself, not the country. I was the professor, secretary, and the director of the center, and I have group of people who used to work with me as a research director publication. They got a lot of funding, not seeking to be a big operation immediately. I mean that they have a strategy of going slowly.

The important strategy is that we give the main issues priority in our activities. I think that the main priority is to have a mechanism which protects journalists. Unfortunately, we do not have any regional mechanism, or regional courts. There are no Arab treaties for journalists except the is Sana'a declaration, actually drafted by Arab journalists in Sana'a in 1996. The declaration was endorsed and approved by the general assembly of UNESCO, plus all the other countries adopted the declaration. That is very important for us because it was the only document in the region which actually highlighted the situation of the media, especially from censorship's point of view, and to recommend important solutions to allow the media and journalist to work independently of the government and in better conditions.

We have this policy document, which is accepted by the whole community of Arab journalists and governments who indorse the institutions. Our priority, for example is to work on behalf of journalists to do whatever we can to release them by contacting government and by publishing their cases to the media, by trying to inform the public opinion in the countries where they are detained allowing Arabs to learn of their situations. Some of them have been imprisoned for more than ten years for publishing an article that has been interpreted as a threat to national security. We also need the journalists in the Arab countries to inform the public and also themselves, and by writing to the embassies in the coun-



try. This is the only network of media freedom which can function in the Arab countries. Whenever there is something going on, there is a journalist. This network activates and intervenes whenever journalists have problems. There is also another thing to highlight, in which a journalist works to highlight the struggle of the journalists who pay heavy penalties for the sake of giving the public the truth for expressing themselves freely and denouncing corruption. We want to establish a prize in memory of our late friend Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, who wanted to establish an Arab Press Freedom Bureau. It is the Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf Arab Press Freedom Prize.

We want to start communicating this idea in newspapers to other institutions who may help us. The press in the Arab world is for press freedom, which could be symbolic of what is given to free journalists in the written press, and we want to organize it to be something established for our center. The anniversary of press freedom is being held every third of May for the Arab world. We will hold this activity by organizing seminars for journalists and publishing their work, and thereby giving to the young journalists some examples of journalism to follow up on in publishing the cases of other journalists.

Q: In your opinion what are the major problems faced by journalists

in the Arab world?

A: In the Arab world the major problem is the framework of the Arab countries. The laws and penal court provisions severely the scope of freedom of the press, and provides a heavy barrier which may cross the legislative bounds and the desires of the government. That is a common problem of the framework, which must be changed. One aim of our center, which I have worked on personally, is to file legal affidavits criticizing this law. The center will revisit all these laws again in each country to see and underline the main legal restrictions, and how they operate in practice, and to recommend changes clearly to the government and political parties to allow them to see the things which have to be changed. There are more obstacles than just political ones. The journalist's profession is not considered very important by the authorities and the owners of the newspapers. There are also some journalists who are influenced by money. The influence of the advertisers is very negative in many places, advertisements sometimes dictate the editorial policy and the policy of the paper or they seek the certain news of publishing.

Q: How can independent media be independent media and at the same time have to have advertisements, which may help in one way or the other in shaping their opinions?

A: It is a very important question and it is difficult to achieve that kind of independence not just from advertisement but from political parties who own newspapers and their journalists working in this paper. Regarding the advertisement, I believe that there is no solution. Journalists think by publishing the truth. By producing good journalism, your circulation will increase. People will read it because it is a good paper. Then, if you have access to a large number of people, the advertisers will come to you because you have an audience. We would not need to put pressure on you because you are an independent

model institution that reaches certain groups, but it is a process that I think it starts from creating the independent journalism to publish and give people what they need.

I think in that way you can increase your circulation. In that way advertising will come to you, unless there is pressure on advertisement from political authorities because you are powerful politically and have a powerfully political paper. If you have influenced the public opinion, then authority may ask the advertiser not to advertise. But I think that there is another sign, there is a change of the law. Once the empowerment is positive and permissive for this kind of work, the journalistic investigation becomes strong, and then you feel more protective. Any kind of this illegal influences the advertisements, and then you have possibilities in the law to change this, but I think in the Arab world money has corrupted a lot of people. For example, in the Gulf War, Gulf countries bought a lot of journalists and gave them money to support widely varying policies, from supporting to attacking Iraq. There were also a lot of lies published.

The press is still a very weak institution in our countries and it can only be changed if journalists are aware of their role in society, and want to contribute to the democratization of their countries to create a state of law and order.

If journalists are aware of that, surely their independence and their power will be more effective, and they will play major roles in the policies of the government, parliament and big companies and other institutions. Once you play that role of watchdog, everybody will be scared of you.

The press will publish it and then the public will complain about this. It has to inform the public of the wrong doings. We have to change everything in our democratic society. But in our society, again there is no free elections, then it is the whole journalism operating in an environment that is really under political development. Journalists play an important role in this process of change. It is really their job to bring the information to the public by being critical journalists, by revealing the wrong doings of those in power. Journalists should show the government what it needs to do.

Q: How can we establish a link between human rights issues and the media and what is the importance of this link?

A: The media has a huge human rights dimension. That is why human rights organizations are dealing with media issues. Freedom of expression, for example is for the freedom of life for every person. If there is no freedom of expression, there can be no freedom of opinion. If the oxygen of freedom does not exist, surely the media can not operate properly. Media has to fight for freedom of expression. I think that this is the right way for the media and people as a whole. There are also other rights, for example economic and social rights. The political rights of journalists must be organized in their own interests and ways. Freedom of human rights in media is the right of access to information. That is a fundamental right.

I am calling to the Yemeni people, especially the staff of Yemen Times, to help us to establish this press freedom bureau. I think that is the important thing that we have to do immediately. The memory of the late Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf is still alive between us. He was a model of independent journalist. I think that he created schools in Yemen and people have to know that Arab countries have produced many good journalists like Dr. Al-Saqqaf.

Traditional Handicrafts

Among the positive outcomes of the attention the government pays to the traditional heritage has been the establishment of the National Center for Handicrafts. The National Center has played an important role in training people on traditional handicrafts. It is one of 25 centers present in the old city of Sanaa which were all renovated by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture in cooperation with French experts to keep them in their traditional style that stretches back over 250 years. Most of these centers are now used as permanent exhibitions for traditional Yemeni handicrafts, textiles and artwork.

Generally speaking, Yemen has been famous for its traditional handicraft for ages, but what is seen nowadays in the old city, which is considered to be one of the busiest places in the city, is really something special.

One of the departments of the National Center is silversmithery, which is one of the most widely practiced handicrafts in Yemen. Yemen has always been famous for manufacturing silver objects. Old silver bullion and coins are usually imported from rural areas to be reshaped and reformed into many beautiful shapes and designs. The National Center uses these pieces of old silver to make new silver objects. Yemeni silversmiths always participate in exhibitions abroad with countries that have the same concern about silver.

Silver bullion is usually made of three main metals: silver, copper and cadmium. Silver is heated to 90° until it becomes bright brown. After this, it is cleaned by special acids. When it is ready in its final shape it is cov-



ered with nitric acid which is also used to clean gold in order to make it shiny. One of the main factors that has helped spread this handicraft in the Arab world has been the immigration of Yemeni craftsmen to other countries. Due to their relatively low price in the Yemeni market, silver bullion is mostly bought here to be sold in other markets. However, it is pleasant to notice that a number of houses and hotels in some of the Arab countries adorn their walls with Yemeni silver.

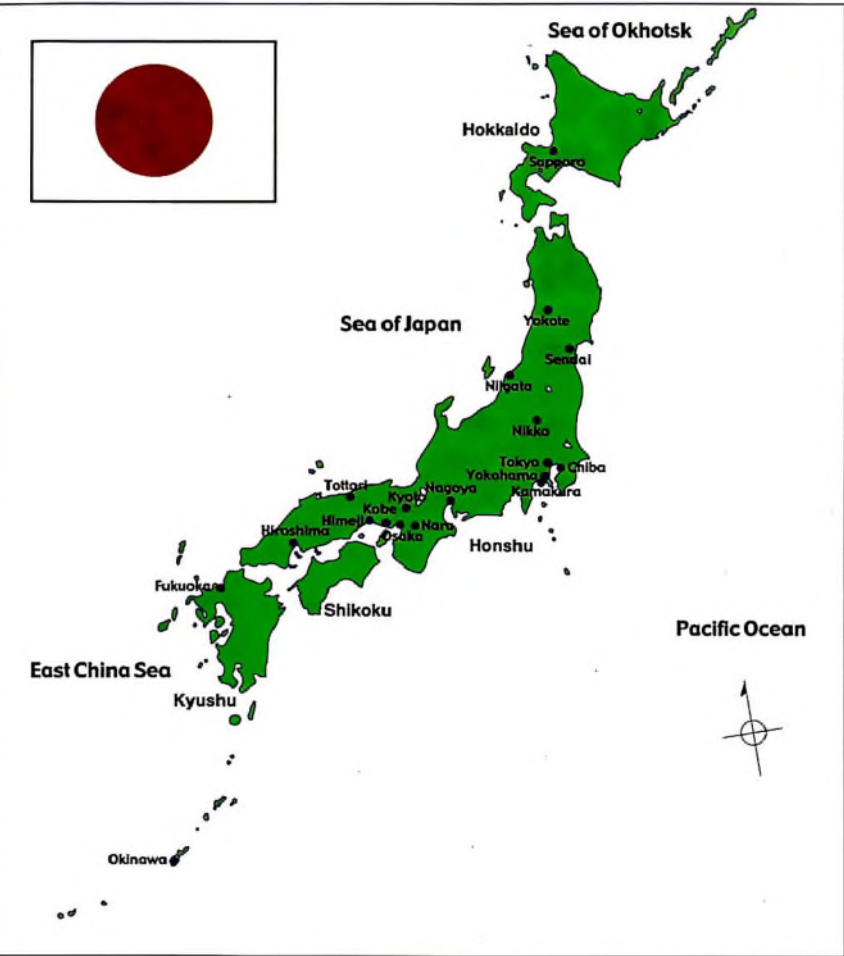
To avoid the deterioration of this handicraft, the National Center has invited a Lebanese expert to work jointly with a Yemeni expert in training Yemeni craftsmen on such traditional handicrafts.

In fact, the National Center and other similar centers have played a great role in reviving this traditional handicraft that has spread in many places in Yemen, especially the Old City (Sanaa Al-Qadimah.) Tourists and visitors of the Old City and the National Center appreciate this handicraft and the Yemeni craftsmen.

Saleh Abdulbaqi
Cultural Editor

سمن القمرية

القمرية تعني الأصالة



The 20th century witnessed a volatile period for Japan as it did for many other countries. During a few decades in the first half of the century, the country was stuck with chauvinistic militarism, which not only caused disastrous damages in the neighboring countries, but also ended up with the huge catastrophe of 1945 for Japan itself. It is from the debris of this war that Japan emerged as a new-born democratic country, struggling determinedly to recover from its traumatic past. With over a half century having already passed since then, now Japan, which has developed into one of the world biggest economies, is becoming more aware of the role it can play in making a contribution to international peace and global issues of various dimensions. Here, this brief introduction into Japan will hopefully allow you have a clearer and more concrete idea about how the country is right on the edge of the century.

GEOGRAPHY:

Area: The Japanese archipelago, lying off the Eastern coast of the Asian continent, stretches in a narrow are 3,800 kilometers long, ranging from 20-25 to 45-33 north latitude. Japan's total territory is of 377,819 square kilometers-slightly larger than the United Kingdom but only one-ninth the size of India and one twenty-fifth that of the United States-represented less than 0.3% of the world's land.

The archipelago consists of 4 main islands-Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, and Shikoku. Honshu accounts for over 60% of the total area.

Climate:



The island of Japan lie in the temperate zone and at the northern end of the monsoon area that reaches from Japan through the Korean Peninsula, China and Southeast Asia to as far as India. The climate is generally mild, though it varies considerably from place to place, largely due to the continental air currents from the northeast that dominate the winter weather and the oceanic air currents from the Southeast that prevail in the summer months.



Summer is warm and humid, begins around the middle of July. Winter tend to be, on the Pacific side, with many sunny days, while the sea of Japan side tends to be overcast. The mountainous interior area is one of the snowiest regions in the world. Spring and autumn are the best seasons of the year, with balmy days and sunshine across the country. Rainfall is abundant from 1,000 millimeters to 2,500 millimeters a year.

Tokyo, the capital city, is located at almost the same latitude as Athens, Los Angeles, and

Tehran. The city enjoys a relatively mild winter with low humidity and occasional snow, in contrast to the high temperatures and humidity of the summers months.

Topography:

Japan's complex topography presents a contrast to its relatively benign climate. The Japanese islands form part of a long chain of mountains running from Southeast Asia all the way to Alaska. This has given the country a long and rocky coastline with many small but excellent harbors. Mountains account for about 71% of Japan's total land area. Altogether 532 of these mountains are over 2,000 meters high. Fuji, the tallest rises 3,776 meters. Fuji classified as one of Japan's 77 active volcanoes.

GOVERNMENT:

Japan has a democratic system of government. All citizens have the right to vote and to run in national and regional elections. The Japanese system of government is founded on the Constitution of Japan. It is sometimes called the Peace Constitution because it affirms Japan's commitment to peace and its renunciation of war. The Peace Constitution also determines the role of the Emperor, the rights and duties of the people, the responsibilities of the different branches of government, and other rules about how government operates.

The national legislature of Japan is called the Diet. The Diet has two houses: the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. Most national laws must be passed by both houses. For some kinds of laws, however, the decision of the House of Representatives is followed, if the two houses disagree.



The Prime Minister is a member of the Diet, and is elected by the Diet. The Prime Minister appoints the Cabinet. Most of the Cabinet members head government ministries or agencies.

The state politics of Japan is played by several major parties: the Liberal Democratic Party, the Democratic Party of Japan, the Japanese Conservative Party, the Social Democratic Party of Japan, the Japanese Communist Party, etc.

POPULATION:



Although it is a small country by land area, Japan has 17 largest population in the world, with 124.8 million people. This

Japan Today

makes Japan one of the most densely populated countries in the world. On average, there are over 220 people for each square kilometers in Japan. But since much of the land is not flat enough for houses and roads, some areas are actually even denser. Most Japanese live on the heavily developed east coast on in the Southern region, where most of Japan's largest cities are located. In fact, four out of five live in cities or large towns. About a tenth of the population of Japan lives in or immediately around the capital city, Tokyo. The greater Tokyo metropolitan area, which includes the surrounding prefectures most closely linked to Tokyo, is now home to 32% of the Japanese.

CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY, GOVERNMENT AND POLICIES:

In Japan's constitution, which was promulgated on November 3, 1946, and took effect on May 3 the following years, the Japanese people pledge to uphold the high ideals of peace and democratic order. The preamble of the constitution states: "We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time...We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society, for the preservation of peace. We reject and revoke all constitutions, laws, ordinances and respires in conflict herewith."

Government is a sacred trust of the people, the authority for which is derived from the people, the powers of which are exercised by the representatives of the people, and the benefits of which are enjoyed by the people. This is a universal principle of mankind upon which this constitution is founded.

-The Emperor is the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people, while sovereign power rests with the people.

-Japan renounces war as a sovereign right. It also renounces the threat or the use of force as means of settling disputes with other nations.

-Fundamental human rights are guaranteed as eternal and inviolable.

-The former House of Peers is replaced by the House of Councillors, whose members like those of the House of Representatives, are elected as representatives of all the people. The House of Representatives has preeminence over the House of Councillor.

-Executive power is vested in the Cabinet, which is collectively responsible to the Diet.

-Local self-government is established on an extensive scale.

-The Emperor has no power related to government. He performs only those acts of state that are stipulated in the Constitution. Thus, for example, he appoints the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Prime Minister, however, is first designated by the Diet, and the Chief Justice by the Cabinet. The Emperor also performs such acts on behalf of the people as promulgating laws and treaties, convoking the Diet, and awarding honors, all which are based on the advice and approval of the Cabinet.

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM:

The Japanese people think that education is very important. The public education system was established in Japan more than a century ago. Learning has always been considered a virtue. Today, 99% of elementary school children are taught in public schools, and even at the high school level only 30% attend private schools.



Every Japanese child must attend school from age six to fifteen. However, many children attend schools for longer. Some

begin kindergartens at three or four years old. Every student attends elementary school from six to twelve years old and junior high school until age fifteen. About 97% of students attend senior high schools, which ends when they are eighteen. Three quarters of these students attend general-education high schools, while the remaining fourth attend specialized vocational high schools. About 22% of high school graduates go on to colleges or universities and many others go to junior technical colleges. Almost all of the private junior and senior high

schools and universities decide which applicants to accept by giving entrance examinations. Each school has its own exam. Students sometimes attend the same school for elementary, junior high and senior high schools.

Because the entrance exams are so difficult, students often attend preparatory schools (*juku* or *yobiko*) on weekends and weekday evenings in addition to their regular schools. Students may begin going to *juku* even before their elementary education.

The Japanese school year begins in April. There is a summer vacation of several weeks, as well as two weeks off for the New Year. The school year ends in March, and there is a two-

both in class and in such extracurricular activities as field trips and graduation trips, sports and athletic meets, and after-school activities.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

As a member of the international community, Japan's security and prosperity will only be possible through establishment of peace and prosperity in the global community. Bearing in mind that Japan's sections have great influence on the peace and stability of the world, Japan has been endeavoring to fulfill a creative role in the formation of a new international order. It has enunciated the following five policy issues: (1) peaceful solutions to regional conflict. (2)

Soviet republics to promote the dismantlement of their nuclear weapons.

Diplomacy for Sustainable Growth of the World Economy:

As economic recovery took hold in major industrial countries in 1994, efforts to advance international cooperation and secure world prosperity continued to proceed.

In Asia-Pacific region, political will was expected of achieving open and free trade and investment within the region. In 1994, Japan, as the chair of APEC, hosted the APEC Ministerial Meeting and the APEC Economic leaders meeting in Osaka, where the Action



THE IMPERIAL FAMILY:

Under the Constitution of Japan, the Emperor is the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people. He has no power related to government. The Japanese Imperial Family dates back many centuries. It is the oldest unbroken dynasty in the world. emperor Akihito, the present Emperor, came to the throne in 1989. He and his life, Empress Michiko, have three children. The Emperor and Empress live in the Imperial Palace in Tokyo

week break before the next year begins.



Students usually attend classes five or six days a week. The teaching may utilize both conventional methods and such modern techniques as computer instruction. Classes are held from 8:30 A.M. until around 3:00 or 3:30 P.M. on weekdays. If classes are held on Saturday, they usually end by noon. Many students attend *juku* or have sports or other extracurricular activities in the afternoon.

Classes may be as large as 40 students in elementary schools. Student groups are therefore an important part of both learning and other activities. Groups of students in each class take turns cleaning the classrooms, hallways, toilets, playgrounds and other areas. Neatness is a major part of the code, too. Some schools require students to wear uniforms. Traditionally, boys have worn black uniforms. Girls' uniforms are mostly navy blue with pleated skirts, but this style is changing, too. Today's uniforms are more comfortable and attractive than in the past, but it is just important as ever for students to be neatly dressed for school.



Students attending public schools almost always go to schools in their own neighborhood. If a student enrolls in a private school, he or she may not necessarily stay in the neighborhood. Students spend a lot of time together,

furthor promotion of arms reduction and non-proliferation. (3) securing the sustainable development of the world economy. (4) cooperation with developing countries in transition. (4) solving global issues.

Efforts for Solving Regional Conflicts:

Participation in UN peacekeeping:

Since the enactment of the Law Concerning Cooperation for United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations ("International Peace Cooperation Law") in June 1992, Japan has participated in five PKOs under this law so far. Over 1,200 personnel from Japan took parts as ceased-fire monitors, civilian police personnel, engineering units, etc., in the activities of UNTAC (the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia). Forty-five members of Japan's Self-Defense Forces are currently dispatched to UNDOF (the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) on the Golan Heights, Syria. As of January 1997 Japan's assessed contribution to the budget for the United Nations peacekeeping activities was 15.66%. Like its assessed contribution to the UN regular budget, this portion is the second largest, next to that of the United States.

Further Promotion of Disarmament and Nonproliferation:

As a country of that has experienced the horror of nuclear weapons, Japan believes in the importance of building up practical nuclear disarmament measures with the aim of eventually realizing a world free of nuclear weapons. In 1994, Japan submitted to the UN General Assembly a "Resolution on Nuclear Disarmament with a View to the Ultimate Elimination of Nuclear Weapons," which was adopted by an overwhelming majority of votes. In addition, Japan is implementing cooperation totaling about \$100 million to four former

uals. A new capital, modeled on the Chinese capital of the time, was built in Kyoto in 794. It remained the seat of the throne for more than 1000 years.

Feudal Age:

The victory of the Minamotos marked the virtual eclipse of the imperial throne as the source of effective political power and the beginning of seven centuries of feudal rule under a succession of shoguns, or military rulers. In 1192 Yoritomo, head of the victorious Minamoto family, established the shogunate, or military government, at Kamakura, near present-day Tokyo.

A short-lived restoration of imperial rule, from 1333 to 1338, was followed by a new military government established by the Ashikaga family at Muromachi in Kyoto.

Unity in Isolation:

Having established himself as effective ruler of all Japan, Ieyasu founded his shogunate in Edo, as Tokyo was then known, in 1603. This was a major turning point in Japanese history. Ieyasu created the mold in which almost every facet of the nation's life lasted for the next 265 years. The Tokugawa shogunate took a drastic step in 1639 by isolating the country from outside world. It was through a limited number of traders that Japanese scholars were able to acquire the basic knowledge of Western medicine and other sciences during the country's long period of isolation.

End of the Shogunate:

Japan came under increasing pressure around the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century to open up its shores to the outside world. In 1853 Commodore Mathew C. Perry of the USA entered Tokyo Bay and succeeded in persuading the Japanese to conclude a treaty of amity with his country. The shogunate was eventually abolished in 1868.

Modern Period:

The Meiji era (1868-1912) represents one of the most remarkable periods in the history of nations. Under Emperor Meiji, Japan set out to achieve in only a few decades what had taken the West centuries to develop; the creation of a modern nation with modern industries, modern political institutions and a modern pattern of society. Before the 19th century ended, the country became involved in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894 and the Russian-Japanese War of 1904-1905, both of which ended in victory for Japan. Emperor Taisho, who succeeded Emperor Meiji, was in turn succeeded by Emperor Hirohito in 1926, and the Showa era began.

From 1945 to the Present:

In August 1945 an exhausted and battle-weary Japan accepted the surrender terms of Allied powers. For more than six years after the surrender, Japan was placed under Allied, mainly American, control.

In 1947 a liberal new constitution was enacted. In 1951 Japan signed the San Francisco Peace Treaty. By the mid-1960s Japan had become economically strong enough to compete successfully in the open markets of the world.

ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT:

The economy of Japan is a thriving complex of industry, commerce, finance, agriculture, and all the other elements of a modern economic structure. One feature of Japan's economy is the major contribution of manufacturing and services, such as transport, wholesale and retail commerce, and banking to the country's gross domestic product, in which such primary industries as agriculture and fisheries now have a minor share. Another feature is the relative importance of international trade to Japan's economy.

Japan is an island country, poorly endowed with natural resources and supporting a population of over 120 million in a relatively small area. Yet despite these limiting conditions and the devastation of its manufacturing base during World War II, Japan has managed not only to rebuild its economy but to become one of the leading industrial nations in the world.

Japan's economy continued to expand rapidly from the mid-1950s through the 1960s, experi-

encing only two short recessions, in 1962 and 1965. The annual growth rate averaged to 11% in real terms for the decade of the 1960s.

The first oil crisis in the fall of 1973, fanned the flames of inflation even higher, and consumer prices rose more than 20% in 1974. The government took steps to rein in total demand, causing a sharp drop in economic growth. Real growth in fiscal 1974(April 1974- March 1975) fell to -0.5%. Learning from its experience in the crisis, the government countered quickly with tight money and other steps to keep inflation from getting out of hand, and by the summer of 1980 prices had more or less stabilized.

The combination of these developments with a weak Yen and a recovery in the US economy had a beneficial effect on the Japanese economy in the early 1980s. Increase in private-sector capital investment and growth in export sales finally brought the economy out of the long tunnel of recession, leading to the so-called 'bubble economy' in the late 1980s.

Following the collapse of the overheated economy, Japan had been stuck with stagnation for the most part of the 1990s until certain economic indicators showed modest improvement recently. In order to make a significant breakthrough, however, the Government of Japan announced radical reform measures for the ailing banking sector, and ambitious plans for public sector investment in an attempt to stimulate the economy.

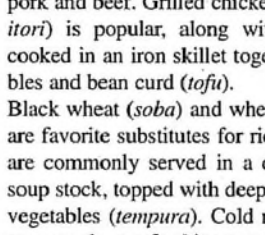
FOOD AND DRINK:

Fresh ingredients are very important in traditional Japanese cooking. If you visited a home for a typical dinner, you would be served rice, perhaps a soup made from soybean paste (*miso*), pickles, and either fish or meat, popular seasonings including soy sauce (*shoyu*), green horseradish (*wasabi*) and toasted seaweed (*nori*).

Although, rice is the main staple of the Japanese diet, fish is also an important food source. A favorite dish, deep-fried seafood and vegetables (*tempura*), was introduced to Japan in 16th century by Portuguese traders. *Sashimi*, thin strips of raw fish, and *sushi*, slices of raw fish on to of small portions of rice flavored with vinegar, are Japanese cuisines that are well-known throughout the world. This form of cuisine may sound simple, but it takes many years of study to become an accomplished chef.



Meat is not a traditional part of Japanese diet, but over the last century new and delicious recipes have been developed using chicken, pork and beef. Grilled chicken on a stick (*yakitori*) is popular, along with *sukiyaki*, beef cooked in an iron skillet together with vegetables and bean curd (*tofu*).



Black wheat (*soba*) and wheat (*udon*) noodles are favorite substitutes for rice. These noodles are commonly served in a deep bowl of hot soup stock, topped with deep-fried prawns and vegetables (*tempura*). Cold noodles dipped in sauce make a refreshing summer lunch.



Green tea (*ocha*) is the best loved drink in Japan. It is served after meals and whenever people get together. Ocha is drunk hot, with nothing added to it. Other popular beverages include wines made from rice (*sake*) and liquors made from malted rice and other grains (*shochu*) or from fruit like plums.

However, these traditional foods hardly tell the whole culinary story in Japan. You can also find food from almost anywhere in the world in Japanese restaurants and homes.

JAPANESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC:

Japanese traditional music, which develop in close relation with drama, dance, and other arts, is characterized by a predominance of vocal

over instrumental music.

Gagaku:

Gagaku, the ancient court music of Japan, is played by an ensemble of Japanese wind, string, and percussion instruments, including the *yokobue* (a transverse flute) the *sho* (a cylindrical, standing instrument made from 17 bamboo tubes, each having a single reed), the *so* (a 13 stringed plucked instrument that is the predecessor or the popular Japanese *koto*, which is similar to a zither), the *biwa* (a pear-shaped instrument with four strings), and *taiko* (drums).



Gagaku is divided into instrumental, dance, and recitative music. Though it resembles a Western-style orchestra, the central element of the Gagaku ensemble is its wind section.

The Music of Noh:

Noh is a classical theatrical form that has its origins in the 14th century. A noh troupe consists of the *tachikata*, performers who don masks, act, and dance, and the *hayashikata*, musicians who are in charge of beating time and intensifying the emotional atmosphere of the play. The noh wind and percussion ensemble comprises the *nokan* (a vertical flute) and *tsuzumi* (small hand drums).

Noh, which had started as a theatrical art for *samurai* (warrior-intellectual class), gave an impact on the creation of *kabuki*, a more popular theatrical form, at the early stage of the 17th century.

PAINTING:



Sumie, the delicate style of brush painting with black ink, was developed in the Muromachi period (1338-1357). It originated with the Buddhists of the Zen sect, who were familiar with the art of the Chinese sung dynasty.

The most famous single artistic form in the Edo period (1603-1863) was perhaps the *ukiyo* genre print, which won immense popularity among the general public. *Ukiyo*, a woodblock printing style, developed in the 17th century. *Ukiyo* prints depict people and scenes from nature, daily life and the theater world. Woodblock printing is still very popular. School children learn to make simple woodblock prints, and some people use this technique to create their own New Year's greeting cards.

ARCHITECTURE:



Wood has long served as the basic of Japanese architecture. Though a relatively small country, Japan is blessed with abundant forest resources, and wood is most suitable for Japan's hot and humid climate. Stone is unsuitable for construction in Japan for reasons of both supply and economy and has been used for little more than castle escarpments.



A notable feature of Japanese architecture is the coexistence of everything from traditional styles that have been handed down from gen-

eration to generation to modern structures employing the most advanced engineering techniques.

One of the oldest architecture forms extant in Japan today is shrine architecture. Buddhism, which reached Japan from China in the sixth century, extended a major influence on Japanese architecture. Many castles were built in Japan in the 16th century, when the warrior spirit dominated Japanese society. They were fulfilled as military bases, they also fulfilled an important peaceful role as the symbol of a lord's prestige and the center of administration.

With the Meiji Restoration in 1868 Japan entered a period of modernization and westernization, and construction techniques using stone and brick were introduced. The new style spread throughout the country and was adopted for many government-run factories and government offices.



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INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY:

Japan's primary industries-agriculture, forestry, and fishing-are rapidly declining in importance relative to the rest of the economy. In 1960 the primary sector still employed 32.6% of the Japanese working population. In 1994 its share of the work force fell to 5.8%.



The most important primary industry is agriculture, which employed 30.0% of the working population in 1960 but only 5.2% in 1994. Japan's fishing industry, like agriculture, has been declining in recent decades. In 1960, fishing employed 1.5% of working population, in 1994 the figure was only 0.4%.

Secondary Industries:

During the era of rapid economic growth in the 1960s, steel, aluminum, petrochemicals, cement, and other heavy industries registered spectacular growth by introducing the latest technologies and adopting mass production methods. Japan has 11 companies producing finished motor vehicles including two that make only trucks. In 1993, total automobile industry production reached ¥42 trillion 13.4% of the total for all manufactures.

Tertiary industries:

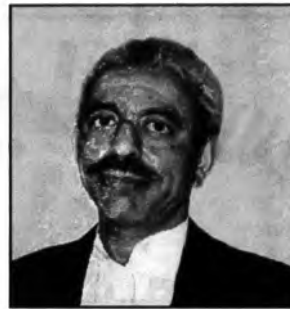
The contribution of telecommunication, electricity, gas, water supply and other branches of the tertiary sector to GDP rose from 51.0% in 1970 to 61.9 in 1993, and their share of the employed population grew from 47.4% in 1970 to 59.9% in 1993. Annual sales have grown at an average yearly rate of 20% from ¥1.1 trillion in 1983 to ¥6.5 trillion in 1993. Software development accounts for 60% of sales in this new generation industry with databases and value-added network's among the other services.

Technology:

The history of modern science and technology in Japan dates back to the latter part of the 19th century, when the newly opened country began activity to seek out the knowledge that Europe had to offer. Japan in the period was poor in material resources, and the only way it could progress socially and economically was through technological advances achieved by its people, its only real resource.

COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

Ramadhan:
The Month of Truth (II)

By the time that Allah, the Al-Mighty, had ordered his Archangel Gabriel - God's messenger to the messenger - to start transmitting the Koran to the Prophet Mohammed (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), it was obvious that Mohammed (P) had developed into the ripe human material suitable for conveying the climax of the human spiritual experience. From the time that Adam set foot in this planet, God Almighty had, from time to time, chosen a series of prophets and messengers to impress upon men, chosen from various selected tribes and nations, that the path that is astray from the righteous course is of no use to mankind and only invites the wrath of God, in addition to the social disarray that falls upon such misguided nations. Each of these prophets had a particular mission to carry out and each was equipped with a package of miracles - the signs of Allah's unlimited powers and strengths - in the hope that reason would guide mankind to choose the course that will conform to the kind of order that will result in the satisfaction of the Creator, both in thanks and appreciation to all the bounty He has bestowed upon man and in the hope that God's rewards would rain upon those

who abide by his prescription for a stable, healthy and God fearing society. But it seems that these early messengers, though unflinching in their efforts to implant the true foundations of faith, encountered deeply entrenched forces of evil and arrogance. Often they encountered strong opposition and some were even killed or tortured or faced ridicule from the forces that saw in the path of righteousness a threat to their power and interests. Many of these arrogant people acquired their position through deception and force and thus represented an evil the society could well do without. For these tribes and nations that opposed the calls to the right path, the end result was God's contempt and severe punishment, for one thing, in order to be penalized for their arrogance and refusal to recognize their Creator's bounties, and for another, to remain as examples so that forthcoming generations could take note that, as much as God is merciful and compassionate, He can also act severely against those that do not heed the warnings of His messengers and prophets. Thus many a strong tribe and nation - some which were the big powers of their times - vanished and saw their glory and extravagance fade into the pages of history books, for the simple reason that they

refused the honor of carrying the banner of the only acceptable course for humanity to tread on.

These messengers and prophets [from Adam - Noah - Ibrahim - Isaac - Jacob - Moses - Jesus and then finally to Mohammed (P upon them all)] were links of a long series of messengers and prophets that represented a series of steps that the Lord Al-Mighty had progressively arranged to underscore God's insistence that man's existence is surely not without purpose and that God's will will eventually prevail.

The Koran, the Holy Book that was delivered by Mohammed to all of Mankind, and not just to a particular nation, has revealed the stories of many of these prophets and messengers, in the classic literary finesse that can only come from God Al-Mighty, giving the reader a vivid recounting of both the general atmosphere that prevailed in the location where the messenger carried out his mission, while at the same time keeping the reader close to how these prophets emerged, the challenges that beset them and the obstacles that confronted them, in addition to providing penetrating insights of the psyche of evil against good that was manifested by the major players in the drama, those who stood for the status quo with its stench

of evil intents and desire to oppress the rest of their fellow men, just so their selfish greed and lust for power could be maintained, while deep inside they knew full well that what these prophets and messengers were conveying could be nothing other than the truth, and those who saw in sacrifice a great reward from the Lord, whether here or in the hereafter, and who saw in the truth a sense of relief from the fallacies that have reigned in the name of traditional heritage - most of whom were from the oppressed elements of the society, who recognized that the power of the Lord was their only source of salvation and liberty from the oppression that was imposed upon them. Despite the overwhelming odds against them and the stubbornness of the evil forces they were confronted with, these messengers were unrelenting in their quest to make their people understand that this is no fly by night operation, but a matter of universal human destiny, towards the realization that, no matter what happens, it is God's will that shall prevail.

Though all these prophets had their particular themes to convey as they carried out their God-sent missions, there was the underlying theme with all of them that true faith lies in the ultimate submission to God Al-Mighty, alone, as the

only source of salvation and the only acceptable origin for legislation for the regulation of society. Thus man's quest for a stable orderly and just universe can only come when all of mankind has come to recognize that there is only one King and Deity worthy of man's worship and any other claims or misrepresentations of the Divinity must be rejected. It is only then that men can find joy and ease in facing up to the challenges of life and it is only then that life takes on true meaning.

Thus Mohammed's solace in the mountains of Mecca have lead him to be the climax of this series of human salvation seekers, who have stood in deliberation, somehow knowing that there just has to be a way out of the agony and suffering that surrounds them, even though they might not be its victims for now, but it is still not right. The shock that Mohammed was to be hit with just cannot be imagined as all of a sudden those bright twinkles here and there in the heavens turned into a luminous brightness with the Archangel's voice breaking the silence of the desert night to command the prophet, who has yet to become familiar with the task that is about to be laid out to him. With the command: "Read!" the prophet could only answer in a baffled state: "But I am not able to read!" No matter, the Archangel continued: "Read, read in the name of thy Lord who created..." (The Koran, the Clot). Thus Mohammed's long quest for the answers to the hundreds of questions that forced him to leave his family and fellow Meccans for so many nights were to be answered in the book that has come down to him over a stretch of 23 years, since that first night of the last few days of the month of Ramadhan. It would be

difficult to describe just exactly how the prophet Mohammed (P) felt as he saw the magnificence of the Lord's archangel break through the darkness of the desert night to shed the light of truth on Mohammed and to recite to him the words that have become the indisputable source of strength and wisdom that the religion of Islam derives its power from. Nothing of equal literary arrangement and verse has ever equaled it, even when considering that the Arabic language, even in the Period of Ignorance, has produced such fabulous eloquent poetry and verse, that remain to this day masterpieces of self-expression and literary genius, yet are still far from ever reaching the mastery of eloquence that the Koran has.

Mohammed (P) went home that night not knowing what to do or what to say, except to ask that he be covered and warmed up. His whole body was undergoing a continuous tremor. He explained to his baffled kinfolk what he had just gone through. In the meantime, the Divine wanted to impress upon Mohammed that; this is just the beginning. From beneath the cloak, the image of Gabriel (P) again appeared: "Hey, you wrapped underneath the cloak! Rise up and warn! And exalt your Lord! And your clothes purify!" Thus the early revelations of the Koran worked to impress upon Mohammed that he is about to embark on the fulfillment of a Divinely guided destiny that would be of paramount significance, not just for Mohammed (P), the Tribe of Qureish, or the Arab Nation, but the world at large, even to this very day. Next issue we will get into the real essence of the mission that was to take humanity to a new journey that still has important ramifications up through this very moment.

Continued from Page 1

Border Verdict

Text of the interview with Mr. Al-Saidi

Q: Could you please give us an idea about the international arbitration on maritime boundary between Yemen and Eritrea?

A: The most important aspect of the award at the second stage as you know according to the agreement of principle and the arbitration agreement between the Republic of Yemen and the State of Eritrea, it was decided that the award should be given into two phases: phase I is the sovereignty phase and phase II is delimitation of the maritime borders.

Phase I award was issued October 10th 1998, and that award stipulated that Yemen has unconditional sovereignty over the islands constituting Hunnish, Zubair and Jabal Attair. Second stage of the award must be predicated on the First award. That its to say sovereignty is already resolved in favor of Yemen, what remains is the border issue, delimitation. The second award was issued in London Friday, 17th December and there are two important aspects to this award. First, it comes very close to what Yemen had argued in its written and oral pleadings to the tribunal that delimitation must be just and equitable. The medium line is now in the west of the island of Hannish, Zubair and Jabal Attair. That is to say from the Yemeni coast to the west of the islands, this is Yemen waters and from the line as you see in the map to the west that is Eritrea. Yemen is very happy with that lining. You can see there are many points. From the south as we come close to Bab Al-Mandab there is no island between Yemen and Eritrea. So the line goes from coast to coast. Then when you go up north you have to take consideration of the islands because they happen to have territorial rights according to the United Nations convention law of sea. And then as you go northward also you will see the coordinate shifts either east or right according to the approximation of the isles between the two parties. The third award was somewhat equivocal about the question of traditional fishery. In this award, and I must say at the insistence of the state of Eritrea in its written and oral pleadings, they wanted precise definition of what constitutes traditional fishing, what it is. The tribunal came with a special chapter



called the traditional fishing regime, defining what is traditional fishing, and you can look through the different pages but I want to cite two paragraphs in this respect first the court elaborates what it said in the first award of traditional fishing then they said because of lack of clarity and because of the insistence of Eritrea which wanted a precise definition. In this award paragraph 102 tells you what traditional fishing is according to the first award it says in the last sentence of paragraph 102 "the correct answer is indeed to be gleaned from the pages of the award itself, attention in particular be drawn to paragraphs 102, 126, 228, 340, 350, 357 and 526. All of these paragraphs in the award speak about fishing for everyone in the southern part of the Red Sea. The court said they are not going to impose western law and arbitrarily divide the area and to the detriment of the fishermen from both sides from the east and west coast of the Red Sea. So they decided that this whole area should be for traditional fishermen where they can fish. Now there were some questions from the part of Eritrea as what does that mean? does it mean, when the court said "Eritrean traditional fishermen have the right to fish on the water of the Yemeni islands," does that mean it is sharing? The court said no, Yemen sovereignty is unconditional, but they are saying that traditional fishermen can fish and they can take refuge in he islands because they are midsea islands they can take refuge from northwinds and so and so. To make things very precise, the court come with paragraph 109 in this award. First it said, "traditional fishing regime is not limited to the territorial waters specified islands nor are its limits to be drawn by reference to claimed past pattern of fishing, it is, as

Yemen itself observed in its answer to the tribunal's question, a regime that has existed for the benefit of the of the fishermen from both countries throughout the region. The traditional fishing regime operates throughout those waters beyond the territorial waters of each the party." Note of each of the parties not only Yemen and also in the territorial waters and ports to the extant and in the manner specified in paragraph 107. In other words is for both Yemeni and Retrain all over the southern part of the Red Sea. Around the islands in the territorial water of Eritrea and of Yemen and in their ports. This is a very seminal point in so far as we are concerned and we are grateful to the tribunal because it clarified this position which was stipulated in the first award.

Q: Are the tow parties going to define their sea boundaries?

A: the tribunal with the help of the admiralty of the UK and help from the Dutch has already done that. There is nothing Yemen or Ertrea can do in this regard because the tribunal already did that.

Q: What are the still pending issues between the two countries?

A: Nothing.

Q: What do you think of what has been published in the "Eritrea Al-Hadithah"?

A: The "Modern Al-Hadithah" said that the award was based on their argumentation. We are very happy that it was based on their argumentation. But we believe that after careful study and analysis that it is closer to Yemeni prediction, but as to the assertion that Yemen whenever it wants to legislate for the use of this island it has to consult Eritrea, I think this is far from the truth. There is nothing in the award and I challenge you to examine nothing in it. But if they want to tell their public that is what it is, it is up to them.

Q: Are there any reservations from the two parties about the reservation?

A: In the arbitration, even if you have reservation you can not change it. It is binding, it is compulsive. No one can re negotiate. That is the nature of the arbitration.

Q: Any last word?

A: I think what is important is the signification of the process of arbitration which is in novelty in our part of the world. I think what Yemen and Eritrea did is very civilized. Instead of a recourse to arms and clashes which ultimately will destroy and damage the relationship and the interests of the two peoples. I think recourse to arbitration was a civilized manner consistent with international norms and principles of international law. I think this is a good precedent for the countries of the region. Whenever there is a border dispute, there is nothing shameful or harmful about resorting to arbitration when you reach a dilemma when you are in a deadlock. Instead of pursuing the deadlock whose consequences is going to be grave for bilateral relations, for the interests of the peoples involved. I think a recourse to arbitration is a good manner. I know for sure that in our part of the world, our part

of the world is rife with questions of conspiracies. You remember in the beginning of our arbitration there were so many conspiracies. I think peoples in our region must know that international arbitration is fair and objective. They certainly did not take everything we said nor they took what everything Eritrea said. I think international arbitration after the Yemeni award has vindicated itself as a process which is conducive to bringing about peace and stability.

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عدن: المعرض بالشارع الرئيسي بالمعلا - تلفون: ٢٤١٢٧١
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تذكرة سفر إلى دبي بالإضافة إلى إقامة ثلاثة أيام مع خمسمائة درهم نقداً
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 مليون ريال جوائز قيمة بانتظارك فلا تدعوا الفرصة تفوتكم
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المسابقة الثانية
 كوين السحب الخاص بجوائز طناجر الضغط سترام وجوائز المسابقة
 الكبرى وذلك عند شرائك إحدى طناجر الضغط من سترام تحصل
 بداخل كل كرتون على كوين السحب الذي يوهلك بالإشتراك بجوائز
 الاشتراك بجوائز المسابقة الكبرى
 ما عليك سوى إملأ القسيمة المرفقة عند شرائك إحدى طناجر الضغط
 سترام وإرسالها بالبريد على العنوان التالي شركة أركس التجارية -
 ص.ب. 3803 صنعاء أو محلات الحقيق التجارية ص.ب. 5274 تعز. وآخر

المسابقة الأولى
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 () ايطالية
 () فرنسية
 () أمريكية
 السؤال الثاني:
 طناجر سترام مصنوعة من:
 () الألومنيوم
 () الفولاذ الذي لا يصدأ 18 - 10
 السؤال الثالث:
 طناجر سترام مزودة بـ:
 () صمام أمان واحد وبسرعة واحدة
 () العديد من صمامات الأمان وسرعتين للطبخ

كرويس
 موعد لإستلام كوبونات السحب
 الخاص بجوائز طناجر الضغط
 سترام وجوائز المسابقة الكبرى
 حتى 2000/3/20
 كلما أزدادت مشترياتك من طناجر
 الضغط سترام كلما أزدادت فرص الفوز
 لديك
 تقام السحوبات بتاريخ 2000/3/30 بمعرضنا
 الكائن بمركز صنعاء التجاري شارع الجزائر- صنعاء
 وسيتم اعلام الفائزين شخصياً والإعلان عن الفائزين في المسابقتين في
 الصحف الرسمية وصحيفة يمن تايمز
 خلال الأسبوع الأول من شهر أبريل
 2000م
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 على الفائزين تقديم قسيمة المسابقة
 التي تبرز عند الفوز بالإضافة إلى
 البطاقة الشخصية.
الإستلام الجائزة الخاصة بجوائز
 طناجر الضغط سترام وجوائز
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 لتحسين فرص الفوز أكثر وأكثر يمكنك
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 وإملأ كوين السحب الذي يبرز عند
 كل طنجرة ضغط سترام يتم شرائها
 وإرساله بالبريد قبل 2000/3/20
 وشارك لأحد طناجر الضغط سترام
 ووهلك بالإشتراك بجوائز مسابقة
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 للضغط بداخل الطنجرة فقط إذا
 كان المصراع مغلق بإحكام.
 - تأمين الطبخ: عندما يبدأ
 الطبخ يظهر مؤشر اتوماتيكي
 وعند هذه الحالة يكون غير
 ممكن فتح الغطاء إلا عند
 انخفاض الضغط.
 - صمام الأمان: إذا استمر ضغط
 المتظم بالإرتفاع، يقوم صمام
 الأمان مباشرة بتنشيط البخار
 من الداخل، وعند ذلك ينخفض
 الضغط.
 - ثلاثة تنفيس الهواء:
 إذا حدث أي عطل مناخي
 لصمام الأمان فإن ثلاثة البخار
 الموجودة في الغطاء تبدأ
 اتوماتيكياً بتنشيط الهواء عبر الفتحتين
 الإضافيتين.

- سترام أداء فائق في
 الطبخ،
 قدر يحتوي على طريقة
 لطيفة جداً في الطبخ.
 طبخة صحية تحفظ النكهة
 الفنية بالقيميات.
 حيث يوجد نظامين متعددين في
 عملية الطبخ.
 - يستخدم نظام 1 سرعة الأول
 للخضروات والسمك والفواكه
 والطبخ على نار هادئة.
 - يستخدم نظام السرعة الثاني للطبخ على نار قوية
 للطبخ السريع وتذويب المثلجات.

سترام الأولى في التصميم والمتانة،
 مميزات خاصة، اعمدة مصنوعة من
 الاستيل الغير قابلة للصدى،
 بإمكانك فتح الغطاء وإغلاقه بسهولة.

سترام تحتوي على أنظمة متقدمة وطرق
 سهلة للإستخدام،
 توجد سلة خاصة بالهواء، ودفتر مكتوب بعدة
 لغات يحتوي على تعليمات خاصة بالطبخة
 مع 60 وصفة لتناسب الذوق الرفيع في الطبخ.

أنا دائماً صائبة لإختياري طناجر
 الضغط سترام، لأنها وحدها
 متوفرة بأقصى درجات الأمان.
 ليس هذا فحسب بل أنها مميزة
 بالجودة والأمان وسهولة
 الإستخدام.

سترام... طناجر الضغط
 الفرنسية الآن في اليمن

محلات الحقيق التجارية
 تعز شارع 26 سبتمبر تلفون 212303

شركة أركس التجارية
 صنعاء المركز الرئيسي
 تلفون 400466
 الفروع:
 مركز الكيم التجاري شارع حدة تلفون 200990
 مركز صنعاء التجاري شارع الجزائر تلفون 212310

Observing Ramadhan Rituals in Taiz

Haifa Yahia Qanber,
Taiz

God has imposed on His able creatures the requirement of fasting during the month of Ramadhan. Fasting this month is the fourth pillar of Islam. However, Islam has forgiven those who are old, unhealthy or travelers. Pregnant or breast-feeding mothers are both required to fast, but they have to fast when they get well. Actually, this religious obligation is not purposeless, rather it has important benefits. By fasting, the well-to-do feel for the poor and hence dispense with alms and embark on philanthropic deeds. Likewise, modern science has proved that fasting is good for health; it can cure a lot of diseases, such as stomach aches, diabetic diseases and so on. Furthermore, fasting is spiritual worship wherein a person announces his entire loyalty to Allah. It is a chance for us to purify our souls for our misdeeds and faults, approaching His mercy and forgiveness. This lofty month encourages us to give up and cast away any misunderstandings, abhorrence and aversions which might have occurred before.

In point of fact, this sacred month has a special loftier position in the hearts of all Moslems. It reminds us of a great deal of unforgettable incidents. That is, in this month Allah revealed his truth to prophet Mohammed (blessing and peace be upon him) through Archangel Gabriel. In addition, Ramadhan brings in the memory of several well-known victories. It also reminds us of the Islamic conquests which Moslems accomplished while they were fasting.

Ramadhan Distinguished Rituals: As a matter of fact, Ramadhan is marked with special and distinct social as well as religious rituals. It makes the life of people delightful and pleasant. For us it is an honorable guest visiting us only once a year. It has special dishes. It also has special songs and hymns. Even children wel-

come it gleefully and gaily with songs and cheers. They knock at the doors of the people in the neighborhood singing for Ramadhan, and thus people dispense with either some money, chocolates or cereals. Thus, every family has to get ready for this venerable month. Women begin to clean and decorate the houses, and prepare rooms for chatting in the evening. They also have to get up different types of foodstuffs and sweets. Similarly, markets become full with all the requirements and needs of this month.

It is worth mentioning that the established style and way of life is totally changed during Ramadhan. We are to prepare and get used to particular sorts of food and sweets or even buy them from the distributing shops, which only open during this month. Such plates and dishes include 'Shafout', a mixture of bread with yogurt, salads, 'fattah', a mixture of bread with either broth or honey as well as 'bagia', 'sambosa', 'zabiba' and so on. For sweets, we have 'mohalabia', pudding, vermicelli, 'konafa', 'roani', 'moshabak', 'toranba', 'baklawa' ...etc.

How to Fast and Breakfast:

People in Ramadhan abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to sunset. When they hear the canon launching, they know that it is the sign informing them to break the fast. People break fast by having a light meal called 'fator', which usually consists of dates, juice, coffee, soup, 'bagia', 'sambosa'...etc. Then, men go to mosques for communal sunset, evening and nightly prayers (Salat Al-Traweeh). After that they come back home to have a very heavy and delicious meal, consisting of many miscellaneous types of dishes. Those who do not have families, as well as the poor, take the dinner in the mosques, which is usually prepared by some charitable families. People become much more generous during this month, so they can invite a good number of people to their houses for dinner.

Spending the Night:

After dinner, men may go out to chew qat, recite parts of the holy Qur'an and prophetic hadith (history of the prophet Mohammed),

At the same time, women chat together, chew qat and talk about the sorts of food they are making for Ramadhan. Their pleasant evening goes on till midnight. Young boys who do not chew qat can stroll in some parks or loaf in the streets or watch Arab satellite TV channels, which compete with each other to present the best programs and serials during this month. When the time of Al-Sahoor (a meal to be eaten before starting the next day's fasting) is about to arrive, women serve this final meal for the night. And when the canon launches, it is an announcement that we should stop eating and drinking. Otherwise, our fasting will not be accepted. However, it should be remembered that the atmosphere of this month differs from the countryside to town. In the village, people actually spend their days on the farms. They are also not very concerned with diversifying their dishes. Some of them, particularly the old, go to sleep after finishing the nightly prayers and recite some chapters of the holy Qur'an. But some spend their time watching TV and chewing qat.

When the Day Turns Night:

On observing streets, shops and other institutions in the day of Ramadhan, one feels that the day has turned night. Everything is dead and silent. This lasts for most of the first part of the day. However, at night everything is full of life and vitality. Streets are congested with cars and people.

As I said earlier, in this sublime month the people and rich Moslems have to help the poor and needy people, and they have to pay alms (Zakat Al-Fiter) for that is also one of the five pillars of Islam.

Receiving Eid AlFiter:

As people bid goodbye and farewell to Ramadhan by shedding tears and special songs, they begin to prepare themselves well for receiving another new guest, that is, Eid Al-fiter. Women are engaged in making special foods and cakes and sweets. People buy juices, chocolates, nuts, almonds and raisins to serve on the morning of Eid Al-Fiter to visitors and guests. Further, before the Eid Al-Fiter they rush into the markets to buy new sets of cloths for themselves and their children for receiving this glorious occasion.

Similarly, women and girls embroider and decorate their hands and feet with henna and 'knadab'.

Ultimately, we all pray to God, asking His mercy and forgiveness. Ramadhan mubarak to all.

Issue no.
51

Yemen Times Weekly Competition

مسابقة يمن تايمز الاسبوعية

ابحث في محتويات هذا العدد عن اجابة السؤال المبين في الاسفل مع كتابة الاجابة باللغة الانجليزية وكتابة عنوان المقالة مع تحديد رقم الصفحة التي بها الاجابة بخط واضح وارسلها الي 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 إرسال الأجوبة إلى جريد 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 مفروض الرسالة. بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون بإسمه.

Search for the answer to 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 of 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 is the expected number to which the unemployed university graduates will rise?

Answer: _____

Article's Title: _____ Page no. _____

Your Name: _____

City/Province: _____ Address: _____

Tel. No.: _____

Answer to 49th Issue Competition

Page: 6, Title: The First Yemeni Female Ambassador.....
Caption: "Because you became responsible for all programs that are watched by most of people."

Winners of the 49th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Essam Mohammed Mohammed Saeed, Taiz

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Walid Al-Qassab, Jibla-lbb

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Mohammed Ali Al-Shami, Dhamar

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Saeed Ahmed Ghaleb Al-Adeemi, Taiz-Al-Turba

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 bureaux 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.

Crossword Puzzle

Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

Animal Search

You will find the name of 35 animals hidden in the following crossword puzzle. You can search for them forwards, backwards, up wards, downwards or diagonally. The number of letters is given with each clue. Number is done for you.

- 1) Small rodent animal like a hare (6)
- 2) A wingless bird found in N. Zealand (4)
- 3) The ship of the desert (5)
- 4) It has a very long neck (7)
- 5) The king of the forest (4)
- 6) Large animals hunted for its ivory (8)
- 7) A crossbred animal (4)

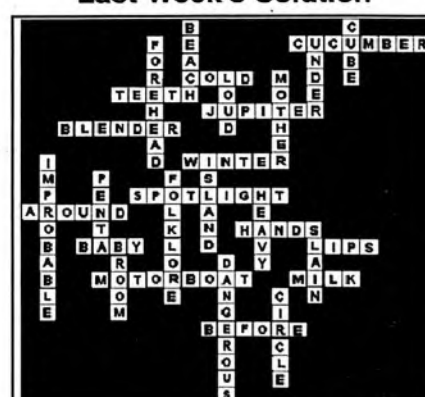
- 8) It has a long, bushy tail (8)
- 9) Night bird of pray (3)
- 10) A reptile with a sharp jaws and a powerful tail (9)
- 11) It keeps its baby in its pocket (8)
- 12) A snake-like fish (3)
- 13) A bird with keen right and strong flight (5)
- 14) It has a brilliant, fan like tail (7)
- 15) Long-legged, wading bird (5)
- 16) Large, spotted animal (7)
- 17) Animal used for riding (5)
- 18) Muslims are not allowed to eat its meat (3)
- 19) A wooly animal found in Peru (5)
- 20) Kind of leopard, usually black (7)
- 21) It gives milk (3)
- 22) A large ape found in Africa (7)
- 23) A familiar pet with fur (3)

- 24) It is also the name of country (6)
- 25) Sea animals with long tusks (6)
- 26) A faithful domestic animal (3)
- 27) A carnivorous animal of cat family (5)
- 28) Sea mammal trained for shows (7)
- 29) It builds dams (6)
- 30) A tail-less amphibian (4)
- 31) Slow-moving moluse with shell (5)
- 32) Another name for a mouse (3)
- 33) Mammal with flippers or limbs (4)
- 34) The symbol for peace (4)
- 35) A rough, heavy, four-footed carnivorous animal (4)

Prepared by:
Mrs. Ameena Naheed Ashraf

T S E L E R R I U Q S P W
R N L E O P A R D P T E E
D A I R L Q M L A E S A V
O I D E F F A R I G U C O
L L O S K I W I Y O R O D
P E C P A N T H E R L C Q
H S O F N M N A K I A K C
I R R B G R A F R L W N A
N O C L A F H M U L E O M
G H W B R G P B T A A R E
P O B W O C E V G M P E L
Y I F D O A L L N A E H U
T I G E R R E V A E B J M

Last Week's Solution



High American
Languages Ins.
HALI

English Language, Business Language
Arabic Language
for non native speakers

Sana'a Hadda St. Near Libyan Embassy
Tel: 248798-269195. P. O. Box: 19783

HAHAL



MAGRABI
OPTICAL

... NOW IN YEMEN

Magrabi Optical in Yemen at Zubairy street is a new branch of Magrabi Optical, which has more than 50 branches cover 5 countries. This branch, like any Magrabi branch offers the following services:

- Eye Examination by qualified doctors using the most advanced equipment.
- Having a wide variety of prescription glasses and sunglasses of the well known brands.
- Preparing all kinds of medical lenses.
- Having a wide collection of contact lenses.

Yemen times availed itself of this opportunity, to visit this branch and came out with this short interview with Dr. Mohammed El- Maghawry, the Manager of the Branch.

Q: Could you please introduce yourself to the readers?
A: My name is Mohammed El- Magawry. I was born in Egypt in 1961. I am married and have five children. I graduated from Zagazzeq university in 1987, got my MD in ophthalmology in 1996.

Q: When did you began this job?

A: I began working at this job after I graduated and got my B.S. Degree from Zagazzeq university in 1987.

Q: Can you give us a brief idea of Magrabi Optical?

A: This center was founded in Yemen to add another branch to Magrabi centers, which are spread throughout the Arab world. It was founded in June, 1999.

Q: What are the services that you offer?

A: We do medical examinations of eyes by using most advanced instruments including Autorefractometer. We have new kinds of sun and medical glasses. We offer new models of optical lenses of international quality and famous brands. We fix medical and colored contact lenses, which are available in our center in different sizes and from



well known brands .

Q: What is it that distinguishes your services?

A: Magrabi Optical is distinguished for the following reasons:

- There are a number of opticians, specialized in optics work. They graduated from Cairo Optical Institute. They have been taught by foreign experts and on modern systems in fixing all kinds of lenses including Progressive Lenses which combine both the far and the near correction, and have experience in all types of optical work.
- Complete system for fixing all kinds of lenses.
- All kinds of medical and sunglasses are distinguished because of the high quality and modern designs.

Q: Are you doing surgical operations on eyes?

A: We are not doing this now because we do not have an operations room, but in the future and when Magrabi hospital will be inaugurated, we will do that. For now, we refer all cases which need surgical operations to Saudi or to Egypt.

IMPROVE YOUR ENGLISH



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

I. What to say

Fadi: Which day does Holy Eid fall this year?
Ramzi: Holy Eid falls on a Monday.
Fadi: I beg your pardon. On a Sunday?
Ramzi: No, I said on a Monday.
Fadi: Oh, I misunderstood you. I thought you said "Sunday."
Ramzi: How could you make a mistake like that?
Weren't you paying attention?
Fadi: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear you properly.

Points to remember

a) **I beg your pardon:** This phrase is used when the hearer fails to hear what the speaker said and wants him to repeat the sentence.
b) **On a Sunday?** This is a normally shortened form for: **Did you say it falls on a Sunday?** - with the omitted words "understood" to be present.
Sunday: This word has the principal stress on the first syllable.

Answers to last week's Quiz (correction of sentences):

- 1- No **summons** have yet been issued by the court.
- 2- One of my **friends** has gone to India.
- 3- The students who live in the **boarding house** cannot hope to get rich food.
- 4- The teacher gave me valuable **pieces of advice**.
- 5- I finished the **three fourths** of the book in a record period of four days.

Answers to last week's Quiz (one word substitution):

- 1- A general pardon of the political offenders: **amnesty**
- 2- Fond of entertaining guests: **hospitable**
- 3- One who totally abstains from alcoholic drinks: **teetotaler**
- 4- One who walks on foot: **pedestrian**
- 5- Taking of one's life: **suicide**

Quotable Quote:

"Never deprive people of hope, it might be all they have"

مطلوب مهندسان شبكات كمبيوتر



تتوافر فيهما الشروط التالية:

١. خبره في شبكات الكمبيوتر
٢. قدره على التعامل باللغة الإنكليزية
٣. يمني الجنسية

فعل من يجد في نفسه الرغبة التقدم بالسيرة الذاتية على العنوان التالي:

نت تكنولوجيا - صنعاء - تلفاكس: ٢٦٠٦٠٥



Microsoft Word Versus Queen's English



Dr. Murari Prasad
Associate Professor & Head
Dept of English, Faculty of
Education - Sa'adah

The publication of the first global English dictionary in July 1990 by Encarta and the consequent launching of a world-wide appeal for words by the distinguished *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, commonly regarded as the ultimate authority of the English language, called for a reconceptualization of standard English. The language, liberated in many ways, has acquired an international presence and is no longer a uniform entity. The current implementations of the use of English — increasingly diverging from the Queen's variety — have prompted the sober repository of standard English words to shop for new words, slang or regional phrases, technical terms and other coinages as well as "new old words" dating from earlier centuries that have entered written English in the past 50 years for its Online edition coming up in March 2000. Surely, the lexicographers of the new millennium will be bitten by the bug, and curriculum planners will have to put their thinking caps on. While the language has been interlaced with regionalisms, variational switches in the constellation of Englishes are no more considered to be unpalatable aberrations. Admittedly, once the lineaments of the language seem to have changed following the dynamics of rapid spread and adoption by different linguistic and national groups, there will be less resistance in recognizing the fact that the major varieties of English are acceptable intrinsically, not merely pragmatically. Of course, with Microsoft planning to fuel the future of English by incorporating the Encarta World English Dictionary into its word-processing spell checkers as well as by including a CD-ROM version with the free software packages, the assault of Americanisms is likely to expand resulting in the dominance of US English. The dictionary launched by UK-based publishers Bloomsbury has been put up at a cost of £5 million, backed by US software giant. But the proportion of non-native English users in the electronic traffic, particularly the World Wide Web, is rapidly increasing. Even within Europe nearly 60 percent of Internet literates accessing the Web are non-British English speakers. Predictably enough, English native speakers are likely to be marginalised by their non-native peers and the chances of any single variety dominating the rest like South Eastern British English as standard in the Middle Ages are slim. What is likely is the blurring of boundaries, or the emergence of an English-based global lingua franca. Thus Kathy Rooney, who led the 320 lexicographers in the Encarta project, finds the pluralized form of English, or its polymodels perfectly plausible: "The argument for a

new dictionary using the world as its cultural perspective is inescapable. English can no longer be said to be a British language as originally defined by James Murray in the first *Oxford English Dictionary*." The publishers of Encarta believe that it will become the most widely used reference work in the world. Based on such assumptions, the ambitious inventory of words claims to be "the first definitive reference work for the English language as it is spoken today." More to the point, Nigel Newton, chief executive, Bloomsbury, insists that "the Queen's English is an outmoded, backward-looking project." Let us look at some of the entries in the dictionary. Notable among the slangy jargon of Microsoft are: "bloatware" (a computer program with many, often superfluous, features that take up so much memory that the computer's performance is impaired); "disambiguate" (to establish the true meaning of an expression, regulation or ruling that is confusing or that can be interpreted in more than one way) "Gonk" (to lie about something or embellish the truth especially in an Online conversation in a chat room); "offline" (to remove something such as a discussion from a public forum to a more private one) etc. Although some of the quirky formations in the Microsoft jargon called *Microspeak* have not been included, a host of utterly new expressions are there. For example, *Full monty* to mean everything that is needed or appropriate on makes up a full set or the whole of something; *digerati* formed from "digital" on the model of "literati" to mean people who have or claim to have sophisticated expertise in the area of computers, the Internet and the World Wide Web. Similarly, expressions popularized by television serials like "yadda yadda yadda" meaning boring, trite, superficial, or unending talk about stock market phrases like "dead cat bounce" which means an apparent recovery from a major decline in stock prices resulting from speculators rebuying stock that they previously sold rather than from a genuine upturn in the market, figure among thousands of such words, phrases and meanings that have never appeared in any dictionary before. A distinguishing feature of the Encarta enterprise is that it compiles words, cross-referencing them with their equivalents in many English tongues, or varieties—or more appropriately new 'Englishes'—e.g., Underpants: pants (Britain); underdaks (Australia); Police: bobby (Britain), garda (Ireland), Mountie (Canada), police wallah (South Asia); Porch: stoep (South Africa), gallery (Caribbean); Bathroom: loo (Britain) dunny (Australia), lav (Britain, South Africa); Bar: pub (Britain), hotel (Australia), braai (South Africa); Eggplant: aubergine (Britain), bhaignan Caribbean; Pickup Truck: utility vehicle (New

Zealand), ute (Australia), bakkie (South Africa); Ghost or Monster: duppy (Caribbean), wendigo (Canada), taniwha (New Zealand) etc. Well, this is "a snapshot of the language today." The divergent varieties of English increasingly adding to the gallimaufry of the language make the Encarta lexicon a veritable glossolalia glossary. Encouraged by its success, the OED is putting together a similar mongrel artifact on its 120-year history. The OED wants to know for its Online version slated for March 2000: Have you met any "fashionistas" ("critics of the latest fashion trends") or "sheddies" ("people who pursue their hobbies in sheds") or gone to a party that was complete "pants" ("rubbish")? The updating is prodded by the staggering transformation of English during the recent years. Towards the end of the 16th century, the number of native speakers of English was thought to have been between five and seven million, almost all of them living within the British Isles. Between the end of reign of Elizabeth I in 1603 and the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth II in 1652, this figure grew to around 250 million with about four-fifths of the speakers living outside the British Isles. At the threshold of the new millennium about 1500 million people are supposed to be routinely exposed to English. Research into language use estimates that by the year 2050, 4.2 billion people, or over half the world's 7.6 billion people will speak or write English. The largest English speaking nation, the USA, turns out to have only about 20 percent of the World English speakers, whereas over 350 million Indians have some spoken competence in the language. That means India now has an English speaking community equal to the population of the USA, UK and Canada. In China, over 200 million students are enrolled in programs in English as a foreign language. As a pragmatic medium, the language has entailed progressively compelling recourse to it by influential sections of the global community. Since the language is being exposed to untold multilingual perspectives, its users are resonating differently to its nuances and new realms of experience are being configured by writers ranging across varieties outside of the dominant standard. In this rapidly changing situation, the validity of teaching the native speaker model alone has become problematic. The ELT professionals of Asia countries, who have an overwhelming demographic profile in the use of English including L1 (First language) varieties spoken in Australia and New Zealand, should appreciate this challenge and fashion strategies in terms of the content of teaching materials, language tests, in terms of sampling of data for grammatical description and practically go the whole hog from language production to channels of authentication to

canon formation. Resources in the field are available in considerable work is in progress in Asia as well as in some Western universities. B. B. Kachru's *The Other tongue: English across cultures*, *World Englishes 2000* by Michael Foreman and Larry E. Smith (eds.), the "World 'English in Asia' project of the Macquarie Publishing House of Australia and the proposed degree curriculum on World Englishes at Leeds University in England will go a long way in making the performance varieties of English pedagogically viable. The moot point is what we should go by: genetic nativeness or functional nativeness? The occidental owners of English set great stores by genetic nativeness and seek to continue their ideological dominance through institutional underpinnings of British Council, Cultural Relations Division of the USA and the ELT empire. Roger Bowers, one of the senior officers of the British Council, admits that the Council has "a vested interest in maintaining the roles of English as a language, and British ELT as a trade and a profession." There is a consensus in the country on the issue of promoting English world-wide, interwoven with the exports of pedagogical theories as well as commercial and philosophical ideologies: "Britain's real black gold is not North Sea oil but the English language. It has long been at the root of our culture and now is fast becoming the global language of business and information. The challenge facing us is to exploit it to the full." ("Selling English by the pound", *Times*, October, 24, 1989, p. 14) These assumptions deny a dimension of cultural relativity into the discussion of teaching methodology. On the other hand, like Caliban in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, the former colonies now "know how to curse", or talk back—in fact, not to put too fine a point on it, they are the legitimate door keepers of the functional domains of English in their context. It is time they got off the albatross of external paradigms of authority in the control of pedagogy and curriculum as well as innovations, creativity and linguistic experimentation. As Alan Reeves insists, the relationship between culture, strategy, and learning should be realigned within an acculturation model of second language acquisition. The Encarta Dictionary and the ongoing OED project do entail a fresh focus on the use of English—or, shall I say 'Englishes'—in the new millennium. It has a reassuring implication that the dissemination of the nativized varieties of the language will neutralize unhappy colonial associations surrounding English in an increasingly post-colonial situation and besides it will protect language ecology and multilingual legacy.



YOUTH FORUM



Old love

Let's go to the past
To the past, where we really started
Days and years have passed so fast
You and me can never be perplexed
Again and again we return to our dome of dream
And there are no regrets
Love is blind as some say,
The heart longs to see
The consummation in one day
But then you ask: how it can be
It cannot be,
Let's now visit again
Where we really started
And where we can never be apart
Abdullah Maresh Ali Saeed
Faculty of Education
Taiz University

A passing dream

I'm talking to you with that which I have
closed my heart doors and asked my tears to
stop falling. I'm trying very hard to convince
my heart that the time spent with you was only
a fantasy or a passing dream. But that's well
high impossible. You are in every view I have

seen, in every word I have written and in every
dream I have dreamt. To the last hour of my
life you will still be part of me. I can never forget
you and I will never stop loving you. Know
that you are within me although I don't deserve
to live without you.
Fuad Abdul Karim Al-Sabri
Taiz

The Killer Tree

Time is frittered, money is lost, health is
ruined.
Why do these happen? What causes these
things?
Is it so unconquerable that it can't be over-
come?
Of course not! It's only a tree. It hasn't got any
strength.
Which kind of tree is it?
Qat Tree!
Qat is a word that is familiar to most Yemenis
since early in their life. But, ironically, they
don't know the benefit of chewing. Most of
them just follow the footprints of their fathers,
brothers and friends.
Today researchers agree that the number of
Yemenis who are used to chewing Qat contin-

ues to increase, especially among men. Their
researches have found that Qat is one of the
most crucial problems of the Yemeni society
because of the extensively negative impact it
has.
Chewing Qat, for instance, causes many diseases.
These diseases are caused due to farmers'
spraying of chemical pesticides on the Qat
plants. Second, most people spend more
than half of their income to buy these leaves
ignoring basic necessities of their families like
food, clothes and other important things.
Chewing Qat prevents Yemen to be one of the
progressive countries. Qat can't be exported
outside Yemen so that Yemen is deprived of
earning foreign currency, through its export.
Qat is the real problem, which stands on the
way of progress of our country. So, we need a
lot of efforts to get over this epidemic, which
destroys the precious time, and money of
large segments of our community. We all
should strive hard for its prevention. We must
cooperate and unleash efforts to be able to
achieve our goal and eradicate such harmful
habits and practices in our society.
Aisha M. A. Moudha
College of Education, Mahweet

Ramadan Recipes : #1

Fried Spinach with Chick-Peas

Ingredients
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
3 table spoons onion, chopped
2 tablespoons garlic, crushed
1 cup chick-peas boiled
1 kilo spinach
1 cup lemon (juice)
1 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons cumin
1 teaspoon cinnamon powder.
1. Cut the spinach into small pieces
2. Put the spinach in some boiling
water after ten minutes or until we
find the spinach is ready we take it
from the water.
3. We put the onions and the
crushed garlic in a pan and we add
to them the oil and put them on
heat. After a few minutes we add
the cooked chick-peas to them.
4. We leave them on a low heat and

stir them from time and time
5. Then add the spinach to the
onions and then add to them the
spices and the salt.
6. After ten minutes we add to them
the lemon juice, and leave them on
heat for more five minute.

Doughnuts

Ingredients:
4 cups flour
1 tablespoon
quick acting
dry yeast.
3/4 cup butter
1/4 table-
spoon salt
1/2 cup
granulated
sugar
1 1/2 cup
warm milk



1 large egg.
1. Mix the flour
and the salt
together, and
then add to
them the butter.
Mix them
together in a
large bowl.
2. Add to them
the sugar and
yeast, and then

add to them the warm milk.
3. Add the eggs in and then mix
them together until the dough is easy
to handle.
4. Turn dough onto lightly floured
surface. Cover and let rest 5 to 15
minutes. Knead about 5 minutes or
until smooth and elastic. Place in
greased bowl and turn greased side
up. Cover and let rest in warm place



about 15 minutes or until they have
risen to double their original height.
5. Punch down dough. Flatten with
hands or rolling pin into circles on
lightly greased surface. Cut a piece
from the middle of each to make it
like a ring and then put each one in
a hot boiling oil until it has a golden
color. Take them out of the oil and
sprinkle on them some granulated
sugar or cover them with some
chocolate frosting or Vanilla Glaze.



نداء إلى أهل الخير

تعاثي الطفلة رئيسة محمد دواس البالغة من العمر 9
سنوات من تشوهات شديدة في الوجه واليد نتيجة حريق،
وهي بحاجة إلى عدة عمليات جراحية ويتطلب ذلك
سفرها إلى الخارج. فعلى الراغبين من أهل الخير مد
يد المساعدة إلى الطفلة المذكورة بالاتصال برقم الصحيفة (268661).



نداء إلى أهل الخير

الطفلة أسماء خالد محمد قائد عبدالله تشاهد أهل
الخير بالتعاون معها ليتسنى لها العلاج حيث تعاني من
ضمور في خلايا الدماغ وتآخر في النمو وصعوبة في
الحركة وضعف عام وتختلف عقلي فهي تحتاج إلى مركز
تأهيلي في الخارج. فعلى الراغبين في فعل الخير الاتصال على رقم الصحيفة (268661).

فخامة رئيس الجمهورية يمنح شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة الشهادة الماسية

THE PRESIDENT AWARDS THE DIAMOND CERTIFICATE TO THE NATIONAL CIGARETTES & MATCHES INDUSTRY (LTD.) ADEN

Sheik Saleh Salem Ba Thawab, a well known businessman, and Chairman of the Administrative Board of National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Ltd., received the diamond certificate from President Ali Abdullah Saleh. This certificate was awarded by the Chamber of Commerce of Aden, in recognition of his contribution to the process of economic and social development in the governorate of Aden. The president's honoring of the company in this way is proof of the influence and success of the company both inside and outside Yemen.

On this occasion, employees and workers of the National Cigarettes and Matches Industry Ltd. present their heartfelt congratulations to Sheik Saleh Salem Ba Thawab for receiving this certificate.

تسلم الشيخ صالح سالم باثواب رجل المال والأعمال المعروف ورئيس مجلس إدارة شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة من فخامة الأخ/ علي عبدالله صالح - رئيس الجمهورية الشهادة الماسية والممنوحة من الغرفة التجارية والصناعية عدن وذلك تقديراً للدور الإيجابي والمساهمة الفاعلة في عملية التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية في محافظة عدن.

ويحصل الشيخ صالح سالم باثواب رئيس مجلس إدارة شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة على هذا التكريم إنما هو دلالة على المكانة المرموقة والتاريخ الحافل بالأعمال المجيدة في خدمة الاقتصاد الوطني وكذا ما تحفاه الشركة من سمعة طيبة داخل اليمن وخارجها. وبهذه المناسبة يسر كافة موظفي وعامل شركة صناعة السجائر والكبريت الوطنية المحدودة أن يتقدموا بأحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات للشيخ صالح سالم باثواب على هذا التكريم من قبل فخامة الأخ/ علي عبدالله صالح رئيس الجمهورية قائد مسيرة التنمية ويأتي صرح نهضة اليمن السعيد.



Mr. Saleh Salem Ba-Thawab The Executive Chairman Signing a new contract with the Representative of Rothmans Co.



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To participate in the lotto and win a ticket a customer's purchases should not be less than 5000 YR for the Saudi Arabia's ticket, 10000 YR for Cairo's ticket and 15000 YR for Paris' ticket.

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