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FINAL COUNTDOWN



Only a few days remain before we enter the year 2000. It is a countdown to a year that has always been thought of as a milestone for humanity and for the whole world. People in developed countries are worried about how "Y2K" will affect their lives. They are prepared to celebrate a new millennium. However, as we enter into the year 2000, we must realize that the world will continue to become smaller and smaller through globalization. In a globalizing world, we feel that our country will have to be integrated with the world. We don't really have a choice. In an era of revolutionary technologies, we will witness the change in space and time, as borders between countries will cease to have a significant effect on the contact between people. Communication systems will develop further to facilitate the contact between people, hence minimizing the gaps between nations. Is Yemen ready for this era of technology? Is Yemen ready to enter the year 2000 and go through an era of total globalization? As we count down towards the year 2000, we will definitely feel a difference, not only in the date, but in the sense that we are entering into a whole new era, one that will be full of surprises and exciting events. It may be the milestone for the world as a whole, but it should also be a milestone indicating that we are all willing to make a beginning in building a modern Yemen.

Nankly Will Not Be Executed

The final verdict against a Syrian national who bears a Spanish nationality, Nankly, will be announced after the Lesser Bairam holiday. Yemen's interior minister recently told news agencies. Nankly is accused of many things, among them attempted murder of an Italian tourist, training armed gangs to carry out acts of sabotage and killings in Yemen, as well as planning to kill the prime minister Dr Abdul Karim Al-Eryani.

Western diplomatic sources affirm that it is not possible to endorse the death sentence which was given to Nankly by Yemeni higher authorities. The death sentence was passed by a court of the first instance and approved by a Court of Appeal. The European Union has, through its diplomatic channels in Yemen, exercised pressure on the government to abandon the death sentence, because Western states do not permit or recognize death sentences in their

countries, and consequently they cannot allow the execution of one of their nationals in another country.

It is expected that the Yemeni authorities will yield to the Europeans demands, and will either commute the sentence or hand him over to Spain. Nankly was arrested in August, 1997 in a hotel in the capital Sana'a near the Presidential Place after opening fire at the Italian tourist.

HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM

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Words of Wisdom

"Our young people, especially those going to school, can make decisions that will have marvelous effects on their learning. Most young people do not plan their spare time. If they can commit to spend one hour every day, say in the evenings, to study, that will make wonders. Some of the young people can also spare one hour every day for sports or other physical exercise."

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

In Brief

US \$ 220,000,000 in Assistance to Yemen

Reliable resources indicated that the Manager of Middle East Department of the International Monetary Fund, Mr. Paul Chabrier, who ended his visit to Yemen last Monday, stressed that the amounts which will be appropriated to help Yemen amounted to US \$ 220,000,000. But he said that the Fund will not give any money unless he gets reports about the achievements in the field of financial and administrative reforms. He discussed with some officials in the Cabinet and the Ministry of Civil Service the retiring of about 30,000 employees on pension. He indicated that there must be a solution to the problem of employees who have more than one occupation.

The resources illustrated that the representative of the World Bank was not pleasant on the way that the government is following on privatizing a number of public corporations. Due to the agreement of partnership between the government and the International Monetary Fund, 10% of government's shares in the Yemeni Bank for Establishment and Reconstruction will be devoted to economic and administrative reforms in the next year. Political analysts indicated that privatizing companies according to the instructions of the World Bank represents the critical challenge that the government faces. They doubt that the government will take useful measures inside the public institutions. The Prime Minister met Mr. Chabrier and Mr. Klaus Enders, and they discussed the relationship between Yemen and the International Monetary Fund. The manager of the Middle East Department of the Fund indicated that inflation had decreased up to 4-5%, and the economy had witnessed better development.

New Newspaper Will Be Issued

A new newspaper will be issued under the name "Sawt Sana'a". It will be issued on February 01, 2000. It will be the mouthpiece of the Associations Coordination Council of the old city of Sana'a, which was founded in 1997. This Council was founded to be a private means with interests in the historical, tourist, environmental, social, economic, cultural, artistic, architectural and all traditional things of the city. The Chief Editor will be Mr. Motahar Mohammed Motahar and the Managing Editor will be Mr. Abdulbaqi Ismail Haeil.

New Secretary of Journalists Syndicate

Yemeni Journalists Syndicate issued a press release relating to the problems which have faced the syndicate lately. The members of the syndicate held a meeting on December 23, 99, and issued separate decisions accepting the resignation of Mr. Motahar Al-Ashmori, the Secretary General of the syndicate.

The staff of the syndicate elected Mr. Yassine Al-Masodi as Secretary General of the syndicate. They decided to refer all reports which include the campaign of journalistic cards to the staff of the syndicate in order to present them in the meeting which will be held next Tuesday, December 28, 1999.

At the end of the meeting, all members praised the activities of the government, which increased the annual assistance to the syndicate to reach YR 1,500,000 a year. The annual assistance by the advent of the year 2000, will be YR 10,000,000.

A. Thabet British Consul in Hodeidah

The British Ambassador, Mr. Victor Henderson, will appoint Mr. Abdulwahab Thabet, a leading Yemeni businessman, as Honorary British Consul in Hodeidah today, Monday 27 December. The ceremony will take place at the Thabet Guest House in Hodeidah, at approximately 17.30.

(OCC) Witnesses New Political Changes

At the meeting which was held on December 12, 99, the Opposition Coordination Council elected new leadership to the Council. All members of the Council attended the meeting. They elected Mr. Kasim Sallam, Secretary General of Arab Ba'ath Socialist Party as the Secretary General of the Council who will take the place of Mr. Ali Saleh Obad Moqbal, Secretary General of Yemeni Socialist Party. Mr. Tariq Al-Shami, Vice-Secretary General of Federation Popular Forces was elected as the Vice-Secretary of the Council and Mr. Abdulkareem Al-Khairani, Secretary of the Political Circle of Al-Haq Party was elected as the Spokesman of the Council.

Oil Deal

An official source said Yemen's government on Wednesday, December 22 endorsed an agreement on oil production in Block Two of the Shabwa oilfield, concluded with the Italian company Agip, a subsidiary of Eni.

The official source also said the agreement had been submitted to the parliament to be approved before getting presidential ratification. In September, the Agip Yemen B.V. concluded an agreement on transferring a 40 percent interest in Yemeni Garden Block Three to Algerian oil and gas company Sonatrach. It is expected that crude oil production in Yemen will reach 412,000 barrels per day by the end of 1999, compared to 385,000 barrels per day last year. By concluding oil deals, Yemen attempts to develop and consolidate its economy and to fund its development projects.

Central Bank to be Granted Monetary Independence

The Yemeni government has recently approved a new law giving the central bank independence in monetary and administrative affairs, the

Yemen's central bank governor Ahmed Abdul Rahman Al-Samawi said in statements published last Friday. He said the move came in keeping with the state's reform program.

In his remarks published in September 26 newspaper, Mr Al-Samawi has further said that the law restricted the government from requesting loans from the central bank "with the exception of extraordinary circumstances and only for limited amounts and periods."

Mr Al-Samawi has added that the new law stresses non-interference in the bank's operations by any party, and that one of the goals is to provide enough monetary liquidity for a stable monetary system based on market fundamentals, without government interference.

Yemen began carrying out economic reforms in 1995. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund offered help to the country with the aim of improving tax and financial systems as well as to eliminate subsidies.

2 French Men and a Swiss Woman Robbed

An armed pirate group assaulted three Europeans last Friday 17.12.99 while they were on their way to Mokala from Aden. The three Europeans; 2 Frenchmen and a woman set out on a tour at sea Saturday 11.12.1999 heading towards Al-Mokala and while they were near the coasts of Balhaf, Shabwah, they were attacked by a 6-7m boat carrying seven men of their money and stole some of their equipment: a radio for receiving and sending messages (VHF), a special radio for weather forecast and a special apparatus for checking the depth of the sea. The three Europeans

tried to send messages for help through another radio which was not seen by these pirates, however, they received no reply. Then, they continued on their way to Al-Mokala and reached it last Sunday evening at 5 o'clock.

Al-Turabi Visits Yemen

Yemen Times has learnt from special sources that the fundamentalist wing of the Yemen Congregation for Reform (Islah) under leadership of Sheikh Abdul Majeed Al-Zandani is making these days its preparations and arrangements for an imminent visit to Yemen by Dr Hassan Al-Turabi, speaker of the Sudanese dissolved parliament, the secretary general of the ruling National Party. Sources close to Al-Islah party say that Al-Turabi would meet his friend Al-Zandani in an Arab Gulf State to inform him on the visit program.

The same source has described Al-Turabi visit to Yemen as representing an element of embarrassment to the tribal wing in the party under leadership of Sheikh Abdulla Ben Hussein Al-Ahmer, speaker of the parliament and president Ali Abdulla Saleh, both of whom had expressed their support for the measures taken by the Sudanese president Omer Al-Bashir on December 12. President Al-Bashir had ousted Al-Turabi from his post, dissolve the parliament, suspended the constitution and declared the state of emergency in Sudan.

The source has also said that during his stay in Yemen, Al-Turabi is to meet the President and the parliament speaker to explain his party's point of view versus president Al-Bashir's measures. Al-Turabi's expected visit is scheduled to include visiting the Yemeni cities of Aden, Hajja, Saada and other areas.

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Yemeni Horsemanship Club

Dr. Abdulwahab Raweh, Minister of Youth, and Mr. Kalid Abdulwahab Al-Shareef, Governor of Sana'a, put the foundation stone of the project of the Horsemanship Club, located on Sawar area, East of Sana'a. The aim of this Club is to protect the Arab horse, and to spread the sport of horsemanship amongst the Yemeni youth. This club also aims at putting this sport up as a substitute for qat. This club consists of swimming pools, racetracks, hurdles and other means of entertainment. The club costs YR 1,000,000. The Minister of Youth expressed his satisfaction at establishing this projects. He also asserted that the state will support this project. Mr. Hashim Ahmed Al-Sawari, vice manager of administrative board of



the club expressed his regards and acknowledgement to the government for its encouragement. A number of important personalities and members of the Parliament attended the inauguration ceremony.

شركة ألفا المحدودة



شركة ألفا المحدودة

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Wishing you and your staff a very happy and prosperous new year.

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الحل الأفضل للألفية الثالثة مع باناسونيك

تنتهز شركة ألفا المحدودة (الوكلاء الوحيدون لمنتجات ناشيونال/باناسونيك في اليمن) مناسبة انتهاء عام ١٩٩٩ متمنية للجميع التوفيق في أعمالهم، وتشكر زبائننا الكرام على دعمهم اللانهائي وتجاوبهم مع منتجات ناشيونال/باناسونيك/تكنيكس.

ويعتبر انتهاء هذه السنة لها طابع خاص بخلاف السنوات السابقة، لاسيما وأنها تنقلنا إلى الألفية الثالثة.

وقسم شبكة منتجات الاتصالات والتي تتكون من: منتجات التحويلات الهاتفية/التلفونات (كروت ومنتجات التلفونات الخاصة) والبريد الصوتي والتلفون المرئي ونظام الشبكات الرقمية المتكاملة، والأنظمة المرئية لتخصيص الاتصال عن بعد.

وبالأخذ بعين الاعتبار التغيرات الموسمية التي تمت في أجهزة الاتصالات من قبل باناسونيك، نحن أيضاً مسؤولون عن إصدارات محطة البيانات الألفية الثالثة للأجهزة التي تم انتاجها وبيعها.

حيث أن المهندسين التابعين لباناسونيك قد أجروا تجارب على موضوع تأدية تقويم الألفية الثالثة على جميع هذه الأجهزة ونحن واثقون بأنه لن تكون هناك أي مشاكل فعلية.

وبما أن لدينا الثقة في إصدارات الألفية الثالثة، علاوة على ذلك، نظمت شركتنا برنامج متابعة دورية لـ ٢٤ ساعة خلال موسم عام ٢٠٠٠ ابتداء من ٣١ ديسمبر ٩٩ وحتى ٤ يناير ٢٠٠٠م.

وخلال هذه الخمسة الأيام سيتواجد طاقمنا الفني لمتابعة أي مفاجآت إن وجدت في أجهزتنا، لذا يرجى منكم الاتصال بنا عبر الفاكس أو التلفون أو البريد بالارقام التالية:

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وبرغم ثقتنا بعدم حصول أي مشاكل في أجهزتنا، ونؤكد هذا العمل الإضافي ماهر إلا ببرنامج وقائي محدد.

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Yemeni Press Scanner

AL-BALAGH
Independent

Presidents Orders Campaign to go on
President Saleh ordered that the campaign against private prisons and for arresting wanted offenders should continue its job in al-Udain district, which witnessed armed clashes between groups loyal to local sheikhs: Sadeq Pasha and Mohammed al-Samawi. The President's instructions were given to the Minister of Local Affairs, the Attorney General and the Governor of Ibb. The security committee in Ibb governorate held a meeting last week to discuss the plan by which the President's instructions shall be implemented in the light of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee which investigated the case of private prisons in al-Udain and incidents linked to them. The Committee had reported to the President after more than 30 days of investigation in the district. The delay is thought to have resulted from disagreements among members of the Committee, which divided into two groups regarding making its report and its recommendations.

Barkani Denies Press Reports On Saudi Relations
Sultan al-Barkani, Chairman of the PGC Caucus in Parliament, has denied reports by Yemeni - especially opposition owned - newspapers about the border issue between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. He described those reports as a continuation of a policy of fallacy and suspiciousness adapted by some forces that aim at confusing the government and involving her in futile disputes.

In an interview with Okaz, the Saudi daily, he considered these means to be aimed at keeping the issue pending for the Government in Yemen, so that it raises slogans that instigate the masses to rise, and raises doubts about the serious policy of the leadership in Yemen to solve this issue with our brethren in Saudi Arabia through cordial and brotherly means.

Abeedah Tribe Besieged

Army units have besieged some areas of the tribe of Abeedah, Marib Governorate, after the tribe attacked an armed vehicle of Marib security forces. Reports say that the military units initiated the bombardment of some locations and buildings at which the attackers are thought to have hidden. There were no reports of losses or casualties.

Al-Haq
Independent

Israeli Telephone Sets in Aden

Israeli telephone sets bearing the brand name JACOB have spread in Aden. Our sources report that these sets don't bear the name of the country of manufacture, and that the first letter 'J' of the brand name is written in a way making it similar to the Israeli Kinnestet motto.

Our sources report that these sets are only some of the many Israeli goods and commodities that have made it into Yemen through smuggling by land, sea and air.

Sources added that the Yemeni authorities,

by keeping quiet towards such developments, are normalizing the Yemeni - Israeli relations to an extent expected to be announced sometime during the first year of the Millennium.

Al-Haq: "We publish this news and await the concerned authorities to deny it if it is unfounded."

Smuggled Cigarettes Change into Soap

Our sources report that a vehicle loaded with smuggled cigarettes has changed while it was under custody at Al-Barh area, with the help of the Almighty into one loaded with soap! The smugglers had exchanged fire with the political security men that were following them and were later arrested. The vehicle was handed over to the area security authorities in order to be later delivered to the customs department. However when time came and the vehicle was to be handed over it was discovered that the cigarettes had all changed into soap!

Higher security authorities were informed and an investigation was promptly ordered.

Taking over of 600 Acres of Land!

A very influential military officer has taken over 600 acres of land owned by the Al-Dob family of the Ubar Lasloom village in Tuban district, Lahj Governorate.

Some local dwellers told Al-Haq that for years they had tried to resist by lawful means the influential person, but their efforts turned out to be in vain because of the military force he brought into the area to protect him. They said that because of that they had to accept the amount of 8 million rials which he offered them.

They add that they were informed by the Lahj Attorney General that his office is unable to defend their rights in the face of this influential person who is ready to confront the vehicle of the attorney with a tank. They indicated that the document by which they relinquished their land was written at a dwelling and not ratified at a court of law. They stress that they shall demand their land, even if hundreds of years should pass.



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

China Takes Back Macao

Today Lisbon will return Macao Island to China. Macao is the last and oldest European colony in Asia. The operation is taking place in a very calm atmosphere, very different from that when Peking took back Hong Kong two years ago.

Local Macao authorities have endeavored to make clear the positive side of the returning process, especially China's confirmation of Mr. Edmund Hua as the local Prime Minister to replace the last Portuguese governor, effective 20th December. He shall return to China in the near future.



AL-RA'Y AL-A'AM
Independent

Piracies Discredit Yemen

International navigation lines opposite the Yemeni coasts in the Arab Sea and the southern Red Sea witnessed a number of piracy incidents that were aimed against commer-

cial ships, the most important of which was the one against the Australian yacht.

Navigation sources expressed their fears of the spreading marine piracy accidents which threaten the safety of international navigation and transport in this area, especially as the majority of these accidents are registered against unknown offenders, while the Yemeni coast guard forces are unable to efficiently cover the whole Yemeni coasts. Somali refugees continue to infiltrate illegally into the country, which adds to the already heavy security and economic burden.

These informed political and economic sources confirmed to Al-Ra'y al-A'ayam that the continuation of such piracy and refugee smuggling accidents in the Yemeni waters shall very negatively Yemen and its reputation in international navigation.

It is recalled here that an unknown armed group intercepted a French boat last Friday opposite Balhaf, Shabwa Governorate, 10 miles from the coast, and robbed those on it, two French and a Swiss. They took all the money they had, in addition to a radio and diving equipment. The victims had asked the Mukalla port authorities for help, but got nothing. The victims reported that the offenders sailed towards the Somali coast after the incident.

Mukalla Sport & Youth Sector Financial Scandal

A meeting last Thursday of the Administrative Committee of the Mukalla Club and a number of Mukalla dignitaries has uncovered a scandal: 30 million rials have disappeared from the accounts. The said meeting came after the spread of a rumor that somebody who claimed to be a contractor had deceived the Director, claiming that he was going to construct the Club facilities at its Khalf Investments area. The General Director of The Mukalla Ministry of Youth and Sports Office had surrendered to the claimed contractor documents relating to an area of ground owned by the club, despite the fact that the said director was committed not to surrender the said documents to any party. However, the claiming contractor was supposed to input an amount of 30 million rials into the club's bank account. The fact that he didn't do so was discovered by some who are keen for the club interests and was reported to the relevant authorities. By that time, ownership of the area and documentation had changed hands three or four times. It was agreed that a committee should follow up this case with the Governor and the Judicial apparatus to safeguard the club's interests and ownership.



AL-WAHDAH
Official

A Local Phenomenon Confuses Researchers

Preparations are being made at Hojariyah district, Taiz Governorate for the study of a unique local phenomenon that has confused researchers, said Mr. Faisal Al-Shargabi, the Secretary General of the Taiz Save the Environment Society. Mr. Al-Shargabi told the newspaper that concentrated thunderbolts fall directly on a local field annually, especially during the rainy season, a phenomenon that continues to confuse the local population and interested researchers. Mr. Shargabi indicated that his society is currently coordinating with interested research authorities within Taiz University and the Environmental Protection Council and the General Authority for Water Resources for the study of this peculiar phenomenon. A team of hydrological, geophysical, climate and environment experts shall be composed to monitor and study this phenomenon.

Mr. Shargabi added that nearby wadi dries suddenly as the earth swallows all water when these thunderbolts occur. Some of the thunderbolts continue for about a minute and can be monitored when they fall on the location!!



AL-AYYAM
Independent

Eritrea Ready To Respect Arbitration Resolution

Eritrea confirmed yesterday that it is going to respect the International arbitration determining its borders with Yemen. A statement by the Eritrean Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that 'International borders should be a line drawn if possible in the middle between the two coasts facing each other. An Eritrean source further clarified that the resolution

taken by court allows Eritrean and Yemeni fishermen to fish around the Red Sea Islands.

He added that traditional diving for collecting pearls and shells and using the islands for drying fish or maintenance is allowed. He continued by quoting the court resolution that Yemen shall take administrative moves regarding these traditional rights only after an advance agreement with Eritrea.



AL-SAHWAH
Islah Party,

1000 Free Medical Operations

The Fifth Taibah Medical Camp is expected to perform one thousand free medical operations by Yemeni and Saudi doctors at Aden hospitals. They began last Tuesday registering the names of interested patients.

Al-Sahwah is informed that the children's operations shall take place at Al-Gumhooriah Educational Hospital while women's operations shall be at Al-Wahdah Hospital (previously Friendship Hospital) and other operations at the Aden General Hospital. Registration of patients shall continue until the 22nd of Ramadhan in the relevant sections of the said hospitals, while the operations themselves shall take place next month.



AL-UMMAH,
Al-Haq Party

A Protest Because of the Jewish Cemetery

Some sources have predicted that the British Embassy intends to protest in the next few days because several tribal and military dignitaries in Aden Governorate have tapped areas adjacent to the Aden Jewish cemetery. The British Embassy fear that such tapping of the land by military and tribal dignitaries are paves the way for the later taking over the Jewish cemetery itself. The sources disclosed that some British Embassy officials visited the cemetery and the surrounding areas that are being tapped during the night and under security forces protection.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

UNITED NATIONS:

Annan Writes about the 21st Century

At the end of the 20th century and the eve of new mellenium Kofi A. Annan delivered an article titled We the People: The United Nations and Human Rights in the 21st Century.

In this article he said that "At the end of the 20th century, the United Nations has become central to the lives of more people than ever." He also said that "there are a great number of peoples who need more than just words of sympathy from the international community, but a real and sustained commitment to help end their cycles of violence, and launch them on a safe passage to prosperity."

"The words of the United Nations Charter declare that "armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest." But what is that common interests? Who shall define it? Who shall defend it? Under whose authority? And with what means of intervention? These are the monumental questions facing us as we enter the new century. What is clear is that the rights of the individual are now central to the "common interest." he said.

INDIA

Hijacking in 3rd day as U.N. steps in

U.N. officials arrived in southern Afghanistan on Sunday in hopes of ending the hijacking of an Indian jetliner with 161 aboard as their ordeal stretched into a third day. A band of five hijackers are threatening to blow up the jet unless India releases a jailed Pakistani cleric, Maulana Masood Azhar, and other Islamic militants being held in Indian jails. They have killed one hostage, a young Indian man on his honeymoon. A motive for the hijacking of an Indian Airlines A300 Airbus passenger jet with 175 passengers onboard may have finally surfaced.

The BBC has reported that the hijackers are now demanding the release of several Pakistani nationals and an Islamic cleric presently incarcerated in Indian prisons. It is believed that the men were involved in recent activities in the Kashmir border conflict between India and Pakistan.

On the other hand, the Pakistani Embassy in Sanaa sent Yemen Times a letter that includes the statement of the Pakistani Spokesman of the Foreign Office. "After the hijacking of the Indian Airline plane, the Indian authorities sought permission from Pakistan authorities to landing of the plane in Lahore. This permission was denied in view of the past experience of the stage-managed hijacking of the Indian aircraft by Indian intelligence agencies in 1971. Pakistan condemns all acts of terrorism including hijacking. Pakistan cannot allow anybody to embroil it in such dastardly acts."

CHECHNYA

Russians squeeze Grozny from several points

Russian troops and Chechen militia advanced further into the besieged capital of Grozny from several directions on Sunday as their commander assured the public that "nothing terrible" is happening in the city. "All that's going on is a continuation of the operation to free the city of bandits," Gen. Viktor Kazantsev told the Itar-Tass news agency. Russian officials say the city could be taken within days, despite reports of heavy resistance from Chechen fighters.



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Yemeni Researcher Launches Invention

Two years ago the world learned of a mobilization of scientific resources, organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and its regional offices. The UN asked twenty international environmental organizations, four scientific groups and about (450) biologists from different countries to write a report about the environment. Meanwhile, the Yemeni researcher, Mr. Talal Abdulhabeeb Ahmed Al-Abssi had started his work towards finding a solution to problems of environment. Before the end of the 20th century, and as we approach the 21st century, the Yemeni researcher is insistent upon putting the name of Yemen in a high position through his new discovery. He wanted to serve all nations of the world, helping them to live peacefully, and ensuring the life and livelihood of future generations. Soltan Al- Thawabi, correspondent for



endorsed by the Arab Scientific Council.

YT: Mr. Talal, Could you please clarify for us the mechanism by which your inventions work?

A: First of all I would like to thank the Yemen Times, which is considered to be a window through which to see the other face of Yemen. Regarding the invention which I launched, the purpose of it is to separate the chemical elements which are available in industrial wastes of oil. The mechanism of this invention was through two modern means of (salt fusion). I can design

drawings of the separation mechanisms of industrial wastes. These drawings show us how to solve environmental pollution. Through this treatment, we recover primary materials. I also made another design, which enables us to use these primary materials in the industry. I have some suggestions as to how can we take advantage of these primary materials. YT: This means that the invention produced another invention, is that so?

A: Yes, because the Central Institution for Inspection and Control awarded me two patents of an invention. Each one carries the name of the invention. YT: We understand that any great invention like this will cost a lot of money in order to implement, do you think that will be true in your case?

A: I think that I have economic utility to my advantage, and the mechanism of the two methods is also economic on its own. Regarding the raw materials used during the process of separation and division, they should be examined with regard to their cost. After the process of separation and division, the industrial wastes, which would otherwise pollute the environment, are changed into raw materials for use in industry, as I mentioned before.

YT: How do you feel about this achievement?

A: I will never feel satisfied until I see that humanity has gained something from my invention. I hope that authorities in our country will work to support innovations, and encourage scientific research, because the applied sciences are important standards of development.

On the other hand, our embassy in Baghdad has called for the concerned parties in our country to adopt such scientific cadres, and on our part in the Yemen Times we offer our thanks to Baghdad University that accepted and assisted this Yemeni researcher and other creative people from Yemen.

Li Li
NANA



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

Part 2 of 2



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

Funding education is a problem faced by all societies, but Yemen is not only a poor country, it is also the first in the world as regards the rate of increase in population. It is a fact that the population explosion in Yemen is the main cause of the problem of funding education in our country. If the situation remains as it is, education, health and housing will not be the only victims but the whole Yemeni people will suffer from more poverty year after year.

The work for reforming and developing education in all its aspects, branches and dimensions must be the first item on the agenda of decision-makers in Yemen. Future education systems in Yemen must include the following:

- Getting rid of the existing means of education, which are based on rote learning, and replacing them with methods aiming at developing analytical, creative and research capabilities among students.
- Paying special attention to teaching students how to exercise self-education and using the basic resources available to obtain knowledge, including the multi-dimensional media of information and the internet.
- There must be an emphasis on the concept of comprehensive education as it includes intermarriage of specialties and reorganization of universities and research centers in a manner allowing such intermarriage in a short time.
- Benefiting from modern technology in education process and interacting with the intellectual outcomes which they yield.
- Re-consideration of the relationship between the institutions of public education (universities and schools) and other education institutions, because in the technological revolution, information and the multi-media technology have become a parallel school with an ever-increasing role in the education process.
- Reconsideration of the concept of illiteracy eradication so that it would not be confined to reading and writing but also to cover the idea of eradicating computer illiteracy and teaching the basics of information literacy.
- Establishing Centers of Excellence, i.e. research units of a high level capable of following up the technological developments and comprehending their results.

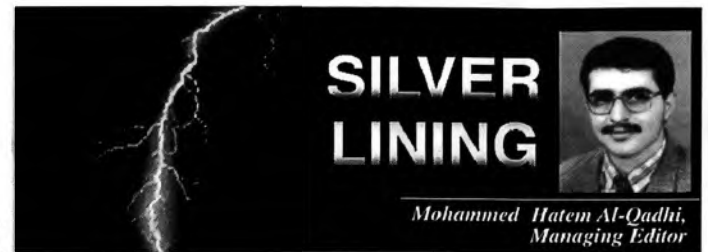
- Adoption of a policy of continuous education which necessitates flexibility in all institutions of public education.
- Helping students to form their own viewpoints concerning various issues and problems and to develop the skills of criticizing thinking.
- Giving particular attention to the resources of education, especially regarding quality, modernization and variety and facilitating their acquisition.
- Giving broad opportunity for optional studies and diversification of educational activities, taking them as a basis for developing students' tendencies.
- Re-training and rehabilitation of teachers and maintaining training during service to update their knowledge and abilities.
- More linkage between education and the local community and encouragement of education decentralization.
- Rendering due care to Yemenis living abroad and those coming back home, and benefiting from them and effecting essential changes in teaching live foreign languages, in addition to increasing scholarships for studying abroad in fields of applied sciences.
- Revising some existing educational concepts in the light of scientific and technological developments.

Coming out with a comprehensive strategy aimed at reforming and developing education could not be achieved

except by assigning a higher supervising commission to set up a committee of experts to undertake preparation of studies and researches required for rescuing education from its present dilemma. It would also have to explore the real dimensions of the tasks that must be fulfilled in order to find a remedy to all the defects that are threatening the educational system in Yemen, in order to keep in pace with developmental requirements and the rapid changes of the world of the 21st century.

Some of the proposed outlines may be:

- Regarding objectives: Education in Yemen must work for upgrading the level of capabilities (i.e. developing human intelligence abilities)
- Regarding curriculum: Concepts of dialogue education should be adopted and the student participation in acquiring knowledge.
- Regarding content: The education process should be characterized by flexibility, renewal and ability to comprehend new knowledge.
- Regarding scope: education should be spacious enough to include adult education in a direct and intensified form, and to stress the importance of tackling the problem of girls' leakage from the education system, a matter having a considerable negative impact on the aspects and potentials of sustainable development in Yemen in general.



Mohammed Hatem Al-Qadhi,
Managing Editor

The Third Millennium: Does it Mean Something to us?

Four days and 94 hours are left before the world moves into the third millennium. However, there are some people who still argue that the 20th century will not finish at the end of December. They say that there is one year left in this century.

Whichever it is, some nations will be moving into the next century very quickly, developing and changing as time goes on. Still, there are some nations which will hardly be able to even crawl into the 21st century.

It is a good chance to go back for a while and think of the great scientific and technological achievements which the world has made in the 20th century. The world has been able to make laudable strides in different fields of life, doing many things which had never been done before, and some things which were only dreamed of. In fact, this century is associated with miraculous achievements, which the world should be very proud of.

A lot of discoveries in different arenas of life have been made. It is also in this century that great theories like those of Freud, Darwin, Marx, Einstein and others emerged. It is in this century that man landed on the moon for the first time. Marvelous and radical changes in the life of mankind have taken place. They are, of course, uncountable.

The most important revolution in the history of man in the 20th century is that in communication technology. This revolution has broken all the barriers between the world communities, and made the world, so to speak, a global village. This information revolution has also helped in the emergence of globalization, not only of economics but also of politics and culture. I mean it is in this century the communication between nations has become very close, particularly with the advent of the internet and the telephone.

Again, it was in this century that great catastrophic events took place, such as the First and Second World Wars. Still, the achievements remain greater than the catastrophes.

It is a good time for nations to go back for a while and examine their contributions to the welfare of humanity. It is those nations who have helped humanity most that should be remembered well. There are, however, nations which did nothing. They were and are still just consumers of the products of the hardworking communities. What is more unfortunate is that these countries are not aware of their future at all. The advanced world has made up its full-fledged plans and resolutions for the new century or at least for the new year. But other nations are not conscious of what is happening and what the next millennium means to them. I believe that everybody in the Western world has made up his own decision and plan for the new year. Their governments and nations usually make decisions and plans for several years to come. I wish that the third world countries did just like the western people and made plans, even for at least for one year in advance.

Yemen is one of those countries which will move to the next millennium only in terms of time. I feel really worried about our society when I find that there are some people in our country who still live in the past.

Yemen is truly troubled by many ordeals that are still to come. Education, the main ingredient that is supposed to help us move to the next century hale and sound, is perverted and useless. The health sector in our country is very deteriorating and having hard times. Sheikhs and tribes are still more powerful than law and order. The whole infrastructure of the society is shaky and undependable; a brighter tomorrow is uncertain. The social structure needs considerable restructuring. Corruption seems to have devoured everything in this country and is out of control. Therefore, are the people in authority aware of the challenges of the next century? If they are, they do not seem to have made plans to find solutions for the many pitfalls which lie in the road. Merry Christmas and happy new year to you all.

Comparative Study Between Yemeni-Eritrean Ways of Documentation in Arbitration Over Red Sea South Islands



By: Abdulla
Mohammed Al-Saidi
Vice Minister of
foreign Affairs

This study contains an objective comparison of the style of documenting followed by the two parties of the conflict on sovereignty over the islands Greater and Lesser Hanish, Seiou, Jabal Zuqar, Al-Zubayr islands, Al Tair island and South West Rocks in the southern part of the Red Sea.

In order to clarify effectiveness of documentation in supporting the legal evidence on which the two parties of the disputes have depended, we have to briefly review the legal justifications submitted by the Yemen Republic and the State of Eritrea in their pursuit to prove sovereignty over the group of islands situated in the southern part of the Red Sea.

Eritrea's arguments;

When the Eritrean troops had occupied Greater Hanish island in December of 1995, Asmara claimed its sovereignty over the Hanish island group proceeding from these facts:

- 1- The Ottomans used to exercise sovereignty over the islands from the western coast of the Red Sea.
- 2- The Italians had imposed their sovereignty over these islands by virtue of the Italian military occupation of them and Rome's intent to impose sovereignty over these islands. It is known in the international law in the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century that occupation by itself does not grant the right to sovereignty unless associated with the occupying state's intention of imposing its sovereignty.
- 3- That the Ethiopians had inherited sovereignty over these islands from the Italians who were defeated in World War II, despite the fact that according to 1947 accord upon ending the war, the Italians were forced to renounce any right they had acquired pursuant to article 16 of the Lausanne agreement for the year 1923.
- 4- Eritrea had consequently inherited the sovereignty over the islands from Ethiopia, which recognized Eritrea's independence after a long war of liberation.

Yemen's arguments in this respect are based on these facts:

1- These islands belong to the Republic of Yemen on the grounds of Yemen's historical right to them. These islands belonged to Yemen before the Ottoman occupation, and the Ottoman administrative division of the Wilayet of Yemen recognized these islands as being under the sovereignty of Yemen. After the defeat of the Ottoman empire in 1918 the Imam of Yemen troops managed to impose their power on the coasts of Tihama and established Yemeni sovereignty on them.

2- Contrary to Eritrean allegations, Italy did not impose its sovereignty on these islands. In this context the Yemeni legal team concentrated on Italy's commitment to the Luzon agreement of 1923 that provided that the fate of these islands would be determined by the states, parties to the agreement. In other words, any party could not behave individually with regard to the destiny of the islands.

3-The Rome understanding between Italy and the United Kingdom of 1927 made it incumbent upon both Italy and the United Kingdom to not impose their sovereignty on the islands on the Red Sea, which were under neither Yemeni nor Saudi sovereignty. Moreover, the then Italian foreign minister Mussolini had written to the Imam Yahya Hamidudin before signing the ANGLO-ITALIAN AGREEMENT OF 1938, confirming that Italy had worked towards preserving the Yemeni sovereignty regarding the islands of south Red Sea, as the agreement intended to be concluded stipulates that neither Italy would have sovereignty over the islands of Greater Hanish and Lesser Hanish nor Britain over Kamaran island.

4- The Yemeni oral and written arguments also contained reference to the insistence of Imam Yahya Hamidudin, during the signing of 1934 agreement between the Mutawakilia kingdom of Yemen and Great Britain, on restoring the Yemeni islands in the south of the Red Sea, including the islands of Hanish and Al-Zubayr.

5- The Yemeni pleadings included a huge quantity of documents indicating the Yemeni exercise of sovereignty over these islands.

It is worthwhile mentioning that the majority of the documents presented

by the Eritrean team of research were derived from secondary sources that could not support the legal assumptions of the state of Eritrea. The Eritrean side has based its assumptions on press articles and Arabic books that, out of their short knowledge, were writing that Yemen is not able to impose its control on the Red Sea islands and they are consequently subject to Israeli and Ethiopian ambitions. Some Arab writers have gone further to assume that the islands are inhabited only by some Ethiopian fishermen. Others insisted that Israel had occupied the island of Zuqar in 1973 although that the Chairman of the Yemeni Republican Council then, Qadi Abdul Rahman Al-Eryani had stated that the Yemen Arab Republic had sent Yemeni troops to the islands of Zuqar, Greater Hanish and Al-Zubayr and found no traces of any foreign troops on the said islands, confirming that the Arab Republic of Yemen was capable of protecting its sovereignty over these islands.

Eritrea was not able to submit official Italian documents in support of its claim that Rome had imposed its sovereignty on these islands and annexed them to the colony of "newly established Eritrea."

The Yemeni research team represented by the national committee for arbitration was able to present Italian government maps, such as maps of the foreign ministry and colonies and East Africa, all of which affirm Yemen's right to these islands. Even the Italian government maps that were not colored in the colour of the map of Yemen did not give them to the Italian colony of Eritrea but gave them the status of the islands mentioned in article 16 of the Lausanne agreement, i.e., the islands whose sovereignty was still pending. Also, the Yemeni team presented a large number of maps of other states such as the Ottoman Empire, Ethiopia, Britain, the United States, France Austria and Germany, all of which confirm Yemen's historical right to these islands. It is worth mentioning that Eritrea's post-liberation maps, including the map of Eritrea independence to the end of 1995, were in line with the Yemeni historical right to sovereignty over these islands.

On the other hand, Eritrea has alleged that the United Nations has demarcated Eritrea's frontiers within the boundaries of the former colony of

Italian Eritrea including its islands, which Eritrea considered the phrase "its islands" to include the group of islands in the south of the Red Sea under the pretext that these islands are under the Italian sovereignty. Against this the Yemeni team offered the report of the UN Committee on Eritrea and the maps enclosed with the report that had been submitted to the UN General Assembly during the discussion of the situation of the Italian colonies in East Africa. These UN maps and those of the UN about the region till 1996 show that all the islands in the south of the Red Sea are Yemeni.

In compliance with the directives of the president Ali Abdulla Saleh, the Yemeni Ports Authority installed in the late seventies and early eighties a number of solar energy-powered beacons in some of the islands in the south of the Red Sea. The British government was responsible for managing and maintaining the Red Sea Beacons but it failed to do so at that time, therefore the Yemeni government carried out that task in its stead. The Arab Republic of Yemen had taken part as observer in the conference of the governments members of the agreement of the Red Sea beacons held in London in June 1989, while the Ethiopian government did not ask to participate in that meeting and did not object to Yemen's installation of those beacons.

In conclusion I would like to offer some general remarks on the arguments and legal presumptions offered by the two parties;

1- Eritrea has presented a large quantity of documents, but its legal team had not examined those documents. Some of them were useful in support of the presentations and others were harmful to them in other aspects. The Yemeni side benefited from the Eritrean documentation especially the documents in possession of the Ethiopian foreign ministry. However, the Yemeni team was not in a position capable of obtaining them. And the Yemeni team refrained from presenting documents useful to it, which might arouse the anger of some members of the arbitration tribunal.

2- In order to win the media war with Yemen, Eritrea was, at the beginning of the dispute, quick in using the Internet and its foreign ministry issued a White Letter on the legal findings of

the Eritrean allegation, but after extended legal and historical discussion, Eritrea renounced some of the assumptions it was making, such as that the Ottoman sovereignty over these islands was exercised from the African side of the Red Sea. The Yemeni team benefited from these contradictions to support its legal arguments.

3- The contradiction between the Eritrean assumptions and arguments was mostly clear, and that has weakened the Eritrean legal stand.

4- The Yemeni side kept calm against provocations of the Yemeni opposition press that accused the government of submission and ceding to the status quo. The fact is that the Yemeni negotiator was keen to keep its strategy

secret to stave off any legal confusion that might result from giving statements and information.

5- In the first phase the Eritrean party tried to address the sentiments of the arbitration tribunal by focusing on the Arab- Israeli conflict, and by begging for compensation in the second phase.

6- The Yemeni team was more capable and organized than its Eritrean counterpart in using the huge quantity of documents in Yemeni interests. In the light of this fact, we had had an apprehension from the beginning, which is that weakness of the other party and its non-experience might cause the arbitration tribunal to sympathize with it. This premonition was actually based on precedents in international arbitration.

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Unsuccessful Economic Reforms, Increased Prices of Basic Goods and Unreal Budget for 2000, All to Be Endured by the Yemeni Citizen



By:
Jalal Al-Sharaabi
Yemen Times

The economic conditions of the Yemeni people are passing from pillar to post with the passage of time. One would easily notice that the number of people below the poverty line has also increased dramatically. Unemployment is a terrible nightmare, paining many people. It has come to be in direct correlation to economic reforms.

Each year we witness a new list of food supplies prices having changed from the previous one made the year before. Naturally, the new list is different from the previous in terms of increasing the prices of these basic goods. Despite unrestrained attempts to retrieve the situation in terms of treasury bonds and privatization, these efforts have failed and could not stop the deteriorating tendency of our currency.

Smuggling huge budgets for the military bodies, the officials indifference, in addition to the non-existent control over the public property, are all monsters continuously frightening the Yemeni people, especially in the current crisis at the regional level, in which economy is the severest weapon ever used against Yemen.

Not only this, for our currency has also fallen against the Dollar and this has brought about a decrease in the real wages of employees. The basic

food supplies prices have also risen, especially after the government removed the subsidization. The government should have dedicated the money of subsidizing these goods to investment. And though there has been a large increase in oil prices and an increased number of the newly discovered oil fields, the revenues of all these still have a mysterious destination.

Generally speaking, the Yemeni markets suffer from a terrible hoarding of goods, most of which have already expired and others are about to and are suspected to be convenient for the humanly use. One of the main factors that help increase the spread of these goods is the non-existence of health control that should be conducted at boarder check points as well as sea ports.

The General Budget for 2000 showed that the government is going on in its policy of allocating new funds for security and the military at the expense of education, health, and development.

Statistics of the past five years show that there is an increase in the ratio of current revenues, including taxes, Zakah, charges on external trade, services revenues such as agricultural revenues, houses, transportation, social services, services of justice, security, education, health, media, tourism, culture, and that of the government's benefit from minerals and industry overall benefits. Despite all that, economic conditions remain as deplorable as one could imagine. The Yemeni citizen remains a victim to these economic reforms, which reform nothing but

destroy everything.

The returnees from the Gulf countries during the Gulf War in 1990, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the Yemeni government and people taking sides with Iraq has caused the Saudi government to drive away the Yemeni employees working there and led to an increasingly heavy burden that tires the shoulders of the Yemeni government. Besides these economic hardships the monetary liquidity used to be available by those emigrants has come to an end. After their return, the prices of basic food supplies for 1997 and 98 tended to increase visibly. Prices were different from one governorate to another for example, a box of fruits weighing 17kg used to cost YR 1950 in 1997 at Ma'areb. However, in 1998 it has gone up to YR 2150. The same thing was applicable to all types of fruits. Differences of prices were dominating among the governorates, for a ton of iron 12ml used to cost YR 41750 in 1998 at Hadramout while it reached to YR 45227 at Abian in the same year.

The continuous rise in prices of oil products and mineral articles is another burden that the Yemeni citizen have had to encounter and accommodate with an increase of prices of essential food supplies such as flour and wheat. The Yemeni government has many times declared through its Prime Minister and Minister of exterior affairs that economic conditions are in a tight situation and that there is a deficit reaching billions of riyals, asking the people to follow austerity measures. Moreover, the government went on in its attempts to solve this

crisis and stopped importing white wheat because red wheat is cheaper. However, despite all this, year 1999 witnessed a terrible drop of our currency and the sack of flour has run from YR1400 to YR1700. The Yemeni authorities have determined to stop the continuous rise of the Dollar at the expense of the Yemeni Riyal, so it tried all that it could to stop the price of Dollar at YR160, however, the price has not stopped and reached YR170. The Central Bank justified this by saying that this was a result of some exchangers' and merchants' behavior who play with these prices.

Economists show that these are not the real solutions for there are intermingling factors and reasons that brought about this crisis. They also asserted that there are some ministers and high ranking officials who possess huge funds and other money, they get out of some projects they purchase, tend to invest their fortunes in speculative projects with dollars.

They added that the reasons that have aggravated the situation are the government's procedures conducted to free the basic goods out of its control. The government has lifted its subsidization that used to reach to \$ 500 million. This has caused many merchants to compete to get Dollars so that they can import these basic food supplies, consequently adding insult to injury.

The Central Bank's in a face-saving action to save the position of the Yemeni riyal by having put \$10 million into circulation, the market had also come through. For it was soon used for speculation rather than sup-

porting the monetary market.

Uncertain sources reveal that regional countries are also involved in leading the Yemeni economy to this deplorable position in involving some of its agents in speculation by withdrawing dollars from the local market and supplying more Yemeni currency. All these factors have made prices of goods unstable and on the increase. A lot of revenue that should come to the public treasury come to be wasted and exploited by different, mysterious sources. For example, statistics show that due to smuggling operations the government lost YR70 billion during 1999.

The Yemeni market has been dominated by different imported goods most of which being illegally brought into the country, reaching to more than 120 items of goods during Ramadan. Besides, some are not suitable for the human use as testing revealed.

A law was passed this year by the Cabinet to increase the cleaning charges on business shops and general services by 200% which has obviously increased the suffering and the agony of citizens who have become a bearer of these aggressive laws.

The Yemeni people have still been optimistic that economic conditions in 2000 will improve as the government has promised at different times that the budget of service facilities will be increased. However, the budget draft of the government for 2000 crushed all their hopes and astounded those optimists, for the draft presented to the Parliament contained a number of fallacies and distorted facts aiming at cheating the members of Parliament.

The budget also contained an increase in expenditure reaching to about YR 80 billion more than that of 1999. Security and Defense have taken 25% of this increase. Statistics show that this article has increased at a ratio of 109%, therefore security and defense will take YR14 billion and 68 million. However, the

share of the Interior Ministry is around YR 2 billion and 736 million and the Political security with YR1 billion. In regard to oil revenues, the budget draft includes mysterious numbers either in terms of the real quantities or monetary figures, besides, the playing with the prices of selling the exported oil or that used locally. Moreover, the revenues of oil sold at the colanders in Aden for the new budget is also unknown though its quantity in budget 1999 was around 25,550,000 barrels.

The Yemeni government has also suffered from heavy losses as a result of 30 bombing incidents of the pipelines. All these obstacles stay in the face of the Yemeni economy and make any attempts to retrieve the situation fruitless and worthless unless a clear monetary policy takes into account the real income of the Yemeni citizen and the cost of his living upon a healthy strategic economy.

To conclude, it is a fact that all, especially those in charge, should confess that most of the revenues of the Yemeni government are spent illegally and go to mysterious destinations where there is no official control. Besides there is no sense of consciousness among some top and influential officials. Therefore, it lies upon the government to save the national economy from destruction and from the total dependence on the economic reforms of the International and World Banks' Funds which proved failure in most of the countries where these programs were applied to the destruction of the country itself.

The Second Biggest Project in the Middle East

Aden is witnessing large industrial development especially after it was declared a Free Zone. This has attracted Arab as well as foreign investors to come and invest in this beautiful historical city. Therefore, the government should make all the facilities and services needed available so that we can go ahead in our commitment to build a modern Yemen.

Radwan Al-Saqqaf of Yemen Times interviewed the investor Hamdo Abdul Karim, general manager of the Industrial Metal Company who talked about the present state of investment in Yemen and the obstacles their company faces. He said "I congratulate the Yemenis and the President and all officials in the government on this occasion of celebrating the revolution's festivals. As an investment company in Yemen, we found that it is a nice chance to establish a project in Yemen, especially in the Free Zone.

We started working in our project in 1997 and then we started our activities a year and a half

ago. We have made manufactured iron available in the Yemeni market. This is just the beginning for we are interested to build factories and stores where we are going to manufacture all kinds of iron. Our company is the first of its kind in Yemen in terms of manufacturing iron. We are employing around 200 employees including those working in this main branch in Aden and those working in our branches in Sana'a and Hodaia.

Q: What about what is said that you have the second biggest project in the Middle East?

A: We have a project on the coast of Abian in Dufas district. It is located upon 26,000 sq. m and is used for melting iron. This project is going to be established in three stages, the first stage we have started with and production will start in January 2000 and by the end of 2002 we are going to cover the needs of Yemeni market as well as measures of iron manufactured according to international standards. In addition, there will be a 40% surplus

in production, which will be exported abroad. This project is considered to be one of the biggest projects in Yemen and to be the most precise in the Middle East.

The number of the employees in this project is 1700-2300. These workers will be supplied



with the housing and all the services in terms of the restaurants, school, a mosque, and all the services that help the pursuits of the workers in the project. In regard to production, we are going to produce 1200 tons per day. We are exporting some of our production to Saudi Arabia, but it is not very much as we are still in the first stage. We are planning to export more as we finish establishing this project.

Q: How do you assess the investment drive in Yemen?

A: There are so many fields and business opportunities that could be better exploited by investors. We took this matter seriously and started investing in Yemen. We were encouraged much by our knowledge of the needs of the Yemeni market before we started investing in this country.

Yemen, as I said earlier, has lots of business opportunities and is a suitable and convenient place for investment, however, there are some obstacles that if are resolved, I believe investment will prosper and develop. For example, some of the obstacles we face are in regard to customs offices and taxes, and the interference of low officials in administration affairs. They tend to create some obstacles and difficulties such as assigning the taxes and customs that are not proper and correct. Besides, there are some officials who do not abide by rules. Instead they take these rules into their hands and interpret them as they like when dealing with us.

The main problem that we face is the problem of tariffs on the manufactured iron, because the law imposes the same tariff on the manufactured iron as that on the imported iron. If we

refer to the customs law of manufactured iron, we find that it is not at all suitable to be applied to us. It is so because in this law the manufactured iron was limited to three or four measures and it is not at all possible to specify such measures on reality. When we opened this factory here we plan to manufacture all measures of iron and the measures pointed out by the law don't form than 5% of our production. This restriction in this law is going to render many obstacles and difficulties for our progress. It is quite impossible to specify the measures of iron in such a manner or to say that they are six or ten measures for our production is going to be more than 100 different kinds



from the different measures.

So these restrictions have to be resolved and removed. The customs laws should be made to accelerate the progress of investment and not impede it. Measures are not that important as the weights of these kinds so it is then advisable and prudent that the law is amended. When we find that there is no difference between the manufactured iron and the raw iron in terms of customs rate this will affect us much and it is a way of destroying our local industry. Such circumstances give some merchants the opportunity to compete with us and that will negatively harm us. If the situation remains as it is, I think in the course of time we will close this factory and become merchants instead of manufacturers.

Q: What are some solutions to this problem in your viewpoint?

A: The only solution I see is to review the customs and tax laws and to make a distinction between manufactured and imported iron. There should be clear description of this issue. The law should not at all restrict and limit the sizes and measurements of iron to two or three sizes or measurements. For one machine in our factory will manufacture more than 100 kinds that are made according to the most modern techniques all over the world. I wonder then whether we should import machines that only manufacture 2 or three kinds that go in harmony with the Yemeni law?! This law is an old one and is not at all convenient for the present time which is characterized by great industrial development.

Q: Anything you would like to add?

A: I would like again to thank the President for his great commendable efforts to speed up investment in this country and I also congratulate him on the festivals of the Yemeni revolution. I also thank Yemen Times for its focus on investment especially in the Free Zone.

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Celebrating The 51st Anniversary of Human Rights



By:
Tawfeek Al-Sharaabi,
Yemen Times

It is really depressing and deeply disappointing to see the whole globe drawing close to the threshold of the new millennium highly conscious of their accomplishments and at the same time setting up new goals and opening new horizons to accomplish all of the things they missed, while we here in Yemen have come to a feeling of not having accomplishing the desired goals of democracy and human rights for one reason or another. It is an irony that we are still perpetuating our general mood of depression and fancy hopes of development, human rights, democracy, etc. that may never be met unless we sincerely commit ourselves to their sublime values.



Not so long ago, we celebrated the 51st anniversary of human rights in Yemen, at a time that was characterized by their violations. A look around will bear testimony to what I mean.

It is true that Yemen signed the international treaties of Human Rights like many other nations. However, despite the best of intentions, the actual implementation of human rights still remains a long way off. In spite of the lofty ideals which we cherished, in practice they are invalid, ineffective and do not have any real substance.



Many times I have heard the question, "Why we are different from other nations that have made long strides in terms of human rights and whether these rights are strongly respected and upheld?" In fact, what these countries have achieved was not random or sudden. They achieved what they have after a long struggle by a great people who do believe in these rights and their values. If we really want to reach such

a position and state, human rights should be ideally safeguarded and protected. We should ensure that these wonderful rules are translated into action before we qualify to celebrate the signing of the accord. A cursory look at the national scenario would make the whole thing clear.

Writing about human rights violations has become a casual matter that all become fed up with. However, I realize the urgency of our need to critically analyze the activities of those who claim to support human rights and those who draw a rosy picture of what is really misery. There is a specific group of people who are bent upon distorting facts to serve the interests of some influential and powerful people in the country. They are indeed corrupt, and always give service to those people who are powerful, usually in exchange for material gain. Now if we have made slight progress in the issue of human

rights, we should not keep boasting and bragging about this. If we are actually committed to such hard-fought gains, we should make all-out efforts to consolidate them and go on waging a war against wrongful and illegal acts amounting to human rights violation that should be set right. We should not spare any efforts until this situation is corrected.

To elaborate on the above argument and make it more clear, I want to draw the attention of some arm-chair philosophers to some points that those dreaming people need to be conscious of:

How many beggars of different age groups are flooding our streets?

How many violations take place in investigation offices, prisons, and political security?

How many persons are subjected to arrest and captivity without any legal warrants?

How many sheikhs still possess jails to torture innocent people?

How many disabled and crippled people are ignored and left to the streets?

How many people are unable to find loaves of bread for their survival? How many students, after all their toil and troubles to finish their university education, find themselves roaming the streets?

How many cases of human rights violations, reported in newspapers, are not investigated?

Are not these questions worth considering before we celebrate and boast of our achievements?

Beggars on the streets are also human beings and claim these rights too. It is an irony that we celebrate and rejoice about upholding such rights while these beggars' rights are flagrantly trampled over. They mock at our celebration as an unmistakable evident that violations are there. Go to any street and you will

easily see the magnitude of their calamity; Beggars of different ages, from the child to the young boys, from youths and old people, all swarm through our streets. Even young ladies have followed suit. Neither can these kids nor old people be at all able to work and earn living. They keep running from one street to another holding their hands, kissing people and praying for a paltry 5 riyals or something. Some of those beggars have made road intersections their homes. They are always there; day and night, in summer as well as in winter, exposed to hot, cold, hunger, and thirst and no-one seems to be bothered and do something to redress their suffering. Doesn't this constitute a violation of human rights? Isn't their right to be looked after? Don't they have rights to have homes to protect them, food to eat, and access to health care, education, etc.?

Of course, "YES". So what are we celebrating? Our constitution envisages that all children have access to education, especially primary education. So, is this provision really implemented?

No one could fail to notice how our handicapped, crippled and invalid brethren are moving from one street to another, either on wheels or on their sticks begging alms. Some just keep dragging themselves in these streets with no-one to help. Isn't it their right to find places and centers which take care of them and train them to be productive rather than a source of grief and liability to our society. Now how can we turn a deaf ear to all this?!!

How can we say that "human rights are not an problem in Yemen?"

Child labor is also another distressing phenomenon which is on the increase. They are exposed to different terrible tiring and strenuous jobs and activities, unlike in many countries throughout the globe. The Arab treaties no 1 of the 1966 and no 6 of 1976 envisage that child labor below the age of 12 should not be allowed. However, the number of children working in our country has increased considerably in the past few years. Rough estimations show that the number of working children is 231,000, made up of, 52% males and 48% females. Some were compelled by their deplorable living situations to leave school and start working to help their families earn a living. These kids working in different productive activities may be vulnerable to various forms of hazards and abuse. Some may be perverted if they work for a wicked company, and some may grow up criminals.

Violations of human rights not only occur in these limited spheres of life, they spread to many other areas as well. For instance, there are a great number of graduates and highly qualified persons who have completed their studies, only to be idle and have no-where to go except to the streets. For example, a graduate who devoted around 18 years of his life to academics is rewarded for his hard work by unemployment. Many go abroad to study different academic specializations and come back to stay at home and do nothing.

Don't all these people have the right to find jobs to utilize their skills and what they studied so that they benefit themselves and their society? Don't they have rights to dream of settling down, starting families and living peacefully? Violations in Police Stations, Investigation Offices, Prisons, and political Security may speak for themselves. If we kept a record of the all these violations we can say without any fear of exaggeration that human rights are hardly respected. Many people are subject to arrest, torture and are beaten up without any legal and lawful warrants. Some are taken to custody mainly because they were vocal for their rights and tried to expose the roots of corruption. Others are put in captivity for unknown reasons and durations. The latest reports of Amnesty International showed that many violations of human rights are taking place. The Amnesty International has documented many cases of torture in Yemen, particularly at the hands of Political Security.

Even women are not left alone in such conditions. It seems to me that all have heard about the aggressive war waged against the Empirical Researches and Women Studies Center which ended up in issuing a decision to close the center down. The decision made was not at all considerate of the 150 students' rights studying in the center. The action to close this center is a flagrant violation of their rights, restricting their ability to be vocal and express their opinions freely as this is asserted by our constitution. These violations occur to women outside prisons, let alone those that must be happening inside prisons. For example, some of those kept in prisons are prone to oppression, torture and rape by some of those snobbish, influential officials who take the law into their own hands.

Casting a look over the many organizations that are set up to support human

selves what the Committee of Human Rights in the Consultative Council has done since the death of Dr. Abdul Aziz Al-Saqqaf, the real sponsor of human rights in our country. I now assert that it was only when he was alive that we could see issues of human rights raised up and strongly defended. Because of his stiff attitude and sincere commitment, we could see real fruits in terms of releasing many people kept in custody without any legal warrants, uncovering illegal actions, disclosing corruption, etc. He played a pivotal role in supporting human rights organizations that really justified their titles. He was the shelter of any afflicted and oppressed ones in our society.

Thus, if these institutions claiming support of human rights do not respect them and tend to abuse them all the way through, I wonder then who will keep them! If only those skillful in signing

up treaties were also skillful in making policies to apply these rules and rights rather than signing policy documents, then the situation would be much different. Most of the miseries as well as calamities we witness in our day to day live are not that hard to redress. For example, I have come to realize that most of the 'Zakat' money distributed

during this Holy month, goes to the hands of rich people who own fortunes and are not at all in need of it. Only the homeless, really needy people are deprived of it. Now will it not be prudent if we use this money to help those families inhabiting streets and the real poor who are suppressed by poverty, starvation and cold, especially nowadays. The President of the Republic has actually set off a good initiative and a role model when he allocated around



YR10 million for the Human Rights Fund, however what we wish and cross our fingers for is that this money will go to those people who really deserve it, and that it will not vaporize in a thin air as many funds we have received from different organizations and sponsors of human rights.

Will those who are in charge lend me their ears and stir to do something to change the situation as it is now? It is also good to remind those in charge of



human rights to practice what they preach. Words and speeches about human rights are good, however, actions are what we really need, not merely words.



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YEMEN TIMES CALENDAR

JANUARY

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 New Year	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

MARCH

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

APRIL

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Labor Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Unification Day	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JULY

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Victory Day
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

AUGUST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SEPTEMBER

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
						1
30						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 September Revolution	27	28	29

OCTOBER

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 October Revolution	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Independence Day	

DECEMBER

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



Teacher's Law Reflections



By Imad Al-Saqqaf,
Yemen Times, Taiz

The revolution of the 26th of September came in the first place to terminate illiteracy poverty and illness. Unfortunately, after 37 years since the revolution, illiteracy is still high in the Yemeni society and has become even worse. We can still find educational and scientific illiteracy among the educated people. Taiz is ranking the first among Yemeni cities with regard to its ratio of educated people. However, the education process has recently met with obstacles which have caused its rapid decline.

We will focus here on education in Taiz and there are many matters which we will discuss, one of which is the Teacher's Law. This law, issued this year, has been meant to grant teachers privileges to help improve their living standards and job stability. This law was enforced as part of an electoral campaign in the latest presidential elections in September 1999. The names of more than 8000 teachers were dropped from the records in the city of Taiz alone. Teachers in Taiz have observed several strikes which paralyzed education in Taiz schools. The most recent of these strikes was a couple of weeks ago, by the teachers of Al-Sha'ab High School.

In order to depict a clear picture of the problems from which the teachers and schools of Taiz are suffering from, we have conducted these interviews.



Mr. Abdul-Jaleel Jazim, Headmaster of Taiz High School, talked about the way in which the Teacher's law was implemented, saying:

"First, I would like to thank you for your concern about teachers' issues. As for the method which was applied in categorizing teachers, it was spontaneous, random and not well planned. The committee which made those categorizations did not work in the education field, they only work behind their offices' desks, forgetting that the law is called 'Teachers' and Education Profession's Law.' They have applied only half the law, for they were unfair with teachers and they ignored the assistant professions in the educational process. These assistant professions are a complement to the educational system, for they include educational and administrative supervision, whether it be for secretaries, administrators or even those who put up posters and flyers. All these were missed by the committee. However, we all hope that the committee headed by Mr. Abdul-Malik will look over these matters and solve them as quickly as possible so that everybody can feel assured and the 'Teachers' and Education Profession's Law' will be properly applied.

Undoubtedly, those who were not included in the law will be in an unstable state of mind because they were not as lucky as their colleagues who were included in this law. Of course, this would have a negative impact on the educational process. Mr. Abdul-Jaleel has also talked about the problems that schools in Taiz suffer from: "I would not specify certain schools for the problems are many. They are mostly embodied in the lack of space in schools and the shortage of chairs and desks for students, lack of office boys and maintenance workers as well as absence of security guards to protect students and teachers from reckless and unemployed loiterers who go to schools to create problems. There is also the absence of a reaction from parents in following up on their children's progress morally and academically.

Concerning the absence of school activities in some schools, it is attributed to the fact that there are no qualified teachers to supervise these activi-

ties. So how do we expect students to innovate whether in the field of drawing, sculpture, music or handwriting while there are no qualified teachers in these fields except for few who are talented and self taught. And how can schools produce athletes who could join athletic clubs and teams in the absence of qualified teachers and social supervisors and specialists. I have presented the topic of holding summer activities courses to Mr. Abdul-Karim Al-Jandari, the Ministry's Representative for the education sector and he showed some understanding of the subject.

There is also the problem of school administration. How can school headmasters improve their performance without training that would enable them to obtain up-to-date information on their jobs. Another obstacle is related to school curricula, which are far from what is really used, and texts are not based on right educational methods. Besides, the cancellation of the elementary general certificate examinations have made things worse, not to mention the new grading system for tests and school work for the year 99/2000 which in a few years will help spread ignorance and illiteracy.



We also interviewed Mr. Fouad Al-Aswadi, English teacher in Taiz High School and Director of Al-Mustaqbal Institute for

Languages, who spoke about the Teacher's law and problems that teachers and students in Taiz face: "Eventually, a dream has become truth, and the Teacher's law has come to the light after a long period of time. It has really changed many of the bad impressions of teachers and their work in the surrounding society. Therefore, it makes the teacher feel the confidence of the society and students in him. This leaves good impressions on most of the families and makes them change their wrong ideas about the teacher as a person and a man of education. Anyway, most of this law's items and articles are siding with teachers interests and clarifies most of the teachers' benefits and shows their limits accordingly. That is to say, it gives the teacher and his job the right position among the rest of the professions. On the other hand, the way of handling the teacher's differences was not logically planned in advance. It has led to many negative points, especially to those deprived of their legal rights although they were the first in the field of teaching. As a result, they started hating the law and those who worked on it made their hopes leave the job and feel that they are less than those who received all that comes in the law. Actually, it negatively affects them anywhere they go, even in the classrooms where we would hope no obstacle would come into play against the teachers. These are places where a teacher stands as a great model for everyone inside and even outside the class. A place where mind recreation takes place. That is to say, it is the real situation where we can make and expect doctors, pilots, engineers, decision-makers or whatsoever the job is. Finally, it is very important for the Ministry of Education to reconsider the suitable ideas concerning the teacher's law and study them carefully. They must know that all that is added to the teacher's salary is completely apart from the basic salary which will all be deducted in case of his death or retirement. It must be an essential part of the basic level of the salary to be a great help in sudden circumstances that may happen to the teacher.

Mr. Fouad said concerning problems of teachers and students in Taiz: "We, as English teachers along with all the other teachers, suffer a lot of the difficulties and problems that come together with most of the students to the classroom. I am not in a place to mention or cover all those problems that face both the teacher and of course the students. But what I am trying to do is that, I am going to shed light on some problems which make students run far

away from books, which he thinks are his enemy. Not only this, he is also far from the teacher which makes the teaching process very difficult for both to some extent. From my short experience as an English teacher, I can in a nut shell list some of the major problems that negatively affect the students. The first two are shyness and lack of self-confidence. Finding himself among over a hundred classmates, the student prefers to say nothing, although he has the capability of speaking. He always bears in his mind that whatever he says in the class, he expects others to laugh at him. So again he prefers to be silent and be passive like many of his friends in the studying room. A teacher also among this huge number of student can not say or do what is expected. Another problem is the wide distance between the student and their books. Most students have no desire to learn. However, some of the students have the real desire to read books, magazines, newspapers and even references but again lack of confidence and shyness are there. One more thing is that, most of the students have the lion's share of the problems in their family. This is because of the economical situation of the family. It is the student's role to provide his family with food, drink and even his day-to-day school expenses. And of course this negatively affects his study. And finally we should not forget the major problem which is the great gap between students, parents and the authorities in schools. Parents are not following up on and helping their children to learn the things that they need to know. Finally, it is the teacher's role and duty to make students overcome their shyness and let them feel confidence. Teachers can do this when they are self-confident themselves. It is true that when he is respectable and well qualified in his subject, he is ready to answer any question that may arise from students. When all these aspects are found in a teacher then students will surely consider him as their model."



Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Al-Jaradi, an English teacher in Taiz High School also talked with us: "First of all, let me express my

deep appreciation for your effort to shed light on these social and vital issues. Honestly, the educated in Yemen consider the Yemen Times as the torch of the truth, the portrait of reality and the voice of the underprivileged and deprived. Based on your question, I want to warn you that the Yemeni teacher is absent in his law. However, the recent rise in our salaries which all people bother us about is a real proof to show the absence of the power of the law. The sovereignty of the legislation usually protects the rights of people. The problems created by what you have called the law of the teacher shows how miserable and wretched the teachers are in our country. A huge number of educators have been deprived of this increase. What a pity, man dedicating his life to the service of the moral duty of his job in education, and unexpectedly he discovers that his student receives a higher salary than himself. Certainly, this irresponsible decision has had negative effects on teachers achievement and education. Deprivation of educators rights to the improvement of their salaries has created a lot of problems such as family collapses, psychological distress and so on. Similarly, the reasons for the deterioration in the educational and cultural achievement among students are the same reasons noticed in the public services and the government institutions. Finally, I would like to call your attention to a deplorable scene. The financial problems of the Yemeni teacher lead him/her only to think and struggle to provide his family with the essential needs such as food and accommodation security. Undoubtedly, this reflects itself negatively in his/her own manner and his educational duties.

We interviewed the Headmistress of Zayd Al-Moushiki High School for Girls, Jaleelah Shoja'a, and she said about the Teacher's law: "The teacher's law is a great achievement and an auspicious initiative which is worthy of applause despite its flaws and shortcomings.

Many teachers have not gotten their rights, for in Taiz more than 8000 teachers were deprived by this law, although they deserved to receive good from it. The carelessness of the Education Bureau in Taiz in following up this case resulted in the loss of their rights. It is indisputable that this would have an impact on the educational process because the teacher performs his job under hard living pressures which would consequently affect the educational field in which he performs his duty."

On the problems of Taiz schools Miss Jaleelah said: "All our problems originate from the General Administration for the Education Bureau in the governorate. It is always a source of confusion for all schools and the administrative and financial corruption conditions affect the field of educational work. Our school, being one of the fields of educational work, is also affected by this corrupt administration.

Concerning the low level of education of students, I think that students are the pivot of the educational process and if there is a drop in his level then this is not his fault. I believe that all the parts of the educational process (Teacher, curriculum, administration) are responsible for that. However, I do not really see a drop in students levels but the internal and external circumstances have affected different people directly and indirectly in the yields of education and its evaluation. No body can affirm that there is a drop in the level of education unless there was precise educational research, after which we could make judgments.



Finally we met Mr. Mohamed Sa'eed Ali Saleh, Director of the Education Bureau in Taiz. He started the conversation by

thanking the Yemen Times for their concern about educational matters in the governorate. As for the reason behind the dropping of names of many teachers in the Teacher's law lists, he said: "Because of the concern of the political leadership, the Teacher's law was released last Ramadan. This law carries lots of privileges for teachers and incentives that would help improve the living standards and spirits of teachers.

Taiz was one of first cities where the lists of Teacher's law were released with a much lower degree of mistakes than has been true other governorates. The number of the dropped names in Teacher's law is approximately 7705, and can be distributed as follows:

1561 teachers do not have data or their data is not complete. Those are the teachers transferred from other governorates to Taiz, and once their files and data are completed they will receive their rights. One of the conditions of the law is that the teacher should be teaching at least 24 periods. There are many teachers who do not teach any periods and some sub-directors and administrators whom we are not in need of. Those are approximately more than 997 secretaries and 700 sub-directors. We made visits to some schools and found that some have 3 or 4 sub-directors. So we made a comparison according to criteria in which all are equal without exception using no nepotism or favoritism.

There are some workers, technicians, specialists and supervisors who did not receive the increases that the Teacher's law granted them in addition to some teachers who study in the universities. As for the teachers whose names were dropped from the lists although their data were right, they are 51 and there are 500 whose names were dropped by mistake. Those will get their rights in the Teacher's law in the following months. So all those who deserve to get the privileges of

the Teacher's law will get them. All those who work in administration need to do is to do some teaching. I would like to say that we have taken billions of rials from the government treasury, and we have to use them well to cover all the needs of the field.

Some directorates do not have offer even the simplest services so they receive smaller compensations. For example, Mowaze'e, Al-Wazie'ya and Thebab receive higher compensations than Al-Mawaset, Safyan and Shara'ab. The Teacher's law is flexible and includes teachers who work out in the field. Teachers must be honored and we should give them incentives so that their experience may increase and therefore the level of education can improve.

Most teachers started work as administrators, and then the Teacher's law came to give them an incentive to work in classes. I have here in the education Bureau in Taiz more than 400 unemployed administrators and approximately 1251 financial employees and inspectors, auditors and instructors. All of these are in need of jobs and have caused many troubles which have hindered our work.

In regards to the distribution of teachers there is an accumulation of teachers in some areas. The problem is that there is a surplus in the number and a shortage in specializations. There must be a redistribution of education cadres according to the needs of each territory. I am personally concerned about suburban districts, for it is really a shame that these districts are part of Taiz and at the same time have low living and education standards. So I would like to say through the Yemen Times that there must be a quick redistribution for education cadres and this is what we are going to do soon if god wills."

Mr. Mohammed Sa'eed also talked about the surplus in female teachers in schools in Taiz saying: "There are 1432 female teachers in elementary and secondary levels so I wonder why we do not employ only female teachers in elementary and secondary girl schools and transfer the male cadres to suburban districts. We can notice that the number of female alumni is larger than that of males. The teachers of elementary classes shall all be females. We have an example in the southern and eastern governorates where female teachers teach all levels, 1-12, and 95% of the female cadres are successful. We can learn from the experience of Muad Bin Jabal school where only females teach all of the elementary levels. Concerning the unemployed alumni of the High Institute for Teachers in Taiz and the College of Education, we have not received their job degrees yet. There have been four graduating classes now, and we corresponded with the ministry and told them that they should either find jobs for the alumni or stop accepting more candidates in the institute. The ministry has ordered the High Institute for Teachers to stop accepting high school alumni. Now, the place has turned into qualifying institute for those who got a secondary diploma so they would get an intermediate diploma. However, we still hope that the ministry will release job degrees so those alumni would not be victims of the absence of these degrees.

As for the physical and technical sections, I say that we are mainly concerned with encouraging good behavior. School is not a kindergarten, it is a place for learning, and as such needs to have appropriate standards. In my opinion, manners are embodied by the activities performed by students, for waking up early, wearing a clean school uniform, order in the morning assembly, flag salutation and all their other activities are types of manners. Talented and creative students can only be discovered through these activities. If a writer does not start in a school magazine, then he could not start after high school or university and players, musicians, painters and artists need a forum to start with as well. So we are in great need of school activities and those who graduated from and institute of physical and technical education. Fortunately, we have the College of physical and technical education in Hodeida from which alumni are employed."

The YT also asked him about the reasons behind the drop of the level of education of students and his answer was: "The drop of education levels of students is attributed to many factors: 1) The family and the lack of good model, for parents do not follow up their kids' progress or educate them through reading and studying. 2) Students are spending lots of time watching plays, songs and video clips on TV or reading sports and stars magazines instead of doing serious reading. 3) Teachers bear the larger responsibility... unfortunately many teachers lack a good education, and therefore they can not give it to students. School headmasters are also responsible for this drop of education levels, for they do not motivate school activities which are the core of education. We witness the absence of libraries and sports and education contests. Finally, I hope that the education will come to be in better condition, and that we can set foot in the future the way we want. However, I say that leadership of the Ministry of Education should stay for sufficient periods of time so they can contribute something to education. Every minister who wants to make reforms in the field of education gets changed and another one comes. So, the longer any leadership stays, the more it would be able to implement its plans and programs, which we could actually evaluate later."

This is a simple picture of the problems and hindrances which schools in Taiz are facing. The reason for this investigation was the Teacher's law, which some received and others were deprived of, as well as the deterioration of students levels and the random distribution of teachers. School headmasters accuse the General Administration of Education Bureau of corruption, and put the blame for all of the problems and confusion on it, and the Education Bureau puts all the blame on schools headmasters. So, who is responsible for the corruption, problems and confusion in Taiz schools?

This might not be important but what really matters is that there is corruption in employment and distribution of teachers. The most important thing is that the Director of Education Bureau in Taiz knows all this. He must do something urgently for the educational process so he can keep his good reputation... We hope he succeeds!"

PASSION FOR PEOPLE

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COMMON SENSE

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

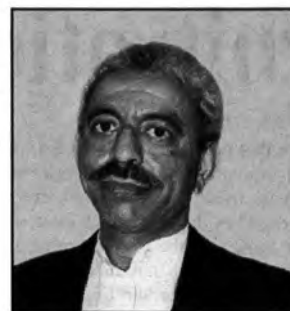
Ramadhan:

The Month of Truth (Final)

In the previous two issues, we delved into the pre-Islamic period in Mohammed's (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) life to shed light on the spiritual evolution of the Messenger of Allah. The early revelations of the Koran were generally very powerful short verses that impress upon the reader the mighty powers of the Divine that are consolidated in Allah, the Al-Mighty, with brief introductions to the spiritual development of man and the series of prophets and messengers that came, from time to time, to correct the misconceptions that have evolved over the passage of time. The essence of these early revelations is to ascertain the fallacy of all the prevailing religious misconceptions, noting that most of these are the work of men, who saw in religion an opportunity for wealth and power and who, accordingly, corrupted the instinctive inclinations of mankind to seek spiritual salvation, with a view towards satisfying the mundane aspirations of these men. In other words, mankind is relieved from having to resort to priests, "holy men", medicine men and any other human beings, who profess to have quasi supernatural powers or direct connections to the Divine. On the other hand, the essence of faith is manifested to the point of outlining simple worshipping rites that rely on the believer's intentions and strong

motivations of faith. The simplicity of these worshipping rites is sufficient enough so as not to have a need for clerics and priests to "carry the burden" for the believer, while at the same time their regularity ensures one - to - One contact with the Lord on a daily basis. Their communal nature, while not mandatory, in most cases, is strongly encouraged to promote a fraternal bond among the believers and to instill the principle of the equality of men, notwithstanding their national, ethnic and social affiliation. While the worshipping rites of Islam are significant in providing the Moslems with a high degree of homogeneity and discipline, they also help to create a sense of order in the believer's life. Moreover, they provide the Moslem with a chance to take care of personal hygienic needs and to clear the mind of some of the pressures of daily life. In summary, the five principle rites of worship in Islam are: 1) to attest openly that "There is no God, but Allah, and that Mohammed is the Messenger of Allah"; 2) to carry out the five prayers of the day, at their fixed time intervals, preferably collectively in the mosques; 3) to fast during the Holy Month of Ramadhan (from dawn to sundown); 4) to pay the Zakat duty (for those who have acquired the resources that exceed their subsistence needs and managed to keep this position for over a year);

and 5) to make the pilgrimage to Mecca (only if able to afford the journey, without causing any hardships on the dependents for sustenance). Yet, Islam does not end there! In fact, Islam came as a special phenomenon of a far greater global significance, the influences of which cannot be overestimated. Islam insists that oppression and authoritarian rule are anathema to Islam and the political power rests with the masses of the faithful. The Prophet Mohammed (P) and his early disciples had a clear comprehension of the political and social ramifications of Islam and set fine examples of how the responsible officials of the state should act in their official duty, as well as in their personal lives and interactions with people. The respect for human and civil rights was a matter of religious duty rather than merely being a civic responsibility, to these early adherents of Islam and their application of sentence was so in-depth that their piety and love of God could never be questioned, even though some of them have already been pledged with the Lord's blessings and bliss in the hereafter, for their contributions and struggle for Islam in its primary stages. Much of what has become universally recognized as human rights have their origins in the teachings and practices of the Prophet Mohammed and his early followers, and this is attested to



by many historians and statesmen over the ages. Unfortunately, Moslems, soon after that, became the last to see this important aspect of Islam, as the model Moslem state, set up by Mohammed and followed through, more or less, by the Moslem leaders that followed him for about half a century after that, became the victim of greed and lust for power among the Moslems themselves, whose affinity to earthly things became far closer than it was to the spiritual. Eventually, the Model State was overthrown, only to be replaced by autocratic regimes. These autocratic regimes, while proclaiming themselves to be the guardians of the faith, on the contrary worked diligently to erase the real fundamental political and social message of Islam. They even had "religious" scholars express and teach that submission to such regimes was a part of religious doctrine, keeping the emphasis on religious worship rites, as the essential elements of Islam! Many Moslem states today have their legitimacy based on this fallacy, and thus regard political awareness as anathema to Islam. At the present time, many problems and challenges beset the Moslem World. The most serious of these challenges, is to overcome the general lack of grasp of the fundamental political and social principles that

Mohammed (P) sought to instill on his followers. Even those current "fundamentalists", who claim to be struggling for the "revival" of the "true Islamic state," appear to be no more than disheartening organized efforts to misrepresent Islam and to project a narrow-minded and often distorted image of the real principles of Islam. These "fundamentalists", by the nature of their organizations and tactics - autocratic and non-transparent - cannot and should not ever be viewed as the competent manifestation of the message that Mohammed conveyed to mankind. In fact, they often project the image of Islam and Moslems that the Prophet Mohammed (P) or his followers taught or acted directly against. Even the political orientations of such organized fanatics arouses the suspicions of many conscientious Moslems as to their real objectives and origin of support. On the other hand, these extremists tend to project an extremely exaggerated view of some very minor issues that are not of such great significance, such as clothing, appearance, etc., and they overlook the overriding issues of the oppressive regimes that rule in those countries, where they have been allowed to operate with a high degree of freedom and the corruption that surrounds them (and one wonders how the leaders of these "missionaries" are living in lavish wealth and splendor, that would have outraged the Prophet and his early disciples, had they seen it). On the other hand, they reject the concepts of human rights and political freedom as "Zionist and imperialist designs" that are anathema to Islam! Moreover, they insist that their conceptions of Islam are the only legitimate ones, damning the majority of Moslems throughout the world as "heathens" and rejecting the theological and philosophical work of generations of

highly regarded Moslem scholars, whose volumes of scholarly works have more to offer for Moslems, in eloquence and content, than what the masterminds of these "fundamentalist" movements have to offer as guidelines for Moslems to pursue. Another characteristic that is disheartening is that the leaders of these movements tend to take on the place of clerics of supreme authority, whose wisdom can never be contested by the followers, or whose orders and judgements can never be questioned or appealed. One would expect that if the ample resources that seem to be available to these suspicious movements is depleted and the general Moslem population becomes more aware of the suspicions that these movements give rise to, they will fade in the strength of the tolerance, which the religious of Islam introduced to the social order of the universe. Tolerance is one of the principle contributions of Islam to the social and political development of human civilization. It was the tolerance that early Moslems displayed, wherever they went, that led to its rapid spread (and not the sword as many prejudiced Western historians would like us to believe). It was also tolerance that led to the cultural advances of Moslems during the Middle Ages, when Europe was in the heyday of its darkness, that eventually led the foundations for all the scientific, social and cultural advances that the modern world enjoys today. It is in this that one can rest assured that the eternal Message of the Prophet Mohammed that started in the Month of Ramadhan over 15 centuries ago will surely carry on as a positive factor in the development of man, towards the next millennium and in the millenniums to come.

Why These Certificates of Gratitude?

By: Dr. Mohammed Y. Al-Ghashm

A big celebration was conducted on Monday December 6th 1999 at the General Department of Plant Protection (GDPP) on the occasion of winning the International prize (Edward Saouma Award) for the years 98-99, which was given to Yemen as well as another country. Usually FAO grants this award every two years for the implementation of the protects of the technical cooperation program (TCP), which maintain the resources of production and protecting the environment from pesticides and other human activities. This year the General Department of Plant Protection in the Ministry of Agriculture in Yemen won the prize

for the good results in controlling the BROWN PEACH STEM APHID (BPSA) by using new bio-control approaches (parasite agents). This new method help to reduce the quantities of pesticides used in the campaign against this pest from 22 tons in 1995 to 25 tons in 1998 and protected around 6 million of stone and pome trees. Around two hundred thousands families of farmers (about one million people) depend on their income from the yield of stone and pome fruit trees. The prize consist of silver medal, with the abbreviation of the General Department of Plant Protection (GDPP) in the ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MAI) in Yemen 1999 written on its face. On the other face are FAO abbreviations and a phrase written in Spanish, French and English languages: "For serving humanity." The GDPP also received a certificate saying the following.

"To the staff of the plant protection department of the ministry of agriculture and irrigation, in recognition of their dedication and enthusiasm in implementing with particular efficiency a project funded by the technical cooperation program of FAO for emergency assistance for control of aphids." Additionally, a check of US\$ 12,000 has been issued in the name of Yemen Plant Protection. During the celebration, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation distributed the certificates of Gratitude to the staff of the GDPP for their successful campaign for control of the aphid, as well as to



ambassadors of Germany, Japan and Holland and some other local and foreign institution for their kind support and participation on the successful control of the BPSA. Due to the excellent support for development of the infrastructure of the GDPP during the last 20 years (1974 - 1994), this was done during the implementation of the Yemen-German Plant Protection project. The German embassy received a certificate from the Minister of Agriculture for establishing several types of laboratories (for identification of insects and diseases, pesticide formulation analysis and quality etc.) and some other plant protection utilities, qualifying a tenth of the GDPP staff in different levels during the life span of the project. During that period, the German and Yemeni experts conducted surveys for agricultural pests and the natural enemies available in the local environment. In addition to that they also conduct several studies, experiments and trials in searching for solutions to the main plant protection problems, as well as for their contribution on cleaning up obsolete pesticides from the country in 1996.

They also expressed their gratitude to the Japanese embassy for their kind and far-reaching assistance, which began in 1979. Japanese aid comes under the 2KR, which aims to increase food protection in Yemen. The average value of the annual Japanese aid reached 500 million J. Yen, this amount was allocated for purchasing of equipment, chemicals and fertilizers. The Japanese aid was used to control the desert locust and African armyworm and other migratory pests which threaten the cereal

crops as well as the potato and legume harvests. Therefore, we can indicate that most of the agricultural offices in different governorates have purchased a tenth of their equipment with the Japanese grant aid. The heavy-duty construction equipment is used to maintain wadis, terraces cultivated lands, irrigation channels, while the light equipment such as agricultural machinery are using for leveling, ploughing land and planting, harvesting, sorting and controlling pests by using different types of sprays. The volume of the Japanese aid was and still is playing a significant and efficient role in the field of increasing food production in Yemen. Due to all this effective assistance, MAI provided this certificate to H.E. Ambassador of Japan. For the FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN that continues to support MAI under the development grant aid assistance and the "INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECT."

H.E. the ambassador of the Netherlands also received a certificate for their contribution and support in the campaign against BPSA and in supporting the training program for the extensions and farmers. These training programs were for the new Bio-Control approaches, which reduce the chemicals and help maintain environmental health, in addition to their main contribution in funding the cleaning up of obsolete pesticides in the country during 1996. The certificate was also, for the participation in the preparation and funding of the new integrated pest management (IPM) project, which is expecting to be implemented during the year 2000. The IPM project is expected to

achieve the following:

* Integration of IPM research into the national agricultural research system in the Republic of Yemen

* IPM options will be developed and validated for vegetables and fruit trees in the central highlands and for cotton and vegetables in Tehama plains.

* Eighty extension staff will have completed season long formal education methods, and gained program management skills.

* Farmer facilitated field schools will have been established in 350 sites.

* About 1200 field schools will have been implemented providing season-long IPM training to approximately 20,000 farmers.

* Participatory IPM research and extensions will have started for other crops such as cereals and lowland tropical crops.

* Improved knowledge by growers on IPM strategies for vegetable, fruit trees and cotton, and proper application methods.

* Increase public awareness of health hazards of pesticides. FAO office also got a certificate for the efforts made to assist and support the aphid campaign, which resulted in establishing a bio-control unit at the GDPP. The certificate was also given due to the good supervision for the activities carried out during implementation of old projects and for the unlimited support for the desert locust and other migratory pest campaigns. In the celebration, different local and foreign institutions got certificates of gratefulness for their support and participation for the plant protection activities, through building up the awareness of farmers by conducting training courses, field days and broadcasting the extension information. Therefore, we feel that the gaining of



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this prize from FAO is very important, not only for the staff of the GDPP but for all Yemeni cadres at different institutions in the country. The decision, which was made in the meeting conducted on 12th November 1999 by the staff of the GDPP, was that the amount received from the prize should be used for strengthen the infrastructure of the GDPP. It reflects, without any doubt, their love to the country. The GDPP staff understood that winning the prize put a heavy load on them, and therefore, they should continue their efforts in the future for increasing the protection, improving the quality of their work and protecting the environment. This will be undertaken through controlling the dangerous pests.

Eritrea - Yemen Arbitration Documents

Phase II: Maritime Delimitation

Introduction - Proceedings in the Delimitation Stage of the Arbitration

1. This Award in the Second Stage of the Arbitration is rendered pursuant to an Arbitration Agreement dated 3 October 1996 (the "Arbitration Agreement"), between the Government of the State of Eritrea ("Eritrea") and the Government of the Republic of Yemen ("Yemen") (hereinafter "the Parties").

2. The Arbitration Agreement, which appears as Annex 1 on page 51, was preceded by an "Agreement on Principles" done at Paris on 21 May 1996, which was signed by Eritrea and Yemen and witnessed by the Governments of the French Republic, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and the Arab Republic of Egypt. The Agreement on Principles provided that the Tribunal should decide questions of territorial sovereignty and to that end the Tribunal rendered an Award in the First Stage finding the sovereignty of the disputed islands in the Red Sea to belong either to Eritrea or to Yemen. (See Award in the First Stage, Chapter XI - Dispositif, paragraphs 527-528.)

3. In a correspondence concerning the Written Pleadings for the Second Stage, and including requests for an extension of the time allowed, a question was raised by Eritrea relating to the Traditional Fishing Regime and how it might be pleaded and argued in the Second Stage of the Arbitration. The President's reply was: "the Tribunal is of the view that it is for Eritrea itself to determine the contents of its written pleadings for that stage". This is referred to in Chapter IV below.

4. Pursuant to the time table set forth in the Arbitration Agreement, the Parties filed written Memorials in the Second Stage on 9 March 1999 and Counter-Memorials on 9 June 1999. On 25 May 1999, Mr. Tjaco van den Hout, Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, succeeded as Registrar Mr. Hans Jonkman, who had retired. Pursuant to Article 7(2) of the Arbitration Agreement, Ms. Phyllis Pieper Hamilton, First Secretary of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, served as Secretary to the Tribunal.

5. Prior to the Hearings in the Second Stage of the Arbitration, after consultation with the Parties, the Tribunal as contemplated by Article 7(4) of the Arbitration Agreement sought assistance with the calculations of the maritime boundaries and the technical preparation of the corresponding chart. On 8 July 1999, pursuant to Article 7(4) the Tribunal communicated an Order to the Parties designating Ms. Ieltje Anna Elema, geodetic engineer, Head of the Geodesy and Tides Department of the Hydrographic Service of the Royal Netherlands Navy, as its expert in geodesy.

6. Article 2 of the Arbitration Agreement provides that:

1. The Tribunal is requested to provide rulings in accordance with international law, in two stages.

2. The first stage shall result in an award on territorial sovereignty and on the definition of the scope of the dispute between Eritrea and Yemen . . .

3. The second stage shall result in an award delimiting maritime boundaries. The Tribunal shall decide taking into account the opinion that it will have formed on questions of territorial sovereignty, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and any other pertinent factor.

7. Pursuant to the time table set forth in the Arbitration Agreement for the various stages of the Arbitration, and with the consent of the Parties regarding the venue, the Oral Proceedings in the second stage of the Arbitration were held 5-16 July 1999 in the Great Hall of Justice in the Peace Palace in The Hague. By agreement between the Parties, Yemen began the Oral Proceedings.

8. The Tribunal's task was greatly facilitated by the excellence of the oral presentations on both sides.

9. During the Oral Arguments, pursuant to Article 8(3) of the Arbitration Agreement authorizing the Tribunal to request the Parties' written views on the elucidation of any aspect of the matters before the Tribunal, counsel were asked to respond to various questions. On 13 August 1999 the Parties submitted written responses to questions put to them by the Tribunal on 13 and 16 July. The Tribunal's questions and the answers provided by the Parties are set out in Annex 2 on page 61.

Eritrea - Yemen Arbitration Documents

AWARD

Phase II: Maritime Delimitation

CHAPTER I - The Arguments of the Parties

Introduction

10. The purpose of the present Chapter is to summarise what the Tribunal understands to have been the main arguments of the Parties. For the Tribunal's reasons for acceptance or rejection or modification of those arguments, it may be necessary to turn to later Chapters. In this Chapter describing the arguments of the Parties, it will be convenient in general to follow the order agreed by them for the Oral Presentations and so put first the arguments of Yemen followed by the arguments of Eritrea.

11. It may be said at once that both Parties claimed a form of median international boundary line, although their respective claimed median lines follow very different courses and do not coincide. They do, however, follow similar courses in the narrow waters of the southernmost portion of the line. Eritrea's median line is equidistant between the mainland coasts, but its historic median line takes into account Eritrea's islands (but not the Yemen mid-sea islands); the Yemen line is equidistant between the Eritrean coast (including certain selected points on the Dahlak islands) and the coasts of all the Yemen islands. The Yemen line was plotted with WGS 84 coordinates of the turning points; the Eritrean line was not, although, in answer to a question from the Tribunal, the coordinates of the base points were provided. The rival claimed lines are reproduced on the Charts (Eritrea's Maps 3 and 7 and Yemen's Map 12.1) to be found in the map section at the back.

Yemen's Proposed Boundary Line

12. The Yemen claimed line was described in three sectors divided by lines of latitude: 16N; 1425N; and 1320N. So there was

i) a northern sector between the Yemen islands of Jabal al-Tayr and the Jabal al-Zubayr group on the one hand, and the Eritrean Dahlak islands on the other; (ii) a central sector between the Zuqar-Hanish group of Yemen and the opposite mainland coast of Eritrea together with the Mohabbakahs, the Haycocks and South West Rocks; and (iii) a southern sector between the respective mainland coasts of Yemen and Eritrea south of the Zuqar-Hanish group. These sectors were fixed by the latitude of the controlling base points of the Yemen line. Thus, for instance, 1425N was the point on the line where the controlling base points changed from the points on the islet Centre Peak in the Zubayr group to the base points on the coast of Zuqar.

13. Yemen began its argument with the general understanding, as endorsed by the International Court of Justice in the North

Sea Continental Shelf cases, (1) that a median line normally produces an equitable result when applied between opposite coasts. Therefore, argued Yemen, a major preliminary task for the Tribunal was to decide which were the coasts to be used as baselines.

14. In the northern sector, the proposed Yemen line assumed that the Dahlak islands, a closely knit group of some 350 islands and islets, the largest of them having a considerable population, should be recognised as being part of the Eritrean mainland coast and the waters within them as internal waters. It followed that the easternmost islets of that group might be used as base points of the median line. Yemen used the high water line as baseline on these islands.

15. Yemen proposed that the eastern base points of the line should be found on the low-water line of the western coast of the lone mid-sea island of Jabal al-Tayr and on the western coasts of the mid-sea group of Jabal al-Zubayr. Yemen argued that these islands should be used as base points because they were as important, or even more important, than the very small uninhabited outer islets of the Dahlak group. In this way, said Yemen, there would be a "balance" in the treatment of island base points on the west and the east coasts, arguing that in this northern area "each Party possesses islands of a comparable size, producing similar coastal facades lying at similar distances from their respective mainlands".

16. In the central sector the Yemen claimed line proceeded through the narrow waters between the Hanish group of islands and the Eritrean mainland coast. (This part of the boundary line area was called the "central" one by Yemen but sometimes called the "southern" one by Eritrea.) The Yemen line was a line of equidistance between the high-water line on the Eritrean mainland coast and the low-water line on the westernmost coasts of Yemen's Hanish Island group.

17. Yemen suggested that the "small Eritrean islets in between" the Eritrean mainland coast and the larger Yemen islands were inappropriate for a delimitation role. Thus, the computing and the drawing of Yemen's boundary line ignored both the South West Rocks and the three Haycocks (which had been found in the Award on Sovereignty to belong to Eritrea) as being no more than small rocks whose only importance was that they were navigational hazards. The Eritrean sovereignty over these islets was, however, recognised by placing them in limited enclaves.

18. In Yemen's "southern sector", the line entered a narrow sea which had few islets and was relatively free from complicating mid-sea islands or islets, and the line became a simple median between the opposite mainland coasts. By using the islands of Fatuma, Derchos and Ras Mukwar as base points it did, however, recognise that the Bay of Assab was an area of Eritrean internal waters. Yemen added the comment that:

This method of delimitation has been selected in order to accord the islands in the Southern Sector the same treatment as the Islands in the Northern Islands Sector.

19. Summing up the three sectors, Yemen observed that, in accordance with the applicable legal principles, the appropriate delimitation would be achieved by a median line between the relevant coasts. There was no justification for any adjustment of this line on the basis of equitable principles. This median line delimitation between the relevant coasts was the only equitable solution compatible with the purpose of this arbitration.

20. Yemen also addressed other relevant factors. There was

the factor of proportionality and this, together with Eritrea's argument under the same heading, is dealt with below. There was also discussion of certain "non-geographical relevant circumstances", the first one being "dependency of the fishing communities in Yemen upon Red Sea fishing". This is a matter upon which both Parties held strong and differing views, which are described and considered in Chapter II below.

21. The other of these relevant circumstances maintained by Yemen was "the element of security of the coastal State". This, according to Yemen, "connotes nothing more exciting than non-encroachment". It was chiefly in the narrow waters between the Hanish group of islands and the Eritrean coast that the question of security or non-encroachment arose. According to Yemen, this concern is automatically addressed by the application of the principle of equidistance which was intended to effect equality of treatment.

Eritrea's Proposed Boundary Line

22. Eritrea asserted that there was a legal flaw in the Yemen argument for its claimed line. This criticism illuminated some of the basic ideas underlying Eritrea's own claimed line.

23. Eritrea pointed with some insistence to what it regarded as a fundamental contradiction in the Yemen argument. In the northern part of the line, where the question of the influence upon it of the northern mid-sea islands arose, the maritime boundary was between the respective continental shelves and exclusive economic zones (hereinafter EEZ). These two boundaries, of continental shelf and of EEZ, are governed by Articles 74 and 83 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. In neither of these two articles is there even a mention of equidistance; there is, however, a clear requirement that a delimitation of these areas should "achieve an equitable solution". Nevertheless, for these very areas, Yemen insisted upon an equidistance line having included as base points for it the coasts of its small northern mid-sea islets.

24. In contrast, Eritrea contended in oral argument that, in the narrow seas between the Hanish group of islands and the Eritrean mainland coast, there was an area involving distances less than 24 miles (2) and which was therefore all territorial sea to which Article 15 of the Convention "is going to be most directly applicable in the more southern reaches of the delimitation area in question, the area round the Zuqar and Hanish Islands. The reason for that, of course, is that the distances there are smaller. What that means is that in the area around the Zuqar and Hanish islands there is a basic rule of equidistance."

25. This would favour a median line that takes full account of South West Rocks and the Haycocks, which in the Award on Sovereignty were found to belong to Eritrea. Applying Article 15, moreover, there could be no question of enclaves of these islands.

26. Eritrea also objected that Yemen's proposed enclaves would in practice mean that there was no access corridor for Eritrea through the surrounding Yemen territorial sea. Thus, both the Eritrean South West Rocks and the Haycocks would be "completely isolated". Eritrea objected to the enclave solution because Eritrea claimed this would have put the western main shipping channel, "between the Haycock Island and South West Rocks", into Yemen territorial waters while the eastern main channel, which goes east of Zuqar, was already in undisputed Yemen territorial waters. Thus, Yemen's proposal would result in "inclusion of both of the main shipping channels within what would be Yemen's territorial waters if Yemen's proposed delimitation were accepted".

27. Eritrea's own proposed solution of the delimitation problem was in two parts. There was the proposed international boundary, and there was the proposal for certain delimited "boxes" of the mid-sea islands, the purpose of which was to delimit the areas which Eritrea claimed to be "joint resource areas". This delimitation of "the shared maritime zones around the islands" was distinguished from recognition of "the exclusive waters of Yemen, to the east, and the exclusive waters of Eritrea, to the west". These ideas represented Eritrea's understanding of what in its view was meant by the reservation in the Award on Sovereignty of the traditional fishing regime, and what was needed to ensure the fulfilment of that regime. Of this Eritrea said, "if this regime is to be perpetuated, the Parties must know what it is and where it holds sway in a technically precise manner".

29. It is to be noted that the "exclusive" Eritrean waters on the west included not merely the territorial sea but also all the waters west of the mid-sea islands and west of the historic median line. These two Eritrean proposals - the two versions of the median line and the joint resource area boxes - belonged together because they were both essential parts of the Eritrean proposal as a whole. Thus, Eritrea's "historic median line" was - although with some variations to be noted later - one drawn as a median between the mainland coasts and ignoring the existence of the mid-sea islands of Yemen, but taking into account the islands of Eritrea. (There are precedents for this kind of boundary line in the petroleum agreements discussed in Chapter III.) Eritrea's "resource box system" provided the essential elements of a complex solution for the problem of these islands. The boxes were offered in a variety of shapes and sizes (see Eritrea's Maps 4 and 7). These "joint resource boxes" seem to have been advanced by Eritrea as a flexible set of suggestions. Its main concern was the reasonable one that it wanted to be able to tell its fishermen precisely where they might fish.

29. The coupling in the Eritrean pleadings of the two questions - the nature of the traditional fishing regime and the delimitation of the international boundary - is in contradistinction to Yemen's arguments. Yemen had expressed the view that "the traditional fishing regime should not have any impact on the delimitation of the maritime boundaries between the two Parties in the Second

Stage". Yemen, in answer to a question from the Tribunal, also expressed the view that "Article 13, paragraph 3 of the Arbitration Agreement (see Annex 1) and the framework created by the 1994 and 1998 Agreements obviated any need further to take into account the traditional fishing regime in the delimitation of the maritime boundary". (The two Agreements of 1994 and 1998 are reproduced in Annex 3 to this Award.)

30. Eritrea replied to this letter from Yemen on 24 August saying that:

Yemen's submission conveys the impression that the two States have conducted discussions since October 1998 which have resulted in arrangements for the implementation of Eritrea's traditional rights. No such discussions have taken place on this subject and no arrangements have been made to protect or preserve Eritrea's traditional rights in the waters around the mid-sea islands.

Arguments about Historic Rights and Sovereignty

31. Sovereignty over the disputed islands was the subject of the First Stage of this Arbitration. The Arbitration Agreement enjoins the Tribunal in this Second Stage to take into account "the opinion it will have formed on questions of territorial sovereignty". It is not surprising, therefore, that both Parties raised some interesting questions in this Second Stage about the nature of sovereignty and its relation to the question of delimitation and, not least, to the question of the traditional fishing regime.

32. Eritrea was moved to return to the history of the formerly disputed islands and especially to the period of Italian influence and presence. From these and some other considerations was precipitated the view urged upon the Tribunal that Yemen's "recently acquired" sovereignty over islands made them of less importance as factors to be taken into consideration for the purposes of the delimitation. This approach was expressed in these words:

Eritrea also considers that the [mid-sea] islands come within the category of small uninhabited islands of recently acquired sovereignty and near the median line that should be recognised by the Tribunal to possess diminished maritime zones.

33. The Eritrean Prayer for Relief took this idea even further when it said in Article 4 that:

The outer borders of the maritime zones of the islands in which these shared rights exist shall be defined as extending:

A. on the western side of the Red Sea, to the median line drawn between the two coasts, which shall include the islands historically owned by either State prior to the decade preceding commencement of this arbitration in accordance with Article 121 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; and

B. on the eastern side of the Red Sea, as far as the twelve mile limit of Yemen's territorial sea.

34. Continuing the same theme Article 5 of the Prayer for Relief provided:

5. The waters beyond the shared area of the mid-sea islands shall be divided in accordance with a median line drawn between the two coasts, which shall include the islands historically owned by either State prior to the decade preceding commencement of this Arbitration in accordance with Article 121 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

35. Eritrea felt, therefore, able to urge that "Eritrea possesses historic title to all waters to the west of the historic median line, drawn by reference to the historically owned islands". This idea, it will be noted, yielded a rather different historic median line from the one drawn between the mainland coasts.

36. Yemen's reply was that Yemen's title to the formerly disputed islands was not created by the adjudication in the Award on Sovereignty, but that the adjudication was rather a confirmation of an already existing title; and, that "in arbitrations the issue of title is determined both prospectively and retroactively". These considerations led to some discussion of the effect of a critical date.

37. Yemen was also concerned that Eritrea's proposed joint resource zones were founded upon a supposition that the sovereignty awarded to Yemen in the First Stage was a sovereignty "only limited or conditional". This seems to be partly a war of words. All sovereignty is "limited" by international law. Eritrea can hardly be suggesting that Yemen's sovereignty over the islands is "conditional" in the legal sense according to which failure to observe the condition might act as a cesser of the sovereignty.

38. Eritrea, however, responded by pointing to paragraph 126 of the Award on Sovereignty which speaks of the traditional fishing regime as having, by historical consolidation, established rights for both Parties "as a sort of 'servitude internationale' falling short of territorial sovereignty". Other aspects of these arguments are discussed in Chapter IV below.

Ramadan Recipes: #2

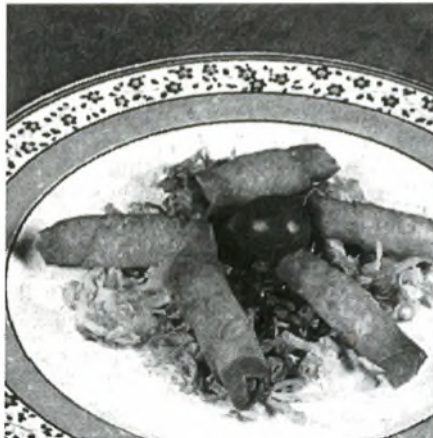
By: Faydah Abdul-Rahman Shaif.

Yemeni Filo

Ingredients:

8 Sambousek sheets cutting into triangles.
3 cups ground beef.
1 medium onion, chopped (1/2 cup)
1 clove garlic finely chopped.
1/2 cup coriander, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon curry
3 tablespoon vegetable oil.

1. Put the onions in a pan, add the oil and the ground beef. Stir together. Add the coriander. Put on a low heat for ten minutes.
2. Stir the ground beef, adding the garlic, salt, cumin, and curry. Leave them on the heat for 10 minutes more or until the beef is tender.
3. Put the triangle sheet on a surface place 2 tablespoons ground beef at the bottom of the triangle and roll the triangle to the top. At the end of the triangle sheet seal it with water. Place it in boiling oil until it takes a golden color. Remove them from the boiling oil and put them on a plate and add some decorative lettuce.



Date Balls

Ingredients:

3/4 cup sugar
1/2 cup stick butter
1 pound pitted dates, chopped.
1 teaspoon milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 cup chopped nuts.
Finely chopped nuts or shredded coconuts for decorating.

1. Mix sugar, butter and dates in saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring constantly, until butter is melted; remove from heat.
2. Stir in milk and vanilla. Cook over very low heat 4 minutes. Stirrings constantly; remove from heat.
3. Stir in 1/2 cup nuts. Cool 5 minutes.
4. Shape mixture by teaspoonful into balls. Roll balls in finely chopped nuts or shredded coconuts.

Chocolate Brownies

Ingredients:

2/3 cup stick butter
1/2 cup unsweetened baking chocolate
1 3/4 cups sugar (powder)
2 teaspoon vanilla
3 large eggs
1 cup flour
1 cup walnuts chopped
1 cup chocolate frosting or chocolate cream

1. Melt butter and chocolate in saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly. Cool slightly.
2. Beat sugar, vanilla and eggs in medium bowl with electric mixer on high-speed 5 minutes. Beat in chocolate mixture on low speed. Beat in flour just until blended. Stir in walnuts. Spread in a square pan greased bottom and sides of pan with shortening.
3. Put in oven at a heat of about 200° C degree
4. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until brownies begin to pull away from the sides of the pan. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack. Spread with chocolate frosting or chocolate cream. Cut into about 2-inch squares.

Chimichangas

Ingredients:

2 flour tortillas or 2 thick sambousek sheets.
2 cups ground beef.
1 clove garlic, finely chopped
1 teaspoon chili powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
1 medium tomato, chopped (3/4 cup)
1 large egg, beaten
vegetable oil (2 tablespoons)
Salsa, if desired.

1. Cook beef, onion and garlic in a skillet over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until beef is brown; drain.
2. Stir in remaining ingredients except sambousek sheets, eggs, and salsa. Heat to boiling; reduce heat to low. Simmer uncovered for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.



3. Put the beef mixture onto center of the sambousek sheet and cover it with the other one and brush the top of it with egg to seal and put in the oven on low heat about 140° C.
4. Cook in the oven for 15 minutes or until golden brown.
5. Serve chimichangas with salsa, if desired.

Ramadhan and People in Yemen

Our country is celebrating, as any other Arab and Islamic country, the occasion of Ramadhan (the month of mercy and the month in which Qur'an sent down as a mercy for people).

Ramadhan is an occasion during which all Moslems carry out the duty of fasting and alms-giving, following 'Sunnah' of our Prophet Mohammed (all peace be upon him).

Islam came to save the Islamic nation from depravity and show the right path for people. It came to change peoples' lives from illiteracy to religious sciences. Islam came to improve the morality and righteous acts of the people. It came to raise the way of living of the Islamic nations. Ramadhan is a month of worship, mercy and alms-giving in which people have to carry out their religious duties. We have to repent for whatever we have done, deal kindly with others, and follow the religious values. Moslems have to keep themselves away from sins.

Yemeni people are distinguished from any other Arab society during this month in their social, Islamic and humanitarian customs. These customs

are a part of daily life of Yemeni people. If we look to the last days of 'Shab'an' (the month before Ramadhan), we find that the way of living of the Yemeni people takes on distinctive features. You can see people walking here and there to buy whatever they need during this month. They concentrate on beverages, vegetables, milk and other food stuffs. As Moslems carry out their religious duty, their bond with God is strengthened.

During this occasion, Yemeni people adopt social practices. On the eve of Ramadhan, people wait to see the crescent of Ramadhan to confirm the advent of the month. This phenomenon is found in all Arab and Islamic countries.

A committee has been formed in the Ministry of Justice to determine the first and last day of Ramadhan. This committee consists of scientists and jurists. As people hear the declaration of Ramadhan, they become very happy. Then they begin preparation for the month.

You can hear the voices of prayer and worship coming out from mosques in all cities of Yemen. You can also hear what we call 'Adhan', which augments our religious feelings. 'Adhan' is used to

call people to come to mosques to pray. During the first night of Ramadhan, people celebrate until dawn. Each one goes to his friend to congratulate him on the religious occasion. On this night which is called 'Qoratt Ramadhan', all the people gather at mosques to recite the Qur'an and read Prophetic Hadiths until dawn. Then they take their meal which is called 'Sahoor'. This meal consists of bread, boiled milk and ghee. All these ingredients are put inside pot and are mixed together. Then the people go to bed.

In the beginning of Ramadhan, tranquility reigns throughout cities. Faces of people are submissive and merciful. You can hear spiritual chants coming out from the mosques. Mosques are full of those who come to recite Qur'an. The markets are full of people who come to buy different things, hawkers spread their wares in corners of streets, especially before the time of 'Ifttar' (the meal in which people eat by the end of the day of fasting). All members of the family cooperate to prepare food and arrange the home for guests.

People go to the mosque to pray after sunset, and then return to their homes to eat the main meal, 'Ifttar'.

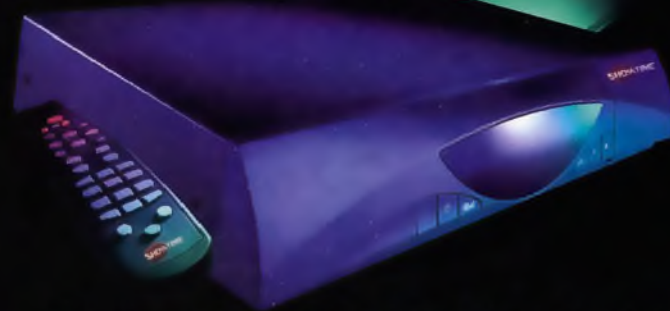
Saleh Abdubaqi
Yemen Times

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



United Nations Development program (UNDP) and Ministry of Planning and Development are inviting applications for the following post in its Community-Based Regional Development in Yemen:

1. Admin./Accountant -
Ghayl Bin Yamn - Hadhramout - SL - 13.49

This position is open to Yemeni nationals Only

Brief Description

Community-Based Regional Development is one of the four major components of the Poverty Alleviations and Employment Generation program. The aim of the Regional Development is to assist local communities in five selected regions in Yemen, to participate in setting-up participatory development institutional framework as a mean of poverty alleviation within the communities. Moreover, communities will be capacitated to undertake planning, implementation and set-up of development funds within their regions.

Interested candidates are requested to contact Community-Based Regional Development office for Poverty Alleviation Program, Sana'a for details and Job Descriptions of the posts. Applications should indicate post title and sub-line with detailed Curriculum Vitae, and to be forwarded to: Regional Development Office for

Poverty Alleviation Program
Amman St., Opposite Al-mankel Restaurant
Bld. next to Al-Nahdah School
Tel: 206 271, 209 487 or 216 222
Fax: 400384
Sana'a

Applications should be received **not later than 17 January 2000.**

Applications received after this date will not be considered. Only those candidates who strictly meet the requirements could apply and acknowledgement will only be sent to short listed applicants meeting the requirements of the post.

Yesterday, Saturday December 25 the final ceremony of the Gold competition of Al-Rafah, sponsored by Yemen Times was held in Yemen Times headquarters, Haddah Street. The winners received their gold prizes in a lovely get-together atmosphere. The ceremony was attended by the representatives of the companies concerned and a large number of people.

Contributing Companies:

- 1- Arab Bank.
- 2- Shawlak United Company for Fochs Lubricants.
- 3- Procter and Gamble.
- 4- Swiss Roamer Watches Agency.
- 5- Yemenia Airways.
- 6- Sam Company for Electronics.
- 7- Al-Kasim Agencies, Seiko Agent.
- 8- Pacford International.
- 9- Mareb Waters.
- 10- Yemen Soft.
- 11- Mam Showrooms.
- 12- Royal and Majesty Showrooms.
- 13- United Company for Clorox detergents.
- 14- Pizza Hut.

Winners of Golden Competition:

- 1- Ghalab Abdulwareth Al-Masani.
- 2- Taha Mohammed Awad Al-Ademi.
- 3- Nabil Raweh Ali Al-Maqtari.
- 4- Abdulkawi Abdullah Al-Razaz.
- 5- Ahmed Mohammed Abdullah Ali Abdulrab.
- 6- Balaq Abdul'elah Abdulhadi.
- 7- Abdulsalam Ahmed Al-Qashm.
- 8- Mohammed Ali Saleh Al-Ashwal.

- 9- Rashid Ali Abdulwahed.
- 10- Mohammed Mohammed Haza'a.



P&G received the prize of the Gold Question for most of the correct answers were to the question of this company.



Issue no.
52

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 الاول مبلغ 8000 ريال والثاني 5000 ريال والثالث 4000 ريال والرابع 3000 ريال. وحتى يتسنى للجميع إرسال الاجوبة إلى بريد الصحيفة فإن باب المشاركة سيظل مفتوحاً لمدة أسبوعين من يوم الإصدار (أي بعد 13 يوماً من الإصدار). ستُنشر أسماء الفائزين في العدد بعد القادم لاستلام جوائزهم. كما نرجو كتابة رقم عدد الصحيفة على مظلوف الرسالة. بإمكان نفس الشخص إرسال أكثر من كوبون باسمه.

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

When did the Eriterian troops occupy Grater Hunaish Island?

Answer: _____

Article's Title: _____ Page no. _____
Your Name: _____
City/Province: _____ Address: _____
Tel. No.: _____

Answer to 50th Issue Competition

Page: 5, Title: The Arab Mind Set Predicament & The ERWSC
The Empirical Research and Women's Studies Center was established in 1995

Winners of the 50th Issue Competition

First Prize (YR 8000)

Salem Mohamad Saeed, Sana'a

Second Prize (YR 5000)

Fadl Ahmed Abbas ghazi, Sana'a

Third Prize (YR 4000)

Aref Mohamed Ahmed Al-Janahi, Taiz

Fourth Prize (YR 3000)

Ashwaq Dawood, Aden

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

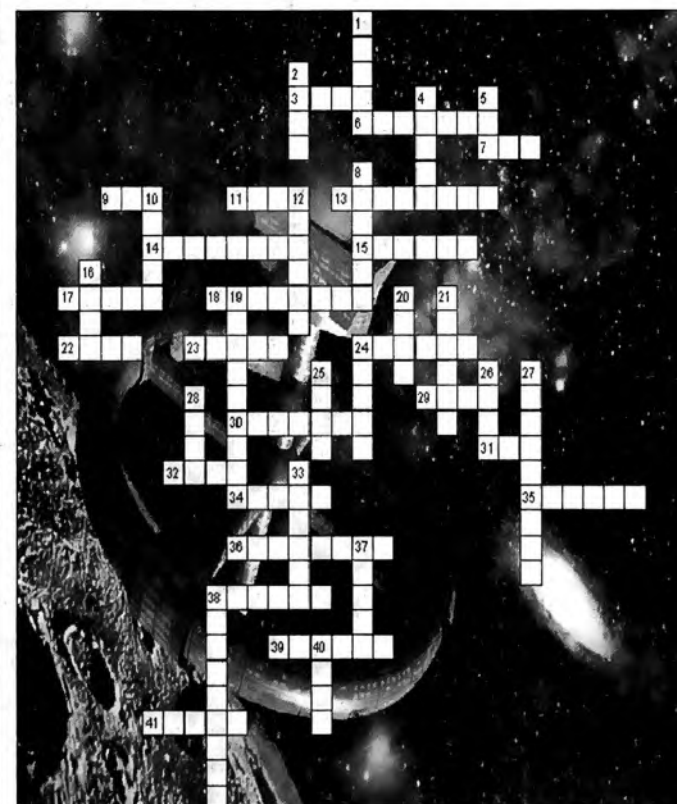
Improve your English by solving the YT Weekly puzzle!

Across clues:

3. The part of plant which grows under the ground.
6. An arched passageway or entrance.
7. A big long fish like a big worm.
9. To move quickly.
11. A bird of prey that hunts small animals etc.
13. A young duck.
14. A water-repellent coat worn as a protection against rain.
15. A small metal projectile, part of a cartridge, for firing from small arms.
17. A covered entrance to a building.
18. An unmarried man.

Down Clues:

22. A prefix meaning "six".
23. A young dog, esp. one less than a year old narrow nut with a hard shell.
41. A tool for making holes.
1. A prefix meaning "seven"
2. The front of the ship.
4. A hard outer covering of an animal, as of a clam, snail, lobster, or turtle.
5. The organ of sight.
8. A strong elastic substance.
10. The direction to your left when you face the rising sun.
12. A young cat.
16. The part of your face you use for breathing and smelling.
19. An animal that lives both in land and in water.
20. A creature that lives in water and breathes through gills.
21. A place where the Christians meet to pray together.
24. Coins or banknote used in trading.
25. A piece of cloth with a design representing a country etc.
26. A long sharp teeth of a fierce animal.
27. A building or room with equipment for physical exercise.
28. One of the structures composing the skeleton of a vertebrate.
33. A tool consisting of a long, curving blade fastened at an angle to a handle, for cutting grass, grain, etc. by hand.
37. A type of juicy fruit with thick yellow skin and a very sour juice.
38. A space of a wall of a room with a chimney above for fire.
40. The heavenly body that moves around the earth.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation
Raymah Area Developing Project

Advertisement for Recruitment of Technical Experts

The government of the republic of Yemen (ROY) has received a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of Raymah Area Developing Project (RADP) and it is intended to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to cover the services of following expert's whose terms of reference are given here-under.

1- A Project Consultant:

- A- Qualification: Ph. D. in Agriculture Science.
B- At least 5 years experience in senior position in agricultural and rural development projects.
C- The Responsibilities:

The successful candidate would have full responsibility for the following:

- 1- Preparing the annual plans and monthly programs in the fields of (Agriculture, Irrigation, Agricultural Extion, Rural Women, Domestic Contribution ...etc.).
- 2- Supervising the primary, middle, final surveying
- 3- Following the performance of the foreign and local technical experts.
- 4- Preparing reports for the technical and financing parties.
- 5- Following the project's several activities.
- 6- Any other works needed by the project.

2- An expert in the field of Rural Women:

- A- Qualification: Higher than University (Master or Ph. D. degree in Agriculture Science)
B- At least 15 years experience after the Ph. D. degree or 20 years after the master degree
C- The Responsibilities:

- 1- Preparing the annual plans and programs in the field of developing the rural women.
- 2 Supervising the workflow in the developing administrations in the districts.
- 3- Training the rural women staff in the project.
- 4- Following the performance of the foreign and local technical experts.
- 5- Preparing reports for the technical and financing parties.
- 6- Any other works needed by the projects.

Note: the submitters must satisfy the following conditions (all submitters):

- 1- Bother Arabic and English languages pronouncing & writing (main term).
- 2- The requirements must been received within 20 days from the pronouncing date.
- 3- The certificates and curriculum vitae (CV) to be attached with the submitters request.

Requests to be submitted to:
Raymah Developing Project Manager
General Administration - Bait Alfakih (Hodeidah Governorate)
Telefax: 03-332253
P. O. Box: (45097)

Improve Your English

By: Dr. Sahu Prasad
Associate Professor
Dept. of English
Faculty of Education, Sa'adah
Sana'a University

Know Your Language

Student: Teacher, can you define language in simple words?
Teacher: Yes, language is really a means of communication. It is a symbolic, systematic, social and creative activity of a person. Even an animal has language but it does not display the creative potential and complexity of structure which human language does. It is a closed system. Human language is open-ended and infinitely extendible.
Student: How is linguistics related to language?
Teacher: Linguistics is defined as the science of language or the scientific study of language. In the New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, it is 'the branch of knowledge that deals with language'. The word has been derived from a Latin word 'Lingua' (tongue) and - 'istics' (science). It is that science that studies the origin, organization and development of language historically, comparatively and descriptively. Historical linguistics or diachronic linguistics shows the origin of languages, their evolution and growth. A synchronic description of a language is an account of its structure either at present or at some specific moment in the past. Features of a specific language that are constant over long periods come within the ambit of synchronic study.
Student: And what do sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics mean?
Teacher: Yes, in sociolinguistics one studies language as a part of culture and society. One studies its different varieties in different social, geographical and cultural situations; its dialects, sociolects and idiolects in different context.
Psycholinguistics studies language in or from the viewpoint of psychology. Its two main fields are developmental psycholinguistics and experimental psycholinguistics.
Student: Well, are you going to tell us something about dialects, sociolects and idiolects?
Teacher: Yes, a 'dialect' is a regional variety of a language. It differs in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary to some extent. It is a specific form of a given language, spoken in a

certain area. For example: 'Cockney' is a dialect spoken around London. **Sociolect** is a form of speech associated with a social class or similar group within a society, as opposed to a dialect, associated with a geographical place or region. It reflects social status and identity. **Idiolect** means the speech or dialect of a single individual.
Student: Well, do you mean to say that there is variation within a language, between one speaker and another?
Teacher: Yes, it is described as idiolectal variation.
Student: Oh, I see. But the difference between 'language' and 'dialect' is still not clear to me.
Teacher: By dialect we mean any distinct variety of a language, especially one spoken in a specific part of a country or some other region. Ordinarily, we can use the criterion of mutual intelligibility for distinguishing dialects from language.
For example: speakers of English cannot understand Arabic unless they have learned it, and vice versa; therefore Arabic and English are different language. But a speaker from Southend-on-sea, Essex (in south east England) can understand one from Widnes, Lancashire (in north west England); therefore they speak different dialects of the same language.
Student: Can I conclude from what you say that dialects of a language mean its different accents or phonological variations?
Teacher: Not exactly, because dialects can have significant shifts in vocabulary and grammar too.
Student: Then how do we define 'pidgin' and 'creole'?
Teacher: A pidgin emerges in contact situations. It is no one's native language. It is a non-native variety of the source language whereas a dialect by definition is a native variety. A pidgin grows up as a system of communication among people who do not share a common lineage, but who use a simplified form of speech as a medium of trade or for other purposes. Pidgins may be called makeshift, marginal, or mixed languages with a limited vocabulary, reduced grammar and narrower range of functions than a dialect or a language. A creole is derived from a pidgin. Pidgins and creoles are two stages in a single process of linguistic development. In other words, when a pidgin becomes the mother tongue of a community and is used for all purposes with enlarged structure and vocabulary, it becomes a creole.
Student: Can a creole reach the status of a standard language?
Teacher: Yes, a creole is progressively assimilated to a standard language by a historical process, as we see in the case of regional dialects.
Student: The last question: How are some dialects more prestigious than others?
Teacher: Well, that takes us to the intimate relationship between language and power.
Student: So that's it then. Thank you very much.
Teacher: That's okay.

Literature Through Language

Dr. P.A. Abraham
Faculty of Education,
Amran

The ultimate objective of teaching literature is the study of words, idioms and syntax at the highest level of thought and imagination. It is an exercise depicting as to how words and sentences are made and molded in order to communicate what the writer wants to say. I often wonder if there is something like pure literature teaching. Or if there is a person like pure English literature teacher. Or if there is a group of pure English literature students. In other words, the end result of teaching English literature courses turns out to be a reinforcement of English language. The medium becomes the thing and all that is literary becomes secondary, airy and abstract! My experience of teaching English literature, both to undergraduate and post graduate classes in India and even in Yemen has revealed to me a progressive bluntness in leaning, imbibing and appreciating anything literary or aesthetic. How many of our literature students know the classical, Christian and the native strands of English literature? Do they follow the Western theory of art and aesthetics. I am not underestimating the ability of our students to deal with English literature at all. But we have accepted the reality that certain historical factors have brought about a shift of attitude towards teaching of English literature especially in the third world countries like Yemen and India. The sum and substance of this shift of focus and emphasis is that the study of English literature has gradually been losing its literary aspect giving way to the study of English alone. So, if the role of English is progressively going to be language oriented, then our literature teaching courses must catch up to make themselves realistic and meaningful. Language through literature is probably an accepted solution where literature is used as a medium for teaching linguistic features. On the contrary, the notion of literature through language may raise a few eyebrows. Both students and teachers agree that the materials for classroom teaching should have a human interest, must appeal on the imagination, and should generate aesthetic feelings. Isolated sentences are never effective even while teaching grammar. It is in this context that we should consider the idea of literature through language. Of course, students must be taught literature, but it must be done through creating an awareness of linguistic possibilities and sensibility. It is not literature through literature that is to be emphasized, but literature through language. The medium is language; the content and form of a literary

work arouses interest in the meaningful use of that medium. The selection of literary texts should be done very carefully so that it arouses interest in learning the features of language. Short stories, narrative poems and one-act plays which do not have extreme examples of dialect usage may be used to provide models of language in every day use. All types of literary works including expository essays, the informal personal essay, diary notes, biography, autobiography, lyrics, plays and novels can be legitimate ELT (English Language Teaching) materials. It is important that they should be used judiciously as practice materials in the process of language learning. Beyond the sentence is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a training in the logic of linguistic expression, coherence, sense of direction, and arrangements of ideas. Punctuation, paragraphing, etc. are all important characteristics of linguistic communication at an advanced level. It is at this level that a student should learn the grammar of the isolated structures. The grammar of discourse is rhetoric. The devices of rhetoric become part of language acquisition from the point of view of an advanced level of communication. Selection from pieces of literature should be so made as to cater for the needs of developing linguistic skills. In the final analysis we must remember that a text is only a pretext. What we do with it is what matters. There are different ways of handling anything unskillfully just as there are different ways of skillful and effective handling. Literature through language makes a plea that literary works judiciously selected may provide useful materials for language learning.



الأكيل

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YOUTH FORUM

Titanic
Why in vain are you proud!
Self-styled superiority always pretend
You always dare God
Restrain and bridle
How many times to be good you were told?
And not to fight against the will of God.
Here! You can see the result of your ingratitude
The unsinkable ship that you claimed
Is now sunk mocking your pride
Most are now killed
All your vanity and ingenuity disappeared
Lie in the deeps spoilt with mud
Mirror your vanity and awe inspired
Won't you ever learn, you blockhead?
Even the worms there bewildered
One instance of your boastfulness pitiably razed
You proposed but God disposed
To dare your God you were determined
And God for you made
Not you, no-one knows what's in store
Inscrutable, inexorable, his will is
Knows that realm, no-one ever
You man forsake vanity and your sins mend
He is supreme, bear him in mind.

Mohammed Ghanem

5- The education is important for women.
6- Open the fan, please.
7- When he entered into the room, we went out.
8- I'm very good in maths.
9- She runs fastly.
10- I'm interesting in poetry.
While they should replace the underlined phrases with the following phrases, respectively:
1- two days ago.
2- angry with me.
3- wait for me.
4- a new house.
5- education.
6- turn on the fan.
7- entered the room.
8- good at.
9- fast.
10- interested.

Gibreel Sadeq Suleiman
English Teacher, Taiz

weekly lessons in English, which do really help us improve our English and overcome our mistakes. I would sincerely request you to accept my humble words of thanks to you. Wishing you the very best.
Mohammed Ali Ahmad Al-Agabi
Faculty of Education, Mahweet.

proverbs

- 1) Diamond cut diamond.
- 2) As you make your bed so you must lie.
- 3) Like father, like son.
- 4) Like master, like man.
- 5) Tit for tat.
- 6) Store is no sore.
- 7) To fall into the old track.
- 8) Grasp all lose all.
- 9) Nothing venture nothing have.
- 10) No joy without annoy.

chosen by: Mohammed M. I. Abdullah

Dear Editor,
On behalf of the students of English department, Faculty of Education, Mahweet, I would like to express my deep thanks to all members of Yemen Times represented by the editor in chief for their responsiveness in sending us copies of YT through Dr. Sahu for whom we have special respect in our hearts.

I would like also to say that your newspaper has won our interest. We are attracted by the beneficial articles, especially in the field of education.

It was thoughtful of you to include

تهنئة

تهانينا للأستاذ / إيهاب أمين السقا مدير العلاقات العامة في مكتب رفاه بمناسبة حصوله على درجة الليسانس في الأدب الفرنسي.
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The Biggest new Moon of The Century

(Winter Solstice December 22nd, 1999)

by: Mukarram Z. Abdulnabee

“Everyone should mark their calendars, this month. It will be the Last Lunar Hurrah of the Millennium.”

This year was the first full moon to occur on the winter solstice, Dec. 22, commonly called the first day of winter. Since a full moon on the winter solstice occurred in conjunction with a lunar perigee (point in the moon's orbit that is closest to Earth), the moon will appear about 14% larger than it does at apogee (the point in its elliptical orbit that is farthest from the Earth), as the Earth is several million miles closer to the sun at this time of the year than in the summer. Sunlight striking the moon is 7% stronger, making it brighter. In addition, this will be the closest perigee of the moon of the year since the moon's orbit is constantly deforming. If the weather is clear and there is a snow cover over where you live, it is believed that even car headlights will be superfluous. In laymen's terms it will be an incredibly bright full moon, much more so than the usual, and it hasn't been this way in the last 133 years!

Our ancestor's saw this 133 years ago (December 21st, 1866).

Our descendants 100 or so years from now will see it again.

The period between the first week in December and the first week in January could well be called the "dark days" for the mid-northern latitudes. At a latitude 40 degrees north, the earliest sunset occurs around 8 December each year,

and latest sunrise occurs around 5 January. The day with the least amount of daylight is the winter solstice, the first day of winter, around 21 December. Why are not all these dates the same? The answer is not simple. There are two effects which determine the local time of Sun phenomena, such as sunrise, sunset, and transit. One is the Equation of Time, the other is the Sun's declination.

The Equation of Time is a way of describing the variation in the time of Sun-related phenomenon within our standard 24-hour time keeping system. In any time zone, the Equation of Time is simply the difference between 12:00 noon on a clock and the actual time of the Sun's transit (sundial noon) across the central meridian of the time zone. The time between successive transits of the Sun - the length of the solar day - varies considerably over the year. It is itself determined by two factors, both dependent on the position of the Earth in its orbit. Suffice it to say that from mid-November to early February these two factors work together to make the solar day longer than 24 hours: in late December, as much as 30 seconds longer than 24 hours. Since we



do not adjust our clocks for this effect, the Sun's transit moves and later each day during this period.

All other things being equal, the times of all Sun phenomenon are tied directly to the time of transit. But all other things are not equal. The Sun's declination, its angular distance above or below the equator, changes in a yearly cycle, causing our seasons. The Sun's declination determines the maximum height of the Sun in the sky on any given day, hence the azimuth of the sunrise and sunset points, and the length of time the Sun is above the horizon. Most of us know the Sun is

at its "lowest point in the sky" on the first day of winter, so we expect the Sun to be above the horizon the times of sunrise of time that day.

So two effects determine the times of sunrise and sunset: the Equation of Time and the Sun's declination. But their relative magnitudes vary. In late December, the daily rate of change of the Sun's declination is quite small and is, of course, zero at the December solstice; "solstice" means "Sun stationary". However, the daily rate of change of the Equation of Time reaches a maximum just a few days later. Thus in late December it is the Equation of Time that has the dominant influence over the changes in sunrise and sunset times from one day to the next. In fact, the Equation of Time dominates, at latitude 40

degrees north, from about 8 December to 5 January. Outside of these few weeks, the Sun's declination changes are dominant. These two dates represent the dates on which the magnitudes of the two effects "cross over" at this latitude.

(At higher latitudes, the crossover dates are closer to the equinox since the declination effect is greater there). The 8 December crossover day is the date of earliest sunset. Why? In the weeks before solstice, the two effects act in opposite direction on the time of sunset; the declination effect pulling it earlier and the Equation of Time pushing it later. On 8 December the Equation of Time begins to dominate and sunset begins to move later. Meanwhile both effects are pushing sunrise later and later. After solstice, the situation reverses. Both effects push sunset later. But for sunrise, the declination effect now pulls it earlier while the Equation of Time effect continues to push it later. The Equation of Time prevails until 5 January, when the declination effect takes over and sunrise

begin to move earlier. So 5 January is the date of latest sunrise.

A similar situation occurs at the summer solstice, although the effect is not as extreme. Solstice occurs around 21 June, but at latitude 40 degrees north the earliest sunrise around 14 June and the latest sunset around 28 June.

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1999 PHASES OF THE MOON															
NEW MOON				FIRST QUARTER				FULL MOON				LAST QUARTER			
	d	h	m		d	h	m		d	h	m		d	h	m
JAN	17	15	46	JAN	24	19	15	JAN	31	16	06	FEB	8	11	58
FEB	16	06	39	FEB	23	02	43	FEB	2	06	58	MAR	10	08	40
MAR	17	18	48	MAR	24	10	18	MAR	31	22	49	APR	9	02	51
APR	16	04	22	APR	22	19	01	APR	30	14	55	MAY	8	17	28
MAY	15	12	05	MAY	22	05	34	MAY	30	06	40	JUNE	7	04	20
JUNE	13	19	03	JUNE	20	18	13	JUNE	28	21	37	JULY	6	11	57
JULY	13	02	24	JULY	20	09	00	JULY	28	11	25	AUG	4	17	27
AUG	11	11	08	AUG	19	01	47	AUG	26	23	48	SEP	2	22	17
SEP	9	22	02	SEP	17	20	06	SEP	25	10	51	OCT	2	04	02
OCT	9	11	34	OCT	17	15	00	OCT	24	21	02	OCT	31	12	04
NOV	8	03	53	NOV	16	09	03	NOV	23	07	04	NOV	29	23	18
DEC	7	22	32	DEC	16	00	50	DEC	22	17	31	DEC	29	14	04

EARTH'S SEASONS EQUINOXES, SOLSTICES, PERIHELION, AND APHELION (1999)															
	d	h			d	h	m		d	h	m		d	h	m
Perihelia	Jan	3	13	Equinoxes	Mar	21	01	46	Sep	23	11	31			
Aphelion	July	6	22	Solstice	June	21	19	49	Dec	22	07	44			

Note: In the tables d,h,m indicate day, hour minute, respectively, of Universal Time

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