



# YEMEN TIMES

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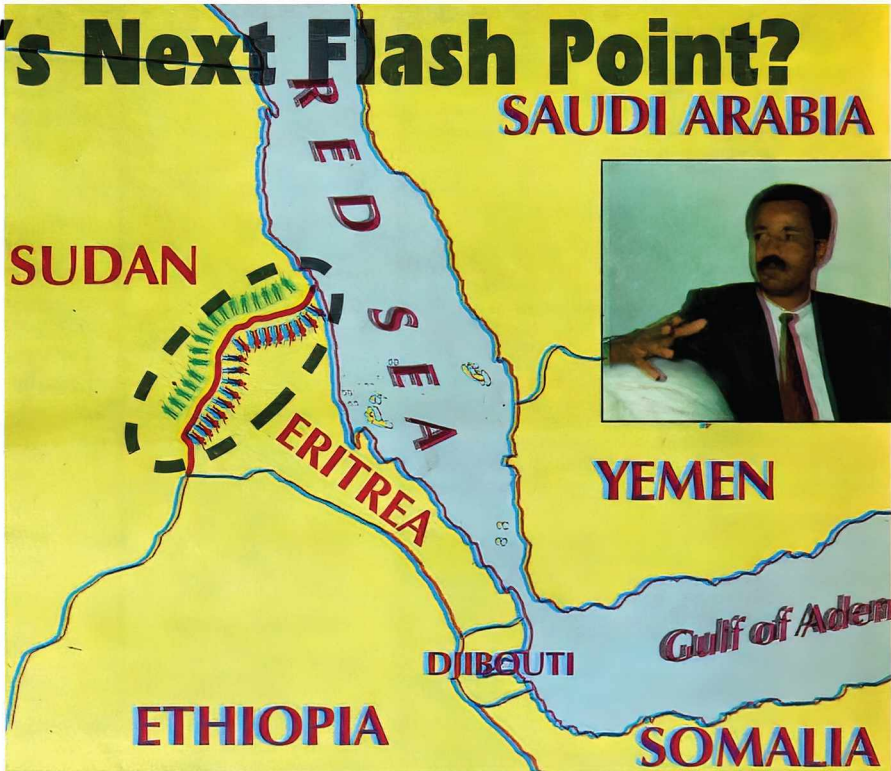
**Tourists Get a Bad Deal at Shahara.**  
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## Is the Sudan-Eritrea Border the Region's Next Flash Point?

Both Eritrea and the Sudan are gearing up for the worst. Both are preparing for a showdown, which seeks to bring down the rulers of the other country, either by proxy - each side using an armed opposition, or even by a direct confrontation. "The Sudan started this situation because it established the so-called Eritrean Popular Defence Forces. After a long frustration, we have responded by grooming the Sudanese opposition," Eritrean President Isaias Afwerke said. "We have tried very hard to work with them (the rulers in Khartoum) but we have failed. They promise something and they do something else," explained President Afwerke. He does not hide his aim to dislodge the Al-Basheer-Al-Turabi regime in Sudan. Unless reason prevails fast, the tension could quickly degenerate into open warfare. In an exclusive interview with the Yemen Times, Eritrean President Afwerke described the task ahead of him as that of building the state. "Eritrea as an entity was almost obliterated. We now have to evolve a new identity based on our history and traditions, as well as on the experience of 30 years of struggle of independence," he said. That means enabling the nine sub-nationalities - which have distinct social, cultural, religious and linguistic qualities - to dissolve into the new entity of Eritrea. An important step in such an evolution is the issuance of the new constitution, "the first draft of which will be ready by the end of this year," he indicated. At the economic level, Eritrea is opening up to the world. "We hope to be a regional financial and service center - sort of the region's Singapore," he added. That, of course, will require some doing, and the Eritrean look set to do it.

Full text of interview on page 3



Above: Map of hot spot, Insert: President Afwerke

## Jarallah Comes Back in Mid-September

Jarallah Omar, a leading member of the Yemeni Socialist Party and the person tipped to take over as Secretary-General in the fourth party congress scheduled for October, told the Yemen Times that he plans to return to Sana'a in mid-September. "When Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh visited Cairo recently, he called me and we talked about the future of our country. I agreed to return based on our discussions," he said. Jarallah's family is planning to leave Sana'a next week in order to join him in Cairo for about three weeks, and then come back to Sana'a together. "It will also be a good chance to treat one of the daughters," a friend of the family said.



Jarallah was at odds with the secessionist leadership of the YSP because he rejected the idea of trying to split the country again, under any pretext. He washed his hands off the war and secessionist effort, and has since stayed in voluntary exile in Cairo.

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## OUR VIEWPOINT

### Predator & Careless Mentalities Bring Havoc to Society

The mentality that has gripped our society these days is driving the country to utter despair. We can sum up such mentality by two visible aspects of its behavior - the predator mentality, and the mentality of complete carelessness.

#### A: Predator Mentality:

In Yemen, there is an unwavering drive for everybody to snatch what they can. In Yemeni Arabic, the word is *faid*, which means bounty or spoils. The most visible representation of this is what happened during the civil war. In ordinary every day dealings, people blackmail each other in the most vulgar way. The issue becomes not one of law or system, but one of brute force. The strong is able to force his will and his way on the others.

This predator mentality can also be witnessed among government officials and military/police officers. If you have a formality that needs to be signed, then you better please the person who is supposed to sign. Otherwise, he can tell you to get lost, and there is very little you can do about it because you have no recourse. If a policeman or a military officer says you got to cough up some money, argue not about the principle of paying, but about how much will be sufficient to please him. If a tribesman demands something, you better listen, because you have no recourse to the law.

So this predator mentality has created a jungle-like situation, and it now involves foreigners, as the tourists who went to Shahrha have found out.

#### B: Total Carelessness:

Another visible attitude is the total neglect and carelessness that now prevails at all levels of society. Someone doesn't do his/her job - who cares? Someone throws his garbage on the street - who cares? Someone manhandles a child or a woman - who cares? Someone doesn't show up for work - who cares? Someone breaks the traffic light - who cares?

There is a near-total collapse of law and order. Nobody can uphold the law, unless of course, the person who suffers from an incident or a behavior is a strong person, in which case, he will uphold the law.

Law and order must be upheld and we must all stand together against these mentalities. If the present circumstances persist, there is little hope of attracting investors and tourists or even of building a modern Yemen.

*The Publisher*  
S. S. S.

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### Final Cricket Match for The Chairman's Farewell Trophy

On August 18th, 1995, the final match of the on-going cricket tournament will be held at Al-Thawra Grounds. The game will be between the Pakistani Team (PCC) - with the strongest showing so far - and the combined effort of the other three teams - the British (LNJC), the Indian (ICC), and the Yemeni (YCC). Mr. Masroor Alam, Captain of the PCC, promised to give the audience the thrill of their lives. This puts a lot of burden on the captains of the other teams: Gary Looker of LNJC, Suresh Bhandari of ICC, and Jalal Mowl of YCC.

The match leads to the Chairman's Farewell Trophy named in honor of Mr. Inayatullah Butt, Chairman of the Yemen Cricket League and General manager of United Bank Ltd (Yemen), who is leaving Yemen soon.

The match will be attended by H. E. Dr. Abdul-Wahab Rawah, Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Douglas Scafton, Ambassador of the United Kingdom, Mr. F.R.M. Arif, Ambassador of Pakistan, Mr. M. Venkatraman, Ambassador of India, and many other distinguished cricket lovers. On the evening of the same day and at the Taj Sheba Hotel, there will be a celebration to honor the winners and to bid Mr. Butt 'good-bye'. Mr. Peter Bradley, Chairman of the Sponsorship Committee, is expected to give a statement assessing the progress of cricketing in Yemen, and to unveil plans for the future.

#### The Tourists Are Here

Large groups of tourists are arriving in Yemen in a steady flow. The majority of these are from Italy and Germany, though there are also many other European nationals visiting.

Alwan Al-Shaibani, Chairman of Tourism & Travel, the country's leading tourism company, said, "We are unable to cope with the demand. All over the world, people are eager to visit Yemen, but our facilities are inadequate." At the moment, the country receives some 30,000 tourists per annum, although the total number of visitors is close to a hundred thousand persons.

#### Yemen Invites Islamic Foreign Ministers

President Ali Abdullah Saleh has issued an invitation to the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Conference to send their foreign ministers to Sanaa. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Abdo Ali Abdul-Rahman, has just delivered a written invitation to the OIC Secretary-General, Mr. Hamed Al-Ghabed. The agenda: to discuss the plight of the Bosnian Muslims.

The tentative target date for the meeting is the 28th of current August. The OIC has circulated the invitation, and is waiting for responses.

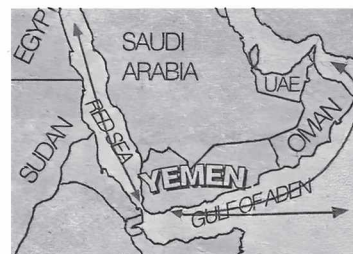
#### Yemen Takes Delivery of Three Chinese Gunboats

The Republic of Yemen has taken delivery of three Chinese rocket-launching gunboats on August 8th. The boats had been brought to Hodeidah two months earlier and training of Yemenis was undertaken since.

No details of the tonnage, firepower or value of the boats were given. However, Staff Colonel Ahmed Abdullah Al-Hassani, Commander of the Naval Forces and Coastal Defence, indicated that the ships will be added to the forces used to patrol the country's coastline along the Red Sea.

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# Eritrea still Lives the Ideals of its Revolution

Eritrea is a young nation, although it has a rich history of several thousand years. The modern nation was born in May 1993 when the people decided to create their own sovereign state.

The leaders of the armed struggle for independence, which was drawn out for three decades, suddenly became the leaders of a country. The leaders as well as the people are presently undergoing a transformation. But two things are clear:

a) Both the rulers and people still live by the ideals of their revolution. That means a rather simple life and full dedication to the cause. Of course, the mission is now different - the Eritreans have moved from liberating the country to building it.

b) There is a sense of urgency. Everybody is aware that internal and external complications will intervene to force a more relaxed momentum. At least some would like to enjoy living, and they rightly feel they have earned it. In Eritrea, the mood is that the enthusiasm and fervor of the Revolution should not be allowed to subside, but must be used to launch the development process.

To speak about those and other issues, Yemen Times Chief Editor Abdulaziz Al-Saqqa flew to Asmara to interview Eritrean President Isaias Afwerke. Mr. Afwerke, 49, the father of two sons and a daughter, is a highly cultured man. He is an avid reader.

His lifestyle, as well as his way of running the country's affairs indicate he is still true to the ideals of the revolution. Exceptionally simple and direct, he has indeed a likable personality.

Following are excerpts, and in subsequent weeks, interviews with other individuals will be published.



**Q: Your state is just over two years old. How do you assess progress in building the new state?**

**A:** Well, the state, as you said is just over two years old, having been established in May 1993. I must say, whatever has been achieved, is very marginal. We hope to be able to achieve more in the future.

Realistically speaking however, we see that our resources are limited while our aspirations and plans are very ambitious. So, we have a constraint. I would also like to indicate here that Eritrea as an independent entity was threatened by extinction. So, the process of nation building is coupled by a process of identity building.

**Q: Identity building is a tough job in a multi-ethnic, multi-**

**religious, multi-linguistic and multi-cultural society. What is the mechanism of the melting pot, and what is your vision of the Eritrean identity?**

**A:** It is true there is a plurality in our society, but we see this as a sign of strength, rather than a weakness. Each of the distinct groups, whether in terms of religion, language, or any other factor, is fully respected. We do not hide or shy away from such a plurality. But all of these groups share a common heritage and identity. We also share the common elements that were developed during our joint armed struggle.

**Q: But there is a certain sensitivity that can be observed specially in interacting with Islam and Arabic. Openly speaking, what is the place of Islam in the identity of Eritrea?**

**A:** Islam is an integral part of Eritrea, and it has been here for centuries. A large portion of our nation is Muslim and Arabic is spoken widely. In fact, Arabic is one of the national languages of Eritrea.

Let me explain what you perceive as sensitivity towards Islam. The problem is not religious, but it is the mis-use or abuse of religion. In my opinion, the mis-application of Islam is a remnant of the Cold War days. At that time, the West, and especially the USA, reared and encouraged Islamic groups in order to bring down the former USSR. This is especially visible in Afghanistan. But the USSR fell apart on its own, and now the world is stuck with these overblown groups. Here in Eritrea, Islam is not a problem and it will never be a

problem. But, once things from outside come to us, and they misguide people, it becomes a problem.

I think that religious or other animosities feed on any discrepancies that may exist in the economic, political, social or cultural relations among groups. We intend to make sure all groups in our society are given a fair shake at prosperity and influence. A person's background will not and cannot be taken against him/her.

**Q: There is talk of converting Eritrea into a regional center for services and economic activity. How realistic is this?**

**A:** First, let me say that we have, as I told you ambitious plans. This is based on our true belief in our own capabilities. Depending

on oneself is the first step towards development. Having said that, let me stress that we invite and welcome all investments from abroad, especially if it brings with it new technology. We have started with Eritreans who live abroad, and the response has been very good. We also have others who had lived here, and we would welcome their return to contribute to development.

In this regard, you will note that we have taken many measures to facilitate investments. We already have the investment law which gives many incentives. We also have the land law, which stipulates that all land belongs to the government. This simply means that all investors with viable projects will get their land deeds from the government. This

step avoid speculation in land and real estate, which is such a common phenomenon in other countries. Land should not be a hurdle to investors.

We are doing all we can to help investors.

**Q: How much foreign aid has your country received?**

**A:** We have received considerable foreign aid in terms of per capita. But, we are not out to get foreign aid, which is often restricted and has many conditions. We are in the business of joint effort.

**Q: You have started by returning assets formerly confiscated by the Menghistu regime.**

**A:** Yes, every week you read lists of owners who are asked to come and take possession of their assets. This process proceeds smoothly.

**Q: How far have you come in issuing your own currency?**

**A:** We have a lot of work on this. I think in a matter of days, the Central Bank Law as well as the banking law will be issued. Both are vital towards developing our own monetary system, of which the currency is a part. Specialists are now working on the currency, in consultation with Ethiopia. In short, the process is underway.

**Q: How would you describe relations with the Sudan?**

**A:** I am afraid our relations with the Sudan have deteriorated very rapidly. We had considered as a strategic ally, given our association during our struggle for independence. But we have steadily realized the double nature of their dealings. They tell us something and do something else.

Continues on page 12

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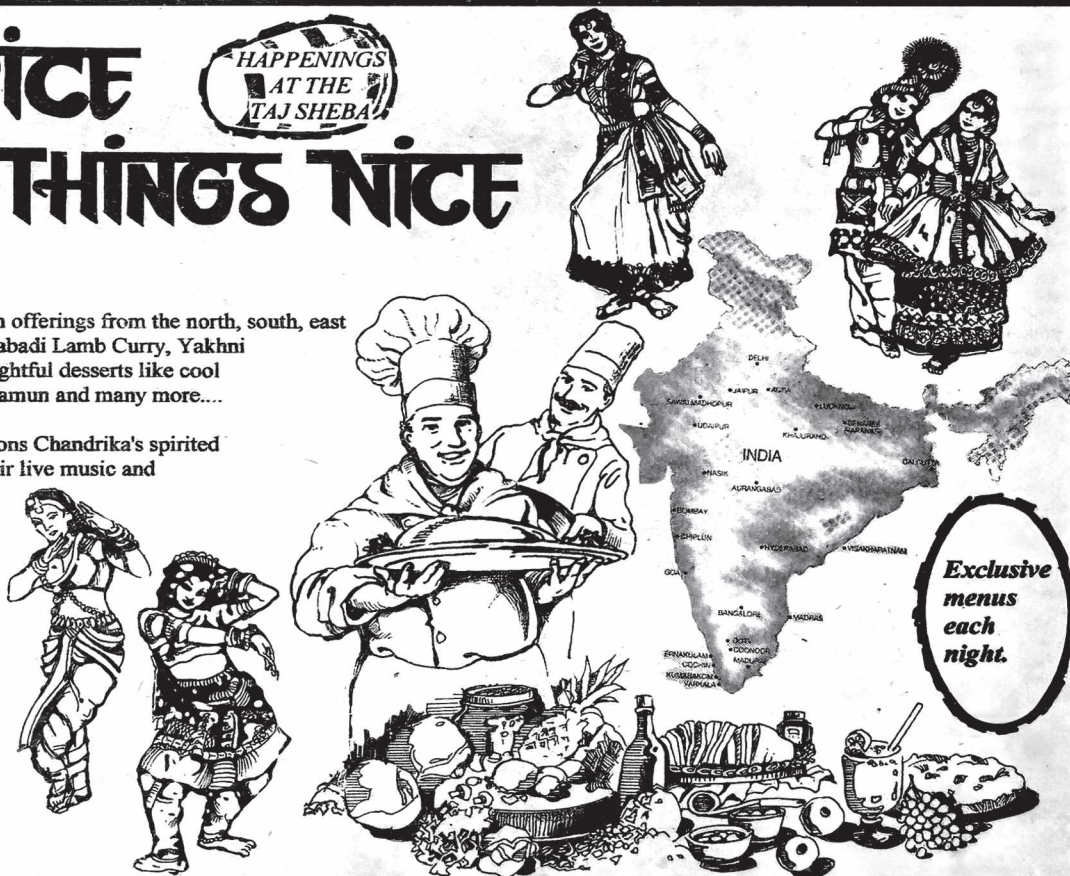
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## The Diplomatic Club Serves as Forum for Diplomats

**By: Ilham Al-Kibsi,  
Intern at Yemen Times**

Last week, the Diplomatic Club organized a picnic to the region of Al-Mahweet. Many ambassadors and other diplomats, as well as some public figures in society participated in the trip.

"That was our first activity. We hope to be even more active in the future," explained Mr. Yahia Al-Shami, Director of the Club. Among the activities envisaged are:

1. Trips, picnics and outings;
2. Cultural, social and entertainment events;

### 3. Organizing festivals:

4. Inviting outstanding intellectuals and guest speakers from abroad;

5. Holding seminars and general meetings.

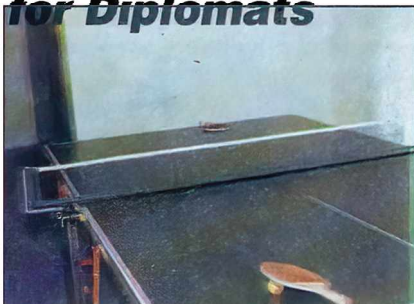
"In addition to all the above, the club itself

is of course open to the members to chat and spend time together. Our facilities include various in-door sports games such as pool, table tennis, chess, etc.; a library and a reading room; a cafeteria, etc.," Mr. Al-Shami said. The Club has yet to issue membership cards. "For the moment, members can have access to the club and its activities by using personal identity cards. This is applicable to diplomats, leaders of political parties, journalists, senior public figures," he added.

Senior public figures," he added. Many ambassadors have already been to the club. They say it is a good additional option for them in terms of spending time fruitfully. It is also a good forum for Yemenis and foreigners to get together. "We are sure there is a strong demand for this kind of service," he concluded.

The Club is located at the western wing of the Ring Road, in close proximity to the Sanaa office of the UNHCR, facing the old Sanaa University campus. It is open almost throughout the day.

Interested persons are advised to visit the Club or to contact the management at (01) 214-615. You can talk to Mr. Al-Shami or any of his assistants.



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# YEMENI MARRIAGE IN ETHIOPIA



On August 6th, hundreds of community elders and important personalities from the Yemeni community in Addis Ababa attended a marriage celebration. The groom: Abubakar Ahmed Yahia Al-Ba'adani; the bride: Ms. Nahlah Ali Ghaleb Al-Harazi. The well-wishers included Ambassador Mansoor Abdulgalil Abdulrah and his wife, as well as other members of the embassy. Yemen Times wishes the newly-weds a happy married life.



# The Inter-Parliamentary Union Notes Discrepancies in Yemeni Speaker's Case on Abdul-Habib Salim Moqbil

The Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians, a body of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, deliberated in Geneva (Switzerland) on Case No. YEM/01 - Abdul-Habib Salem Moqbil. Yemen, and issued a confidential decision in the Committee's 70th session held during 11-14th July, 1995.

*Yemen Times hereby runs the full text:*

## QUOTE

The Committee,

Referring to the outline of the cases as contained in its report.

Considering that, Mr. Abdul-Habib Salem Moqbil, a journalist working for an opposition newspaper, was elected in April 1993 on an independent ticket as a Member of Parliament for Electoral District 35, the city of Taiz.

Considering that, according to the source, Mr. Moqbil submitted his resignation to Parliament, reportedly on 28 March 1995 after having spent two years in Parliament and realizing that there was no possibility of debate and action; that, however, he withdrew it on 3rd April 1995, after the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on the 2nd April 1995, and without respecting the legal procedures, had publicly announced Mr. Moqbil's resignation and Parliament had unlawfully accepted it and declared his seat vacant.

Considering that, according to the source and repeated declarations of opposition MPs, the issue of Mr. Moqbil's resignation was brought up by the Speaker before the legal delay had expired, thus violating Article 82 of the Constitution and Article 156 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives; that Mr. Moqbil's letter of resignation was not submitted and discussed by Parliament; that the subsequent vote by Parliament on the vacancy of Mr. Moqbil's seat was irregular; that in

fact, Mr. Moqbil was stripped of his mandate.

Considering further, that a group of MPs requested that the matter be referred to the Committee for Constitutional Affairs and that request was ignored by the Speaker; that, on 30 May and 2 June 1995, the opposition issued a declaration protesting in the strongest possible terms against the reportedly unlawful procedures followed by the leadership of the House and the High Committee for Elections, which was allegedly likewise ignored.

Considering that, on 25 April 1995, Mr. Moqbil submitted a complaint to the Court of Sana'a and that on 27th April 1995, the judge, Mr. Abulmalik Abdullah Algendary, directed the leadership of the House to suspend all actions against Mr. Moqbil, together with the call for by-elections in District 35; that, however, despite that decision, it was announced that candidates for District 35 could be submitted during a 10-days period starting on 26 May 1995.

Considering that, on 12th June 1995, the Court of Sana'a annulled the decision to hold by-elections in District 35; that, however, the decision was ignored by the competent authorities which proceeded with the elections and finally, on 21 June 1995, announced the election of Mr. Abdullah Al-Mekhlafi, member of the General Congress Party, to the parliamentary seat in question; that, according to newspaper articles, voter turnout was only 17%.

Considering that according to the authorities, Mr. Moqbil submitted an undated letter of resignation on 22 March 1995 to the Deputy Speaker, Dr. Abdelwahab Mahmood, who tried to convince Mr. Moqbil to change his mind, that the Speaker was informed about the letter and approved of Mr. Mahmood's efforts to convince the parliamentarian to withdraw his resignation.

Considering that, according to the authorities, Mr. Moqbil had his letter published on 26 March in the weekly paper *Al-Shoura*, of which he is one of the

main journalists, that in order to be published, a letter has to be submitted at least three days in advance, which in the relevant case means that the letter was presented to the paper at the latest on 23 March 1995 and that therefore the source was wrong in affirming that Mr. Moqbil presented his resignation of 28 March 1995.

Considering that, according to the authorities, the Speaker felt obliged to submit Mr. Moqbil's letter of resignation to Parliament once he had learned about the publication of that letter in the press, that the resignation was submitted within the period for by law, that is to say on Saturday, 2 April 1995, 11 days after it was tabled (the 10th day being Friday, a holiday in Yemen); that the House of Representatives accepted the resignation and that the procedure was carried out in conformity with Article 82 of the Constitution and Article 156 of the Standing Orders, contrary to what the source indicates.

Considering the affirmation of the authorities that Mr. Moqbil, having learned about the acceptance of his resignation by the House, started distributing copies of his typewritten letter of resignation of 22 March after having added by hand the date of 28 March 1995.

Considering that the copy of the letter of resignation submitted by the Speaker does not correspond to that submitted by the source since the letter is unsigned and the last paragraph, which deals with the poor performance of Parliament is missing.

Considering finally that Mr. Moqbil and his family have reportedly been harassed for some time; that he was reportedly twice arrested and interrogated, lastly in July 1994, without, however, being officially charged; that his house has reportedly been searched with police taking everything they wanted.

1.- Thanks the Speaker of the House of Repre-

sentatives for his co-operation and the information provided;

2.- Is concerned at the allegations regarding the circumstances of Mr. Moqbil's resignation from Parliament and its subsequent withdrawal, to which he was entitled under the Standing Orders of the House, and stresses in this respect that legal provisions dealing with the removal or resignation of a parliamentarian from Parliament are very serious since they have a direct bearing on the right of the people to be represented within Parliament and to take part in the conduct of public affairs, as guaranteed under the Yemeni Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by which the State must abide according to Article 6 of the Constitution, and that they therefore be complied with strictly;

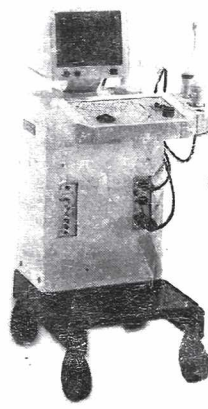
3.- Notes with concern the discrepancies between the views of the source and the authorities as to the concrete facts and the lawfulness of the procedures followed, and is perplexed at the fact that the copy of the resignation letter conveyed by the authorities does not correspond to that conveyed by the source insofar as it is unsigned and does not include a paragraph in which Mr. Moqbil refers to the work carried out by the House of Representatives, and would appreciate any clarification the authorities may be able to provide in this respect;

4.- Expresses concern at the allegation that a request of 48 members of the house to have the matter of Mr. Moqbil's resignation referred to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs was unlawfully ignored by the leadership of the House and would appreciate any information in this connection.

5.- Notes that the Court of Sana'a annulled the decision to hold by-elections in the district of Taiz, expressed deep concern at the fact that the relevant session of the court was ignored, and fears that this may constitute neglect of the Judiciary;

6.- Also expresses concern at the allegation that Mr. Moqbil has been arrested.

UNQUOTE

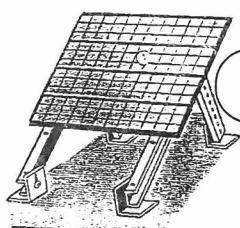


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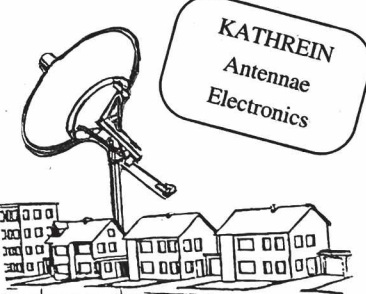
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# Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Haifi

## King Hussein: Exemplary Arab Leadership

Is it history that makes men or is it men that make history? The question will continue to work the minds of chroniclers of the human experience indefinitely. In King Hussein Bin alal, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, man and history together have produced a remarkable example of a successful Arab leadership, despite the paradoxes and pitfalls that the monarch and the people of Jordan had to face throughout the past half a century.

This leadership has defied all the odds against a continuing existence and took on all the challenges that it was confronted with, with patience and perseverance that defied the expectations of many analysts who underestimated the abilities of the "Little Tom Thumb", as President Nasser once called Hussein, and failed to take note of the importance of courage, chivalry and the popular support of his people - all of which Hussein' more than 40 years of rule has been characterized by.

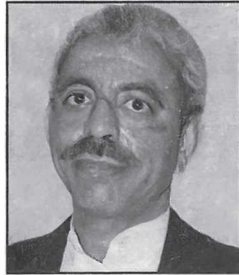
Inheriting a throne - at the age of 17 - of a kingdom which had little to in terms of resources, it almost seemed a miracle that the throne still remains with Hussein and that the kingdom itself remains as

a viable and continuously prospering Arab state.

Indeed, many Arabs today point at Jordan as a model, which they would love to emulate. This is especially true when considering the difficulties both of internal and external origin which Jordan faced, the very limited resources of the country, and the tremendous pressures put on it by so many emirical regimes that came and went over the last half a century years. Many former enemies of Hussein and Jordan would look at it today and perhaps cry in their graves from envy and disgust at themselves for having left the world without leaving anything worthwhile for their people to remember them by.

For Hussein, being King of Jordan meant more than just ruling a country and having power over people and resources. For Hussein, being King meant living for a purpose, to have a goal, to accomplish a mission. To rule Jordan meant to prove that the ideals of the Sherif Hussein of Mecca (Hussein's great grandfather) of leading a new modern era for modern Arab for the Arabs.

**Background on the Arab Revolt**  
As World War I progressed through its stalemate position



in the Western Front, with endless trench warfare, where the warriors of the conflicting sides just dug their own graves without making any advances for almost 3 years, the British and the French, in the meantime decided to activate the Southern Front against whatever fighting capacity remains with the Ottoman Empire. Lieutenant - later Colonel - T. E. Lawrence (author of Seven Pillars of Wisdom) and other British Intelligence Officers went into the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula to help in organizing an Arab liberation movement which was to "free" the Arabian Peninsula, the Fertile Crescent and the Levant from Turkish rule.

The Sherif Hussein, then ruler of the Hijaz (Western part of Saudi Arabia), aspired to bring the entire Arabian Peninsula, the Fertile Crescent and the Levant freedom from Turkish rule and to lead the people of the area to unity and a new Arab Renaissance. This new Arab Renaissance would restore the glory of the Arabs that had shined so forcefully during the days of the Islamic Empire. Lawrence and his friends promised that the Arab

assistance against the Turks would make these aspirations realizable. In the meantime, the British and the French had, secretly, pretty much decided that the aspirations of the Bedouin King do not match with the aspirations of the still dominating Imperialist mentality of the victors of the war and thus drew up maps which divided up the region as British and French mandates. Not only that, but the British went on to assist another Bedouin King, Abdulaziz Al Saud to push the Sherif Hussein out of the Hijaz, thoping that would bring an end to his demand that they deliver on their promises. As for Palestine, the British had given title of the Holy Land of the three major religions of the world to the Jews of the world as a "national home" (Incidentally, the British have previously offered to give the Jews Uganda, which is richer in terms of resources than Palestine, but the offer was turned down by the aspiring Zionists of those days!).

Thus the ideals of the Arab Revolution were shelved and the Arab Renaissance almost became an impossibility! After some squawking and some hard resistance against the new "mandates" the sons of the Sherif of Mecca were allotted Syria, Iraq and Transjordan (present day Jordan, without the West Bank of Palestine, which was annexed by Jordan during the 1948 Arab - Israeli War). The Hijaz was eventually lost to Ibn Saud, who renamed his new empire in Arabia as simply Saudi Arabia.

King Hussein is the grandson of King Abdulla, who was allotted Transjordan. King Hussein was crowned King of Jordan in 1952, shortly after his grandfather's death. His father was incapable of holding the throne due to mental illness. King Hussein had to shorten his Harrows College enrollment and underwent a rapid military training course at Sandhurst Military Academy, in the U.K.

For the young King, ruling Jordan meant transforming the bedouins and farmers of Jordan into citizens of a modern state. That means bringing about dramatic changes and re-structuring the traditional mentality which abounded in the kingdom. It also meant completing the independence of Jordan from British "mandate" status, and cleaning leftovers like General John Glubb, who was in command of the Arab Legion, the name of the Jordanian Army to this day. The latter was one of his first challenges as king.

Many thought that the army, without Glubb and under Arab authority would bring down the high standards and fighting ability which the Legion had acquired. But the young King disproved his enemies' wishful thinking. Today, the Jordanian officers give instructions to many of the modern armies of the Arab world and Third World, and they are also an integral part of the UN effort to keep peace throughout the world.

Other challenges and difficulties that Hussein had to wiggle through during more than four decades, to name a few, were: meagerness of resources; hostile neighbors from all sides; Israel's expansionist designs as manifested in The Arab Israeli Wars of 1956, 1967, 1973; the loss of the West Bank (1967) and the subsequent migration of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, as refugees, thus complicating the country's population structure; the repeated attempts on his life, the Gulf Wars (I and II) and, recently, health challenges (cancer). Despite all these difficulties, Hussein proved, with wisdom, patience, and dedication to his people, to be the most effective Arab leader in achieving progress - materially and culturally, for his people.

With his courage and daredevil willingness to personally outdo attempted assassinations, attempted coups, etc., he also proved to be the least expensive Arab leader to

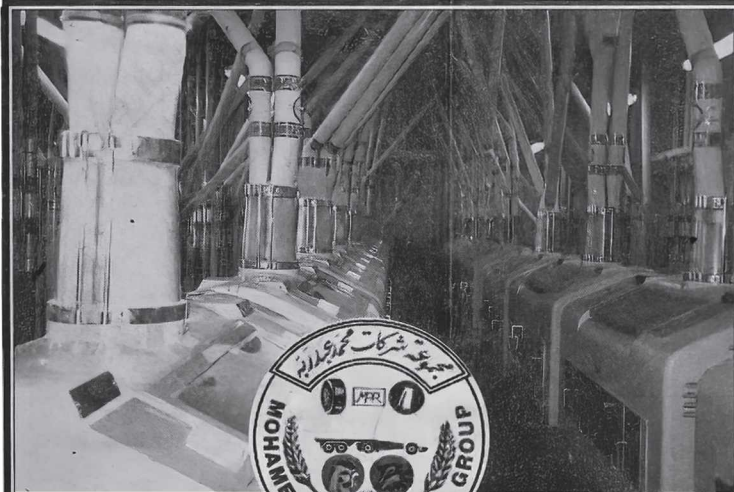
protect. In many cases, this courage was coincided by an eagerness to forgive and thus turn his enemies to admirers. An important reason for King Hussein's success and continuity, as a monarch, is his ability to respond to the needs of his people. As eloquent as Hussein is - in Arabic and English, Hussein never felt satisfied by just pumping national pride through emotional rhetoric. He transformed Jordan and its people into a model for economic development and social and cultural harmony - something which his revolutionary and petro-dollar neighbors have been unable to achieve.

His commitment to Arab causes proved to be second to none, and his contribution to Arab nationalist drives and Islamic aspirations were better than most of those leaders who labeled themselves as being the most progressive.

For Yemenis, his hosting of the signing of the Document for Pledge and Accord, will always be remembered. But alas, Yemeni rulers have difficulty showing their gratefulness.

Hussein sought to prove that the Arabs can realize progress and can rise up to the levels of any other society. His vehicle: educational, cultural and institutional human development and welfare. This does not mean gigantic projects that carry the ruler's name and very large expenditures, which end up as nothing more than tombs that testify to the petty waste of resources which Third World "leaders" pride themselves with.

As a final note, one cannot ignore the way Jordan has handled the democratization process, and here again, we have proof that indeed Jordan, thanks to King Hussein and his enlightened approach to leadership, has become a model state in a regional environment of totalitarians, absolute despots and leaders who still give lip service to democracy, thinking that they can, forever, fool their people and the rest of the world!



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# Human Resource Development as Means and End for Sustainable Development

**By: Abdulkadir M. Al-Ariqi,**  
**Environment & Development Consultant**

Lessons drawn from the past show that many theories of economic development do not really achieve development. Some increase the gap between economic growth and work opportunity thus leading to more poverty, unemployment, disparity in earnings. (See Yemen Times issue No. 9/95). This means that the strategies used in development led to more suffering of people. Thus the basic question in assessing the fruits of development is to ask how the people in a nation have fared? And not as some used to ask, how much is a nation producing?

Economic growth is not necessarily an indicator of the well-being of a nation. The fate of human beings should be the center or the core of sustainable development.

The experience of theories of economic development as applied in the world so far, is discouraging. More than one billion people live in obsolete or chronic poverty, 900 million can neither read nor write; twice as many have no access to safe drinking water. Malnutrition is still unacceptably high. The high economic growth in the world did not lead to improved human welfare. Instead, it led to social and moral crisis, and good social values such as solidarity among individuals and groups, caring for the less fortunate, compassion, etc., have become obsolete or eroded. They are now replaced by individual or political egoism. Insecurity is increasing due mostly to the way human beings are treated.

Thus, when the world reached an era of prevalent doubt and uncertainty, the traditional philosophy of economic development was revised. The concept of sustainability took root since the Stockholm conference. The cornerstone of the new sustainable development philosophy is human development environmental considerations.

The concept of sustainability is complex and difficult to implement without effective cooperation within and among countries at all levels: local, regional



and international. Since sustainability aims to use all natural resources - including human resources - within their natural regenerative capacities at the rate at which renewable substitutes are developed by human invention and investment.

Normally, it is said that sustainability is a macro-economic criterion that is irrelevant at a project level. However at a project level, a lot of micro level information is needed. These project level considerations are also relevant from the point of view of many institutions such as development banks which are committed to sustainable development. Hence the need for the link between micro and macro thinking and policy.

Concepts of sustainable development touch on many factors. However, the most important is the Human Resource. Without human resource development, no sustainable development could be achieved. As the World Bank's Human Development Report says: "Human development is more than the mere satisfaction of Physical Basic Needs. It is a process which enables people to enlarge their choices and create space for themselves... without encroaching on the space of others, or upon that of future generations."

Investing in human development consists of strengthening sectors like education, health and employment which will contribute effectively to the development of people, while contributing to respond to the basic

Human Needs leads to development for the people, community participation and democratization allows development by people.

In order to alleviate poverty, first equal opportunity should be given to all the people in the community. Most of the prevailing poverty is due to inadequate and/or unequal access to income, assets, credit, social services and job opportunity.

Investing in people alone is not enough if they will not be given opportunity to work. The issue is how to adopt policies which distribute these economic assets and opportunities more equitably, and then how to create the atmosphere in which people feel secure and find the chance to achieve their best. Providing the infrastructure, employment opportunities and the atmosphere for achievement for the individual are all responsibilities of society at large.

What all of this adds up to is the central place of the individual in the development process. In my opinion, the Communist systems fell because they treated individuals as tools only, whereas they should also be the final recipient and collector of the fruits of development. It is also with this specific point in mind that the welfare of the individual - at the economic, social, cultural, and, above all, political dimensions.

Since Human beings is the center of development, what they need more is welfare than material prosperity and they are in the same boat and this kind of concept, focusing on Man holistically and knowing deeply his effective needs materially and morally. So the development process which leads to the happiness and fraternity of all human beings needs to be based on a sustainable development of our natural resources (as capital, minerals, etc.) which are sufficient to all human needs if properly handled.

From the experience of the efforts over the past three decades, we realize that most of developing countries actually became poorer. Economic growth alone was not sufficient mainly due to gross inequalities among members of the com-

munity, and due to lack of active participation of the majority of the people in deciding their future.

In Yemen, the government adopted recently economic and administrative reforms which will work to improve social services through decentralization and community participation. Also in

the new five years plan, great emphasis is given to human development as a main factor for effective development. This is all good and fine. But it is only on paper.

The experience of the Yemeni system is such that there is always a sea, or rather an ocean between what we are told will be

done, and what is actually done. I am sure, one more example will be added to our experience.

In order to ease adjustment pains, action programs to mitigate social costs of adjustment such as emergency employment programs, compensatory packages and involvement of NGOs and local communities is essential.


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## Sanaa Tax Revenues Show Dramatic Increase

Over the first of half of 1995, total tax revenue collected in Sanaa city exceeded YR two billion. "Since more tax payers rush to settle their dues in the later part of the year, we expect revenue during the second half to fall somewhere between YR 2.5 - 3 billion," explained Mr. Mohammed Nasser Al-Janad, Director-General of the Sanaa Tax Bureau. This will yield a total annual tax revenue for 1995, of roughly YR 4.5-5.0 billion, which is almost double the 1994 figure.

Improved tax collection has been one of the priority issues in the government's fiscal policy. It is believed that less than 30% of all payments due to the government are collected. The World Bank and IMF and other development partners of Yemen have been

urging the government to do something about collected tax dues. The prevalent corruption, low income levels of bureaucrats, and the weakness of the government enforcement agencies have all been responsible for the low level of collection.


"We are pushing ahead with more stringent measures. Those who don't pay their taxes will increasingly face stiff measures," said Mr. Al-Janad. One of the measures being contemplated by the tax department is to run a list of names of those individuals who have failed to pay their taxes in the papers. "We expect this to be especially effective with the big shots," the tax official explained.

**By: Al-Izzy Asselwi,**  
**Yemen Times.**


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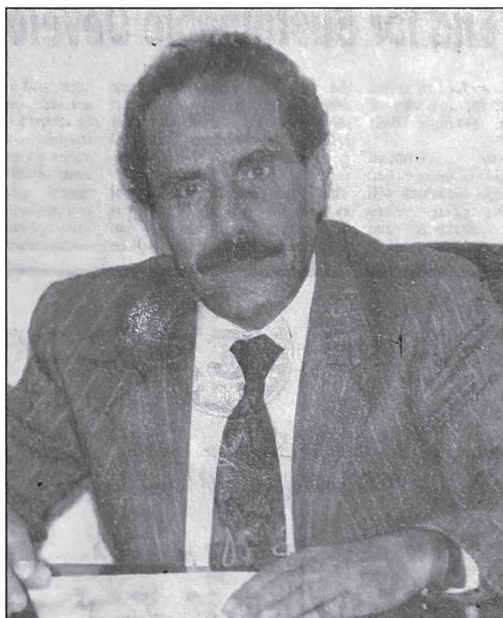


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**Mejanni, Hazem Hassan & Co.**  
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
P.O. Box (10556) 53 ZUBAIRY STR. SANA'A,  
REPUBLIC OF YEMEN TEL. (0671) 265141 / 2  
Fax: (0671) 367004 Tel. 2869 Y.E. (NOWAB)

### AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF INTERNATIONAL BANK OF YEMEN (Y.S.C.) SANA'A, REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

We have audited the combined financial statements of International Bank of Yemen (Y. S. C.) represented in the combined balance sheet as at December 31, 1994, and the related combined statement of operations and retained earnings and the statement of cash flows for the financial year then ended. Our audit was made in accordance with International Standards on Auditing and applicable provisions of prevailing laws and included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We have obtained the information and explanations which we deemed necessary for our audit.

The bank keeps proper accounting records and the accompanying financial statements are in agreement therewith.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above together with the notes attached thereto present fairly the bank's financial position at December 31, 1994 and the results of its operation and its cash flows for the financial year then ended in accordance with the International Accounting Standards.

M. Zohdi Mejanni  
Associated Accountant  
Sana'a - March 29, 1995



#### COMBINED BALANCE SHEET AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1994

ASSETS	1994 YR	1993 YR
Cash on hand and at banks	321,122,221	355,062,084
Statutory reserve account	764,011,000	542,055,000
Time deposits with banks	935,486,605	1,059,972,061
Loans and advances (net)	1,998,653,595	1,244,252,342
Other assets	197,683,679	214,684,239
Fixed assets (net)	217,387,958	52,206,728
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,434,345,058</b>	<b>3,468,232,454</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Due to banks	5,122,864	53,626,461
Customers' deposits	3,669,517,934	2,978,838,155
Provisions	61,016,592	46,595,098
Other credit balances	367,666,621	138,000,931
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,103,324,011</b>	<b>3,217,060,645</b>
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Paid-up capital	150,000,000	101,760,400
Reserves	105,558,983	99,317,537
Retained earnings	75,462,064	50,093,872
<b>Total Shareholders' equity</b>	<b>331,021,047</b>	<b>251,171,809</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>4,434,345,058</b>	<b>3,468,232,454</b>
<b>CONTRA ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>397,991,234</b>	<b>446,196,953</b>

#### COMBINED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND RETAINED EARNINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1994

	1994 YR	1993 YR
INTEREST INCOME	311,013,013	253,128,027
INTEREST EXPENSE	(104,100,535)	(105,907,532)
<b>NET INTEREST INCOME</b>	<b>206,912,478</b>	<b>147,220,495</b>
OTHER OPERATING INCOME	14,990,978	14,113,618
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>221,903,456</b>	<b>161,334,113</b>
General expenses	(119,575,418)	(98,715,178)
Provision for loan losses	(26,468,220)	(10,000,000)
<b>NET PROFIT BEFORE INCOME TAX</b>	<b>75,859,818</b>	<b>52,618,935</b>
INCOME TAX	(34,250,180)	(21,292,500)
<b>NET PROFIT FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>41,609,638</b>	<b>31,326,435</b>
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS, JANUARY 1, 1994</b>	<b>50,093,872</b>	<b>28,466,402</b>
Transfer to legal reserve	(6,241,446)	(4,698,965)
Dividends declared	(10,000,000)	(5,000,000)
<b>RETAINED EARNINGS, DECEMBER 31, 1994</b>	<b>75,462,064</b>	<b>50,093,872</b>

#### COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1994

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1994 YR	1993 YR
Net profit for the year	41,609,638	31,326,435
Add (Deduct) adjustment to reconcile net profit to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	3,838,986	2,715,360
Provision for loan losses	26,468,220	10,000,000
Other provisions	14,421,494	2,862,285
<b>Net operating profit before changes in assets and liabilities</b>	<b>86,338,338</b>	<b>46,904,080</b>
Decrease (Increase) in other assets	7,706,210	(180,371,022)
Increase in other credit balances	229,665,690	60,329,830
<b>Net cash provided by (used for) operating activities</b>	<b>323,710,238</b>	<b>(73,137,112)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM (USED FOR) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Decrease/(Increase) in time deposits with banks	124,485,456	75,486,084
Increase in loans and advances	(771,575,123)	(125,163,391)
Additions to fixed assets	(169,075,872)	(12,405,990)
Net book value of fixed assets disposed	55,656	744,328
<b>Net cash used for investing activities</b>	<b>(816,109,883)</b>	<b>(61,338,969)</b>

#### COMBINED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1994 (CONTINUED)

	1994 YR	1993 YR
Net cash used for investing activities	(816,109,883)	(61,338,969)
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase/(Decrease) in due to banks	(48,503,597)	955,673
Increase in customers' deposits	690,679,779	280,314,448
Increase in paid-up capital	48,239,600	5,483,400
Dividends declared	10,000,000	(5,000,000)
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>680,415,782</b>	<b>281,753,521</b>
<b>NET INCREASING IN CASH, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>188,016,137</b>	<b>147,277,440</b>
<b>CASH, END OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>897,117,084</b>	<b>749,839,644</b>
Represented by:		
Cash on hand and at banks	321,122,221	355,062,084
Statutory reserve account	764,011,000	542,055,000
	1,085,133,221	897,117,084
Chairman	Acting General Manager	Mejanni, Hazem Hassan & Co.
H. E. Ali Lutf Al-Thor	Ahmad Thabit	M. Zohdi Mejanni

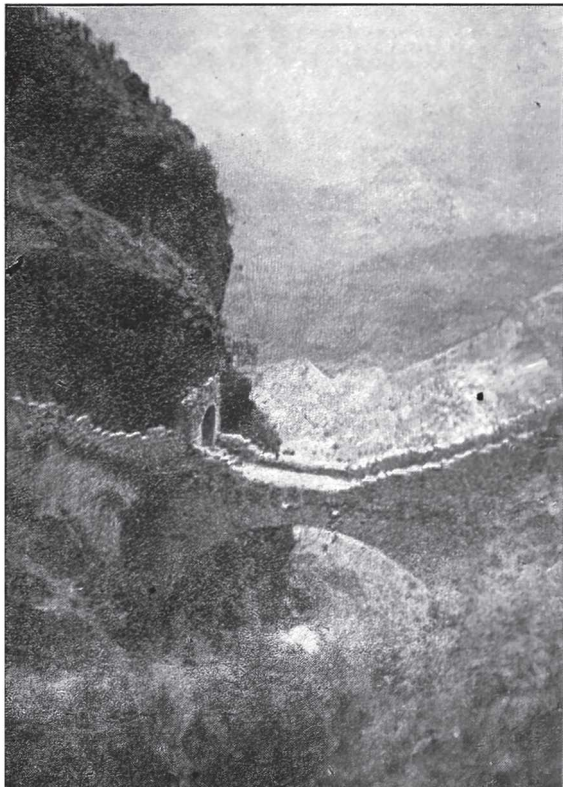
**AN  
EXCEPTIONAL  
ECONOMIC  
YEMENI  
ESTABLISHMENT  
WORKING  
WITH  
EXCEEDING  
SUCCESS  
FOR MORE  
THAN 16  
YEARS**

**THE NEW  
AND HIGHLY  
QUALIFIED  
YEMENI  
MANAGEMENT  
WILL ASSIST  
YOU IN  
ALL YOUR  
PROJECTS  
AND  
INVESTMENTS**



# " The Shahara Sham "

A foreigner's trip to Yemen is deemed incomplete if they fail to undertake the journey to the mountain fortress village of Shahara. Every guide book, pamphlet, or brochure on Yemen pictures the famous 17th century stone bridge which connects the village over a 300 ft gorge. For centuries the Zaydi Imams used the village as an asylum during armed conflict and it was also a major point of resistance in numerous battles with the Ottoman Turks. As recently as the 1960's, Shahara served as Royalist Headquarters during the Civil War. The Republicans heavily bombed the village during the intensive air-raids, and some of that damage can still be seen today although many houses have been rebuilt in the traditional style. Both its impressive history and its stunning location 2600 meters skywards makes Shahara a 'must see' for visitors. Unfortunately, the mountain beauty has been spoiled by the greed of people who feel tourists are not human beings, merely very large piggy banks disguised in flesh, bone, and sun-screen.



Shahara's negative reputation preceded our visit there. In Sana'a we met a young French couple who were hardy, experienced travelers. They described to us their adventures in Yemen, their fascination with the beautiful landscape and their many interesting encounters with Yemenis. We asked them if they had been to Shahara and immediately their face fell. "We tried," they said, the disappointment hanging thick in their words. They were stopped by some villagers. The villagers would not let them pass unless they paid them 3000 Riyals. Of course, this was impossible. The young couple traveled on a shoestring budget, eating only one meal a day, usually sleeping in a tent—they felt the benefits of travel outweighed the comforts of luxurious living. They could not afford the payment and that they would walk the five

hours to the top. This ascent was not to be however, as they were plagued with every step as people continued to demand money and children threw rocks from the roadside. The French couple were in shock at their reception, and after an hour decided to turn back. Shahara was the only place in Yemen where they were met with such hostility. As time went on Shahara became the last place we needed to visit on the tourist trail. The impact of the French couple's story faded with time and once again we felt a renewed interest in seeing the historic town. We asked a Yemeni friend if he would come with us. He shook his head. "The people there are bad. Last time I went in July, a friend gave us the use of a four wheel drive for my birthday. I figure I must have been in a qat-induced state of serenity when I decided we'd use the gift to

go to Shahara after all, during qat time everybody's happy, everybody's friends, "mafish mushkilah". Right?

Wrong! Mushkilah, big mushkilah!

The morning of our departure our driver stopped at his house to pick up his AK47. Not a good sign. Its bulky presence in the back seat filled me with a sense of foreboding. The journey was long, but the rugged beauty of the landscape kept us entranced and in good spirits.

After a four hour drive, we were stopped at the base of the mountain by a man with qat stained teeth who sourly told us we had to change cars and drivers. Only the Shahara people could take us up the mountain. It would cost us 3000 Riyals return. A very steep price considering it only costs 800 Riyals return for a trip from Sana'a to Sa'adah, in the far north of the country. The man tried to tell us we had to return at 7:00 am the next morning although it was already 4:00 in the afternoon. We wanted to see the bridge in daylight so we wrangled for a full half hour for an 11:00 am return.

The village was everything the guidebook promised, fabulous architecture, ancient cisterns, and of course, the stone bridge covered in a veil of mountain mist. We spent the night in the town's "fonduk", a small room with no beds or blankets, just cushions and a broken window. We were served a small plate of fowl, eggs, bread and grapes for supper. Knowing we had to get up early we went to bed at 10:00 pm at which began to pass as Abu Bakr continued to sound through the thin walls. Three times we asked them to 'please turn it down'. We were told 'no problem', but the music resumed in the early hours of the morning.

Having refused breakfast from our inconsiderate proprietor, we explored the town until it was time to leave. Unfortunately, only one car waited for us. The beady eyed owner told us our driver had gone down the mountain to buy qat and that we would have to stay there several more hours. We explained that was not our arrangement and that we had already paid for our drivers. Suddenly, the owner decided the driver would return in ten minutes. The minutes ticked by with no sign of our driver. I had my suspicions of the owners honesty, so I got my husband to go inside to find out what was going on. He found the owner, some local police and our driver enjoying a hearty lunch. We said 'aiib' to the owner for lying and said it was time to go. He demanded payment for the room

first, but we said our driver would arrange it at the bottom of the mountain. Lucky for us that we did, because as you will read, if we didn't, we might still be stuck at Shahara to this day.

As soon as we arrived at the bottom, the owner stuck his head into car and shouted, "money, money, money!", rubbing his fingers together and shoving them in my husband's face. "How much?" we asked, estimating roughly 800 Riyals for the poor quality room and the small dinner. He had the never to ask for 3000 Riyals! Anyone who has traveled through Yemen knows this is an outrageous price.

An argument ensued. Men with AK47's surrounded our car. They said that we must pay that amount or they would force us to stay until we did. We offered 1000 Riyals, but this offer was thrown back in our face. We tried to reason that we were willing to pay a fair price - we had no sleep and an uncomfortable room, we had paid 3000 Riyals for a car already - more than enough. They told us to 'shut-up, stop talking' - we said we wanted the police. They said British and Canadians had money ... We could pay. But we wouldn't. We wouldn't bend to their unfair demands. As tourists we are tired of some Yemenis thinking we are made of money. We understand the economy is bad, people are suffering. We, and most foreigners are willing to help where and when we can, but we will not be exploited.

The owner's cronie, an official "guide" continued to argue with us. They couldn't believe we did not have 3000 Riyals (we really didn't). The owner, in his fever claimed the Yemenis would soon destroy the British. I was in the back seat getting increasingly scared for our safety.

The argument was 'resolved' when my husband insisted on taking the owner to the Sana'a police. They angrily told us go and never come again. As I saw the hatred and defeat in the hotel owner's eyes, I vowed that I would warn other tourists about the 'Sham of Shahara'.

So if you dare, but their harassment should not be tolerated and their greed should not be fed. There are enough interesting places in Yemen which tourists can support, where the people are kind and helpful hosts. Shahara has been on the tourist trail for years, but soon its name could be erased from the map altogether if they continue to contradict that age-old maxim, "Don't bite the hand that feeds you".

By: D. Hurely



## YEMEN-AMERICA LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

Phone : (01) 203-251

Fall Term : (September 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1995)

Placement Testing: Every Thursday, Test Fee: 200YR

Registration for the Placement Test: Saturday-Wednesday

Registration for Classes: August 1-30 registration for YALI students

August 15-30 open registration

Daily - (8 am-12 noon) (1 pm-5 pm)

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Fall Registration Fee: \*\*8,000YR\*\* INCLUDING BOOKS

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**Each class will meet 100 HOURS PER TERM**  
**5 days per week - 2 hours per day**

Hours: 8-10; 10:15 - 12:15; 1-3; 3:15 - 5:15; 5:30 - 7:30

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## Eritrea Festival 95

The Eritrean people live these days a joyous event that was started in Bologna, Italy in 1974. It is the Eritrea Festival. Since then, fifteen festivals have been held in various parts of the world of the Eritrean diaspora, but notably in Europe. But with this year's event, marks two major changes:

First, the festival has been brought home. "This time it is in Asmara, next time, we plan to hold it in another Eritrean city," said Ahmed Taher Ba-Doorri, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Information. Second, much of the traditional political oratory has given way to an impressive exhibition of local products. "Citizens have taken advantage of the reduced prices to buy large quantities of goods," explained Mr. Mohammed Osman of the Protocol Department at the Foreign Ministry. He also indicated that Eritreans from 22 countries worldwide have flown in for the occasion. "The Eritrean Festival has become a symbol, a manifestation of the Eritrean

people's steadfastness in our quest for independence and nationhood," said Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki. Eritrea, which wrenched its independence in 1991, finally achieved sovereign independent status following a national referendum in May 1993. Since then, the bi-annual celebration officially known as "Eritrea Festival" has been increasingly transformed to serve as a rallying point for economic development as well as a forum to chart the country's future course. The hope is that Eritreans from the diaspora will invest in their own country. "The main purpose of our coming together on such an occasion is the revival of our national culture," said Zemheret Yohannes, Director of the National Holiday's Organizing Committee. In addition to the exhibition of local products, various cultural and artistic troupes entertained the public with songs, folk dances, music and other cultural performances from the nine regions of Eritrea.

## "Let us rise and build a Somalia that has room for all of us."

The Somali Democratic Republic occupies a strategic geographic area in the Horn of Africa. It borders on Ethiopia to the west, Kenya to the south-west, the Republic of Djibouti to the north-west, the Gulf of Aden to the North and the Indian Ocean to the east and south. The total area of the Republic is 638,000 square kilometers, with a coastline running over 3,300 kms.

Somalia has a hot dry climate, but the majority of the land is savannah. Although some areas in the northern part of the country are highlands. There are two rivers in the southern part of the country - the Shabelle and Jubba.

The Somali people are a hundred percent Muslim. Somalis are further unified in language and culture, belonging to the Cushitic family of languages. Most also speak Arabic.

Colonialism came to Somalia in the late 19th century, when Britain controlled the northern part of the country and Italy the southern part. As is the case all over the Third World, colonialism gave the people of Somalia a common rallying cause. Most of the resistance was done through the Nationalist Somali Youth League which gained strength, until in 1960, it seized power. But the new leaders found themselves too inexperienced to run a country, let alone one oriented towards democracy.

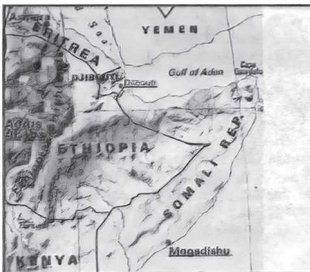
Thus, a poor country was further plagued by corruption, bribery and nepotism. Discontent exploded in October 1969 when the president was assassinated and an army officer, Mohammed Siyad Barre, imposed a cruel, dictatorial rule. He moved to install a Marxist doctrine which he called scientific socialism. Barre then gave the former Soviet Union naval and air facilities on the Gulf of Aden, in return for which he received supplies of heavy military hardware which he used in his bitter battle with the Ethiopians. The war caused enormous losses, weakened the economy and paved the way for years of unbearable suffering in both countries.

By 1977, the oppressive government of Barre started to crumble and the sick octogenarian was fully dependent on his clan and other clans in order to remain in power. That was the first beginning of Somalia's current civil war.

The previous civil wars were caused by direct economic causes, such as water rights, access to grazing lands, disputes over farmlands, etc. But the question here is what caused the long-lasting clan warfare in Somalia today?

Simply and in summary, we can say the President Siad Barre and his mischievous students who are now called warlords are the main cause of Somalia's catastrophic civil war of today. The war started in December 1990 by angry factions who broke into Mogadishu with all kinds of arms and the regime of Barre began to defend itself. In defending itself, the Barre regime started using the technique of divide and conquer - divisions which still haunt the country till this day.

Fortunately Barre's men and supporters were badly beaten and deposed after a merciless war which killed thousands of innocent people, destroyed much of the country and sent hundreds of thousands of



refugees over to neighboring countries. Siyad Barre fled the country in January 1991.

When Siyad Barre's regime was finally overthrown, the people expected a government which will work to alleviate the long suffering of the community. But unluckily, the Somali factions quickly fell back to internecine fighting which gradually escalated into a full-scale civil war in which a brother kills a brother.

New cruel war-mongering protagonists have emerged. They are hungry for money, power, arms, influence and everything. In five years, that has resulted in the death of thousands of innocent people. Every Somali family has lost a loved one. Thus, the whole population has tested the bitterness and agony of the civil war. The country is so wretched that when we want to say 'Go to Hell', we now say 'Go to Somalia'.

As we know a world famous scholar Ibn Batuta who visited Somalia in (AD 1331) had mentioned in his book and reports that the Somali people were generous, kind and hospitable. He said they would share with their guests even their only glass of milk. But today, we drink the blood of our guests, even those who come to feed our dying children.

I feel I have a message to pass on to my people. I call on my dear brothers and sisters to wake up to the facts of it is happening to us. Remember the days when Somalis were respected and regarded as decent human beings in the horn of Africa. Not today when we are called reckless, insecure cannibals and trouble-some freaks from the horn of Africa. This indeed is the time of the "Ugly Somali". Distinguish scholars are no more, they are now liars with pseudonyms and forged documents and certificates. This is a time when our sisters, wives, mothers and daughters are raped; this is a time when we are poor asylum seekers.

Are we created to be misguided and used by power hungry octogenarians who are fighting for personal advantage? Can't we see the orphans, the poor widows and widowers, our aged parents who lost their children in our derelict homeland? It is time for us to rise from the ashes and rebuild Somalia - a united Somalia. All of us have a role to play, no role is too small. We must stand up to the thugs and build a Somalia of law and order. A Somalia that has room for all of us.

By: Said Ahmed Said Harago,  
Somali teacher at Azal Modern School,  
Sana'a, Yemen.

## Ambassador Mansoori:

## "Ethiopian economic/political transformation proceeds smoothly."



Yemeni Ambassador Mansoori with Ethiopian president Melles Zenawi

Yemen and Ethiopia are two neighbors that share a lot of history and common bonds; Today, share many interests which creates a natural alliance between them.

In recognition of these facts, the Yemeni government appointed Mr. Mansoor Abdulgalil Abdulrab, a close friend of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, as its ambassador to Ethiopia. The mandate was clear - to breathe new life in the bilateral relations and to elevate the level of cooperation.

Mansoor, a former military commander, was long transformed into a senior civilian official, having served as Governor of Al-Mahweet, and later Ibb. He had also served as ambassador twice in Europe. He presented his letters of credentials to Ethiopia President Melles Zenawi on July 2nd, 1994.

Last week, Ms. Afrah Mohammed Ethiopia Bureau Chief of Yemen times interviewed Ambassador Mansoor at his office in Addis Ababa.

Excerpts:

**Q: Could you highlight the main issues with which you were pre-occupied over the last year, since your appointment here?**

A: There are many issues, and it is hard to list all of them, because Yemeni-Ethiopian relations are so broad and far-reaching. But let me categorize many issues into four broad groups: putting in order the embassy; the affairs of the Yemeni community in Ethiopia; political relations between Sana'a and Addis Ababa; and finally economic cooperation. We have generally worked on all four fronts.

**Q: Let us take each of those issues. What do you mean putting the embassy in order?**

A: When I came here, our embassy was isolated from all important circles - the Ethiopian authorities the diplomatic community; and had lots of problems with the Yemeni immigrant community. Even the buildings were run down. So, I mounted a campaign to re-introduce our diplomatic mission and create a reasonable presence. As part of this effort, I brought masons from home, and built a *mafraj* - in typical Yemeni style as an annex to the residence. I entertain colleagues

from the diplomatic missions, I can now say, we really are present.

**Q: How have the embassy's relations with immigrant Yemeni community improved?**

A: Relations with the embassy were bad, and in some cases inimical. There was a lot of mistrust, some of it as a result of the civil war in Yemen. Immediately, I started a new chapter. The past is behind us. Even those who made mistakes are redeemed because there is a full amnesty. It is over. Let us work together, first for your own benefit, and second for the benefits of Yemen and Ethiopia I told them.

Today, we are one family, we have done two important things:

a) Based on instructions from President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a team from the National Registry came to Addis Ababa and issued the identity card for Yemeni nationals. Any person who is of Yemeni origin and wanted it, got it. We issued 1302 IDs. We expect another mission to come from Sana'a and issue similar IDs to Yemenis living in Dire Dawa-Harrar area.

b) We were able to assist the school of the Yemeni community. The Government of Yemen now provides teachers, textbooks, and even exams. Students from this school can now directly link with Yemeni educational system. Since the school also applies the Ethiopian curriculum, the students can also link up with the Ethiopian educational system. May I use this opportunity to thank the Ethiopian Government which has donated a plot of land which is 10,000 square meters on which a new larger school will be built. I also use this occasion to thank Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh who promised to help in financing the construction of the school.

**Q: you spoke of improved political relations between Addis Ababa and Sana'a. Could you give examples?**

A: Yemen's position during the Ethiopian Revolution is a case in point. Our support for them is still remembered. In the same way, Ethiopia's support for Yemeni unity during the civil war is much appreciated by our people.

Today, neither government allows its territories to be used against the other. You will recall that Ethiopian Prime Minister Tamrat Layne visited Yemen, and we are now preparing for a return visit by Prime Minister Abdulaziz Abdulghani. This visit was delayed

due to our internal considerations in Yemen; but we are now looking ahead to it. I am sure this will take place before the end of the year.

**Q: How about economic cooperation?**

A: Of course, economic cooperation is mainly up to the private sector in both countries. But I can tell you there is more trading going on. Yemen is exporting goods like soap, detergent, oil, ghee, biscuits, etc. In the same way, Ethiopia exports to Yemen live animals, meat, and a few other raw materials. The prospects for investments are good.

Improved economic performance requires facilities and better infrastructure, clearer laws and a more efficient bureaucracy both countries.

**Q: Ethiopia is going through a transformation. What kind of economic measures have been taken?**

A: Yes, Ethiopia is opening up the economy. You can see it from the rising level of tourism, the return of formerly confiscated property and other assets, more trade, an inviting investment law, etc. I am optimistic about the economic future of Ethiopia. After all, it rich in resources, there is a large market (population is almost 60 million), and there is a skilled and expensive labor force.

**Q: How about the Ethiopian political transformation?**

A: As you are well aware, Ethiopian has had its parliamentary and local council elections. Many observers from the world came to watch. By their testimony, the elections were mostly clean and there were few irregularities. I think Ethiopia has come a long way in putting together a political system of its choice, and in line with world trend towards democracy, political pluralism and general liberties. The system also recognizes the special needs of the various ethnic/language/cultural groups, allowing for a high level of decentralization.

**Q: Any concluding remarks?**

A: I would like to stress that the discrimination practiced against foreign-born Yemenis (so-called muwalladeen) is neither justifiable under the laws of Yemen, nor morally acceptable. Its widespread nature implies official approval. This presents our government as if it condones or tolerates racism and discrimination. We have to bring an end to this practice.



## Letters to the Editor

## Letters to the Editor

## Letters to the Editor

## Letters to the Editor

## DHL: Caught between Customer Demand and Local Laws

### The First Viewpoint:

**Yemen Times** received the following complaint from a dissatisfied DHL customer.

I am one of the entrepreneurs/investors who came to Yemen after the unification of Yemen. I, with many other investors, who are located in Aden, are suffering from DHL Yemen, which brings all our shipments to Sana'a Airport and then forces us to either to pay big amounts of money for its customs clearance. Of course these amounts are under table and no receipts are given!

Since the destination of my consignment is ADEN, they could easily forward it to Aden directly, or bring it to Sana'a Airport, and then transfer it to Aden airport. But 'they' insist on keeping it in Sana'a claiming that this is the Customs' Regulations, which after extensive investigation with Sana'a Airport Customs, Aden Airport Customs and Aden Customs, I found to be groundless.

On 25th of May, a shipment consisting of one PC arrived at Sana'a Airport, though there was an agreement with Mr. Hussein Al-Sayyadi, the Country Manager, three days in advance to route the shipment to Aden! After complaining to them, they agreed to clear it on my behalf from Sana'a Airport Customs. Though the shipment is FULLY EXEMPTED from all duties, as part of the Fixed Assets of an approved Investment Project, they said that the Customs people (unofficially) demanded YR 35,000! And without this amount the shipment will remain at Sana'a Airport. After several unsuccessful correspondences with the DHL management, I raised the matter with DHL International.

From their telexes (copies are attached), you can judge the management style of DHL/Yemen.

- While in one telex, they deny receiving any money and claim a lack of cooperation from my side, they admit in another that they do not want to be involved in customs clearance.

- While their General Manager asks me to refer to Mr. Al-Sayyadi for anything on this matter, a letter informs me that he is no longer involved!

- Their General Manager offered to return the shipment to its orig-

inating point, and then refused!

- One of their brokers requested us to write a memo to deny giving any money to him!

- Through a mediator we agreed to pay them a fee to transport the shipment from Sana'a to Aden but till this moment, they continue to procrastinate.

- When realizing their crisis in management, I approached the chairperson, whose delegated reply is self explanatory.

- I asked them recently to return the original documents I had given them for clearing the shipment. They do not know where they are.

In my contacts with several businessmen in Aden, I found frustration with this kind of behavior. One merchant told me how they share with him the samples of perfumes he receives, though he pays big amounts to them to keep the samples intact. This is in addition to the amounts paid for shipping and handling!

Another person told me that he will never use them by choice in Aden. They force him to come to Sana'a for every shipment of samples! Although in all of those cases, the destination is Aden. DHL Yemen will only deliver it to Aden if you have an AGREEMENT with their brokers!! I have been dealing/using DHL around the world in the Gulf, Europe and North America. I have never seen such poor performance like here in Yemen.

At a time when Yemen, at all levels, fights corruption and bad management, this issue should be given the utmost attention, for the following reasons:

- Fighting corruption should start with fighting the PROMOTERS and those who benefit from it.

- Yemen needs to gain the confidence of foreign investors who are accustomed to high standards of services.

- The Government loses billions of riyals annually from these operations.

- I believe that over 80% of the businesses in Yemen is in the services.

Without measures against such behavior, no investments could be expected in Yemen.

**Jamal Bahormoz - Aden.**

### The Second Viewpoint:

**DHL Explains.**

First of all, DHL has no interest in making its customers suffer from whatever complications. So, the issue at hand should not be taken as if it were a personal problem between DHL/Yemen and the customer. Mr. Jamal Bahormoz.

Second, few of our customers complain of our performance. In fact, we pride ourselves in providing the best courier service in the country and worldwide. We can substantiate this by showing that we serve more than 75% of the Yemeni market. Such a big market share does indicate that our clients are satisfied.

Third, we have alerted Mr. Bahormoz, before arrival of the consignment that the authorities at Sana'a Airport request that all items be cleared at Sana'a. It is immaterial whether he agrees with this or not. It is the system, and we all have to abide by it.

Fourth, we had requested Mr. Bahormoz to kindly attend to the customs clearance portion of the task himself - either directly or through whoever he delegates. He refused. He simply demanded that we over-ride the Sana'a Airport authorities and take the parcel to him.

Fifth, we tried very hard to help achieve the satisfaction of our customer because we feel we have a duty. This is evident from the large file of correspondence and explanations we have engaged in on his behalf as well as with him.

In the final analysis, Mr. Bahormoz and everybody realizes that we are not working under ideal conditions here. Bribery and neglect are, unfortunately, a reality. We try to overcome them, and we hope that people like Bahormoz will help us in this endeavor. But we feel his efforts are mis-directed. Instead of trying to fight us, we hope we can make him see light and join hands with us in fighting the real bad guys.

We want to conclude by expressing our appreciation for the business of Mr. Bahormoz, and we assure him of our best services, in spite of the hell he has raised against us and the personal attacks he has mounted at several levels.

**DHL/Yemen.**

### Third View: Yemen Times Investigations:

1. Yemen Times is very happy that Mr. Bahormoz is fighting for his right. If more people put up a fight like this, the situation will definitely improve.

2. Jamal Bahormoz has a right in having his consignment delivered to him to the destination stipulated in the documents.

3. We did discover - contrary to the laws - that the Sana'a Authorities demand customs clearance here in Sana'a, even if the destination was somewhere else. This is part of the over-centralization from which the country suffers. It is also a source of "income" for the officials in Sana'a.

### POSITION WANTED

ACCOUNTANT  
with DIPLOMA  
from BRITISH COLLEGE  
PC CERTIFICATE.

PLEASE CALL  
telephone (01) 243626  
8:00 am to 12:00 pm.  
Ask for Mr. HOSSEIN.

### Please Investigate the Prison Issue

Please allow me to greet you for the extra-ordinary efforts exerted by you in the investigation on Women's Prison (Issue No. 31/95 of 7/8/95).

You cannot imagine the shock which I received when I read this brave article. Meanwhile, I appreciated, as I ever do, the Yemen Times staff's efforts very much. However, I still do not believe this to be the truth, and I can't imagine that such shameful actions and situations could exist in Yemen.

I hereby request the authorities to investigate what has been mentioned in the article and to punish the persons responsible for it.

**Moh'd Omar, GTZ German Project**

### YEMEN TIMES & I

Firstly, I am very thankful to the editor of Yemen Times for publishing my article headed "Cataract Patients Can Be Helped!" on 3rd July (Issue 27/95). It is my first article in English since I came to Yemen. I have aimed the newspaper to my family in China. I received a telephone call on thait from my wife and daughter, who are all happy and very proud.

I first read Yemen Times on March 20. I was very impressed by the high standard of newspaper. I was particularly interested in the editorials which dealt with aspects concerning Yemen's evolution. I am sure through the Yemen Times the foreign community is able to know a lot about Yemen.

Moreover, Yemen Times is a source of strength for democratic progress, human rights, economic development, science and technology in Yemen. Some time in the future, I am sure someone will write about the Yemen Times factor in this country's evolution.

Now I have a request to make. I wish the editor will give me a small corner in the newspaper so that I can write about eye diseases, preventive measure, new operation methods, etc., for the benefit of Yemeni eye doctors and patients alike.

**By: Mr. LI JIN,**

**Ophthalmologist, Chinese Medical Team, Aden.**



**Editor's Note:**

Thank you for your interest. We welcome your contributions to the paper.

### CORRUPTION AT THE AIRPORT

Today I missed my plane due to bureaucracy and corruption at the Sana'a airport. I arrived in Yemen on a tourist visa which is good for three months. This visa was extended for a further month. This action (unbeknownst to me) changed my status from that of a tourist to that of a resident of Yemen. The Ministry of Immigration never informed me of this change when they extended my visa. There were no notices there to inform foreigners of the need of an exit visa.

I arrived at 5 am at the airport for my departure at 7 am to London. Having checked in my bags I proceeded through Immigration at "departures". Security asked where my exit visa was? I responded perplexed, "What exit visa?"

Then they told me I would have to go back to the Immigration office to get an exit visa, thus I missed my flight. A charade then ensued as my passport exchanged hands between various airport police officers. Some mentioned I might be able to catch the plane, others not.

A Yemeni friend tried to help me sort out the situation. He was bluntly asked by the Chief of Police, "Ahmed El-Amsi" for a \$100 bribe. Meanwhile, the minutes were ticking away, supposedly to put me under more pressure to pay the bribe. I adamantly refused to pay the bribe. Finally, after hours of frustration and argument, I received my exit visa, but by then the plane had already taken off with my bags to London.

I now find myself stranded for a few days in Sana'a with a bad impression of Yemen. It is a tragedy that corrupt officials are making this negative impression of a country whose people I have found in my travels to be generous, warm, hospitable and honest. I hope in the interest of international relations with foreigners/tourists that the following recommendations will be adopted:

- 1- Abolish the need for an exit visa
  - 2- Replace the Head of Security at the Airport
  - 3- If the exit visa is not abolished, put notices up in the immigration Office and the Foreign Embassy's notice boards.
- Apparently I was not the only person who missed my flight today. I heard that 52 other passengers were told they needed an exit visa right before boarding and were forced to stay in Sana'a a further week.

**An Angry, Disappointed "resident"**

### تهانينا الحارة

نتقدم بآحر التهاني وأعطر التبريكات للشاب  
**مختار حسن محمد الحافظ**  
بمناسبة الخطوبة، وقرب الزفاف، فالف مبروك  
المهنؤون:  
جميع أعضاء جمعية الحضارم الخيرية

### Continued from page 3:

## Eritrean President's Interview...

After a long period of patience, we have now concluded that we can no longer work with the people ruling Khartoum. They have raised an army against us, and we have now linked up with the Sudanese opposition and provided them with all the facilities they need. We are addressing this issue in an open way. The rulers in Khartoum must go.

### Q: How about relations with Ethiopia?

A: Relations with Ethiopia are better than ever. We are working at different levels, and our association is vital and strategic. We have signed many bilateral agreements, and we look forward towards even closer relations.

### Q: Let us go to relations with Yemen?

A: Relations with Yemen are excellent. But there is a bad need for a mechanism to translate the relations into real association. We need to be serious and be able to follow-up in order to improve the relations.

### Q: Let me raise with you the issue of human rights. There

are incidents which show insufficient respect and consideration for human rights. How do you respond?

A: We are an infant nation that does not have all the institutions for law and order. There have been times when things would go out of control for one reason or another. There is no paradise or perfect system on earth. There are excesses, but we are building the institutions that will limit, and hopefully someday, bring an end to excesses.

There are actions and behaviors about which the state cannot keep quiet, even if some rights are disregarded. This happens when a nation's basic security is threatened. Let me mention that even in countries like the USA, which has enormous facilities and institutions, such excesses exist.

Q: Among the steps you are planning to create a modern state is the issuance of a constitution. How far have you come and when will this be complete?

A: I know that the efforts of the committee charged with the constitution have been slow, but this

is normal. You have to go about this in a thorough manner.

I believe the first draft of the constitution of Eritrea will be ready before the end of this year. Then, it will be discussed and enriched with the contribution of everybody. I believe, it will be in place by 1997.

You know this process is long because it requires a lot of civic education and to raise public awareness in order to ensure a high level of public participation.

Q: You had raised the possibility of a regional economic arrangement to include countries of the southern part of the Red Sea. What happened to it?

A: Well, I still believe in the idea. I think the countries of the region have to come together and increase their commercial, economic and investment interaction. But, there are many practical problems that hinder such a development. I hope to see it come true someday.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I enjoy reading the Yemen Times. You should bring it here (to Eritrea) for sale.

## تهانينا الحارة

للشباب **عارف زيد قاسم محيي**

بمناسبة الزواج، ألف مبروك وبالرفاء والبنين المهنؤون:

محمد يوسف الشريف، يوسف محمد يوسف الشريف  
مدني ووضاح وإياد فيصل الجمال، أحمد زيد قاسم محيي  
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء، وكافة العاملين في صحيفة «يمن تايمز»

## ألف مبروك

تهنئتين وبنار للشباب فهد محمد علي شرف الدين  
بمناسبة دخوله القصر الذهبي وتتمنى له حياة زوجية سعيدة وبالرفاء والبنين المهنؤون:

محمد محمود اليوسفي وأولاده  
عبد الرحمن شرف الدين وأولاده  
محمد علي شرف الدين وأولاده  
أحمد علي شرف الدين  
عبد الملك شرف الدين  
عبد الرحمن أحمد شرف الدين  
علي أحمد شرف الدين  
لطف وإبراهيم أحمد شرف الدين  
رمزي علي السقاف وجميع شباب حارة العديرة  
وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء





## The Middle East Trading Company's Building: A Beautiful Addition to Aden's Commercial District



**In order to do business well,  
to achieve more,  
and to expect your staff  
to excel,  
the work environment  
and location of the job  
is crucial.**

**If you work in Aden,  
you can't do better than  
the new building of the  
Middle East Trading Co.**

The Middle East Trading Company hereby announces that it is now receives requests for tenancy. Many companies - both local and foreign - have already registered their requests with the company. Prospective tenants are welcome to visit the site and inspect the building and facilities.

Unfortunately, space and facilities are awarded on a first-come first serve basis. For this reason, individuals and companies are urged to make their reservations as soon as possible. They are also welcome to contact us for more details on the following:

Phone: (02) 240-500; 240-588  
Fax: 240-600

The ten-story building of the Middle East Trading Company in Aden has just been completed. Located on the famous Madram Avenue, in Ma'alla area, the office and residential apartments of the building overlook some of the best parts of the city - the sea on one side, the parks and commercial section on the other.

The building also offers many facilities to the prospective occupants and visitors; such as, telephone/fax/telex extensions, an underground parking

space for residents as well as outside parking for visitors, an independent electric generation system, a security system for each floor as well as for the main entrance and side-entrances, three separate lifts, central air-conditioning, a fire-alarm system and many other important features.

The investors have undertaken many important supplementary projects such as a major cable which provides a large number of telephone lines to the various flats and sections of the building.





**AL-HAQ: Sanaa: 9/8/1995.**

(Mouthpiece of Rabitat Abna Al-Yemen)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) In Hadhramaut Oil Fields: Neglected Waters Threaten the Environment
- 2) Sana'a Negotiates With Muscat For Disbursement of a US\$ 12 million Grant
- 3) Our Country Will Participate in The Doha Commercial Fair

**Article Summary:****There Is No Place For Backward Leaders:**

The editorial of the paper deals with the plight of Third World leaders in general, and many Arab leaders in particular, and how these leaders first take power by force and then, through power give themselves status and privilege far beyond what they actually deserve, or without having really earned such status and privilege. In fact, these leaders bring misery and suffering to their people by using their power to further their own interests, notwithstanding the consequences this might have on the countries. Perhaps these leaders and the people they rely on for remaining in power, would do well to learn from the experience of previous leaders that have come and gone by the same methods, but have left no trace behind, or they may have left bad memories.

In spite of the many precedents, Third World leaders remain so backward that they even can't benefit from the experiences of those before them. Leadership in the Third World is just a vicious cycle of tragedies.

**AL-THOWARA: Sanaa: 11/8/1995:**

(Official Government newspaper)

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) The President during an Inspection Tour of the Oil and Mineral Resources Ministry:
  - Confirms the Importance of Yemeni Specialized Personnel in the Area of Petroleum.
  - Calls For the Provision of Facilities For (Foreign) Firms Working in Yemen
  - For Encouraging Investment
  - Confirms the Significance of Speeding Up Work in the Oil Exploration Fields.
- 2) Appointment of Mohammed Awadh Daba as Vice Chairman for the Public Authority For Roads and Bridges
- 3) The Signing of Contracts for Pavement of Streets and Roads in Sana'a and Taiz (With the Army Corp of Engineers).

**Article Summary:**

**Preparations for an International Conference on Socotra**



## Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

The fascinating tropical island of Socotra (400 km. off the Yemeni mainland) will be the topic of an international conference or seminar sponsored by Aden University. The theme of the seminar is: "The Island of Socotra: The Present and the Future". Dr. Abdul-Raqeeb Saeed Thabet, member of the Socotra Seminar Committee, was interviewed. Highlights of the Interview:

- Previous research missions (by foreigners) to the island were of no benefit to their Yemeni scientific counterparts due to the absence of coordination with the appropriate authorities and institutions.
- UNESCO and the Yemeni Council for Environmental Protection had designated the island a natural protected habitat (sanctuary).
- The occurrence of droughts and the extended isolation of the island for three months (June through September) are the most difficult problems.
- The lack of an infrastructure and the absence of basic services (health, water, electricity and schools) are the social problems of the island.
- The conference will deal with the geographical, climatic, social and developmental dimensions of the island.

**AL-MITHAQ: Sanaa: 7/8/1995:**

(Mouthpiece of the People's General Congress):

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Dr. Iryani Delegates His Authority as Secretary General of PGC to Abdulla Saleh Al-Bar during his Leave of Absence.
- 2) The Prime Minister in an Interview: "Democratic Practices Allow the People to Control our Performance. If We Fail in our Duties, then We Should Turn Over Responsibility to Others."
- 3) Waves of Tourists Arriving in Yemen. Soon
- 4) Women and Children Organize a Protest March

**Article Summary:****Tough Questions Which Need Answers**

Member of the Permanent Committee of the PGC, Ms Raihana Ubaid Al-Haj presents some questions that seek immediate replies, as follows:

- What is the fate of the many weak people who have cases pending in the courts for so many years?
- What do citizens, who find their land seized by people who give themselves the right to command and forbid and consider themselves above the law, do?

- Why is this deterioration in the electric sector not being halted?

**SANA'A: Sanaa: 7/8/1995:**

(Independent):

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Where Are the Reductions in Prices of Goods and Services?
- 2) The Central Bank and the Problem of Broken Time Deposits
- 3) Why Weren't Women of Yemen Honored with a Medal or Trophy for the Defense of Yemeni Unity?

**Article Summary:**

**The Rulers Must Realize Where the Real Danger is Hidden?**

The real dangers to the rulers and to the security and stability of the country come from the chronic unemployment which the country faces. This is the time bomb which could explode at any time, unless immediate remedial action is carried out. This is what really threatens the positions of our rulers. They should be conscience of it, and see where the real danger to their power lies.

**SOUT AL-MUA'ARADHA: Sanaa: 5/8/95:**

(Mouthpiece of the "Opposition" Coalition):

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Three Military Commanders Detained in the War Prison on Corruption Charges.
- 2) The Preparation Committee of the Yemeni Socialist Party's General Delegates Meeting Has Completed its Preparatory Tasks
- 3) Many Teachers Were Arrested at the Higher Teacher's Institute

**Article Summary:****A Prosecution For Good Taste**

For the many cases of bad taste which are faced by the society daily in Yemen, the article suggests the establishment of a prosecution For the Preservation of Good Taste to deal with bad taste and violations, of good taste, like:

- A guy who parks his car in the middle of the road to do some shopping or to talk to another driver or for whatever reason.
- Speed drivers and those who speed through very narrow streets and alleyways, which are full of

children.

- A bureaucrat who claims that he left his desk keys at home, thus delaying the processing of papers.
- TV and radio announcers who make horrendous grammatical and language mistakes.
- Restaurants and hotels that pay minimal attention to cleanliness.
- (The editor: To the Sanaa Municipality for doing absolutely nothing, in the way of cleaning the streets and solving the sewerage problem.)

**AL-WAHDAWI: Sanaa: 8/8/1995:**

(Mouthpiece of the Nasserite, Unionists Parity):

**Main Headlines:**

- 1) Opposition Demands an End to the State of War
- 2) A Supreme Coordination Council for the Opposition is Set up, and Calls for a News Conference this Coming Monday
- 3) 14 Yemeni Petroleum Engineers Emigrate to Qatar Because of Working Conditions.

**Article Summary:**

**The Government Ignores Two Letters From ENRON**

Despite 2 letters from ENRON to the government, which confirm the company's willingness to participate with Total in the Gas Investment Project, in response to a Yemeni Government invitation to the company, the company states the Yemeni government has yet to acknowledge receipt of the letters or to respond in any way to the company. This attitude has given rise to much suspicion.

**AL-AYYAM (Independent): 9-8-95****Main Headlines:**

- 1) Amnesty International Solicits Information from Al-Ayyam on the Case of the Accused Member Of Parliament
- 2) The Governor Of Taiz Confirms that the Water Problem Is Nearing Solution
- 3) 4 Killed and Wounded in Blood Feud Killing and the Driver of Attacking Vehicle is Killed Later in a Car Accident.

**Article Summary:****VP of WB on Yemen**

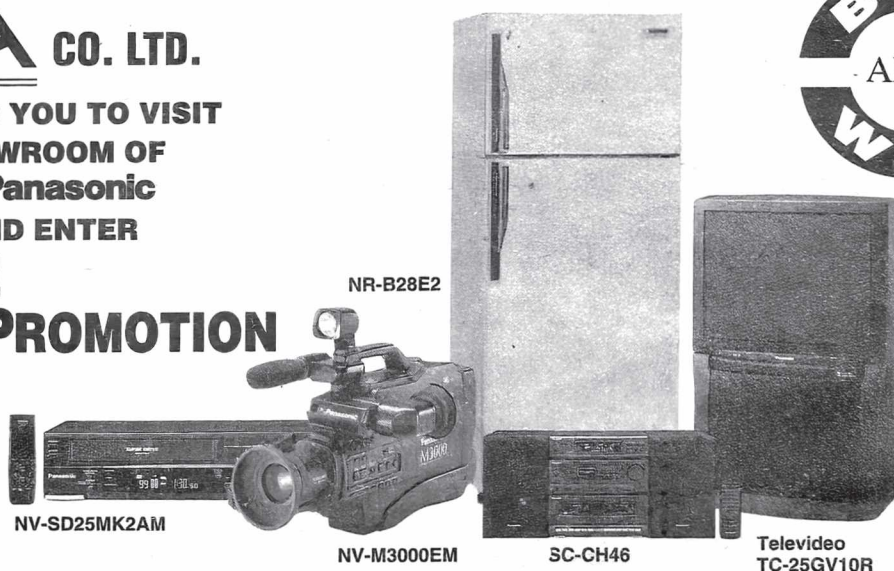
From a report which appeared in the Al-Hayat Newspaper (London), the article recalls the views of the Vice President of the World Bank after his visit to Yemen. Highlights:

- The President of Yemen and the VP of the WB agree on the need for quick actions and steps to implement economic reforms in Yemen.
- Agreement between the World Bank, IMF and the Yemeni government should be reached within the next few months.

**ALFA CO. LTD.**

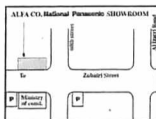
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PRODUCTS, AND ENTER**

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GRAND DRAW PROMOTION**



**100s of prizes are waiting for you!**

Alfa Co. Ltd. the sole distributor of the state-of-the-art National and Panasonic products in Yemen, are pleased to invite you to their new showroom. Visit the Alfa Co. Showroom located at Zubairi Street, Sana'a, spend more than YR. 15,000 on any purchase and you will be



eligible to enter the Grand Draw that will take place on September 12, 1995 in Alfa Co. Showroom. And the first 100 visitors to spend YR. 15,000 will also receive complimentary gifts.

**Hurry, since the entry coupons are limited.**

The closing date of the promotion is September 10, 1995 ● The winners will be announced in the local newspapers.

**National/Panasonic**

ALFA CO. LTD. Alfa Co. Ltd., Zubairi St., Sana'a City, Republic of Yemen; Tel : 214335/6 , Fax : 207224



Continued from page 16

## DIVORCE . . .

I decided to forget this experience, and went back to school.

I was bothered by women's inquiries. For two years, I refused many old men, and realized that young men will never approach a divorcee. After a while I accepted a lecturer at the university. I wanted to rid myself of the status of a divorced woman.

The first days of my second marriage were perfect. He even encouraged me to continue my education. When school started he was jealous of my going out to school and accused me of neglecting many things. As a result, I went to my family with no intention of requesting divorce, but he sent me my divorce paper within one week. I was told that I failed twice, and now I fear for my medical and psychological well-being.

Currently, I'm waiting for my result of the high school final exams. I plan to study typing. I also intend to study computers and get employed.

### Samira:

I'm 29 years old and have three children. The reasons for my divorce are the same as for my marriage. My brother and my former husband swapped sisters. The weddings, we were told, were not an exchange because each one paid his dowry. But we were married on the same day. My relationship with my husband was good, but my brother's wife went back to her parent's house. I had to do the same. At the end, my brother divorced his wife, and my husband and I were forced to separate. Now, I am in my parent's house and my children are with their father. It is my destiny to suffer like this.

### Radia:

Divorced nine months ago, Radia was married for eight years and has four children.

"The way I was married was the reason for my divorce. My husband and I didn't know each other. He lived abroad most of his life and acquired different traditions and values that I

was not familiar with. During my marriage, I had to sustain a lot of problems. At the end I was divorced. My family and I couldn't support all my children and the father does not pay alimony. Therefore, I took the daughter and left the boys with their father.

### Ms. Al-Raimi:

I married when I was fourteen and got divorced by the time I reached seventeen years old. I was married for a short time and went home more than thirteen times. Currently, I am divorced and have a child who is being raised by my father. Her mother said, "I will never marry the rest of my daughters in this manner. They will get married at the right time and to the right person".

### Halima:

I married at a young age and of my free will. My husband was old and married to another wife. I lived with him for a while and then I requested to be divorced. My three children have now graduated from the university. My relationship with their father is very well as he assists me in solving their problems.

Those are seven different divorce cases and the consequences they had to bear. As for the Yemeni society's view of these divorced women, it is almost always negative.

Women suffer because they are expected to put up with any situation in order to save her home and family and not to expose her children to the life of a broken home. Once divorced, a woman also suffers from suspicions regarding her fidelity/chastity.

It is a no-win situation. Most women put up with hell in order to fall in the status of a "divorced woman". That seems to be something like a curse, which men use to demean and subjugate the women.

Next week, Yemen Times will run the opinion of experts and specialists on the issue of divorce and its role in social relations.

## تهانينا الحارة

يتقدم الأهل والأصدقاء

بأحر التهاني والتبريكات للشاب

**طارق محسن العيني**

بمناسبة الخطوبة وقرب الزفاف

مع أجمل الأمنيات ، وأدام الله السورور

عن المهنئين:

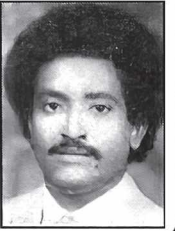
د/عبدالعزیز السقاف ، حسن الحيفي

## تهنئة

مكل الحب والوفاء تتوجه بالتهاني والتبريكات الحارة للاستاذ إدريس احمد ابراهيم بمناسبة إرتزاقه بابته الكر والذي أسماه عبدالرحمن.

والف مبروك يا أبا عبدالرحمن والف مبروك لأب عبدالرحمن. جعله الله من أبناء الوطن الصالحين لخدمة وطنه إرتريا والأمة الإسلامية جمعاء.

المهنئون:  
الأمين علي راجي  
صحيفة البلاغ



## معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

AL-FAROUK INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES & COMPUTER

بعض طلاب المجموعة الأولى التي أنهت دورة الصيف وعددهم ٢٠٠ طالب وطالبة

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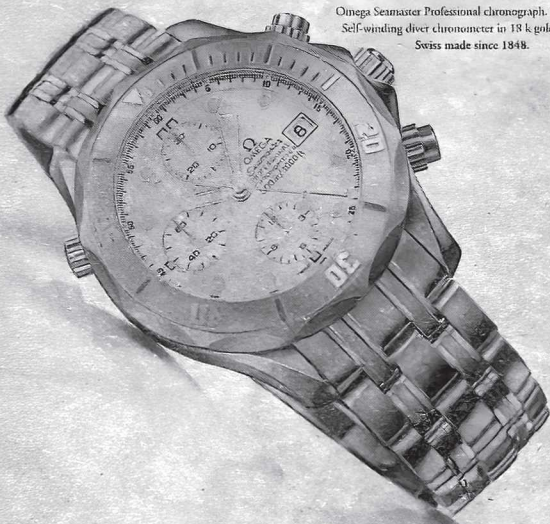


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Contest No.40

مسابقة رقم ٤٠

Prepared by:  
Al-Farouk Institute of  
Languages & Computer

إعداد:  
معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

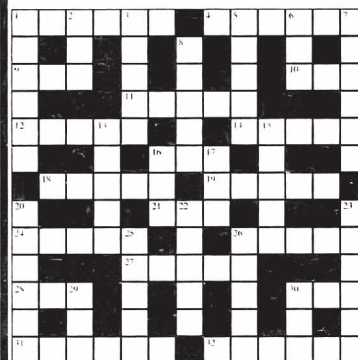
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ص ب رقم (٢١٨٢٣١)، صناعاء - بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء. تلفون ٢٠٩٧٢١ - (٩٦٧-١) فاكس ٢١٨٢٣١

Please fill in the space and hand over your answers to the registrar of the Al-Farouk Institute by

Thursday morning. The winner will be announced in next week's issue of Yemen Times.

يرجى قطع المسابقة وتعبئة البيانات المطلوبة ثم تسليمها إلى السجل بمعهد الفاروق في موعد انقضاء يوم الخميس.

سيعلن اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من "يمن تايمز".



Contest No. 40

### Across

1. Eighth month
4. Do again
9. Religious lady
10. Road-making surfacer.
11. Relate first
12. Food
- 14 — Villa: football team
16. Painting, sculpture, etc
18. Semic (a letter)
19. Vegetable to make you cry?
21. Average on a golf-course.
24. Extremely angry
26. Once more
27. Go against authority
28. Tinsol
30. Took a seat
31. Loving
32. Noted in a column.

### Down

1. A parent's sister
2. Weapon
3. Woman's garment
5. More than is needed
6. Consume
7. Huge crowd
8. Biscuit for ice-cream?
13. Beginning
15. Wasps do it, if you're not careful!
16. Snake that bit Cleopatra.
17. Glasnost — famous hill
20. Quiet
22. Middle-traffic-light colour.
23. Manchester — football team.
25. Wear away.
26. Courtroom claim to have been somewhere else
29. Secret hide-away.
30. Full collection

Correct answer for contest No. (39)

JAGGED DREAMT  
E L U O R I X W  
S AUTOMATIC E  
IAME D E T H I N  
E B P L A N S I T  
R O U B L L S M L L Y  
L L E E D  
B O A S T S F A T H E R  
L N O T H E R O O  
O N C E A M D O D O  
U L M I G R A T E D T  
S L E L E E E  
E L A T E D E R R A N D

WINNER OF CONTEST NO 39:  
Bilal Al-Asadi



جائزة هذه المسابقة مقدمة من معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

The prize of this contest is donated by Al-Farouk Institute



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## DIVORCE: The Most Hated Deed to God

**Divorce - that hateful moment when two adults decide to separate, bringing an end to long moments of love and sharing. Yet, it is sometimes a necessary evil. In our traditional society, it is usually the woman who bears the brunt of the situation. Not only is her home and family broken, she is blamed for everything. Add to that, her future remains shrouded with gossip and hardships.**

**Yemen Times intern Ilham Al-Kibsi surveyed a few divorcees and filed the following report.**

- **Hana'a:**  
"My parents forced me to marry at a very early age. Now they bear the consequences."
- **Ms. Al-Raymi:**  
"I was sixteen years old and had no control over my life. I am no longer a child, but I am no longer a wife, either."
- **Halima:**  
"I married the man I chose and I bear the result of my choice."
- **Hussein:**  
"The Sharia gave the woman the right to seek divorce."

Marriage is a sacred bond that specified the relationship between a man and a woman. All heavenly religions and scriptures. In the Yemeni community marriage has gone through various stages which vary on the basis of social, economic and, sometimes, political conditions. In the past, we would observe many families refuse to marry their daughters to outside the

family (tribe) in order not to intermix blood-lines or rather class-lines. Often, difficult transportation conditions was a direct reason for not inter-marrying among different cities.

Brides did not have an opinion regarding who to marry as she is normally told by her guardian that she has married and would need to be ready to move to her husband's house which totally contradicts the Islamic Sharia. Currently, we can say that there have been many improvements and rarely does one hear of past atrocities. This is mainly due to the increased awareness, education, contact with other civilizations and the improvement of transportation methods.

In the past, divorce was rare, partly because women were expected to put up with everything, and partly polygamy was the norm. Thus, it was rare for a woman to ask for divorce, but if divorce occurred the society's view of the woman does not change as the man is in control of this issue.

Researchers state that divorce occurs in cities at a much higher pace than the villages. This is because of the grip of customs. In addition, the strong family ties are more visible in the villages. In the city divorce is much easier for both the man and woman because women enjoy a better status than their counterparts in the villages. Going to work also reduces women's submissiveness to traditional values and family ties. The Islamic Sharia does not approve of divorce unless it becomes the only solution to the problems of the married couple.

With regard to the reasons for and results of divorce and society's view of divorced women, we had these views of some divorced women:

**Amatal Malik:**  
Amatal Malik was divorced 13 years ago. She has several children. She was married at the age of twenty five, which is considered to be a late age. "My father wanted me to marry the right man. After his death, I was married off to the first man who asked for my hand. He was not the right man. I put up with a lot of difficulties during my married life, in order not to let my children suffer. After my divorce, I suffered especially after being threatened, by my x-husband, especially regarding the custody of the children. But my family stood by me and he was not capable of taking the children. However, after a while, my family did not want my children to stay especially since their father was not providing any alimony. I worked as a nurse, and was able of protecting my children and myself. Now my eldest child will be entering Sanaa University, and the youngest is in high school. I decided not to marry off my daughters except when they finish their education in order to be able to face up to any circumstances. Even today, society views me with sorrow. Whoever knows me knows that the divorce was not my fault but society condemns the woman for getting divorced irrespective of the reasons.

**Hana'a:**

Four month's after my father's death - I was in the sixth grade - my brother and uncle married me off by force. I was scared. I couldn't live with my husband and refused to eat, drink or even sleep. When my family came to visit, I returned with them but was later forcefully to my husband. I still couldn't stay and went to a friend of the family to persuade my brother and uncle. But they insisted that I return to my husband. They were mainly afraid of people's talk of my becoming divorced one week after marriage. At the end, I persuaded them of my inability to go on, and finally, I got divorced. Within twenty five days I was married and divorced. The wedding decorations - henna and naqsh - on my hand was still there on my divorce day. Now, I am studying in the university, and hope to finish my education and live my life. I do not feel any different than any other girl. Society feels sorry for me and blames for everything.

**Hind:**  
I am now twenty years old, and I have been married and divorced twice. My first marriage was to an old man. He was sixty and I was a teen-ager. I didn't know anything. I was just told he was my husband. He was a cruel man. When my family visited me and saw how sick I was, they took me home and the process for divorce was started. My family realized their mistake and the dowry money was returned.

Continued to page 15

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