



YEMEN TIMES

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Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri on
Yemen's Politics.
Page 3.

Call for Dart Tournament
Participation.
Page 5.

A Yemeni Specialist on
Privatization.
Page 7.



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PRICE LEVEL FALLS

A new phenomenon is at work in the markets of Yemen - prices keep falling at a steady rate. One of the reasons for the downward pressure on prices is the depreciation of the US dollar vis-a-vis the Yemeni Riyal, which on Friday, August 25th, was below YR 90 per US dollar. The sagging demand has also helped bring prices down. Foodstuffs, consumer goods, construction material such as cement and steel bars, and manufactured goods are among the commodities that have seen a major drop in prices.

Yemeni officials repeatedly insist that the fall in prices is proof that the government's Phase One of economic reforms are working. Phase Two of the reforms will be implemented next month. Yet, many people remain apprehensive. Unaccustomed to price tumbles, the citizens worry that this downward trend in the price levels is part of a cycle that will sooner or later - and most probably sooner - reverse courses and start an uncontrollable hike. Whatever the future holds, the majority of Yemenis are happy with the fall in prices.

Public Pressure on Yemeni Politicians Mounts Yemeni Intellectuals Urge President on Kuwait

A seminar sponsored and organized by Yemen Times on August 23rd kicked off momentum in the Yemeni non-government circles which seek to achieve a breakthrough in the present stalled Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations. Public pressure is mounting on the politicians to see light and act according to the interests of the nation and the bonds of fraternity that tie it to our neighbors. The results of the Yemen Times seminar (please read pages 8 and 9), saw immediate implementation and interaction. Contact with Kuwaiti intellectuals and public persons was initiated, and the

Yemeni political leadership was approached to take a bold move to shore up relations with Kuwait. On August 26th, the Preparatory Committee of the Yemeni-Kuwaiti Brotherhood Association met with President Ali Abdullah Saleh and engaged him in an open and candid exchange of ideas. "We support your efforts and we feel there is room for a non-official role on this matter. We are willing to listen to your ideas and share with you some of ours," he said. President Ali Abdullah Saleh also blessed the idea of holding a dialogue among intellectuals, scholars, journalists, parliament

members and other public figures from Yemen and Kuwait. The group asked the president to give instructions for a more even-handed coverage in the official media, and he said that it was supposed to be so. In terms of taking bold measures, the President indicated that breaking the deadlock takes time, and that healing is a gradual process. The Committee will meet today, Monday, August 28th, to assess the outcome of the talk with the President, and to decide on the steps that need to be taken to achieve the rapprochement between the two brotherly countries.

The Ministry of Interior & the Yemen Times: Trying to Work Together Proves to Be Difficult

The response to the Yemen Times investigative reporting on "Women in the Central Prison of Sana'a" published in Issue No. 32/95, Vol. V, of 7th August, 1995, was enormous. "The report, must have touched off a nerve with the Ministry of Interior authorities," commented one of our editors, given the barrage of contact. Colonel Mohammed Omar Ba-Hashwain, Director-General of the Prisons Authority, and Colonel Abdulla Mohammed Al-Wasi, General Manager of Surveillance of the Prison System, personally came to Yemen Times' office twice to discuss the issues raised in the article. "We would be interested in any leads the paper can provide us in order to help clean up," Colonel Ba-Hashwain said. He also thanked Yemen Times for its investigation and promised to follow up the matter. Yemen Times also received calls from the office of the Minister of Interior stressing the need for co-operation on all sides in order to "root out corruption and abuse of power". In the aftermath of the article and uproar it created, the Minister of Interior personally visited the Sana'a Central Prison, Women's Ward, and has taken action at many levels to correct the situation. These include:

- 1) Changing some of the officers in charge of the prison,
 - 2) Freezing some of the officers.
 - 3) Changing the Prison Prosecutor.
 - 4) Introducing new facilities and services for the inmates.
- "Our job is thankless," added Colonel Al-Wasi. He indicated that the budgetary allocations for each inmate was a meager YR 17 per day per inmate. With this YR 17, we have to provide food, lodging, blankets, etc.; pay for electricity, water and other utilities, and many other needs. Of course, we are unable to make ends meet, and we face many difficulties and mounting criticism," he said. The Yemen Times was also invited to go to the prison and check out the improvements. We did, but we were not given

enough access in order to satisfy us. Soon, in our newly developed "co-operation" with the Ministry of Interior the prison authorities asked the Yemen Times to divulge its sources and turn in the tapes and documents on which the article was based. They also wanted to "talk" to the journalist who wrote the August 7th article, and who Yemen Times decided not to include in the follow-up visits, for safety/security reasons. That was the departure point for the new relations. Yemen Times went through a lot of pain to explain that it would not release the information sought after by the prison people and that it did not see much benefit in the prison authorities "talking" specifically to our journalist. Thus, a two-week honeymoon ended very fast. Soon we received open threats to "burn down the newspaper office and to break our bones" if we do not succumb to their demands, and if we do not stop our investigative reporting. This attitude is not helpful. I urge the officers who are supposed to be the guardians of law and order to re-consider. I also ask other authorities to take note. We in the Yemen Times are very appreciative and supportive of the reforms and improvements introduced by the Minister and his assistants in the Sana'a prison. We hope that the authorities see such reforms as worthwhile in their own right, and not as an enticement to extract information from the Yemen Times.

We also promise the authorities that we will cover fully any positive development in the prison conditions. But, we cannot take the word of the officials on this matter. We need to see and inspect the developments ourselves first-hand. This does not mean we do not trust the officials. It is just the way our job is done. I sincerely hope the prison officers will understand.

Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf,
Chief Editor, Yemen Times.

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OUR VIEWPOINT

The Gap Between the Facade & Reality of Our Parliament

Yemen elected its present parliament in April 1993. The parliamentary blocs then elected H. E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar, paramount chief of the Hashed tribal grouping and Chairman of the Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah Party). So far, so good.

What is not good, however, is the way Sheikh Abdullah is managing the parliament. Instead of perceiving himself as the first among equals, he sees himself as a giant among dwarfs. This is partly because he draws his powers and stature, not from his electorate and the trust Yemenis have given him in voting for him, but from his tribal and political background. As a result, he treats his fellow parliamentarians, especially those who disagree with him, in a very unbecoming way. He even rejects court orders.

There are many proofs that he does not observe the by-laws and regulations of the House of Deputies, and he respects the law only in so far as it promotes his views and interests. He uses the parliament to impose his will on the nation when that is to his liking, and he totally neglects the parliament when its demands do not fall well with him.

In short, Sheikh Abdullah has replaced the parliament. This situation is not a positive development in our political evolution. Unfortunately, Sheikh Abdullah as an individual is too powerful at this stage of our history for anybody to do anything about this situation. Yet, a lot of damage is being done to our efforts to establish a parliamentary democracy. How can we seek parliament's help in establishing democracy in the country, when the parliament itself is not managed in a democratic or even an ethical way?

There are a few individuals in this country, along with some foreign friends, who are extremely keen in helping correct our transformation process. One step in the right direction is downsizing Sheikh Abdullah's role in parliament. After all, he is just a member who has been elected by his peers to lead the discussions and manage the House's administrative aspects on their behalf.

The problem with all of our institutions is that the top person becomes larger than the institution, or even worse, he becomes the institution. We cannot tolerate this in a democracy, and especially not in the presumed citadel of democracy.

The Publisher
Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf

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UK Aid to Yemen Covers New Ground

Earlier this year, the British Government resumed its bilateral aid program to the Republic of Yemen. The assistance was resumed by providing funding to two projects: an agricultural/environmental project in Taiz, and a project with Aden University.

Now, the British Embassy has announced the names of two more projects it will assist.

The UK will help to train Yemen television production and programming staff and upgrade editing equipment at the TV station. The intention is to assist Yemen's TV station to become a more effective broadcaster in preparation for full participation in Arabsat.

The UK will also provide essential books and equipment to the Department of English, Faculty of Arts, at Sana'a University. The idea is to help set up a new 'resource center' for the benefit of the students, many of whom will go on to become English teachers.

The Trial of Mohammed Najji Saeed

Mr. Mohammed Najji Saeed, a member of parliament of the YSP Bloc, his driver and guard, are being tried at the moment in a Dhale' court on a murder case which happened during the civil war. It appears that during the civil war, the parliamentarian and a military commander got into a heated argument leading to the death of the commander.

A puzzled spokesman for the deputy stated, "We thought there was a general amnesty." Mr. Yasseen Abdul-Razzaq and Mohammed Al-Soufi, both of the Center for Legal Assistance, indicated that the court procedures were not done properly and that the defence lawyers were notified of the proceedings and hearings.

Meanwhile, parliamentarians are worried that Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar has himself decided to lift the immunity the deputy enjoys, without adequate recourse to the House as called for in the House Laws.

Sana'a Court Tells Sheikh Al-Ahmar to Respect the Law

In a court session on August 3rd, presided over by Judge Abdul-Malik Al-Jindary and assisted by Judge Mohammed M. Al-Thowr, the Primary Court of West Sana'a insisted that Sheikh Abdullah Bin Hussain Al-Ahmar respect the law and legal system and abide by its decisions. The court which was deliberating on a law-suit filed by Abdul-Habeeb Salim Moqbel, ordered the president of the House to respond to the case.

At another level, the Inter-parliamentary Union - based in Geneva - had similarly appealed to Sheikh Abdullah to respect the regulations of the House as well as the judiciary.

Mr. Moqbel is accusing Sheikh Abdullah of having handled his resignation in a way that does not conform to the regulations of the House.

PGC Celebrates 13th Anniversary

The People's General Congress (PGC) celebrated on Thursday, August 24th, 1995, the 13th anniversary of its establishment. In a speech on the occasion, Vice President Abdu Rabbo Mansoor Hadi, also Vice Chairman of the PGC, renewed his party's pledge to work towards a pluralist political system and to cooperate with all other forces and parties to evolve a democracy.

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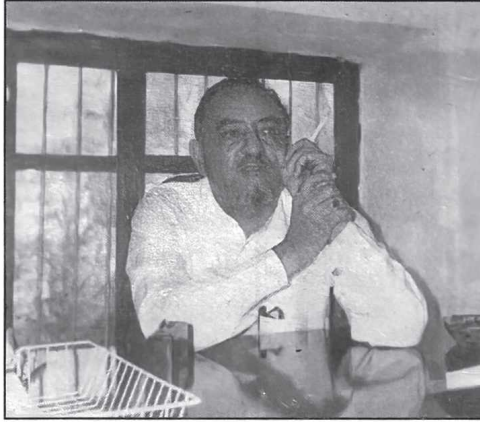
Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri:

"The secession was forced on us."

Abdul-Rahman Al-Jifri was a key party to the negotiations that sought to provide a solution to the Yemeni political crisis. He played an even more pointed role in the civil war that ravaged Yemen during the summer of 1994. He actually fought side by side with his traditional foes - the Yemeni Socialist Party. Nowadays, he is by far, the leading opposition personality abroad under the banner of MOWJ, acronym for the Arabic phrase translated as the National Unified Front.

Mr. Al-Jifri is one of the individuals who will be tried on the charge of national treason. The trial is expected to coincide with the anniversaries of the September/October Revolution and will take place in Aden.

Shaher Musa'abain, the Aden Bureau Chief of Yemen Times, was flown abroad to interview Mr. Al-Jifri. Here is what he filed:



Q: Where are you based?

A: I have many offices in several capitals of neighboring countries. I move constantly.

reasons for the change in our stand.

Q: During the war, you kept repeating that you will defend Aden until the death. You ended up fleeing. What happened?

A: The war was a crime that was not necessary. It was not called on any grounds - legal, logical, in terms of Yemeni interests, or whatever.

Regarding my insistence that my men and I will defend Aden till the last is really true. That is why when we withdrew, our withdrawal was not well prepared for. We had no vital supplies, and Hadhramaut - our back-base, had fallen. The hospitals in Aden were full of sick, injured and malnourished people. The young and old among the civilian population was paying the price.

So we figured that the safety of the civilian population which was being jeopardized made it necessary for us to evacuate. If we had stood our ground, most of the population of the city would have been massacred. Those were the

Q: You fought side by side with your traditional enemy - the Yemeni Socialist Party. How do you explain that?

A: You see, the opposition parties formed the National Opposition Coalition (NOC) which spearheaded efforts to implement the Document of Pledge and Accord. But things deteriorated very fast. By April 28th, 1994, a full-scale confrontation has started between the two protagonists - the PGC and Islah on the one hand, and the YSP on the other. After the damage done at Amran, the NOC tried hard to intervene and we agreed with President Saleh to travel to Aden and try to stop the war fever. I was surprised when I learned that the president had selectively called Qadhi Ahmed Al-Shami, Ahmed Qarhash, Abdul-Malik Al-Mikhlaifi, Dr. Qassim Sallam, and others and asked them to return to Sanaa immediately. They embarked on Wednesday. The rest of the NOC bloc worked out a blueprint of an initiative for a solution, which was announced on 9th May, 1994. We indicated

that we will side with the party that accepts the NOC demands to stop the war and announce a national salvation government which will bring in everybody. Ali Salem Al-Beehd accepted the demands while President Ali Abdullah Saleh rejected them. Thus I sided with the YSP.

Q: But you went so far as to secede and announced a new state. That did not promote the national interests of Yemen?

A: Yes, as our cooperation with the YSP strengthened in the face of the onslaught of the PGC/Islah forces, we needed a new structure or format to regulate our cooperation. We did not secede from the nation, we seceded from the regime in Sanaa. Thus we announced the Yemeni Democratic Republic (YDR). I remember that I repeated many times that if the regime in Sanaa

implemented justice, equal citizenship for all Yemenis, and agreed to the Pledge and Accord Document, we will submit ourselves to it.

Q: Can you tell us a few details on the last hours of the war?

A: As the PGC/Islah forces advanced, especially after the fall of Beer Ali and the northern and northeastern outskirts of Aden, the decision was taken to evacuate and not let more suffering fall on the citizens who had paid a heavy price for 47 days. So an evacuation plan was drafted. Unfortunately, the plan was not fully and properly implemented. We insisted to among the last to leave. The boat which was supposed to come back for us on Wednesday, July 6th, did not come return. So in the company of Haitham Qassim, Sulaiman Nasser, Mohammed Ali Ahmad,

Dr. Hazem Shukri, Dr. Ahmed Zain, Abdul-Rahman Aasem, Qassim Munassar Al-Siyaly, we dug in to defend ourselves.

Near noon-time on Thursday, July 7th, 1994, we saw a vessel that was unloading wheat. We arrived as it unloaded half the shipment, and we ordered to take us out, and there was no place to unload the wheat in any case.

Q: There are reports that the opposition in exile is itself splintered today. Is your alliance with the YSP still intact?

A: I admit there are differences within the group comprising MOWJ, which includes a small group of YSP persons. But this does not make it any weaker. Our own differences are tactical and in terms of approach, not in terms of our opposition to the rulers in Sanaa.

We feel we have a lot of sympathy at home (in Yemen), especially as the Sanaa regime's excesses and oppression of citizens and ordinary individuals increase. We feel, the Sanaa regime will end up shooting itself in the foot by antagonizing too many people inside Yemen by not giving them a chance to participate.

Q: But do you think any Yemeni citizen will follow a politician who seeks to divide the country?

A: The secession was a solution to a problem that existed at the time. The Sanaa regime did not, and still does not, allow other forces to participate with it. We are not secessionist, and the session was imposed on us.

Q: What remains of your demands today?

A: The only way that a modern and harmonious nation can be built is through the implementation of the Document of Pledge and Accord. I think, by now, even the victors realize that their victory is incomplete and very temporary.

Unless a modern nation is built, based on law and order and oriented towards development, our country will continue to be unstable.

Q: Do you have contact with President Saleh?

A: I have no personal contact. But I do know that the president every now and then calls some opposition individuals who share with us his views and approaches.

Q: Do you have contact with the opposition parties inside Yemen?

A: We and the true opposition in Yemen complement each other. We are working for a viable political system.

Q: Why don't move into Yemen and participate in politics there as other parties?

A: We have substantial activity in Yemen, as everybody knows. We plan to increase our activities soon.

Q: Do you still have a secessionist view of "South Yemen"?

A: There is a problem that concerns all of Yemen, but there is a special dimension to what happened in the south. The regime in Sanaa thinks the case is closed and it is all over. They have forgotten the pledges and commitments they made to the international community.

Continues on page 5

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Chef Arora's Special Gift to the Fine Cooks of Yemen: Recipe for LOBSTER KIKA

This is my own special recipe, which I would like to pass on to the readers of Yemen Times, as promised last week. It features baked lobster flavored with herbs. This delectable dish savors the subtleties of Indian spices and herbs, suitable for any palate.

Recipe is for 4 portions

Lobster	4 NUMBERS (1.4 KGS)
Chopped Onions	80 GMS
Chopped Garlic	25 GMS
Chopped Ginger	20 GMS
Chopped Green Chillies	3 NUMBER
Cumin Seed	1 TEA SPOON
Crushed Black Pepper	1 TEA SPOON
Red Chilli Powder	1 TEA SPOON
Crab Meat	1 TEA SPOON
Chopped Coriander Leaves	60 GMS
Roasted Coriander Powder	5 GMS
Roasted Cumin Powder	1 TEA SPOON
Fresh Cream	5 TABLE SPOONS
Salt	TO TASTE
Butter	100 GMS
SAUCE	
Tomatoes	1 KG
Garlic Paste	20 GMS
Red Chilli Paste	20 GMS
Butter	70 GMS
Cream	4 TABLE SPOONS
Salt	TO TASTE
Grated Cheese	60 GMS



PREPARATION METHOD:

- 1- Boil lobsters in salted water. For 25-30 minutes.
- 2- Cool lobsters. When cold, cut into half. Remove meat. From shells. Wash shells and keep aside.
- 3- Heat butter in a pan and crackle the cumin seeds.
- 4- Put onion, garlic, green chillies in the pan and cook till golden brown.
- 5- Add crab meat, coriander leaves and cook for 3 minutes.
- 6- Now put lobster meat (cut into small pieces) into the pan and cook
- 7- After 5 minutes add red chilli powder, coriander powder, cumin powder, salt, crushed pepper corn and cream. Cook for 3 minutes.
- 8- Stuff the crab mixture into the lobster shells.
- 9- Coat the lobster shells with the sauce.
- 10- Sprinkle grated cheese on it and bake till golden brown.

(This can be baked in an oven at 250 °F or under the salamander)

SAUCE

- 1- Cut tomatoes into halves. Put in a pan and simmer.
- 2- Put garlic and chilli paste with the tomatoes in the pan itself.
- 3- When tomatoes are reduced to half, strain through a fine sieve. Put back on fire.
- 4- Add butter and cream to it.
- 5- When thick pour over the lobsters in shell

ENJOY & BON APETIT

LOVABLE YEMEN!

BY: T. H. Chowdary,
Bombay.

One of the happiest years in my life was spent in Yemen in 1990-91, immediately after the historic unification of the two parts of the ancient land of Arabia Felix. I discovered the pleasant fact of Indo-Yemeni ties, the presence of a flourishing Indian trading community at the Red Sea Port of Hodeidah and of Theophilus Hindus, the Indian Christian missionary who was commissioned by the Pope to build the great Church in Sana'a in the fourth century. Yemen's history fascinated me. The Queen of Sa'ba's journey to Jerusalem to meet King Solomon speaks of the spiritual quest of Yemen's nobles. The great Ma'rib dam was a feat of engineering achievement. Yemen was prosperous and must have been coveted by its strong neighbors. The Ethiopians invaded and held sway for sometime. The Iranians were invited to drive them out. It turned out to be an exchange of one yoke for another. Some people embraced Judaism and some Christianity. With the rise of Prophet Mohammed, the Yemenis gave up both Judaism and Christianity and converted en masse to Islam, the faith that the Arab Clansman founded.

Islam's conquests outside Arabia, in Egypt, North Africa and up to Afghanistan in the east were largely due to the master soldiery of Yemen's sons. Ironically, the rise of the Arab supremacy which Yemen helped also led to the side-lining of Yemen. The Caliphate and hence the direction of the empire shifted first to Damascus and then to Baghdad, finally passing into non-Arab hands, to the Central Asian later day converts, the Turks. Finally, Yemen was fated to be an outlying, not-so-significant province of the Ottoman Turks. The Imamate in Sana'a, as the political capital, and Taiz as the seat of the Imam gained virtual independence by the end of the first world war but the rise of the British Imperial power severed southern Yemen with its several Sheikdoms from the Imamate in the North. The end of the Imamate and the establishment of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR), the civil war and then the overthrow of the British by Marxist forces in the South, the establishment of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) and the skirmishes between the two Yemens and final unification in 1990 are events that greatly impacted Yemen, bringing it rapidly once again onto the world's stage.

My stay in Yemen was to formulate a 15 year master plan for telecom development in the erstwhile PDRY. I visited all the Governorates save Al Ghaida. I was struck by the friendliness, innocence and amiability of the people. I am from Hyderabad which had a Nawab. He used to have a contingent of Hadrami soldiers. Once the Hyderabad-based Hadramis took soldiers and cavalry from Hyderabad to wage war against the Qaithis, their neighbors who aggressed upon them. That was a very intriguing situation for the British who were the overlords of the Nizam in India as well as the protector of all the Shaikhdoms in southern Yemen. Luckily, there were only sharp and short skirmishes, not protracted battles. I was happy to see a shop in Mukalla, Hadramaut's chief town on the shores of the Arabian Sea with the name Hyderabad... Store! While going to Attaq, we stopped at noon to inquire whether we could eat anywhere nearby. The simple Yemeni compelled us to halt at his modest mud hut, prepared food and fed five of us! He said that no respectable Arab would allow a traveler to go away unfed if it was meal time! He also showed us a letter from the British Government which granted him a pension for his services in Aden. "What is remarkable", he said, "was that he petitioned the British 10 years after they departed and yet within one year he got a

pension sanctioned and continues to get it". I noticed the great strides the South made in regard to liberation and education of women and the extension of governance over all parts of the Country. I was also depressed by the poor productivity, ubiquitous presence of "security" people and the totally out-dated and non-performing telecom-network. The proficiency of the telecom engineers was excellent. Alas! they had to be content with technology from the erstwhile Eastern Europe and whatever was left by the British when they departed.

In the former YAR that is the Northern Yemen, telecoms leapt from the primitive magneto systems to modern digital electronic exchanges and microwave radio-links thanks to the most enlightened engineer-minister. They absorbed a lot of equipment and had the benefit of technical advisers from several countries, notably India whose T.C.I.L identified with Yemeni national interest, assisting them in construction and maintenance and planning of technically sound modern networks. I had the company of an excellent French telecom engineer Mr. Terrasson, who had extensive, intimate and intricate knowledge of Yemen's network in a measure larger than most of Yemen's engineers. We had another engineer, Hakif Al Nassar from Jordan who had led the preparation of a master plan for the North. I had only two weeks overlapping work with him but he struck me as a remarkably good engineer. As people working for the International Telecom Union, a specialist body of the United Nations (but older than the UN itself) in Yemen, we had Yemen's interest upper-most in mind. I must confess that I was a little puzzled at the obvious sympathy of Yemen for Iraq in the Gulf-War (1990 January to March). Iraq's defeat was not a little traumatic to Yemen. I guess that the aftermath was not very conducive to the availability of external financial resources to fund the massive development telecom plans. Nations sometimes have to face adverse situations but wise leadership can mitigate the degree of hardship and launch correctives.

The two Yemens united earlier than the Germans. We on the Indian subcontinent know how artificial and punitive the partition of a country, of a nation, of a people can be. So I rejoiced at the unification of Yemen, but I used to wonder how it would be cemented and the unity of souls of the leaders would be forged. Honestly, I felt the South had a greater administrative, organizational and motivating capability. I was proud that there we had women engineers, doctors, technicians and administrators. It could be potentially rich with the newly discovered vast reserves of oil which could not be exploited because of the wretched alliance with USSR. However, a unified Yemen has compliments: agriculture in the north, industry in the south, modernity of the south and the rich cultural heritage of the north! What a wonderful nation could be in the making! The recurrence of the north-south division in 1994 was a sad event. I and my family were greatly grieved. So young but ancient, so vibrant and unspoiled (by ugly oil richness) a nation should not have a civil war. We were relieved when it ended. We still feel sorry that so highly educated a leadership as in the south had to have recourse to so costly a strife.

I recall my meetings and conversations with the angelic, enlightened friend Mr. Saqqaf. I am delighted to learn that Yemen Times has established itself unshakably, has weathered the troubled times of the short civil war of 1994 and is now a much larger enterprise than when I was writing for it. I wish that with intellectuals like Mr. Saqqaf pleading for sanity, forbearance, moderation, modernity, solidarity against bigotry and irrelevant and no longer appropriate practices, the ancient / young Yemen (pardon me for the juxtaposition) would rise to be great. Education, population control, free thought and work ethics are what should be promoted, not verbose and flowery rhetoric and useless chauvinism. May Yemen and India remain friends for ever! May our ancient cultures have renaissance and efflorescence and not relapse into our dry, dreary, and divisionist past.

Continued from page 3: Al-Jifri's Interview:

Q: Does the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia assist you?

A: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other countries do not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. They have their own considerations, but our appeal for support persists. We appeal to the world, and specially to those countries which pursue democracy, justice, pluralism and respect for human rights to pressure Sanaa to return to the correct course. The West has a major role to play in this matter.

It is my feeling that Sanaa's respect for freedom of the press, human rights, and pluralist politics are just facades and the regime does not believe in them.

Q: There is going to be a trial for you and the other leaders of the secessionist movement in Aden. How do you plan to react?

A: Of course, we know from experience that Sanaa is capable of putting up a kangaroo court. We are not going to let that happen. If a just trial on the basis of due process of law is observed, then, we shall have legal representation and a proper defence. We will bring out all the evidence and documents, and we hope the rulers in Sanaa will then be able to take the heat.

Q: Any last comments?

A: I am sure the truth will eventually come out. Often the victor in a war writes the history of what happened, but that is short-term. We believe our people already are beginning to find out the truth, and then it is the people who will pass judgement.

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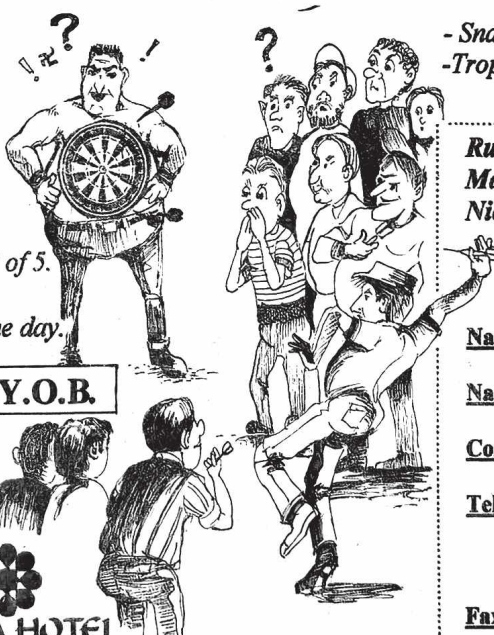
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Common Sense

By: Hassan Al-Halifi

ON PROJECTS AND BIG BUSINESS

Hisham took the contractor's representative to the GM and waited outside the office. After half an hour, the GM called for Hisham. Hisham walked in and the GM said: "Tell Saeed to process the first 10 invoices. I have called the Minister, who has authorized payment accordingly".

Hisham said: "What about the work stoppage?"

The GM answered: "They will go to work once the payment is received for the first 10 invoices".

Hisham went back to Saeed to pass the instructions given by the GM.

Saeed said: "What will be the problem if they processed all the invoices? This way they will save me a lot of work?"

Hisham realized that his first project management assignment is getting to be an enlightening experience into the inner world of business in government: The pivotal point for him: Should he get into the business or can he maintain his clean professional image and forego chances of ever making it up the ladder? He is now in the eyes of many watchers. There are the eyes of those who know he is straight and wonder if he will not lean towards the establishment. There are the eyes of those who are in the establishment and wonder if this engineer is going to get too "fussy" about his work. Can he

be tempted to join in the business? He asked Saeed: "How does one overcome the pressure? I feel like, right now, I am in the middle of 2 worlds. Both worlds are suspicions of me. I tried looking at my work on purely professional and technical grounds. I never thought that the work we did was of secondary significance to our leaders and bosses. I was asked to take on the project because the former project manager had made a fuss about management's acceptance of the poor technical specifications, where as he refused. It did not matter that he refused them. The fuss he made is what bumped him off. He made the fuss to a senior officer, who was in the network, and said a few bad words that were not what indicated his approval of the business attitude that has overtaken most senior positions in government. What do you think the contractor will put up for this 'favor' by the GM?"

Saeed said: "You have not seen anything yet! Do you know that most projects are nothing more than channels of embezzlement, by which government officials find hundreds of ways to channel project funds into their own pockets. You will not believe the level of improper allocation of funds in project finance. You can start from the beginning of a project to the final takeover, and all along the road you will see



why, in most cases, contractors can not wait to leave the country. Only on rare occasions do you see foreign contractors take on another job and only then if the contract is big, and I mean really big. Embezzlement and blackmail which are exercised at all levels of authority are the major complaints of most contractors. Even getting official letters relevant to a project typed means money has to be paid. It starts at the pre-qualification stage for tenderers. Then at tender evaluation and contract negotiations. It becomes a big surprise to a foreign company that there are some employees of the government who actually refuse to accept the khaki envelopes.

As for our present contract it depends on the level of authority involved. I would not be surprised if 2-5 % is asked for. Do not worry, agreement will be reached on how to incorporate this 'additional cost' into the 'project cost'. The contractor, after all, can not be expected to dish it out of his pocket, although there have been occasions when the poor contractor actually was promised an addition to the project cost through a 'variation order', which did not materialize. Many companies find this way of doing business rather sleazy, but many others just love it. You will be surprised how much can be squeezed out of our offi-

cial for such a small kickback.

Hisham began to get a feel of the situation. He told Saeed: "Even some of my subordinates in the project have been found lax in their attitude. I have seen initials of approvals on quantities or specifications that were at variance with the contract terms and conditions. I, for the most part, believed it to be an honest mistake until one of them hinted to me that there is 'no harm to the project' for such minor alterations, and that my approval can be "worth my while".

"I can assure you", interrupted Saeed that your subordinates have not been hiding their feelings about you. They have complained that you are cutting their God sent fortune. Some even claim that you want to keep everything to yourself!"

"My subordinates, I can handle, but what does one do about the superiors?" Queried Hisham in disbelief. Saeed responded: "The Central Organization for Auditing and Control has written volumes of reports on violations and questionable handling of projects.

Some cases have even been brought to trial, but never was a court decision or judgment signed by the relevant judge, because of prodding or threats by the highest authorities. You may not believe it, but some of those who have been tried have even been reassigned to highly sensitive positions! So you see, the system is immune to any serious and effective remedies.

The "Octopus", as the corruption network of the government is called, has its limbs every where."

Hisham was trying to absorb all that he was hearing from his colleague, Saeed, which is just impossible to believe: "Look Saeed, I can understand such stuff as bribes and commissions for assistance in speeding up

processing or 'helping' to get a contract, but to cheat the public on specifications and project costs, that is 'high treason' on my books."

Saeed said: "Nobody in the business reads your kind of books! The only books these people read are their bank account passbooks. Over the years, a very powerful and organized criminal element has taken over most of the sensitive positions in the government. This element has found, in every activity of the government a source of rapid and easy wealth, and with nobody to fight it or even say: 'Hey you guys, that is all unacceptable. This government and its assets belong to the people of Yemen, of which you are taking a far bigger share of than you deserve. You are hurting a lot of decent folks, and depriving them of their rights as law abiding tax-paying citizens'; there is nothing that seems to be able to get in the way of all this misuse of government, which is the most kind way of describing it.

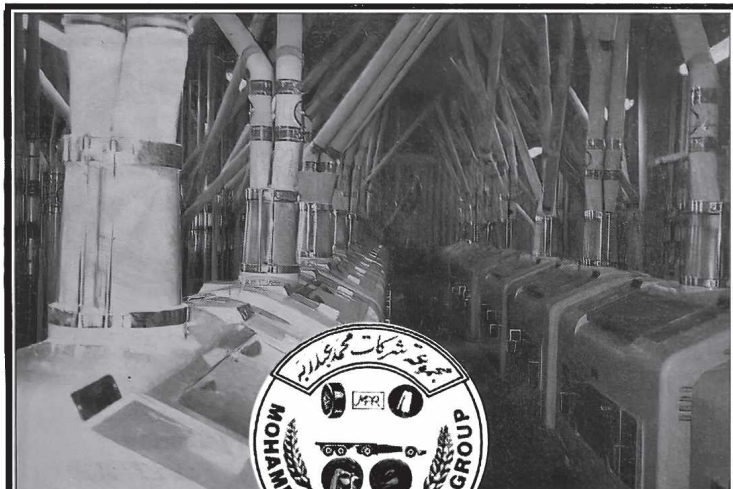
Hisham, feeling very pathetic added: "With so many laws and institutions in the government performing monitoring and regulating functions, it is impossible to believe that the 'Octopus' can operate with so much relative ease and freedom. All these laws and institutions, as far as I can see, are worthless and probably not serving the purpose they were created for."

Saeed emphasized what his colleague was remarking: "The law lacks the mechanism for enforcement and the institutions have zero powers beyond writing reports also, it would not be surprising to have them also being infiltrated by the 'Octopus'."

Hisham: "I would tend to think, then, that the parliament is the only recourse of the people to

deal with these flagrant violations of public service practice and ethics. Yet why has it not assumed its regulatory function? After all, the legislature, the body politic of the people, and the members are, by virtue of their direct election to office, compelled to determine the extent that the public interest prevails over all other interest, and parliament is entitled to use all the necessary powers needed to break the back of corruption and make all public servants accountable for their deeds - food or bad! Now, you can not say that parliament has also been infiltrated by the 'Octopus', can you?"

Saeed answered: "Many of the representatives of parliament are still not completely aware of their exact duties, since our parliamentary experience is very young; and in many respects still reliant on partisan sentiment. I tend to believe that this parliament will not go far. But, it will be up to the voters in the 1997 election to be more selective of their representatives to parliament and to look for those representatives that have the courage and the will to say: "business is over you guys, shape up or ship out!" The former does not seem to be realistically speaking plausible. The courage and the will are going to be needed for the latter. With all that is going on in Yemen, this seems to be the only hope that the people have, if they do not fail to remember that it is their government and not the exclusive property of any group, party or gang of racketeers. In the end it is up to the people to return government to its rightful owners and to its proper functions. Otherwise your project, like so many others before it will not be one tenth its real worth to the people, if it ever gets finished!"



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Dead line for receiving applications is: September 30,1995.

Privatization: A Specialist's View

Privatization has become an important component of the economic reform package of Yemen. Its proper implementation is expected to yield high dividends.

Mr. Mohammed Zohdi Mejanni, the senior partner of KPMG-Yemen, is one of Yemen's most senior and informed businessmen. A financial management consultant by profession, Mr. Mejanni has his fingers in many projects, notably those that involve foreign investment.

Al-Izzy Al-Selwi of Yemen Times interviewed Mr. Mejanni and filed the following report:



Q: How do you evaluate the government's new economic reform program?

A: What was announced by the government recently was the first practical step in the government's effort to rebuild and improve the economy. It is still very early to evaluate the program. We need some time and additional information, say tentatively 3 to 6 months in order to objectively assess the outcome of such a reform program. There are indications that the government is serious in its intention to revive the economy and to continue the rebuilding efforts. I am now more optimistic about the future Yemeni economy.

Q: Privatization appears as an important component of the economic reform program. What can you say about it?

A: Privatization is a scheme whereby the ownership or management of government owned (fully or partially) or controlled property or assets are transferred to the private sector, usually through an open public bidding. The main objectives of privatization are to:

- 1) Remove the burden of managing and maintaining these assets from government, thus preventing losses and fostering competition in the economy; and
- 2) Turn these usually losing or

non-profitable (sometimes non-performing) assets into self-sustaining profitable ventures, create jobs for the people and thereby help the government curb, if not eliminate, unemployment.

As a policy, privatization is surely justifiable and has been a long overdue program in Yemen. If properly carried out and the benefits in terms of advantageous selling prices of government are property maximized, privatization could be an important instrument in the government's new economic reform program. It could provide one of the steady and stable sources of funds which the government urgently needs to support its programs.

Q: How do you assess the performance of the public sector?

A: From my extensive experience, I have noticed that the government started to engage in economic activity in the early 1960s and 1970s when the private sector did not have available capital to invest. The government rightly decided to promote countryside development which started from scratch. The goal at that time was not to earn profits but to trigger the development programs that would provide the main pillars of the economy that were necessary to serve the needs of the citizenry and strengthen the national economy. These programs were

in the areas of electricity, water, cement, agriculture etc., all of which were vital for the country's infrastructure and were generally successful. In the 1970s and 1980s, the country enjoyed an economic boom brought about by the favorable business climate in trading, manufacturing, farming and livestock, and even banking and finance. It was during this time that the government started showing signs of inefficiency and losses mounted. Fortunately, the government also realized that there is no way the public sector will compete with the private sector. It was noticed clearly during the mid '70s that the government had no business being in business, and should, therefore, retire. Unfortunately, no bold decision requiring the government to quit doing business was made. Businesses better left to the private sector still functioning in the public sector continued to suffer heavy losses in the '80s up to the present. For your information, the United Kingdom started its privatization program in 1979, and our country was prepared to start ours at about the same time. However, certain events occurred that prevented the government from pursuing its privatization goals; we are now 15 years late.

Q: How do other countries implement their privatization programs?

A: Privatization is a scheme that could be used by any government. However, there is no uniform program or policy that would suit every country. Accordingly, each country should formulate policies and plans which are suitable to its economy, laws, resources, whether local or foreign. There are certain methods used worldwide that may be adopted after considering a country's economic circumstances and the policies and strategies formulated, as follows:

1. Privatization by means of share flotation (Public offering of shares).
2. Privatization by means of a

sales treaty.

3. Privatization by means of management and employee buyouts

4. Privatization by means of leased public property

5. Privatization by means of contracting out services

6. Commercialization of public trading bodies

Those are different alternatives in the privatization process.

Q: How can the privatization program be successfully implemented?

A: To be successful, the privatization strategy or policy needs to have a full-fledged program, which is the responsibility of the government. Such program should incorporate feasibility studies and methods to be adopted in handling privatization. The feasibility studies should be performed by people who are experienced and familiar with the country's economy, law, businesses, and perhaps funding - both local and foreign. In other words, by experts who are specialists in their fields of endeavor such as economics, banking and finance, accountancy, management, etc. I hope that the government considered such a step which would enable the privatization program to take off, based on a partnership with a willing and knowledgeable private sector.

Q: Does implementing a successful privatization program include identifying strategic firms that should not be privatized?

A: If we correctly identify strategic/public firms, we may discover that more than 80% of our country's public sector corporations should not be classified as strategic. These include cement plants, electric and water corporations, and even oil and gas projects. If it is decided that such corporations should continue to be held as public companies due to vital national interests, I recommend that the government form a committee of experienced individuals and experts to review and study the ways and means to make such

public sector corporations self-sustaining, profitable and productive.

As a first step, I recommend that the infrastructure entities, ministries, public services corporations (e.g. social insurance, public retirement fund, etc.), address the following concerns:

- 1- better government for control purposes
- 2- improved organization structure by streamlining the operations of these corporations
- 3- effective and efficient manpower utilization; and
- 4- management control and style structured to suit the needs and objectives of the entity.

Once these concerns are carefully addressed, these efforts should lead to increased revenue, decreased cost, improved delivery of basic services to the people and effective use of these government assets, which is the main objective of privatization in particular, and the new economic reform program in general.

To sum up, identifying strategic and non-strategic firms should be included in the implementation of a successful privatization program; and turning the strategic firms into profitable ventures. Thus, relieving the government of unnecessary costs and expenses in managing firms is vital for the country's economic growth.

Q: Which do you think are the major public sector corporations which should be privatized?

A: All the public sector corporations I think, should be immediately privatized. Because we already have an economic environment (i.e. excellent terms of investment incentives and clearer, more defined economic strategy and policy), carrying out the government's privatization program will not be that difficult. The following industries/public corporations should be fully privatized.

1. Oil and Gas exploration and production including mineral resources.
2. Air and land transportation and tourism corporations.
3. Agricultural and livestock

farms supervised or operated by the Ministry of Agriculture, excluding the Tihama Development Authority and similar government authorities.

4. Cement factories.

5. The government's share in the semi-public companies i.e. Yemeni Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Tobacco and Match Company, Yemeni Kuwaiti Real Estate Company and similar companies.

But let me say that, eventual success of any privatization program hinges on how the program can effectively be carried out, who will be the new owners of such companies; how can the government recover from the sale of its share and last, how much these privatized companies could contribute to the country's economic growth and development through job creation and eventually decreasing the unemployment rate in the country.

In my opinion, it is not enough to sell off the unprofitable public companies. The effort should include the privatization of all public sector companies, irrespective of their present profitability.

Q: Finally, do you have any comments or related advice regarding the privatization program?

A: I would like to zero-in on certain issues which I believe are a must:

- 1- Ensuring more stability, peace, and law and order/national security
- 2- Reforming the country's trade policies
- 3- Improving the investment environment by establishing investment courts to which all expected disputes may be referred
- 4- Revamping commercial courts to increase their efficiency and effectiveness
- 5- Attracting investors particularly from the gulf states by offering new additional incentives and a favorable business climate.
- 6- All Yemeni islands in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea must be converted into free zones.

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A Yemen Times Seminar Becomes a Focal Point for Launching a New Effort

A New Drive to Normalize Relations with Kuwait

Summary of Presentations:



Yemeni Context:

Here in Yemen, unity was achieved both peacefully and through war. Unfortunately, the last half a decade of Yemen's history can only be described as a 'no-stability' and 'no-development' period. Through this period, Yemen also carried out parliamentary elections which were described as almost clean. Yemen also amended its constitution introducing the famous clause (article 3) the Islamic Sharia as the sole source of legislation, and also called for the full application of the Sharia law. Although the country lost considerably in the civil war, it was able to gain some Western sympathy in its efforts to democratize the political system and through its continued commitment to freedom of the press. Finally, Yemen was able to overcome any border problems with its two neighbors - the Sultanate of Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - through negotiated agreements.

1. Dr. Ahmed Noman Al-Madhagi: Scholar on International Relations, "Background to the Issues"

World/Regional Context:

The Yemeni-Kuwaiti relationship and interaction cannot be completely understood without a full accounting for the changes in the global and regional scenes. In other words, the local capabilities and ambitions of a small country are by necessity affected by the pattern and influence of the global power structure. This is not to say that local considerations are unimportant. It simply means that some international and regional implications can sometimes over-ride local aspects, thus forcing small countries positions if they have not totally internalized.

With reference to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent crisis and war, one must from the outset say that it was different from previous world troubles. It did not represent the traditional rivalry and competition of the superpowers. In fact, the two leading world powers were on one side.

The Iraqi invasion also represented the third major event to split the Arab world. The first split occurred with the September 1962 Revolution of Yemen, the second with the trip of the late Egyptian President Anwar Al-Sadat to Israel.

What are the changes in the regional and international landscape that affected the crisis?

1. The increasing possibility of rapprochement and a negotiated peace between the Arabs and Israel.
2. The rising presence of Islamic fundamentalism in the region in the form of political parties and forces.
3. The wind of democratization which was blowing through the region, as well as worldwide.
4. New alliances in the region, one which was crystallized by the unity of Yemen, openly supported by Iraq, Sudan, Jordan, Iran and Qatar.

Kuwaiti Context:

Against that background, Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2nd, 1990. All Kuwaitis, including the Ba'athists opposed the aggression, but the restoration of the legitimate authority would require a concerted international effort, and it would cost a lot. Currently, the Kuwaitis have succeeded, by and large, in restoring normal life to their society, although there are visible lingering effects. Kuwait has also successfully undertaken a parliamentary election - though women (a large portion of the Kuwaiti population) were not allowed to participate; Kuwait extracted a formal recognition of its borders from Iraq; and Kuwait is finally re-assessing its external relations, even with countries it described as the "opponents". In addition, a mood of relative reconciliation is coming into play. These achievements have increased Kuwait's self confidence and will enable it to weigh its options and policies in a more objective manner.

Rapprochement Is Coming

The changes in the contexts within which the world, as well as Yemen and Kuwait, operate, make me hopeful in the possibility of a breakthrough in the bilateral relations soon. I can point to a number of initiatives on both sides to substantiate my optimism.

On the Yemeni side, Yemen has by-passed its past "neutral" or "non-aligned" position by moving to a more positive stand. For example, President Ali Abdullah Saleh as well as other senior members of government have insisted in several press statements that Iraq abide by all the UN Security Council resolutions. But, there are still indications in Yemen that we are not yet fully able to see the light. For example, the Yemeni official media has not reported the defection of senior members of Saddam's ruling clique. Observers are taking these actions as indicators as to how far we have evolved in our position.

On the Kuwaiti side, the mood of the press has changed substantially as evidenced by the flurry of articles demanding a review of the stagnant relations with Yemen. Also here, however, are lingering doubts about the intentions of the rulers in Sana'a.

These and other developments provide the necessary platform for improved relations. Let me point out here that small countries are by definition forced into positions which they may not fully agree with in their international relations. Irrespective of whether Kuwait and Yemen like it, they are expected by the world developments to come together and play a constructive role in fostering regional stability and harmony, to work together along with other countries a positive role in the coming Arab-Israeli peace and cooperation, and in controlling elements that disrupt world peace.

Therefore, in my opinion, it is immaterial whether either or both of the two countries have fully overcome their grudges or not. It is imperative that each country works out the ability and readiness to reach out and make its system more amenable to peace and cooperation, and to by-pass any parochial considerations. This is the dictate of international politics on small countries.



The opening session of the seminar. Attending are some 50 intellectuals including the Kuwaiti Charge d'Affair in Sana'a, Mr. Mansoor Al-Awadhi, and Yemen's Charge d'Affair in Kuwait (who still has not left for Kuwait), Mr. Mustafa Noman.

1. Yahia Al-Haddi, Secretary General, Yemeni Popular Committee to Support Kuwait, on: "What Kuwait Wants!"



This short presentation aims to shed light on the downfall of Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations as a result of Yemen's position on Iraq's invasion on Kuwait. As a grass-roots level association with constant contact with the Kuwaiti side, we feel we are able to underline the reasons for the current situation.

As a popular association, we attach a lot of importance to the role of non-governmental organizations, and such a role expands in a democratic environment to the extent that even ordinary citizens and general public opinion serves as a guideline for the policy makers.

Much has been said about what it takes to restore Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations. Let me give here what I think it would take to restore relations, based on my personal visit to Kuwait early last year. Kuwait does not ask for apologies, and the Kuwaiti people are not hung up on the past. What the people of Kuwait insist is that they are still suffering from the effects of the tragedy to which they were exposed. They need us to support their just demands which do not exceed openly and frankly denouncing the Iraqi aggression, to return their plundered assets, to compensate those who suffered (including many Yemenis) because of the invasion, and to achieve the release of the prisoners and hostages taken by Iraq.

Let me add that in my contact with senior Kuwaiti public figures, and by following the press statements and declarations of the Kuwaiti officials, it is clear that they are looking for common ground for dialogue with Yemen. However, they feel such common ground cannot be established until Yemen takes a substantive and practical position on their pending issues with Iraq.

Thus, in my humble opinion, there is a chance for Yemen to act on this matter. For example, the special ties of our leadership with the rulers in Baghdad gives us some room to maneuver in helping on the humanitarian issue. Such a step would be in conformity with what Yemeni officials, notably President Ali Abdullah Saleh have announced. I want to refer to President Saleh's recent declaration asking Iraq to abide by all UN Security Council resolutions. If we take that step, we will be throwing the ball to the Kuwaiti court. Will we do that?

government itself cannot decide on this matter without the involvement of the relatives of those missing persons. What has happened has happened. But I know that in Kuwait, they want Yemen to take a crystal clear position. We cannot expect the general Yemeni public to take a serious and effective position to bridge the gap between the two countries. The Kuwaitis expect an official initiative to support their position, especially regarding the prisoners and hostages in Iraq.

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On Wednesday, August 23rd, 1995, Yemen Times brought together a select group of some 50 individuals who are among the leading intellectuals and opinion makers of Yemen. The purpose: to discuss the frozen Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations and what we can do to help activate the normalization process.

In an opening statement, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Publisher/Chief Editor of the Yemen Times, indicated the brain-storming session was to focus on three specific issues:

1. Efforts on the part of Yemen to overcome the effects of its position in the Gulf War.
2. The changing mood and tone in Kuwait.
3. Where do we go from here?

Two key papers were presented, each followed by a long and sustained debate. In the final session, various proposals were discussed regarding the specific steps that will help get the relations out of the doldrums. These are given below.

THE RESOLUTIONS

1. To arrange a meeting with President Ali Abdullah Saleh to explain the views expressed in the seminar and the concerns regarding the need for a speedy normalization of relations with Kuwait.

2. To open dialogue among the Yemeni and Kuwaiti intellectuals and opinion makers regarding the bilateral relations at the public and official levels.

3. To create a preparatory committee to establish a Yemeni-Kuwaiti Brotherhood Association. The members of this committee are: Yahia Muslih, Taher Ali Saif, Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakkil, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Dr. Salim Ba-Najah, Dr. Ahmed Noman Al-Madhagi, Mustafa Noman, Abdul-Rahman Noman, Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakeemi, Hassan Al-Odaini, Ahmed Al-Soufi, Ibtisam Al-Hamdi, Tareq Al-Shami, Omar Al-Wusabi, Omar Al-Jawi, and Hisham Ba-Shraheei.

Mr. Yahia Muslih was chosen to co-ordinate the work of the committee, which will also seek to link up its efforts with the Yemeni Popular Committee to Support Kuwait.

4. The Preparatory Committee Calls on the general public to exert pressure on our political leadership to intervene with the Iraqi authorities to release all detainees, missing persons and prisoners held in Iraq, and to consider its response on this issue as a major indicator towards Arab reconciliation as a matter of basic human rights.

Debate & Interventions from the Floor

Dr. Salim Ba-Najah: Prominent Physician and Lecturer at the Medical College of Sanaa University.



The presentation of Dr. Ahmed Al-Madhagi makes a lot of the support of Iraq to Yemeni unity. I would like to say that such support was actually part of a self-serving plot on the part of Iraq, and it should not be presented as if it were made out of love for Yemen.

On the other hand, the paper has failed to point to the long and strenuous effort on the part of Kuwait to support Yemeni unity.

I would like to say that our position on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was dictated by a Yemeni leadership beholden to the regime in Iraq. We were prisoners of our relations with Iraq, and our blind position towards Saudi Arabia. At best, our position was not well thought out given our national interests. I can say our position was spontaneous and erroneous.

Finally, the inability of our leadership to move forward on relations with Kuwait is because of its obstinate position. The concept of shame or unwillingness to appear as having made a mistake is controlling our leadership's attitude.

2. Taher Ali Saif: Member of Parliament, Independent/Opposition Bloc



We hear a lot about how we have been victimized by international circumstances. This is untrue. What has happened to us was brought upon us by our own doing.

Even today, our politicians are unable to see light, and do not speak and act openly. All our attitudes are half-hearted.

Let me point out that the Yemeni leadership has destroyed the national economic interests of Yemen. We have taken a suicidal position. I don't understand what keeps us so tightly linked up with the regime in Iraq. I can't explain it.

In my opinion, the ball is with Yemen in terms of working to improve relations with Kuwait. It is up to us to take the initial step.

3. Dr. Mohammed Al-Maitami, Chair, Economic Research Dept., Center for Yemeni Studies & Research



We are assuming too much when we speak of the ability of non-government effort to mobilize public opinion and put pressure on the politicians. My question is how much clout or power do we as intellectuals and opinion makers have over the decision-making process?

It is the authorities that manage all things in this country. For example, remember as soon as news was received about the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, massive demonstrations were spontaneously unleashed in Taiz in support of Kuwait.

Then what happened? Those demonstrations did not sit well with the official position of the rulers. They orchestrated their own demonstrations and twisted public opinion. Of course, the official media paid an important negative role.

4. Abdullah Sallam Al-Hakeemi, Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry (inactive)



I think a rapprochement between Yemen and Kuwait is still something far-fetched. Yemen's position continues to be unclear, although Kuwait had selflessly stood by Yemen for a long time. I believe the top of our leadership is bound in strange ways to the Iraqi ruler. I assure you, over the next few weeks, those who have fled from among Iraq's ruling clique will divulge startling information.

I do not believe our position was a spontaneous one. To the contrary, I think we were in with the Iraqi regime in plotting against some of the countries in the region.

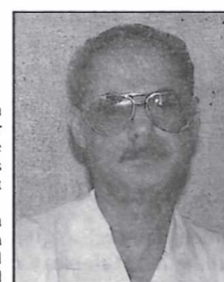
5. Dr. Mohammed Al-Mutawakkil, Lecturer of Political Science, Sanaa University.



I do not agree that Yemen has taken an enigmatic position towards Kuwait. In fact, I assert that Yemen's position was in support of Kuwait until the coming of international, alien forces to the region. Iraq had stupidly given them the excuse.

By now, everybody must realize that the Western forces have come to the region - not just to liberate Kuwait - but also to destroy Iraq's military capabilities. That was what turned the Yemeni position. Even our brethren in Kuwait must realize that the Western decision to come to their rescue was self-serving rather than in the sole interest of Kuwait.

6. Yahia Muslih, Member of Parliament, PGC Bloc



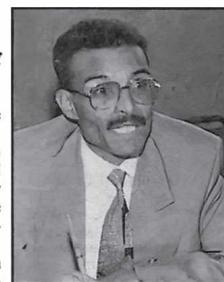
We are not here to pin the blame on that or this party. We are here to discuss the ways and means to get out of this mess.

Let me share with you a dialogue I had with a leading Iraqi official before the war. He told me that Kuwait was part of Iraq on the basis of historic association. I told him, by the same yardstick, many independent countries can be claimed to belong to other nations. It does not work like that any more.

Let me insist here that the official government attitude is the one that leads the mood on the street. The officials manipulate the public at whim. So whatever we do here, unless the officials bless it, we cannot expect to succeed. Finally, some people speak negatively about the help Kuwait got from the international community in the form of military forces which came to liberate it. That is odd, since in our own history, we have enlisted the support of

Persians, Ethiopians, and others to dislodge this or that invader. Why are we demanding that Kuwait not seek external help to dislodge Iraqi occupation?

7. Ahmed Al-Soufi, Secretary-General, Yemeni Institute for Development of Democracy



I would like to raise two points. 1. I expect the Iraqi regime to fall soon. I do not know how soon, but the symptoms are definitely there. Therefore, Yemen should look at its relations in the region in the absence of the present regime.

2. Any regime that routinely violates the rights of its citizens has no qualms in violating the rights of its neighbors, including their sovereign rights of statehood.

8. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Saqqaf, Professor of Economics, Sanaa University.



I would also like to interject two points, as follows:

1. The decision-making process in Yemen is highly centralized, irrespective of the facade of democracy. We have a pluralist political system without freedom of the press. In Yemen, a handful of people call the shots, and everybody else serves a decorative purpose. Therefore, if you want something done, you have to make sure that those handful of men are in support of the idea or project.

2. We have heard many important proposals and steps. Now we need a body that will take charge of translating those ideas into actions. In other words, we need a forum. I would like to suggest the formation of a small committee to prepare for the establishment of a Yemeni-Kuwait Brotherhood Association.

9. Ibtisam Al-Hamdi, Teacher, Sanaa.



I would like to suggest that the position taken by the Yemeni authorities was a very costly one. Indeed, if there is a modern example of national treason, it was that kind of decision which puts to risk the country's vital interests. Remember, as a result of our position on the Gulf, we lost a lot of foreign assistance, some one million Yemeni migrant workers were kicked out, and we have been a pariah state since.

Many other speakers touched on different aspects of the Yemeni-Kuwait relations and their prospects. They all agreed that the ball was with Yemen. The general consensus was that it was up to Yemen to take the first step towards a rapprochement with Kuwait. After the recent positive developments with Saudi Arabia, it was high time for Yemen to achieve similar steps with Kuwait, a state that had assisted Yemen so much in its days of need.

Since Carsten Neibhur: The Search for Arabia Felix Continues!

By: Shafee Saif,
Summer Intern,
Yemen Times.



Leafing through the pages of Carsten Neibhur's epic journey through the land of Arabia Felix (better known as Yemen) written the 1700's, one will undoubtedly encounter that disturbing, recurring feeling of *deja-vu*. Not of the 'Hmm I think I read about Carsten Neibhur in a previous existence' variety, or even of the 'No wait, I think I was Carsten Neibhur in a previous existence.' Even if you don't get that dodgy 'Have I been there?' vibe, you will more than likely check the title page over and over just to make sure that there is no misunderstanding that the Danish explorer was in Yemen in 1775, not 1995. The Danish expedition came to Yemen to explore a frontier that had so far remained elusive to the outside world. Although elusive, Yemen still gave off aromas of myrrh and frankincense, both abundant to the land. Rumors of gold glittered in the eyes of explorers, but it wasn't just the gold and the glory that they hoped to secure for the Danish Crown, or exploration of the flora and fauna found there. Most of all, they wanted to search out the myth of Arabia Felix, as the Romans had dubbed the mysterious land that churned out a seemingly endless and precious supply of frankincense that the Romans used in their religious

rites.

Just where did this name, Arabia Felix, come from and what does it mean? To answer the latter, Arabia Felix is a Latin name which translates to "Happy Arabia". This was the name that, until recently, was used to describe that faraway place that the Egyptians, Romans, and Macedonians, all tried to grasp, but evaded them like a mirage. All of this foreign hype was stirred by that name, Arabia Felix. The situation was disappointing, really, and almost unfortunate but it does have its funny side. Not that Neibhur would have been amused and he's probably kicking himself in his grave right now. The reason for that is simple -- there never was a 'Happy Yemen'. The

whole myth is based on misunderstanding. Arabia Felix was a translation error.

The other word for the region that was used even back in Roman times was Yemen. Yemen, in the Arabic language means "the right" or "the right hand side". Therefore, Yemen was the name given to the right half of the Arabian Peninsula, practically everything to the right of Mecca. Also, in Islamic terms, the right hand is what you eat with, what you swear an oath with and shake hands with. It is the blessed part of your body, as opposed to the dirty, evil left hand. The word Yemen also means "good fortune" or "goodness". Therefore, the region became known as "Yemen Arabia", referring to

both its physical location as well as its prosperity on the trade route. It was this duality of meaning coupled with the luxurious products which came from there which led to the Latin misinterpretation "Arabia Felix". By the time Neibhur and his crew arrived in Yemen, it was no longer a wealthy country, let alone the Utopia he had dreamt of. The Danish expedition had come with the purpose of discovering what they expected to be the 'perfect world'. Their dream curdled and turned into cheese once they arrived. This far from ideal world is what they discovered and what they became a permanent part of. Their graves are left unmarked -- their deaths due to malaria. Neibhur was the

sole survivor.

Neibhur, however, is sadly no longer with us, but he has left us letters and journals describing his experiences, which we basically already know and can still see today. His observations are largely evident in the rural parts of Yemen where not only has the lifestyle remained intact, but there is no palpable change in terms of health improvement, standard of living, education, or most importantly advancements in agricultural methods. "Most of Tihama suffers the shortage of fresh water supply.." Carsten wrote, and if you view the situation now, disregarding the omnipresence of Shamlan's of Hadda's mineral water bottles, you will find that the Tihama still endures that problem. Bayt Al-Faqih was described by Carsten as a small gathering of irregularly constructed straw huts built around unorganized, narrow muddy streets. The market only includes the most basic of necessities.

"Bayt Al-Faqih is located in the center of the Tihama strip and it only serves as short a stopping point for caravans coming to or coming from the highlands." Sounds familiar?

The only difference now is that it's a bigger gathering of irregularly constructed cement block houses built around unorganized, narrow muddy streets attached to the same market. It's still used for the same purpose: a place for refueling and maybe smoking a cigarette and drinking some tea. When Carsten described the agricultural capabilities of the Tihama he wrote that, "It was not a desert, but a waste land capable

of great fertility if it were not for the shortage of water". One of Yemen's biggest problems today is the stunted growth of the agricultural scene. It is a crucial asset that is virtually unused and at the same time it is a source of income that could shift the national budget from its present state of deficiency to efficiency. Moving on to the subject of regulations and to what appears to be the traditional law of 'It isn't what you know, but who you know'. Carsten noticed that connections with the people on top are what protected you, what elevated you. Jeopardizing that relationship, regardless of intentions and competency, more than likely meant losing each and every right you have -- even as a human being. Generally, Carsten and his team were amicably received by the governors of the towns they visited. The governors gave them complete protection from any public harassment and excused them from going through customs or having their luggage searched. However, special treatment wasn't always the case.

At Moceca, evil rumors, started by troublemakers, almost cost the explorers their lives. These rumors suggested that the expedition had ulterior motives other than exploring. The rumors claim that the explorers were there to bring harm to the Muslims. Orders were given to withhold their luggage and crates. They were opened in an attempt to prove the validity of the rumors. Equipment, and specimen jars were destroyed. It was only when they found a jar containing preserved snake samples did they stop. Here was the evidence they needed. The infidels were here with the demonic plan to poison the Muslims of Yemen!

Neibhur and his colleagues were taunted and stoned by the locals.

They were forced into hiding until it passed over. It later turned out that the governor himself was implicated. The idea was to confiscate the luggage, and terrorize the expedition into paying the governor for his protection. It was extortion through terrorism, pure and simple. Well, now that attitude has become a way of life in Yemen. Neibhur couldn't visit many parts of Yemen due to tribal warfare. So what's new? What's different?

There are obviously a few differences. Nowadays, we sport around in four wheel drives and we almost have electricity juicing our major cities. We are a Republic now and we drink out of Tetra juice paks. That about covers the differences... So in affect, we had a revolution, turned the country into a museum and then charged tourists admission (at about \$2000 a head I might add).

The point to this background is this: If you look through the shallow and superficial development which sparingly glazes over Yemen (which has only been a matter of course since Yemen opened its doors to a world which has reached the moon and split the atom), you will see the exact same picture which Neibhur describes. You will see the same underdeveloped rural scene, the high illiteracy and mortality rates, bureaucratic complexity coupled up with corruption, inter-tribal wars and feuds and most of all... chronic poverty. Even the lifestyle of the average individual is very much the same. I hear people grumble about how little we have advanced since 1962. Well to them I say, "Just get out of the pool!"

Huth and Tawila still have children who throw rocks at strangers, just like they did at Neibhur.

Continues on page 12

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my profound gratitude to all those friends who very kindly arranged a farewell match and party for me on my transfer to Pakistan. I am especially thankful to the members of Yemen Cricket League Committee in general and to Don Sheridan, Peter Bradley and Masroor Alam Siddigui in particular. My thanks also go to the members of sub-committees and the cricket teams participating in the on-going tournament for arranging a farewell cricket match and awarding me a shield at the farewell dinner which I will always remember. I would like to avail of this opportunity to thank the following dignitaries who expressed their interest and support for the promotion of cricket in Yemen:

- H. E. Dr. Abdul Wahab Rawah, Minister for Youth & Support, Republic of Yemen
- H. E. Mr. Faiz Rasool Mohammad Arif, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- H. E. Mr. V. Venkutraman, Ambassador of the Republic of India
- H. E. Mr. Douglas Scrafton, Ambassador of the United Kingdom

Special appreciation is reserved for Yemen Times for giving full fledged coverage to the cricket events and the farewell party.

I am indebted to all above mentioned for their warmth and sincerity in arranging the memorable events which I would cherish forever.

(INAYATULLAH BUTT)

Out-going General Manager, UBL, Sana'a
and out-going Chairman,
Yemen Cricket League, Sana'a.



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DIABETIC EYE DISEASES REVIEW

LI JUN,
OPHTHALMOLOGIC SPECIALIST,
CHINESE MEDICAL TEAM,
DEN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Diabetes is a complex metabolic disorder that also involves the small blood vessels, often causing widespread damage to many body tissues. For example, diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) is one of the potentially fatal complications of diabetes mellitus. The ocular complications of diabetes are dependent not only upon impaired carbohydrate metabolism but also upon as yet undefined complex factors, and these may occur before the characteristic findings of glycosuria, hyperglycemia, polyuria and polydipsia become manifest. It can occur approximately 20 years onset despite apparently adequate diabetic control. Diabetes has become a possibility that should be considered in all patients with unexplained retinopathy, cataracts, extraocular muscle palsy, optic neuropathy, or sudden changes in refractive error.

In YEMEN, there are four major eye diseases common to the population. These are cataracts, spring catarrh, pterygium and diabetic eye cases. I would like to address in reference to diabetes, that the people of Yemen possess some of the blinding complications that are so commonly associated with it. Diabetic retinopathy is a leading cause of blindness in the developed world in the working population aged 20 to 65 years. It causes 12% of all new cases of blindness per year in America. WHO reported that diabetic retinopathy has become a significant cause of blindness in the developing world due to improved life expectancy, urbanization and changes in lifestyle.

EXAMINATION

At present, two well accepted methods are available to examine diabetic retinopathy clinically: fundus photography and fluorescein angiography. Fundus photography is currently the most widely used method to follow-up diabetic retinopathy. It is a simple technique that is well accepted by patients and reasonably reproducible, as the same areas may be photographed with similar quality and compared in subsequent examinations. Fundus photography has major limitations and is not able to detect most of the alteration of the blood-retinal barrier and capillary closure. The significance of these in the initial stages of retinopathy is not clear. Vitreous fluorophotometry which was introduced for clinical use in 1975, appears to be the only available method that can quantify, in a reproducible manner, one of the major alterations occurring in the diabetic retina. The breakdown of the blood retinal barrier demonstrates that an alteration of the blood retinal barrier is one of the earliest changes to occur in the diabetic retina. It enables the measurement of the concentration gradient between the fluorescein present in the blood and that which penetrates into the vitreous; thus, allowing the quantification of the permeability of the blood-retinal barrier to be detected and measured in diabetic eyes before fluorescein angiography and ophthalmoscopy detect abnormalities. The increased leakage determined by vitreous fluorophotometry appears to be of prognostic value. A greater leakage may develop a more severe retinopathy in the eyes more rapidly than in other cases. There is a recent study that suggests vitreous fluorophotometry is still establishing itself as a routine clinical method which appears to be the most promising tool to follow-up the early changes of diabetic retinopathy.

SYMPTOMS AND SIGNS OF EYES (cataract)

There is some evidence that senile cataracts may develop in diabetics of a younger age group at surgery, and thus the incidence of complications is slightly increased. True diabetic cataracts are uncommon. They might occur in young diabetics with severe uncontrolled diabetes. The lens may become completely opaque in several weeks. The process starts as snow-white areas in the cortex posterior sub capsular and some anterior sub capsular opacities progressively involve more and more cortex which finally becomes confluent to make the entire lens opaque. Senile cataracts in the diabetic is common. Typical senile nuclear sclerosis, posterior subcapsular changes and cortical opacities occur earlier and more frequently in diabetics. I had performed several cataract operations for a diabetic patient whose blood sugar is about 150 to 200 mg/DL in Aden hospital. Cataract cryoextraction improves visual acuity in these cases.

RETINOPATHY

The clinical course of diabetic retinopathy is well understood; however, neither the pathological mechanisms responsible for the lesions nor the individual variations in speed of progression encountered are clear. All retinal changes are a result of microangiopathy, characterized in its



early stages by vascular closure and in later stages by fibrovascular proliferation, scar formation and vitreoretinal traction on the retina. The initial signs are at the posterior pole, in the area between the superior temporal retinal vessels. These changes are minute round spots which are either microaneurysms or dot hemorrhages. They may be more extensive later and form large confluent patches. Dilated capillaries have increased permeability leading to exudate formation and oedema of the retina. Early clinical signs consist of retinal capillary closure, often first noticeable in the macula area. The new vessels grow in the vitreoretinal interface and induce a change in the vitreous resulting in vitreous detachment and retraction. Further differentiation results in fibrovascular growth, scar formation and progressively increasing transgel traction forces on the retina. Bleeding may occur either into the subretinal space and remain localized or into the vitreous gel resulting in sudden loss of vision. The visual prognosis depends on the type and the severity of the retinopathy. Most patients with minimal background diabetic retinopathy do not develop any visual loss. In proliferative diabetic retinopathy, the visual out-look is worse.

TREATMENT

In last few years, it has become possible to treat advanced diabetic eye disease with the advent of intra-ocular vitreoretinal surgery, and restore functional vision in cases which previously would have progressed to end stage disease and certain permanent blindness. In the developing world diabetes is often diagnosed late, without regular check-up, which should include the state of the retina.

CLINICAL treatment methods are the following: Intensified insulin or Doxium therapy. This treatment offers better control of diabetes and intensified insulin therapy reduces the incidence of diabetic retinopathy by 60%. These factors do not appear to have the same importance in non-intensified insulin therapy cases. Patients were randomly assigned to either intensified insulin therapy, using three or more insulin injections a day or a continuous subcutaneous insulin infusion, and guided by at least four home blood glucose assessments a day or the conventional treatment of twice daily insulin injections. It could reduce the adjusted mean risk for the development of retinopathy as assessed by seven-field stereoscopic fundus photographs by 76% compared with conventional therapy. It reduced the development of proliferative or severe nonproliferative retinopathy and is concerned as a primary prevention trial as most of the patients in the secondary intervention cohort had no evidence of these complications at baseline. In controlled hypertensive patients, during the first trimester of pregnancy and following cataract surgery, acceleration of retinopathy can be expected and these cases require more frequent follow-up and early photocoagulation where indicated.

Doxium is indicated in cases of microangiopathy, particularly diabetic retinopathy. A double-blind randomized clinical study has been performed to examine by vitreous fluorophotometry the effect of Doxium (Calcium dobesilate) on the alteration of the blood-retinal barrier in patients with minimal diabetic retinopathy. It enables doctors to detect retinopathy before the appearance of fluorescein angiography. The measurement of fluorescein leakage with this technique, as that which penetrates into the vitreous, is also of both diabetic and prognostic values. The differences were statistically significant in favor of Doxium, after 6 and 12 months of treatment. The dose was 1,000 mg twice a day during 12 months. Doxium is indicated in cases of microangiopathy, particularly diabetic retinopathy. No side effects were registered.

Laser photocoagulation is the only effective treatment for the sight threatening lesions of diabetic retinopathy. High energy density laser light is aimed at predetermined areas of retina to cause selective

damage to retinal tissue. The action laser therapy in diabetic retinopathy is not clear. It may be due to a reduction in the bulk of ischaemic retinal or due to its indirect effect on specific cellular behavior. Photocoagulation of new vessels is particularly effective in preventing visual loss in the young diabetic patients who is at risk of developing a sudden vitreous hemorrhage without warning. Treatment has to be applied before extensive fibrovascular tissue treatment has developed or before a vitreous hemorrhage has occurred.

The effect of laser treatment in these cases is indirect and laser burns are applied in scattered fashion to the peripheral retina. In maculopathy treatment is directed at predetermined areas on focal points of leakage straed on fundus fluorescein. The blue-green wavelength argon laser is most commonly used today, but the Diode laser which falls in the invisible spectrum requires water cooling can be run on normal electric current, making it more practical in developing countries. Vitreous fluorophotometry consists of an optoelectronic unit and a computerized system of data acquisition and processing.

The optoelectronic system delivers an excitation beam of blue light to the eye through a pair of lens that also pick up the fluorescence emitted by the fluorescein, and direct it into a photomultiplier. The fluorophotometric data saved on the magnetic diskettes are processed by algorithms to correct for the provide numerical values for the amount of fluorescein that has penetrated into vitreous and the anterior chambers. The increased leakage determined by vitreous fluorophotometry appears to be of prognostic value, in that the eyes with greater leakage may develop a more severe retinopathy more rapidly than the other as shown in Dr. E Leite's four years follow-up study.

Vitreoretinal surgery can restore sight in advance diabetic eye disease where vision is lost as a result of a vitreous hemorrhage not clearing. In the case of extensive fibrovascular disease, a further complication is traction retinal detachment. Once severe visual loss had occurred surgery should not be delayed for more than six months. Definitive vitrectomy is performed with one of a number of fine instruments for engaging, cutting and removing a train of minute fragments of vitreous and debris.

The instrument is easily inserted through a special corneal contact lens with the aid of a fiber optic light attached to the vitrectomy instruments. As in diabetes, the opacity may be blood or traction detachment of the retina due to advanced vasoproliferative. It is distinct from endodiathermy, which is also performed with an electrode inserted through the pars plana of the eye. This form of surgery is complicated, time consuming and should only be performed by surgeons experienced in the centres specifically equipped for this purpose.

Screening Diabetic eye disease is progressive and requires long-term follow up. Uncomplicated proliferative retinopathy is symptomless and since effective treatment is available, screening for diabetic eye disease is imperative. There is now unequivocal evidence that improved glycaemic control prevents the development of retinopathy in patients with uncomplicated to insulin-dependent diabetic, and retards the progression in those with early retinopathy.

Improved glycaemic control prevents the development of retinopathy and neuropathy, provided these complications are not at an advanced stage. Patients with proliferative or severe nonproliferative retinopathy should have photocoagulation before any attempt is made to tighten diabetic control. The major complication of intensified insulin therapy is severe hypoglycemia. This complication is more likely to occur in patients with a long duration of diabetes. Future progress, one of the major complications of diabetes mellitus, depends directly on the availability of methods for quantifying the more significant retinal vascular changes. Of the methods now available to follow-up early diabetic retinopathy, only vitreous pharmacologic effects including an inhibition of aldose reductases, of prostaglandin synthetase and of platelet activating factor.

We suggest that along with health education, diabetic patients need more motivation in their self-care so that they can adjust the dose of insulin at the time of stress or inter-current illness. Have your eyes examined often as the treatment of eye disease could be attributed to a high level of medical care.

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Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor

HEY! WAKE UP!

I arrived, that day, at home after a long walk in the sun thinking about the shortage of water in Taiz. It was strange for me to see the children of the neighborhood playing instead of carrying water containers to bring some water from the mosque near our house. I found my little brother and shouted at him, "why don't you take a water container to bring some water from the mosque?" He smiled and said, "Water is available today and will be available everyday because the government has become very strict and serious about the problem of water in Taiz. Water supplies instead of water bills will be available everyday and everywhere!" Is it possible? Can it be on this earth that water will be supplied everyday and everywhere? I didn't believe it, so asked some of our neighbors. He told me the same thing. I went into our house and directly to the bathroom to have a shower. I locked the door of the bathroom and went to turn on the water tap but as soon as I touched the tap I felt a hand on my shoulder! I was scared. Then I heard a voice as if it had come from another world calling my name, "HEY SON! WAKE UP or you'll be late for college". So, I was dreaming. I was suspicious that such a thing cannot happen in real life. However, I am still optimistic about the future of our country in general and about water and electricity services in our beloved Yemen. I'm sure that my dream will come true one day.

By: **Bu-Madyan Mohammed Abdul Hamid,**
English Department Faculty of Education, Taiz

REQUEST OF OLD NEWSPAPER

I am a Somali citizen and was a regular reader at your weekly newspaper, when I was in your country Taiz, Yemen. In fact, during that time I read a lot of interesting and useful articles. Now I would like you to send me, as a favor, some of the articles which I enjoyed. Although I am an asylum seeker in Switzerland, I have the intention, to continue reading your weekly newspaper. Unfortunately, I cannot afford to subscribe to it. I would be grateful if you could send me a copy of the newspaper, if possible, free of charge considering my situation.

Actually, I am interested in a number of articles with pictures which you published in various times about the Somalia Refugee Camp in Al-Hod camp. In the newspaper, you had a detailed commentary concerning the inadequate medical treatment, food supplies and shelter in Al-Kod camp.

I am afraid I can not remember the exact issue

number and the date of issuing, but I suggest that it was either the last quarter of 1992, or the first half of 1993.

I hope you would take my request into account and that it will become a fruitful too.

By: **Mr. Sunkin Abubaker Mohammed,**
Switzerland

Candle Light for Yemeni Tribes

Sana'a University has started to open colleges of education in different places all over Yemen. One of these colleges is the College of Education in Arhab.

It is in the middle of many Yemeni tribes (please look at the map). It is the candle light for many people who live in Arhab. It is the way to modern culture and civilization.

There are more than 1500 students. The majority of them are not from Arhab. They are from all over the country. The majority of students are from the tribes of Arhab. Why do so many students go to 'Arhab College'? Well, just because it's their chance to go on to further education. They come from a five year Teacher's Institute system and they have received low grades in the secondary stage. So Arhab college is the only chance for these students to study and have B.A. degree.

The staff of this college is from Iraq. There are a few Yemeni teachers. Of course, the Dean of the College is Yemeni. His name is Dr. Kaid Al-Omithali. He is from Arhab itself. He spends most of his time thinking about his college. I believe he loves this college very much. He invites many important people here so they can share in developing and adding new buildings to the college.

From time to time visitors who come to the college by Dr. Kaid's invitation comment on how small the college is. It is not big enough for those large numbers of students.

Next year, the college is going to have a third year for five sections of different studies. So it is very important to get more than two or three new buildings added to the previous ones.

Recently, Bin Hayl Saeed Anam gave one million rials to Arhab Collage to build the third floor. In addition, the richest merchant, Al-Habari, who is from Arhab, has promised to pay five million rials or to build a big hall. It will be called "Al-Habari Hall".

We don't forget the rule of Sana'a University's Administration. They have published an advertisement on the main news paper "Al Thwrah" for building new halls.

It is clear that Dr. Kaid is a great person. On Sunday the 16th of July, he invited a lot of important people from Arhab and Sana'a Uni-

versity to a rich lunch and nice afternoon of chewing qat.

On one side came Al-Habari, the merchant al-Habari, Sheikh of Arhab. Other people came with them.

On the other side, Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Makaleh, Dr. Nasser Al-Awaki, Dr. Sailan Al-Obidi, Dr. Al-Ahdel, the great poet: Souliman Al-Aissai. A lot of people that the college is very small... The visitors walked around the college. They pointed to the place where new buildings could be built. At the college they ate grapes. They moved to a house in Huzam for their lunch. Then they got to Bit Al-Odari where they chewed qat. The "Dewan" is really the biggest hall I have ever seen in my life.

Abdussalam H. Al-Baydani,
Knowledge Institute for Science and Languages (KISL)

EDUCATION INSPECTION AND EVALUATION: THE KEY DRIVING FORCE IN THE EDUCATION PROCESS

Education Inspectorate and Evaluation (EIE) - is the pivot of the Ministry of Education; the momentum of the educational system that leads the didactic efforts to success and the country to prosperity. Therefore, it is quite urgent and essential to give this sector a great deal of care and custody if we would like to arrive at the aims inspired from the educational policy which are closely related to the aims and philosophy of one's community.

With this sector we could drive the didactic process to the right path. Add to all that the task of EIE is not only confined to measuring the evolution of education, assessing one's performance or submitting reports. But, it has an exuberant field of work and creation. It is this sector that takes initiative when developing or planning curricula. This sector also winds up the pros and cons of the educational process; and it is this sector that makes sure of the attainment of aims aspired. In addition, this sector strives to put forward suggestions and proposals for the sake of development education and seeks solutions to difficulties and obstacles which hinder the educational system. Moreover, EIE is a technical and administrative activity exerted for helping and assisting people concerned in the field of education. In addition, EIE is a device that is responsible for guiding, modernizing, and conveying information through several ways: training seminars, organizing training courses, performing field visits . . . etc.

To make this more objective, I surveyed some

educationalists:

- Ahmed Al-Shohari (Central Inspector at EIE), "EIE is the foundation of the Ministry of Education, when it is well built, we could build many floors and so does the EIE".
- Abdul Adhari (employee at EIE, Dhamar) "The EIE sector is like a machine, when it is inoperative, everything stops."
- Ali Omar (biology teacher) "The EIE is not an easy task, it involves a lot of hardwork and devotion."
- Ismael Al-Shami (chemistry teacher) "It is guidance and an extract of long experience." Apart from all what has been said: Do you think the MoE is aware of the importance of EIE? Do you think the EIE is doing the job as it should be? If not, why and who is responsible? Do you think the EIE is given the facilities to do the task?

By: **Khalid N. Al-Mazjji,**
Dhamar

Continued from page 10:


Neibhur's Search for Arabia Felix

I can't say for sure if they are the same children, just 220 years older, but someone has been making a tradition out of this practice. 220 years later we still drink out of wells, die of polio, marry at 14 and have babies until menopause.

We still live for the day and forget the future. The mentality of 'I have a shotgun and you haven't got one, so push off or I'll blow your head off' is still the order of the day. When will we address these issues? What about the ozone layer? What about recycling? When will we buy dolphin friendly tuna fish?


Two hundred and twenty years and still counting.

The problem is we continue to grumble and complain as we chew qat, blaming everything on the government. US foreign policy and our neighboring countries (so what if they financed development and employed millions of Yemenis). Everything and everyone is to blame except for us. Not us, we're perfect. Not a World Bank reform program nor a second revolution will change or improve conditions in Yemen. The only change which can occur is the change brought on by each Yemeni to improve his or her life and his or her family. Otherwise, things will remain the same for hundreds of years to come. We must not accept our present reality, for Neibhur's sake at least. Let's go on searching for 'Arabia Felix' until we bring it into some form of reality.



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ألف مبروك
أخيراً ودع الشاب أحمد محمد الرشيدي حياة الزويرة ودخل القضي الذهبية، متمنين له دوام السعادة، وبارقة، والبريق.
المهنيون:
سفير الرشيدي، عبدالله الرشيدي، فتيح عوض النهدي، عادل محمد الزريقي، محمد عبدالله السعيد، خالد عثمان، إبراهيم الزريقي، رمزي السقايف، وجميع الأصدقاء.

تفانينا يا عبدالرشيد
أحمل التبريكات والتهنئات القلبية، مع أربع العطر والسائبين إلى الأبد /
عبدالرشيد محمد المحمدي
بمناسبة عقد قرانه على الأئمة الفاضلة
سندس فتح الرحمن
وقربنا دخوله القضي الذهبية.
مع دوام السعادة بأذن الله.

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وصافة الأهل والأصدقاء

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وصافة الأهل والأصدقاء

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Republic of Yemen

Japanese Medical Grant to Yemen

Two Japanese companies - Sumitomo and Nissho Iwai - have signed contracts with the Ministry of Health to equip and furnish five hospitals in Sanaa, Hodeidah and Hadhramaut. The total value of the contracts is 877,667,300 yens, which is financed as a grant aid from the Japanese Government to the Yemeni people.

According to the Minister of Health, Dr. Najeeb Ghanim, who signed the contracts on behalf of the government, the contracts call for the importation of new technologies to Yemen. One such equipment is cancer treatment through laser. "I think the medical profession will move to new grounds in our services with these machines," the Minister of Health stated.

It is common knowledge that the Government of Japan is one of the leading aid partners of the Republic of Yemen.

ألف مدهوك

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Al-Rusol Model School

announce opening for registration for the new school year. The school has two systems - the Arabic curriculum based on the Ministry of Education in Sanaa, and an English curriculum based on the University of Oxford. In both systems, very qualified teachers are in charge.

Registration has started as of 20/7/1995, and we receive prospective students and their parents every working day during 8-12 in the mornings. The school is located near Hajar Mosque on Haddah Road.

Information About the School:

- * The Al-Rusol School - both systems (Arabic and English) have all levels of education: Kindergarten, Primary, Preparatory, and Secondary.
- * Even among the private schools, Al-Rusol Model School stands out.
- * Among the subjects in which we excel are:
The Holy Quran, Physics, English Language, Computers, Chemistry, Mathematics, Tailoring, Sewing, Drawing, Taekwondo, etc.

**SOUT AL-MUA'ARADHA : Sana'a 23-8-95
(Coalition of a Democratic Opposition)**
Main Headlines:

- 1) A Minister Eats Up YR 96 Million
- 2) Unemployment is 35%, According to Government
- 3) An Italian Company Sells Scrap (Reconditioned Equipment) for US \$ 500,000
- 4) Can Oxy Closes a Producing Well

Article Summary:
The Rights of Citizens Between the Constitutional and Real Practice

In its new page devoted to discussing legal and constitutional affairs, the paper starts by discussing Article 40 of the Yemeni Constitution, which states that all citizens are equal before the law, in terms of duties and rights. Many legal experts were interviewed. Some excerpts:

Dr. Mansour Al-Zindany: With respect to Yemenis, we do not have discrimination between men and we do not have discrimination between women, but the duties of either sex to the nation is where the difference lies.

Dr. Ahmed Abdul Malik: We must look at the article in terms of how it pertains to each branch of the government (executive, legislative and judicial).

Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Ahsab: That we have this in a written constitution does not mean that it has become a part of our way of life. This article must be viewed in terms of how the other articles work towards its implementation as well.

Dr. Mohammed Ali Al-Hizyazy: We must interpret the constitutional article as a practical reality.

AL-AYAYYAM: Aden 23-8-95
(Independent)
Main Headlines:

- 1) Release of Students Arrested by Political Security in Aden
- 2) Arrest of 4 Iraqis and a Swede at Sana'a Airport
- 3) A Legal Proposal to Overcome the Law of Nationalization
- 4) A UNDP Official (Expatriate) Describes Yemenis as Ignorant.

Article Summary:

Al-Jifry (VP of Secessionists) Will Send Arab Lawyers to Defend Him in Trial in Yemen
A former leader of the Secessionists (and former Chairman of Rabitat Abna Al-Yemen), Abdurrahman Al-Jifry plans to send Arab lawyers to



Yemeni Press in a Week

by: *Hassan Al-Haifi*

defend him in the trial was to be conducted by the Supreme Court in mid September against him and the other three leaders of secession (Al-Beedh, Al-Attas, Al-Seyaly). Based on Al-Jifry's request, the trial has been postponed for one month.

Al-Wahdāwi: Sana'a 22-8-95
(Nasserite Unionists Party)
Main Headlines:

- 1) Armed Conflict Takes Place Between Political Security And Elements Of Al-Jihad
- 2) The Resignation Of The Editor In Chief Of Al-Wahdah Newspaper (Official)
- 3) Tribal Warfare Flares Up: Tens Killed And Wounded... Including Children

Article Summary:

After Parliamentary Committee Visit Criminal Investigation

Prison In Sana'a: Torture, Aids and Minors

A sub committee of the Human Rights Committee of Parliament visited the Criminal investigations Prison in Sana'a. They found that 200 prisoners, some of whom were below 15 years of age were detained under the worst conditions. Among the violations or excesses:

- 1-many prisoners have been detained beyond the period allowed by law, without even having started their cases yet.
- 2-Many complaints of insults and inhumane treatment by prison officials
- 3-Food consists of 2 "kidmas" or chunks of bread. Prison officers own food outlets that sell at exorbitant prices to prisoners.

AL-TAJAMMU'U: Aden 21-8-95
(Yemeni Unionist Congregation)
Main Headlines:

- 1) The Dollar Falls... But Prices Are Unshaken
- 2) In Taiz: A Water Shortage and Typhoid
- 3) Al-Zindani (Former Member of Presidential Council) Still Gives Orders

Article Summary:

The Dark Side of the PGC

Starting by calling the People's General Congress the "test-tube party", Omar Al-Jawi in his weekly column explains how the party has transformed into

a party that selects its leaders through a test-tube method: no elections or any democratic practice to speak of. The military brass are the real leaders of the PGC and the major decisions of the party, whether positions or on the issues are made by them. The party also humiliates its best members and replaces them with young and inexperienced personnel, who have no record or character to speak of, although there are outstanding members in its membership.

The sad part is that the PGC, as a ruling party operates without regards to its responsibilities and minimal adherence to law and order, inside the party and outside.

AL-SAHWA: Sana'a 24-8-95
(Yemeni Congregation for Reform [Islah])
Main Headlines:

- 1) Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmar: "The Relationship Between the Opposition and the Rulers Is Governed by the Constitution"
- 2) Vice Minister of Education: "Apprehension of 2 Networks for Forging and Selling of Diplomas and Certificates."
- 3) In Our Country also, Women Cry in the Central Prison.

Article Summary:

1) The Islah Party Remaining in the Coalition Is a National Necessity

In an interview with the Al-Safeer Lebanese Magazine, Mohammed Abdulla Al-Yadoomy, Secretary General of the Islah Party, denied what was reported in some of the opposition papers that the party plans to pull out of the ruling coalition. He also indicated that the coalition has achieved positive results although there have been some negative experiences. He said that the relations between the 2 parties in the Ruling Coalition are growing stronger, day by day.

2) Al-Khamisy: The Good Example

In an unprecedented move by a senior government official, Abdulkarim Al-Khamisy, recently appointed as Vice Chairman of the Central Library, has transferred the amount of Yr 300,000, disbursed as cost for furnishing his office to the branch of Aden to purchase-essential items and goods lost in the fire of the library in Aden.

AL-THOURA: Sana'a 24-8-95
(Official)
Main Headlines:

1) The Council of Ministers:

- approves standing Rules for retiring municipal sanitation staff
- approves establishment of national Information center (Data Bank)
- approves reorganization structure of Police academy
- passes final accounts for fiscal year 1993 to parliament
- discusses teaching plans for 95/96 school year and approves steps to be taken for Yemenization of teachers
- 2) Full text of King Hussein's Speech on the developments in Iraq.

Article Summary:
Yemen Medical Exhibition 95

Following the success of the Yemen Medical 1994 exhibition, held in Sana'a, in which 600 companies were represented, the Second International Medical Exhibition, will be sponsored in Sana'a from the 20-25 September in the Sana'a Exhibition Hall. The latest developments in medical and health care will be presented.

26 September: Sana'a 24-8-95
(Mouthpiece Of The Military)
Main Headlines:

- 1) Minister Of Energy, South Korea to Be in Sana'a Next Month
- 2) Minister of Interior: An Effort to Control Illegal Aliens in Yemen
- 3) German Ambassador: DM 1.2 Billion in German Assistance to Yemen Dm 40 Million as Grants for the Coming Year

Article Summary

Official Spokesman: It Is Yemen's Policy Not To Interfere In Internal Affairs Of Other Countries
In response to an article which appeared in the Rose Al-Yousef Magazine, which claimed that Yemen is playing a role in the latest developments of Iraq, the official spokesman denied the claims of the 21-8-95 issue of the magazine. The magazine had stated that the Yemeni government had set up plans suggested to Washington by Dr. Abdulkarim Al-Iryani, the Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Minister, and which dealt with bringing about changes in Iraq. The spokesman assured that the ROY government does not have any policy for interfering in the internal affairs of other states.



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ألف مبروك

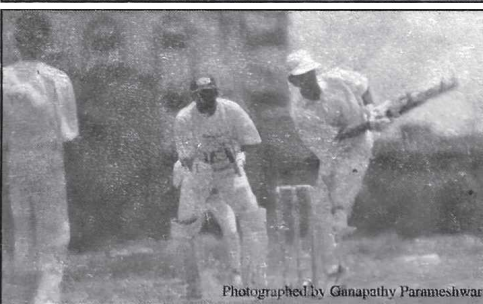
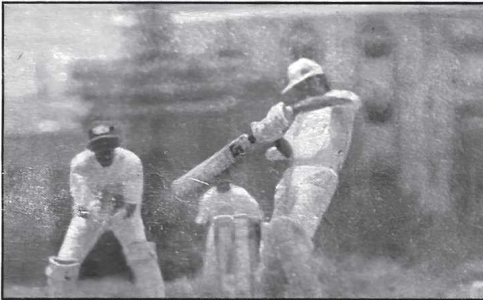
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 وجميع الأهل والأصدقاء

Yemen Cricket League 1995 Pakistan Top of the League

In the ongoing tournament PCC won their sixth match, against YCC, on 25th August. PCC have now scored 12 points. PCC won the toss and decided to bat first, with Abid and Arif opening. In the second over Abid was smartly run out by fielder Nafees. Masood then failed to show his normal performance and was nicely bowled by Mobin. Salman (17) batted well with Arif and when caught by Nisar the PCC score stood a 57. Nasir (16) played confident shots before being well taken by Waris. Shafatullah (39) continued with Arif, who was playing very well all over the ground, hitting boundaries and two sixes for his 50 runs. Shafat also started very fast and hit six boundaries and a couple of doubles in his partnership with Bader, who came in after Arif, but was very well run out. Manzoor was bowled by Mobin for a duck. Tariq scored one run and he and Baber (11) were not out at the end of the innings. Masroor, the PCC Captain did not bat. PCC's score was 165 for 8 wickets after 25 overs.



Photographed by Ganapathy Parameshwar

YCC started their innings with Khusdil Khan and Nisar, but they found the fiery bowlers of PCC difficult. Salman bowled Kushdil for 1. Nafees came in and started playing confidently but was caught by Abid of Shafat. Zafar was out for a duck. Waris then played some nice shots including three boundaries before being bowled by Masood for 18. Towfiq came in and played confidently, placing well into the gaps in his partnership with Nisar. Masood did the break through when he bowled Nisar(14).

Galal was then bowled by Nasir for zero. Mansub when he came in proved to be the best YCC batsman. He faced the PCC bowlers confidently and made good shots all over the ground. His 40 runs included 7 boundaries and some doubles. Eventually he was caught and bowled by Baber. Shabbir, the next man in, made a good stand, before Towfiq was bowled by Arif for 15. Mobin played some nice shots before being bowled by Shafat for 17. At the end of the 25th over, Shabbir and Bilal remained unbeaten, with the YCC score at 146 runs for 9 wickets. Shafat was announced as "Man of the Match".

The next match will be played at the Al Thowra Stadium on 1st September at 1000 hours between IECC and the MRF XI.

MRF XI
 In the report of the Final Cricket Match for The Chairman's Farewell Trophy, which was carried in The Yemen Times of August 14th 1995 the MRF XI was inadvertently omitted from the list of teams. The MRF XI are a valued team in The League and contributed players to the International Team which

played The Pakistani XI.

Mr. Butt's Farewell:

The report of the Match and Reception for Mr. Butt which was carried in the edition of August 21st failed to mention the contribution of Mr. Masroor Alam

Siddiqui, the Captain of The Pakistani XI, to the success of the overall proceedings. Mr. Masroor worked extremely hard behind the scenes in many of the arrangements and the great success of the entire day was due in no mean part to his efforts.

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YEMEN CRICKET LEAGUE COMMITTEE

The following elections were made at a meeting held on 22nd August-
 Chairman - Dr. Don Sheridan
 Vice Chairman - Sheikh Tariq Abdullah
 Mr. Garry Looker (L.&JCC - to replace Mr. Andy Nash.)
 Mr. Sikander Mahamood (PCC - to replace Mr. Inayatullah Butt).
 Mr. Masroor Alam Siddiqui (PCC - to replace Mr. Baber Pervaz)

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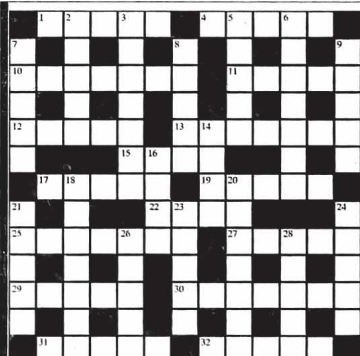
AL-FAROUK INSTITUTE OF LANGUAGES & COMPUTER

Contest No.42 مسابقة رقم ٤٢

Prepared by: إعداد:
Al-Farouk Institute of Languages & Computer معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر

P.O.Box 3637, Al-Raqas St., Near the Iranian Medical Center, Sana'a; Telephone (967-1) 209721, Fax 218 231
 ص ب رقم (٦٣٧) ، صنعاء ، بالقرب من المركز الطبي الإيراني - شارع الرقاص - صنعاء ، تليفون (٩٧١-١) ٢٠٩٧٢١ ، 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 أقصاه يوم الخميس. سيعلن اسم الفائز في العدد القادم من اليمن تايمز .



- Contest No. 42**
- Across**
- Room around the planets?
 - Largest mammal on Earth.
 - owl - another name for the barn owl, because of its noise.
 - Zilch!
 - Soon.
 - Really love.
 - Goods transported.
 - Expert cook.
 - Unfortunate.
 - Got quite cross!
 - Dull pains.
 - power: electrical generation.
 - Snip the teeth together.
 - Foe.
- Down**
- Bits and pieces?
 - British cheese.
 - broken: deeply hurt.
 - Like the Tower of Pisa?
 - Valuable quality.
 - Horned African animal.
 - Grassy edge.
 - One time only.
 - Support for the head.
 - Clever sea mammal?
 - From Egypt, Nigeria or Zimbabwe, for example.
 - and spice: what little girls are made of?
 - 'Laughing' wild dog.
 - Decorate.
 - Small barrels.
 - Sparkle.

Correct answer for contest No. (41)



جائزة هذه المسابقة مقدمة من معهد الفاروق للغات والكمبيوتر
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INDIA CALLS!

Last week witnessed a major Indian effort in order to attract visitors from Yemen.

First, the Tourism Department of India initiated a "Daawah Lizyarat Al-Hind" (invitation to Visit India) campaign. The main speaker was Mr. Shahir Mustafa Naqvi, Regional Director of the Government of India Regional Tourist Office, based in the UAE, who flew in for the occasion.

Mr. Naqvi explained the various tourist attractions of India. "Although most Yemenis go to India for medical reasons, there are other attractions such as the mountains, wildlife, special trains, the gardens, palaces, and historic sites. We welcome both Yemenis and residents to take time and fly to India," he said.

The keynote speaker was the Indian Ambassador in Yemen, H.E. Mr. Venkatraman who pointed out that the Indian-Yemeni connection dates back to several thousand years. "We have had lapses in the interim period. So now, we are working to re-bridge the gap," he said.

"We hope that Indian-Yemeni cooperation will expand to include various aspects. We now have cultural and social relations. We are working to prepare for an economic and commercial delegation which will study joint venture possibilities. Of course we already have educational cooperation," he added.

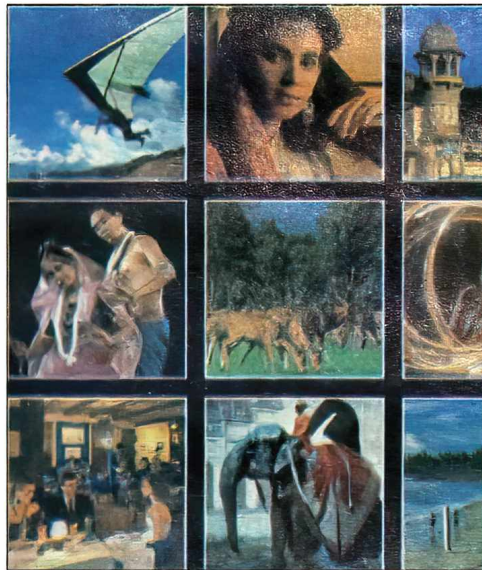
Second, at the Taj Sheba Hotel, an Indian Food and Cultural Festival Week is under way. Various sumptuous Indian food varieties, folklore dancing and other activities are being staged. This is tied in to a dinner program every night at the Taj.

"We are working to introduce additional options for the community. We feel that there is so much India can offer in terms of cultural activities that are appreciated here," said Mr. Vijay Albuquerque, General Manager of the Taj Sanaa Hotel.

The main feather in the cap for the food department is, of course, the Taj's Chef Culinaire, Mr. Satish Arora. "I am gratified with the appreciation. Even the Prime Minister has come to sample my cooking. This has been a pleasant experience," he added. The local as well as international community has flocked in large numbers to the festive evenings. One Yemeni businessman who enjoyed one evening with his family, described the set up at the Abu Nawas Hall, the food and the dancing as "just delightful."

Indian Embassy sources say that they issue on average a hundred visas a day. "We issue visas on the same day," the ambassador indicated.

By: Fatma Rawah,
 Cultural Editor, Yemen Times



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